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Telecom Minister launches free Wi-Fi service in Varanasi, promises IT park

Assures ₹100 crore project in district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Varanasi, February 8

Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Sunday inaugurated BSNL's free Wi-Fi service in Varanasi and promised a project worth over ₹100 crore to boost Internet connectivity in the district.

WI-FI
hot spot zone

Besides, the Minister announced setting up the State's first IT park with support from the central government.

"Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications and IT, inaugurated Wi-Fi hot spot zone creat-



Ravi Shankar Prasad,
Telecom Minister

ed by BSNL at Dashashwamedh Ghat & Shitala Ghats of Varanasi," BSNL said in a statement.

The company would be provid-

ing free Wi-Fi services, for 30 minutes/24 hours, that visitors can utilise in multiple sessions.

After the free usage limit of 30 minutes is exhausted, a customer can continue using the service on a paid basis, for which subscription plans are available.

BSNL has also planned to expand the coverage of Wi-Fi facility to other Ghats such as Rajendra Prasad Ghat, Man Mandir Ghat, Tript Bhairvi Ghat, Mir Ghat, Lalita Ghat and Manikarnika Ghat by the end of this month.

Optical fibre connectivity

Prasad said BSNL will expand its mobile network in Varanasi further with a total estimated cost of ₹60 crore, the statement said.

This expansion involves conver-

sion of existing mobile network to IP-based network and addition of 64 new 2G and 3G mobile sites.

He also announced that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programme of National Optical Fibre Network, 872 Gram Panchayats of Varanasi will get connected with optical fibre at a cost of ₹58 crore.

The Minister promised setting up first IT park in the State at Varanasi under Software Technology Park of India (STPI).

Prasad also proposed to set up an extension centre of National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology Gorakhpur at Varanasi with an estimated cost of ₹5 crore which will offer 'digital marketing' course for artisans and weavers here.