

Minutes of the 13th State Broadband Committee Meeting held on 6th June, 2025 in the Conference Hall of DITEC

The 13th SBC meeting for 1st quarter of 2025-26 was held on 6th June, 2025 at 11:00 Hrs at DITEC Conference Hall, Janata Bhawan Campus, Dispur. The meeting was chaired by Shri K.S. Gopinath Narayan, IA&AS, Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Information Technology Department.

The meeting started with the welcome address by Shri Pankaj Das, DDG (Rural), DoT Assam LSA. After having a brief round of introductions, a detailed presentation was given by DoT, Assam LSA on various important issues as per following **agenda**:

- 1. DBN (USOF) Projects:
 - a. BSNL 4G Saturation Project
 - b. RJIL 4G Project in 2 Districts of Assam
 - c. Bharat Net Utilization – Samriddh Gram Panchayat Pilot Project
- 2. RoW Portal Implementation Status
- 3. Status of Street Furniture Mapping.
- 4. Call Before You Dig – Utilization in the State.
- 5. Coverage & Shadow Areas (Partially Covered Villages) in Assam.
- 6. Untraceable Villages in Assam.
- 7. DIPA/COAI /ISPAI issues.
- 8. Misc. points: Any other points with the permission of the Chair.

The points discussed & decisions taken are stated as follows:

1. DBN(USOF) Projects:

A. BSNL 4G Saturation Project:

Land Allotment Status:

BSNL 4G Saturation (Cat I - IV)						
Total Sites	Land Allotted			Pending land allotment		
	Govt	Forest	Private	Govt	Forest	Private
465	288	51	105	0	6	15
	444			21		

BSNL informed that out of the 6 forest lands pending for allotment, 3 are in Biswanath district which are to be processed through FRA. For these cases, Gram Sabha resolution has already been received.

The rest 3 cases (under FCA) are in Hailakandi district, out of which for 2 cases Demand Note has been issued from the Forest department and BSNL is in the process of payment. The remaining site, Bangla Vasha is pending due to access issue and will be applied once the water level in the stream is sufficient for traversal via boat.

Electricity Connection Status:

SL	Details	Count
1	EB connection Applied by BSNL	322
2	EB D/Note issued from APDCL	285
3	EB D/N yet to be issued by APDCL (pending due to joint survey from APDCL)	37
4	EB D/Note < 3 Lac	185
5	EB D/Note > 3 Lac & < 5 Lac	49
6	EB D/Note > 5 Lac & < 10 Lac	35
7	EB D/Note > 10 Lac	16
8	EB D/Note Paid (out of 185 cases <3Lacs)	158
9	EB D/Note yet to be Paid by BSNL (<3 Lacs)	27
10	EB Commissioning Done (Out of 158)	109
11	EB Commissioning Pending (Out of 158)	49

Dropped sites: List with specific reasons:

Out of ~2900 sites (cat-I-IV) initially surveyed, 2435 were dropped by BSNL citing coverage from other TSPs. Some sites (132) were dropped after getting allotment from the state Govt. The list of these dropped sites with reasons was sought from BSNL. BSNL has provided the list of the dropped sites, but the reasons for dropping (covered by which TSP/s, villages getting shifted, washed away, zero population etc.) have not been shared as sought. This information is vital for checking redundancy and focussed planning of coverage and replying several PG and VIP reference cases including submission of regular reports on Coverage to DoT HQ. DoT/Assam LSA highlighting the importance of BSNL's survey reports based on physical survey which is considered to be final and more reliable & authentic compared to TSPs' prediction-based method, requested BSNL to provide the list of the surveyed sites, particularly the dropped sites, specifying clearly the reasons (indicating the name of TSP/s having coverage as per DBN guidelines etc.).

---Action by BSNL Assam

B. RJIL 4G Project in 3 Districts of Assam (Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong):

RJIL representative apprised the committee about the joint survey being conducted for the 17 pending DBN sites. RJIL has informed that the survey is pending for the 3 sites in West Karbi Anglong facing locality issues. The sites surveyed till now are still inaccessible barring one site in Dima Hasao where the locality issue has been resolved and RJIL is awaiting DBN approval for extension. RJIL will be submitting the joint survey reports to DoT/Assam LSA which will be cross signed by the district authorities. LSA would submit the consolidated report to the DBN for final decision.

