



## **ABSTRACT**

Information Technology Department - BharatNet Phase-II- Implemented in the State by Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Limited (TANFINET) – Declaring Tamil Nadu FibreNet Project (BharatNet Phase-II Project) as "Infrastructure Project" and clearance of Right of Way (RoW) for Project execution and Operation of TANFINET - Orders - Issued.

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### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (E2) DEPARTMENT**

**G.O.(Ms) No. 18**

**Dated: 23.09.2021**

**பிலவ, புரட்டாசி - 07**

**திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு-2052**

**Read:**

1. Tripartite MoU signed amongst i) Department of Telecommunication, Government of India, ii) Government of Tamil Nadu and iii) Bharat Broadband Network Limited, dated 31.03.2017.
2. Quadripartite MoU signed amongst i) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), Department of Telecommunication, Government of India, ii) Bharat Broadband Network Limited, iii) Government of Tamil Nadu and iv) TANFINET Corporation dated 26.12.2017 and its amendment dated 04.03.2020.
3. Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> State Level Implementation Committee (SLIC) meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government on 13.06.2018.
4. Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> State Level Implementation Committee (SLIC) meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government on 21.10.2019.
5. From the Managing Director, TANFINET Corporation, Letter No.10/ TANFINET/2018, dated 19.09.2020 and Letter. No. 37/TANFINET/2019, dated 22.01.2021.
6. National Digital Communication Policy 2018, issued by Government of India.
7. G.O. (Ms) No.72, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (PR-II) Department, dated 07.06.2021.
8. From the Managing Director, TANFINET Corporation, Letter No.37/TANFINET/2019, dated 28.06.2021.
9. Minutes of the meeting held on 14.07.2021 and 10.08.2021 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government with key line departments on providing free Right of Way for BharatNet Phase-II Project.

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### **ORDER:**

The prestigious BharatNet Phase-II Project is being implemented for providing high speed internet connectivity, by laying Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) network, to 12,525 Gram Panchayats in the State through State-led implementation model. The project is being executed by 100% Government owned company, Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Limited (TANFINET), which is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and State



Implementation Agency (SIA) for the project. Tamil Nadu FibreNet Project (BharatNet Phase-II Project) in its implementation shall lay Underground (15%) and Aerial (85%) Optical Fiber Cable (OFC), totaling to 49,500 kms, from Blocks to Gram Panchayats. The underground OFC shall be laid along the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Roads, State Highways, etc. and Aerial OFC shall be laid over Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited's (TANGEDCO) electric poles and related infrastructure.

2. In the references 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> read above, as per the MoUs signed between Department of Telecommunication (DoT), Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), Government of Tamil Nadu and TANFINET Corporation, orders have been obtained for the commitment of Government of Tamil Nadu that there shall be no Right of Way (RoW) charges or reinstatement charges and blanket approvals for laying OFC during entire lifecycle of project and that Space, Power and Access must be provided by the State Government.

3. In the first State Level Implementation Committee (SLIC) meeting held under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to Government on 13.06.2018, the Committee had discussed on issuing Right of Way (RoW) for the Tamil Nadu FibreNet Project (BharatNet Phase-II Project) and has decided that :-

"The Right of Way plays a significant role in the implementation of the Project. OFC has to be taken to different places through the TANGEDCO/ TANTRANSCO poles. The MoU clearly provided free Right of Way for BharatNet project. Free Right of Way to be made applicable to TANFINET for laying Optical Fibre Cables. The Information Technology Department will issue necessary Government Order to enable all concerned Departments to provide free Right of Way for laying both overhead and underground cables by TANFINET."

4. In the reference 8<sup>th</sup> read above, the Managing Director, TANFINET Corporation has sent a proposal to the Government citing all the above and sought clearance of RoW to TANFINET for the speedy implementation of the Tamil Nadu FibreNet project (BharatNet Phase-II Project). He has also mentioned that the project is to be executed in aggressive timelines and under these circumstances, it is imperative that TANFINET shall have the Right of Way (RoW) to the project. In continuation to the above, as per reference 9<sup>th</sup> cited, meetings were convened under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to Government with all the concerned line departments.

5. Accordingly, the Government of Tamil Nadu, after careful examination of the proposal of the MD, TANFINET Corporation in compliance to the MoUs signed, has decided to accept the proposal of MD, TANFINET, considering the ambitious timelines of the project and its beneficial socio-economic impact for the State of Tamil Nadu and orders as follows:

- a) Tamil Nadu FibreNet Project (BharatNet Phase-II Project) is declared as a "Infrastructure Project" as notified by Government of India under Section 2 (b)(i) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.



- b) Right of Way charges, including any reinstatement charges and permissions for laying OFC across the State (including Underground and Aerial) is being waived off for the implementation of Tamil Nadu FibreNet Project (BharatNet Phase-II Project) for all areas under the jurisdiction of the State Government Departments (except forest areas where prior approval under various provisions of Law is necessary), Urban and Rural Local Bodies of the State and all Public Sector Undertakings of the State Government and any institution setup by an Act of the State Government.
- c) For aerial route, access to electric poles and related infrastructure of Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board (TNEB), DISCOM i.e., Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) is hereby allowed and can be utilized by TANFINET / Authorized Agencies. Also, any other charges including supervision charges thereof are hereby waived off. No further permissions other than intimation to concerned bodies shall be required to be taken. However, regular power supply should not be disturbed.
- d) For housing the network components to establish Point of Presence (PoP), all rights of permissions to access 24 hours at the State Government Buildings at Gram Panchayat/Village Office, Block, Collectorate or any other Government offices at Gram Panchayat/Village level, Block level and District level across the State is accorded to TANFINET. This shall apply for all areas under the jurisdiction of the State Government Departments including Local Bodies of the State and Public Sector Undertakings of the State Government and any institution setup by any Act of the State Government. Further, approval of the concerned Department shall be granted for the personnel duly authorized by TANFINET to access the fiber termination points, equipment and structures of the Tamil Nadu FibreNet Project (BharatNet Phase-II Project).
- e) In the Government Order 7<sup>th</sup> read above, the Government in Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department have approved the proposal of the Managing Director, TANFINET Corporation for using the building space at Block Panchayat Service Centres (BPSC) and Village Panchayat Service Centres (VPSC) for the project with certain conditions. The Room Space earmarked for Information and Communication Technology/Management Information System (ICT/MIS) in Village Panchayat Service Centres and similar room space at Block Panchayat Service Centres was allotted for setting up of PoPs. In respect of rent for the room space provided to TANFINET, taking into consideration that the project is vital for public good, this is waived off.

