



Secretary General

WELCOME ADDRESS

Excellencies,

Mr. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Hon'ble Minister for Communications, Republic of India

Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, Republic of India

Mr. Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Major General (Retd.) Mohammad Emdad Ul Bari, Chair, SATRC and Chairman, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission

Distinguished Heads of Regulators and Members of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council,

Distinguished guests and delegates,

Good morning to you all.

It is my great honour and pleasure to welcome you to the 25th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-25) here in New Delhi, India.

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity and all delegates, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to your Excellencies Mr. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Hon'ble Minister for Communications, and Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, for graciously agreeing to attend the opening ceremony of this SATRC-25 to inaugurate the meeting. It is indeed a great honour for all of us.

I would like to convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Mr. Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI for hosting this important event and making all the excellent arrangements.

Excellencies,
Delegates,

The South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC) has been an important sub-regional programme of the APT since its inception. It has been a platform for the heads of telecommunication regulatory bodies from nine South Asian countries to discuss, network and cooperate on important telecommunications and ICT related issues. This is the 25th Meeting of SATRC and important milestone for the activities of SATRC. I believe SATRC activities are providing good mechanism for fostering cooperation in the region as guided by the APT Ministerial Statement and the Strategic Plan of APT for 2024-2026.

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Activities of SATRC have been conducted through different phases of SATRC Action Plans. This concept of developing the SATRC Action Plan addressing the common issues of member countries in a tangible manner with reports. To date, eight phases of SATRC Action Plan had been completed and their outputs of each Work Item are available on the APT website. We are now implementing SATRC Action Plan Phase IX, which was adopted by the 24th SATRC meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh last year. I am pleased to note good progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan IX since then and I would like to emphasize that the successful implementation of the Action Plan depends on the interest, commitment and support of all SATRC members.

The details implementation reports will be presented for consideration by the Council at this meeting. I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the host countries that had facilitated those events in 2024. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the Chairs and the experts of the Working Groups for their excellent efforts in producing good outcomes and contributing to the work on a voluntary basis.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

During this three-day meeting, there will be a Roundtable session among the Council members to exchange their views and share experience on the role of telecommunication regulators. The discussion will also focus on various regulatory interventions and new regulatory approaches to accelerate the development of telecommunication and ICT. SATRC-25 will also include the Regulator-Industry Dialogue to identify the current challenging issues and how to enhance cooperation between regulator and industry to address those challenges. This year regulator-industry dialogue will focus on digital connectivity. I hope you all will have a fruitful discussion on the subjects and share some initiatives taken within the SATRC region.

I wish you all a successful meeting and a happy stay in New Delhi.

Thank you very much.