

# NEWS ALERT

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## Telecom Panel Meet to Discuss BSNL Revamp

*Apex Body To Take A Call On IPO And Discuss Plans To Improve Financials Of PSU*

The telecom commission — the apex decision making body of the communications ministry — will meet on Tuesday to discuss plans to revive the falling financials of state-owned BSNL, which is set to post its first ever loss for the year -ended March 2010.

The apex body will also take a call if the government's plans to list Bharat Sanchar Nigam (BSNL) must be put off till the restructuring of the company is completed. The decision making body, during its Tuesday meet, is also set to approve BSNL's plans to hive off its landbank into a separate company so that the telco can monetise the asset by selling parts of it. BSNL, once a monopoly in domestic telephony, has been deteriorating in financial performance over the years as it could not expand on time. Its business plans were thwarted at various levels of bureaucracy under influence from different quarters. It could not compete with the nimble footed private mobile phone firms such as Bharti Airtel which were taking decisions quickly.

The Reserve Bank of India said unchecked price rise can spoil India's long-term growth party as the virus spreads to various parts of the economy from just food products a few months ago. "The already elevated headline inflation suggests that the weight of policy balance may have to shift to containing inflation," said the central bank's Macroeconomic and Monetary Developments report.



Google, now a synonym for internet search, is in the process of developing voice-based search for Indian users in various regional languages. Apart from consolidating its multi-lingual services, Google's India arm will soon allow users to put information on Google Maps.