India embarks on US$18b digital plan

New Delhi

INDIA is set for a “digital revolution” as it implements a US$18 billion programme to expand high-speed Internet access across the country, a move supported by the government.

Even so, the Modi-led administration that took charge in May needs to be given time “to see what they can do”, said Subho Ray, president of the India Internet Service Providers Association.

Even with the launch of the programme, Internet access remains a challenge in many parts of the country, with poor infrastructure and lack of skilled workers.

The programme aims to provide Internet connectivity to all 2.5 million villages in India by 2020, with a target of 70% of households having access to broadband.

India has about 330 million internet users, but the vast majority of these are urban residents.

The government has also launched a programme to provide Internet access to schools and universities.

India opens first global data analytics centre in Singapore

By Amit Roy Choudhury

SEMICONDUCTOR and systems solutions company Infineon on Tuesday opened its first global Business Analytics Centre of Competence (BACoC) in Singapore.

Located at its Asian regional headquarters at Infineon Technologies Asia Pacific Pte Ltd here, the centre signifies the growing importance of data analytics as a means to improve Infineon’s competitive positioning, said Robert Leindl, chief information officer of Infineon Technologies AG.

He added that the first project that the BACoC will explore is optimisation in the field of market intelligence. The centre aims to augment decision-making in complex business scenarios within three years.

The company, which makes semiconductors and systems as well as chipcards and security products for a variety of industries, sees business analytics as a vital capability in the age of Internet connectivity, helping decision-makers achieve new insights, uncover hidden opportunities for business innovation, and at the end of the day, drive the right business strategies, Mr Leindl added.

The BACoC will serve as an incubator for the development of business analytics capabilities. These include investing in data management technologies, developing analytical skills and visualisation techniques to enhance user experience, and integrating analytics into decision and processes.

"We are thankful to the Economic Development Board of Singapore for supporting us in the set-up of our Centre of Competence in Singapore. We chose Singapore because of EDB’s initiative to make Singapore a test bed for products of the future and because we can leverage on the country’s InfoComm Technology capabilities in infrastructure, learning institutions and human resources," Mr Leindl said.

Terence Gan, EDB’s director of electronics cluster group, noted that data analytics is an important growth capability for Singapore and is expected to add $11 billion in value-added to the Singapore economy by 2017. To support the growth in data analytics-related activities, Singapore has set up 10 university-level programmes in data analytics.

"I am delighted that Infineon is establishing its first BACoC in Singapore, and will partner with both NUS’s Institute of Systems Science and Temasek Polytechnic’s School of Informatics & IT to offer analytics-related projects. These are important partnerships, because they help to augment classroom learning with real-life business cases," Mr Gan added.