



Message from the Minister of Communications - Department of Telecommunications

July 2026 Edition

Namaskar!

India's digital transformation is being shaped not only by the expansion of connectivity, but also by our determination to build the institutions, technologies and partnerships that will define the future of communications. Over the past month, the Department of Telecommunications has taken important strides in advancing policy reforms, strengthening digital infrastructure, promoting indigenous innovation, expanding broadband access, and enhancing the resilience of our communication networks. Together, these initiatives reaffirm our commitment to building a secure, inclusive and future-ready digital ecosystem that empowers every citizen and positions India as a global leader in telecommunications.

One of the defining milestones this month has been the operationalization of the online portal for Telecommunication Service Authorizations and the migration of existing licenses under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. This marks an important step in implementing India's new telecom regulatory framework by simplifying service authorization processes and enabling seamless migration of existing licensees. By making regulatory processes more transparent, efficient and technology-driven, we are creating a technology-driven regulatory environment that promotes innovation while significantly improving the ease of doing business.

India's commitment to ensuring that digital connectivity transforms lives also received global recognition during the month. The Department of Telecommunications' flagship initiative, "**Samridh Gram: Integrated Phygital Service Delivery Model Enabled by BharatNet,**" was honoured with the prestigious **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prize 2026** under Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment. This international recognition reflects India's innovative use of Digital Public Infrastructure and telecom connectivity to deliver integrated digital services to rural and remote communities, demonstrating how technology can become a powerful instrument of inclusive development.

Expanding quality broadband connectivity across the country continues to remain a national priority. During the month, Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), the Government of Gujarat, Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited (GFGNL) and BSNL signed an Addendum under the State-led model for implementation of the Amended BharatNet Programme in Gujarat. This initiative will strengthen broadband infrastructure across rural Gujarat, accelerating digital inclusion and creating new opportunities for education, healthcare, governance and economic development.

As India prepares for the next generation of communications technologies, we are equally focused on strengthening our role in the global telecom innovation ecosystem. The Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Department of Telecommunications and the Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI) will enhance India's participation in international telecom standardization and further advance the vision of the Bharat 6G Mission. Our objective is clear: India must not only adopt next-generation technologies but also play a leading role in shaping the global standards that define them.

Research, innovation and technical collaboration continued to receive sustained attention during the month. C-DOT signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IIT Hyderabad to establish a Centre of Excellence in Advanced Communication Technologies, creating a platform for cutting-edge research and the development of next-generation telecom solutions. Further strengthening the country's technical ecosystem, the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) entered into a partnership with BECIL to promote collaboration in convergence, broadcasting technologies and standardization, while also organizing a workshop on Advanced Satellite Communication Technologies and Service Quality Benchmarking. These initiatives reflect our continued investment in building indigenous capabilities and fostering a robust innovation ecosystem.

Building resilient communication networks remains central to our vision of a citizen-centric telecom sector. Following heavy rainfall, cloudbursts and landslides in several parts of the country, the Department of Telecommunications activated Intra Circle Roaming (ICR) in the affected districts of Arunachal Pradesh, and subsequently in Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Nagaland, and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu. These timely interventions ensured continuity of communication services during emergencies, enabling citizens to remain connected when they needed it most and strengthening our national disaster response framework.

During the month, I also had the opportunity to chair the Strategic Review and Planning Meet to review BSNL's Quarter I performance for FY 2026–27 along with senior officials of the Department of Telecommunications and the BSNL leadership team. The discussions focused on strengthening operational performance, improving service delivery, and preparing BSNL to seize emerging opportunities in India's rapidly evolving digital landscape. A strong and future-ready public sector continues to be an important pillar of our vision for the telecom sector.

As India moves steadily towards becoming a global digital leader, our efforts will continue to be guided by a simple principle: technology must be accessible, resilient, innovative and centered on the needs of our people. Whether through progressive reforms, world-class digital infrastructure, indigenous research, global collaboration or reliable communication networks, every initiative we undertake is aimed at empowering citizens and building a connected India that is prepared for the opportunities of tomorrow.

Jai Hind!

Warm regards,

Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
Minister of Communications,

