

Justification for utilization of forest land in Palamu Tiger Reserve
(PTR) for laying optical fiber cable (OFC)

The Palamu Tiger Reserve has around 200 villages –both in core and buffer areas— which has a population density of approximately two lakhs, as per the last census. Due to unavailability of 4-G telecom network, the entire area is considered a shadow zone where people are deprived of proper cell phone and internet connectivity, which is so essential today for holistic development and growth of a civilized society in today's world.

Due to network unavailability, the local populace, who are mostly tribal, do not have access to television and cannot operate computers, thereby remaining cut off from the mainstream.

Even communication through phone is a distant dream for majority populace residing in the six odd-blocks falling in Latehar district. The local hospitals, educational institutions, banks, post offices, private and government offices are crying for want of network since decades. Majority work in these institutions are still carried manually.

Deprivation of information and technology has pushed the local tribal masses to lead archaic and nomadic lives, which does not augur well for the development of state and the nation. There have been more than one occasion when locals have taken to the streets demanding telecom towers in the PTR, causing law and order situation.

Besides, PTR being a highly Naxal infested zone, without network availability, the police are facing major challenges in flushing the left rebels out of the area. We have verbal and written communications from the local police demanding mobile towers and reinstating network.

Needless to say that if we reach out telecom network in the area, it will generate several employment opportunities for the local youth, who otherwise, are getting lured by the Left insurgents and getting ruined in the process. Telecom network will also help spread awareness about the various welfare and development schemes of the government among the local tribal populace and help elevate poverty.

So in a nutshell, if we are to build a strong state and nation, we have to equip the last man of the society with proper telecom network besides I&T.

