

## **Sunil Kumar Singhal**

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After serving at decisive positions, during the last 29 years, in Department of Telecommunications (DoT) – the policy maker and the licensor, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) – a service provider, and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) – the regulator, Sunil Kumar Singhal has evolved into a proactive, ingenious, and thought leader in the space of telecommunications/ Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policy, licensing, regulatory, technical and strategy development.

Sunil Kumar Singhal's association with ITU started since 2014, when he actively participated in the Plenipotentiary Conference held at Busan, South Korea. After that he regularly contributed in ITU activities either directly or indirectly through National Working Groups (NWGs). He was invited in 2016 by ITU Regional Telecommunications Economic and Financial Forum for Arab States as an expert at Muskat, Oman to share his thoughts on 'Affordable access to Broadband services' and 'Economic and financial issues in a converged Broadband environment'. He was also invited by the World Bank to share India's experience on opening of International Long-Distance telecommunication services for private participation with the representatives of Iraq Government, regulator, and parliamentarians. For the study period 2022-25, Mr. Singhal is holding the position of Vice-Chair in ITU-D Study Group 1.

In his present capacity, he leads the licensing division in DoT. He is actively involved in formulation of legal, policy, licensing, and spectrum management framework for orderly growth of the telecommunication and broadband services in the country. He is closely working with Universal Service Obligation Fund administration also to proliferate broadband in rural areas and bridge the digital divide.

Prior to this, he worked as Advisor to TRAI for about 8 years. In TRAI, he led the programme on digitisation of cable TV networks — the primary medium for broadcasting services in the country. He also formulated a completely new and market oriented regulatory framework for the broadcasting sector. Subsequently, in TRAI, he led the research, consultation, and formulation of the policy recommendations for the National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP) - 2018. His work on interconnection regulations facilitated orderly growth of telecommunication services providing impetus to the digital economy in the country. Further, he has extensively worked upon strategic issues relating to digital transformation and convergence, collaborative regulation, data privacy and security, market structure, technology development, and spectrum management. His contribution on data privacy and security in ITU-T SG3 was well appreciated. Before TRAI, Sunil Kumar Singhal has worked for more than 9 years in BSNL on ICT applications, data centres, and cellular mobile and broadband technologies.

Sunil Kumar Singhal hold a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) degree from University of Delhi and Batchelor in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Jodhpur University. In addition, he has completed Advanced Professional Course in Competition Law and Market Regulation. He is currently pursuing an online micro-master's programme in data, Economics, and Development Policy (DEDP) from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA.