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En bref

NUMÉRIQUE :

- L'Inde succède à la France à la présidence du Partenariat mondial sur l'IA, et se fixe pour objectif de développer un cadre commun pour une IA de confiance.
- Selon le juge BN Krishna, rédacteur de la première version du projet de loi indien sur la protection des données, la nouvelle version ne garantit plus la protection des données comme droit fondamental du citoyen, en particulier vis-à-vis de l'État.
- Schneider Electric a choisi l'Inde pour devenir son pôle mondial sur l'intelligence artificielle.
- La Reserve Bank of India, en collaboration avec huit banques, lance un projet pilote de monnaie numérique de banque centrale de détail (l'e-Rupee) dans quatre villes.
- La NPCI, organisation pilotée par la Reserve Bank of India et en charge de l'infrastructure publique de paiement numérique UPI, repousse de deux ans le délai de plafonnement des parts de marché des acteurs privés du paiement numérique utilisant l'UPI, en raison du manque d'alternatives à PhonePe et Google Pay.

TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS:

- Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd, une entreprise publique de la distribution d'électricité, sépare ses activités sur la fibre optique et les tours de télécommunications et prévoit de commencer à fournir des centres de données.
- Au cours des deux dernières années, le taux de pénétration d'Internet stagne dans les zones rurales d'Inde en raison de l'augmentation du coût des smartphones et des tarifs des opérateurs de télécommunications.
- Airtel s'associe à META et Saudi Telecom pour renforcer son activité sur les câbles sous-marins. Airtel et META travailleront également sur d'autres sujets de pointe - la CommunicationPlatform as a Service (CPaaS) et l'Open RAN.

Revue de presse

1. NUMÉRIQUE

India assumes chair of the global partnership on artificial intelligence

Livemint, 21/11/2022

India assumed the Chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) on Monday, said the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar represented India virtually at the GPAI meeting held in Tokyo for the takeover from France, which is the outgoing Council Chair.

Addressing the occasion, the minister said that India will **work in close cooperation with member states to put a framework in place. "Around the framework, the power of artificial intelligence (AI) can be exploited for the good of the citizens and consumers across the globe and ensure that there are adequate guardrails to prevent misuse and user harm."**

Chandrasekhar added that AI is a kinetic enabler to take forward current investments in technology and innovation. "India is building an ecosystem of modern cyber laws and framework that is driven by three boundary conditions of openness, safety and trust and accountability."

"With the national programme on AI in place, a national data governance framework policy (NDGFP) and one of the world's largest publicly accessible data sets programme in the works, India is committed to efficient use of AI to catalyze innovation ecosystem around AI, trusted applications for the citizens and the world at large," the minister said.

"The NDGFP aims to ensure equitable access to non-personal data and focus on improving the

institutional framework for government data sharing, promoting principles around privacy and security by design, and encouraging the use of anonymization tool," the ministry added.

It also aims to standardize the government's data collection and management. The **NDGFP along with the envisaged Indian Data Management Office IDMO will catalyze the next Gen AI and Data-led research and startup ecosystem.**

"AI is expected to add USD \$967 billion to Indian economy by 2035 and USD 450–500 billion to India's GDP by 2025, accounting for 10% of the country's USD 5 trillion GDP target," the ministry said.

Giving sweeping exemptions to the government biggest concern in data bill: Justice BN Srikrishna

ETTelecom, 22/11/2022

Sweeping exemptions to the government in the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022, is the concern, says Justice BN Srikrishna, retired judge of the Supreme Court of India who headed a 10-member committee that released the first draft of Personal Data Protection Bill in 2018.

In an interview, Srikrishna told ET's Suraksha P that the latest draft is not how he had originally envisaged the bill and that data stored in physical format should also be included under the bill's purview.

The retired judge also called for distinction between sensitive personal data and critical personal data, and flagged that even basic data about some people such as the chief of army or the President may be too critical to be stored in foreign locations.

Edited excerpts of the interview:

What is the biggest concern that the bill raises in its current form?

The government has gotten a blank cheque with this bill. They, central or state, can do anything, anytime, under any section of the bill. This is concerning because if you are going to somehow make an inroad into data protection as a fundamental right, it can't be guaranteed anymore. They (the government) are not bound by the bill at all.

