

Minutes of the 17th State Broadband Committee (Assam) Meeting

The 17th SBC meeting was held on 29th June 2026 at 11:00 Hrs. under the chairmanship of Shri K.S. Gopinath Narayan, IA&AS, Principal Secretary, Information Technology Department. The meeting was convened by Shri Rajendra Meshram, Addl DG (T), Assam LSA.

The meeting started with the welcome address by Shri Pankaj Das, DDG (R).

The agenda for the 17th SBC was as follows:

1. DIPA/COAI/ISPAI issues: RoW (Govt. Land), EB & diesel supply issues;
2. Call Before You Dig – Special focus on Unannounced Excavation;
3. RoW: Status on Telecom eServices Portal;
4. Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) compliance;
5. BSNL 4G Saturation Project: Special focus on Land Allotment;
6. Amended BharatNet Project: Special focus on Space & Electricity at GP sites.
7. Status of Street Furniture Mapping;
8. Misc. points:
 - a. Coordinates (Latitude and Longitude) and Habitation Status for 799 Villages for consideration for 4G coverage under the DBN schemes;
 - b. Road accessibility issues under 4GSP – PMGSY/DoNER
 - c. Sanchar Saathi & EMR Awareness;

The points discussed & decisions taken are stated as follows:

1. DIPA/COAI Points:

a. RoW and Operational Related:

- i. **Pending / Rejected Proposals on Government Properties (05 cases) - NIT(Silchar), Assam Secretariat, DGP Office, APDCL Office (Ulubari), and Agriculture Office (Ulubari)** – DIPA apprised the committee that 5 cases of proposals (mentioned above) to install telecom tower still remained pending. The Chair informed that he has already talked with NIT authority and asked the DIPA member (M/s. Indus tower) to submit a letter (still awaited as sought in the last 16th SBC meeting) justifying the requirement of the Govt. land as the last resort after exhausting all other options & possibilities against all these pending/ rejected cases. This would enable the concerned to process the cases at the earliest.

- Action by DIPA

- ii. **Public Objection to GBM Tower at Ahomgaon, Guwahati** – DIPA informed that the Infrastructure Providers are facing Public Objection at Ahomgaon, Guwahati, to the setting up of a Ground Based Monopole (GBM) Tower for providing telecom services even after getting formal permissions from the designated authorities. Though the matter was nearing solution after no. of joint visits by District authorities, IP and DoT LSA teams, it got little complicated subsequently after the local public took the matter at political level, as a result, the tower installation work, on which ~ Rs. 40L has already been spent, has been stalled as informed by the IP, The Chair took cognizance of the sensitivity of the matter and suggested that the matter would require intervention of the concerned Hon'ble MLA, Hon'ble MP or even the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam for settling the case.

- Action by State IT Department to take up the matter with MLA/MP/HCM

- iii. **Telecom Equipment theft: Letter issued by the State Government on 13.04.2026** – DIPA informed the committee that despite the letter dated 13.04.2026, the Infrastructure Providers were still suffering losses due to theft of telecom equipment from the sites. DIPA was urged to set up alert mechanisms which send instant alerts to the nearest Police Station in the event of a theft. Further, the Chair agreed to consult with the DGP, Assam to find a solution to the theft problem, which may be a part of a larger organized racket operating in the industry.

- Action by DIPA to set up the alert mechanism

- Action by IT Department to consult with DGP, Assam

- iv. **Offline RoW applications for OFC deployment** – COAI informed that some municipalities continued to accept offline RoW applications for OFC deployment. The Chair mentioned that the RoW portal is fully functional and advised all concerned to submit only applications through the online State RoW portal only. COAI/DIPA were requested to ensure that their

members follow it without any lapse. In case of any issue, the same may be intimated to IT-Department immediately.

-Action by DIPA/COAI

b. Electricity Related:

- i. **Smart Meter installation at the remaining sites** – DIPA had submitted a list of remaining sites where the installation of smart meter is pending by APDCL. APDCL informed that they are working on the issues.
- ii. **Non-Communication of Smart Prepaid Meters (154 sites)** – DIPA had submitted a list of 154 sites which are facing the issue of non-communication of Smart Prepaid Meters which results in automatic disconnection of electricity to the site.
- iii. **APDCL - Consumer End issues for Smart Meter installation** – APDCL had also submitted a list of consumer end issues being faced at the sites.
- iv. **Composite Billing system by APDCL** – DIPA informed that while APDCL has implemented a system to view the consolidated electricity usage by the telecom sites, the payment still continues to be an individual site-based process.

