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World Telecommunication & Information Society Day 2026

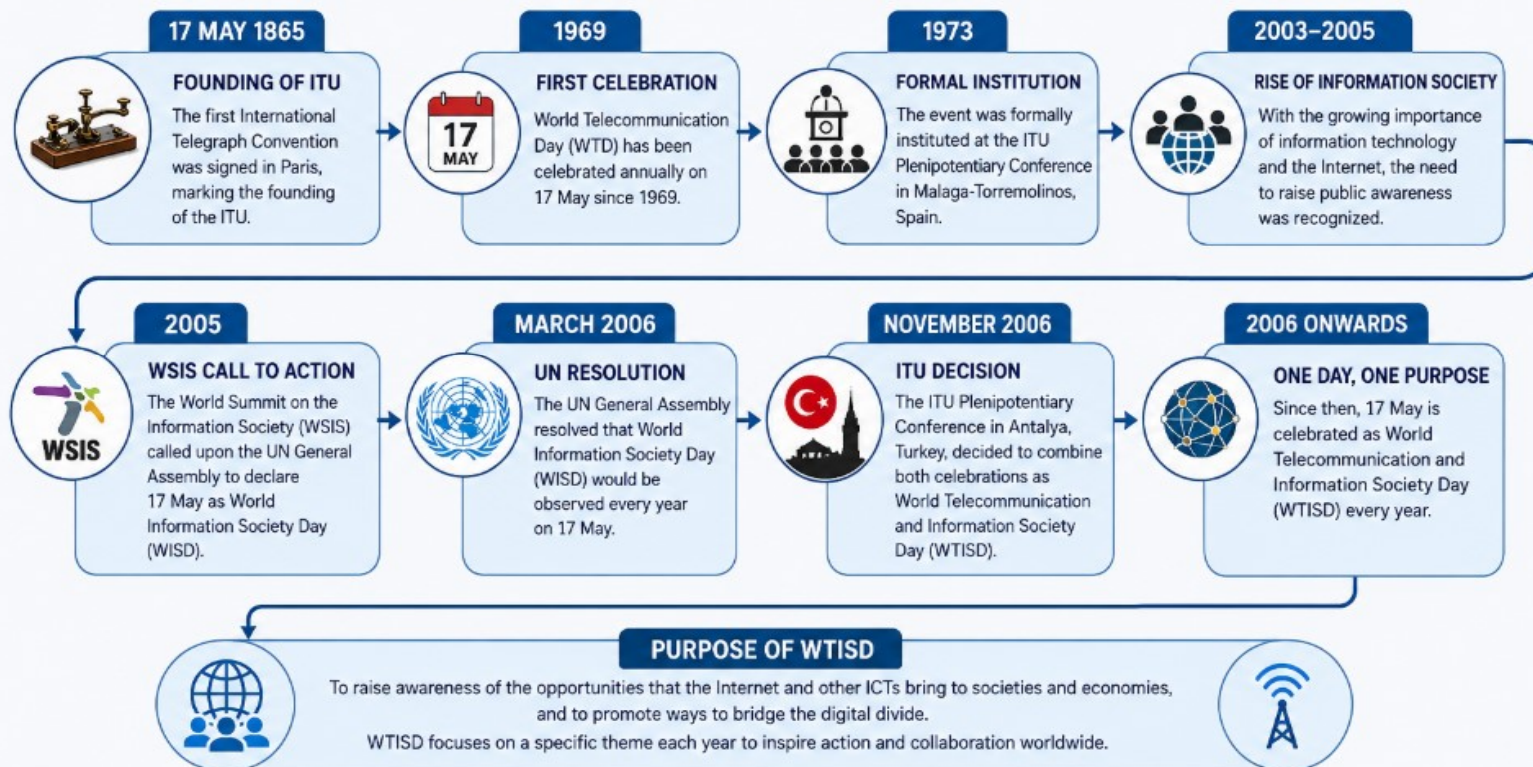
Connecting minds.
Empowering societies.