--- Action by RJIL/ DBN

C. Bharat Net Utilization – Samriddh Gram Panchayat Pilot Project (SGPPP):

DoT Assam LSA apprised the Committee of the Samriddh Gram Panchayat Pilot project of DBN to improve the socio-economic development of Rural India by digital delivery of e-services through FTTH by leveraging the Bharat Net. For the pilot project, 95 GPs (in 23 Districts) have been selected in Assam where at least 5 Public Institutes & Private Entrepreneurs each & 5% Households will be provided FTTH connections.

BSNL apprised the committee of the progress of SGPPP and also the challenges being faced and suggestions for achievement of the objective. BSNL informed that due to a smaller number of GPs per village, the institutes and households are scattered across a larger distance from the GP ONT, which poses a problem in providing the FTTH Connection.

BSNL also informed that AMTRON is also in possession of OLTs in the villages which can be used to provide FTTH Cnx. In this regard, AMTRON can be registered as BNU with BSNL and provide FTTH under BSNL's revenue sharing model (50-50).

Gram Panchayat Digital Access Committees are to be created in each of the 95 GPs which would work under the supervision of District Level Telecom Committee. The role of GPDAC would be to raise awareness across their GPs. DoT/Assam LSA requested the State to issue a letter to the DCs to issue orders to the GPs to constitute the GPDAC.

---Action by State.

D. BharatNet - The Role of APDCL in facilitating BharatNet infrastructure & FTTH service:

A Proposal: DDG-R, Assam LSA suggested that APDCL can prove to be a significant agency, a game changer in facilitating faster & effective proliferation of not only the mid-mile OFC network of BharatNet, including Fiberization of Mobile Towers, but also the Last Mile Connectivity (for FTTH services) by providing optical fibers along (co-laying) with its electricity distribution line to each household using their already well-established electricity connectivity network. This would not only make the proliferation of the BharatNet network infrastructure & FTTH service faster, but also enhance the quality of service & aesthetics of the Rural connectivity and that too also without any complications on execution & RoW permission issues. APDCL can partner with BSNL (for BharatNet) and provide last-mile connectivity / FTTH service and get the financial advantage too through some suitable revenue model. With this synergistic arrangement the FTTH service can be provisioned to all the households (particularly in Rural Households having already Electricity connections) in Assam within a very short time-period: "let all the lit houses be lit by optical fibers also". Towards this, the possibility of financial assistance from DoT/DBN, DoNER may also be explored. The Chair welcomed and appreciated the suggestion and requested an elaborate discussion separately.

2. State RoW Portal implementation:

State informed that the development of the new RoW portal compliant to the Central RoW Rules 2024 has been completed along with the testing. State will launch the portal by mid-June 2025.

DIPA requested the State to incorporate the following 2 features in the RoW Portal:

- a. Withdraw/cancel the applications which are no longer needed.
- b. Update profile feature to reflect any organisational change.

State informed that the feature to update profile has been added in the new RoW portal and took note of the feature to Withdraw/ Cancel application to be added in the new RoW Portal.

DIPA also requested the nomination of Nodal officer under Section 14(4) of the Telecom Act, 2023 (authorised to take the coercive action against telecom network setup by an authorised entity) to which State informed that the nomination is in the process.

DIPA further requested State to issue notification in line with the States like Maharashtra where the State has notified that only the nominated officer can take coercive action against telecom network setup. State instructed DIPA to share the letters of the States which have issued such notifications.

--- Action by State and DIPA

3. Status of Street Furniture Mapping:

HOME & POLITICAL Dept & DoHUA		PWD (Buildings)		ASTC & DoHUA				APDCL		DoHUA	
Total Traffic Lights	Traffic lights mapped	Total Government Buildings	Government Buildings mapped	Total Bus Terminals	Bus Terminals mapped	Total Bus Shelters	Bus Shelters mapped	Total Electric Poles	Electric Poles mapped	Total Street Lights	Street Lights mapped
	105		144	106	94		0	1,13,90,309	65,698		

DoT apprised the SBC about progress of street furniture mapping in the State. APDCL has shown decent progress in mapping their poles. However, the other departments are yet to map their assets on the portal.

The State informed that there is a considerable emphasis being given to the GatiShakti Master Plan portal and the mapping of SFM should be expedited. The State GS Nodal informed that a meeting will be organised with all the concerned departments to know the issue being faced due to which the progress is slow. Consequent to this meeting, a meeting with nodal of BISAG-N would also be organised along with the departments so that BISAG-N may be instructed to address the technical bottlenecks being faced.