In view of the above issues, the Chair advised that DIPA and APDCL may have a bilateral meeting regarding their issues and try to resolve the issues at the earliest. Further, regarding the payment system, the Chair advised APDCL to implement a system allowing for combined payment for all the sites of a company in one go within the timeframe as stipulated under SASCI guidelines. APDCL was further asked by the Chair to show the demo of the current payment system to the IT Department. The Chair assured that the IT Department would provide assistance, if needed. As CAF & composite Billing are mandatory aspects under SASCI guidelines, the State would ensure that a comprehensive Notification is issued by the DISCOM (APDCL) covering all the aspects in conformity with the MoP Advisory and the SASCI guidelines.

- Action by DIPA and APDCL

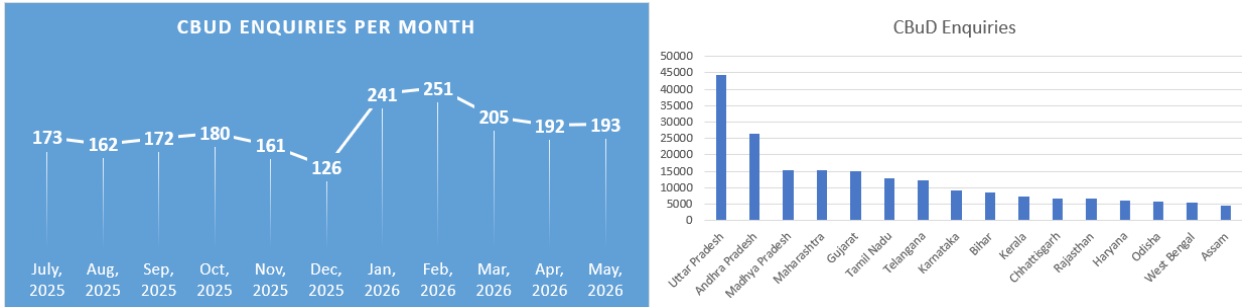
c. Steady Supply of Diesel for Telecom Operations:

- i. DO Letter from Secretary (Telecom) was sent to Secretary (Petroleum) on 22 June 2026.
- ii. Subsequently, the Central Government has withdrawn its Order dated 12 June 2026 vide Order bearing F.No. M-11045/57/2026-Dist.-PNG dated 29 June 2026. – The matter closed.

DIPA requested the chair to nominate one nodal officer from State with whom it can liaise and convey its submissions directly. The Chair accepted the proposal and nominated Mr. Sahabuddin Ahmed, Under Secretary – IT who is already on the job for this purpose. Further, it was requested that issues not getting resolved at DLTC only should be escalated to the State level.

2. Call Before You Dig – Special focus on Unannounced Excavation:

State Users				Central Users			Registered Excavators	Enquiries	Unnotified Digging
Dept	Agency	District	Tehsil	C. State Agency	C. District	C. Tehsil			
15	52	299	214	30	538	389	1502	4731	1



The newly announced module of un-notified digging was discussed and all the concerned stakeholders were urged to increase their usage of the CBuD platform. The ongoing cases of un-notified digging were also mentioned for timely closure by the concerned stakeholders. 1 case was appearing in the CBuD Dashboard for Assam State, reported by PWDRD against Airtel. LSA requested both the parties to coordinate and close the case.

COAI/DIPA were also requested to ensure strict adherence to the CBuD mandates by all members in the field.

Assam LSA requested IT Department and the state CBuD nodal officer to organize regular meetings with the District CBuD nodal officers and 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. DDG(R) pointed out the importance and the need of monitoring and controlling the Unreported/ un-notified Excavation cases appearing in the CBuD portal through respective District Nodal Officers.

- Action by State CBuD Nodal officer /State Govt/ DIPA/COAI

3. RoW: Status on Telecom e-Services Portal

RoW Applications	Total	Approved	Rejected	Pending	Pending>67D	Reverted
As per e services (26.06.2026)	6520	5254	193	4	0	276

Assam state is using the State RoW portal which is aligned with the Central RoW Rules 2024. The Chair assured to monitor the RoW activity closely to ensure that the deemed approval cases are minimized and other timelines for RoW activities are within the target as indicated under SASCI guidelines.

-Action by State IT Department.

4. Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) compliance

It was noted that the State had provided the compliance report to the requirements of SASCI scheme vide letter bearing eCF No. IT 669143/2025/236 dated 26.06.2026.

The State Government was apprised of the comments of DoT that Several PWD, Municipal Authorities were accepting offline applications (Moran Municipality, Kumarghat Municipality, Sivsagar Municipality, Markikani Municipality etc.). The Chair directed the IT Department to issue letters to the concerned Municipalities for compliance with the RoW rules and usage of the online RoW portal.

- Action by State IT Department

Further it was highlighted that while APDCL had issued the notification for the implementation of Consolidated Billing, there was no explicit mention of Common Application Form (CAF), which was required as per SASCI guidelines. The Chair directed APDCL to do the needful to comply with the SASCI guidelines.

