Sanchar Bhavan, 20, Ashoka Road,
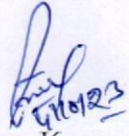New Delhi-110001
Dated: 04.10.2023

Subject: Monthly Summary for the Cabinet on important events of the Department of Telecommunications for the month of August, 2023.

The undersigned is directed to circulate herewith a copy of the unclassified portion of the Monthly Summary for the Cabinet on the important events of the Department of Telecommunications for the month of August, 2023 for information.

2.   This issues with the approval of Secretary (T).

Hindi version will follow.

Encl:- As above

(Anoop Kumar)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tele. No. 23036213

To

PS to All Members of the Council of Ministers.

Copy to:

1. Secretary to the President ("Rashtrapati-Ke-Sachiv").
2. Secretary to the Vice- President ("Up-Rashtrapati-Ke-Sachiv").
3. CEO, NITI Aayog, New Delhi.
4. All Members of NITI Aayog, New Delhi.
5. Chairman, U.P.S.C., New Delhi.
6. Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.

7. Copy also to :-
    i.   Secretary, Department of Education
    ii.   Secretary, Department of Legislative.
    iii. Secretary, Department of Statistics.
    iv.   Secretary, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research.
    v.   Secretary, Department of Defence Production.
    vi.   Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Sources.
    vii. Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development.
    viii. Secretary, Department of Science & Technology.
    ix.   Secretary, Railway Board.
    x.   Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy.
    xi.   Secretary, Department of Space.
    xii. Secretary, Department of Electronics.
    xiii. Secretary, Department of Posts.
8. Copy to:-
    i.   P.S. to Hon'ble Minister for Communications/P.S. to Hon'ble MoSC
    ii.   PSO to Chairman, Digital Communications Commission & Secretary, DoT
    iii. Sr. PPS/PPS to Member (Finance)/ Member (Services)/ Member (Technology)/ DG (Telecom) HQ/ Administrator (USOF)/ Sr. Eco. Adv./ WA, WPC
9. Additional Director General, PIB, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi-110001.
10. Director General (Media & Communications), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
11. Policy-I Section w.r.t. their letter No. 6/6/2008-Policy-I dated 14.11.2008

(Anoop Kumar)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tele. No. 23036213

MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR THE CABINET ON IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2023

A. **Important events in DoT HQ for the Month of August, 2023:**

1. **Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2023**

The Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2023 were notified on 7th August, 2023 for:

i. inclusion of the definition "Street Furniture" which is to be used for deployment of small cells;

ii. to provide the service providers with the option of submitting single application for multiple sites;

iii. to establish temporary overground telegraph infrastructure without charging any administrative fees or compensation, in case of any damage to the existing underground telegraph infrastructure for the period of sixty days from the date of reporting of damage of the infrastructure to the Appropriate Authority; and

iv. to permit deployment of small cells on buildings and structures under the control of Appropriate Central Authorities and shall not charge any administrative fees or compensation for this purpose.

2. **International Relations & Events:**

i. **9th BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting:** 9th meeting of BRICS Communications Ministers was held on 4th August 2023. The meeting was preceded by meeting of BRICS ICT track: Working Group on ICT cooperation, BRICS Council Meeting and Digital BRICS Task Force Meeting scheduled from 31st July, 2023- 3rdAugust, 2023. The Department of Telecommunications participated in the BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting.

ii. **Bilateral meeting with Mauritius:** A meeting between Sh. Devusinh Chauhan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, India and Mr. Deepak Balgobin, Hon'ble Minster of Information Technology, Communications and Innovation of Mauritius was held on 22nd August 2023 at Sanchar Bhawan. During the meeting, discussions were held regarding emerging telecom technologies like 5G, 6G, etc.

iii. **Sub Working Group meeting with Japan:** A Sub Working Group meeting on Open RAN was held between India and Japan on 29th August 2023. The participants from Government as well as industry stakeholders of both the sides participated in the meeting and made presentation on various topics

related to Open RAN technology such as initiatives of Open RAN, Shared Open Lab, Service Management and Orchestration etc.

