# The disconnect in rural broadband

BBNL's cancelled tender to lay optical fibre cable across India's villages highlights the avoidable complexity in bidding terms



SURHOMOV RHATTACHARIFF New Delhi, 1 March

arlier this month, government-owned ■ Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL) cancelled a ₹19.000 crore tender to lay optical fibre cable (OFC) across villages because there were no bidders to execute the project. The cancellation puts at risk the target of broadband connectivity for every village by 2024.

To be clear, there is no shortage of enthusiasm in the private sector to bid for projects in rural areas, per se. After all, they offer wireless telephony across the country. But companies were unenthused by the way the government, specifically the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), wants to go about its broadband plans.

Using satellites to offer broadband services based on competitive bidding for each rural circle would have done the job. Instead, the department has clogged its plans in a maze of details that have scared off potential bidders.

Chief among those are the requirement that bidders have to secure the right of way (RoW) from states, towns and village authorities to lay the 1,600,000 kilometres of ship model. This cables to secure the connec- model was suptivity RRMI will only act as a

facilitator for this process. An India Ratings & separate pack-Research note last year had ages described this requirement as 16 states, for a a "complex" challenge. "... concession peristakeholders will be concerned over delays in RoW. which can affect the project completion and the revenue potential of the network". Bidders are right to be worried. In a decade, even government-owned companies have managed to secure only rural India. When up and runabout 25 per cent of the distance. Some of that was by BSNL, and that too by a special purpose vehicle it set up in 2012 to solely do this job.

**A rejoinder** 

This is with reference to the article titled "Eminent ves men behind NSE" by Debashis

Basu, published in the Business Standard on

February 28, 2022. The article describes at

great length the problems with the appoint-

ment of Chitra Ramkrishna and Anand

Subramanian at NSE. The entire set of events

at NSE described in relation to these events

are dated November 6, 2012 and beyond. I

cation scam as having happened between

2010 to 2014. The Securities and Exchange

Board of India's order on colocation was

passed in February 2021. It is a long order,

but right in the beginning, the order states

that the first complaint with regard to the

abuse of the colocation facility was received

by Sebi on January 8, 2015, almost four years

after I left Sebi. The article which mentions

dates of appointment of Chitra Ramkrishna,

formation of selection committee etc. fails to

mention the date on which Sebi received the

first complaint on colocation. Colocation was

started in 2010 but by itself it is not a scam. It

is a facility common in other jurisdictions as

well. The scam was that an unfair advantage

may have been provided to a broker(s) vis-a-

vis the other brokers. This was brought to the

took Sebi four years (2015 to 2019) to pass an 2008 and 2011 order in a matter in which the integrity of the (Edited Excerpts)

notice of Sebi in 2015. One could ask why it The author was Sebi Chairman between

In the column, there is a reference to colo-

demitted office in February 2011.

#### **BHARATNET** TIMELINE

- Two-phase rollout: First phase led by BSNL, the second by BBNL
- ■Phase-I completed in December 2017 covering over 100,000 gram panchayats (GPs). The issues: a) inadequate 0&M quality
- b) limited bandwidth: 100 mbps per panchayat
- ■Revised Phase II strategy finalised in June a) through PPP model for
- 16 states covering about 361,000 villages (including 137,000 GPs) b) projected bandwidth: 1 gbps per panchayat
- ■Existing connections

from Phase I also to be upgraded

- ■Model:
- a) Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) for a concession period of 30 to 35 years b) A bidder can only bid
- for four packages out of the nine offered c) Revenue share
- arrangement: •4% share: 11th to 20th
- ●6% share: 21st year till end of concession period d) GOI support: VGF money as equity support of 40% of the total grant Balance to be paid as biannual instalments over a period of 5 years after

construction period

approved by the Union cabinet last year to lay the rest of the bidders should have the cables in 16 states (the tender bunches some of the smaller states into circles to create a viable scale of operation). For this purpose, the cabinet has offered ₹19,041 crore of viability gap funding for a public-private partnerthe viability gap funding, the

> Instead of laying fibres along the ground, braving local opposition on land rights, the bidders should have been allowed to tap broadband from a constellation of low earth orbit satellites

market was questioned. However, it is clearly

to the brokers from 2010 onwards. When did

the misuse of this facility start? We have no

explicit statement on this in the Sebi orders.

However, the order against OPG Securities

ing to the Secondary POP server on 135 days

between January 2010 to April 5, 2014.