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HISTORY OF WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DAY

From Telegraph to Tomorrow: Connecting the World



USEFUL LINKS

For more information, visit this year's World Telecommunication and Information Society Day web page.
<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Events/WTISD/Pages/default.aspx>

A LOOK BACK: THEMES THROUGH THE YEARS

Each WTISD theme reflects the digital priorities of its time. Here is a glimpse at how topics have evolved:

2021 – Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times

2022 – Digital technologies for older persons and healthy ageing

2023 – Empowering the least developed countries through ICTs

2024 – Digital innovation for sustainable development

2025 – Equal opportunity in digital transformation for women and men

2026 – The digital lifeline: Strengthening resilience in an increasingly connected world

This progression tells a story. From bridging gaps during crises to promoting inclusion and now building resilient infrastructure, WTISD themes track the evolving challenges of our digital era.

Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World

“In a connected world, communication is the foundation of innovation, collaboration, and global progress.”

Global Connection: ➤ Digital technologies connect people across every corner of the globe	Emergency Response ➤ Communication systems improve speed and coordination in crises
AI & Smart Networks ➤ Artificial intelligence and smart infrastructure increase resilience	Essential Services ➤ Technology supports healthcare, education, and public safety

Understanding Digital Lifelines continues...

- Digital lifelines are technologies that help people stay connected, informed, and safe during daily life and emergencies.
- These systems form the backbone of modern society by enabling real-time communication and fast access to critical information.

Core Technology :

Internet Network ➤ The global backbone enabling data exchange at state.	Cloud Platforms ➤ Scalable Infrastructure for storage and services.
Mobile Communication ➤ Instant voice, text and data access from anywhere.	Satellite Communication ➤ Connectivity beyond terrestrial infrastructure

Evolution of Communication Technology

From Simplicity to Sophistication – Connecting the World

Earlier Communication



Smoke
Signals



Human
Messenger



Written
Messages



Telegraph



Telephone



Radio

Modern Communication



Satellite
Communication



Mobile
Phones



Internet



Video
Conferencing



Social Media &
Instant Messaging

Government of India Digital Lifeline Initiatives

➤ 5G Services in India — 1 October 2022 ➤ ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) — 28 April 2022 ➤ Bhashini AI Language Mission — 4 July 2022 ➤ National Broadband Mission 2.0 — 2022 ➤ Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) — 27 September 2021 ➤ National Digital Health Ecosystem (NDHE) — 2021 ➤ PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan — 13 October 2021 ➤ DigiLocker Expansion Initiatives — 2021–2024 ➤ CoWIN Platform — 16 January 2021	➤ PM-WANI Scheme — 9 December 2020 ➤ 112 Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) — 19 February 2019 ➤ Sachet Disaster Alert System — 2018 ➤ Unified Payments Interface (UPI) — 11 April 2016 ➤ Digital India Mission — 1 July 2015 ➤ Bharat Net Project — October 2011 ➤ National Knowledge Network (NKN) — 2010 ➤ Aadhaar Digital Identity System — 28 January 2009 ➤ World Telecommunication & Information Society Day (WTISD) Awareness Campaigns in India — 2006 onward
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Real Disasters Successfully Managed Through Digital Lifelines

Year	Incident / Disaster	Where it Happened	How Digital Lifelines Helped
2023	Turkey–Syria Earthquake	2023 Turkey–Syria Earthquake	Drones, satellite internet, AI-assisted mapping, social media SOS messages, and digital volunteer coordination supported rescue operations.
2020	COVID-19 Pandemic	Most of the countries	Telemedicine, online education, digital health dashboards, contact-tracing apps, and remote communication kept societies functioning during lockdowns.
2019	Cyclone Fani	Odisha, India	Digital early-warning systems and mobile alerts helped evacuate nearly 1.2 million people before landfall.
2016	Hurricane Matthew	Haiti, Cuba, Bahamas, USA	Emergency telecom systems and satellite communication restored coordination among rescue agencies.

Real Disasters Successfully Managed Through Digital Lifelines continued..