3. **Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) undertook following initiatives:**

i) Issued the Test Guide (Test Schedule & Test Procedure) for Standard on "Converged Gateway Node for Delivering Broadcast Content to Portable Devices through Wireless LAN". The Converged Gateway Node can be used in various scenarios such as Bharat Net in rural areas. Wi-Fi access points through PM-WANI can also deploy Converged Gateway Node so that the broadcast channels are also available to users without using internet data.

ii) Successfully developed a comprehensive standard on "Fairness Assessment and Rating of Artificial Intelligence Systems." [TEC 57050:2023] after exhaustive consultations with various key stakeholders, including representatives from Academia, industry, researchers, and domain experts. A draft MoU for cooperation in the field of trustworthy AI has been prepared and published at TEC website.

iii) Published a draft technical report on "Television Broadcasting to Mobile Handheld Devices - Direct to Mobile (D2M) Broadcasting" bringing out the features, deployment status, technology maturity, etc., of different technologies. Comments/suggestions from the stakeholders have been sought.

iv) Submitted four contributions related to IoT security for the ITU-T SG-17 meeting, Korea, 29 Aug- 8th Sept 2023.

4. **Interaction with North Eastern Council (NEC), AMTRON Team regarding successful deployment of 5G Use Case Labs across North East states:**

A meeting was held on 24.08.2023 with members from North Eastern Council, AMTRON (a State PSU in Guwahati). NEC members explained about the successful deployment of 8 5G Use case labs across 8 North eastern states and offered to adopt these labs under the currently ongoing 100 5G Use case labs initiative of DoT so that these labs get upgraded as per the change in the standard of the technology.

5. **Implementation of 5G use case labs by Software Technology Parks of India (STPI):**

A meeting was held in the STPI on 25.08.2023 regarding the implementation of 5G use case labs at three vertical Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Automobile, Health and Augmented Reality(AR) / Virtual Reality (VR). STPI is in process of preparing DPR for the same in collaboration with TCIL which is the implementation Agency for 100 5G labs.

6. **Status of implementation of 100 5G Use Case Labs:**

As announced in the Budget for the FY 2023-24 regarding implementation of 100 5G Use Case Labs at Academic Institutions, TCIL has been selected as Implementation Agency for the same. TCIL had received 600+ applications from higher educational institutions. An Institute selection committee was constituted by TCIL which includes member from Department of Higher Education. Institution Selection committee has finalized the 100 institutes.

Vendor Selection committee has finalized the Vendors for PoCs (Proof of Concepts) and PoCs of 10+ vendors have been done. The RFP for Tender is under preparation.

7. **Meeting with DPIIT regarding reported wrongful grant of patents:**

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Secretary (DPIIT) on 31.08.2023 with India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA), M/s LAVA, MeitY, DoT and Prof. Kamakoti from IIT Madras to discuss about the ways to avoid wrong grant of patents due to algorithmic nature of invention which is prohibitive under Section 3K of the Indian Patent Act. As a way forward, it was decided to strengthen the CRI (Computer related Invention) guidelines of Indian Patent Office issued in 2017 to protect the interest of Industry members.

8. **Important policy decisions and achievements** on Artificial Intelligence (AI) & **Security:**

A list of important policy decisions and achievements on AI and Security is given at **Annexure-A**.

9. **International Conference on 5G network security by National Centre for Communication Security (NCCS):**

To make collaborative efforts towards Secure India objectives as envisaged in National Digital Communication Policy, NCCS along with Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) has successfully organized a two-day international conference on 5G network security from 09.08.2023 to 10.08.2023 at Bangalore with the prime objective of bringing together the researchers and the industries working in 5G security and foster the creation of a community among academia, R&D Institutions, and industries.

10. **Designation of Telecom Security Test Laboratory:**

NCCS has provisionally designated M/s UL India Pvt. Ltd as Telecom Security Testing laboratory (TSTL) in India on 31/08/2023, for conducting the conformity assessment of security requirements for Telecom equipment viz. IP router.

The designation of telecom security labs in India by NCCS is contributing towards creating a robust Indigenous secure telecom ecosystem and making India one amongst the elite global countries which has entire comprehensive security ecosystem in place.