- Action by APDCL

5. BSNL 4G Saturation Project

The latest status of the BSNL 4G Saturation Project was provided by BSNL:

PROJ	Targ et	Total On-air	OFC On- air Media	UBR On- air Media	VSAT On- air Media
4G SAT	441	343	39	282	22
BIP/SSB	27	24	2	14	8
TOTAL	468	367	41	296	30

BSNL also shared the present status of Infra/eNodeB as on 25.06.2026:

Tower Foundation:	409	468-409=59
Tower Erection:	404	468-404=64
PI ready sites:	394	468-394=74

The EB status as on 25.06.2026 is as follows:

Category	Sub-Category	Count	Total
Application Status	EB Connection Applied	373	377
	EB Connection Not Applied	4	
Demand Note (DN)	DN Issued	342	373
	DN Not Issued	31	
Payment Status	Total DN Paid	271	342
	DN Unpaid (< 5 L)	28	
Final Delivery	EB Connection Available	180	271
	DN Paid but EB Not Available	91	

APDCL had also provided their comments regarding the pending issues. These are summarized as follows:

Broad Issue	Count	Responsibility
APDCL – Pending estimate/work execution (work order processed, estimate preparation/revision, tendering, line construction/work in progress, load sanction, work to start, PO served, payment reconciliation, etc.)	57	APDCL
BSNL – Pending application/payment/site readiness & civil works (application/document/payment pending, DN pending, grid connectivity, civil work/site not ready, cable procurement, disputes, etc.)	43	BSNL
Joint activities pending (Joint Survey/Resurvey yet to be done)	11	APDCL & BSNL
Outside APDCL jurisdiction (Nagaland)	18	Out of Jurisdiction
Completed / Connection Released	9	Completed

During the deliberation, it was found that BSNL & APDCL are not in sync on many counts with conflicting versions. The Chair, therefore, advised BSNL and APDCL to have a bilateral meeting and try to settle the issues at the earliest.

- Action by BSNL and APDCL

BSNL also presented about the ongoing land allotment issues in the Project Cat I to IV as on 25.06.2026:

4G Saturation Issues					BOP/BIP Issues
Issue	Forest	Govt	Private	Total	NIL
Access		5	3	8	
FOREST	4			4	
HOLD		1	1	2	
LAND		1		1	
Total	4	7	4	15	

As discussed in the 16th SBC, BSNL is actively working on solving the issues in the 4G Saturation Project. The committee emphasized that the joint survey for Cat I to IV must be completed at the earliest.

- Action by BSNL

BSNL also shared the land allotment status of the sites in Cat V and VI of the 4G Saturation Project as on 25.06.2026:

SL	BA	District	CAT5	CAT6	BOP	Total	Land Handover/ allotment	Land Identified					Site likely to be Dropped	Allotment WIP	Identification WIP
								Forest	Rev	Arm	Pvt	Total			
1	BNG	BAKSA	8	0	3	11	11	0	8	3	0	11	1	0	0
2	BNG	CHIRANG	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
3	BNG	DUBRI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	BNG	GOALPARA	3	1	0	4	4	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0
5	BNG	KOKRAJHAR	2	1	0	3	3	1	2	0	0	3	0	0	0
6	BNG	SOUTH SALMARAMANKACHAR	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
7	JRT	GOLAGHAT	1	1	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0
8	JRT	MAJULI	0	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
9	KMR	KAMRUP	4	3	0	7	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	6	1
10	NGG	HOJAI	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
11	NGG	KARBI ANGLONG	152	4	0	156	35	0	31	0	76	107	0	72	49
12	NGG	MORIGAON	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
13	NGG	NAGAON	3	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
14	NGG	WEST KARBI ANGLONG	46	11	0	57	44	0	44	0	0	44	0	0	13
15	SCH	CACHAR	1	7	0	8	3	3	0	0	0	3	3	0	5
16	SCH	DIMA HASAO	5	2	0	7	6	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	1
17	SCH	HAILAKANDI	2	2	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	3	1	3	1
18	TZP	DHEMAJI	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
19	TZP	SONITPUR	0	7	0	7	0	2	3	0	0	5	0	5	2
Total			238	43	4	285	110	9	109	3	76	197	10	87	88

BSNL informed that following the special drive taken by the State Govt., the land allotment process has progressed at a good pace and the entire process is expected to be completed by end of July 2026.

- Action by BSNL

It was informed that some delays have been faced in the Sonitpur district regarding the land allotment process. The Chair assured that the necessary coordination will be done with district authorities and the State will provide full support in resolving the issues.

