

Proceedings of the 9th State Broadband Committee meeting held under the chairpersonship of Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, on 18th July, 2026 at room no.313, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru:

Members Present: Annexure-1

Dr. N.Manjula, Secretary, Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology, and Science & Technology extended a warm welcome to the Chair and all participants present in the 9th State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting. She 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 :

Shri Anil Kumar Gupta, the Special DG Telecom and Smt N Sujatha, Chief General Manager, briefed about the 4G Saturation Project, stating that 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.

Review of pending cases:

The Chair reviewed the status of pending land allotment cases under the 4G Saturation Project, comprising 14 forest land cases under Phase-1 and 217 district-level land allotment cases under Phase-2. District Administrations and the concerned departments were instructed to expedite the processing of these cases through close coordination with BSNL, resolve procedural bottlenecks at the earliest, and ensure that all pending land allotments are completed within the stipulated timelines to facilitate the timely installation and commissioning of telecom infrastructure.

The following points were discussed:

- The Chairperson explicitly directed Deputy Commissioners of all districts to focus exclusively on clear Government lands for tower site allocations under Section 71. In cases where the proposed sites present environmental or boundary-related challenges that may delay the allotment process, priority should be accorded to

identifying suitable alternative Government land to ensure uninterrupted progress of the project.

- **District-wise Status & Directions (Consolidated)-Phase-2:**

- **Belagavi:** BSNL to submit proposals through the **PARIVESH portal** along with certificates from the Deputy Commissioner's office for forest and wildlife clearances.
 - **Bidar:** Progress noted on **12 pending sites**; district directed to expedite allotment. DC to complete land acquisition for 3 assigned sites and submit monthly report within 1–2 days.
 - **Chikkamagaluru:** Survey completed for **37 out of 55 sites**; remaining sites to be surveyed and processed on priority. DC to clear survey and land identification within 10–15 days, categorizing recent vs. old cases.
 - **Kalaburagi (Gulbarga):** Survey completed for **all 46 sites**; land allotment orders under process. DC to complete identification and joint inspection of remaining sites within 2–3 days.
 - **Shivamogga (Shimoga):** Land allotment completed except for **12 sites**; identification of suitable land in progress. DC to coordinate with Revenue Department, apply for FC map, and explore alternatives within a week.
 - **Tumakuru:** BSNL to submit proposals through **PARIVESH portal** with requisite DC certificates for forest/wildlife clearances. DC to approve pending deployment proposals and follow up on forest NOC within a week.
 - **Yadgir:** Boundary issues reported with **3 sites falling in neighbouring district**; DC to coordinate with Kalaburagi and BSNL to resolve jurisdictional disputes or identify alternative sites.
 - **Ballari:** DC to finalize 2 alternative tower site locations and communicate decision officially.
 - **Other Districts:** Directed to take immediate action to allocate lands on priority and submit compliance status to the Chair within one week.
- **Electricity Connectivity:** Electricity supply has been provided to 495 out of 717 newly established telecom tower sites, while 222 sites are still awaiting power connectivity across the ESCOMs—BESCOM (18), CESC (22), GESCOM (8), HESCOM (110), and MESCOM (64).

The Managing Directors of all ESCOMs were directed to accord top priority to the pending electricity connection requests and ensure that power supply is provided to all remaining telecom tower sites at the earliest to facilitate their timely commissioning.

2. Status of RoW Portal Integration & Review of Pendency:

The progress of onboarding line departments onto the **Centralized Right of Way (RoW) E-Services Portal** for implementation of the *Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024* was reviewed. The status is summarized below:

Sl. No	Name of the Department	Development of online portal	Onboarding to E-services portal of DOT	Adoption of ROW Rules 2024 & issuance of the G.O.
1	RDPR	Completed	Completed	Complied and G.O issued
2	DMA	Completed	Completed	Complied and Circular issued; G.O yet to be issued
3	GBA	Completed	Partial (Tower- Yes OFC-Pending)	pending
4	PWD	Pending	Pending	Pending
5	ENERGY	Completed	Pending	Complied and G.O issued

Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI 2026–27):

It was discussed that Karnataka has been earmarked **₹250 crore under SASCI 2026–27** for RoW Rules 2024 and BharatNet implementation. Incentives are linked to:

- Issuance of RoW orders (30%)
- Granting BharatNet permissions (25%)
- Backlog clearance and reducing the average time for clearance (25%)

- Cross-departmental compliance including DISCOM alignment (10%)

Coordinated action across GBA, PWD, Forest, and Energy sectors is essential to secure full release. The deadline for scheme incentives is **31 July 2026**, and all departments must issue necessary Government Orders/circulars before this date.

