

Director General Telecom, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi (10th Edition)

हमारे मार्ग दर्शक



Dr. Neeraj Mittal
Secretary (T)



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Advisor, O/o DGT

DGT MESSAGE:

Dear Colleagues,

I am very happy that the 10th edition of 'Sanchar Samvaad' is being published. Over a period of two years, this quarterly newsletter has become an ideal platform for the LSAs to showcase their activities and share their achievements. The year gone by saw India successfully chairing G20. The LSAs contribution in ensuring seamless connectivity during all the events is praiseworthy. During the inauguration of India Mobile Congress (IMC) on 27th October 2023, Hon'ble Prime Minister awarded 100 5G use case labs over Video Conference to 100 institutes spread across the Country. LSAs played an important role in coordination with these Institutes and ensuring proper connectivity/arrangements for the VC setup for the event. In IMC 2023, Right of Way and Digital Infrastructure Conference of States/UTs IT Secretaries was organized under the Chairmanship of Secretary (T). In addition, NBM coordinated with 155 startups from 21 states for participation in exhibitions to showcase their product(s) during the IMC event.

There has been remarkable improvement in the regular activities undertaken by the LSAs resulting in audit of 1.87 Crore of CAFs, audit of 1.2 Lakhs BTSs from 01.04.2023 till 31.03.2024 across all TSPs. LSAs have conducted 122 drive tests in cities to monitor QoS across all TSPs during the same period. The first Zonal Security workshop for West zone was organized at Ahmedabad on 27.09.23 by Gujarat LSA. The North Zone workshop was organized at Chandigarh on 13.10.2023 by Punjab LSA and third workshop for South Zone was organized at Hyderabad on 20.11.2023 by AP LSA with the aim of exchanging ideas, sharing of experiences/expectations, resolution of issues and ensuring better coordination among DoT & LEAs and other stake holders. LSAs also completed 288 Crosscheck Security Audits surpassing the target of 260 and un-earthed 83 Nos. of illegal setups during the year.

In coordination with the State Government, Airport Authorities, TSPs etc., UP East LSA with the support from adjacent LSAs played an important role in ensuring excellent telecom connectivity during the inauguration of Shri Ram Mandir on 22.01.2024. The LSA team monitored the daily connectivity and coverage status for Ayodhya Town and adjacent areas to ensure proper connectivity in important public places like Airport, Bus Stands, Railway stations, Mandir Parisar, Tent City etc.

Under National Broadband Mission, all 36 States/Union Territories have formed their SBCs and till Mar 31, 2024, a total of 146 SBC meetings have been held in different States/UTs. It is heartening to note that the number of registered asset owners in 'CBuD – Call Before U Dig' Application has increased to ~51k and the number of registered excavators has increased to ~19k.

Deputation of Group B officers from BSNL was completed in December 2023 resulting in an increase of SDEs on deputation from 67 to 107. Admin & HR vertical of DGT HQ has played a significant role in this activity. LSAs have also been empowered to take Consultants against vacant Group-B posts. This number has increased from 31 to 61. The revised ranking framework for 2024-25 for the LSAs has been issued with reduced parameters. I urge the LSAs to strive and compete and emerge victorious.

My greetings to all of you and your family members.

मुख्य संपादक
वरिष्ठ संपादक
संपादक
सहसंपादक

सुनीता चंद्रा
अमित सिंगल
रूपेंद्र कुमार
करन गोयल

अपर दूरसंचार महानिदेशक डीजी मुख्यालय
अपर दूरसंचार महानिदेशक, हरियाणा एलएसए
उपमहानिदेशक, (प्रशासन), हरियाणा एलएसए
निदेशक, (प्रशासन), हरियाणा एलएसए

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National Broadband Mission:

The 4th Broadband Steering Committee meeting was held on 6th December 2023 under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Telecom) to facilitate the implementation of mission activities.



The Secretary (Telecom) launched the BRO Right of Way (RoW) portal in the presence of Shri R. K. Dhiman, VSM, Additional DG of BRO at Sanchar Bhawan on 6th December 2023.