How can this be corrected?

One has to challenge this in the High Court or the Supreme Court on the grounds that it is unconstitutional. Let the court decide. One can oppose it in parliament if you have the numbers.

But you know how it is currently. Have you ever seen parliament debating an issue when it is put up for vote?

Data stored in non-digital format is not covered in the bill. Why do you think this is?

If an individual stores data in a physical register, it is totally outside the purview of the bill. This will be a good escape for the people who want to escape. This is a good avenue for them. They should have brought data stored in non-digital format into the purview of the bill. That is how we had drafted it originally, in 2018. We had said data stored in whatever form will be subject to the Act but that we will give exemptions based on the volume and number of entries. Originally, up to a threshold, we gave data fiduciaries freedom with data stored in non-digital format.

Now, it is absolutely done away with. The bill says it is digital, so does the preamble.

In the bill, there is no distinction between sensitive personal data and critical personal data. Is this alright?

This makes a lot of difference. Ideally, it should be in reference to the function of an individual. For example, the President of India. His personal data is critical. You cannot allow the data of the chief of the army staff or chief of airports to be stored on a computer in the United States, or

Timbuktu, or anywhere else. There should be a distinction between critical personal data and sensitive personal data.

The bill proposes to amend the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Currently, in public interest, personal data can be provided under the RTI Act. With the proposed amendment under the proposed data bill, it can't. How do you read this?

RTI activists will be up against this. We are amending one fundamental right with another fundamental right. With this, all the personal data of individuals will be protected.

If it is a government official, his data will be secured. If anyone asks, the government can say, sorry, section 8 (j) is no longer there. Ministers' data will also be protected: data about his assets like land, bank balance, etc. There is a clause that says if it is something that cannot be denied to parliament, then it cannot be denied. This is like a joker card in a game of cards. They should amend it in a more sensible manner. Total exemption is not satisfactory.

The language in the bill is open-ended and hence open to interpretation. Is this concerning?

Every time they amend this bill, they should define what they're talking about. They say the government can access your data with deemed consent if it is intended for protecting the sovereignty of the nation. These are just broad words.

What is the sovereignty of the nation? Now, every babu will say I need to access your data in the interest of sovereignty of the nation. Your personal data will be accessed without your consent. This is the problem. Too much freedom has been given to the government in the bill. Section 18 gives total exemption.

The data protection authority has been substituted by a board. Your comment?

What is the constitution of this data protection board? Will the government decide that? Normally, if an institution is to be established, a bill specifies who is qualified to be a member, chairman and secretary. Nothing is mentioned here. **The data protection board will be a puppet of the government.**

What do you think about cross-border data flow?

Originally, when we had suggested data localisation, there was a rationale behind it. If data is maintained in another country and we need to access it, a business entity in India may say, 'Sorry, I don't maintain it, how can I give it to you?' This situation will continue now also. We're being told there will be an agreement for mutual data transfer. But that is bad because under the American law, with the authorisation of the president, federal agencies can access any data of an individual without consent. If that is the case in India, people will not agree to carry on operations. This is going to be a major headache.

We have to frame guidelines accordingly. Giving sweeping exemptions to the government is the biggest problem of the bill.

Schneider Electric has chosen India to become its Artificial Intelligence hub

ITVoice, 23/11/2022

According to a top executive, Schneider Electric is creating its worldwide artificial intelligence base in India. **India already makes up the largest portion of the digital organisation, accounting for 40% of the team's 2,000 members**, according to Peter Weckesser, executive vice president at Schneider Digital and chief digital officer at Schneider Electric. Over 5,500 R&D and software engineers from Schneider Electric work across a range of technologies and activities in India.

The French corporation has made it a priority to use artificial intelligence to increase value both inside and externally.

"We have built an open AI organisation, which stretches across the internal and external risks responsibility, and also this AI organisation has the biggest footprint in India," said Weckesser.

The AI hub currently employs 200 individuals worldwide, 65 of them are in India.

