Minutes of the 15th State Broadband Committee Meeting held on 16th December, 2025

The 15th SBC meeting was held on 16th December, 2025 at 11:30 Hrs. under the chairmanship of Shri K.S. Gopinath Narayan, IA&AS, Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Information Technology Department. The list of members / participants is attached in Annexure-A.

The meeting started with the welcome address by Shri Pankaj Das, Addl DG (T).

The agenda for the 15th SBC was as follows:

1. DBN (USOF) Projects:
   a. BSNL 4G Saturation Project
   b. Bharat Net Utilization – Samriddh Gram Panchayat Pilot Project
2. RoW
3. Status of Street Furniture Mapping.
4. Call Before You Dig
5. Proposed methods for improving network coverage
6. DIPA/COAI /ISPAI issues.

The points discussed & decisions taken are stated as follows:

1. **DBN Projects:**

   a. **BSNL 4G Saturation Project:**
   i) **Land Allotment:**

4G Saturation: Land Allotment/ Acquisition Status	Cat: I-III & IV	Cat V	Cat VI
· Total Uncovered Villages under USOF 4G Saturation (Scope)	2,901	915	404
· Total Villages Surveyed:	2,901	915	259
Villages dropped after survey	2,086	675	
· Total Villages to be covered after Initial Survey	821	240	50 (till now)*
· Total Sites to cover above villages after Initial Survey	821		
· Sites dropped subsequent to the survey	381		
· **Total Sites Proposed to Cover these Villages**	**441**		
· Total Sites Break Up:			
o Govt. /Council Sites	285		
o Forest Sites	44		
o Private Sites Proposed due to Non-Availability of Govt. Land	112		
· **As on Date Land Allocation Done:**	**430**		
o Govt. /Council	285		
o Forest Sites	40		
o Private	105		
· **Pending Site Acquisition**	**11**		
o Govt.	0		
o Forest	4		
o Private	7		

BSNL Team informed that allotment of 1 Govt Land in Lakhipur block is pending and their team is pursuing this with the DC office. Support from forest was also sought by BSNL to which the Forest department representative assured full support.

--Action by Forest Department

ii) **Electricity CXNs:**

Electricity connection issues:

SL	Details	Count
1	EB connection Applied by BSNL	370
2	EB D/Note issued from APDCL	307
3	EB D/N yet to be issued by APDCL (pending due to joint survey from APDCL)	63
4	EB D/Note < 3 Lac	197
5	EB D/Note > 3 Lac & < 5 Lac	57
6	EB D/Note > 5 Lac & < 10 Lac	30
7	EB D/Note > 10 Lac	23
8	EB D/Note Paid (out of 197 cases <3Lacs)	177
9	EB D/Note yet to be Paid by BSNL (<3 Lacs)	**20**
10	EB Commissioning Done (Out of 177)	124
11	EB Commissioning Pending (Out of 177)	**53**

In reference to the EB Connection status, APDCL informed out of the sites where DN has been paid by BSNL, EB Cnx has been released in 40 sites, WIP in 7 sites and for 11 sites EB Cnx couldn't be released since BSNL infrastructure work has not completed. APDCL further informed that for 28 more sites DN has been issued to BSNL, for 17 sites survey has been done & DN are being prepared, 12 sites are having document issues that was raised with BSNL. Further, there are 14 sites where BSNL team need to approach the APDCL office for joint survey.

The status as informed by BSNL Assam was not in concordance with APDCL. Addl. DGT requested APDCL & BSNL teams to have regular coordination meetings as done earlier for settling the issues and expediting the EB CXNs. BSNL to discuss the matter with APDCL and share the progress and reconciled status with DoT LSA.

--Action by APDCL & BSNL

iii)   **Execution Status:**

Execution Status: Cat: I - IV	
Total no of sites:	441
Foundation completed	398
Tower erection completed	385
Tower ready with Electricity	124
Sites On Air	292
Sites on HOLD	21 (9 – inaccessible, 12 - land/owner issues)

BSNL informed that there are 292 BSNL 4G Saturation sites on Air presently. Issues of 9 inaccessible sites was raised by BSNL (including the Bangla Vasha – already surveyed and applied case). Addl. DG(T)/Assam LSA pointed out that the access issues came up mainly due to some challenges during the monsoon and requested BSNL team to conduct the joint surveys with the District authorities in the current favorable dry season itself. The concerned District authorities have already been informed about this. BSNL needs to take lead role to coordinate and accomplish the works.

