



**BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED**  
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NO: DE/NOFN/Corr./21-22/2 Pune

Dated 07-08-2021

### **JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING PROJECT IN FOREST AREA**

The Hon' ble Prime Ministers' Office has launched an ambitious programme to connect every Gram Panchayat in the country through high-speed Optical Fiber based Broadband Connectivity, which is popularly known as "Bharatnet" under "Digital India" Programme.

Underproposed project, the high speed (100 Mbps) Optical Fiber will be laid underground from Nive to Wandre Gram Panchayat and from Pimpri Phata to Barpe Bk. Gram Panchayat, both in Mulshi Tehsil of Pune District, within the ROW of existing roads, having total length through Forest Land about 4727.5 m. And, trench will have width of 0.60 m. and depth up to 1.65 m. The Optical Fiber Cable pass through certain patches of Forest Land located within limits of Tamhini Wildlife Sanctuary & its notified ESZ and Sudhagad Wildlife Sanctuary & its Deemed ESZ. The Forest land to the extent of 0.30 Ha. approximately is required for the purpose of laying underground OFC Cable. Hence, the proposal attracts provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The project requires Forest Clearance i.e. prior approval under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

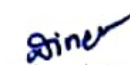
Since, the cable is to be necessarily laid along the roads connecting to Gram Panchayats, within their ROW, and; the since these roads are passing through the Forest Land, including Wildlife Sanctuaries and their ESZs, there is no alternative to the existing alignment. The project is site specific as the target locations and the route are definite. The Forest Land proposed for diversion is unavoidable. The barest minimum Forest Land, to the extent of 0.30 Ha., is required/ proposed for the project.

Date: 07 / 08 /2021

Place: Pune

Office Seal:

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