(para 8.43). The profits of those days were

considered illegal and OPG was asked to dis-

gorge them. The preceding para 8.42

clearly states that the "connection to the

Secondary POP server was first established

made to the Secondary POP server before

December 11, 2011. Sebi's finding, therefore,

is that there was no wrongdoing prior to

December 11, 2011, that is till ten months after

I left Sebi.It follows that the scam did not

occur during my time at Sebi and it was

brought to the notice of Sebi four years after

in the face of all these dates in these two cases,

to drag my name and to say that worst things

happened during my tenure is at best biased

The author is entitled to his opinion. But

on December 11, 2011." No connection was

Sebi punished OPG Securities for connect-

Colocation facilities were offered by NSE

not for me to answer this.

gives us enough clues.

Lleft the organisation.

and at worst defamatory.

ernment's Digital India programme that aims cheaper alternative is not to reduce the digital divide between urban and ning, it will connect all 643,000 villages.

cuted as nine

od of 30 years.

BharatNet is con-

sidered the back-

bone of the gov-

There was an easy answer to this vast challenge, though. Instead of laying fibres along get could have been simpli-

opposition on land rights, been allowed to tap broadband from a constellation of low earth orbit satellites. India now has the capacity to send up these satellites regularly. It would have saved the Centre a lot of money. Besides

> Centre already total ₹61,109 crore. There are two

spent Adding other outlay project is now

reasons being explored. The first is that Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence It would have ushered in com-Day speech of 2020 had announced his plans to reach OFC links to all villages within the next 1,000 days. This tar-The current tender was the ground, braving local fied easily. The aim of the had suggested.

#### PM's announcement was to reach broadband connectivity to villages, so DoT could have interpreted the message to mean satellite-based connectivity, with only the bare minimum local connections riding on cables. That way, the deadline of 2024 would have

been far easier to meet.

The other challenge was the problems with bureaucracy, which was more difficult to dismantle. Since 2005, a clutch of state-run companies BSNL, RailTel and Power Grid Corporation of India have tried to provide a right of way for the OFC network. As BBNL's study in a July 2021 investor presentation shows, the results have been dismal. It pointed to "limited focus on operation, maintenance and utilisation" of the dark fibres. The United Progressive Alliance government in 2012 tried a different track. It established BBNL with the sole aim of implementing BharatNet. After a decade of trying, the failed tenders this month show, this too was a wasted effort.

In 2016-17, the pace of laying the OFC was 168 km per day. By the end of calendar 2016, 65,000 village panchayats had been reached. The speed of laying the cables has risen since then, to about 350 km per day as of January 2020, when the total length of the network reached 445,304 km. To reach the remaining 450,000 villages within the next 1,000 days, they will need to lay another 1,251,000 km of cable. And this assumes there are no problems in securing permissions for the right of way.

But a simpler environment would entail laying off a vast army of government employees. Meanwhile, BBNL's bill adds to that of its sister organisations, BSNL and MTNL, which have cost the government ₹69,000 crore in revival packages till FY21. There are now plans to merge BBNL with BSNL. Incidentally, in its tenders, BBNL had clipped the role of BSNL instead, allowing state government and private sector companies to enter the competition that was earlier reserved only for the central government-run companies.

The other challenge written in the aborted tender is that the network uptime requirement should be at least 98 per cent. Data from the Telecom Regulatory through BBNL. Authority of India (Trai) shows the present installed expenses, the networks reported an uptime of 58 per cent, as of November for BharatNet 30, 2020. To offer the higher service requirement, operaat a massive tors would need to ensure uninterrupted power, safety of cables and so on.

A simpler tender for private sector bidders doing away with the OFC requirement was all that was needed. petition among the bidders since there would be no monopoly powers with respect to an owned cable line. This is something Trai

## War eases Indian rules for pets from Ukraine

New Delhi, 1 March

The government on Tuesday issued a memorandum promising "a one-time relaxation measure" for bringing back pet dogs and cats along with stranded Indians who are being evacuated from war-hit Ukraine.

The measure by the government followed an appeal from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India after the non-profit noticed a video on social media on Saturday. In the video. Rishabh Kaushik, a final-year undergrad student of software engineering at the Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics in Ukraine, complained that he had been trying to contact Indian authorities but they repeatedly asked him for documents in order to bring his pet dog, Malibu.