Further, LSA pointed out and clarified the case of Bangla Vasha under Hailakandi district. This case is a PMIS cleared case which cannot be considered now under access issue, where recently the Joint survey was done and the case applied for forest permission through e-Parivesh and where Stage I approval has already been accorded by the Forest). BSNL needs to process the case without further delay.

--Action by BSNL

b. **Bharat Net Utilization**

i)   **Samriddh Gram Panchayat Pilot Project (SGPPP):**

Targeted FTTH Connections by 31.12.2025					
Classification	Public Institutions (>5 per GP)	Achievement Status	Private Enterprises (>5 per GP)	Achievement Status	Households (>5% per GP)	Achievement Status
Target	475	45	475	14	3790	390

Assam LSA conveyed its thanks to the IT Dept for assistance in formation of GPDACs in 94 SGPs out of 95 SGPs (except Borbond GP, which got dissolved). It was also informed that the LSA and CCA Nodal officers are conducting the GP surveys in these SGPs. One common issue raised by majority of the public institutions like PHCs, AWCs, Schools & GP offices is that though there are use cases requiring stable high-speed internet for which FTTH is best suited, the connections have not provided (even to the GP office itself where BharatNet infrastructure is present in the same premises) due to want of the required instruction & budgetary provision from the respective line departments of the state Govt. DoT LSA has further clarified that, under new Agreement / BN Udyami Schemes, provisioning of FTTH has become quite easy and affordable and there should not be an issue for the state govt. and requested the chair to take up the matter with the concerned line departments for facilitating provisioning of FTTH connections in all field offices at the earliest.

The chair, appreciating the GoI's special initiatives, instructed the Director (DITEC) to organize a meeting with the concerned departments (PnRD, Health & Education etc.) at the earliest.

--Action by BSNL and State IT Dept

Addl. DG(T)/Assam LSA also requested BSNL team to ensure that proper SLA is maintained in the GPs and BNUs are employed sufficiently to cover all the GPs, particularly the SGPs to meet the target.

--Action by BSNL

ii)   Steps ahead towards faster proliferation of FTTH services:

Addl. DGT highlighted multifaceted advantages and potential of leveraging the State's DISCOM infrastructure for faster & effective proliferation of FTTH services using BN infrastructure in Assam. He therefore requested the Chair to arrange a meeting with APDCL, BSNL and AMTRON to explore the possibilities and modalities of using State's DISCOM infrastructure to provide last mile network (including the mid-mile network wherever required) for extending FTTH services to each household in Assam in a most effective way – having mutual and overall benefits.

--Action by State IT Dept

2. RoW:

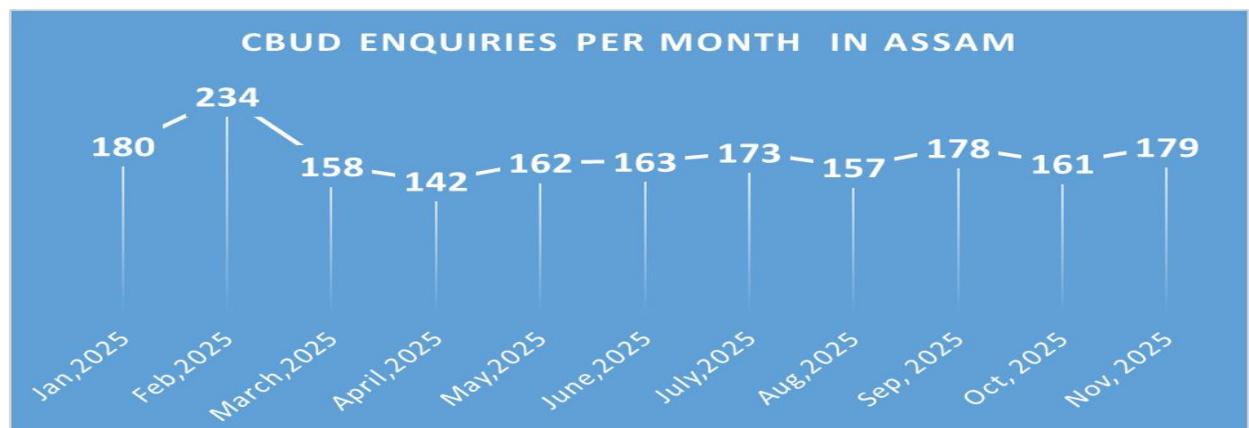| RoW Applications	Total	Approved	Rejected	Under process	Pending>67D	Reverted
As per Gati Shakti Sanchar	6080	5611	193	6	0	276

