

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the State Broadband Committee held on 26 September 2023 under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand

The 5th meeting of the State Broadband Committee (SBC) was held on 26/09/2023 under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand. The meeting was attended by officers of various State Govt. Departments, officers from Department of Telecommunications, BSNL and representatives of Cellular Operators Associations of India (COAI)/Digital Infrastructure Provider Association (DIPA).

The following officials were present in the meeting:-

1. Shri Anand Vardhar, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttarakhand.
2. Shri R. K. Sudhanshu, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Uttarakhand.
3. Smt. Nitika Khandelwal, Director, ITDA, Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
4. Shri B.S. Bora, Joint Secretary, Revenue Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand.
5. Shri Girish Gunwant, Additional Director, ITDA, Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
6. Shri Arun Kumar Verma, DDG (R), DoT.
7. Shri Alok Ranjan, ADG (R1), DoT.
8. Shri S.K. Lakhera, Director (R), DoT.
9. Shri Ravindra Negi, AD (R), DoT.
10. Shri Anil Kumar, MD, UPCL.
11. Shri M.L. Prasad, D(O), UPCL.
12. Shri Anupam Singh, Chief Engineer, PTCUL.
13. Shri Suchit Gupta, General Manager, BSNL.
14. Shri Om Prakash Kanaujiya, General Manager, BSNL.
15. Ms. Himani Joshi Petwal, Joint Director, Panchayat, Uttarakhand, Dehradun.

Following were the focus areas of review in the meeting:-

- A. Progress of 4G saturation scheme
- B. Bharat Net O&M and utilization
- C. Digital Communications readiness Index
- D. RoW issues
- E. CBuD (call before you dig) implementation
- F. Policy Framework for Regularization of Aerial Cables and Ducts
- G. Regularization of old/existing Mobile Towers
- H. 5G Rollout and Street Furniture Mapping
- I. Inclusion of ISPAI as Special Invitee to SBC meetings

The deliberations and decisions taken during the meeting were as follows:-

A. 4G Saturation Scheme:

1. BSNL presented the land allocation status of sites required for the erection of new towers under the 4G saturation scheme. It was highlighted that BSNL has acquired 512 sites for all three categories of the scheme and there is no pendency of land allocation at the State level for Category 1.

Project	Total Villages for Survey	New Towers Proposed	Existing sites proposed for Upgradation	Total e-Node Proposed	Land Acquired	Govt. Pending	Private (FRAC in Progress)	Pending acquisition at BOP/Army Posts	Total Pending
CAT I	1243	352	77	429	352	0	0	0	0
CAT									

II	672	123	16	139	118	1	1	3	5
CAT III	571	45	15	60	42	2	0	1	3
Total	2486	520	108	628	512	3	1	4	8

It was directed by the Chair to BSNL to submit the timelines for the erection of towers and also the start of mobile services from towers being installed under 4G Saturation Scheme. It was also directed to send a letter to Secretary, Telecom, Government of India, regarding the slow progress of BSNL in the scheme.

(Action by: BSNL and Department of IT)

- The issue of heavy charges for Power connection was raised in the meeting, it was directed that for cases where the demand note of UPCL exceeds Rs. 2 lacs, financing under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) should be explored. UPCL stated that cases have been sent through PFC to Ministry of Power. UPCL and BSNL were asked to share details of such cases so that the matter may be taken up with Ministry of Power for faster resolution.

Project	EB Connections Applied	Demand Note received	Demand Note Paid	Demand Note Greater Than 2 lakh
CAT I	331	300	84	82
CAT II	104	74	14	22
CAT III	35	9	1	4
Total	470	383	99	108

(Action by: UPCL, BSNL and DoT)

- UPCL was directed to prepare plan for all the connections required to be provided to BSNL for the 4G Saturation Scheme in parallel to save time.

(Action by: UPCL)

- For BSNL and RJIL/TSP locations, declared non-feasible by UPCL, Nodal Officers of TSPs may plan for Solar and DG arrangements for their power needs.

(Action by: BSNL and RJIL/TSPs)

B. Bharat Net O&M and Utilization Scheme:

- It was decided that for increasing the utilization of Bharat Net infrastructure, Department of Information Technology will issue instructions to all concerned departments to increase the subscription and use of FTTH through OFC laid in Gram Panchayats (GPs) under Bharat Net. Secretary, Department of IT will also monitor and oversee the utilization of FTTH under Bharat Net by State Departments. Efforts should be made to provide Government e-services in the villages where FTTH has been provided.

