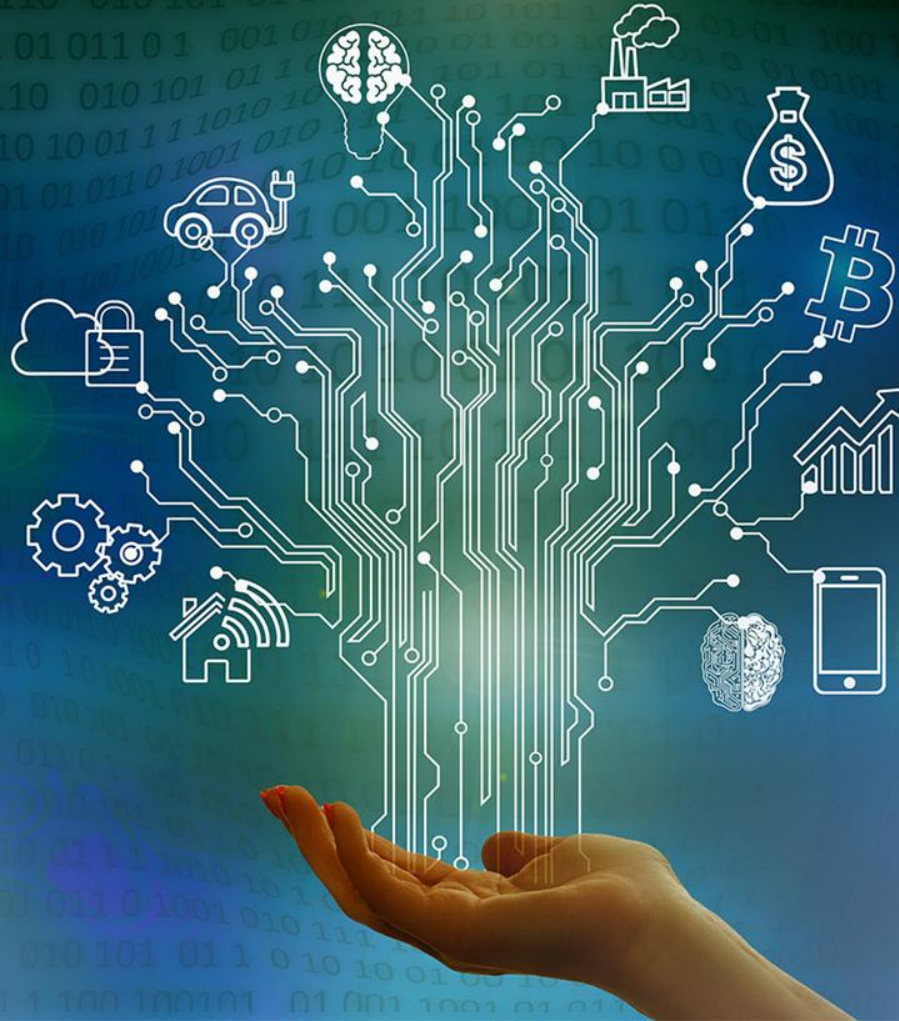


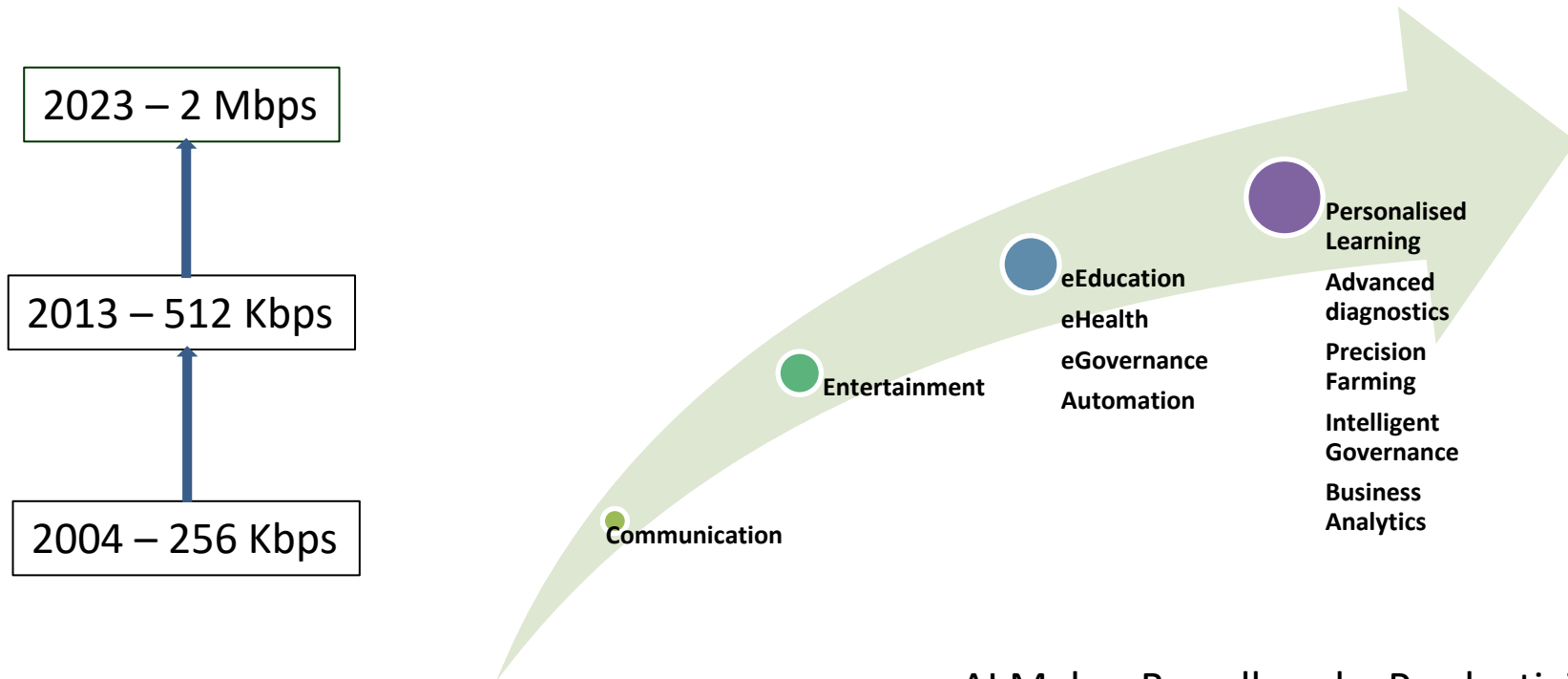


Broadband Leadership in the AI Era : Infrastructure, Innovation & Inclusion

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Broadband as Critical Infrastructure



AI Makes Broadband a Productivity Tool



AI and Broadband Together Enable Digital Transformation

Broadband for AI

- Enables Gigabit speeds, Ultra-low latency, High reliability, Massive machine connectivity
- Enables Cloud computing
- Enables massive data exchange required for AI chatbots, AI-generated images and videos, Smart surveillance systems, Autonomous vehicles, Industrial automation, Digital twins

AI for Broadband

- Predict network failures before they occur.
- Optimize spectrum utilization.
- Dynamically manage network congestion.
- Improve energy efficiency.
- Accelerate service provisioning.
- Enhance cybersecurity.
- Deliver personalized customer experiences.



AI Increases the Need for Universal Connectivity

- AI has the potential to democratize knowledge and services
 - A farmer can obtain AI-based crop advice
 - A student can access AI tutoring
 - A small business can use AI-powered marketing tools.
 - A senior citizen can use AI-assisted healthcare services.
- However, these benefits are available only if people have broadband access.
- Thus, broadband connectivity (Mobile/Fixed/Satellite) becomes a prerequisite for inclusive participation in the AI economy.

Inclusion Must Remain at the Centre



Amended BharatNet Program

World's Largest Rural Broadband Project



Funded by Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Govt of India.

To provide affordable high-speed internet access to every Gram Panchayat in the country.

BRIDGING THE
DIGITAL DIVIDE



Bridging the Digital Divide

Facilitates e-governance, e-health, and e-education delivery.

Promotes Digital India by bridging rural-urban divide.



National Infrastructure

Approx. 2.14 Lakh Gram Panchayats are connected

Approx. 6.93 Lakh Km of OFC has been laid

Approx. 13 Lakh FTTH connections

Approx. 1 Lakh Wi-Fi hotspots





BharatNet Project in Maharashtra

ITEM	TOTAL	Coverage in Phase-I	Coverage in Phase-II
Districts	34	33	26
