



Message from the Minister of Communications - Department of Telecommunications

September 2026 Edition

Theme - Networks of Trust: Securing India's Digital Future

Namaskar!

Every infrastructure revolution eventually confronts the question of trust. Roads are judged by the safety of the journey, and power grids by the reliability of the current they carry. A telecommunications network, which now carries the savings, identities, conversations and aspirations of more than a billion citizens, must be judged by whether people can rely on it without fear. This month's developments reflect a nation that has understood this and is building accordingly.

Citizen-centric governance found a striking expression in Sanchar Saathi, which helped recover more than 75,000 lost and stolen mobile handsets in a single month, a first since the initiative began. Behind that number lies growing public confidence, and a working partnership between the Department, telecom service providers and police departments across States and Union Territories. That relationship also depends on vigilance. The Department has cautioned citizens against tampering with IMEI numbers and misusing telecommunication identifiers, conduct that endangers personal safety and threatens the integrity of the network itself, and has reiterated the stringent legal provisions that guard against it. Recent cybercrime investigations brought to light a Point of Sale agent in Chhattisgarh who illegally activated 25 mobile connections using citizens' identification documents, without their knowledge or consent. Such episodes remind us that safeguards must be enforced with resolve, and that those who betray public trust will be held accountable.

Prevention, however, is always preferable to remedy, and here the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator has proved its worth. Within fifteen months of its launch on 22 May 2025, it has helped prevent suspected cyber fraud losses exceeding ₹5,000 crore. Behind every rupee protected is a household spared a hardship, and a family that continues to trust digital payments as a safe and dependable instrument of everyday life.

Trust must also be anchored in capability that is our own. C-DOT unveiled 14 indigenous Quantum Products in Quantum Key Distribution and Post-Quantum Cryptography, strengthening India's ability to secure its communication networks against the threats of tomorrow. In parallel, the five-year agreement between the Department and C-DOT to establish an End-to-End Optical Network Test Bed in New Delhi will give Indian startups and industry a real-world environment in which to develop, test and commercialise optical communication solutions. A nation that secures and tests its own technologies is a nation that shapes its digital destiny.

This confidence is increasingly visible on the global stage. By endorsing the Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security, India joined like-minded governments in committing to a sixth-generation future founded on openness, interoperability, security, resilience, resource efficiency and innovation-led competition. At the Global Fintech Festival 2026, I had the opportunity to speak of an inclusive and trusted digital financial ecosystem, and of the foundational role that telecom networks will play in powering the next phase of digital finance.

Trust, however, must also reach the last mile. The agreement among Digital Bharat Nidhi, the Department of Telecommunications, the Government of Jharkhand, JDICL, BSNL and JCNL for the Amended BharatNet Programme under the State-led model will bring broadband to rural Jharkhand with the participation of the State itself. It is a model of cooperative federalism in action, ensuring that the promise of connectivity is not confined to those who live nearest to the network.

Finally, a nation that trusts its networks must also be able to build them. During my visit to the site identified for the proposed Telecom Manufacturing Zone in Gwalior, it was evident that the city is set to emerge as a major hub for India's telecom manufacturing sector. The Department's third Investors' Roundtable in Bengaluru, which brought together leading technology, telecom, semiconductor and electronics stakeholders, showed the appetite of industry to be part of India's first integrated Telecom Manufacturing Zone in Madhya Pradesh. Across the three roundtables in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, the Department has received 50 applications proposing investment of more than ₹5,500 crores and employment for more than 22,500 people. The process for change of land use at the Gwalior site is under way, so that allotment to industry can follow.

Next month, the India Mobile Congress will mark its tenth edition in New Delhi, from 7 to 10 October, under the theme "Scale without Boundaries". This time, GSMA Board will also meet in India. I invite every reader to be part of this celebration of what India has built, and of what it will build next.

Taken together, these developments tell a coherent story. Handsets recovered, frauds prevented, identifiers protected, quantum shields forged, rural homes connected and factories envisioned are all expressions of a single purpose: that the citizen should be able to trust the network. In the digital age, trust is not a by-product of infrastructure. It is the infrastructure. It is the quiet foundation on which India's confidence, competitiveness and inclusion will rest for generations to come.

Jai Hind!

Warm regards,

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