RoW Permissions by the Departments:

- GBA/BBMP has 57 tower regularisation cases pending due to portal migration; OFC integration is still pending.
- PWD is processing the applications offline, and the status of approvals is not being updated from time to time. As on date, 76 OFC cases are pending, as reported by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in the meeting.
- Amended BharatNet ROW permission for OFC to an extent of 19,332 Kms is pending with PWD.
- Application fee discrepancy noted: GBA is currently charging ₹700/metre versus the Central norm of ₹1/metre. GBA has been asked to justify this higher rate to the Ministry, seeking a Bangalore-specific exception.

Decision Taken:

- **Chief Engineer C B South Bangalore PWD, along with Secretary PWD** to meet the Chair separately with details on pending issues (Government Order issuance and portal integration).
- **ESCOMs:** Complete system integration within one week.
- **GBA:**
 - Submit a proposal to the Central Government seeking an exception for its unique fee structure and restoration charges
 - Complete OFC portal integration with DoT E-Services portal within 15 days.
- **Urban Development Department (DMA & GBA):** Issue Government Order for RoW Rules 2024 implementation and provide for declaration of the Amended BharatNet Project (ABP) as a "Special Project" under SASCI guidelines.

2. Street Furniture Data Updation:

The status of Street Furniture data mapping as on 01.07.2026 was reviewed. The Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre (KSRAC) has developed a mobile application and shared it with all the concerned departments for mapping street furniture assets. Most departments have commenced the mapping of traffic signals, government buildings, electric poles, and street lights in the prescribed format. However, the Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA) and GESCOM are yet to initiate the data mapping exercise.

Decision Taken:

The Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA) and GESCOM were directed to commence the street furniture data mapping exercise immediately using the KSRAC application and ensure timely completion of the activity in the prescribed format.

3. DLTC, & CBuD Compliance:

- **District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) Operations:** Although the District Level Telecom Committees (DLTCs) have been constituted to address local telecom infrastructure issues and prevent arbitrary work stoppages by rural local bodies, most districts have not furnished details of the DLTC meetings conducted under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioners.
- **CBuD App:** It was observed that the details of the Nodal Officers from KRDCL and BESCOM have not been updated in the CBuD application. Consequently, action against executing agencies undertaking un-notified excavation works has been delayed, and several cases remain pending.

Decisions Taken:

- All Deputy Commissioners were directed to convene and chair DLTC meetings on a regular basis (monthly) and submit meeting details to the Department of Telecom (DOT), Karnataka to upload in the e-service portal. The DLTCs shall proactively resolve district-level telecom infrastructure issues to minimize escalation to the State level.
- Commissioner- Panchayat Raj was directed to undertake a comprehensive awareness and capacity-building initiative for Gram Panchayat officials, including the distribution of physical copies of the Right of Way (RoW) Rules, to ensure uniform implementation and prevent unauthorized stoppage of telecom infrastructure works.

- All Departments were directed to nominate or update the details of Nodal Officers in the Call Before U Dig (CBuD) application, wherever transfers or retirements have occurred, to ensure prompt action on alerts relating to un-notified excavation works and effective coordination among stakeholders.

4. Samriddhi Gram Panchayat Project :

- The Samriddhi Gram Panchayat Project aims to develop one digitally connected model Gram Panchayat in each taluk by promoting high-speed broadband connectivity and digital service adoption. In Karnataka, 205 taluks have been identified under the project.
- As part of the implementation framework, Gram Panchayat Digital Access Committees (DACs) are to be constituted in each identified Gram Panchayat to create awareness among rural communities, public institutions, and private establishments regarding the benefits of high-speed broadband (FTTH) connectivity and to facilitate its adoption.
- The Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR), vide its letter dated 14.08.2025, had issued instructions for the constitution of DACs in all identified Gram Panchayats. However, as of date, only 164 DACs have been constituted against the target of 205, and the remaining committees are yet to be formed.

Decision Taken:

- Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) was requested to issue suitable instructions to all Deputy Commissioners to expedite the constitution of the remaining Gram Panchayat Digital Access Committees (DACs) and ensure effective implementation of the Samriddhi Gram Panchayat Project across all identified blocks.

5. Issues raised by industries DIPA & COAI :

- **Property Tax Penalties:** Industry partners reported that local bodies are imposing penalties on property tax for telecom installations located on Government land.
- **Green Energy Open Access:** DIPA requested expedited smart meter deployment to unlock green energy open access for telecom towers.
- **Common application Software:** Except for **MESCOM**, all other **ESCOMs** are yet to implement the centralized common application system.

- **Multiple applications:** TSPs asked for single application for multiple sites vs current "one site one application" rule.

