

High Level Session-1: Monday, 17 Nov 2025 (14:30Hrs – 15:45Hrs)
Statement by Republic of India
(3-Minute Intervention)

Theme: “Universal, Meaningful, and Affordable Connectivity for an Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Future,”

- A. The speaker’s full names: **Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar**
- B. The speaker’s full title: **Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development**
Government of India
- C. The name of the Member State of the speaker: **Republic of India**
- D. The session of the High-Level Segment at which the statement will be delivered: **High Level Session-1: Monday, 17 Nov 2025 (14:30 Hrs – 15:45 Hrs)**
- E. The original language of the statement: Language of statement: **English**
- F. The contact details of speakers focal point: **Mr. Avinash Agarwal, DDG(International Relations), Department of Telecommunications, Republic of India** (email: ddgir-dot@nic.in)

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

Good afternoon.

First and foremost, I extend my deepest gratitude to the **Republic of Azerbaijan** for its warm hospitality.

Hosting us here in the **majestic city of Baku** - where **modern ambition rises gracefully** from **centuries of heritage** - truly elevates the spirit of this gathering.

In ancient Sanskrit, we are taught “**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**” - that the world is one family.

This **timeless wisdom** guides India's vision for **our shared digital future**.

As an active ITU member since 1869, we're committed to building infrastructure that **drives innovation while remaining environmentally conscious** and **socially inclusive**.

Excellencies, India's telecom sector has undergone an extraordinary transformation - and the numbers tell the story:

- India has over **1.21 billion telecom subscribers, 970 million internet users**, and **1.38 billion biometric digital identities**.

- India has invested over **\$4.8 billion** to bring 4G to the last remaining villages, reaching 98.5% of our population.
- Building on this, we achieved the **world's fastest 5G rollout**, now covering 99% of our districts.
- **Submarine OFC projects** have been rolled out to connect remote islands, providing models for regional replication.
- These initiatives have led to one of the lowest data rates in the world — **8 cents/GB** — and one of the highest data consumption per capita, at **28 GB/month**, with an average speed of **130 Mbps**.
- Today, India drives over **46% of global digital transactions**, a testament to a digital transformation that has deepened **financial inclusion** across the country.
- **BharatNet**, our **\$18 billion mission**, is the world's largest rural broadband project - already connecting 218,000 villages with gigabit fiber, turning the **digital divide into a digital bridge**.
- Our **National Broadband Mission 2.0 (2025–2030)** embeds sustainability at its core — targeting 30% renewable-powered mobile towers by 2030.
- **Sanchar Sathi**, launched in 2023, is a portal and app that enables citizens to **track mobile connections, block lost devices, report fraud communications, and verify device authenticity**.
- The **Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FFRI)**, introduced in May 2025, classifies mobile numbers based on fraud risk and provides real-time alerts to **banks and UPI platforms**.
- Together, these initiatives have disconnected over **30 million fraudulent connections**, and **prevented 6.6 million fraudulent transactions**.
- In an interconnected world, cybersecurity is paramount. India is committed to collaborating on establishing strong cybersecurity frameworks, sharing best practices, and ensuring the protection of data across borders.
- In addition, we propose **knowledge exchange and technical assistance** among developing nations based on scalable digital models.

Excellencies, just as **rivers grow mightier when they flow together**, India is fully committed to joining streams with ITU Member States to build a **digital ecosystem** that **empowers people, protects our planet, and ensures no nation is left behind**.

Thank you!