

BharatNet

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | E-governance

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Communications Minister informed about BharatNet's progress, digital connectivity expansion, and National Broadband Mission 2.0 targets for 2030.

- **Aim** - To bridge the digital divide by providing high-speed broadband connectivity to rural India.
 - Especially focused on **Gram Panchayats and villages**.
- **Launched in** - **October 2011**.
- **Nodal Ministry** - **Ministry of Communications**.
- **Implementation** - A Centre-State collaborative project with States providing free Right of Way (RoW).
 - **Right of Way (ROW)** - It is a set of property rights given to government agencies, allowing them to construct and maintain important projects.
- **Key Features** - **Funded by** - **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**.
- **Connectivity** - Through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), satellite, radio, fibre over power lines, and Wi-Fi hotspots.
- **Coverage** - Expanded to cover all villages and implemented through the PPP model in 16 States.
- **Progress** - **Over 2.14 lakh Gram Panchayats connected under Phases I and II**.
- More than 2 lakh villages covered and over 1 lakh Wi-Fi installations completed (as of Sept 2025).
- **Significance** - **Bridges the digital divide between urban and rural India**.
- Enables e-governance, e-health, e-education, agriculture services, and welfare delivery directly to rural citizens.
- Backbone for the Digital India initiative and inclusive digital growth.

Quick Fact

National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0: Targets for 2030

- **Aim** - To provide a *roadmap for universal broadband access by 2030*.
- **Launched in** - *April 2025*
- **Objective** - To ensure high-speed broadband and meaningful connectivity for all, including rural and remote areas.
- **Key Targets for 2030** -

Parameter	Target (2030)	Current Status
Optical Fibre Connectivity	2.7 lakh villages (95% uptime)	42,000 villages (Dec 2025)
Anchor Institutions Connectivity (schools, anganwadis, panchayats)	90%	68.8%
Broadband Speed	100 Mbps average fixed broadband speed	61.55 Mbps
Right of Way (RoW) Processing	Faster approvals	Reduced from 455 days to 30.4 days
Fibre Mapping (PM GatiShakti)	100%	94%
Rural Internet Penetration	60 subscribers per 100 population	47.16 per 100 population

Reference

[PIB | BharatNet](#)