

**Department of Telecommunications,  
Office of DDG (SC), Arunachal Pradesh  
BSNL Satellite and Microwave Station,  
Above AIR Colony, C-Sector, Itanagar-791111**

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**Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> SBC meeting, Arunachal Pradesh**

(held on 09.07.2024)


The 8<sup>th</sup> State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting of Arunachal Pradesh was held under the chairmanship of the Ld. Chief Secretary at AP Civil Secretariat, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh on 09.07.2024. All SBC members from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh were present in the meeting. Shri Nandlal Suchdev, DDG (Compliance), Additional DGT (Looking after), DOT, NE LSA also participated in the meeting online.

Representatives of M/s BHL, BSNL, BBNL, and RJIL were physically present in the meeting, while representatives of COAI and DIPA attended the meeting online. At the outset DDG (SC), DoT welcomed all and with permission from the chair made a presentation covering telecom related issues in the State.

Salient points discussed and decisions taken during SBC meeting are as follows:

**1. Status of telecom infrastructure and services in the state of Arunachal Pradesh:**

DDG(SC), Arunachal Pradesh provided a brief on the telecom status in the State, mentioning that out of total 6123 villages in the State, 3955 villages were covered with telecom services and still 2168 villages were uncovered as on 31.05.2024. Telecom service Providers (TSPs) reported addition of 307 BTSs and 104 towers from January 2024 to April 2024. And out of total 5194 BTSs installed in the State only 41.63% of BTSs have backhaul connectivity on fiber. The Ld. Chief Secretary expressed displeasure regarding the percentage of fiberisation and the number of towers installed from January 2024 to April 2024. All TSPs were instructed to expand the OFC network to connect more BTSs on fiber and install more BTSs to improve connectivity and broadband speed. **(Action by all TSPs)**

 22/07/2024

2. **USO funded 4G Saturation project executed by BSNL:** The status of the 4G saturation project was presented for discussion. 425 towers have been erected out of planned 845 towers as on 30.06.2024, but none of the towers is radiating due to non-availability of BTS equipment. On query from the Ld. Chief Secretary, the Assistant General Manager (AGM) of BSNL submitted that the BTS equipment deliveries will commence from July 2024 onwards, with a target set for commissioning of all CAT-I sites by December 2024. The Ld. Chief Secretary instructed BSNL to submit a monthly plan for commissioning of BTSs and requested Secretary(IT) to monitor the progress on monthly basis. **(Action by BSNL)**

BSNL mentioned that there are about 131 sites for which payment has been made for electric connections but connections have not been provided so far. The Ld. Chief Secretary requested the Commissioner of Power to issue a demand note for the electricity connection for which BSNL has applied, and to provide the connection for which payment has already been made by BSNL. **(Action by Power Department)**

Regarding electric connections costing more than Rs. 2 lakhs, Commissioner, Power informed that Ministry of Power, Govt. of India provides support for electric connection up to the village and it is responsibility of BSNL, like any other consumer, to bear the cost of connection up to their sites. He also stated that a letter has already been written to BSNL and DoT in this regard. He was requested to provide a copy of the same. **(Action by Power Department and BSNL)**

BSNL also requested the State govt. to write to DoT to allow to commission sites on solar power only at places where electricity connection is not available. The Ld. Chief Secretary mentioned that the sites can be made operational on solar power so that services are available at least for a few hours in a day and it is up to DoT to decide if they can consider a site commissioned if it is working on single source of power.

Regarding non-receipt of clearances from Forest department for 5 sites for which BSNL has made payment, Ld. Chief Secretary requested Secretary(IT) to look into the issue and get it resolved. **(Action by Secretary(IT))**



3. **USO funded 4G USOF 1683 project executed by M/s BHL:** The status of the USOF project being executed by M/s BHL was presented for discussion. Representative of BHL submitted that as on 30.06.2024, 435 towers have been erected out of planned 531 towers and 362 BTSs have been commissioned. He also mentioned that BHL would be able to commission all planned sites by 30.09.2024 except for the 53 inaccessible sites and 2 sites for which forest/wildlife clearances are pending. The Ld. Chief Secretary expressed displeasure on the fact M/s BHL has been continuously reducing number of planned sites leaving large number of villages uncovered from the original 1683 villages. Regarding the inaccessible sites, Ld. Chief Secretary mentioned that BHL must have been aware of the terrain of the States and villages before submitting the bid for USOF 1683 project and access must have improved only since then. Now not covering villages citing access issues is not acceptable.