- Action by State IT Department

6. Amended BharatNet Program

BSNL informed the Amended BharatNet Program is envisioned to cover 35 districts of Assam (including 28 of Phase I) covering 239 blocks and 2666 GPs. The number of new GPs to be covered are 1164 and 1502 GPs of Phase I are to be converted to Ring Topology.

BSNL informed that the existing leased RKM from BSNL stands at 3324 km and the total incremental 24F OFC RKM (Laid) is 4435 km. The estimated RKM to be laid is 12324 km.

Further, BSNL informed that independent Engineers of M/s BECIL are appointed and deployed their Teams at Guwahati for ABP Project. Project Implementation Agency (PIA) M/s PTPL signed agreement on 25-3-2026 for Design, Supply, Construction, Installation, Upgradation, Operation and Maintenance of middle mile network of BharatNet, Assam Circle.

The DTP survey has been completed by BSNL in 3 blocks (23 GPs) – Tihu Block, Katlichera Block and Rajabazar Block. The DTP survey is under process for 18 Blocks (217 GPs). BSNL is unable to upload DTP survey in Pragati Portal for 16 Blocks (296 GPs) and HOTO is under process for 4 Blocks (44 GPs).

PGM (BN), BSNL was requested to share their request for provisioning of smart meters in GPs to APDCL for BharatNet Equipment.

- Action by BSNL

PGM (BN), BSNL also informed that some GPs are merged with Urban areas and BSNL would need the updated list of the GPs. It was decided that the State IT Dept will write to the State Rural Dept to obtain the updated list.

- Action by State IT Department

7. Status of Street Furniture Mappings

The Status of Street Furniture Mappings remained unchanged from the 16th SBC due to financial constraints at APDCL. The Chair asked APDCL to provide a copy of the communications done to secure more budget, which APDCL provided promptly. The Chair assured that the State IT Dept will take up the issue with the appropriate authorities.

- Action by State IT Department

8. Miscellaneous

- a. **Coordinates (Latitude and Longitude) and Habitation Status for 799 Villages (list) for consideration for 4G coverage under the DBN schemes – email (dated 12 June 2026)** – A list of 799 villages had been shared with the State IT-Department seeking the Lat-Long information as per direction of DoT HQ. The Chair assured that the State IT Dept will take up the matter on priority.

- Action by State IT Department

- b. **Solving Road accessibility issues through PMGSY (Ref: Email, Letter (BSNL), Letter (MDoNER)) – Feedback on accessibility is awaited from the State Govt.** – The Chair was apprised that DoT HQ is compiling the proposals regarding construction of roads in areas where telecom installations are challenging due to Road connectivity/ access issues.

- i. The Roads which are already under PMGSY schemes and likely to be provisioned sooner or later that would facilitate planning of construction of Mobile towers in the particular villages, may be shared.
- ii. Further, the roads (not covered under any schemes) which are viable and can be planned with the help of Financial Assistance from MoDONER, for facilitating Telecom installations in the villages having Road connectivity/ access issues, may also be shared.

The State may provide the list of such proposals to DoT so that these cases may be taken up with the concerned Ministries for necessary facilitations.

- Action by State IT Department

- c. **Sanchar Saathi and EMR Awareness:**

The members of the committee were apprised about the Sanchar Saathi platform of DoT and its importance in providing a secure environment for the telecom services and consumers. DoT LSA has already taken up various steps & measures for enhancing the public awareness on utility of Sanchar Saathi app & portal.

The members of the committee were also apprised about the common questions and myths surrounding the Electro-Magnetic Radiation being emitted from mobile towers.

Due to lack of proper information on the subject matter, many objections from public are being faced, which need to be demystified through proper education and effective awareness programs. DLTC / GPDAC platforms can play an important role in disseminating such awareness to citizens.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from the Addl DG (T), Assam LSA.

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

Memo eCF No. IT. 248420/2022/73-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 State Project Director, AITEC & CSD Society, Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, Ghy-22.
4. The DC/ADC of all Districts.
5. The Sr. DDG, DoT, Assam, LSA.
6. The ADG (R), LSA, Assam.
7. The CGM, BSNL, Paltan Bazaar, Guwahati-01
8. The GM, Bharatnet, Assam.
9. The Secretary to Govt. of Assam, Power Department/PWD (R)/ PWD (Bldg &NH)/P&RD/ Environment & Forest Deptt./ DoHUA, Dispur, Guwahati-06
10. The MD, APDCL, Bijulee Bhawan, Paltan Bazaar, Guwahati-01
11. The DG, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).
12. The Digital Infrastructure Providers Association of India (DIPA).
13. P.S. to Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Information Technology for kind information
14. P.S. to Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Information Technology for kind information

By orders etc.,
e-signed

Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Information Technology Department