



सत्यमेव जयते

**Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Government of India
New Delhi**

Quarterly Newsletter (October- December 2020)

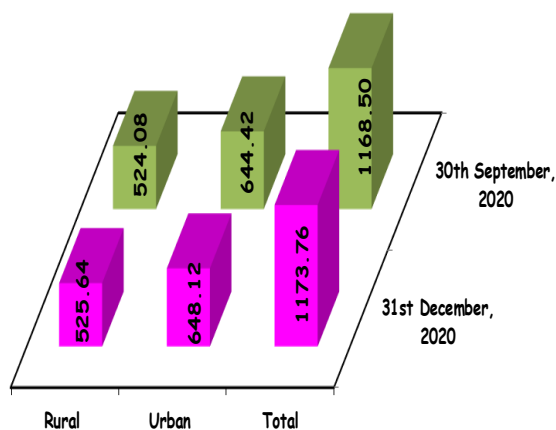


Highlights of major developments in the Telecom sector as well as initiatives by the DoT, during the quarter ending **December, 2020**, are given in the following sections.

I. TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS AND TELEDENSITY

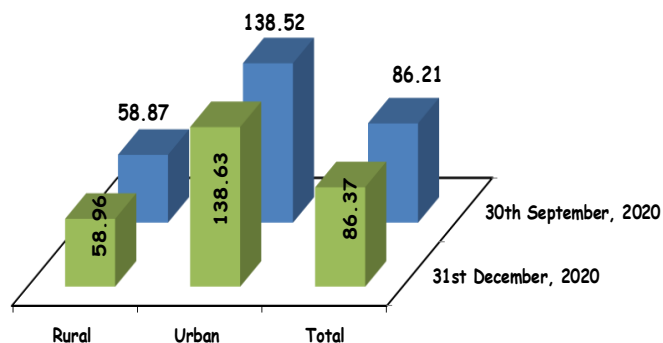
- (i) The number of telephones stood at 1173.76 million as on 31st December, 2020 from 1168.50 million on 30th September, 2020. This implies an increase of 5.26 million during the period, attributed to an increase in number of telephones in the private sector by 6.14 million during the period.

Telephones



The tele-density, which was 86.21% in the beginning of the quarter increased to 86.37% by the end of the December, 2020.

