

No. - 160

Date - 17/09/2025

Minutes of the 6th Himachal Pradesh State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting

6th State Broadband Committee meeting of Himachal Pradesh was held on 19th August, 2025 in the Committee Room in the office of Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Govt. of HP. The meeting was chaired by Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh. The meeting was attended by the members of the SBC, officers of the departments concerned, representatives of DIPA and COAI (List enclosed as Annexure- A).

Addl. DGT, HP LSA welcomed the Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, members of the State Broadband Committee and all the participants. Addl. DGT HP LSA appraised the SBC about National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0, which has been launched w.e.f. 01.04.2025. The NBM2.0 vision, its objectives and KPIs of the Annual Implementation Plan were also presented.

Chairman, SBC stressed the importance of telecommunications in the development of Himachal Pradesh and desired that various stakeholders should make dedicated efforts to complete the activities envisaged in NBM2.0.

HP LSA, DoT made a presentation covering the status of Central Government funded telecom projects and other telecom related issues in Himachal Pradesh. The presentation is attached as Annexure-B. The deliberations on the agenda points, issues and action points are summarised as under:

2. GIS mapping of Street Furniture:

The pendency in GIS mapping of Street Furniture was discussed in detail. Identified street furniture is (i) Electric Poles, (ii) Traffic Light Poles, (iii) Bus Terminals & Bus Shelters (iv) Government Buildings (v) Street Lights. The Director (Industries), Himachal Pradesh, is the nodal officer for GIS mapping in HP. So far 6.39 Lakhs Electric poles, 62 Bus Terminals, 25 Traffic lights and 352 Govt. Buildings in HP have been mapped:

| Total Traffic Lights | Traffic Light 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 |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------------|
| 30 | 25 | In process | 352 | 62 | 62 | Information awaited from respective Deptts | | 647410 | 639974 | Information awaited from respective Deptts | |

The details and mapping of Government Buildings, Bus Terminals, and Street Lights are still pending. Chairman, SBC stressed that only 352 Govt. Buildings have been mapped; however, the number of Govt. Buildings are in Lakhs in HP and directed DDTG to facilitate in expediting the mapping. DDTG, GoHP informed that mapping of Govt. buildings, like in attendance in schools and Anganwadi's, is in process and has a plan to develop an application under the MIS Cell, and the required data may be shared with the state and centre Portal for GIS mapping. The Chairman, SBC, instructed to complete the mapping at the earliest possible.

Action By: Director (Industries), DDTG

3. Right of Way issues, status of pendency:

3.1 HP LSA, DoT informed that, at the time of the 5th SBC meeting, around 342 cases were in the process of disposal and presently, around 21 cases are in process for disposal, on which TSPs/ IPs were requested to expedite the resolution of long pending/reverted cases in coordination with the stakeholders.

3.2 Himachal Pradesh Government notified the Implementation of RoW Rules, 2024 on 17.02.2025, applicable w.e.f. 01.01.2025, initially for a period of one year. HP LSA, DoT requested the State Government for the removal of the time-restriction of one year in the RoW policy. In this regard, Chairman, SBC directed DDTG, GoHP to process the matter at the earliest.

Action By: DDTG

4. Common Duct and Infra Sharing Policy:

HP LSA, DoT informed that the Common Duct and Infra Sharing Policy has not been notified in HP till date. Chairman, SBC enquired about the present status, to which Secretary PWD, GoHP, informed that an internal committee has been formed and the policy is expected to be finalised soon.

Action By: HPPWD

5. Uses of the Call Before U Dig (CBuD) App in HP:

5.1 HP LSA, DoT informed that, Training/ Workshops on awareness of CBuD App usage are conducted time to time, and so far 30 Training/ Workshops have been organised. At present, 485 asset owners of various departments have been registered on the CBuD App, and 371 enquiries on the CBuD App have been generated in HP so far.

5.2 GoHP and its various departments have already notified and mandated the use of the CBuD App. However, adoption of the CBuD App at the field level is not encouraging. Therefore,

stronger enforcement mechanisms are required by the HP State to sensitise executing agencies, field functionaries, contractors and JCB owners for effective use of the CBuD App.

