

Proceedings of the 8th State Broadband Committee meeting held under the chairpersonship of Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, on 20th December, 2025 at room no.320, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru:

Members Present: Annexure-1

Mr. Brahmaiah, Director, DOT, extended a warm welcome to Chair and all participants present in the 8th State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting. He mentioned that the objective of the meeting was to review the progress of key telecom infrastructure projects, address inter-departmental coordination issues, and deliberate on ROW Policy and implementation challenges impacting broadband expansion in the State. The agenda of the meeting was taken up as detailed below:

1. 4G Saturation Project :

The 4G Saturation Project is a Government of India initiative funded under the Digital Bharat Nidhi scheme to provide 4G connectivity in uncovered villages. The project execution is being carried out by BSNL, with the objective of ensuring universal mobile broadband coverage across rural and remote areas of Karnataka.

As on 18-12-2025, around 37 nos. forest land cases remain pending at various stages of approval under the 4G Saturation Project.

Decision Taken:

- DOT to give a detailed list of all villages where 4G network is not available.
- BSNL to complete the balance installation of 73 sites by end on January 2026.
- KSRSAC to coordinate with DOT/BSNL and take action to upload the data on their platform so that villages covered and yet to be covered are clearly identified.
- 37 nos. forest land cases remain pending at various stages of approval shall be cleared by 30.1.26.

2. Permission to be given for Tower installation :

As on 18-12-2025, it was noted that a total of 596 RoW(old) cases were pending for approval. 132 pertain to esrtwhile BBMP area Chief Commissioner, GBA mentioned that all are above 60 days and will be accorded deemed approval. It was highlighted that BBMP is not currently accepting OFC applications through the RoW portal, contributing significantly to pendency.

Decision Taken:

Chief Commissioner, GBA to take necessary action in view of deemed approval. It was also suggested to integrate the GBA portal with Gatishakti Portal through APIs, so that the applicants are aware of the submissions.

Secretary, Urban Development to complete the onboarding process of Gatishakti Portal and Go-Live in 15 days.

3. Status of migration to Gatishakti Portal :

Status of onboarding of Centralized RoW Portal – GatiShakti Sanchar for implementing the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 by the line Departments namely RDPR, DMA, ESCOMs and PWD was reviewed as given below. Secretary , E, IT,Bt and S&T highlighted that the below mentioned status was reviewed on 17th December,2025:

Department	Status
RDPR	The portal was made live on 18.06.2025, but it is not being implemented by the PDOs at the ground level as State Government orders are awaited
DMA / UDD	Go-Live confirmation pending (UAT completed on 27.11.2025, official sign off pending)
Greater Bengaluru Authority (formerly BBMP)	RoW 2024 Rules yet to be incorporated
ENERGY (ESCOMs)	Consolidated UAT (User Acceptance Testing) feedback from ESCOMs and Payment integration pending
PWD	Payment integration and UAT sign-off pending
Transport	Yet to provide confirmation on the status

- Director, RDPR mentioned that the file was moved to issue Orders for implementation of ROW Rules 2024 through Gatishakti Portal and is under process.
- MD,BESCOM mentioned that UAT has been completed by BESCOM and the other ESCOMs will be completing in 3-4 days. He informed that EDCS has to share the APIs.
- Deputy Secretary, PWD mentioned that the UAT was completed on 26/06/2025 and the file is in FD awaiting approval for opening of new bank account or enabling the payment through K2 application.
- Secretary, Department of E, IT, Bt and S&T highlighted that ROW permissions do not come under the purview of Transport Department as reviewed in the meeting held on 17th December, 2025, and it has been suggested to the Department to give a formal endorsement in this regard.

Decision Taken:

- RDPR to issue the necessary orders within 1 week and instruct the PDOs to implement ROW Rules, 2024.
- DMA to complete training for the balance 65 ULBs and issue enabling orders to Go-live on Gatishakti Portal so that all ULBs will be able to implement the ROW Rules, 2024.
- Chief Commissioner, GBA to provide API integration from their Application to the Gatishakti Portal.
- ESCOMs to coordinate with EDCS/CeG to complete the UAT process and complete the onboarding in next 15 days.
- PWD to follow up with Finance Department for necessary approvals and complete the process in 15 days.
- Transport Department to send a formal communication on their decision regarding ROW permissions within 7 days.

4. Street Furniture Data Updation:

The status of street furniture data updation as on 18-12-2025 was reviewed. Several departments are yet to submit details of traffic lights, Government buildings, electric poles, and street lights in the prescribed format.

Decision Taken:

- GBA, RDPR and DMA to provide the required data to CeG immediately. Police Department also to furnish the data with respect to traffic poles.
- Dr. Rajesh, Director, KSRSAC to issue one more D.O letter to the concerned Departments on the above issue and to ensure compliance.

