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**20200731 Telecom sector needs to focus on security, self reliance: PM Modi**

***Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday said that time had come to focus on self-reliance and security in the telecom sector, highlighting an issue which is in focus globally and India amid the heightened India-China tensions and telecom networks prepare to move from 4G to 5G.***

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**Prime Minister** [**Narendra Modi**](https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/tag/narendra%2Bmodi) **Friday said that time had come to focus on self-reliance and security in the** [**telecom sector**](https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/tag/telecom%2Bsector)**, highlighting an issue which is in focus globally and India amid the heightened India-China tensions and telecom networks prepare to move from** [**4G**](https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/tag/4g) **to** [**5G**](https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/tag/5g)**.**

“Now that our [digital connectivity](https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/tag/digital%2Bconnectivity) ecosystem has scaled many peaks, it is now time to focus on self- reliance and security,” Modi said in a written message which was read out by COAI DG, Lt General SP Kochhar. Modi’s message came at an industry webinar marking 25 years of the industry.

“Ït would be great if the webinar can brainstorm about a roadmap to achieve end-to-end self-reliance in connectivity infrastructure as well as ensuring greater security at all levels against threats,” Modi said.

The statement issued by the PM assumes significance as it comes at a time India decided to bar Chinese gear makers from government contracts after announcing that companies from countries sharing land border with India cannot bid for government contracts.

Highlighting the roadmap of India’s digital journey so far, the PM’s statement said, “from 2G to 5G, from digital elitism to digital democracy, the journey of digital connectivity has covered an astonishing distance”.

Noting the significance of digital upgradation, the PM said that digital connectivity was a resourceful ally for any government, which was looking to transform the lives of its people. The statement then went on to elaborate how the Indian government had so far successfully conceived and operationalized the ‘JAM trinity’ (Jan Dhan –Aadhar- Mobile. This, the statement said had revolutionized citizen-government connectivity and shattered silos.

The PM highlighted how the [Aarogya Setu](https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/tag/aarogya%2Bsetu) app has been an asset in India’s fight against Covid.

He also emphasized that digital connectivity was an enabler of multiple kinds of mobility including social, economic and transformational. “The companies active in the ecosystem of digital connectivity have done yeoman service to the poor and underprivileged by ensuring that connectivity reaches them”.