- 5.3 DDTG informed that HPPWD and Jal Shakti Vibhag were requested to provide a list of registered class-I contractors, and the Transport Department was requested to issue necessary instructions to ensure registration of machinery owners on the CBuD App. However, response is awaited from these departments.
- 5.4 DDTG requested HP LSA, DoT to share the instances where unauthorised excavation was reported on the CBuD App for further investigations and taking up the matter with the concerned department. HPPWD informed that CBuD enquiries generated are much more than reflected in the presentation. Therefore, the same are to be rechecked and ensured that the enquiries generated are correctly reflected in the system.
- 5.5 Chairman, SBC, directed for use of CBuD App by all departments and ensure to mandatorily include a CBuD App use related clause in the Tenders.

Action By: All the Departments GoHP, DDTG, HPLSA-DoT, TSPs/IPs

6. Status of Amended BharatNet Program (ABP):

BSNL HP informed that 252 Gram Panchayats in HP, including 6 BHQs, have been covered on OFC under BharatNet Phase-I. In addition, 158 Gram Panchayats in HP are covered on VSAT under BharatNet Phase-II. Broadband connectivity has been planned for all 3615 Gram Panchayats of HP. OFC proposed to be laid is 20,000 KM(Approx). All the Gram Panchayats are proposed to be connected on a ring topology.

Support required from State Government Departments for the implementation of ABP:

- 6.1 BSNL requested early notification by HPSEBL for permission to lay optical fibre cable on LT/HT poles of HPSEBL free of cost as per Clause 6.3 of the MoU (ABP) and Telecommunication ROW Rules 2024 for Special Projects. DDTG informed that reference has already been given to HPSEBL in this regard, however Policy decision from HPSEBL is awaited. Chairman SBC directed DDTG to take-up the matter with Secretary, Power for early resolution and mark a copy of the correspondence to his office.

Action By: DDTG

- 6.2 Chairman, SBC, asked about the practice adopted for OFC laying from a disaster point of view. GM BharatNet BSNL informed that most of the OFC is planned as ADSS (overhead). Chairman, SBC, enquired which is a more stable implementation method from a disaster point of view – underground or overhead? DDTG suggested that disaster-prone areas need to be taken care of by BSNL while planning the implementation strategy and more stable

implementation methodology be adopted. Chairman, SBC desired that a working group be formed comprising SDMA, DDTG, BSNL, DOT and other stakeholders for suggesting the same.

Action By: BSNL, DDTG, SDMA

6.3 Further, BSNL informed that BharatNet has been incorporated as a special project in the State ROW Portal & deemed approval is being obtained through the portal as per RoW 2024 rules. However, the field units of HPPWD & HPSEBL are stressing on getting the instructions issued from their respective Head Offices. Chairman, SBC, directed HPPWD & HPSEBL to issue suitable instructions to field offices in this regard.

Action By: HPPWD, HPSEBL

6.4 Identification & recommendation for around 498 alternate buildings, where the GP building is not available, needs to be expedited by the state authorities for the installation of BharatNet Equipment. It was decided that the rented/ alternate buildings from which GP is functioning at these locations shall be used for the installation of ABP equipment in such cases and the respective SDM shall be competent to decide about the location of equipment in such cases.

Action By: DDTG, Panchayati Raj Dept.

6.5 Chairman, SBC, directed to expedite actions required for implementation of the Amended BharatNet Program. BSNL shall update the status related to the ABP on a monthly basis to ensure continued monitoring/steering of the project and apprise the Chairman, SBC and convene further meetings of SBC, if required, for reviewing the progress.

Action By: BSNL

6.6 District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) shall regularly conduct its meeting and review and resolve the issues in the implementation of the Amended BharatNet Program, along with other telecom related issues and progress of CBuD App use in the district.

Action By: DDTG

7. 4G Saturation Project/ DBN funded mobile projects in HP:

7.1 HP LSA informed that 485 sites have been commissioned out of 643 4G saturation sites (CAT-I to CAT-IV) in HP by BSNL, and 37 sites have been commissioned out of 38 sites under the 354 uncovered village scheme by RJIL.

7.2 Work could not be started at 7 sites by BSNL and 1 site by M/s RJIL due to accessibility issues at these sites. These sites are remotely located, and transportation of tower material and equipment is not workable as per inputs from BSNL/ RJIL. Support has been sought from the State Government on transportation and road accessibility issues.

7.3 Chairman, SBC opined that a solution has to be explored by BSNL/RJIL/ DoT for resolving the issues so that remote and underserved villages/ sites of HP are provided with mobile connectivity. However, all these 8 sites are to be covered under 4G Saturation project, without fail.

