



16

Special Section: Review of 2017

The year 2017 was a high-voltage year for the Indian telecom industry. The sector witnessed an unprecedented wave of consolidation amongst operators, resulting in a major shake-up in the industry structure. Companies were faced with bleeding balance sheets and declining profitability as the price wars intensified. The silver lining in all this, however, was the exponential growth in data demand, which catapulted India to the top spot in terms of broadband usage globally. Now, as the industry sets foot into 2018, all hopes are pinned on the soon-to-be-released National Telecom Policy, 2018 to bring back stability in the sector.

58

Way to Pay

Digital payments are an integral part of the Digital India vision. Driven by demonetisation and the introduction of UPI, digital transactions in India crossed the one-billion mark in December 2017. Further, the commercial launch of some payments banks has given a boost to the segment. This momentum is likely to continue during 2018 as more service providers, including telecom operators, enhance their play in the digital payments space.



News Briefs

- 8** National events
- 12** International events

Special Section: Review of 2017

- 16** Testing times: Is the worst over for the telecom sector?
- 20** One entry, many exits: Market consolidates around six players
- 32** Policy packed: Key decisions, recommendations and regulations in 2017
- 36** Bucking the trend: Internet and broadband uptick amidst industry turbulence
- 40** Transition period: Ongoing consolidation changing the telecom infrastructure landscape
- 44** Growing digital ecosystem: Progress under key government programmes
- 46** Paying partnerships: Key contracts and deals signed during 2017
- 52** Telecom statistics: Teledensity and mobile number portability
- 53** Telecom subscriber base: Mobile and fixed line segments
- 54** Telecom subscriber base: Internet segment

Special Stories

- 56** Setting the tone: TRAI consultation paper seeks stakeholder views on NTP 2018
- 58** Way to pay: UPI creates a buzz in the digital transactions space
- 60** Investing in innovation: R&D key to driving mobile manufacturing in India

Enterprise Telecom

- 97** Digital transformation: Growing needs of enterprises spur investments in ICT solutions
- 100** New business ecosystem: Enterprises step up their IT investment



Finance

- 104** Mixed performance: Financial scoreboard of select telecom companies
- 106** Key financings: Debt and equity moves in 2017

Forum: Views of key industry stakeholders



Aruna Sundararajan, DoT
 “BharatNet Phase II will be a game changer” 64



Ram Sewak Sharma, TRAI
 “A conducive environment will facilitate the growth of 5G in India” 66



Akhil Gupta, Bharti Enterprises
 “Consolidation is a very positive long-term development for the sector” 68



Vishant Vora, Vodafone India
 “Vodafone is carrying more traffic on 4G networks than on 2G and 3G combined” 70



Umang Das, TAIPA
 “The good news is that the infrastructure industry is getting recognised” 74



Tejinder Kalra, Indus Towers
 “We envision becoming diesel-free within four to six years” 76



Partho Banerjee, HCIL
 “We expect a 1:100 jump in the scale of deployments” 80

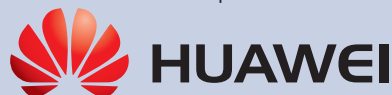
Looking for stability: Industry associations pin their hopes on NTP 2018 82

Change and consolidation: Analysts expect stability to return after a year of disruptions 86

Getting future ready: Equipment vendors’ perspective 90

A vibrant market: Upbeat mood amongst handset vendors 94

Exclusive Sponsor:



Sales & Marketing

109 Stepping up the game: Companies adopt aggressive strategies as competition intensifies

Technology

112 Technology disruptions: Global trends for 2018

People

115 Changes at the top: Key movements in 2017

Photogallery

118 Telecom snapshots: Recent events and product launches in the sector

Teledata

120 Cellular subscribers: Growth between October 2017 and November 2017

122 Mobile trends and shares: By technology and operator

FORM IV

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