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Finance

Big Burden

A severe financial crisis looms over the telecom industry as its debt burden grows to unsustainable levels. Fearing the risk of a default on loans taken by operators, banks have started reviewing their exposure to the sector. The financial turmoil is a result of the heightened competitive intensity in the sector and the higher capex incurred by operators on account of the increasing tax burden and high spectrum acquisition costs. Telecom players are now seeking urgent relief measures, such as a relaxation in payment obligations and a financial bail-out from the government.



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Recent developments such as the government's demonetisation move, emergence of payments banks and small finance banks, and the push for financial inclusion call for digitisation of operations and enhancement of the operational efficiency of the BFSI industry. It has thus become imperative for enterprises in this space to step up their investments in ICT solutions to keep pace with the changing milieu.

Telefocus: Rural Telecom 58

With urban markets reaching saturation levels, the rural segment is emerging as the new growth centre for stakeholders in the telecom industry. While the government is undertaking several projects targeted at rural areas, operators too are rolling out networks to expand coverage in these areas. However, efficient energy management at rural tower sites and other infrastructural challenges remain key deterrents.



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Publisher	Alok Brara
Printer	Alok Brara
Owner	India Infrastructure Publishing Pvt. Ltd.
Editor	Alok Brara
Printing Press	Thomson Press B-315, Okhla Ind. Area, Phase I, New Delhi -110020
Place of Publication	B-17, Qutab Institutional Area New Delhi -110016