

## Press Release

### BSNL ANNOUNCES INTEGRITY PACT PROGRAMME

**New Delhi, Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2008:** Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited today implemented the Integrity Pact Programme. Initially Integrity Pact agreement will be signed between BSNL and all its bidders for tender costing more than Rs. 50 Cr. After 6 months, BSNL plans to implement the integrity pact in all its tenders. BSNL has taken this initiative to ensure more transparency, equity and competitiveness in its major tenders, as per the guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission.

Integrity Pact is one of the preventive Vigilance tools, first promoted by the Transparency International. The Pact essentially envisages that an agreement between prospective vendors/bidders and the buyer(s) committing the persons / officials of both the parties, not to exercise any corrupt practices on any aspect of the contract. Only those vendors / bidders who have entered into such an integrity pact with the buyer would be competent to participate in the bidding. Entering into the integrity Pact would be the preliminary qualification for the bidding.

Integrity Pact envisages a panel of Independent External Monitors (IEMs). In consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission, BSNL has empanelled Shri T.S. Krishnamurthy, former Chief Election Commissioner, Shri B.B. Tandon, former Chief Election Commissioner and Shri Ravi Kant, former Member, TRAI as IEMs. These IEMs will review independently and objectively whether and to what extent the parties have complied with their obligation under the pact. In case of any irregularity or suspicion they will submit the report to the CMD of BSNL. They may also submit the report to the CVO, BSNL and the Central Vigilance Commission. On this occasion of implementation of the Integrity Pact Programme, in a function; senior officers from CVC, DOT and BSNL were present.

With the implementation of the Integrity Pact, it is expected that BSNL would be able to improve its image and reputation as an ethical organization; enhance vendor satisfaction; speed up tender and procurement process at lower cost; reduce political, diplomatic and administrative interference, frivolous law suits and complaints against corruption etc.



**(M.S.S.Rao)**  
DDG(Mktg.)