A year and a half after the company began working on incorporating AI into its products, it became clear that it needed to group all of its AI expertise into a single global AI hub. As a result, **the Bengaluru centre was chosen**. It has a chief AI officer who is now based in France, but according to Weckesser, this position may one day also be managed from India.

Hiring, he said, would continue, both for the AI organisation in India as well as the larger R&D set up. "My organisation not only has the biggest footprint running in India, We also have the highest number of new people we are hiring in India. So, we have a very strong commitment to India. And this percentage of 40% will rather go up than go down in the future," said Weckesser.

Although it isn't formally part of the firm's sales targets, the corporation hopes to save Euro 500 million in costs and generate Euro 500 million in revenues with its AI programme in the medium future. Weckesser observed that "the pipeline of AI initiatives is developing on a daily basis and is beginning to have an influence."

In an effort to make all of its goods more digital, Schneider Electric is attempting to connect all of the products and equipment to the cloud. As a result, clients can create cloud-based apps and they and their customers have access to the data. India is home to several of these platforms, product lines, and IoT expertise.

India's Central Bank Launches Pilot Of E-Rupee For Retail Segment: Here's Everything To Know

Medianama, 29/11/2022

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will commence its pilot for the retail segment of the digital rupee (e₹-R) on December 01, 2022, according to this press release. The central bank had earlier commenced its pilot for the wholesale segment on November 1, 2022.

The announcement revealed that eight banks had been identified for phase-wise participation in the pilot. The first phase will begin in Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Bhubaneswar on 1 December.

What is a digital rupee: It is a central bank digital currency (CBDC), or a digital token like cryptocurrency, issued by the RBI which is pegged to the value of fiat money (Indian rupee).

Why it matters: The announcement is notable because the retail segment of the CBDC is expected to impact ordinary Indians unlike the wholesale segment which was restricted to banks and business.

The pilot's success can end up offering the central bank a viable alternative to counter the dizzying rise of private cryptocurrencies. The RBI is no fan of cryptocurrencies and it has made that clear on several occasions in the past.

The pilot's commencement is an encouraging sign but it is likely that the RBI is still months away from rolling it out for the public at large.

What do we know about the pilot: The pilot will involve closed user groups comprising participating customers and merchants.

The RBI clarified that the digital token (e₹-R) will represent legal tender and will be issued in the same denominations as fiat currency at present.

It added that the token will offer features of physical cash like "trust, safety and settlement finality". Moreover, these digital tokens will not earn any interest but users can convert their tokens to other forms of money, like deposits with banks.

The token will be distributed through banks. The users in the aforementioned groups will have their tokens credited into a digital wallet provided by the participating banks and stored on mobile phones / devices.

The apex bank stated that users can transact among themselves [Person to Person (P2P)] or pay merchants with the help of QR codes displayed at their shops.

Which banks will participate: The first phase will see participation of the following four banks—

1. State Bank of India,
2. ICICI Bank,
3. Yes Bank,
4. IDFC First Bank.

The release added that four more banks will be joining the pilot eventually. Here is a list:

1. Bank of Baroda,
2. Union Bank of India,
3. HDFC Bank,
4. Kotak Mahindra Bank.

What next: The central bank said that the pilot is set to be extended to Ahmedabad, Gangtok, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, Patna and Shimla in the coming months.

The central bank is looking to test the "robustness of the entire process of digital rupee creation, distribution and retail usage in real time".

"The scope of (the) pilot may be expanded gradually to include more banks, users and locations as needed," read the press release.

The bank added that different features and applications of the token and its architecture will be tested in future pilots by drawing on the learnings from the current pilot.

Primer on India's CBDC project: The RBI had announced that its CBDC project will be divided

into two parts. The pilot on the wholesale segment of the digital rupee is currently underway as mentioned earlier. The RBI is focusing on the "settlement of secondary market transactions in government securities" in order to make the inter-bank market more efficient.

The announcement was first made by the Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech this year where she specified a timeline for the launch of CBDC.