The CBuD Web Portal accomplished noteworthy achievements. District Level Telecom (DLT) user creation module has been implemented for monitoring and supervision of CBuD usage at the District level. A dashboard has been developed for the DLT committee to view details of all stakeholders of district/Tehsils, and excavation enquiries. More than 50 workshops were organized in coordination with NBM/DoT LSA/States/UT/Ministries which led to a total of 7776 registered enquiries in CBuD from Oct 23 to March 24; a total of ~51,555 asset owners and a total of ~19,825 excavators have been registered till 31 March 2024.

Kerala LSA: On 31.10.2023, DOT Kerala LSA conducted the Cell Broadcasting Test (CB Test) for Kerala State. C-DOT, TSPs, NDMA & SDMA participated.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kochi-Lakshadweep islands submarine optical fiber connectivity (KLI-SOFC) project in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep, on 3rd January 2024. This project, funded by the USO Fund and executed by BSNL, marks the first-ever submarine optic fiber connection to Lakshadweep. Valued at Rs 1045 Cr, it promises faster internet, telemedicine, e-governance, and educational initiatives, among other benefits. Senior officials from DoT and BSNL also attended the event.



AP LSA: On 20th November 2023, the AP LSA DGT organized the Annual South Zone Conference in Hyderabad. Attended by 120 participants, it focused on enhancing the country's security paradigm through knowledge exchange



From 21st to 24th February 2024, the Sammakka Saralamma Jaatara in Medaram, Telangana, saw 1.45 crore devotees. APLSA, Hyderabad, collaborated with TSPs for coverage and promoted the PM JANMAN Scheme.



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Punjab LSA: The Punjab Licensed Service Area (LSA), DoT, organized a one-day workshop on security for officers of North Zone LSAs, Central and Northern State/UT Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), and industry representatives on October 13, 2023, at Hotel Taj, Chandigarh. The event focused on telecom security and facilitated better coordination between DoT/DGT HQ, field units, LEAs, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI), telecom service providers, and technical experts from CDOT. In rural Punjab, telecom officials engaged with local communities, noting significant improvements in connectivity along the international border. Villagers' express satisfaction with enhanced access to digital services like online transactions and OTT platforms, fostering greater integration into the digital landscape and participation in modern society.



Haryana LSA: UL-ISP 'B' class license was signed in Haryana LSA on 17-10-2023 with ISP-Net connect Televentures Pvt. Ltd for service authorization in 'Haryana Service Area'. The license was signed within stipulated timeline as prescribed by DoT.

Visit was made to 'GX India Pvt Ltd' on 20-03-2024 by officials of DoT Haryana LSA, at manufacturing unit in Sector 08, IMT Manesar, Gurugram under the initiative of Quarterly visit to beneficiaries of PLI scheme. The company manufactures Telecom equipment's viz. ONT, OLT, and switches in the same unit. Various stages of manufacturing viz. component assembly, power stabilization, software debugging etc were seen.

State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting was held on 03.10.2023 under chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Haryana. Issues like alignment of State RoW policy with Central RoW rules, mandatory usage of CBuD app, Street Furniture Mapping, , high rate of rejection of RoW cases & Composite Billing mechanism were also discussed. The meeting was attended by Addl. DGT, DDG (R) & Director (R) from Haryana LSA. Later Revised CCIP policy 2023 was notified by Haryana in Nov 23.



On October 23, 2023, a joint operation by the Security wing of Haryana LSA, the CM Flying Squad, CID, Haryana Police, and representatives of TSPs unearthed an illegal telephone exchange in Sonipat, Haryana. The suspects had been unlawfully routing international calls from Middle Eastern countries. The team confiscated two SIM boxes and 74 SIM cards, and an FIR was subsequently filed against those involved.

Mumbai LSA: On March 14, 2024, DoT Mumbai LSA and the Government of Maharashtra, in collaboration with DIT, organized a workshop on 5G, IoT, and M2M technologies. Shri P K Jain, Addl Director General Telecom, detailed DoT initiatives. Panels moderated by officials including Shri Anoop Kumar, Shri Vikas Rastogi, Shri N. Nawin Sona, and Smt. Nidhi Choudhary discussed various topics. Shri Ashok Kumar, DDG, UP West LSA, highlighted 5G possibilities, while private sector and startups showcased their innovations.