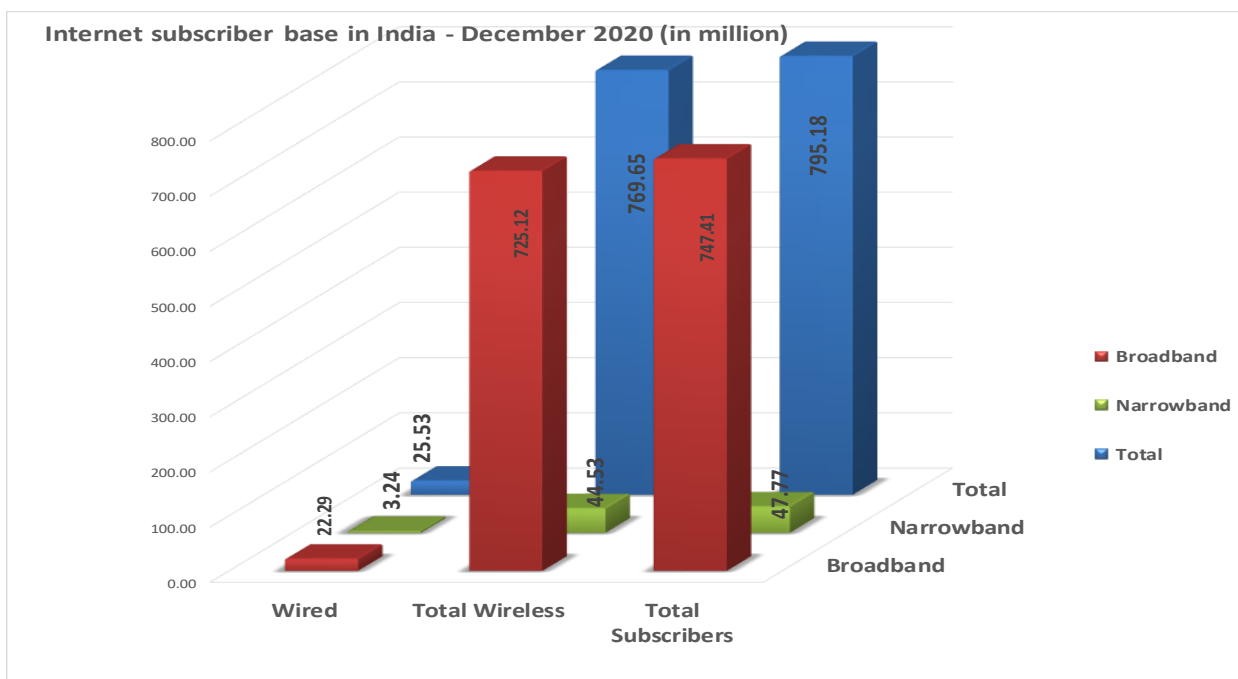
Tele-density



- (ii) The preference for use of wireless is reflected in the share of wireless phones, which reached 98.29% (1153.71 million) as on 31st December, 2020. On the other hand, the share of wire line was 1.71% (20.05 million) as on 31st December, 2020.
- (iii) In public sector, there was a slight decrease of 0.88 million phones during the quarter ending December, 2020. However, in private sector there was increase of 6.14 million phones during the same period. The public sector had 132.09 million (11.25%) phones as against 1041.67 million (88.75%) phones of the private sector as on 31st December, 2020.
- (iv) As on 31st December, 2020, the share of urban was 55.22% (648.12 million) compared to 44.78% (525.64 million) of rural areas. The rural tele-density stands at 58.96% as compared to the urban tele-density of 138.63% as on 31st December, 2020.

II. INTERNET PENETRATION

- (i) There has been increase in Internet subscribers (both broadband and narrowband put together) from 776.45 million in September,2020 to 795.18 million in December, 2020, registering a quarterly growth of 2.41%.



- (ii) The number of subscribers accessing internet via wireless phones etc. was 769.65 million and there were 25.53 million wired internet subscribers at the end of December, 2020. Wireless internet subscribers constitute 96.79% of the total internet subscribers.
- (iii) Rural Internet connections stood at 308.17 million whereas number urban internet subscribers were 487.01 million at the end of December,2020.
- (iv) The number of Broadband subscribers, which was 726.33 million at the end of September'20, increased to 747.40 million in December'20 with an increase of 21.07 million.

III. Activities of DoT (October- December, 2020)

a) **Technology/ Research/ other Activities:**

- (i) Energy Consumption Ratings (ECR) for Technology Products have been finalized and released, which will help in energy planning and reduction of carbon footprints by the telecom service providers.

(ii) Standard for Generic Requirement (GR) on Media Resource Function (MRF) was finalized. The MRF is used within the IP Multimedia Subsystems (IMS) core network for providing announcements and general processing assistance to the services in the telecom.

(iii) Revision of Standard for Generic requirement on Network Protocol Analyzer (NPA) finalized. NP A is used for monitoring, simulation/ emulation, conformance testing, inter-working and load generation for Public Switched Telecom Network (PSTN) / Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) / Universal Mobile System (UMTS) and Next Generation Network (NGN) architectures.

- b) Vigilance Awareness Week was observed in the HQ and field offices of the Department and its CPSEs. An Integrity Pledge was taken by officials and several competitions were held to enhance awareness on this year's theme of "*Satark Bharat Samruddh Bharat*".
- c) On 8th October, 2020, Jan Andolan' Campaign on COVID-19 was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Key Messages of "Wear a mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene" disseminated by DoT to its CPSEs and its Attached/Subordinate Offices. Covid-19 pledge also taken by all employees of DoT.



- d) 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' was observed on 31.10.2020 with reading out of the Unity Pledge on the occasion.
- e) **Second Virtual consultation of ITU Council:** Second virtual consultation of ITU Council was held during 16-20 November 2020. Senior Officers of this Department participated and presented contributions from India regarding hosting of World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly WTSA-2020, an important event of ITU held once in 4 years. The Council agreed for consultation process for the Indian proposal of holding WTSA in 2022 during 28th February- 9th March 2022.
- f) **AFRICACOM 2020, 10-12 November 2020, South Africa (Virtual Expo):** AfricaCom is the largest and most influential telecommunications event in Africa continent. The

AfricaCom 2020 event provided the perfect setting for companies in front of Africa's leading Mobile Network Operators (MNO's) and technology companies. 15 companies participated in India Pavilion in Africacom 2020 under Champion Sector Scheme of Department of Telecommunications.

