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BSNL-Inmarsat satellite telecom services set to take off

OUR BUREAU

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India will soon get satellite-based telecom services with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd signing a deal with Inmarsat.

BSNL has already taken the required licence from the Department of Telecom and identified Ghaziabad as the location for the satellite gateway. The gateway will be built at a cost of \$8 million.

Through this deal, BSNL will be able to offer satellite-based broadband services us-

ing Inmarsat technologies in remote areas. The state-owned operator will also be able to meet the needs of the Defence forces.

London-based Inmarsat, a global satellite services provider, was earlier offering services in India through Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. But this was practically shut down after the Government divested its majority stake in VSNL to the Tatas. Since then the London-based firm has been scouting for partners in India.