NPCI extends UPI market share cap deadline by two years

ETtech, 03/12/2022

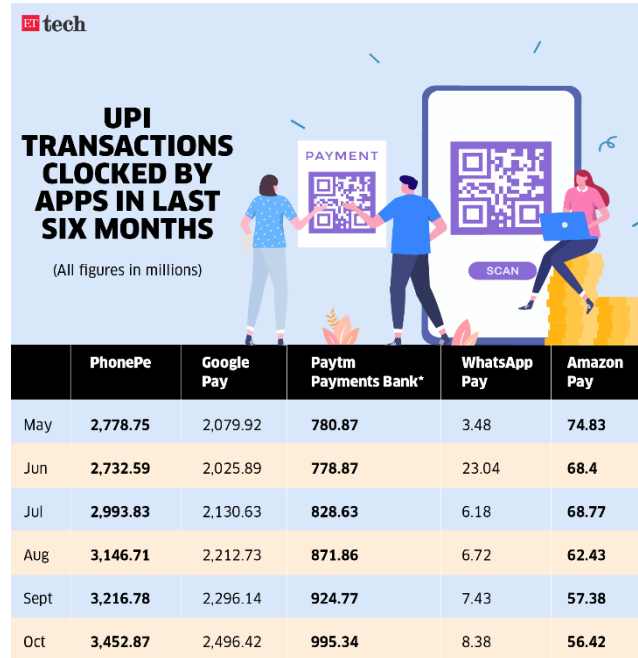
The operator of digital payments infrastructure, **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has extended the deadline for existing third-party apps to comply with its market share guidelines on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) network by two years.

NPCI said the new deadline would be December 31, 2024, from January 1, 2023, earlier. NPCI's mandate requires payment apps to hold no more than 30% market share in terms of payment volumes.

The extension follows a formal request for postponement by UPI leader Walmart-backed PhonePe and discussions with Google Pay.

ET reported on June 6, citing sources, that NPCI was looking to defer the implementation of the rules.

"Taking into account the present usage and future potential of UPI, and other relevant factors, the timelines for compliance of existing TPAPs (third-party apps) who are exceeding the volume cap, is extended by two years i.e. till December 31, 2024 to comply with the volume cap," NPCI said in a circular on Friday.



*Includes onus transactions where issuing bank and acquiring bank are the same.
Source: NPCI

In view of the "significant potential of digital payments and the need for multi-fold penetration from its current state, it is imperative that other existing and new players (banks and non-banks) shall scale-up their consumer outreach for the growth of UPI and achieve overall market equilibrium," NPCI added.

The extension brings relief to PhonePe and Google's payment unit in India, which have a combined market share of over 80% on the UPI network. However, homegrown fintech firm Paytm recently told ET that it "believes market capping should be implemented as per the timeline."

A spokesperson for Google Pay declined to comment, while Paytm did not immediately respond to ET's requests seeking comment.

"At PhonePe's scale, to reduce our UPI market share to 30% we would be forced to deny UPI payment services to crores of Indians, and that would be totally detrimental to the incredible Indian digital payments growth story over recent

years [...]The new NPCI circular itself acknowledges that **the burden is on other existing and new UPI players to invest more time, effort and money to increase their own UPI market share.** Failing that, the organic market share of participants in the UPI industry will not change significantly, and NPCI will have to keep extending the market cap indefinitely," said Sameer Nigam, founder & chief executive, PhonePe in reply to ET's queries. Nigam added that "this constant uncertainty (around market capping) is not helpful for anyone in the entire UPI ecosystem - incumbents or challengers".

PhonePe is currently in talks to close a new financing round at a valuation of \$12 billion.

The extension comes after NPCI and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held consultations with the government, ET had reported previously.

Lack of alternatives

One of the reasons why NPCI has chosen to extend the deadline is that it believes **other players haven't been able to scale up operations,** sources said.