5. Call Before You Dig (CBuD):

- Government of India in co-ordination with DoT under Ministry Of Communication has Developed a mobile Application "CBuD" (Call Before u Dig). CBuD app provides an interface and communication platform between Excavation/Digging agencies and Utility Asset Owners. Digging Agencies are directed to timely intimate all proposed excavation/digging activities, through CBuD App, so that the utility assets like Optical Fiber Cables, Water, Pipelines, Electric Cables, Gas Pipelines etc., can be safe guarded from damage.
- District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) are already constituted in Karnataka and may utilize the dashboard details available at "cbud.gov.in" to review the CBuD App usage in the district. The Committee may also review if guidelines are being followed in the district. Organization of awareness program for its mandated usage by all excavators and asset owners may be ensured by the Committee.

- Chief Commissioner, GBA informed the Committee that currently MARS application is being used by GBA for the above mentioned purpose, which has stakeholders such as BESCOM, BWSSB, GAIL etc. However, Telecom Operators are not included.

Decision Taken:

- GBA to onboard the Telecom Operators on MARS application used by GBA and provide them the login credentials. Official communication to be issued to all stakeholders.
- UDD and GBA to give their calendar of events and issue ultimatum to ensure that the roads are not dug again by the Telecom Service Providers including the Police Department related works.
- "CBuD" SOP to be shared with all Districts for strict enforcement at the district level, to ensure that the newly built roads are not dug up by any agency. Awareness programs for its mandated usage by all excavators and asset owners may be ensured by the District level Committee. District level Committee to spearhead the implementation of CBuD at the district level.
- Line departments to include mandatory use of CBuD (MARS by GBA) in their Work Orders given to contractors/agencies.
- CeG to coordinate with all line Departments like Water Resources, Energy, PWD, DMA etc to onboard them to CBuD within 1 month and mandatorily use the App.

6. Amended BharatNet Phase III (Planned) :

- DOT representatives mentioned that an agreement between Digital Bharat Nidhi and BSNL was signed on 09-04-2025 for utilizing BharatNet infrastructure to provide rural FTTH connections under the Amended BharatNet Program. State support is required for expeditious RoW permissions classifying the initiative as a Special Project.
- The Chair mentioned that it is an excellent opportunity to make use of connectivity not only for Health Department but applicable to all the Departments including police department to utilise the connectivity for implementing e-office even at GP level.

Decision Taken:

- RDPR and DMA to leverage the BharatNet infrastructure and implement e-governance initiatives at the GPs and Municipalities respectively.
- DOT to write to the Departments with a list of villages/locations for where ever ROW permissions are required , with a copy to the Chair.
- Dr.Rajesh, Director, KSRSAC, to collate the works that have started from DOT and inform the concerned Departments, to give ROW clearance.

7. Samriddhi Gram Panchayat Project :

- The Samriddhi Gram Panchayat project aims to develop one digitally connected model Gram Panchayat in each block. For Karnataka, 205 blocks have been identified. The formation of Gram Panchayat Digital Access Committees (DACs) is essential for awareness generation and uptake of FTTH connections.
- States are requested to notify a "Gram Panchayat Digital Access Committee" (DAC) for each Samriddhi Gram Panchayat for building awareness about benefits of high-speed broadband access (FTTH) among rural communities, public & private institutions, etc.
- Although DAC approval letters have been issued by RDPR vide letter dated 14.08.2025 for the formation of DAC committees in each GP, PDOs are requesting further communication from District Commissioner for implementation and hence till date only 6 DACs are formed.

Decision Taken:

- Secretary, Panchayat Raj to communicate to Deputy Commissioners on the implementation of the above project and also issue a showcase notice to PDOs who are not following/delaying the instruction given by the RDPR Department vide letter dated 14.08.2025 and waiting for further directions from Deputy Commissioners.

8. Implementation KSWAN Project:

- Principal Secretary, Health Department informed that Digital Health implementation is being done at Community Health Centres/Primary Health Centres. KSWAN network is extended to these institutions and requested for KSWAN network extension inside the building so that the Department need not identify Service Providers for this extension.
- CEO, CeG informed that extension inside the building will be checked and confirmed.

Decision Taken:

- CEO, CeG and Director KSRSAC were instructed to map all the Government assets at Taluk and GP level and extend e-office service. In case there is a requirement of additional connectivity, it was suggested to borrow bandwidth from DOT network.
- CeG to circulate the list of offices to be included under KSWAN 3.0 and take confirmation from the Departments. Director KSRSAC to also map the list of Departments to be included under KSWAN 3.0
- In case, the demand is more than the tariffs from private service providers have to be discovered by CeG at GP level and handhold the Departments.