Year	Incident / Disaster	Where it Happened	How Digital Lifelines Helped
2015	2015 South India Floods	Chennai, India	Facebook, WhatsApp, Google Maps, and crowd-sourced rescue information helped coordinate food, shelters, and rescue teams.
2013	Typhoon Haiyan	Phillipines	Satellite phones and emergency telecom systems deployed by ITU enabled relief coordination after communication infrastructure failed.
2010	2010 Haiti Eathquake	Haiti	SMS rescue campaigns, digital maps, and crowdsourced crisis mapping supported international rescue operations.
2005	Hurricane Matthew	New Orleans, USA	Internet communication systems, satellite phones, and emergency digital coordination platforms helped reconnect responders and victims.

Real Cybercrime Incidents Handled Through Digital Lifelines

Year	Cybercrime Incident	Explanation of the Cyber Incident	How Digital Lifelines Helped
2024	Change Healthcare Cyberattack	Ransomware disrupted healthcare payment and pharmacy systems across the USA.	Cloud backups and AI-based cybersecurity systems restored healthcare services quickly.
2023	MGM Resorts Cyberattack	Hackers breached MGM systems causing hotel and casino operations to fail temporarily.	Incident response teams and backup servers helped recover operations rapidly.
2022	AIIMS Delhi Ransomware Attack	Ransomware encrypted hospital databases and disrupted patient services at AIIMS Delhi.	CERT-In support and digital backup recovery restored hospital systems.
2021	Colonial Pipeline Cyberattack	A ransomware attack shut down a major fuel pipeline in the United States.	Real-time monitoring and emergency cyber protocols prevented larger disruption.

Real Cybercrime Incidents Handled Through Digital Lifelines continued..

Year	Cybercrime Incident	Explanation of the Cyber Incident	How Digital Lifelines Helped
2017	WannaCry Ransomware Attack	WannaCry infected over 200,000 computers worldwide and demanded ransom payments.	Emergency software patches and CERT coordination reduced the malware spread.
2017	NotPetya Cyberattack	Malware spread globally and damaged business and logistics networks.	Threat intelligence sharing and backup systems helped organizations recover.
2016	Bangladesh Bank Heist	Hackers used the SWIFT system to attempt massive illegal money transfers.	Banking surveillance and transaction monitoring prevented larger financial losses.
2014	Sony Pictures Hack	Hackers leaked confidential Sony data, emails, and unreleased films.	Digital forensic analysis and cloud recovery restored company operations.

How Digital Lifelines Could Help Prevent Incidents Like the Bargi Dam Tragedy

Digital lifelines can help reduce risks and improve emergency response in the following ways:

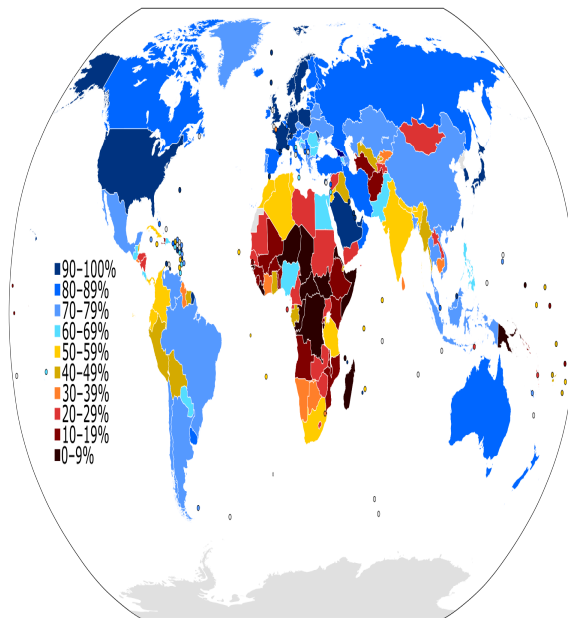
- Smart Weather Alert Systems
- GPS & Real-Time Boat Tracking
- Emergency Communication Networks
- IoT-Based Safety Sensors
- Digital Passenger Management
- Drone & Satellite Support
- Public Safety Awareness Mobile Apps