Action By: BSNL, RJIL, DoT, DDTG

8. Issues raised by DIPA/ COAI:

8.1 DIPA raised the issue regarding the Regularisation of Existing Telecom Infrastructure and requested to make provision for the Regularisation of Existing Telecom Infrastructure on the RoW portal, and suggested that:

- HP RoW Policy 2023 (Notification No. DIT-F/21/2021-(e 34214), Chapter 5, Clause 12) may be considered as precedent, which provided for the regularisation of existing telecom infrastructure.
- Enable portal functionality to allow regularisation and bring all towers on record.
- Align with RoW Rules 2024 for streamlined documentation (Building details, Owner Agreement/MoU, Structure Safety certification).

Chairman SBC directed to create a working group under the chairmanship of Secretary (DTG) with the Department of Urban Development and DIPA to prepare a framework in this regard.

Action By: DDTG

8.2 DIPA requested DDTG to develop a system for the issuance of an acknowledgement after submission of the Application for establishing mobile infrastructure on private property, as is being done in other states like Madhya Pradesh. DIPA further informed that 18 RoW cases of M/s Indus Towers on Private Property have been rejected and requested to update the RoW flow as per the RoW 2024 Rules at the earliest. Chairman SBC instructed DDTG to look into to matter.

Action By: DDTG

8.3 DIPA requested to expedite the rollout of smart/prepaid meters across all telecom sites for accurate billing and energy management. Chairman SBC asked DIPA for coordination with the Department of Power, GoHP, for expediting the rollout of smart meters.

Action By: Energy Dpt., HPSEBL, DIPA

8.4 COAI requested for waiver of restoration charges for routes damaged by floods/Landslides/ heavy rains. The Secretary, HP PWD assured to examine the case of waiver of restoration charges for re-laying OFC in the roads which are damaged by floods/Landslides/ heavy rains.

Action By: HPPWD, COAI.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Director (DDT&G) with a request to all the stakeholders to provide all necessary support to the telecom service providers for the speedy roll-out of planned telecom services in the State.

Approved vide NN- 490
Chief Secretary to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst no. SITE-F05(6)/2/2019-IT SECTION-GoHP-Part(3) e-24169 Dated :

Copy to all participants for information and necessary action.



Director DDTG
Himachal Pradesh

Annexure- A**List of participants of 6th SBC meeting**

1. Sh. Abhishek Jain, Secretary (PWD) to the GoHP
2. Smt. Rakhil Kahlon, Secretary DDTG to the GoHP
3. Sh. Vijay Kumar, Spl. Secretary (Forest) to the GoHP
4. Dr. Nipun Jindal, Director (DDTG)
5. Sh. Neeraj Kumar, Director (Urban Development)
6. Sh. Rajiv Sharma, Addl. Director (DDTG)
7. Sh. Narender Kumar, Deputy Director (DDTG)
8. Er. Deva Nand, SE(D-III), HPPWD
9. Er. Ajay Thakur, SE(IT), HPSEBL
10. Er. Vimal Kumar, Sr. XEN(E), O/XE(MM), HPSEBL
11. Sh. Lalit Chauhan, T.C. (DDTG)
12. Sh. Anil Kumar Gupta, Addl DG, HP LSA, DoT
13. Sh. Charan Singh, CGM, BSNL
14. Sh. Santosh Kumar Singh, DDG (C/R), HP LSA, DoT
15. Sh. Sandeep Arya, DDG (S&DI), HP LSA, DoT
16. Sh. Rajan Kamboj, PGM(EB), BSNL
17. Sh. Sheel P. Gautam, GM (BharatNet), BSNL
18. Sh. Rajender Kumar, Director (C), HP LSA, DoT
19. Sh. Ravi Chhawal, Director (Security), HP LSA, DoT
20. Sh. Chandra Bhan Yadav, Director (Rural), HP LSA, DoT
21. Sh. Rohtash Kumar, DGM(CM), BSNL
22. Sh. Niraj Bhatoo, Asst. DG (C), HP LSA, DoT
23. Sh. Sanjay Kashyap, AGM(BharatNet), BSNL
24. Sh. Gurinderjit Singh, Assistant Director (Rural), HP LSA, DoT
25. Sh. Sunil K. Bansal, SDE(EB), BSNL
26. Sh. Greesh Kumar, GM DIPA (through VC)
27. Sh. Dhananjay Gawande, Director, COAI (through VC)