



Mr. SP Purwar
Co-Chairman
IAFI

S P Purwar has been a part of the Department of Posts for 14 years and the Department of Telecommunications for 21 years till his retirement in 2002.

Currently he focuses his practice on Infrastructure in general and Communications/Broadcasting and IT/ITES in particular. He has been involved in helping corporate entities to understand the nuances of Indian Regulatory environment and plan accordingly, Corporate Restructuring and Dispute Resolution in the Telecom sector. He also handles Debt Financing, Refinancing, Mergers & Acquisitions and licensing of Telcos.

Having worked for over three decades and grown to the top in the Department of Telecom, which was till 2000 the policy maker, the regulator & the operator, all rolled into one, Purwar has had exposure in all aspects of Telecom functioning. He has played a key role in the process of Telecom privatization as also in the development of the Regulatory regime. He has closely monitored the development of number portability regulations and has attended consultation processes.

He, when in the Department of Telecommunications in senior positions, advised on setting up of telecom regulator created in 1997, called TRAI, has overseen privatization of telecom in India for which he was sent to attend a crash course in 1992 in Washington DC. He has been involved in formulation of first National Telecom Policy (NTP) in 1994 and contributed a great deal in bringing about required changes in NTP in 1999 to address the challenges faced by new telecom service providers. He also assisted in revision of TRAI Act in 2000 to separate its administrative functions from the judicial, leading to setting up of Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal.

After retirement he has taken up a career in law as an expert corporate lawyer in telecom and has been contributing in the development of appropriate regulatory regime through active and regular participation in the activities for a strong regulator.

As a nominee Director on the Boards of HTL (Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd.), TCIL (Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd.) and MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.) and as a Finance Director of BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.), the largest landline and one of the mobile telecom operator in India, Purwar has rich experience of Public Sector Telcos engaged in fields as diverse as manufacture, consultancy & operations.

He has also represented Indian Telecom in various bilateral, regional and international fora and acted for four years as Vice-chair of ITU's (International Telecommunication Union) Tariff Group for Asia-Pacific. In 1997, he headed the team who successfully launched MTNL's first GDR (Global Depository Receipt) issue.

For nearly 18 years in J Sagar Associates, a leading law firm of India, he has been advising & assisting Telcos/Broadcasting companies and companies in IT sector in regulatory, licensing, spectrum and FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) matters and other corporates in Government and Foreign Direct Investment approvals.