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UP East LSA: Vigilance awareness Workshop was organized by DoT, UP East, Lucknow on 31.10.2023 as a part of VAW-2023. The workshop was inaugurated by Chief Vigilance Officer, DoT. During Workshop, PoCA 1988 Act, Corruption free Administration and grievance redressal mechanism were discussed.

Category-C (Hamirpur-SSA in UPE LSA) ISP License under UL has been issued to M/s Maa Chaura Network and IT Services Pvt. Ltd on dated 21.11.2023. Representatives of M/s Maa Chaura Network and IT Services Pvt. Ltd were also briefed regarding PM-WANI scheme.

Walk test and visit of Secretary (T) at Ayodhya: A control room was setup in Ayodhya for coordination among TSPs and State authorities in view of inauguration of Ram Mandir on 22nd January 2024. Five teams of UP(East) LSA, DoT performed walk test throughout the Ayodhya at all important and crowded areas of Ayodhya to ensure seamless connectivity to pilgrims. There was also a visit of Secretary(T) and DG(T) at Ayodhya on 09.01.2024 in this connection.

A Meeting was held with Prof. J.P. Pandey, Vice-Chancellor, AKTU, Lucknow on 21.02.2024 regarding inclusion of AICTE approved 5G related course in ECE/CSE.



MP LSA: During the National Cyber Security Awareness month of October 2023, MP LSA Bhopal organized an awareness session on dealing with Cyber Security threats on 19.10.2023. Shri Varun Kapoor IPS, Addl DG Police MP was invited as Chief Guest and prominent speaker during the session. The officials and staff from various field offices of DoT viz MP LSA, CCA and WMO attended the event.



Smt. Sunita Chandra, Additional DGT, DGT HQ visited Kilerama GP in Sehore district on 23 Feb 24 and interacted with Sahahayak Sachiv of the GP, BBNL & Aaganwadi staff and checked utilisation of Bharatnet FTTH connection provided under USOF Special Assistance to States scheme.



On 28/03/2024, State Broadband Committee meeting was conducted in Bhopal, MP, chaired by the Chief Secretary of MP. State deliberated fast track resolution of issues like RoW, common duct policy, DCRI, CBuD, USOF projects, etc. Active participation from DIPA, COAI, ISPAI, BSNL, DoT, MP Govt officers took place during the meeting.

HP LSA: Hon'ble PM inaugurated the Indian Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023 on 27th October and dedicated the 100 5G Use case labs to nation. In HP, 5G Use cases lab are awarded to IIT Mandi and NIT Hamirpur. HP LSA worked in close coordination with IIT Mandi and NIT Hamirpur for success of IMC event. Over 2000 participants from IIT Mandi and NIT Hamirpur attended the event.



A capacity building conference cum workshop on 5G use cases was held in Shimla on 03.11.2023, jointly organized by DoT and Deptt of Digital Technology and Governance, GoHP, to explore potential applications in public service delivery and governance.

On March 03, 2024, the 13th STDCC meeting was held at the Conference Hall, HP LSA, chaired by DDG(T), HP LSA. It reviewed TSPs' compliance with SOP 2020 and discussed issues related to a recent disaster, emphasizing readiness and adherence to DoT-SOP measures.



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Rajasthan LSA: On 12.10.2023, the Rajasthan Team and trainees visited Govt. Higher Secondary School in Madhogarh, Bikaner. A DoT team conducted an EMF awareness workshop, facilitated by school staff. A mobile technology quiz was held, followed by prize distribution. Queries regarding radiation and mobile communication were adeptly addressed by the DoT LSA team and trainee officers.



As ITU-WTSA being hosted in India, DoT [Rajasthan] Organized Special Awareness Session dated 27.12.2023 for Academia, TRAI, TSPs, ISPs, DoIT & CGoR & Research Scholars with presentation by Shri Avinash Agarwal DDG TEC on subject & Shri Mani Shanker Meena (ADET) on R&D initiatives of Gol.



USOF, DoT, conducted a physical verification visit on 8th - 9th February 2024 to evaluate CEERI under the TTDF scheme, ensuring a comprehensive assessment.



Karnataka LSA: On 28th November 2023, Special DG, Karnataka LSA, met with ACS IT/BT Karnataka Govt to discuss USOF projects and 5G use cases. ACS IT/BT pledged full departmental cooperation.