Assam state is using the State RoW portal which is aligned with the Central RoW Rules 2024. State informed that the additional 5 API configurations have also been updated in the State RoW Portal.

3.   Status of Street Furniture Mapping: Actions needs to be expedited by concerned departments.

HOME & POLITICAL Dept & DoHUA		PWD (Buildings)		ASTC & DoHUA				APDCL [POWER (ELECTRICITY) DEPARTMENT]		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	11390309	76,771		

4. Call Before You Dig

State Users				Central Users			Registered Excavators	Enquiries	Unreported Excavations
Dept	Agency	District	Tehsil	C. State Agency	C. District	C. Tehsil			
15	52	300	164	26	436	384	1402	3437	49

CBUD ENQUIRIES PER MONTH IN ASSAM

Jan, 2025	Feb, 2025	March, 2025	April, 2025	May, 2025	June, 2025	July, 2025	Aug, 2025	Sep, 2025	Oct, 2025	Nov, 2025
180	234	158	142	162	163	173	157	178	161	179

It was highlighted that though TSPs are using the CBuD platform consistently, but the State departments and agencies are not seen using the platform, which in turn leads to damage to the underground cables/pipelines/fibre due to unannounced/ unauthorized excavations.

PWRD representatives informed that PWRD is using the "Path Samanway" to raise their enquiries in Kamrup Metro. Director (DITEC) requested PWRD to ensure that the enquiries are to be lodged in CBuD also as per the mandate from Central & State Govt. Addl DG(T) highlighted the significance of the CBuD operations referring to the importance given from central ministries and even the Hon'ble Chief Minister who has issued order for implementing the same by all concerned departments and agencies.

Assam LSA requested IT Department and the state CBuD nodal officer to organise regular meetings with the heads of the concerned line departments and Agencies responsible for giving permission and for execution of various excavation works to monitor CBuD utilization and ensure compliance of CBuD mandates in the state.

Being considered as the major stakeholder, a special request was made to PWD to take the lead and all necessary steps to ensure compliance in the field without fail.

--Action by PWRD & State IT Dept

5. **Deliberations on few Proposals for improving network coverage:**

Total Villages	Covered by any Technology	Covered by 4G	Uncovered by 4G	4G UC and planned	Under plan
26,429 (**RGI**)	26,257 (99.36%)	26171(99.15%)	258 (0.84%)	175	83
28,543 (**LGD**)	27,821 (97.48%)	27,853 (96.97%)	863 (3.02%)	897	327

Assam LSA briefed on the coverage status of Rural Assam. 50 more villages of Assam have been approved under BSNL 4G Saturation Cat – VI. The left out uncovered and unplanned villages will be considered in the subsequent Categories.

It was also informed that the details of 287 villages where the network shadow areas were present had also been shared with the HQ for devising a methodology for providing 4G coverage.

Assam LSA also discussed some methods which can be used to improve the mobile network coverage & services in the State. Some of the proposed methodologies discussed were as follows:

- Implementing ICR across all TSPs in Assam
- Usage of Satellite Broadband (like Starlink, Jio Space Fiber, Airtel One Web etc) to connect the inaccessible areas and Shadow Areas.
- Using WiFi calling to improve QoS in areas having poor connectivity.
- Using RF Boosters, to improve the signal strength & coverage.
- Leveraging existing State Infrastructure to bridge the Last Mile Connectivity issues.

Addl. DG(T) sought inputs & suggestions from COAI and DIPA representatives to say express their views on possibility of provisioning ICR across Assam and the use of RF Booster for improving the network strength for cause of citizens. It was also pointed out that some issue in receiving call is encountered while using the VoWiFi feature. COAI and DIPA informed that they will consult their representatives to get more details on these methodologies and issues and give a brief.