PETA India wrote to Parshottam Rupala, the minister for fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying. On Tuesday, PETA shared the office memo that includes relaxed pre-import and postimport conditions and directs regional officers of all animal quarantine and certification services (AOCS) to coordinate with the state veterinary authorities concerned to share details of each migrant pet with the Centre's Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

"We are extremely thankful to the Modi government for this compassionate decision to include companion animals in the evacuation process. Separating animal companions from their guardians would have been another tragedy for those desperately fleeing Ukraine, and it would have only resulted in more heartbreak and unnecessarily lost lives," said PETA India Chief Executive Officer and veterinarian Manilal Vallivate in a press release.

He added that with this decision, India joined a select list of countries — including Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Lithuania — "that any commercial purposes.



followed an appeal from PETA India after the non-profit noticed a video by undergrad student Rishabh Kaushik (above) on social media

have made entry for animals less bureaucratic, thereby helping families, including people like Rishabh, escape the warzone with their beloved companion animals".

When asked about how the relaxation has eased conditions, Valliyate told Business Standard that according to the existing law, anyone bringing a companion animal from abroad has to produce proof of continuous stay of two years in that particular country, along with proof of transferring his or her residence to India, which implies an airline ticket. Besides this, one requires an advance customs permission.

Most importantly, the individual has to produce a health certificate from a vet ruling that the animal is free from any contagious diseases, as well as a vaccination certificate that is valid. The vaccination of the animal has to be within 12 months of travel, with the latest round not less than one month prior. Finally, the person has to give a declaration saying that the animal is not being transported for

Putting this tedious documentation aside, Valliyate says, what the government has now done is to allow a person to give a declaration claiming possession of the pet for merely one month.

"Ideally, the government still prefers a health certificate and vaccination certificate of the animal. If you are travelling and crossing the border to another friendly country, you can take the animal to a veterinarian and get a certificate."

The memo gives further relaxation. \*For example, if you have a vaccination certificate, upon arrival at a place where you have the quarantine services, the pet will be examined along with the certificate and given a clearance. In case there is no vaccination certificate, the animal will be kept in quarantine for 15 or 30 days, at the end of which the animal will be vaccinated." Vallivate said.

After the animal is taken home, it has to be taken to a vet and its owner has to submit a certificate to the AQCS.

Valliyate pointed out that India is an exception of sorts, as other countries relaxing rules similarly are those bordering Ukraine.

A Facebook page of the alumni association of St Joseph's Academy, a co-ed school in Dehradun where Kaushik studied, posted his video and has been giving regular updates on his whereabouts. It had posted that Kaushik had refused to leave for Dubai with his family on February 19. His family runs an export business in Ukraine

When the crisis in Ukraine worsened, Kaushik's father immediately arranged a visa for his return. But Kaushik was adamant about leaving with his pet.

Praveen Chandhok, who heads the alumni association of the school, said Kaushik caught a train from Kiev on Monday, along with Malibu, to Uzhhorod a city in western Ukraine along the border with Slovakia and near Hungary. He is expected to reach Hungary on Tuesday and fly with his pet to India soon after.

### SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LIMITED

SHRIRAM City CIN:L65191TN1986PLC012840
Regd. Office: 1:23 Angappa Naicken Street, Chennal - 600 001.
Telephone No. 9-11 42534 Telephone No. 9-11 42534 Telephone No. 9-11 42534 Telephone No. 9-11 42534 Telephone No. 9-11 44 432 590 78 NO. 9-11 44 392 5430
Website: www.shriramcity.in; e-mall: sect@shriramcity.in

## Pursuant to Regulation 29, 29(1)(e), 42, 42(2), 42(3) and other applicable regulations of

the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as amended from time to time that in the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company (Serial No. -37/2022) scheduled to be held on Tuesday March 8, 2022, the Board may consider declaration of  $2^{\rm nd}$  interim dividend to the shareholders for the year 2021-22 among other items mentioned in the agenda. For the purpose of payment of interim dividend, if approved by the Board of Directors, the record Further details on the matters above said may be accessed at the link of the Company's

website www.shriramcity.in and Stock Exchanges' website www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com

For Shriram City Union Finance Limited Sd/-C R Dash

#### **ESAB INDIA LIMITED** CIN: L29299TN1987PLC058738 Read. Office: Plot No.13, 3rd Main Road, Industrial Estate, Ambattur, Chennai 600 058.

