संचार मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS
सत्यमेव जयते

Message from the Minister of Communications - Department of Telecommunications

August 2026 Edition

Namaskar!

This August, as the tricolour rose at the Red Fort, India entered the 80th year of her Independence with a renewed resolve to build a nation ready for its centenary. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call for Saptadhara from the ramparts of the Red Fort captures this moment well. The India of 2047 will be shaped by the many streams of national progress moving together towards one destination.

In this transformative journey, technology will remain one of the defining forces of national progress. This commitment to seamless connectivity was tested this month, as DoT's J&K Licensed Service Area coordinated with the J&K Government and Telecom Service Providers to strengthen telecom infrastructure along the Shri Amarnath Yatra routes- Pahalgam and Baltal to the Holy Cave. Despite the massive pilgrim turnout, networks remained stable throughout, without any congestion. With 5G reaching 99.9% of all districts in India, the focus is now on building the technology itself, creating the capabilities behind it and ensuring that India has a decisive place in determining what the world's connected future will look like. This is why the establishment of India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ) at Gwalior stands out as a defining milestone of the month. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Government of Madhya Pradesh (GoMP) signed a MoU this month for the establishment of an integrated 350-acre plug-and-play industrial cluster. The TMZ is designed to provide world-class infrastructure and a conducive ecosystem for telecom and electronics manufacturing, research and development, innovation and allied activities. The MoU will pave the way for the establishment of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the TMZ, with 51% equity from the GoMP and 49% from the DoT. The vision has already begun to attract significant investor interest, with engagements in Delhi and Mumbai taking cumulative investment commitments to ₹5,500 crore, with the potential to create 18,000 jobs. At the heart of this effort is a simple conviction. Aatmanirbhar Bharat must also mean technological self-reliance. The India that aspires to lead in 2047 must have the confidence to design, manufacture and export the technologies that connect the world.

That ambition extends naturally from manufacturing to the technologies of tomorrow. The Bharat 6G Alliance continued its work this month, with a review of its progress reinforcing India's commitment to the next generation of communications. The ambition is to ensure that Indian institutions, industry and innovators are active participants in shaping the future of global telecommunications and contributing to the standards that will define the connected world of tomorrow. India is well on her path to secure nearly 10% of global 6G patents by the time commercial networks roll out around 2030. This emphasis on technological leadership is being supported by a growing indigenous 'research ecosystem'. C-DOT entered into collaborative initiatives with the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and the Foundation for Science Innovation and Development to establish Centres of Excellence, that will establish Centres of Excellence focused on advanced communication technologies. At the same time, the Annual IP Awards Ceremony 2026 recognised the ideas and innovations emerging from India's telecom R&D ecosystem. A nation that wishes to lead technologically must create an environment where research can move confidently- from the "laboratory to the marketplace."

The same confidence is reflected in India's growing role on the global stage. Under India's BRICS Chairship, the Department of Telecommunications led important conversations across the BRICS ICT Working Group, Digital Public Infrastructure Focus Group, Digital BRICS Task Force and Digital BRICS Forum. The discussions covered digital public infrastructure, digital governance, future networks and resilient digital ecosystems. These platforms matter because the digital future is increasingly being shaped through international cooperation, and India today has both the experience and the credibility to bring its own perspective to that conversation. Our bilateral engagement moved forward as well, with the signing of an MoU between India and Brazil on telecommunications and ICTs, opening new avenues for cooperation and exchange in a sector that is becoming central to economic growth and strategic partnership. The role of our young generation, the Amrit Peedhi, is equally critical in this transformation. The selection of three Sanchar Mitras as Generation Connect Youth Envoys of the International Telecommunication Union for 2026-2030 is a proud recognition of the confidence, talent and potential of India's youth.

Looking ahead for an exciting couple of months in the telecom space, we also unveiled the theme for the 10th edition of India Mobile Congress- "Scale without boundaries". Scheduled from 7 to 10 October 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, the landmark edition will bring together the global digital technology ecosystem at a moment when India is rapidly emerging as a hub for innovation, investment and technological collaboration. August also marked the 43rd Foundation Day of C-DOT, an institution that has played a foundational role in building India's indigenous telecom research and development capabilities since 1984. On this occasion, we unveiled a 'Quantum Products Wall', showcasing C-DOT's Quantum Series of products including the indigenous Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) and Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) solutions that are developed to strengthen the security and resilience of India's communication networks in the emerging quantum era.

The real test of a country's technological progress is not how quickly it adopts what the world has already built, but how confidently it prepares to build what the world will need next. India has made remarkable strides in connectivity, and as the world's second-largest telecom market, we have a strong foundation on which to build. The opportunity before us is to deepen that foundation through Indian research, Indian manufacturing and Indian intellectual property, while giving our young talent the freedom to take these ideas further. This is the larger significance of the work underway in our telecom sector. A manufacturing zone in Gwalior, research in 6G and quantum technologies, stronger partnerships with our universities, greater participation in global standard-setting and a new generation of young Indians representing the country internationally may appear, on the surface, to be different pursuits. In reality, they address the same question: what kind of technological nation does India want to be when she reaches 100? Our answer must be an India that has the capacity to make its own choices, develop its own technologies and contribute with confidence to the technological progress of the world. That is the spirit in which we approach the journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047. The work is substantial, but so is the opportunity. This month has shown us that the future we speak of is already taking shape, in our laboratories and factories, in our institutions and enterprises, and ultimately in the lives of every citizen.

Thank you!

Warm regards,
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