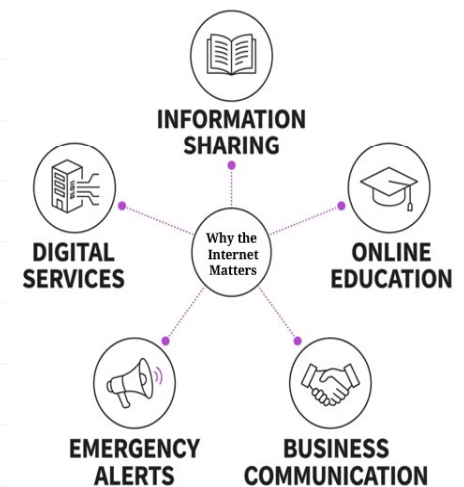
Internet as a Global Lifeline

The internet connects billions of people worldwide, transforming the world into a globally connected society. It has become the single most important infrastructure of the modern age.

County wise Internet Usage



Country	Internet Users (Approx.)	Internet Penetration
India	950+ Million	~67%
China	1.09+ Billion	~77%
United States	330+ Million	~97%
Brazil	181+ Million	~84%
Indonesia	220+ Million	~79%
Japan	118+ Million	~95%
Russia	130+ Million	~90%
Nigeria	122+ Million	~55%
Germany	79+ Million	~93%
United Kingdom	67+ Million	~98%



Role of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence improves digital systems by making them more intelligent, efficient, and responsive. AI is now embedded across every major sector of modern life.



Smart Assistants

Voice and text AI that respond to human needs instantly



Recommendation Systems

Personalized content and service delivery at scale



Cybersecurity

AI-driven threat detection and real-time protection



Healthcare Analysis

Faster, more accurate diagnosis and patient monitoring



Smart City Management

Optimizing urban infrastructure and public services

- 📘 **Key Benefit:** AI makes communication systems more intelligent and efficient — enabling automation, faster decision-making, smart analysis, real-time monitoring, and predictive technologies.

Cloud Computing in the Connected World

Cloud computing stores and manages massive amounts of digital data, forming the invisible backbone of global digital connectivity. It enables organizations and individuals to collaborate, communicate, and operate at unprecedented scale.



Key Benefits

Remote Data Access

Access files and services from anywhere in the world

Secure Storage

Enterprise-grade protection for critical digital assets

Real-Time Collaboration

Teams work together seamlessly across time zones

Scalable Services

Infrastructure that grows with demand instantly

Leading Platforms

Google Drive, Microsoft Azure, and online meeting platforms like Zoom and Teams exemplify cloud-powered global connectivity.

5G Technology and Future Connectivity

What 5G Delivers

Faster Speeds

Up to 100x faster than 4G networks

Reliability

Consistent network performance at scale

Low Latency

Near-instant communication delay reduction

Device Support

Connects billions of smart devices simultaneously

5G Applications

Smart Cities

Connected infrastructure for urban efficiency

Autonomous Vehicles

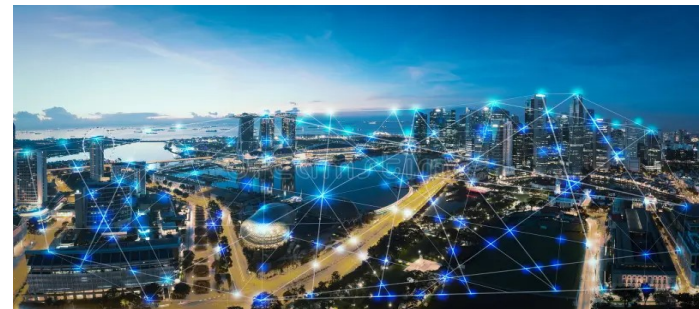
Real-time data exchange for self-driving systems

Virtual Reality

Immersive experiences without lag or interruption

Remote Healthcare

Telemedicine and remote surgery enabled by low latency



Future Vision: 6G and advanced networks will create even smarter digital ecosystems — pushing the boundaries of what connectivity can achieve.