(Action by: Department of IT and ITDA)

- It was decided that PTCUL/UPCL will provide the OPGW cable available

with them to BSNL and other TSPs as per their demand, on rates similar to that of PGCIL to leverage and utilize the already existing infrastructure. Necessary policy may be framed in this regard by PTCUL/UPCL.

(Action by: PTCUL/UPCL/BSNL/TSPs)

3. BSNL was directed to complete the target number of connections as envisaged in the MoU signed with ITDA under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment. BSNL will furnish a list of FTTH connections provided by them till date. BSNL will also provide the feasibility of connections under Phase-II of the Scheme.

(Action by: BSNL)

4. Department of Panchayati Raj was directed to plan and budget for subscription of FTTH, provision for PCs, Laptops, Routers, Smart Televisions, Tablet, Mobile phone, Digital/Smart board and other accessory equipment for 1400 Gram Panchayats where Bharat Net OFC is active so that FTTH connections in these GPs can be utilized by the government institutions and public. It was informed by Department of Panchayati Raj that there is provision of approximately 1000 PCs under this activity.

(Action by: Department of Panchayati Raj)

5. Department of Panchayati Raj informed that instructions have been issued to nominate Village Secretaries as custodians of VSATs installed under Bharat Net project, for its proper utilization and maintenance. It was also decided that the Village Secretary may be nominated as custodian of Bharat Net ONTs also in 1819 GPs (for OFC) and FTTH connections being provided under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment, to ensure its proper regular monitoring and utilization and complaints regarding faulty ONTs/FTTH connections may be registered by the Village Secretary accordingly.

(Action by: Department of Panchayati Raj/BSNL)

6. The matter of 697 GPs which do not have electrical connections came up for discussions, it was decided that Department of Panchayati Raj will apply for electricity connections in all pending cases and required relaxations /consideration (for instance registration papers of Panchayat Bhawan etc.) shall be made by UPCL.

(Action by: Department of Panchayati Raj, UPCL and BSNL)

7. BSNL was directed to take necessary action for extending the electrical connections to ONTs and to oversee the general upkeep of ONTs.

(Action by: BSNL)

8. Department of Panchayati Raj was directed to provide the list and contact details of Village Secretaries of all Villages of Uttarakhand and update the same on its website in a timely manner for access by various departments for effective implementation of various USOF, DoT and State/Central Schemes

and public in general.

(Action by: Department of Panchayati Raj)

C.Digital Communication Readiness Index:

It was decided that since Inter Department Coordination Committee (IDCC) has been formed where ITDA under Department of IT has been nominated as Nodal Agency, future meetings are to be conducted accordingly by ITDA.

(Action by: Department of IT and ITDA)

D.Right of Way:

1. It was directed that Department of IT will seek compliance of Chief Secretary's letter dated 04.07.2023 issued on RoW guidelines and State Housing Department RoW Notification dated 13.03.2023, from all District Authorities and District Telecom Committees (DTCs).

(Action by: Department of IT/All DMs/Development Authorities/ULBs)

2. It was decided that Department of IT will examine and notify the latest amendments made in Central RoW Policy at the earliest as already the Central RoW policy has been adopted by the State Government.

(Action by: Department of IT)

3. It was directed that to avoid delay in disposal of RoW cases, the DTCs and District authorities may follow the following guiding principles:

- a. Any objection regarding Structural Safety or Approved Building map is to be registered on the RoW portal within 07 days of filing of the RoW application as per Clause 7.22 of State Housing Department RoW Notification dated 13.03.2023.
- b. Concerned authority may avoid more than two reverts of an application, giving time of not more than 15 days in each case.
- c. In case of discrepancy in application even after two reverts, same may be rejected by the appropriate authority to avoid delay of more than 60 days.

(Action by: Dept. of IT, Dept. of Industry, Development Authorities and DTCs)

4. Director (ITDA) informed that the Online Payment System on RoW portal will be implemented within 1 month.

(Action by: ITDA)

5. It was informed that due to operational and maintenance reasons; State may access and explore to migrate to or adopt the Central RoW Portal developed by MPSEDC.