Addl. DG (T) also highlighted the potential of DISCOM and AMTRON in ensuring FTTH connectivity across Assam and in bridging the Last Mile Connectivity gap and also eliminating the growing labyrinth of stray cables which currently engulfs the electric poles across the State.

--Action by State IT Dept & COAI/DIPA

6. **DIPA/COAI /ISPAI issues:**

COAI informed that they do not have any ongoing issue. Issue of DIPA & Indus towers are as follows:

a. **Forest land allotment issue:**
Indus requested for faster processing for their pending forest land applications. The forest department representative assured support in expediting the cases. The list of the 8 pending sites was provided to forest and Indus was requested to pursue the case with the Forest department.

--Action by Forest Dept & Indus

b. **RoW Issues:**
Dealing with the EMR issues in the field: DIPA informed that for 2 sites in Cachar and Tinsukia, their team is facing issue due to the local resistance arising out their apprehensions related to radiation. Discussions were held on the way to resolve such radiation related myth issues. Addl. DG(T) informed that EMF awareness workshops are conducted by LSA. The Chair also enquired about the global and Indian standards of EMF permissible limits. LSA has explained how India maintains a high-level of tolerance in EMR safety as compared to international figures. It would share the details to the chair as desired. The same can be shared and communicated to all the district authorities for their updates.

DLTC platform to resolve Telecom issues in the Field: The concerned DCs can discuss this issue in the DLTC meetings. In case of requirement, even the LSA officers can also join the meetings through VC and apprise this matter including other citizen centric aspects related to Telecom. TSPs/ISPs/IPs can take up and raise their issues at DLTC platform for faster resolution. COAI/DIPA can also share the list of issues (district-wise) faced by their members with DoT LSA for facilitating effective deliberations and resolutions though DLTC meetings.

DIPA requested for police support in such cases of hindrances from Public; however, it was felt 'not encouraging' as an amicable and orderly solution can be possible with proper approach and dealings.

--Action by State IT Dept, Assam LSA

DIPA further informed that NIT Silchar and 4 Govt Institutes are not granting permission for setting up mobile tower in their premises. The Chair enquired whether DIPA member had explored other options also for land acquisition. DIPA informed that the Govt institution land is being sought after failing

to acquire the private land. The Chair requested DIPA to give the site wise justification to State IT dept for each of the requested site. The State IT Dept will then take up the matter with the concerned authorities.

--Action by State IT Dept, DIPA

c. Telecom Theft Incidents:

DIPA briefed the Chair about the rising telecom equipment thefts in the field and requested that the instructions to District and Police authorities be kindly issued in line with the letter from Secretary (Telecom). The State IT Dept informed that the letter will be issued within a month.

--Action by State IT Dept.

d. Electricity related issue:

DIPA again requested for the Composite billing, to which APDCL informed that it'll be set up after installation of Smart Meters. Out of ~13,000 towers, the smart meters have been installed in ~11,000 towers. In the rest of the Sites, APDCL is facing the issue of unstable EB supply, Network issues etc, for which Indus & DIPA assured full cooperation. Further, DIPA informed that for new EB Cnx, the APDCL office is asking for NOC from Municipalities which is not required under the new RoW Rules 2024. APDCL and DIPA were requested to hold a separate meeting to clear out these issues.

--Action by APDCL & DIPA

The meeting ended with the Vote of thanks from the ADG (T), Assam LSA.

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

Memo eCF No. IT 234611/2022/451-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)/ Environment & Forest/DoHUA Department, Dispur, Guwahati-06
4. The State Project Director, AITEC & CSD Society, Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, Ghy-22.
5. All DC/ADC.
6. The Sr. DDG, DoT, Assam, LSA.
7. The DDG(R), LSA, Assam.
8. The CEO, Guwahati Municipal Corporation, Guwahati.
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 Head, SeMT, Dispur Guwahati-06
15. The DGM, Project Indus Towers Ltd.
16. The Digital Infrastructure Providers Association of India (DIPA).
17. PA to Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Information Technology for kind information of the Secretary.
18. PA 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