

COMPREHENSIVE MODULAR SURVEY – TELECOM - SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NEWS: According to the results of **CMS:T**, there has been a **marked increase** in the number of Indians who **use mobile phones and access the internet**.

- **Access to the internet can be a powerful tool for empowerment, enabling individuals to access information, connect with others, and participate in civic and economic life.**

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Overview of CMS: Telecom (CMS:T)

- The CMS:T survey was part of the 80th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS), covering the first quarter of 2025 (January–March).
- It was conducted by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** without participation from individual states, which is unusual for NSS surveys.
- It was conducted **concurrently** with the “**Household Social Consumption: Health**” survey, also under NSS 80th round.
- Data collection was done using **Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI)**, ensuring structured and digital data entry at the point of collection.

Survey Focus Areas

- Collected detailed data at both **household** and **individual** levels.
- Key information gathered includes:
 - Ownership and use of **mobile phones** and **internet**.
 - **Selected ICT skills** (Information and Communication Technology).
- Mobile ownership was defined based on **active SIM cards for personal use**, including employer-provided phones, but **excluded jointly shared phones** unless the person was the majority user.

Key Findings – Household Mobile and Internet Access

- **Smartphone Penetration:**
 - **85.5%** of Indian households reported having at least **one smartphone**.
- **Internet Access at Home:**
 - **86.3%** of households had access to the **internet within their premises**.

- **Digital Transactions:**

- Among those capable of performing online banking transactions, **99.5% reported using UPI (Unified Payments Interface)** – indicating strong digital financial inclusion.

Mobile Ownership Among Women (15+ Years)

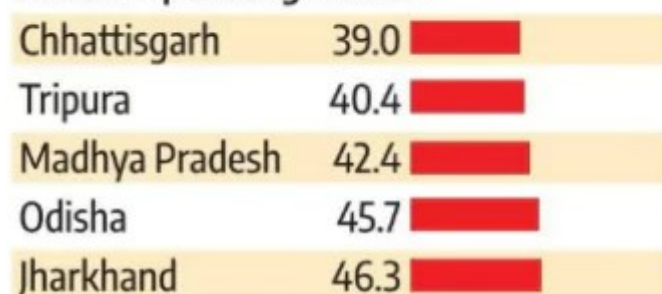
- **National Average:**

- **56.2%** of women aged 15 years and above own a mobile phone for personal use.

Call records

(Figures in %)

States with lowest mobile phone ownership among women



States with highest mobile phone ownership among women



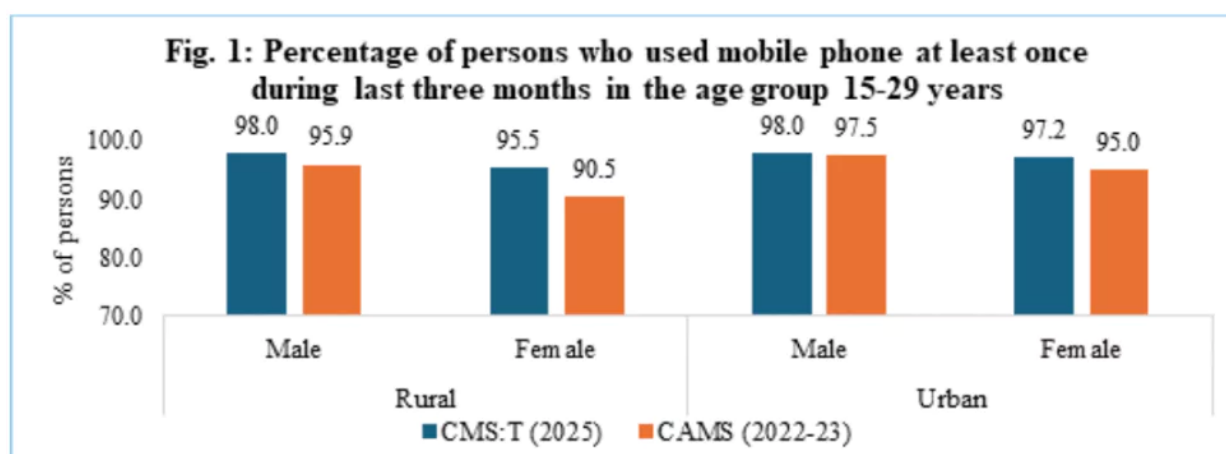
- **States with Lowest Ownership:**

- **Chhattisgarh (39%), Tripura (40.4%), and Madhya Pradesh (42.4%)** recorded the lowest female mobile ownership.

- **10 states/UTs** fall below the national average.

- **States with Highest Ownership:**

- **Goa and Ladakh** lead with **92%** female ownership each.
- Followed by **Mizoram (88.5%)**, **Kerala (85%)**, and **Puducherry (83%)**.
- **Urban-Rural Divide in Ownership:**
 - **Urban areas:** 72% of women own mobile phones.
 - **Rural areas:** Only 48% of women own mobile phones, highlighting a significant **gender and regional digital gap**.
- **Comparison with Men's Ownership:**
 - **Men in urban areas:** 90% mobile phone ownership.
 - **Men in rural areas:** 80.7% ownership.



Mobile Usage Trends Among Women

- **Recent Usage:**
 - **79.8% of women** reported using a mobile phone in the last three months, showing that even among owners, usage may not be continuous or consistent.

Digital Access Among Youth (Aged 15–29 Years)

- **Mobile Phone Usage:**
 - **Rural areas:** 96.8% of youth used mobile phones for **personal calls or internet** in the past three months.
 - **Urban areas:** 97.6% of youth reported the same.
- **Smartphone Ownership Among Mobile Phone Users:**
 - **Rural youth:** 95.5% of mobile phone users own smartphones.

- **Urban youth:** 97.6% own smartphones.
- **Internet Access (Past Three Months):**
 - **Rural youth:** 92.7% accessed the internet at least once.
 - **Urban youth:** 95.7% accessed the internet.

Key Takeaways

- High levels of **mobile and internet penetration** at the household level signal robust infrastructure.
- However, **gender-based digital divides**, especially in **rural regions**, remain stark, particularly in terms of **ownership and consistent usage among women**.
- **Youth, regardless of urban or rural settings**, show **very high levels of mobile and internet access**, indicating strong digital uptake among the younger population.
- **UPI usage near universal** among those familiar with online banking suggests India's rapid transition to a **digital payments economy**.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/upi-usage-15-29-age-group-india-nss-2025-survey-125052901936_1.html