APDCL informed the SBC that there are some technical issues with the App because of which they are unable to create users for new areas where they want to expand the survey. APDCL has been pursuing BISAG-N for this issue since March,2025 still the issue has not been resolved, because of which the survey is being carried out only in the Guwahati city only and couldn't be expanded to other areas. State GS Nodal requested APDCL for a mail detailing the problem faced so that the same could be taken up with BISAG-N.

---Action by State GS Nodal/ APDCL/ BISAG-N.

4. Call Before You Dig – Utilization in the State:

DoT informed that Assam has shown a decline in CBuD utilisation over last few months. Reference was also made to the letter from Chief Minister Office regarding the mandatory use of CBuD by the Departments/ Agencies in their excavation activities.

The Chair instructed the State to identify the key departments/ agencies which are engaged in excavation so that focus could be given on ensuring use of CBuD by them.

Assam LSA mentioned the role of DLT User (CBUD Nodals) in ensuring the use of CBuD in their districts. In this regard, Assam LSA requested the State to organise VC with the DLT Users to instruct them for ensuring CBuD usage in the district. Assam LSA will give presentation and address the issues/ queries related to CBuD in the VC.

DLT Nomination from 5 Districts, viz., South Salmara Mancachar, Kamrup Rural, Tamulpur, WKA and Dibrugarh, are yet to be received. State informed that the nominations & DLT user creation for all 35 districts will be done by mid-June.

---Action by State/ CBUd Nodal.

5. Coverage & Shadow Areas (Partially Covered Villages) in Assam.

Assam LSA shared its analysis on shadow areas as received from all 35 Districts. Assam LSA is analysing these cases and found 297 villages where 4G coverage is reported by the TSPs, however the patches of village are left uncovered.

State	Locations/ Villages reported	Villages associated with these locations	Poor Coverage village within RGI/ LGD List		Outside RGI/ LGD list	Total Shadow areas uncovered villages
			Villages with Shadow Areas	Uncovered Villages	(Uncovered)	
Assam	1942	1591	289	54	48	391

Assam LSA sought comments & suggestions from COAI on what could be the best practice to deal with the Shadow Areas in the villages considered covered and the shadow areas in partially covered (considered uncovered) and frame workable policy to plan coverage under DBN norms.

--- Action by COAI.

6. Untraceable Villages in Assam.

There are 580 villages in Assam for which coordinates could not be found by LSA or the TSPs. Due to which 4G Coverage in the village could not be ascertained and hence could not be included in the DBN 4G Saturation scheme, if uncovered.

The Chair instructed P&RD to provide the coordinates for these 580 villages with a focus on the districts which has the majority of such untraceable villages (Golaghat, Dima Hasao, Dhemaji, KA, WKA)

The district wise untraceable villages are as follows:

SL	District	No. of Untraceable Villages
1	Golaghat	217
2	Dima Hasao	93
3	Dhemaji	43
4	Karbi Anglong	42
5	West Karbi Anglong	34
6	Jorhat	22
7	Tinsukia	22
8	Cachar	19
9	Darrang	11
10	Sivasagar	11
11	Goalpara	10
12	Kamrup Metro	9
13	Biswanath	8
14	Dibrugarh	7
15	Nagaon	6
16	Udalguri	4
17	Hailakandi	3
18	Hojai	3
19	Morigaon	3
20	Bongaigaon	2
21	Charaideo	2
22	Kamrup	2
23	Kokrajhar	2
24	Nalbari	2
25	Sonitpur	2
26	Baksa	1
Total		580

---Action by P&RD Deptt.

7. DIPA/ COAI issues.

a. COAI Issues:

i. Continuation of Exemption from Consent to Operate (CTO) from PCB, Assam:

COAI informed the SBC that TSPs/IPs were given exemption from CTO for DG (less than 1 MVA). However, through a recent notification dated 30.04.2025 (No. TECH-11015/5/2025-CCA-PCBA) Pollution Control Board, Assam has instructed the TSPs/Ips to submit the CTO application for existing mobile towers using DG Sets. COAI informed that this will lead to a huge compliance burden and requested that the exemption may be continued because the DG sets are mostly operated only during the times of flood & other emergencies.