- g) **ICT in Disaster Management (02.11.2020 to 06.11.2020):** One-week APT course on 'ICT in Disaster Management' was conducted by NTIPRIT in Online Mode. Total 17 participants from 9 countries participated in this course. The implementation & usage aspects of various ICT Technologies in Disaster management were discussed during the course. The participants were also given the exposure of rescue management during disaster.
- h) **Commonwealth ICT Round Table Webinar- 30 November, 2020.** The Department participated in this inaugural webinar and shared its experiences on The topic "ICT Policy and Regulatory framework and effective measures using ICTs during COVID-19".
- i) On 11th November, 2020, Cabinet approved PLI Scheme to 10 key Sectors including for Telecom & Networking Products to enhance India's Manufacturing Capabilities and Enhancing Exports. Production Linked Incentive scheme worth Rs. 12,195 Crore for telecom equipment manufacturing will encourage Indian and global telecom equipment manufacturers to manufacture in India as well as export from India.
- j) **Contribution to ITU-T SG 13:** The National Working Group -13 corresponding to ITU-T Study Group-13 is working in the field of Standardization of "Future networks, with focus on international Mobile Telecommunication (IMT) — 2020, cloud computing and trusted network infrastructures". The contributions on following subject matter have been submitted to ITU-T SG 13:
- Framework for boot strapping of devices and application for open access to trusted services in diverse ecosystem.
 - Cloud Computing
 - Autonomous Networks
- k) **New Guidelines for Other Service Providers (OSPs):** DoT has further simplified and liberalize the Terms & Conditions for registration of OSPs and issued the new guidelines for OSPs on 05.11.2020. It is expected that the new guidelines for OSPs will make the industry more competitive in the global market and further boost the IT/ITeS industry. Some of the highlights of the new guidelines for OSPs are as under:
- No registration certificate will be required for OSP centres in India.
 - Work from Anywhere (WFA) in India.
 - No Bank Guarantee whatsoever will be required from the OSPs.
 - Interconnectivity between OSP centres belonging to different OSP companies.
 - EPABX at foreign location in case of international OSP.

- Sharing of the infrastructure by the Domestic OSP and international OSP.
- Use of distributed architecture of EPABX for OSP centres across India, where the EPABX is owned by OSP.
- Use of Closed User Group (CUG) for internal communication of the OSP company.

l) "Swacchta Pakhwada “was observed by the Department from 16^o November to 30th November 2020. The “Swachhta Pledge” was administered to officials at DoT HQ, field offices, attached/subordinated offices and CPSEs on 16.11.2020, duly following Covid-19 protocols.

m) Secretary (T) led officials of DoT in reading out the preamble of the Constitution at 11 am on 26.11.2020 while following the lead of the Hon’ble President through live telecast. Similar action was taken at attached /subordinate offices and CPSEs of DoT. Prize winners of an online essay competition on Fundamental Duties held in connection with the year-long Constitution Day Celebrations were also felicitated.

n) INDIA AFRICA ICT EXPO 2020, 1- 2nd December 2020 (Virtual Expo): The Department of Telecommunications hosted the ‘India Africa ICT Expo & Conference’ on December 1-2, 2020. The Ministry of ICT and Innovation, Government of Rwanda was co-host for the event. The event was supported by the Ministry of Industry & Trade of Rwanda, as well as other Government agencies working for the ICT sector playing a significant role in foreign investment and collaborations. The event was inaugurated by Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre, Hon’ble Minister for State for Communications, Education and Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India with Ms. Paula Ingabire, Hon’ble Minister of ICT and Innovation, Rwanda, Government of Rwanda as Guest of Honour.

o) The Union Cabinet approved the following proposals of DoT on 09th December, 2020:

- To provide submarine optical fibre cable connectivity from Kochi in Kerala to 11 inhabited islands of Lakshadweep. The project is scheduled to be completed by May, 2023. This conforms to the target of 1000 days set in the Hon'ble PM's Independence Day Speech on 15.08.2020.
- For providing 4G Mobile connectivity in 1683 uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and 691 uncovered villages of Assam.
- To proliferate Broadband through public wi-fi networks under the framework of Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PMWANI). This framework takes forward the goal of National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP), 2018 of creating robust digital communications infrastructure.

