

# PM Modi launches 5G mobile services, calls it dawn of new era

NEW DELHI, Oct 1:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the 5G telephony services that promise to provide ultra high-speed internet on mobile phones, saying it marks the beginning of a new

role in 5G. "With 5G, India is setting a global standard in telecom technology for the first time," he said.

The Prime Minister said his government's vision for 'Digital India' was founded on four pil-

lars -- the cost of devices, digital connectivity, data cost and the digital-first approach.

This approach has led to mobile manufacturing units in India increased from just two in 2014 to over 200 now, bringing down the cost of handsets. Also, India now has the world's lowest data charges, as tariffs fell from a high of Rs 300 per 1 GB of data in 2014 to just Rs 10 per GB. Going by the average consumption of 14 GB of data per month, the data cost has come down from Rs 4,200 to Rs 125-150, he said. While internet users have grown to 80 crore from just 6 crore in 2014, optical fiber now connects 1.7 lakh village panchayats as opposed to under 100 panchayats eight years back. The country, he said, is shipping phones overseas worth crores of rupees as against zero exports a few years back. Also, digital payments have increased, he pointed out. Technology has truly now become democratised, Modi said.

Taking a dig at the previous Congress-led UPA government, he said this was possible because of the right intentions of

his government. "2G ki niyat and 5G ki niyat mein yehi farak hai (this is the difference between the intentions during 2G era and 5G era now)," he said in reference to the alleged 2G spectrum allocation scam.(PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates 6th edition of India Mobile Congress and launches 5G Services, in New Delhi on Saturday. (UNI)

era and presents an infinite sky of opportunities.

The fifth generation or 5G services started with India's No.2 operator Bharti Airtel rolling out services in eight cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi and Bengaluru.

Reliance Jio, the country's top operator with most subscribers, is to launch its services in four metros sometime this month, while Vodafone Idea Ltd, the third operator, has so far not indicated any fixed timeline for its 5G rollout.

Launching the services at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2022, Modi said today is a special day for the world's fifth largest economy.

"Today, 130 crore Indians are getting a wonderful gift in the form of 5G from the country and from the telecom industry of the country," he said, adding 5G is the dawn of a new era. "5G is the beginning of an infinite sky of opportunities."

With speeds multiple times faster than 4G and lag-free connectivity, 5G can enable billions of connected devices to share data in real time. It holds the promise of revolutionising sectors from healthcare and education to agriculture and disaster monitoring.

The 5G services will progressively cover the entire country over the next couple of years -- Jio promises to do that by December 2023 and Bharti Airtel by March 2024.

Modi said while the nation was dependent on foreign countries for technology for 2G, 3G and 4G telecom services, India has created history with indigenous technology playing a major

## Arunachal Guv given additional charge of Meghalaya

NEW DELHI, Oct 1:

Arunachal Pradesh Governor B D Mishra has been given additional charge of Meghalaya as incumbent Satya Pal Malik completes his term on October 3, the Rashtrapati Bhavan said on Saturday.

"The President of India has been pleased to appoint Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), Governor of Arunachal Pradesh to discharge the functions of the Governor of Meghalaya, in addition to his own duties from the date he assumes charge of the office of the Governor of Meghalaya, until regular arrangements are made," Ajay Kumar Singh, the Press Secretary to the President, said in a communique.

Satya Pal Malik (76) completes his term on Monday, the press release said. (PTI)

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