



# Bharat Broadband Network Limited

(A Government of India Undertaking)

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Commissioning of India's First Hi-Speed Rural Broadband Network

**BharatNet** – High Speed Broadband सभी के लिए



## DIGITAL INDIA WEEK

(01-07-2015 to 07-07-15)

Activities of Project Monitoring Unit Pondicherry UT, BBNL

### PRESS RELEASE

The BharatNet (NOFN) Project was inaugurated on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi as part of the Digital India Week commencing from 1-7-2015 to 7-7-2015. Digital India is a program to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

BBNL, Tamilnadu celebrated the Digital India Week in both districts namely Pondicherry and Karaikal of PondicherryUT. The week long activities were conducted at Ariyankuppam East, Manapet and Korkadu Gram Panchayats of Ariyankuppam Block in Pondicherry District and Karaikal Block Head Quarters in Karaikal District.

The National Optical Fibre Network was conceptualized by the Govt. of India in the year 2012. The Project is funded from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) at a cost of about 20,000 crores connecting 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats spread across the entire country. Govt. of India has formed a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), viz., Bharat Broadband Network Limited under the Ministry of Communication and IT to execute the Project. As part of this Project in Pondicherry UT, 98 Gram Panchayats in 3 Blocks viz., Villianur, Ariyankuppam and Karaikal are connected with High speed Rural Broadband facility on Optical Fiber Cable link (OFC) at a cost of about Rs.3.5 crores. This connectivity will facilitate delivery of citizen-centric services on real time basis at a faster speed. The Project was executed in about six months by Railtel Corporation with active support of the Pondicherry State Government and BSNL.



DIW CELEBRATION @ ARIYANKUPPAM EAST GP

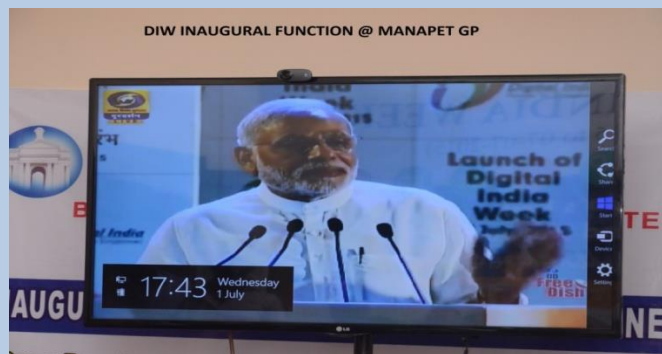
The details of activities conducted during the Digital India Week are summarised below.

1. The three identified Gram Panchayats namely Ariyankuppam East, Manapet and Korkadu were connected through video conferenceto the Indira Gandhi International Stadium, New Delhi from where the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India launched the Digital India Week at 16.00 hrs on 01/07/2015.

The live program telecast over the NOFN network was viewed by the audience numbering about 50 at each GP. At Korkadu GP, the school students and the teachers also participated in addition to the local villagers. The following officers of Pondicherry UT were also present:

1. Shri Rudra Goud Director (Local Admn)
2. Shri Parimalarangan Panchayat Commissioner, Ariyankuppam
3. Shri Muthulingam Panchayat Commissioner, Manapaet
4. Shri Armugam Panchayat Commissioner, Korkadu
5. Shri J. Maniccasamy, Junior Engineer, Nettapakkam
6. Shri N. Venkatachalapathy UDC, Nettapakkam

2. Direct interaction through Video conferencing was done with other GPs in Pondicherry. The demonstration of internet services was given to the audience at GPs. The programme details and the Pamphlets about NOFN and the benefits to the State Govt were distributed among the public.



DIW MANAPET GP



DIW MANAPET GP



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3. The e-Governance day was observed at Manapet and Ariyankuppam East Gram panchayats. Shri Thirunal, Revenue Inspector, Govt of Pondicherry, Bahour Commune Panchayat along with about 20 Citizens of the panchayat area participated in the awareness programme at Manapet.

Similarly at Ariyankuppam East panchayat, about 40 citizens participated in the programme. Shri Cyrill Antony of CSC Forum and Shri Sadeesh, VLE explained about the various government services proposed to be made available to the villagers. The objective and importance of NOFN Network in achieving the goal of Digital India were explained to the audience.

4. The advantages of e-Education utilising the Bharatnet were explained to the students of Kasturbai Girls Higher Secondary School, Bahour East Commune Panchayat and Korkadu Higher Secondary School, Nettapakkam Commune Panchayat.

An educational quiz was conducted at both the schools and prizes were distributed. Shri Muthulingam, Panchayat Commissioner along with the Vice Principal and teachers graced the occasion at Kasturbai Girls Higher Secondary School. The Vice Principal and the teachers participated at Korkadu Govt. School.

5. Various e-Commerce applications namely Railway Booking, Bus TicketBooking, on line shopping portals etc and the advantages and convenience have been explained to the citizens of Ariyankuppam East Panchayat. Shri Swaminathan, Executive from Bank of Baroda has explained about the online banking facilities available to the citizens. He highlighted the facilities of ATM, Debit Card etc. that can be easily availed by the citizens thereby avoiding physical visit to the banks for day to day requirement.



**E-GOVERNANCE @ MANAPET GP**



**E-GOVERNANCE @ MANAPET GP**



**QUIZ @ BAHOUR EAST GIRL SCHOOL**



**QUIZ @ KORKADU HR. SEC. SCHOOL**



**DEMO e-COMMERCE @ ARIYANKUPPAM**



**DEMO e-COMMERCE @ ARIYANKUPPAM**

6. Digital India Week was celebrated at Block Development Office, Karaikal Block, Karaikal District, Pondicherry UT. Smt Revati, Block Development Officer, Karaikal, Pondicherry Govt., senior officers from BSNL, State Govt officials, villagers from Commune Panchayats numbering about 60 were present on the occasion.



DIW CELEBRATION @ BDO OFFICE KARAIKAL

The importance and the benefits of NOFN Network to the State Govt. and the delivery of citizen centric services through Common Service Centres were explained to the audience. Hands on experience of internet facility was extended to the audience. The benefits of internet in day to day usage for various activities like utility bill payments, agricultural information, on line ticket booking etc were demonstrated to the audience.



DIW CELEBRATION @ BDO OFFICE KARAIKAL

Shri N. HARI BABU, CGM(PROJECTS), Shri V. GUNASEKAR, CGM(PROJECTS), Shri K.P. MOHAN, SR GM(PROJECTS) AND Shri V.GUNASEKARAN, IFA, SOUTH ZONE with the active support of RAILTEL Engineers organised the Digital India Week celebrations from 01/07/2015 to 7/07/2015 in the areas of ARIYANKUPPAM EAST, MANAPET AND KORKADU Gram Panchayats for the benefit of local residents.



DIW CELEBRATION @ KARAIKAL - PRESS CUTTING