

Minutes of the 14th State Broadband Committee Meeting held on 16th September, 2025

The 14th SBC meeting was held on 16th September, 2025 at 12:30 Hrs. The meeting was chaired by Shri K.S. Gopinath Narayan, IA&AS, Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Information Technology Department.

The meeting started with the welcome address by Shri Pankaj Das, DDG (Rural), DoT Assam LSA. After having a brief round of introductions, a detailed presentation was given by DoT, Assam LSA on various important issues as per following **agenda**:

- 1. DIPA/COAI issues (Deliberations on MoC Letter to CM)
- 2. PM Gati Shakti Portal - Street Furniture Mapping in State (Status)
- 3. Village Telecom Coverage in Assam
- 4. DBN (USOF) Projects:
 - a. BSNL 4G Saturation
 - b. Bharat Net Utilization & Samridhh Gram Panchayat Pilot Project
- 5. RoW Portal Integration Progress.
- 6. CBuD – Utilization in the State, Role of DLT User & Citizen Involvement

The points discussed & decisions taken are stated as follows:

1. DIPA/COAI issues (deliberations on MoC Letter to CM):

DIPA and COAI raised concerns regarding electricity and RoW in the State. DoT/Assam LSA highlighted that telecom sector issues are being directly escalated to the Hon’ble MoC and the Hon’ble Chief Minister without prior correspondence with DoT/Assam LSA or the State IT Department (nodal department). It was advised that COAI and DIPA should place the issues of their members at the set platforms (DLTC/ SBC) or route such issues through DoT LSA or the State IT Department appropriately for effective & timely resolution.

A. Electricity:

- a. **GST Waiver:** DIPA requested GST exemption for new electricity connections and related maintenance estimates, in line with Government of India Notification No. 08/2024 – Central Tax (Rate) dated 8th October 2024. It was informed that Kerala, Odisha, and Meghalaya have already issued similar notifications. APDCL mentioned that multiple rounds of discussions have been held on this matter, as the GST waiver expense would have to be borne by APDCL and therefore requires concurrence of the Finance Wing. DIPA was also requested to share the orders issued by other States along with supporting documents with APDCL.

--Action by APDCL & DIPA

b. Smart Meters, Bulk Connection Login Facility & Composite Billing:

SL	DIPA’s proposal/ issues	APDCL’s Response
1.	Installation of smart meters at telecom towers (list already shared with APDCL).	Smart meter installation vendors have been instructed to prioritize telecom towers - tentative target for completion of smart meter installation at telecom towers is 30th November 2025.
2.	Bulk login facility to enable real-time monitoring of power efficiency and consumption at telecom sites.	For the bulk connection login facility, DIPA should share the required parameters along with company-wise customer details.
3.	Provisioning of composite billing and resolution of average billing issues in cases of faulty meters.	Issues of average billing and composite billing will be resolved once smart meters are deployed.

--Action by APDCL & DIPA

- c. **Uninterrupted 24x7 Electricity Supply:** DIPA requested 24x7 electricity supply, noting that frequent outages force them to rely on diesel generators, which in turn attracts notices from the Pollution Control Board. The State responded that uninterrupted 24x7 supply is an aspirational target towards which efforts are ongoing. However, if certain sites face frequent disruptions, DIPA may share the list with APDCL, with copies to the State and DoT.

The State further clarified that pollution-related matters, such as Notices and Consent to Operate, are governed by Central guidelines. Hence, DIPA/COAI were advised to pursue these issues at the Central Pollution Control Board level and may be withdrawn from the SBC.

It was agreed that the electricity-related issues as deliberated above will be dropped from the agenda of subsequent SBC meetings.

