



सत्यमेव जयते

Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Government of India
New Delhi

Quarterly Newsletter (January- March 2021)

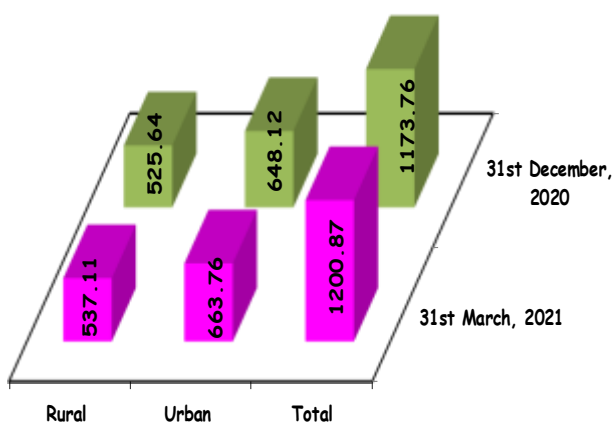


Highlights of major developments in the Telecom sector as well as initiatives by the DoT, during the quarter ending **March, 2021**.

I. TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS AND TELEDENSITY

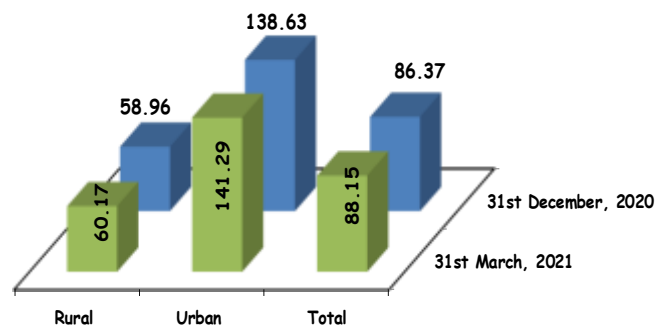
- (i) The number of telephones connection stood at 1200.87 million as on 31st March, 2021 from 1173.76 million as on 31st December, 2020. This implies an increase of 27.11 million connections during the period, attributed to an increase in number of telephones in the private sector by 28.04 million and decrease in PSU connections by 0.93 million during the period.

Telephones



The tele-density, which was 86.37% in the beginning of the quarter increased to 88.15% by the end of the March, 2021.

