



NEWS RELEASE

Airtel Collaborates With Cisco to Launch India's First Automated Ethernet Over Fiber Network to Help More People Connect To, and Do More with the Internet

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News Summary:

- Companies continue multi-year relationship to bolster Airtel's 5G vision
- New network integrates Cisco IP and optical solutions along with segment routing to improve overall network availability and extend services in rural communities
- Airtel's network already demonstrating significant speeds with scale to enable new, advanced B2B and B2C services

SAN JOSE, Calif., – March 9, 2020 – Bharti Airtel (Airtel), India's largest integrated telco, today announced its collaboration with Cisco to launch India's largest 5G-ready, 100G IP and optical integrated network designed to enhance network availability, capacity and scale. The deployment is part of Airtel's initiative to build a 5G ready network that continues to serve the growing demand for high speed data services in the country.

India is currently the world's second-largest telecommunications market with a subscriber base of 1.17 billion. Cisco's recent Annual Internet Report forecasts there will be 67.2 million 5G connections in India by 2023 (4.9% of total mobile connections), and 66% of all devices will be mobile connected by 2023, (34% will be wired or connected over Wi-Fi).

Airtel's network serves over 280 million mobile subscribers across 4G and 2G technologies. This new IP over Ethernet over Fiber network is the largest hyper-complex brownfield network transformation of its kind in India, collapsing multiple legacy domains to build a flatter, simpler and automated 5G-ready IP network for enhanced customer experiences. It integrates Cisco IP and optical solutions along with segment routing to

more easily extend services in rural communities while significantly improving network availability and creating cost efficiencies.

The simple, flexible and self-healing architecture is built with an agile, programmable and software-defined platform to deliver exponential mobile internet growth. It has already realized significant speeds with scale to enable new, advanced B2B and B2C services. The open standards architecture with automation brings in efficiencies for new and legacy infrastructure, eliminating manual touchpoints in a brownfield environment.

“Airtel continues to transform its network to ensure greater availability and reach across India to deliver best-in-class mobile experience for our customers,” said Randeep Sekhon, CTO, Bharti Airtel. “Our ongoing collaboration with Cisco is critical in helping us to be 5G-ready, collapsing multiple legacy domains to build a flatter, simpler and automated network with more bandwidth to support internet services and the endless growth in consumer and business applications people rely on every day.”

“Airtel is transforming its network to be modern, adaptable and scalable to accommodate the phenomenal mobile growth in India,” said Anand Bhaskar, Managing Director, Cisco Service Provider Business, India and SAARC. “Together we are delivering a highly-scalable IP and optical network throughout India that enables broader mobile access to connect more people, and more businesses who can do more with the internet.”

Supporting Resources

- [Airtel and Cisco](#)
- [Segment Routing](#)
- [Cisco Annual Internet Report](#)
- For more information about Cisco service provider news and activities, visit the [SP360 blog](#) or follow us on Twitter [@CiscoSP360](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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