Blocks	352	203	153
Gram Panchayats	27892	15379 (including 203 BHQs)	12513
Scope of OFC Route Kms	90157	34090	56067

- Role of BSNL
 - Project Execution Agency for BharatNet Phase-1
 - Involved in utilization for both BharatNet Phase I and II
 - Engaged BharatNet Udyamis at village level to provide rural FTTH connectivity thereby generating employment and promoting village entrepreneurs

Amended BharatNet Program



Program Evolution

Upgradation and expansion of earlier BharatNet Phases I & II.
Approved by the Union Cabinet on August 4, 2023.



Ring Topology

Introduces ring topology with auto reroute for enhanced resilience.
Replaces the previous linear topology.



Technology Upgrade

Transition from GPON to IP/MPLS for better performance. Ensures future-ready network capabilities.



Village level Connectivity

Provides enhanced last-mile digital connectivity to villages. Extends beyond just Gram Panchayats.



Amended BharatNet Program in Maharashtra

Coverage & Implementation

- ABP implementation approved in 28,237 GPs in Maharashtra, Out of these 15,171 GPs will be upgraded to ring topology

Institutional Framework

- In-principle approval to the Maharashtra State Government on 28.01.2026.
- Maharashtra State Govt. has recently approved formation of the New SPV- MahaNet Digital Infrastructure Limited.
- Existing network under BharatNet Phase-I & Phase-II shall be transferred to the new SPV on an “as-is-where-is” basis.

Scope of Work

- Connecting all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in existing blocks through ring topology.
- Provision for connecting remaining villages on a demand basis.
- Selection of professional agencies through competitive bidding for Network design, construction and upgradation, Operations & Maintenance (O&M).



Expanding Rural Connectivity



- BSNL to provide 1.5 Crores rural home fiber connections (approx 68 thousand in MH) under Amended BharatNet Program with priority to cover Government institutes over the next five years across the country.
- Implementation of Union Budget Announcement 2025-26 to Extend broadband connectivity in rural government-run secondary schools and primary healthcare centers (PHCs).



THANK YOU