Karnataka LSA conducted State Telecom Disaster Coordination Committee meeting on 04.03.2024. The meeting was attended by representatives of Govt Of Karnataka, NDRF and all TSPs.



Karnataka LSA facilitated the Second Outreach Programme for Sangam: Digital Twin at IIIT Bangalore on 9th March 2024. Organized by DoT and TCOE, it was inaugurated by Secretary Telecom Dr. Neeraj Mittal, and attended by notable figures including NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam. The event emphasized forward planning and collaboration for India's development by 2047.



Bihar LSA: Shri Abhay Shanker Verma, DDG (R), DoT, Ranchi, played a pivotal role in securing ITU-T Recommendations Y.3059 and Y.2325 during October 2023 meetings. He chaired the resolution of a comment from Ghana on Y.3059, leading to its approval. Additionally, he successfully addressed a Liaison Statement from GSMA, resulting in a response agreed upon in the Reporter Group Meeting of Q16/13. As a testament to his contributions, he was appointed Associate Reporter of ITU-T SG13 Q5 during the March 2024 meeting.

The Director (Rural), Bihar LSA, Patna with the discussion and inputs from the officers acquired knowledge and identified gaps in the in-house coverage in the rural as well as in the urban area and invented noble solution to mitigate the same by applying patent in India vide application No. 1100/DEL/2013 on the title, "Solar Wi-Fi Lamp" devices. The patent has been granted for his noble invention by the Patent Office, Government of India vide patent certificate No. 529067 on 19th March 2024. This device acts as intermediary for high-speed internet connectivity between customer and service provider. We know that signal strength of 4G/5G/Wi-Fi hotspots are enough strong at outside of the premises but poor inside due to distance and concrete based wall loss resulting in poor connectivity inside. This device can be installed by the customers at the appropriate outdoor location for regenerating data received on 4G/5G/Wi-Fi Hot-spot and providing through Wi-Fi to the Mobiles and other premise application devices. This device can supplement to the coverage to the individual customer provisioning under Bharat Net through Wi-Fi in the Panchayats also.

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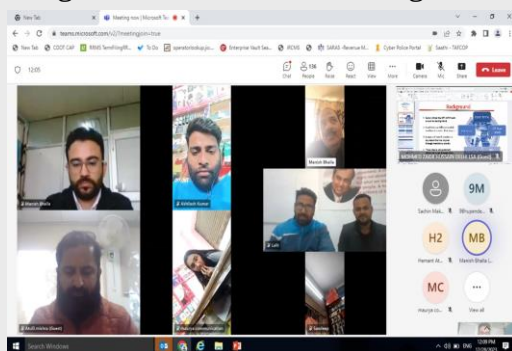
Assam LSA: NTIPRIT in Coordination with Assam LSA conducted East Zone "5G Use Case Labs: Awareness and Pre commissioning Readiness" at IIT Guwahati on 12th-13th February 2024.



Sanchar Mitra Volunteers were selected from NIT Silchar, Assam, on 29th February 2024. This initiative aims to enhance communication infrastructure and digital literacy in the region, fostering better connectivity and technological growth.



Delhi LSA: Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Delhi License Service Area (LSA), organized an ONLINE awareness Workshop on "Point of Sales" on 28-12-23 in association with M/s RJIL wherein around 130 PoS agents/distributors has participated. The workshop was about to spread the awareness among the PoS agents, which will make PoS more vigilant and help security agencies and DoT to ensure compliance with the guidelines issued in this regard.



DoT, Delhi LSA, and COAI organized an awareness workshop at Delhi Technical University on 12-01-2024 to dispel myths surrounding EMF radiation from mobile towers. Officers addressed health concerns related to tower emissions and urged students and faculty to combat misinformation. They also encouraged spreading awareness within their families to counter misconceptions about EMF radiation.