of stoler and the registered holders of the shares have applied to the company for issue of duplicate share certificate.				
NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATES				
NAME OF THE SHAREHOLDER	Folio No.	Certificate No.	Distinctive Nos.	Shares
JAYSHREE G DESAI GOPINATH H DESAI	J01557	9993	2993311 – 2993410	100
KIRAN MANI	K02941	18085	3802511 – 3802610	100
SANJAY VISHWANATH KOLE	S07255	14977	3491711 - 3491810	100
ANIL DINKARRAO SELUDKAR MILIND PADMAKAR RANADE	A03796	163997	10372324 – 10372423	100

The public are hereby warned against purchase or dealing in any way with the above said share certificates. Any person(s) who has / have any claim(s) in respect of the said share certificates should lodge such claim(s) with the company at its registered office at the address given above within 15 days of the publication of the notice after which no claim will be entertained and the company will proceed to ssue the duplicate share certificate(s). For ESAB India Limited

Company Secretary

FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
(Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF
SUPREME INFRASTRUCTURE BOT PRIVATE LIMITED

RELEVANT PARTICULARS				
1.	Name of Corporate Debtor	SUPREME INFRASTRUCTURE BOT PRIVATE LIMITED		
2.	Date of Incorporation Of Corporate Debtor	25.03.2009		
3.	Authority Under Which Corporate Debtor Is Incorporated / Registered	Registrar of Companies – Mumbai		
4.	Identification No.of corporate debtor	U45202MH2009PTC191231		
5.	Address of the Registered Office and Principal Office (if any) of Corporate Debtor	4th Floor, CTS No. 16/4, Supreme House, Jain Mandir Road, Powai, Opp. IIT Main Gate, Mumbai, Maharashtra. 400076		
6.	Insolvency commencement date in respect of Corporate Debtor	By order pronounced on 25th February 2022 vide IA NO. 1550/MB/C-II/2021 IN CP (IB) No. 273/MB/C- II/2017 (uploaded on 28th February 2022)		
	Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	24.08.2022		
8.	Name and registration number of the Insolvency Professional acting as Interim Resolution Professional	Name: Ms. Poonam Basak Reg No:IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P01234/2018-2019/11957		
9.	Address and e-mail of the Interim Resolution Professional, as registered with the Board	201, 2nd Floor, Regus, Alpha Building, Hiranandani Gardens, Powai, Mumbai 400076. Email: poonamb.irp@gmail.com		
10.	Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the Interim Resolution Professional	Ms. Poonam Basak (IRP) 201, 2nd Floor, Regus, Alpha Building, Hiranandani Gardens, Powai, Mumbai 400076. Email: supreme.infra.bot@gmail.com		
11.	Last date for submission of claims	14.03.2022		
12.	Classes of creditors, if any, under clause(b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the Interim Resolution Professional			
13.	Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	Not Applicables		
14.	(a) Relevant Forms and (b)Details of authorized representatives are available:	Web Link: https://ibbi.gov.in/home/downloads Not Applicable		
Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process of <b>SUPREME INFRASTRUCTURE BOT PRIVATE LIMITED</b> on 25.02.2022.  The creditors of SUPREME INFRASTRUCTURE BOT PRIVATE LIMITED are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof <b>on or before 14.03.2022</b> to the Interim Resolution Professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.				

Mumbai 400098. CIN No. L85190MH1947PI C005913 Website: www.indoco.com E-Mail: ajayk@indoco.com, Phone No. (91-22) 33861000/33861250 **Public Notice** 

#### (Under paragraph 21(2) of the Drugs Price Control Order, 2013)

Attention of general public is drawn to the fact that Indoco Remedies Limited having registered office at aforesaid address is manufacturing marketing scheduled formulation namely AXL 500mg Capsule with Amoxicillin Trihydrate IP equivalent to Amoxicillin 500mg; Clamchek

625 Tab. with Amoxicillin Trihydrate IP equivalent to Amoxicillin 500mg Potassium Clavulanate Diluted IP equivalent to Clavulanic acid 125mg; Metchek SR 1000mg Tab. with Metformin Hydrochloride IP 1000mg Metchek SR 500mg Tab. with Metformin Hydrochloride IP 500mg; OH D3 Capsules with Cholecalciferol I.P. 60000 I.U., (hereinafter referred to as medicine). Indoco Remedies Limited wants to discontinue and stop the manufacture / marketing of the above said products after a period of six / twelve months from the date of this notice.

available in the market. Therefore, patients using such medicine may consult their doctor for prescribing alternate medicine. All the doctors/Medical Personnels may also make note of this.

