

# High-speed net to transform 16,000 gram panchayats

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**Lucknow:** To help India achieve its 5G dream and accelerate digital transition of villages, the Uttar Pradesh government will roll out 5 FTTH connections for 16,718 gram panchayats across the state.

FTTH refers to 'fibre to the home' and its installation is crucial to providing high-speed internet access. In this, optical fibre is extended from a central point to individual buildings.

"The task will be undertaken by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) which will also provide wifi connections in these villages. The Union government has provided a loan of Rs 300 crore to the information technology department to realise this ambitious project," a senior officer said while addressing a day-long capacity-building conference on '5G roll out in Uttar Pradesh'.

Experts pointed out that FTTH promises internet speed of up to 100MB per second which is 20-100 times faster than that offered by regular cable model set up.

Besides speed, FTTH



Capacity-building conference on '5G roll out in UP' underway

can provide high-speed internet in far-flung areas. It also offers significantly high bandwidth which can greatly aid and speed up digital transaction and services in areas like banking, education and health.

Officials of state IT department said that land for building mobile towers on 226 locations had been made available to BSNL which would extend 4G services to over 361 villages soon.

The conference was inaugurated by chief secretary Durga Shankar Mishra who lauded the efforts being made by the IT department in facilitating building of mobile towers through UP State Right of Way portal. Additional director general, National Broadband Mission, department of telecom, India, Neeraj Kumar was also present on the occasion.