BHL representative also informed that they have found existing coverage in large number of villages and submitted details to USOF, DoT with request to drop them from their scope of work. DDG(SC), DoT informed that USOF, DoT is examining request from BHL for taking a decision on that. Ld. Chief Secretary requested Secretary(IT) to explore the possibility of getting the coverage checked in all such villages through a third party. **(Action by Secretary(IT))**

Ld. Chief Secretary instructed M/s BHL to submit a monthly plan for the commissioning of pending sites so that same may be monitored. **(Action by M/s BHL)**

4. **Amended BharatNet Program:** Status of Phase-I and Phase -II of BharatNet program was presented. Senior General Manager (Sr GM), BBNL submitted that the Amended BharatNet Program aims to connect 411 Gram Panchayats (GPs) on fiber in Ring configuration and 733 GPs on linear fiber. This initiative includes providing Optical Fiber connectivity to GPs that were already commissioned under Phase-I and GPs commissioned under VAST in Phase II. The Ld. Chief Secretary enquired about the status of commissioning for this project. Senior General Manager (Sr GM), BBNL informed that at present the Amended BharatNet Program is at design stage and the

tender is yet to be finalized. He also requested State Government to verify list of GPs in the State as there is possibility that their numbers may be more than 1797 being considered at present. Secretary(IT) was requested by Ld. Chief Secretary to coordinate for the same. Secretary (IT) informed that the GP details have been received from 16 Districts and they are coordinating with District Administrations to receive the remaining GP details of 11 Districts. **(Action by Secretary(IT))**

5. **Redeployment of BBNL VSATs as requested by Indian Army:** The Indian Army requested the Ld. Chief Secretary for assistance in establishing welfare communication for troops deployed along the Line of Actual Control, along with suggestion that VSATs which are lying unused under BharatNet program may be diverted to Indian Army sites. Ld. Chief Secretary observed that VSATs which are not under use due to availability of 4G coverage at the site may be diverted to Indian Army for optimal utilization of VSAT equipment. The Ld. Chief Secretary asked the Indian Army to share the complete list of their locations with the Secretary (IT&C). The Secretary (IT&C), Government of Arunachal Pradesh, will prepare the diversion list and write to BBNL or USOF, DoT for the diversion. **(Action by Indian Army and Secretary(IT))**
6. **Broadband speed to be enhanced to 50 Mbps (National Broadband Mission Target):** It was noted that the broadband speeds measured by TRAI for all TSPs falls significantly below the National Broadband Mission target and hence all Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) were asked to improve their backhaul connectivity by putting more and more BTSs on Fibre as well as commission additional BTSs. It was observed that process to get Right of Way permissions has been simplified and the same are being promptly granted by the district administrations in the State. **(Action by all TSPs)**
7. **Assessment of Digital Communication Readiness Index (DCRI) of the state:** DDG(SC) mentioned that ERU unit of the Department of Telecom is expecting some details from the State after review meeting held on 31.05.2024. Secretary (IT) mentioned that the details will be provided to ERU, DoT within a week. **(Action by Secretary(IT))**

 22/07/2024



8. **Constitution of District Level Telecom Coordination Committees and holding their meetings:** Secretary (IT&C) clarified that the committees at the district level are already established and are named as District Level Telecom Monitoring Committee (DLMC). On request from DDG(SC), the Ld. Chief Secretary requested Secretary(IT) to issue necessary instructions to all District Administrations to hold DLMC meetings quarterly and keep CBuD as one of the agendas in the meeting. **(Action by Secretary(IT) and Deputy Commissioners)**
9. **Creation of District level nodal officers for CBuD and effective utilization of CBuD app by different departments/utility agencies:** Secretary (IT&C) has informed that user accounts have already been created for all utility departments at the State level, and instructions have been issued for their creation at the district level as well. DDG(SC), DoT requested early completion of the same. DDG(SC), DoT also requested that State Govt. departments and district administrations may be instructed to direct their contractors while awarding the work to use the CBuD app before commencing any digging activities. **(Action by Secretary(IT) and District Administrations)**
10. **Creation of awareness amongst the citizens about 'Sanchar Saathi' portal of DoT:** DDG(SC), DoT informed about Sanchar Saathi portal (<https://sancharsaathi.gov.in>) launched by DoT and explained about various facilities available on it like reporting about lost/stolen mobile, fraud calls/messages, incoming international call from local number, and knowing about number of connections working, mobile device validity and Internet Service Providers etc. The State Government was requested to give wide publicity among the citizens about the portal. **(Action by Secretary(IT))**
11. **FTTH connections under BharatNet program for all Government Institutions and Special Assistance for Last mile connectivity:** DDG(SC), DoT requested Secretary(IT) to issue suitable instructions to their concerned Departments and District officers in the State/UT and to sensitize them for applying FTTH connections under BharatNet program for all Government Institutions such as School, Anganwadi, Police Station, Health Centre, Panchayat Office, etc. in GPs/villages since

provisioning of FTTH connections in Government Institutions will help towards delivery of social services through e- governance. It was also mentioned that budgetary provision has been given to the State under the Scheme of Special Assistance to States for Capital investment for Last Mile connections to Government Institutions using FTTH connections. On query from Ld. Chief Secretary, Secretary(IT) mentioned that FTTH connections can be provided in one month time wherever BharatNet fiber is available and working. **(Action by Secretary(IT) and BSNL)**

