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special stories

The next step

The rush for acquiring 3G spectrum, triggered by operators' need for crucial airwaves in order to strengthen their position in the world's fastest growing telecom market, has made them bid in excess of \$3.5 billion for a pan-Indian 3G licence. While it will leave a huge dent on operators' balance sheets, the auction has been a huge success for the government, bringing an unexpected Rs 677.18 billion to the exchequer. Seven of the nine participating operators have won 3G spectrum, with Bharti Airtel, Reliance Communications and Vodafone Essar winning the coveted 20-year licences for New Delhi and Mumbai, the metro circles that account for the lion's share of India's customers and revenues. With the spectrum battle now over, the industry is looking forward to exciting times as operators engage in the race to provide 3G services...



Chinese check

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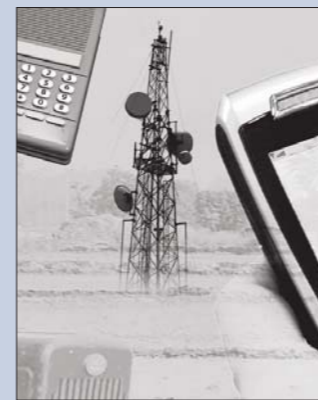
The issue of an embargo on Chinese imports has escalated into a political problem. As the government attempts to resolve the issue by auditing the books of these vendors and ordering a security check on all Chinese telecom gear installed on the existing networks of service providers, these vendors are leaving no stone unturned to dispel the testy caution of Indian security agencies.



telefocus: rural telephony

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With connectivity in rural regions growing by over 50 per cent in 2009-10, India's rural teledensity has reached 21 per cent. This growth has primarily been driven by the collective efforts of the government and private operators. With telecom penetration at over 100 per cent in urban areas, this trend is likely to continue. A look at the key issues, current status, operator and government initiatives, and global success stories in the Indian rural telecom market...



a magazine on the converging telecom industry



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