Internet of Things (IoT)

Smart Homes

- Automated lighting, security, and appliances controlled remotely

Smart Wearables

- Health tracking and real-time biometric monitoring on the go

Security Systems

- Connected cameras and sensors providing 24/7 monitoring

Smart Traffic Systems

- Connected cameras and sensors providing 24/7 monitoring



Healthcare as a Digital Lifeline

Technology is transforming healthcare services worldwide. Digital healthcare became critically important during global health crises, proving its value as a true lifeline.

Digital Healthcare Technologies

1

Telemedicine

Remote consultations connecting patients and doctors across distances

2

AI Diagnosis Systems

Machine learning models detecting conditions with high accuracy

3

Health Monitoring Wearables

Continuous tracking of vitals and early warning systems

4

Digital Medical Records

Secure, accessible patient data
enabling coordinated care



Key Benefits

Better Access

Healthcare reaches underserved and remote populations

Remote Treatment

Patients receive care without leaving their homes

Faster Diagnosis

AI reduces time-to-diagnosis from days to minutes

Reduced Pressure

Digital tools ease the burden on physical hospital systems

Education in the Digital Era

Digital technology has fundamentally changed traditional education systems, making learning more flexible, interactive, and accessible to anyone with a connected device. Digital education expanded dramatically during global lockdowns, proving its transformative potential.



Online Classes

Live and recorded lessons accessible from anywhere in the world at any time



Virtual Classrooms

Immersive digital environments that replicate the in-person learning experience



AI Learning Tools

Personalized learning paths that adapt to each student's pace and needs



Educational Apps

Gamified and structured learning experiences on any device, anytime

Learn from Anywhere

Geography is no longer a barrier to quality education

Flexible Education

Students learn at their own pace and on their own schedule

Interactive Learning

Engaging multimedia content drives deeper understanding

Easy Knowledge Access

Vast libraries of resources available at the touch of a button

Digital Finance Systems

Digital banking has transformed the way millions of people conduct financial transactions, making payments faster, safer, and more accessible than ever before.

Examples

UPI

QR Payments

Digital Transactions

Online Banking

Mobile Wallets

Benefits

Fast Payments

Instant transfers at any time

Financial Accessibility

Banking for the unbanked

Cashless Economy

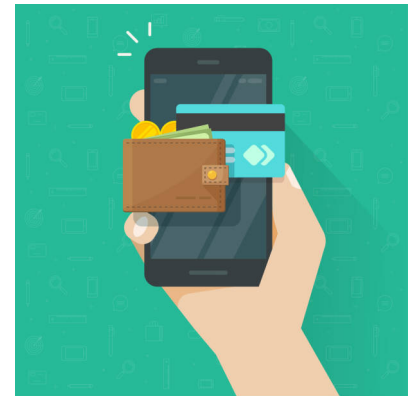
Reducing reliance on physical cash

Secure Transactions

Encrypted and protected payments



Millions of people now use smartphones for financial services — reshaping the global economy.





Smart Transportation Systems

Technology is revolutionizing transportation networks — making roads smarter, safer, and more efficient for everyone.

Key Technologies



GPS Navigation

Real-time route guidance and traffic updates



AI Traffic Management

Intelligent systems that optimize traffic flow



Digital Ticketing

Seamless contactless transit payments



Smart Traffic Lights

Adaptive signals that reduce congestion

Benefits



Reduced Traffic Congestion

Smarter routing keeps roads clear



Better Route Management

Dynamic adjustments in real time



Improved Road Safety

Connected vehicles prevent accidents



Faster Emergency Movement

Priority corridors for emergency services



The future: Self-driving and AI-powered vehicles will redefine mobility entirely.

Smart Cities

Smart cities harness digital technologies to improve urban life — creating environments that are safer, more sustainable, and more efficient for residents and governments alike.

Smart Surveillance

AI-powered monitoring for public safety

Energy-Efficient Systems

Smart grids & renewable energy integration

Smart Waste Management

Sensor-based collection & recycling systems

Intelligent Traffic Control

Adaptive signals & congestion management

Digital Public Services

Online access to civic & government services

Goal: To create safer and more sustainable cities. Connected infrastructure improves efficiency and resilience — building urban environments ready for the challenges of tomorrow.