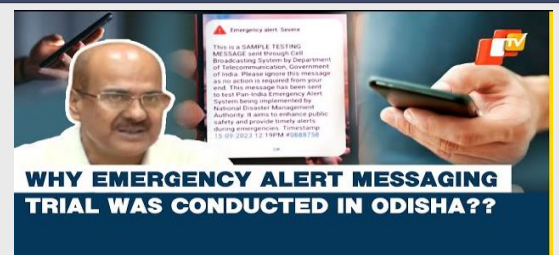
Odisha LSA: In collaboration with C-DoT, conducted large-scale Cell Broadcasting tests on 25th October 2023 across Odisha. A press conference held by officials reassured the public about any alert messages received during the testing, garnering significant media attention. On 15th January 2024, Honorable PM interacted with PVTG beneficiaries nationwide. In Deogarh district, Odisha, a meeting and exhibition showcased various ministries' achievements. The Department of Telecom, Odisha, set up a Telecom stall, informing people about Ministry of Communication initiatives, contributing to public awareness. On 8th Feb 2024, Additional DG DoT Odisha, Shri G V Ramana Rao, inaugurated an innovation center at NIST Berhampur. He emphasized the significance of 5G use cases in fostering innovation across various sectors, highlighting the center's role in driving technological advancements and socio-economic growth.

West Bengal LSA: Vigilance Awareness Week-2023 was observed in all the Units under WB LSA. Integrity Pledge was taken on 30.10.2023 by all officers/officials of WBLSA and attached field offices including Kolkata LSA with the oath, "भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध करें; राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पित रहें" "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation".

As part of "Vigilance Awareness Week", O/o Addl. DG(T), WBLSA conducted a debate competition on 02.11.2023 on the topic "Whether the society has accepted Corruption as a way of life". Shri Roy M. Jacob, Addl. DGT, WB LSA presented prizes to the winners.

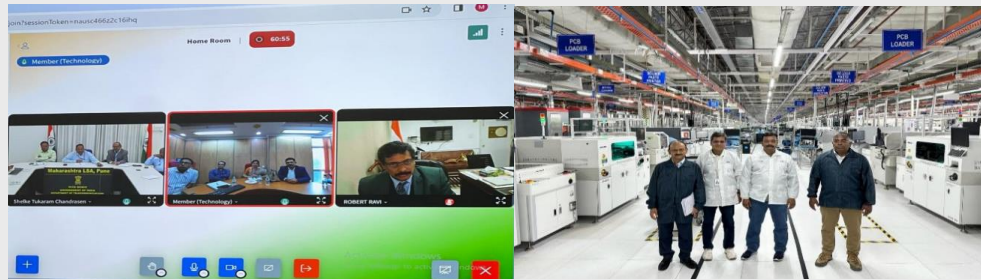


Under the guidance of Shri G. R. Ravi, Special DGT WB LSA, International Women's Day was celebrated on 11.03.2024. Women employees were felicitated, followed by a collective lunch and cultural event where Shri G. R. Ravi himself performed.



Maharashtra LSA: Under chairmanship of Smt. Gunjan Dave, Member(T), DCC, Technology vertical, MH LSA interacted with 9 institutes of MH LSA of 5G labs for early commissioning and utilization of 5G Labs.

Shri Vikram Malviya, DDG Technology, and Shri Milind Raut, Director, visited Jabil Circuit India Pvt. Ltd. at MIDC Ranjangaon on 28.03.2024. The company, a recipient of the PLI scheme, manufactures all 31 approved products related to 5G radio, switches, and routers on its campus.



Kolkata LSA : A meeting with TSP nodal officers and technical teams decided to conduct drive tests across Kolkata to enhance network coverage in heavy usage, residential, office areas, tourist spots, major roads, hospitals, transport hubs, and commercial zones.



J&K LSA: A Knowledge Sharing Session by Shri Abdul Kayum, DDG (Compliance), was held on 20th October 2023 at J&K LSA, covering the 5G Test Report for minimum rollout obligation, training on the NARDA Tool for EMF measurement, and strategies for 5G Small Cell deployment challenges.



Shri VK Surendra, DDG Rural, and Shri Sanjay Kumar, Dir Rural, J&K LSA, DOT met Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Dr. Md Jaffer Akhoon, along with key officials, at the Council Secretariat, Kargil.

World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development was celebrated by the IEI, Jammu. Shri Arun Agarwal, DDG(A), J&K LSA, was invited as the chief guest. He discussed Indian cultural practices that promote living in harmony with nature, highlighted sustainability, and shared various initiatives of the Government of India aimed at fostering sustainable development.