(Action by: Single Window Clearance Scheme team and ITDA)

E. Call Before you Dig (CBuD) Mobile App:

It was apprised that use of CBuD by State Departments is almost negligible. It was directed Department of IT will issue directives to all departments to use CBuD app prior to actual digging activity so that loss of valuable underground infrastructure/assets may be avoided. It was also desired that all concerned departments that may make use of CBuD

mandatory and made part of contract between Asset Owners and Excavators (Digging Agency)

(Action by: Department of IT and all relevant line departments)

F. Policy Framework for Regularization of Aerial Cables and Ducts:

1. It was directed that a notification to be issued for formation of Committee to draft, finalize and implement the policy framework for Regularization of Aerial Cables on Electric Poles of UPCL and Street Lights of Municipal Corporation/ULBs. The proposed structure of the committee is attached as Annexure-1.

(Action by: Department of IT, UPCL, Department of Urban Development)

2. It was directed that a notification to be issued for formation of Committee to draft, finalize and implement the policy framework for Regulation of Duct Space along the Public Pathways. The proposed structure of the committee is attached as Annexure-2.

(Action by: Dept. of IT, Dept. of Urban Development, PWD and Smart City)

G. Regularization of old/existing Mobile Towers:

It was directed that concerned TSPs/IPs should regularize the old towers as per latest RoW Policy to avoid any coercive action. The application for regularization should be filed within the next two months. However, it may be ensured that only those towers are regularized which fulfil the mandatory criteria of documentation and other requirements as per latest RoW policy.

(Action by: COAI and DIPA, TSPs/ISPs and respective State authorities)

H. 5G Rollout and Street Furniture Mapping:

1. The status of Street Furniture mapping on PM Gati Shakti Portal was presented. It was directed that concerned departments are to capture, update and provide the data in the DoT prescribed format to the PM Gati Shakti Team at the earliest and same are to be uploaded on the portal.

(Action by: UPCL, All concerned departments and Dept., of Industry)

2. The 5G form for applying RoW permissions for Small Cells in bulk is to be implemented by RoW team at the earliest.

(Action by: Single Window Clearance Scheme Team)

I. Inclusion of ISPAI as Special Invitee to SBC:

As per the request of ISP Association of India and directions from DoT HQ, ISPAI was allowed to attend future SBC meetings as 'Special Invitee'.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all present.

(Shailesh Bagauli)

Secretary

**Government of Uttarakhand
Information Technology, Good Governance and Science Technology, Section-01**

File No. /XXXIV-1/2023-82/AS-CO/2020 (E-38284)
Dehradun, Date : /10/2023

Copy to:-

1. Staff Officer to Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand for kind information of Chief Secretary.
2. All members of State Broadband Committee.
3. All District Magistrates Uttarakhand
4. Director ITDA.
5. All concerned Departments/Directorates/District Telecom Committees
6. ISP Association of India
7. Guard File.

Order by

(Dr. Ashish Kumar Shrivastava)
Additional Secretary

ANNEXURE-1

PROPOSED COMMITTEE FOR REGULARISATION OF AERIAL CABLES

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sl.	Department	Role
1	Commissioner/ District Magistrate	Chairman
2	ACEO Smart City	Member
3	Representative of ITDA	Convener
4	Representatives of Dehradun	Member
5	Representatives of MDDA	Member
6	Representatives of UPCL	Member
7	State RoW Team	Member
8	State PM Gati Shakti Team	Member
9	Representatives of COAI, DIPA, ISPAI and Assoc. Local Cable Operators	Member
10	BSNL Uttarakhand	Member

11	DoT Uttarakhand	Special Invitee
12	Any other member co-opted by the Committee	Member

ANNEXURE-2

PROPOSED COMMITTEE FOR REGULATION OF DUCT SPACE ALONG PUBLIC PATHWAYS

sl.	Department	Role
1	Commissioner/ District Magistrate	Chairman
2	ACEO Smart City	Member
3	Representative of ITDA	Convener
4	Representatives of Dehradun Municipal Corporation	Member
5	Representatives of MDDA	Member
6	Representatives of PWD and NH	Members
7	State RoW Team	Member
8	State PM Gati Shakti Team	Member
9	Representatives of COAI, DIPA, ISPAI and Association of Local Cable Operators	Member
10	BSNL Uttarakhand	Member
11	DoT Uttarakhand	Special Invitee
12	Any other member co-opted by the Committee	Member