After discontinuation of the above medicine, the same may not be

For Indoco Remedies Limited

Place : Mumbai Date :02.03.2022

Ajay S. Karajagi President - Marketing

ı	FORM G					
	MODIFICATION IN INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST					
	(to be read with Form G dated 23.08.2021)					
	(Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India					
	(Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016					
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE ELIGIBLE RESOLUTION APPLICANTS						
	FOR KSK WATER INFRASTRUCTURES PRIVATE LIMITED					
	Relevant particulars					
	Name of the corporate debtor     KSK Water Infrastructures Private Limite					

	1.	Name of the corporate debtor	NSN Water intrastructures Private Limited
ı	2.	Date of Incorporation of Corporate Debtor	26th February, 2009
	3.	Authority under which Corporate Debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, Hyderabad
	4.	Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U41000TG2009PTC062890
	5.	Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of the Corporate Debtor	8-1-293/82/A/431/A, Road No. 22, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad – 500033
١	6.	Insolvency commencement date in respect of Corporate Debtor	1st January, 2021
			Modification on 2nd March, 2022 (Published initially on 12th May, 2021 Amended subsequently on 28th May, 2021, 8th June, 2021, 7th August, 2021, 32rd August, 2021, 13th October, 2021, 6th December, 2021, 20th December, 2021, 18th January, 2022, 4th February, 2022)
	8.	Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	Eligible Resolution Applicants were identified in accordance with Detailed Invitation for Expression of Interest dated 23rd August, 2021.
	9.	Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	Norms of ineligibility were as referred to in Detailed Invitation for Expression of interest.
	10.	Last date for receipt of expression of interest	The last date was on 7th September, 2021. No further extensions provided.
		Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	Issued on 13th September, 2021
		Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	18th September, 2021
	13.	Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	Issued on 28th September, 2021
ı	14.	Date of issue of information memorandum,	Issued on 18th September, 2021 to Eligible

plans to prospective resolution applicants 15 Manner of obtaining request for resolution Manner was as specified in Detailed Invitation for Expression of Interest. The Eligible Resolution
Applicants have been provided with relevant information memorandum and further information Last date for submission of resolution plans 2nd April, 2022 (As extended from earlier date of 2nd March, 2022) (subject to permissible extensions)

evaluation matrix and request for resolution Resolution Applicants

7. Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional resolution professional submitted in final list of prospective resolution applicants whose name was identified in final list of prospective resolution applicants pursuant to Form G dated 23.08.2021 can submit resolution plan in manner laid down in the Request for Resolution Plan (RFRP).

18. Estimated date for submission of resolution 1st May, 2022 plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval (subject to permissible extensions) 19. Name and registration number of the Name: V. Venkatachalam Reg No.: IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00267/2017-18/1078 Name, Address and e-email of the

Registered Address: No. 12-13-205, Street No. 2, Tarnaka, Secunderabad – 500017 Registered E-mail: vaaranasivkchalam@gmail.com resolution professional, as registered with the Board professional Detailed invitation for expression of interest was made available at following

weblink:http://www.ksk.co.in/kwipl/ 23. Date of publication of Form G For KSK Water Infrasti Date: 2nd March, 2022 V. Venkatachalar Reg No.: IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00267/2017-18/1078

Further Details are available at or with

Place: Hyderabad

o act as authorised representative of the class INA1 in Form CA. ssion of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties

Date: 01.03.2022

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other

reditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.

financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of uthorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No. 13

### Meta removes around 15mn pieces of content

Mumbai, March 1

Meta took down over 11.6 million pieces of content across 13 policies for Facebook and over 3.2 million pieces of content across 12 policies for Instagram for the month of January, said the company.

Meta actioned 1.4 million pieces of content related to adult nudity and sexual activity, 233,600 pieces of content related to bullying and harassment and 1.8 million pieces of violent and graphic content, among others.

For Facebook, Meta received a total of 911 reports through the Indian grievance mechanism. The highest number of complaints were related to accounts being hacked (270), followed by fake profiles (107) and bullying and harassment (106) and more. For Instagram, it received 1,037 reports and the firm responded to 100 per cent of them. Accounts being hacked scored the highest complaints (677) followed by fake profiles (252) among others.

More on www.business-standard