Importance of Digital Systems During COVID-19

During the pandemic, digital technologies became the backbone of society — enabling people to work, learn, access healthcare, and stay connected despite physical restrictions.

Major Contributions

Remote Work

Telemedicine

Video Conferencing

Online Education

Technologies That Kept the World Running

Zoom & Google Meet

Virtual meetings and classrooms

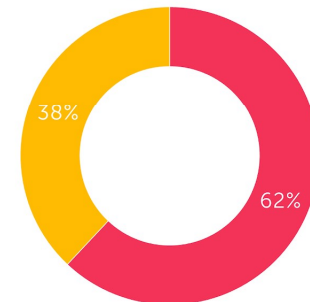
AI Health Dashboards

Real-time pandemic tracking and analysis

Contact Tracing Apps

Digital tools to slow virus spread

Remote work during COVID-19



62% of US employees are working from home due to COVID-19.

Source: Gallup



Result: Digital connectivity helped societies continue functioning during lockdowns — proving that digital lifelines are not optional, but essential.

Importance of Cybersecurity

As digital connectivity expands, so does the threat landscape. Protecting digital systems is no longer optional — it is a fundamental requirement for trust, safety, and reliability in the modern world.

Common Threats

Hacking

Unauthorized access to systems and networks

Data Theft

Stealing sensitive personal and financial data

Malware Attacks

Malicious software disrupting operations

Online Fraud

Deceptive schemes targeting users financially

Privacy Breaches

Exposure of confidential user information

Protection Methods



Encryption

Securing data in transit and at rest



Firewalls

Blocking unauthorized network access



Secure Passwords

Strong credentials and multi-factor authentication



AI Security Systems

Intelligent threat detection and response

Key Message: Secure digital systems build trust and reliability — the foundation of a connected society.

Challenges in Digital Connectivity




NO SIGNAL



Limited Infrastructure



Unreliable Power Supply



High Costs



Security & Privacy Concerns



Low Digital Literacy



Language & Content Barriers



Bridging the digital divide is essential for an **inclusive** and **empowered** Digital India.





Future Technologies

Building a Smarter, Connected
and Empowered India

6G

AI

Intelligent Solutions
for a Better Tomorrow



Smart Drones

Transforming Industries
and Saving Lives



Virtual & Augmented Reality

Immersive Experiences,
Limitless Possibilities



Quantum Computing

Solving Complex Problems,
Shaping the Future



Innovation



Connectivity



Sustainability



Security



Empowerment

Empowering India with
Future-Ready Technologies

Digital India, Digital Future!

Advantages of Digital Lifelines

Digital systems have delivered transformative benefits across every dimension of human society — improving quality of life and strengthening communities around the world.



Faster Communication

Instant messaging, calls, and data sharing across the globe



Better Healthcare

Telemedicine, AI diagnostics, and remote patient monitoring



Improved Education

E-learning platforms bringing quality education to all



Financial Inclusion

Digital banking bringing millions into the formal economy



Smart Transportation

Safer, faster, and more efficient mobility systems



Global Collaboration

Borderless teamwork and knowledge sharing across nations



Overall Impact: Digital systems improve quality of life and strengthen societies — creating a more equitable and resilient world for everyone.

Conclusion

Digital lifelines have become an essential part of modern society, not just tools of convenience, but the very infrastructure upon which our connected world depends.

1. Connect People Globally

Breaking down geographic and cultural barriers through instant communication

2. Improve Communication

Enabling real-time exchange of information across every corner of the world

3. Support Healthcare & Education

Delivering vital services to those who need them most, wherever they are

4. Strengthen Resilience

Keeping societies functioning through crises, disasters, and disruptions

5. Create Smarter Systems

Building cities, economies, and networks that are more efficient and sustainable

"A connected world is a stronger and more resilient world."



Thank You

**"Technology becomes powerful when it
connects, protects, and empowers
humanity."**