**12. Incorporation/mapping of important data layers in PM GatiShakti State**

**Master Plan Portal:** Progress was observed in incorporating of data layers and updation of data in PM Gatishakti Portal. The Ld. Chief Secretary instructed the remaining departments to take necessary actions for incorporation and updation of data in the Portal. It was informed that there are no land revenue records in Arunachal Pradesh. **(Action by Secretary(IT) and State Government Departments)**

**13. Adoption of Ministry of Power's advisory through order no 23/1/2023-R&R dated 24.05.2023 on implementation of composite billing scheme for multiple connections:**

The Commissioner of the Power Department confirmed that the software is now ready. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Internet Service Providers (ISPs), and Internet Protocol Service Providers (IPs) can now submit requests for composite billing. **(Action by TSPs, ISPs and IPs)**

**14. Adoption of Ministry of Power Gazette Notification no. CG-DL-E-24052023-246016 dated 23.05.2023 allowing load aggregation for availing Green Open Access Energy:**

The Commissioner, Power informed that the required Gazette notification has been issued by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

**15. To identify 5G use case projects in suitable area/sector which can be implemented across the state:**

DDG(SC), DoT explained advantages and benefits of 5G technology and efforts being made by DoT to facilitate and support use case projects. The State government was also requested to support 5G use case projects.



The 5G Labs available at Pasighat and NIT, Jote (currently being commissioned) can be utilized for testing and development. Ld. Chief Secretary instructed all Departments to identify use cases for implementation. **(Action by State Govt. Departments)**

**16. Speedy clearances of RoW applications through GatiShakti Sanchar Portal:**

Speedy clearances of RoW applications through GatiShakti Sanchar Portal were appreciated by all. DDG(SC), DoT requested for incorporation of amendments dated 17.08.2022 and 08.08.2023 of IT RoW Rules, 2016 in the State RoW rules. Secretary(IT) agreed to take action for the same. **(Action by Secretary(IT))**

**17. Advisory to state government for incorporating the Generic Requirements (GRs) and Interface Requirements (IRs) for telecom products in the procurement policy:**

DDG(SC), DoT informed about Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecom Equipment (MTCTE) for the notified equipment's such as routers, LAN switches, IoT gateways, smart electricity meters, Wi-Fi Access CPEs etc. among IT department, autonomous bodies, attached offices of States/UTs prior to procurement and deployment as mandated by Indian Telegraph Act(Amendment) Rules, 2017. He also requested to refer Telecom Engineering Centre of Department of Telecommunications standards on Generic Requirements(GRs) and Interface Requirements(IRs) for telecom products and incorporate them in procurement policy. State Government officers mentioned that all necessary precautions are taken by their departments while procurement.

**18. Preparation of calendar of major events of the state which may require special attention for maintenance of telecom quality of service:**

Ld. Chief Secretary instructed all departments to continue to provide event details to the Department of Telecom (DoT) in advance for taking necessary actions to maintain the quality of service by all Telecom Service Providers. **(Action by State Govt. Departments)**

**19. Gainful utilization of Govt. land, building for commissioning of new telecom towers:**

The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has been making every

effort to allocate land for all towers proposed in the 4G saturation Project and will continue the same.

20. **Speedy provisioning of power connections to new telecom towers:** The Commissioner, Power mentioned that the Department of Power is always committed to provide power connections to telecom towers on priority and to ensure regular supply to the sites.

21. **Concerns of Telecom Industry (COAI, DIPA, ISPAI and TSPs):** COAI appreciated the State's efforts in promptly clearing RoW applications. DIPA submitted that the charges for laying overhead Optical Fiber (OF) cables are not subsidized by the state, unlike in many other states. Secretary (IT&C) responded that currently, these charges are NIL. DIPA also requested the state to implement all points for DCRI, as many states have raised complaints regarding them.

22. Addl. DGT (looking after), NE LSA, DoT appreciated fast clearance of RoW requests and allotment of land for USOF 4G saturation project. He also promised continuation of active coordination with all stake holders by DoT's State Coordination unit in Arunachal Pradesh.

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(Dharmendra, IAS)  
Chief Secretary-cum-Chairman  
State Broadband Committee,  
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh

DDG/ARN/SBC-8/2024-25

Dated: 22/07/2024



(Devendra Singh)  
DDG(SC) -cum-Member Convener, SBC  
DoT, Arunachal Pradesh, Govt. of India