Ashok Kumar
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Ashok Kumar is an officer of Indian Telecom Service, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India. He joined this service in year 1995. He is a career technocrat with specialization in the Mobile Communications and other telecom and related ICT sector; presently working in the UP West LSA of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications.

He has attended and contributed in various National and International fora in the field of Telecommunications and ICT standard and specification making including subject matters handled in ITU T sector. Presently he is **Vice Chair of ITU-T Study Group – 16** which makes standards on Multimedia and Digital services.

As part of his role as Dy. Director General at National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation & Training, and under **Mission Karmayogi** of Government of India, he has designed and developed 40 hours Course on 5G Mobile Communications for telecom professional of Department of Telecommunications, India and other stakeholders. He has further **published these courses on iGot Platform (eLearning Portal of Government of India)**. He has also conducted five batches of Online 36 hours/ 6 weeks 5G Certificate courses for officers of Indian Telecom Service and other central / state Government officials

He was a key member of the Expert Group created by Government of India to design and develop Education and Awareness training Program on 5G for Bureaucrats, Central/State Training Institutes/Administrative Academies, Train the Trainer program for Engineering Institutes/Academia, Students in Engineering Institutes/Academia and General awareness E-learning module on 5G use cases. With his outstanding knowledge of IMT 2020 (5G) technology and his rich experience of more than 25 years in Mobile communications and other telecom/ICT sector, he has contributed significantly in fulfilling the mandate given to Expert Group.

He has worked in **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** mandated to issue biometric based Identity called **Aadhaar** to all residents of India. As part of UIDAI team, for seven years from July 2013to July 2020, he had contributed in creating enabling policy, process and guidelines to expand the eco system and keep them viable and healthy resulting in achieving the mammoth task of enrolling over 90% of population of India. He has been key contributor in framing of Aadhaar Act and Enrolment and Updated regulations thereafter. As

key/nodal member from UIDAI for Direct Benefit Program in UIDAI, he was instrumental in on-boarding more than 100 programs of Central Government on Aadhaar. This included drafting of relevant notification/regulations, Vetting in Law ministry, helping the ministry use Aadhaar authentication etc.

His Contribution as part of UIDAI team has helped achieve Sustainable Development (SDG) Goal 16.9 about providing legal Identity to all residents of India. The SDG Goal 16 on "peace, justice, and sustainable institutions" aims to "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." Within this is Goal 16.9 is on identity and it says: "By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration".

As in charge for Direct Benefit Program in UIDAI, he was instrumental in on-boarding more than 100 programs of Central Government on Aadhaar. This included drafting of relevant notification/regulations, Vetting in Law ministry, helping the ministry use Aadhaar authentication etc. He contributed in various committees / forum of Government of India related to financial Inclusion, specially adoption of Aadhaar based banking platform (AEPS/APB). This has enabled opening of bank account of every residents in rural and remote areas in a paperless manner digitally using hand held devices called Micro ATM carried by banking correspondents and provision of banking facility in these areas of the country. This has led to Financial and Social inclusion of the people. The financial inclusion achieved using Identity program and banking platform is contributing in attaining many SDGs. This includes eliminating poverty, creating jobs, improving gender equality and good health. The Aadhaar platform and Aadhaar based banking platform has also been playing key role in handling disaster situations including periodic lockdowns due to covid-19 situation. Government has been using the Aadhaar based payment platform to transfer cash benefit directly into Aadhaar linked bank account of Individuals as part of its social benefit program.

He had represented India (nominated by Ministry of Communications, Government of India) as a speaker on "Plans and Lessons Learnt for National Digital ID" in 19th APT Policy & Regulatory Forum (PRF-19) in Bhutan from 14-16 August, 2019 and shared the insight of the National Identity program of India called Aadhaar, the largest biometric based Identity Program of the World. He shared insight of design of India's Identity Program and its successful implementation and its use by Government for its development programs. The Insight about Social and Financial inclusion of people of remotest part of the country enabled by Aadhaar was appreciated and liked by all the participants. India's presentation was rated one of the best presentations in the Forum.

He has worked in DoT and leading government telecom service provider - BSNL in the field of planning, design, procurement, installation, commissioning, operation & maintenance of Mobile Telecommunication and other telecom technologies. As part of BSNL Head Quarter team during July 2003 to July 2013, he had played a key roll in launching CDMA based 3G mobile services for the first time in India. Later he contributed in planning, procurement and

implementation of BSNL's CDMA, WiMAX and Mobile Network across Country. He played key role in launching various applications and services including multimedia services for BSNL networks.

As part of India contribution for the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO)in the field of information and communication technologies (ICTs), he delivered 5 days course on "WiMAX Planning and RF Engineering" in Johannesburg, South Africa from 04/07/11 to 08/07/11 under CTO projects to participants from 23 Commonwealth countries.

During his initial 10 years of services, he has served in various part of the country including remotest part of Eastern/ North Eastern states and contributed in Installation, Commissioning and Operation of telecom networks.

Hence his contribution in making standard and specification in the area of telecommunication and ICT including the subjects handled in ITU T sector, his contribution in achieving Sustainable Development Goal related to Identity (Goal 16.9) and indirect contribution in other SDGs in way of his contribution for financial and Social Inclusions program of Government of India, his contribution in developing and delivering various 5G courses for telecom professionals and other stake holders makes him suitable candidate for the post of Vice Chair in the Informal expert group on the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (IEG-WTPF)

Educational Qualification:

Sr. No.	Qualification	Subject	Institution/University/ Place/Country
1	B.E.	Electronics	MNREC (MNIT, now), Allahabad, India
2	MBA	Marketing	IGNOU, Delhi, India