

How to Upgrade Your BSNL 2G/3G SIM to 4G Using SMS

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Quick answer

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BSNL, the state-run telecom operator, is progressively rolling out 4G services across India. To enable its customers to enjoy the benefits of 4G connectivity, BSNL offers a simple, SMS-based process to upgrade from 2G or 3G SIM cards to 4G SIM cards. This article provides a comprehensive, step-by-step guide to help BSNL users complete the upgrade seamlessly.

Why Upgrade to a BSNL 4G SIM?

BSNL's 4G services promise faster internet speeds and improved network reliability. While the nationwide rollout is underway, many regions, such as Kerala, Gujarat, and Karnataka, are already experiencing 4G connectivity. To access these benefits, users must replace their older 2G/3G SIM cards with BSNL's 4G-enabled SIM cards.

Unlike other telecom providers, BSNL did not initially issue 4G-capable SIM cards. Therefore, existing customers must upgrade to a new 4G SIM, which is straightforward and can be completed in minutes.

How to Get a BSNL 4G SIM

You can obtain a new BSNL 4G SIM card from any BSNL Customer Care Center. The SIM card is priced at INR50. However, BSNL occasionally conducts promotional events, such as the BSNL Mela, where you can get a 4G SIM free of charge.

Important Note:

Before upgrading, be aware that BSNL's 4G SIM may not support international roaming. If you rely on your number for international services, check compatibility with BSNL customer support.

Step-by-Step Guide to Activate Your BSNL 4G SIM

The activation process is entirely SMS-based. Here's how you can upgrade your SIM:

Step 1: Locate Your New SIM Number

Your new 4G SIM card will have a 19-digit SIM number printed on it. Make a note of this number, as it is required during the activation process.

Step 2: Send the Initial SMS

From your existing BSNL number (the one you wish to upgrade), send the following SMS to 53734:

'RE4G Last 6 digits of the new SIM card number Circle code'

For example:

'RE4G 123456 KL'

- Replace 'KL' with your circle code (e.g., TN for Tamil Nadu, UP for Uttar Pradesh, etc.).
- You will receive a confirmation SMS. Ensure the 19-digit SIM number in the message matches the one printed on your new SIM card.

Step 3: Confirm Your Request

If the details are correct, send a second SMS to 53734 in the following format:

'RE4G YES'

For example:

'RE4G YES'

This confirms your request to activate the new SIM card.

Step 4: Wait for Activation

Once the request is processed, you'll receive a confirmation message like this:

'Dear Customer, your request for 4G SIM swap registered successfully. Please check after 1 hour to get the services on the new SIM issued.'

Step 5: Replace the Old SIM with the New SIM

- Your old SIM will stop working once the new SIM is activated.
- If your network signal disappears on the old SIM, it means the new SIM is ready for use. Replace the old SIM card with the new one in your device.

Activation Timeframe

The activation process can take anywhere from 15 minutes to 24 hours, depending on server load and network conditions. Based on user reports:

- Some SIMs activate within 15-60 minutes.
- Others may take several hours (up to 24 hours in some cases).

Key Point to Remember:

Your old SIM will not disconnect until the new SIM is fully activated. This ensures uninterrupted service during the transition.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Are the SMS messages to 53734 free?

Yes, all SMS messages sent to 53734 for SIM activation are free of charge.

2. What if I don't receive a confirmation SMS?

In some cases, there might be delays in receiving acknowledgment messages. If this happens, contact BSNL customer care for assistance or wait for a few hours before retrying the process.

3. Can I use the new SIM card immediately?

You must wait until your old SIM loses network connectivity. This indicates the new SIM has been activated successfully.

4. Is the 4G SIM activation process the same for all circles?

Yes, but ensure you use the correct circle code in the SMS. For example:

- KL for Kerala
- TN for Tamil Nadu
- UP for Uttar Pradesh

Final Thoughts

Upgrading to a BSNL 4G SIM is quick, convenient, and entirely free of hassle. With 4G services rolling out in more regions, now is the perfect time to make the switch. Follow the steps above to enjoy faster speeds and a better overall experience with BSNL's 4G network.

If you have any further questions or face issues during the activation process, feel free to share your concerns in the comments below. We're here to help!