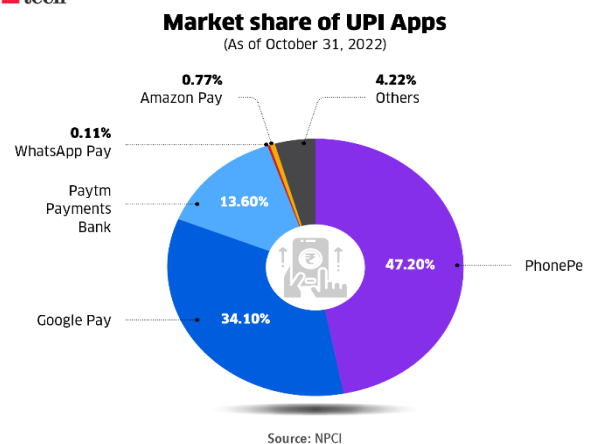
Meta-owned WhatsApp Pay was being seen as a major challenger to incumbents Google Pay and PhonePe. However, it has not been able to make any impact on UPI payments despite being allowed to take its payments services to 100 million users.

"There are not a lot of options left since two players still dominate the network and there is a fear of customer disruption if platforms are asked to stop onboarding new users or stop transactions after a certain limit," one of the sources aware of the deliberations told ET last month.

Sources said NPCI – which had first announced the rules in November 2020 - is still looking to figure out how it can maintain the 30% equilibrium among all players. It is not yet clear how it plans to track progress towards compliance during the extended timeline.

In October, PhonePe maintained its lead with a 47.2% share of UPI volumes after clocking 3.4 billion transactions. Google Pay had a 34.1% market share, at around 2.49 billion transactions in the same month.

ET tech



WhatsApp Pay and Amazon Pay garnered market shares of 0.1% and 0.7%, respectively.

Both PhonePe and Google Pay have in the past expressed their opposition to the capping rules, calling it a move to "stifle innovation" in digital payments.

PhonePe cofounder and CEO Sameer Nigam had, however, told ET in September last year that he was not worried about cutting back market share.

"If I am playing by all the rules of interoperability, there is scant little I can do to reduce market share. I would like to believe that this is now user preference starting to play out based on success rate (of transactions) and acceptance," he had said.

2. Télécommunications

Power Grid to separate telecom business, gets nod to foray into data centre biz

ET Telecom, 04/12/2022

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd is in the process of carving out its telecom vertical to a new fully-owned subsidiary, Powergrid Teleservices Ltd, in a bid to have a "focused approach" and to move up the value chain, senior company officials said.

The move by the state-run power transmission major comes close on the heels when the telecom sector is ramping up its 5G service across the country to bring business transformation that can contribute two per cent to the national GDP.

The state-owned power transmission major has also got approval from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) to operate data centres.

"The telecom division of Powergrid will be transferred to the new subsidiary Powergrid Teleservices after receiving all regulatory approvals to provide greater impetus to the business and move up the value chain by entering into the data centre business. The process for regulatory clearance is in progress," Powergrid executive director (telecom) B Vamsi Rama Mohan told PTI on the sidelines of ABP Group-organised INFOCOM 2022.

He also said that pilots to demonstrate mobile BTS and FM Radio transmission on high voltage power transmission towers "have shown promising results".

"With the focus on high-speed data networks across the country, the telecom business holds immense potential going forward," he said.

Telecom companies have announced plans to have a national 5G footprint in the next two years and Powergrid is "well positioned" to help telcos (telecom companies) to deploy their 4G or 5G base stations on the high voltage power transmission towers as PGCIL has "one of the largest optical fibre ground network in the country providing communication services".

"We have one of the largest optic fibre networks of 76,000 km. Pilots to demonstrate 4G/5G BTS on high-voltage towers have shown promising results and are running smoothly. This gives us confidence that now Powergrid can leverage its two lakh strong tower network across the length and breadth of the country and help telecom companies to provide voice and data services to every village of the country," PGCIL CGM (telecom) D Yadav said.

Powergrid will offer a "one-stop solution for the telecom operators with highly reliable power supply, tower to host antenna and base equipment, backhauling from fibre on the transmission line and unmatched reach" even in remote areas using the widespread transmission tower infrastructure of the company, the officials said.

Speaking about the data centre, Mohan said, "The CERC has accorded approval to Powergrid to establish and operate data centres under PowerTel using surplus lands of the sub-stations.

"The first data centre as a pilot is expected to come up near Delhi with a capacity of 250 racks and it will be ramped up to 1000 racks. Detailed business models on data centres are being worked out."

The size of the telecom business is relatively small in the overall Powergrid revenue but the "business environment is very conducive to leapfrog," Mohan said.