11. **PLI Scheme:**

The summary of the cumulative investment, sales and employment as on 31.07.2023 is as follows:
- **Cumulative Investment:** Rs. 2298 Cr.
- **Total Sales:** Rs. 32128 Cr.
- **Total Exports:** Rs. 7518 Cr.
- **Total Employment:** 17475 (in No.)

12. **Status of PM WANI Scheme:**
   a. Total number of WiFi Hotspots under PM WANI added in August, 2023 – 1929
   b. PM WANI Hotspots as on 31.08.2023 – 150846

13. **PM Gati Shakti NMP**
The progress under Gati Shakti NMP is at **Annexure-B.**

14. **Call Before u Dig:**

   a) Asset owners - 4917 users created, increasing from 41,214 in July-2023 to 46,131 in Aug-2023.
   b) Excavators -280 registered in Aug 2023 taking cumulative fig. to 13,877.
   c) 569 enquiries were raised during the month of Aug 2023.
   d) Total 13,944 SMS sent to the Registered Excavators advising to use CBuD prior to any type of excavation.
   e) Two new features i.e. rescheduling and withdrawal of an enquiry developed in the CBuD App.

15. **Social media activities** undertaken during August, 2023 are at **Annexure-C.**

16. **Observance/Celebration of Functions:**

The **Har Ghar Tiranga** campaign was celebrated enthusiastically by DoT employees and their families in the run-up to and on Independence Day on 15.08.2023 which also marks **Amrit Kaal** celebrations. The Department facilitated procurement and distribution of Flags on the occasion. *Sadbhawana Diwas* Pledge was also taken by officers and staff on August 18th this year.

B.   **PERFORMANCE OF PSUs OF DOT**

1. BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LTD. (BSNL)

a. Gross SIM sale for the month: 10,31,205.
b. Gross Bharat Fiber (FTTH) Achievement: 1,32,006 Nos. in the month of August, 2023
c. A total of 4,11,322 Rural FTTH connection has been provided on BharatNet infra under special project through BharatNet Udyami as on 31.08.2023.
d. Gross new leased Circuits: 3418 and upgradation: 4480. Total provisioning including upgradation is 7898 in August-2023.
e. Gross Bharat Air Fiber Achievement (Data): 1,310
f. Gross Landline Achievement: 6,942 connections.
g. Gross ADSL Broadband Achievement: 830 connections.
h. 130 Gbps of Caching links and 20 Gbps of peering links have been added (cumulatively 1200 Gbps links in current FY 2023-24) making the cumulative capacity of 4750 Gbps Caching and 3434.05 Gbps Peering link capacity.
i. MNP Ratio (Po/Pi): 6.26 {Port In = 96,396, Port out = 6,03,036}
j. The data traffic from wire line broadband has increased from 118.2 PB (April-2019), 155 PB (April-2020) and 278.6 PB (April-2021) and 392.5 PB (April-2022) and 556 PB (April-2023) to 645 PB in the month of August, 2023
k. Number of online transactions on portal has generally increased from 27,82,427 (April-2019), 36,53,078 (April-2020), 38,71,899 (April-2021), 37,45,974 (April-2022) and 38,62,674 (April-2023) to 38,94.843 in the month of August, 2023.
l. In order to promote and popularize FTTH services, introduction of "Bharat Fibre Amrit Utsav" to boost initial speed "upto 100 Mbps" across PAN India.

2. TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANTS INDIA LIMITED (TCIL)

- Provisional Operating Turnover upto July, 2023 for the Financial Year 2023-24 is **Rs. 723.23 Crores** against Rs. 494.33 Crores for Financial Year 2022-23 in the comparative period.
- TCIL have secured orders for a total of approximately **Rs. 767.11 Crores** from foreign & inland clients in the month of August, 2023.