9. Issues raised by COAI :

- Mr.Dhananjay from COAI stated that getting ROW permission for OFC has become challenging for new & existing ducts and also Telecom Service providers/Telecom Infrastructure providers are facing issue with permission in deploying the aerial cables in the existing Poles of BESCOMs.
- For Under Ground cables permission in Dharwad district, they are charging high rates at Rs.3000 per meter and hence requested to rationalize the charges.
- The Chair mentioned that monetizing the existing poles for laying the aerial cables is a good proposition. The State has to come up with a model for levying charges and monetizing the poles. Permissions have to be given by the respective agencies which will save time, cost and energy. Monitoring mechanism has to be put in place.
- MD,BESCOM mentioned that price has been fixed and a circular has already been issued to this effect. However, this is not being implemented at the field level.

Decision Taken:

- Secretary, UDD to coordinate with Dharwad district and sort out the issue with respect to the high rates prescribed.
- Managing Director, BESCOM to instruct the field offices and clear the pending cases within 15 days.
- COAI to submit a list of pending cases to the Departments with a copy to the Chair

10. Issues raised by DIPA :

- Mr.Raman Srivatsav, DIPA stated that the GP level Officers are insisting for NOCs to install Towers in private properties where as it is only by intimation to the landlords under the ROW Rules, 2024. He requested that NOCs should not be insisted by the GP level Officers.
- Secretary, PR suggested to share the list of GPs where they are seeking NOCs .

Decision Taken:

- DIPA to share the list of GPs requesting for NOCs to Secretary-PR for further action.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair and all members present.



[Dr.Shalini Rajneesh]
Chief Secretary,
Government of Karnataka

ANNEXURE-1

Name and Designation	Mode
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Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, IAS, Chief Secretary to Government	Chairperson
Sri. M. Maheshwar Rao, IAS , Chief Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA)	Virtual
Sri. Rajinder Kumar Kataria, IAS, Prinicipal Secretray, Revenue	Virtual
Sri. Harsh Gupta, IAS Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare	Virtual
Dr. N . Manjula, Secretary to Government, Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T	Virtual
Smt. Deepa Cholan, IAS, Secretary, UDD	Physical
Shri. Randeep D, IAS Secretary, PR	Virtual
Dr. N. V. PRASAD, I.A.S, Secretary, Transport Department	Virtual
Dr. Ravishankar J, IAS, MD - BMRCL	Virtual
Dr. N. Shivashankara , IAS, MD BESCO	Virtual
Sri. Jayakumar R, MD, MESCOM	Virtual
Sri Rahul Sharanappa Sankanur, IAS, Director, Directorate of Electronics, IT and BT	Physical
Shri. Boobalan. T., IAS, CEO, CeG Karnataka	Virtual
Sri. Prasanth Kumar, AS, Energy Department	Physical
Sri. Prasanna Kumar, KAS, Join Director, DMA	Physical
Dr. Rajesh N.L., Director, KSRSAC	Virtual
Commissionerate Health and Family Welfare Services	Virtual
CESC, Mysore	Virtual
Sri. G. Brahmaiah , Director (Rural), DOT	Physical
Smt. Champa. E, Deputy Director, DIT	Physical
Director eGov RDPR	Virtual
Smt. Surekha, AE, DMA	Physical
Sri. Ashok Y shifali, AGM, BSNL	Physical
Sri. A S Ranjith Kumar, Deputy chief engineer, PWD	Physical
Smt. Pavithra , Deputy Secretary, PWD	Physical
Mr. Sujeet kumar, PGM, BSNL	Physical
Mr. Raveendra Y R, DMD, KMDS	Physical
Mr. Shivanna, DOT	Physical
Mr. Prabhakar MDN, JIO	Physical
Mr. C K Sreenath GM (IT), BESCO	Physical
Ms. N Sujatha, CGM, BSNL	Physical
Mr. B S Nagan, GM, BSNL	Physical
Mr. Narayan, Polyeeb	Physical
Mr. G K Sutar, DDG, DOT	Physical
IT-Section, MESCOM	Virtual
PCCF(FC) Kamataka	Virtual
Mr. Rajkumar, Indus Tower	Virtual
Mr. Raman Srivastava , DIPA	Virtual
Mr. Shivakumar. B, under secretary	Virtual
DCF Haliyal	Virtual
DCF Belgavi	Virtual
DY DCF Yellapur	Virtual
Deputy Secretary-IDD	Virtual
Director eGov RDPR	Virtual

PCCF- karnataka	Virtual
CESC Mysore CM gmailcom	Virtual
DCF, Karnataka	Virtual
Mr.Deepak, KITS	Physical
AEE- AJIT	Virtual
CCE-KSRTC	Virtual
Mr.Dhananjay, COAI	Virtual
Commissioner-Ayush	Virtual