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

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering