

IoT WILL BE THE FUTURE

The Economic Times Telecom Awards 2017 saw panelists from across the sector discussing the Internet of Things (IoT) that is being seen as the next big thing, albeit with a few shortcomings



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While the telecom sector has seen rapid growth in the last decade, the IoT is being seen as the next wave of the things to come. It is likely to unfurl a huge world of opportunities for telecom operators, service providers, and for us as a country as we embark on the digital platform. To talk about the past, present and future of IoT, a panel discussion was held at the ET Telecom Awards, wherein the experts from the field came together to discuss the potential that the Internet of Things has on us as a country, for us as a customer and for us as an enterprise. The discussion was moderated by Paromita Chatterjee from ET Now.

IoT as we understand is taking the internet away from the desktop and mobiles to smart devices. Talking about the definition of IoT in the current context, Aditya Chaudhary, MD & Lead, Accenture India, says, "IoT is something what the internet was 20 years ago. IoT therefore will be the future but in a very different

form that we have envisioned today. As one of the thought leaders, Accenture believes that the number of devices that will be in your houses or wherever you are will be far more than the population. And that is where IoT will play a major role."

While some call IoT hype, many consider it an industrial revolution. Giving insight on the same, Deven Buch, business head, OME, GTL Ltd, shares, "Things are always connected, either through wire lines or wireless. What makes IoT different and a promising case is that today there is computing power which is now available and that too on the cloud." Though disagreeing with IoT being a revolution, Dr. Kaushik Saha, CTO, Samsung R&D Institute India, says IoT needs more time to prove itself. "I do not consider IoT to be the industrial revolution it is projected to be. The basic problem of quality of service exists. There is power consumption constraint as nobody can ensure a battery life of five years for a small sensor. Lastly, data security is a big

problem as 75 per cent of data is encrypted." Akhil Minocha, Vice President of Sales- Asia Pacific and Japan, Accelerate, agrees that there are barriers but feels that IoT is here to stay. "Intra-operability is surely an

issue. There are other barriers to IoT; but more than barriers, there is a definite spurt in terms of adoption of IoT. And very clearly this is an industrial revolution. And this is a natural and gradual progression of technology," he says.

IoT is all about adding values, avers Kavitha Mohammad, Director, Industrial Solutions Group, Public Sector, Intel Corporation - Asia Pacific Japan, "IoT is a globalisation of



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sorts which is helping devices talk in their own language. Also they can now understand many languages and collaborate better. In IoT, we are talking about intra-operability which is nothing but understanding each other's world better," she points out.

Giving a telecom perspective, Uttam Kumar, Head, IT Innovation and New Technology, Aircel, adds, "IoT is the intelligent connectivity of physical devices, driving massive gains in efficiency, business growth and quality of life. The pace of change is accelerating. But everything that we are talking about here has to be India specific. It should also be a strong business case; either a revenue generation or cost saving." Talking

about how IoT will affect productivity and efficiency, Randeep Raina, CTO, Nokia India, says "With digitisation that is happening globally and in India, we are already in a stage where productivity out of the technology has not completely yielded its potential. IoT gives us an opportunity where you can enhance productivity and efficiency across the verticals. I don't see any challenge vis-à-vis IoT cutting on jobs but contrary to this, it is sure to improve efficiency and make better use of human resource." IoT in India doesn't come in standardised packages. It is all about adopting a consultative approach to address specific needs and working out a solution with the available eco system. Concluding the discussion, the panel agreed on identifying what is the market case as far as India is concerned and to give IoT some time to make a mark. There is an opportunity to be an evolution which will come to forefront with time. It's not a perfect world and with time IoT too will come out negating all its shortcomings.

PANEL DISCUSSION