The Chair acknowledged their request and informed that this issue will be discussed with the PCB, Assam.

--- Action by State

ii. Industrial Tarriff for Telecom industry:

COAI requested for Industrial tariff for the Telecom Industry in Assam as done by some other States, which is currently charged under the Commercial tariff. APDCL however informed that this matter is sub-judice before the Hon'ble APTEL.

b. DIPA Issues:

i. Locality issue:

ii.

DIPA and RJIL informed the SBC that they are unable to install telecom towers in some locations in Dhubri, Kamrup Metro, Jorhat due to the local resistance citing apprehension for radiation.

DIPA and RJIL were requested to submit the details of such sites along with the correspondence made with District authorities. The Chair informed that the cases of Guwahati and Kamrup would be taken up on priority for prompt resolution.

---Action by DIPA/RJIL, State

DIPA also requested **issuance of directions to District Magistrates and Police** to ensure security of critical telecom infrastructure, as per the Secretary (Telecom)'s DO letter dated 13-06-2024.

Composite Billing (One Bill for Multiple Connections): DIPA requested for composite billing in Assam. However, TSPs have earlier reported that the billing procedure in Assam is already convenient enough for payment. The Chair instructed DIPA to gather inputs from COAI (TSPs) & IPs, and if issue is still there, put up a request for this.

---Action by DIPA

iii. DIPA also requested for:

- a. **Implementation of GST exemption for all new electricity service connections** and related maintenance estimates, as per Government of India Notification No. 08/2024 – Central Tax (Rate) dated 8th October 2024.
- b. **Provision for bulk connections login facility on the APDCL portal** to enable real-time monitoring of power consumption across telecom sites.

APDCL representatives requested that a separate meeting with the concerned wings of APDCL can be organized to address these requests.

---Action by DIPA/APDCL

8. Misc. points: Any other points with the permission of the Chair.

SANCHAR SAATHI:

Assam LSA apprised the SBC about Sanchar Saathi, a citizen centric initiative of DoT which has the following modules:

- a. Report Suspected fraud calls/messages – **Chakshu**
- b. Trace / Block lost or stolen mobile - **CEIR**
- c. Know Genuineness of your mobile handset
- d. Report incoming international calls with Indian Number – **RICWIN**
- e. Know mobile connections in your name – **TAFcop**
- f. Find internet service provider in your area

Assam LSA highlighted the role of Sanchar Saathi in combating the rising threat of Cyber frauds and also the need of Awareness program in the districts to make the people aware about this initiative. Assam LSA therefore requested the State to issue a letter to the DCs to take steps in their districts to raise awareness about Sanchar Sathi, by disseminating infor via Digital Standees/ Screens/ Pamphlets etc. Assam LSA also suggested that awareness program for Districts can be taken up in the CBuD VC that will be organized by the State.

The Chair lauded the DoT initiative and assured assistance in this regard.

---Action by Assam LSA & State.

The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks from the DDG-R to all the participants.

**Principal Secretary to Govt. of Assam,
Information Technology Department.**

Memo eCF No. IT. 234611/2022/423-A

Copy to:

1. The Director, Directorate of Information Technology, Electronics & Communication (DITEC), Dispur, Guwahati-06.
2. The Managing Director, AMTRON, Bamunimaidam, Khanapara, Guwahati-21.
3. The Secretary to Govt. of Assam, Power/PWD (Roads)/ PWD (Bldg &NH)/ Forest/DoHUA/ Revenue/ Panchayat & RD Department, Dispur, Guwahati-06
4. The State Project Director, AITEC & CSD Society, Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, Ghy-22.
5. The State Nodal Officer for PMG/PM Gati Shakti NMP Portal.
6. All DC/ADC.
7. The Sr. DDG, DoT, Assam, LSA.
8. The DDG(R-II), LSA, Assam.
9. The CGM, BSNL, Paltan Bazaar, Guwahati01
10. The GM, Bharatnet, Assam.
11. The Area Manager, Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd.
12. The General Manager, APDCL, Bijulee Bhawan, Paltan Bazaar, Guwahati-01
13. The DG, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).
14. The Digital Infrastructure Providers Association of India (DIPA).
15. P.A. to Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Information Technology for kind information of the Secretary.
16. P.A. to Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Information Technology for kind information of the Secretary.

By orders etc.,

e-signed

Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Information Technology Department