

ए. के. तिवारी  
सदस्य (प्रौद्योगिकी)  
**A. K. Tiwari**  
Member (Technology)



भारत सरकार  
संचार मंत्रालय  
दूरसंचार विभाग, डिजिटल संचार आयोग  
संचार भवन, 20, अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001  
Government of India  
Ministry of Communications  
Department of Telecommunications  
Digital Communications Commission  
Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road,  
New Delhi - 110 001  
Ph. : 23372307, Fax : 23372353  
E-mail : membtert-dot@nic.in

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*Dear Friends and Colleagues,*

As I reminisce about my journey in telecom service I am reminded of the concept by which all of us are accustomed in living life as per linear beliefs and patterns. However, the passage of time is not linear but cyclical, and as we all know is called "kalchakra", which creates divisions and movement of life to sustain the world in periodic time frames. 'It begins to end and ends to begin'. As my journey in telecom is about to set, it promises a new dawn from another set of very capable and illustrious officers. Today is the day of nostalgia and celebration of a quintessential life of a common Indian as the story rolls over in front of my mind the defining moments of my career.

As a telecom service officer, I witnessed Bharat taking a giant leap of confidence as the saga of technology-driven communication unfolded before us. I feel proud and privileged that I was destined to be part of this event which metamorphosed the communication sector in our great country, which I am sure would continue in future as well. I spent numerous years in the Department of Telecommunications – a life of continuous evolution, cooperation and guidance. It was a privilege to serve the citizens of my country and it has been an honour to serve them with you and other partners. My entire career was guided by four-pronged beliefs-- the first was to set primacies and then remain dedicated to achieving the goals, the second was to keep dreaming and belief in self until progress was achieved, the third was to have policies which focuses on people, be it the large extended family of telecom or our esteemed customers as well as prospective customers and finally to stand up for that person who is standing last in the queue.

Presently humankind is witnessing unparalleled challenges in the form of climate change and sustainable development and dear friends I can say with a firm conviction that telecom will play a major role in overcoming these challenges by bringing in digital empowerment for the entire human race. The difficulties encountered will be resolved as we march forward and light will dawn and shine with increasing clearness on our path. My dear friends the need of the hour is that we as civil servants should rise to the occasion and act like a *karmyogi* so that Bharat is transformed and once again occupy its coveted position of *Vishwaguru*. The present century and centuries to come, belong to Bharat and I appeal to my colleagues to put their heart and soul together to achieve this hallowed goal, which in any case naturally belongs to us.

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I take immeasurable pride as a civil servant of the Union of India for the growth and development of the telecom sector throughout my career. In this context, it would not have been made possible without the help, collaboration and friendship of a large number of telecom officers, my mentors and various professionals in our domain. I take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work and commitment which has motivated me for years. The story of growth and development in the telecom sector is a 'work in progress' and lots of laurels are to be lapped up as it continues to march forward.

Today as I hang my boots, I would like to say that my time in service has gone rather quickly but the memories that people have left with me will always be cherished by me forever and ever.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Ashok Kumar Tiwari)

All Officers/Staff of DOT, BSNL, MTNL, CDOT, ITI, TCIL, TEC