

Mathrubhumi: Thrissur Edition

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India's response to China's telecom technology

Research on 4G devices begins in Bangalore

Thrissur: India's immediate response to Chinese monopoly on telecom technology equipment. This is done by locally developing the equipment and technology required to provide 4-G service.

The venture between software company Tech Mahindra and public sector undertaking Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) is moving towards a trial. The cancellation of BSNL's 4G tender came after India halted trade with China. BSNL technicians are also involved in the project.

The Base Transceiver Station (BTS), an essential component of 4G towers, is being developed. The hardware of BTS is manufactured by ITI and the software by Mahindra. Both the companies have developed their products.

Twenty-five tower sites in Bengaluru have been selected for the 18-week trial. Discussions are also underway as to whether there should be a separate core network for 4G. The assessment is that the efficiency can be achieved in line with the international standards.

The devices are made by Chinese companies such as Huawei and ZTE, Korean companies Samsung and European companies Nokia and Ericsson. The entire contract for the government's 3G service was extended by Huawei and Ericsson. When it was decided to provide 4G service using 3G spectrum, the contract was taken over by Nokia and ZTE.

Despite a Rs 8,697 crore tender for 4G delivery equipment in 50,000 towers last March, Huawei, Samsung and ZTE are still bidding. The tender was cancelled due to political reasons. Tech Mahindra and ITI approached the Department of Telecom with the project when not a single company from India was in the field at that time. Department included the project in 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' and immediately sanctioned. Efforts are also underway to develop the technology and equipment required for 5-G service.