

# DNA, Ahmedabad

VOIP LAUNCHED BY BSNL; AHMEDABAD FIRST CITY TO GET THIS SERVICE

## Now, video calls to US, UK for Rs1.20/min

**DNA Correspondent**

AHMEDABAD

The state-owned telecom company, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has launched video telephony service on broadband. Ahmedabad is the first city in the country where this service has been launched.

Under this service, calling US, UK, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia and China will be as cheap as Rs1.20 per minute both to landline and mobile. The technology is called video and voice over internet protocol (VVoIP).



Officials at the launch of the service

The service has been launched by BSNL in association with Ahmedabad-based company, Sai Info System India Ltd. For this purpose a

separate video phone (IP phone) is required to be connected on broadband. This kind of service is also possible on computer (laptop or

PC) by installing a software called soft phone. The service will work simultaneously with landline, broadband, IPTV etc. The video call contents will not be charged towards internet use.

The audio call charges in India within BSNL broadband network will be only 40 paise per minute and for video call within BSNL broadband network, the charges would be Rs2 per minute.

The video telephony service was launched by making a video call from Delhi to Ahmedabad. The call was

made by Sam Pitroda, advisor to PM, along with RK Upadhyay, CMD of BSNL and Rajesh Wadhwa, director of BSNL in Delhi. In Ahmedabad the call was received by Suresh Bhargava,

CGM, BSNL Gujarat circle.

Bhargava said that initially, the

cost of the device is a bit expensive. "The cost of the basic device for calling on VVoIP starts from Rs15,000. Initially, we are launching the services in western and northern part of India and it will also be launched in other parts of the country," he said.

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