India IGF (IIGF-2022)

Main Panel 2: Digital Bharat: Connecting the unconnected

India is the country with largest connected users as well as the nation with largest unconnected people. What will it take to make the internet accessible, affordable, and safe, so that we get every Indian online? Speakers in this panel would share their experience on various public and private initiatives underway to connect people across India. This would include the discussion on how we can ensure equal Internet access to all citizens, even if they are in the most far flung areas of the country, how to ensure that women, people from marginalised communities, people with disabilities can get connected to the Internet and avail all the citizen centric services available to them such as the DBT facilities, agri-loans to farmers, e-governance websites, access to specialised healthcare using telemedicine, educational scholarships, etc.? What are measures being taken to make the internet more affordable? The session will explore innovative ways to connect people in remote & geographically inaccessible areas (islands, dense forests areas, hilly areas, border areas, pockets affected due to extremism, etc), ensure all websites and services are universally accessible in their own preferred language. It will discuss how to promote inclusive and meaningful access to people so that they can avail the benefits of this techade.