3. INDIAN TELEPHONE INDUSTRY (ITI):

The performance of the Company in the month of August 2023 is ₹ 53.01 Crores (provisional). The turnover is mainly constituted from supply of Laptops, Mini PC, HDPE, OFC, Smart Cards, GPON ONT, Contract manufacturing, Water Pipes, banking products, telephones, Mini PDO, 3D Printing, Execution of ASCON, TANFINET, GUJNET & NFS Projects, AMC for Defence Equipment, Business from Data Centre, Services from Test labs, Reliability lab, VSSC Business, SaaS, ITI E-Seva, Skill development and business generated by Corporate MSPs etc.

C.   BharatNet:

i. BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. The cumulative status of the BharatNet project, as on 04.09.2023 is as follows:

Optical Fiber Cable laid	: 6,57,861 KMs
GPs connected by Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)	: 1,96,876 (GPs)
Total GPs Service Ready (OFC + Satellite)	: 2,01,691 (GPs)

ii. Extension of BharatNet connectivity upto villages: The scope of Bharat Net has been extended upto all 6 lakh inhabited villages including GPs. On 30.06.2021, Union Cabinet accorded a proposal for revised strategy for implementation of Bharat Net through public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in 16 states. For implementation of PPP model in 16 states, request for proposal (RFP) was floated on 20.07.2021 by Bharat Broadband Network Limited(BBNL) through global bidding for selection of Private Sector Partners. However no bid was received for PPP Model on the last date of bid i.e. 27.01.2022. Revised RFP and timelines are being worked out with alternative models. The appraisal of the amended BharatNet program has been done by the Expenditure Finance Committee. The Cabinet approved the proposal on 04.08.2023 and implementation process has been started.

D.   TELECOM SECTOR KPIs:

The details regarding number of telephones and tele-density in the country at the end of July, 2023 are as under-

Total no. of Wireline Connections	29.69 Million
Total no. of Wireless Connections	1146.21 Million
Total no. of Connections	1175.90 Million
Tele-density	84.51 %

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Important policy decisions and achievements on Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Security:

a. Enterprise Security Operation Centre (ESOC) developed by C-DoT to providing end-to-end security solution to the organizations by detection, analysis and mitigation of cyber security threats, was launched on 25th August 2023.

b. "Sanchar Saathi Portal: An AI enabled citizen centric portal to curb the menace of cyber-crime and financial frauds" of DoT and "Common Alerting Protocol based Integrated Early Warning System for citizen-centric Disaster Management" developed by C-DoT, have been included in the "Viksit Bharat- Empowering Citizens" compendium of e-Governance initiatives 2023, released by the "Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances"

c. AI based facial recognition analysis has been carried out on 114 crore mobile connections to detect mobile connections obtained on fake / forged documents. Till August 2023, 83.60 lakh such mobile connections have been detected out of which 59.06 lakh suspected connections have been disconnected failing re-verification. 68,255 Point of Sale (PoS), selling SIMs on fake/forged documents have been blacklisted and 316 FIRs have been registered across the country.

d. 17,403 mobile handsets used with disconnected mobile connections obtained on fake / forged documents have been blocked across all the TSPs.

e. 76882 social media profiles like WhatsApp have been disengaged and 7.82 lakh bank/wallets accounts have been frozen which were linked to disconnected mobile connections obtained on fake / forged documents

DoT - PM GatiShakti NMP Portal

A.   **NBM targets**: Following is the progress on NBM targets of Fiberization:

OFC laid	37,26,577 as on 31.03.2023	38,06,865 as on 30.06.2023
% of BTS fiberized	39.52% on 30-05-2023	40.53% on 31-07-2023
No. of mobile towers	7,67,653 as on 31-07-2023	7,69,373 as on 31-08-2023

B.   **Street furniture**: Mapping of street furniture:
- 24,62,050 electric poles of UPPCL(UP),
- 4,01,355 electric poles of JBVNL(Jharkhand), 245 government buildings, 53 bus terminals, 70 traffic lights & 97 bus shelters of Jharkhand.
- 595 bus terminals in Maharashtra
- 3,368 bus stops on MP
- 6,07,618 electric poles of CSPDCL, Chhattisgarh
- ~16 lakh electric poles in Odisha (BISAG asked to pull on DoT NMP)
- 52,58,763 electric poles, 800 bus stops, many govt. buildings of Maharashtra (BISAG asked to pull on DoT NMP)