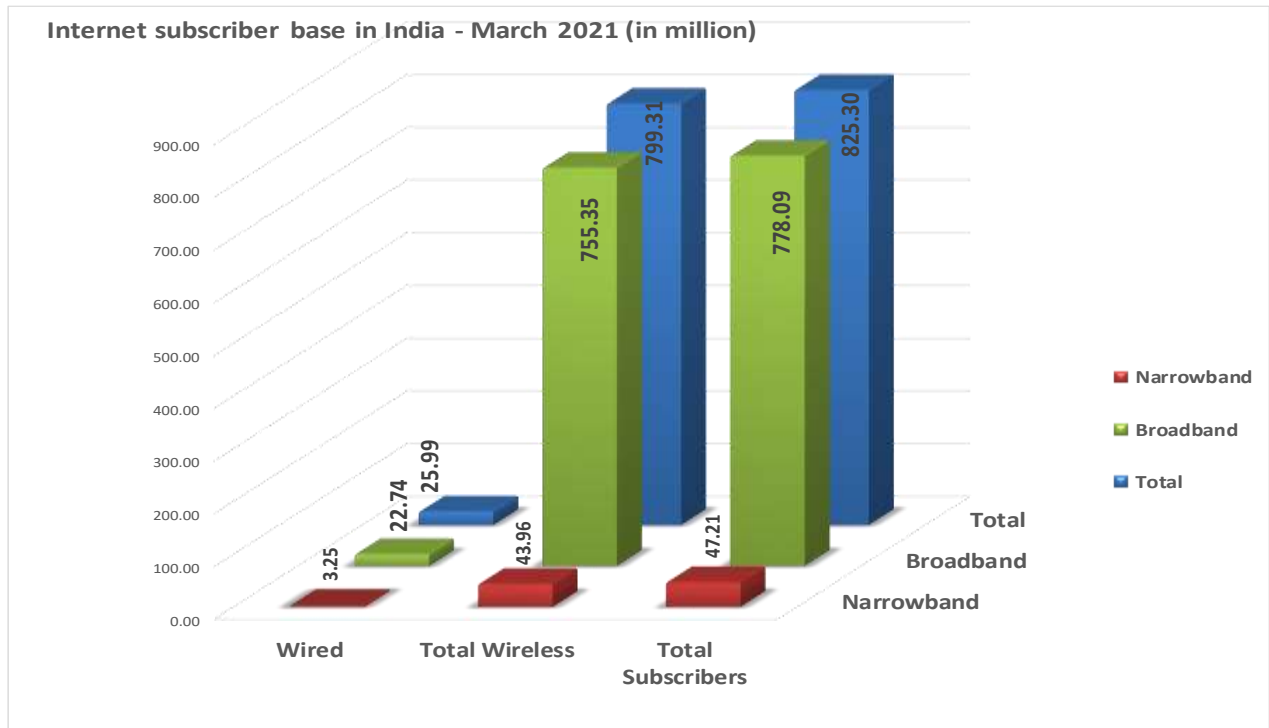
Tele-density



- (ii) The preference for use of wireless is reflected in the share of wireless phones, which reached to 98.31% (1180.63 million) as on 31st March, 2021. On the other hand, the share of wire line was 1.69% (20.24 million) at the end of the same period.
- (iii) In public sector, there was a slight decrease of 0.93 million phones during the quarter ending March, 2021. However, in private sector there was an increase of 28.04 million phones during the same period. The public sector had 131.16 million (10.92%) phones as against 1069.71 million (89.08%) phones of the private sector as on 31st March, 2021.
- (iv) As on 31st March, 2021, the share of urban areas in the total connections was 55.27% (663.76 million) compared to 44.73% (537.11 million) of rural areas. The rural tele-density stands at 60.17% as compared to the urban tele-density of 141.29% as on 31st March, 2021.

II. INTERNET PENETRATION

- (i) There has been an increase in Internet subscribers (both broadband and narrowband put together) from 795.18 million in December,2020 to 825.30 million in March, 2021, registering a quarterly growth of 3.79%.



- (ii) The number of subscribers accessing internet via wireless phones etc. was 799.31 million and there were 25.99 million wired internet subscribers at the end of March, 2021. Wireless internet subscribers constitute 96.85% of the total internet subscribers.
- (iii) Rural Internet connections stood at 322.77 million whereas number of urban internet subscribers were 502.53 million at the end of March,2021.
- (iv) The number of Broadband subscribers, which was 747.41 million at the end of December'20, increased to 778.09 million in March'21 (an increase of 30.69 million).

III. Activities of DoT (January- March, 2021)

- a) **1st ASEAN Digital Senior Officials Meeting with India (1st ADGSOM + India) and 1st ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting with India (1st ADGMIN + India):** The 1st ADGSOM + India meeting was held in virtual mode on 20 January 2021. India presented ASEAN India ICT workplan 2021 in the meeting. Subsequently, the 1st ADGMIN+ India meeting was held in virtual mode on 22 January 2021. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Communications and Multimedia, Malaysia and the Secretary, DoT, India.

Representatives from all ASEAN Member States participated. ADGMIN + India meeting considered and approved the ASEAN-India ICT Work Plan 2021.

- b) **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan:** A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan in the field of ICTs on 15- 01-2021. The MoC was signed by Hon'ble Minister Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad and H.E. Mr. Takeda Ryota, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan. The signing of this MoC through a Video Conference marks a strategic initiative for India as Japan is an important partner with "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" status. The MoC will enhance cooperation in various fields includes 5G networks, Telecom Security, Submarine cable system, Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR), ICTs capacity building, Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Block Chain, Spectrum Management, Cooperation on Multilateral platforms etc.
- c) **Bilateral meeting between India and UK:** A bilateral meeting was held between Indian delegation headed by Hon'ble Minister of Communications, Electronics & IT and Law & Justice, and visiting delegation of UK headed by Ms. Hon Elizabeth Truss, Hon'ble Secretary of State for International Trade, UK on 05.02.2021 at Sanchar Bhawan.
- d) **Bilateral Meeting between India and Australia:** A bilateral meeting was held between Indian delegation headed by Secretary (Telecom) and delegation from Australia headed by Mr. Simon Atkinson, Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Australia through virtual platform on 19.02.2021 for discussion on potential areas of cooperation in field of telecommunications such as harnessing the potential of 5G apps and developing start-up ecosystem, Telecommunication infrastructure in rural/remote areas, fixed line broadband, Telecommunications standard setting in the ITU, network security, spectrum management etc.
- e) **PLI Scheme for Telecom Sector:** On 17.02.2021, Cabinet approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Telecom and Networking Products (an initiative under Atmanirbhar Bharat) to give a boost to Telecom Manufacturing. The scheme has an outlay of Rs. 12195 crores to be utilized over 5 years leading to a projected enhanced production of more than Rs. 2.4 Lakh crores. This decision addresses an important component of Atmanirbhar Bharat to make India a global hub of manufacturing telecom equipment including core transmission equipment, 4G/5G Next Generation Radio Access Network and Wireless Equipment, Access & Customer Premises Equipment (CPE), Internet of Things (IoT) Access Devices, Other Wireless Equipment and Enterprise equipment like Switches, Routers etc.
- f) **Spectrum Auction:** Spectrum Auction (2021) in 700 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands was completed. The due payments for the spectrum purchased in this auction was also received.
- g) **World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) 2021:** Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications spoke during the High-Level Policy Session 1 on the theme of "Bridging Digital Divides" on 22.03.2021. The session was attended by ITU Secretary-General, Ministers from Russia, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Turkmenistan, Iran and other dignitaries from across the globe.

- h) **5G Certification Course:** In line with Government's drive to promote e-learning, National Telecommunication Institute for Policy Research, Innovation & Training (NTIPRIT) has launched a 5G certification course to train and certify officers of Government of India, which was inaugurated on 09.03.2021.

- i) **COVID-19 monitoring & mitigation:** The Covid-19 Quarantine Alert System (CQAS) continues to be useful in monitoring quarantine cases. As on 31.03.2021, the total number of target cases covered under CQAS for 18 States / UTs that are so far part of the system was 27,20,692, including 'active cases' as well as cases where quarantine monitoring period has been completed.