Speaking about National Long-Distance Operation, Mohan said, "Having the interconnect agreements with the neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan, we are leveraging it to deliver optic fibre to these countries."

Powergrid owns a large power transmission network of 1.76 lakh km to help supply energy across the country.

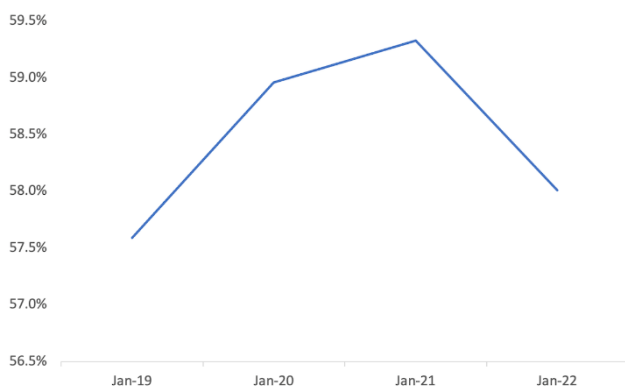
The problem of India's digital divide

LightReading, 5/12/2022

India's telecom revolution, characterized by providing connectivity at extremely economical rates and making it accessible to all sections of society, has somewhat slowed down.

Rural penetration has remained almost static for the last two years. And India had 520.30 million rural fixed and mobile subscribers at the end of September, down from 530.06 million a year earlier, according to data released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

Out of 597,618 inhabited villages, 25,067 still lack any mobile connectivity or Internet services.



(Source: TRAI)

Rising tariffs and device ASPs

There are several reasons for this slowdown and the key among them is that prices are rising for both smartphones and service plans. All India's private-sector operators increased their tariffs last year. Recently, Bharti Airtel, India's second-largest service provider, began charging more for entry-level plans in two circles (service areas). Analysts believe this could precede tariff hikes across the country.

"The rising tariffs and the growing price of devices definitely impact digital adoption in India," said Ashwinder Sethi, a principal at consulting and analyst firm Analysys Mason. "The total cost of ownership for the low-income

consumer will increase. This will possibly lead to the growth of the secondary devices market in the country."

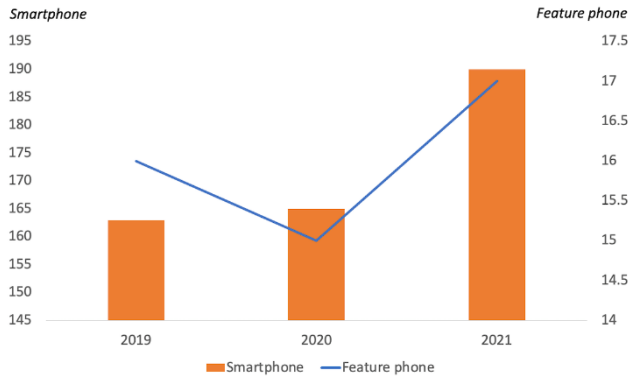
Airtel's average revenue per user (ARPU) has increased to 190 Indian rupees (\$2.32) in the September-ending quarter, from INR153 (\$1.87) a year earlier. Jio recorded an ARPU that same quarter of INR177.2 (\$2.17), a year-on-year increase of 23.5%. This does not bode well for the yet-to-be-connected in India.

Another factor which may be impacting the growth of subscribers in the rural segment is the rising average selling price (ASP) of gadgets, both smartphones and feature phones. ASPs have grown consistently for the last eight quarters in a row, according to IDC, a market research company, due mainly to higher component costs.

"IDC believes that for another three to four years, feature phones will continue to remain relevant, owing to the price differential between entry-level smartphones and feature phones," said Upasana Joshi, IDC India's research manager for client devices.

Growing device ASPs are bound to have an impact since India is a mobile-first nation. Out of 520.30 million subscribers at the end of September 2022, 518.31 million are wireless subscribers and only 1.9 million are using wireline services.

ASPs for mobile phones in India (\$)



(Source: IDC)

What about the network?