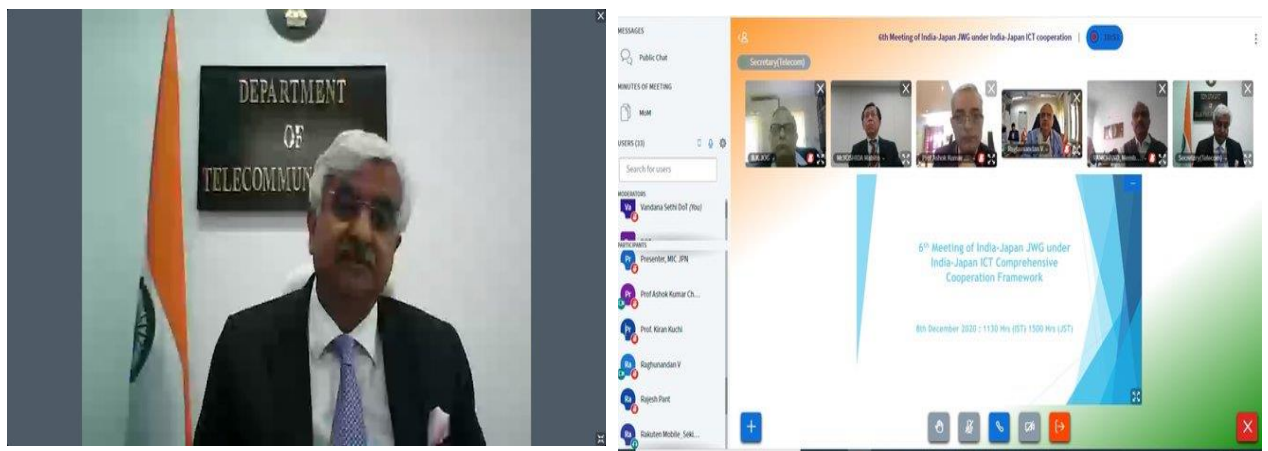
- p) The Union Cabinet on 16.12.2020 approved the proposal of Do T for Auction of spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz frequency bands. Spectrum will be offered for assignment for validity period of 20 years. A total of 2251.25 MHz is being offered with total valuation of Rs. 3,92,332.70 crore (at reserve price). Auction is scheduled on March 1, 2021.
- q) Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated India Mobile Congress 2020 on 08.12.2020. This event was jointly organized by the DoT and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). The theme for IMC 2020 was "Inclusive Innovation- Smart, Secure, Sustainable".



- r) On 1st December, 2020, Secretary (Telecom) Chaired and delivered opening remarks at 17th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) held virtually, attended by Secretary General ITU, Director BDT ITU & other dignitaries to deliberate on measuring indicators for ICT development.
- s) **ICT Policy & Regulation (14.12.2020- 18.12.2020):** One- week APT course on 'ICT Policy & Regulation' was conducted by NTIPRIT in online mode. Total 18 participants from 8 countries participated in this course. The course was aimed at familiarizing the participants with the basic concepts of Policy & Regulation and to develop understanding of spectrum management and key principles. The participants were also made to understand new ICT trends, their effect on business, market and society and institutional structure of Telecommunication sector.
- t) **Covid 19 monitoring & mitigation:** The Covid -19 Quarantine Alert System (CQAS) continues to contribute in monitoring quarantine cases. As on 31.12.2020, the total number of target cases covered under CQAS for 18 States / UTs that are so far part of the system

was 27, 14,805, including 'active cases' as well as cases where quarantine monitoring period has been completed.

- u) **Presentation of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom SkillExcellence awards:** Hon'ble Minister of Communication and Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications presented the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Awards on 18.12.2020.
- v) On 8th December, 2020, 6th Meeting of Joint Working Group under India-Japan ICT Comprehensive Cooperation Framework was held virtually to discuss cooperation in the areas of 5G, Submarine optical fibre cable, Smart City Ecosystem, HAPS mobile, etc. Secretary (Telecom) inaugurated the meeting.



- w) **Network Readiness Index:** A meeting of Secretary DoT with Dr Soumitra Dutta, Co-founder of Portulans Institute Washington D.C. and publisher of Network Readiness Index was held on 30th December 2020 at New Delhi. Discussion was held on the progress made by India in ICT sector over years and how it can be captured in the framework of Network Readiness Index.
- x) **Prefix '0' for landline-to-mobile calls:** The Department of Telecommunications has made it mandatory for all Fixed to Mobile calls to be dialed with prefix '0' from 15th January, 2021. This is to free up sufficient numbering resources for future use.