UP West LSA: On 09.11.2023, UP West LSA, ATS, and U.P. Police Intelligence busted an illegal telecom setup in Parikshitgarh, Meerut. 3 SIM Boxes with 84 BSNL SIMs, Airtel FTTH connection, and 258 unused SIMs were seized. Joint raid conducted after BSNL FMCC analysis and thorough investigation. One arrest made.



Under the guidance of Smt. Gunjan Dave and Smt. Shubha N. Bhambhani, UPW LSA initiated a Faculty Development Program on 5G technology led by Shri Ashok Kumar DDG. With over 350 registrations from prestigious institutions, the FDP commenced on 27th March 2024.

Northeast LSA: During the Nagaland Hornbill Festival from 1-10 Dec Northeast LSA's Nagaland State Co-ordination unit collaborated with Telecom Service Providers for seamless communication services. Shri Rajesh Soni, DDG Tripura, presented at TRAI's Consumer Outreach Program on 15 December 2023.



On January 9, 2024, Northeast LSA, Shillong, hosted a successful webinar on "5G Use Cases Labs- An Ecosystem for Innovation," attracting over 500 participants. Expert speakers discussed leveraging 5G for industry applications. DoT introduced the "Sanchar Mitra Scheme" to engage students in promoting citizen-centric services.



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Tamil Nadu LSA: Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) 2023 was observed from 30th October to 5th November 2023. As a part of Vigilance awareness week 2023, various activities such as Essay, Quiz competition and drawing competitions were conducted for Officers and staff of TN LSA and at two Government Schools. A seminar titled "Perils of Corruption and Vigilance" was conducted, featuring Selvi. Lisha Stebila Theras, DSP-State Cyber Command Center, Tamil Nadu, as the speaker. Vigilance Awareness Cyclathon-2023 was conducted on 04.11.2023 involving 75 cyclists along a 22 km stretch along the ECR.

TN LSA officers visited the manufacturing facilities of two Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) beneficiaries of DoT, namely Rising Star Hi Tech Pvt Ltd and Flextronics Technologies India Pvt Ltd, located in Kanchipuram District near Chennai on Thursday, March 21, 2024. The purpose of the visit was to offer facilitation to the units and extend any support required from the State Government, DoT, or any other relevant government department.



Gujarat LSA : In a move to bolster the thriving telecom ecosystem in Gujarat, LSA has launched the Telecom Facilitation Centre on 21st March 2024. Located in Ahmedabad, this new center aims to provide comprehensive support and guidance to key stakeholders in the telecom sector, including startups, MSMEs, academia, licensees, and registration holders.

Gujarat LSA, DoT, and NTIPRIT organized a capacity-building workshop at IIT Gandhinagar on 18th-19th March 2024, focusing on 5G Use Case Labs. It aimed to equip West Zone stakeholders with essential knowledge and skills for 5G deployment.



From the Desk of Chief. Editor

Dear Officers,
Greetings

I feel elated to present this 10th edition of "Sanchar Samvaad", which is a combined edition for the last two quarters. It gives me immense pleasure to carry forward the proud legacy of bringing out quarterly editions of 'Sanchar Samvaad'. The major achievements of each LSA have been highlighted in this edition. I am thankful to all the LSA Heads, who along with their team members have always shared the key activities pertaining to their LSA, to be highlighted in Sanchar Samvaad, well in time. I am also thankful to DG Telecom for his encouragement and words of wisdom.

The last two quarters have been quite eventful, wherein Hon'ble Prime Minister awarded 100 5G use case labs to 100 institutes spread across the Country during IMC 2023. It is the duty of the LSAs to handhold these institutions and to bridge the gap between the institution, DoT and other stakeholders. It is heartening to note that all the LSAs, in coordination with the State Govt. & other stake holders, are trying their level best for resolving the pending issues for faster roll out of 4G services in the rural areas. This is expected to bring about a considerable improvement in lives of all the citizens of the country.

I extend my heartiest greetings and good wishes to everyone
Addl DGT,DGT HQ



Sunita Chandra
Addl DGT,DGT HQ



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