



## Summary India Rural 5G Challenges:

- **67% or 900 million of India population live in rural areas**  
(in comparison total population of EU countries is 512 million) World Bank / EU  
**Less than 20% of India's rural population has access to Internet**  
Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)
- **Estimated 22% of 600,000 mobile towers in India are connected by fiber**  
(in comparison 80% and more in China PR, Japan, Korea Rep, United States)  
**many more towers / base stations needed for 5G**  
Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)
- **India has among the lowest average revenue per user globally**
- **Major challenges are the huge costs and financing (debt of telecom operators is USD 112 billion\*, no return of investment for 4G yet), landowner issues, right of way approval procedures, main and backup power supply (pollution through diesel generators), cable theft, affordable devices (and power for charging), security, etc.** \*Lightreading