It is hereby approved that, at the Village/Gram Panchayats, Block Headquarters and other Points of Presence (PoP) locations decided by TANFINET, necessary room space within the respective office/building premises owned by the concerned Departments, shall be allotted free of cost for the Tamil Nadu FibreNet Project (BharatNet Phase-II Project), until the execution of the Project. TANFINET shall not be required to seek any separate permission for the same.

- f) Village / Gram Panchayats, Block offices and other PoP locations decided by TANFINET shall provide access to existing electricity connections, free of cost during the implementation of the project without insisting on separate metering.



After project commissioning, TANFINET will provide separate electrical power connections to TANFINET assets. It is directed that permissions and No-Objection Certificates for this purpose are waived. The safety and security of the network equipment/infrastructure installed shall be the responsibility of the Panchayat Secretary at Gram Panchayat / Village level, respective Officer-in-charge or his authorized representative at Block level and District levels. Necessary action in this regard shall be taken by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and all the concerned Departments on urgent basis.

- g) ELCOT shall provide a minimum 1,500 Sq. ft. area for State Network Operating Centre (NOC), minimum 2,500 Sq. ft. area for TANFINET Office Space and space for 8 numbers of standard 42U Racks at the new Data Centre Building free of cost for the project. ELCOT shall provide a separate power connection with appropriate redundancy at cost to ensure 24 x 7 operations of the NOC. TANFINET shall not be required to seek any separate permission for the same.
- h) TANFINET/Authorized Agencies shall give five working days prior intimation (except in case of road cuts, where ten days prior intimation will be required) to the concerned authorities of the respective line Departments and utility providers such as TWAD Board and others for the implementation activities of the Tamil Nadu FibreNet Project (BharatNet Phase-II Project). Restoration of all works such as roads, storm water drains, pipelines etc., shall be carried out by TANFINET or its Contractors at their cost as per extant rules after completion of trenching and laying of OFC under the supervision of concerned Department Officials. The underground cable shall be laid at extreme end of RoW (Highway Border) and shall be laid by trenchless method in case of BT surface on highways. The TANFINET shall take the responsibility of informing other stakeholders who have already laid various underground utilities within RoW of Highways / Local Bodies.
- i) All line Departments shall issue necessary instructions to their field units in the form of a circular to strictly adhere to the above decisions, so that Right of Way (RoW) for digging, trenching, laying of duct and/or optic fiber cable, access to buildings, installation, commissioning and subsequent maintenance of active/passive infrastructure is implemented smoothly.
- j) The guidelines to be followed during the implementation and maintenance period of the Tamil Nadu FibreNet project (BharatNet Phase-II Project) for deployment of Aerial & Underground Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) is hosted in the following link:

<https://www.tanfinet.tn.gov.in/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20and%20Key%20Facts%20BharatNet%20Phase%20II%20Project%200.pdf>

All concerned line departments like Energy, Highways & Minor Ports, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Revenue and Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change (ECC) & Forest and other related departments may refer to the above guidelines.

- k) District Level Coordination Committee, headed by District Collectors are hereby formed in all districts for implementation and maintenance of the Tamil Nadu FibreNet Project (BharatNet Phase-II Project). District Collectors are instructed to conduct review meetings once in two weeks on the progress of implementation of



Tamil Nadu FibreNet Project (BharatNet Phase-II Project) and to coordinate with all line departments (TANGEDCO, Highways and Minor Ports, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Environment, Climate Change & Forest, Municipal Administration & Water Supply and Revenue & Disaster Management) and any other requisite departments to ensure effective implementation of the project.

**(By Order of the Governor)**

**NEERAJ MITTAL  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

**To:**

The Managing Director,  
Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Limited (TANFINET),  
5th Floor, P.T.LEE Chengalvaraya Naicker Building,  
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**Copy to:**

The Office of the Hon'ble Chief Minister,  
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.  
The Senior Personal Assistant to Minister for Information Technology,  
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.  
The Principal Private Secretary to Chief Secretary to Government,  
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.  
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Public Works Department, Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.  
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department,  
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.  
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Finance Department, Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.  
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Finance Department, Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.  
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Home, Prohibition & Excise Department, Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.  
(to provide assistance to TANFINET field staff)  
The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.  
The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department,  
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.  
The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Energy Department, Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Environment, Climate Change & Forests Department,  
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Highways and Minor Ports Department, Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

The Private Secretary to Principal Secretary to Government,  
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The Administrator (USOF-DoT),  
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The CMD, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL),  
Room No-306, 3rd Floor, C-DOT Campus, Mandigoan Road, Mehrauli,  
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The Chief General Manager, BSNLTamil Nadu Circle, Chennai – 600 002.

The Content Creator (CMS) Information Technology Department,  
Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009 (with a request to host the G.O in the  
Government website).

Sf/Sc

// Forwarded / By Order //

  
Section Officer.

  
23/9/2021