

India has more than 1bn mobile users now

India's mobile phone subscriber base peaked to more than 1 billion users (100 crore) for the first time, data released by the telecom regulator on Wednesday showed, making India the only country after China to achieve that milestone.

"It is a matter of great pride for us. It shows an empowered India and an engaged India and a tech savvy India. It will mean more data, more government to government connectivity, more broadband. It

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will give a further boost to Digital India," said communications and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Total wireless subscribers in Asia's third-largest economy rose to more than 1 billion at the end of October from 996.7 million at September-end, the data showed. Mobile subscriptions in India have surged in recent years, helped by the launch of cheaper smartphones and record low call rates as a result of a cut throat competition among mobile phone operators to expand customer base. REUTERS