

## National Digital Literacy Mission & Summit



10th Manthan Award Digital Inclusion Celebration will include discussion and sharing of digital literacy impact on rights, access, media, livelihood and governance. There will be live examples from 3 villages where each and every household is digitally literate.

A World Bank study has estimated that a 10% increase in broadband connectivity leads to 1.38% increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Broadband penetration in India at present is less than 2%. While India boasts the world's second fastest-growing mobile market, it is lagging behind when it comes to Internet connectivity. Connecting the community and its members to the world through the Internet is becoming increasingly essential for community vitality for the development and social progress in recent years.

The Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) has established Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL) to roll out the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) plan to connect 2,50,000 gram Panchayats across the country. The BBNL will carry out mapping of the present cable infrastructure and fix the project cost. All of the project cost will be met through the USO fund, which has INR 180 billion and is expected to grow up to INR 360 billion in three years.

For this, BBNL identified three pilot blocks – Arain (Rajasthan); Naogang (North Tripura) and Pravada (Visakhapatnam) where the fiber connectivity would be reached and the same would be available for usage free for few months and later at cost.