



**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K**

Subject:- Implementation of the BharatNet program in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir

**Circular No.06-JK(GAD) of 2026
Dated:13.02.2026**

The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has entered into an Addendum to the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), to ensure smooth, coordinated, and expeditious execution of the BharatNet Project in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The BharatNet Project has been notified as a Special Project under sub-rule (1) of Rule 12 of the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024. The Amended BharatNet Programme, approved by the Union Cabinet on 04.08.2023, envisages provision of broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats and villages across the country on a demand-driven basis. Under the amended framework, BSNL has been designated as the single Project Management Agency (PMA), responsible for construction, upgradation, operation and maintenance (O&M), and effective utilization of the BharatNet infrastructure.

In accordance with the provisions of the tripartite MoU and in order to ensure faster, seamless and unhindered rollout of the BharatNet project in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, following instructions are hereby issued for strict compliance by all the Departments, agencies and public entities:

1. All public entities shall permit the Right of Way (RoW) for the BharatNet project strictly in accordance with Rule 12 of the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024. No entry fee, charge, fee, rent, annuity, compensation, bank guarantee, or any other financial contribution in any form whatsoever shall be levied for granting access, establishment, operation, maintenance of the BharatNet network, or for restoration of the site where BharatNet infrastructure is located.
2. For housing network elements, suitable indoor space with proper upkeep and security shall be provided at the Gram Panchayat Bhawan or any other suitable Government building, free of cost, for placement and operation of BharatNet equipment. Wherever suitable indoor space is not feasible due to access or technical constraints, outdoor space within the same campus of the Gram Panchayat Bhawan or other Government building shall be provided for installation of outdoor racks, at no cost to the BharatNet PMA. Further, unhindered access on a 24x7 basis shall be ensured to the

BharatNet PMA or its authorized representatives for operation and maintenance of the network equipment wherever installed.

3. Uninterrupted electricity supply shall be ensured for all BharatNet network equipment through dedicated electricity connections, on the basis of fixed monthly charges. Such fixed monthly charges shall be determined based on the load capacity of the installed network equipment and the applicable rural, industrial, or special tariff, whichever is the lowest. The concerned Distribution Companies (Discoms) shall enter into formal agreements with the BharatNet PMA for this purpose. Payment of the fixed monthly electricity charges, as per predefined usage norms, shall be made by the BharatNet PMA on a centralized basis.
4. The officer in charge of the Gram Panchayat Bhawan or Government building where BharatNet equipment is installed shall act as the custodian of the installed network equipment. The custodian shall be responsible for ensuring the security of the equipment and for maintaining an up-to-date inventory of all network assets under his/her custodianship. In the event of emergencies such as fire, flood, or other natural or man-made calamities, the custodian shall take appropriate preventive and protective measures for the equipment, strictly in accordance with the guidelines issued by BSNL.
5. For the purpose of ensuring redundancy and reliable backhaul connectivity, 6–8 optical fibres from the Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) network constructed or owned by Electricity Distribution Companies shall be made available to BSNL for Internet Leased Line (ILL) backhaul connectivity to the BharatNet network, either free of cost or on an actual cost basis. Additionally, for connecting non-Gram Panchayat villages, the use of existing OPGW infrastructure maintained by the State/UT or its Discoms shall be permitted between villages and the nearest tapping point from the BharatNet ring.
6. Concerned Departments may apply for Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) connections through BharatNet for village-level Government institutions such as schools, Anganwadi centres, police stations, health centres, Panchayat offices, and other similar establishments. Such connectivity shall facilitate improved delivery of social services and strengthen e-governance initiatives at the grassroots level.
7. For effective coordination and timely resolution of issues related to the BharatNet project, all concerned Departments shall nominate a Nodal Officer to act as the single point of contact for coordination with BharatNet PMA and other stakeholders.
8. The above instructions shall be in force, during lifetime of BharatNet project, i.e. during execution and O&M phase.



Accordingly, it is enjoined upon all Administrative Departments/Heads of Departments/PSUs/Corporations/Boards etc. to strictly adhere to the above instructions to ensure smooth and timely rollout of the BharatNet project in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Further, Administrative Departments shall also issue necessary instructions to their respective field offices at the District, Block and Panchayat levels for effective implementation of these directions in letter and spirit.

These instructions are brought to the notice of all concerned for strict and immediate compliance.

Sd/-

(M Raju) IAS

Commissioner/Secretary to the Government

No. GAD-ADM0IV/17/2026-09-GAD

Dated:13.02.2026

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2. Director General of Police, J&K
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4. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K
5. All Commissioner/Secretaries to the Government
6. Chief Electoral Officer, J&K
7. Joint Secretary (JKL), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
8. Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir
9. Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, New Delhi
10. Director General, J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development
11. All Deputy Commissioners
12. Director Information, J&K
13. Chairperson, J&K Special Tribunal
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15. Secretary, J&K Public Service Commission
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27. Circular/Stock file/Website, GAD. **"Hindi and Urdu versions shall follow."**

(Rohit Sharma) JKAS

Additional Secretary to the Government