While, clearly, the market factors impact the update and adoption of connectivity services in the rural segment, experts also point to **the lack of network infrastructure in remote regions**. Typically, telcos focus on the urban market because it promises higher returns more quickly. Low incomes and low population density in rural areas mean that the return on investment for telcos is spread over a longer period. There is a need to rethink network strategy to provide connectivity in rural and remote areas.

India's government has come up with several initiatives to promote connectivity in rural India. But stagnant penetration suggests not enough is being done. Even as telcos have launched 5G services, 25,000 villages in India still lack basic connectivity.

BharatNet, a special-purpose vehicle (SPV) set up by the government to provide connectivity to 250,000 Gram Panchayats (village councils), has so far provided connectivity to more than 100,000 of them. Government-owned BSNL is believed to have the best infrastructure in the country's hinterland.

Long term, experts believe 5G is likely to play a crucial role in bringing connectivity to unconnected Indians.

"There is limited fiber penetration in the rural areas and that is also a major reason for the low rural teledensity, said Neil Shah, a partner at Counterpoint, another market research firm. "I believe 5G fixed wireless access will play a crucial role in bridging the digital divide in India. It will make it very easy for the telcos to extend the benefit of connectivity in rural and remote areas. By the end of 2025, the broadband subscriber base should double because of FWA."

Airtel and Meta team up on cable, CPaaS and open RAN in India

LightReading 6/12/2022

Airtel and Meta team up on cable, CPaaS and open RAN in India

India's Bharti Airtel has announced a wide-ranging partnership with Internet giant Meta, covering subsea cable systems, open RAN and communications-platform-as-a-service (CPaaS).

The two companies **will work together to bring 2Africa Pearls, touted as the world's longest subsea cable system, to Airtel's landing station in Mumbai**. In addition, Airtel and Meta will also invest in "dedicated capacity" to "strengthen [Airtel's] submarine network portfolio." For this, the two companies **have partnered with Middle Eastern service provider STC (Saudi Telecom)**.

Besides Meta, the 2Africa consortium includes China Mobile, Vodafone, MTN, STC, Telecom Egypt, West Indian Ocean Cable Company, GlobalConnect and Orange. Launched in 2020, it will connect the three continents of Europe, Africa and Asia once completed in 2023.

Data consumption has been skyrocketing in India, boosting the demand for bandwidth. The COVID-19 pandemic fueled enterprise investment in data connectivity and the recent launch of 5G could also generate demand for high-speed connectivity and bandwidth. The 2Africa Pearls cable should help to boost India's capacity.

"Subsea cables and open, disaggregated networks continue to play a huge role in the foundational infrastructure needed to support network capacity and fuel innovation," said Francisco Varela, the vice president of mobile partnerships for Meta, in a statement.

Along with other Internet giants like Google and Amazon, Meta is focused on making subsea investments in areas that currently lack much Internet connectivity.

India has been growing its profile in the subsea cable ecosystem. Earlier this year, **Airtel joined the SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea cable consortium to improve its capacity. Reliance Jio, India's largest service provider, partnered with India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) and India-Europe-Xpress (IEX) undersea cable system.**

It is significant that Meta decided to work with Airtel to bring 2Africa Pearls to India when the

Facebook owner is a major investor in Jio Platforms, the parent company of Reliance Jio. In 2020, Meta invested \$5.7 billion to acquire a 10% stake in Jio Platforms.

CPaaS and open RAN

Airtel and Meta have also said they will work together on CPaaS capabilities to address the growing demand for cloud-based services in India. Airtel will integrate WhatsApp with its CPaaS platform, Airtel IQ, giving enterprises access to WhatsApp's "features and reach to provide an unparalleled omnichannel customer engagement." WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps in India, with more than 400 million users.

Airtel and Meta also say they will work on improving the operational efficiency of open RAN. Airtel will promote energy management and automation in radio networks using analytics and AI/ML models. Further, Airtel revealed that it is conducting trials of 4G and 5G open RAN in the state of Haryana and that it plans to deploy the technology in several areas over the next few quarters.

"Airtel will share its learnings with wider ecosystem partners within the TIP [Telecom Infra Project] community, including Meta, to help accelerate the deployment of Open RAN-based networks across the world," said the company in its statement.

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