Decision Taken:

- **Tax Relief Evaluation:** The Chairperson requested DOT to compile and submit detailed reports regarding the property tax and submit the same to RDPR.
- **Green Energy Open Access:** It was informed that telecom towers are awaiting the installation of smart meters. ESCOMs were requested to expedite the installation process. Industry representatives were asked to submit a proposal for integration for further action.
- **MD BESCOM:** Work with the technical software team and KERC to modify the ESCOMs portal, enabling a single login framework to accept Common application for multiple tower site submissions simultaneously.

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



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

ANNEXURE-I:

SL.NO	NAME & DESIGNATION (In-person)
1	Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka
2	Dr. N Manjula, IAS, Secretary, ITBT
3	Sri. Manoj Kumar, IFS, Principal Secretary, Forest Department
4	Dr. Avinash Menon Rajendran, IAS, Director ITBT and MD KITS
5	Sri. Nitish K, IAS, Special Commissioner (Finance and Chief Financial Officer) , GBA
6	Sri. Anil Kr Gupta, Spl DGT, DOT
7	Smt. N Sujatha, CGM, BSNL
8	Sri. G Brahmaiah, Director (Rural), DOT
9	Sri. Prashanthkumar, Addl secretary, Energy
10	Smt. Champa E, Deputy Director, DITBT
11	Ms. Prachi Gangavar, CCF, Forest
12	Sri. Swaroop Nagar, GM, BSNL
13	Sri. Venkateshwara B, PGM, BSNL ktk
14	Sri. S G Devadiga, DGM, BSNL
15	Smt. Lata Patil, Director (Tech), Energy Dept.
16	Smt. Padmavathi. S, AD, EMC, Energy Dept.
17	Sri. Dharmaprasad, SE GBA
18	Sri. Anil Kumar Pankaj, Sr (ELC), BSNL
19	Sri. A N Venkatesh, BSNL
20	Sri. Shivanna, Assistant Director, DOT, KTK LSA
21	Sri. Ashok Y Shigli, AGM, KSWAN, BSNL
22	Smt. Suma S, Project Director, KSWAN
23	Sri. Panchakshari, BSNL
24	Sri. Deepak A, KITS

Virtual Attendees	
SL.NO	NAME & DESIGNATION
1	MD BESCOM
2	DC - CHIKKAMAGALURU
3	DC - DAKSHINA KANNADA
4	DC -Chamarajanagar
5	DC -BIDAR
6	DC -Belagavi
7	DC -HASSAN
8	DC -Haveri
9	DC -MANDYA

10	DC -Udupi
11	DC -Raichur
12	DC -Tumkur
13	DC -Vijayapura
14	DC -Vijayanagara
15	DC- Kolar
16	DC-Shivamogga
17	DC-Yadgir
18	DC -Chitradurga
19	DC- Bagalkot
20	DC- HASSAN
21	DC- KALABURAGI
22	DC- KOPPAL
23	DC- BALLARI
24	DC-BENGALURU SOUTH
25	MD GESCOM
26	MD_MESCOM
27	DCF Kalaburagi
28	DCF Tumkur
29	Srinivas Advisor PM BMRCL
30	IDD JOINT SECY
31	DIRECTOR KSRSAC
32	DFO Bidar
33	DFO Kalaburagi
34	CEO ZP DAVANAGERE
35	BMRCL (Land Section)
36	CESC MYSURU
37	COAI Dhananjay
38	CeG, Project Coordinator
39	Chandrashekar
40	Chief Engineer C B South Bangalore
41	DAVANAGERE VARTHE
42	DGM Bijapur
43	DGM Bijapur
44	DGM BIJAPUR
45	Joint Director, DMA
46	Deepak Arya, DIPA
47	Department of Collegiate Education
48	Director DTE, Energy
49	EE PWD
50	EE PWD MADHUGIRI DIVISION

51	EE PWD Tumkur
52	GM (LAND)BMRCL
53	Jagadish S
54	Jithendra Prasad M
55	KMDS Team
56	KSRTC
57	Meena Bisht indus
58	Mukesh Kumar,COAI
59	Narasimha Murthy BL
60	Poornima P V
61	Rajinder Kumar
62	Raman Srivastava ,DIPA
63	Raveendra. Y.R - KMDS
64	SDE Bharatnet Bijapur
65	SEEIT HESCOM
66	Col anil sindgi. Jio
67	EEPWD, Madhugiri
68	GM-T HESCOM
69	Mahantayya Hosamath, Under Secretary to Government
70	Sde, bsnl
71	Shajahan.shaik, polycab
72	Shreevatsa, Polycab