

12

Connecting India

BharatNet receives a financial fillip to extend its rural reach

BharatNet, probably the world’s biggest rural telecom project, which aims to provide last-mile broadband connectivity to every village, has recently received a shot in the arm from the government. The union cabinet has approved an outlay of an additional Rs 1.39 trillion for the project. While Phase II of the project is still under way, it is already making a positive difference, as reflected by the surging rural data consumption. However, a low connectivity ratio and poor QoS are challenges that need to be ironed out to fully leverage BharatNet’s potential in enabling rural activity.



News Briefs

- 7 National events
- 10 International events

Special Stories

- 12 Connecting India: BharatNet receives a financial fillip to extend its rural reach
- 16 Redefining broadband: Growing relevance of FWA technology
- 18 Integrating IoT: Telecom sector explores Industry 4.0 use cases

Conference Highlights: OFC Networks in India

- 20 Poised for growth: Key drivers for the next wave of fiberisation
- 22 Last-mile fibre: Government initiatives to connect all villages with OFC
- 24 Enabling 5G: Role of OFC in network expansion
- 25 Leveraging opportunities: Monetising fibre assets for 5G success
- 26 OFC track: RailTel's initiatives to expand its fibre network
- 27 Network expansion: GAILTEL's

- role in OFC roll-out along gas pipelines
- 28 Future networks: Bridging the gap between OFC deployment and manufacturing in India
- 29 Fibre lag: Sluggish demand for OFC hinders 5G deployment
- 30 Safe solutions: Role of polymers in efficient cable protection
- 31 HDD installation: Challenges and opportunities
- 32 Smart urban hub: Gurugram's success in implementing OFC networks

Forum

- 33 “Himachal Pradesh has been successful in extending telecom services”: Views of Mukesh Repaswal, director, Government of Himachal Pradesh
- 34 Views of K. Rajaraman: “Optical fibre is the backbone of India’s digital economy”
- 36 “Communication is an essential service today”: Views of Santulan Chaubey, joint director (IT), Government of NCT of Delhi

- 37 “Overall tower fiberisation in Gujarat is around 35 per cent”: Views of GFGNL’s Kalpesh B. Patel
- 38 Expanding OFC landscape: Industry perspective on challenges in digital network growth

Companies

- 40 "Our testing solutions address complex challenges of networks and services": Interview with Spirent's Rajesh Pathak
- 42 “The role of cloud technology has expanded”: Interview with Airtel Digital’s Abhishek Biswal
- 43 “Indian data centres are at a crucial turning point”: Interview with Vertiv’s Dinesh Dhut

Finance

- 44 Gains and losses: Telecom operators’ quarterly financial performance results
- 46 Financial briefs: India and overseas

Enterprise Telecom: Retail

- 47 Reshaping retail: Prospects for

Enterprise Telecom: Retail 47



The retail industry has undergone a significant transformation in recent years, driven by several factors such as the rise of e-commerce and omnichannel retailing, hyper-personalisation, and changing customer behaviour. Retailers are increasingly adopting new technologies, including extended reality, metaverse, IoT, blockchain and AI, to improve their operations and customer experience. These technologies can help create a robust digital network that can give retailers the chance to improve performance and stay ahead of their competitors.

Special Section: Network Automation and AI 52

Network automation has emerged as a key focus area for telcos. Rising network complexity, rapid deployment of technologies such as 5G, and the growth of IoT devices and data traffic are necessitating the automation of networks for seamless connectivity. AI has introduced further advancements in network management by tracking and analysing real-time traffic data and enabling zero-touch provisioning. Although several challenges pertaining to costs, security, complexity and interoperability with legacy infrastructure may initially hamper adoption, AI-powered automation is set to transform telecom networks in the future.



the industry amid technological shifts

- 49** Digital trends: Technology uptake and implementation challenges in the retail sector

Special Section: Network Automation and AI

- 52** Reshaping networks: Leveraging AI for next-gen automation
- 54** Driving growth: Key trends and developments in automation for telcos
- 56** A challenging task: Implementation issues in network automation and AI deployment

Sales & Marketing

- 58** Democratising the internet: Jio's drive for digital inclusion
- 60** What's new in the market: Services and partnerships

Product Release

- 62** Products in the market

People

- 64** Sriram P.H., DaveAI
- 64** Pawan Anand, Ascendion

Teledata

- 65** Cellular subscribers: Cellular subscriber growth between April 2023 and May 2023
- 66** Mobile trends and shares: Subscriber additions and operators' market share

FORM IV

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