B. Right of Way:

- a. **Site related issues:** M/s. Indus Towers informed that 2 sites, in Dhemaji and Tinsukia districts, are facing locality & NOC related issue respectively. M/s. Indus was requested to take up the case with the district administration in the DLTC meetings. If still some assistance is required, Indus may submit their request to the State IT Dept through DoT LSA.
- b. **RoW 2024 Rules awareness:** DIPA informed that UDDs/MCBs are still asking for NOC though it is not required under RoW Rules 2024. Chairman stated that the State IT Dept will take up the matter with UDDs & district administration to raise awareness on the new rules. DIPA was also requested to clarify their stance/ points based on the new RoW Rules 2024 in their meetings with district administrations.
- c. **Fee inconsistent with RoW Rules, 2024:** COAI informed that APDCL was charging Rs 500 per pole per year which was higher compared to the RoW Rules 2024, however they were applying in offline mode. IT Dept instructed COAI to apply through the State RoW portal only where the fees & charges are already aligned as per the RoW rules.
- d. **PWD related ROW Issue:** COAI informed that for some areas PWD is not accepting online applications. COAI was requested to share the list of such cases/ sites with the PWRD for resolution and necessary directions.
- e. **Request for Nodal:** DIPA requested appointment of a nodal officer to facilitate NOCs for towers on Govt buildings and a list of such buildings for network planning. State responded that a nodal officer may not be effective and asked DIPA to submit a proposal justifying the use of Govt buildings for telecom infrastructure, with examples from other States.
- f. **NOC acquisition issues:** DIPA shared a list of 23 sites where they were having trouble acquiring the NOC. Communication for 15 sites has already been made by IT Dept with DCs. The details of the remaining 8 sites will also be shared with IT Dept for necessary support.
- g. **Telecom Safety Instructions to Districts:** State informed that the issue is under consideration and the letter to the district authorities, as requested by DIPA will be issued.

--Action by DIPA, State IT Dept

C. Deliberations on MoC Letter to CM:

The letter from HMoC to HCM, Assam, dated 28th August 2025, mentioned the issues related to (i) Electricity & ROW issue raised by COAI/DIPA, (ii) BharatNet project feature on the RoW portal & (iii) CBuD Usage by State agencies/ departments.

- i) Electricity & ROW issue raised by COAI/DIPA - already covered above under Point 1.A & 1.B.
- ii) BharatNet project feature on the RoW portal: State IT Dept informed that BharatNet API configuration has already been completed in the State RoW Portal.
- iii) **CBuD Usage by State Departments:** The letter noted that only 7 enquiries were raised by State Departments/ Agencies in July. State acknowledged the importance of CBuD in preventing damage to underground assets. DoT/ Assam LSA proposed that, given the ministerial focus on CBuD, an exclusive meeting/ workshop be organised with major stakeholder departments & Agencies (PWRD, PHE, APDCL, TSPs, NHAI, NHIDCL etc.), along with the DCs and the district CBuD nodals (DLT users) by the state govt (IT-Dept.). In this meeting, DoT/Assam LSA will deliver a session on the importance and usage of CBuD, its citizen centric aspect and approach and the need of extensive outreach programs at field level for greater public awareness. The Chairman agreed to the proposal, and Assam LSA requested that the meeting be scheduled at the earliest, preferably by 26th September. Assam LSA further proposed that department-wise CBuD usage will be closely monitored jointly by Assam LSA and the State IT-Department.

--Action by State IT Dept/DoT LSA

DoT/Assam LSA requested the State to submit the ATR on MoC letter to CM by 18th September since the same has to be submitted to DoT HQ. The Chair instructed State IT Dept to do the needful.

--Action by State IT Dept

2. Status of PM Gati Shakti Portal – Street Furniture mapping:

HOME & POLITICAL Dept & DoHUA		PWD (Buildings)		ASTC & DoHUA				APDCL [POWER (ELECTRICITY) DEPARTMENT]		DoHUA	
Total Traffic Lights	Traffic lights mapped	Total Government Buildings	Government Buildings mapped	Total Bus Terminals	Bus Terminals mapped	Total Bus Shelters	Bus Shelters mapped	Total Electric Poles	Electric Poles mapped	Total Street Lights	Street Lights mapped
	105		144	106	94		0	11390309	76,771		

APDCL reported an increase of ~20,000 electric poles mapped as compared to the last SBC held in June 2025.

3. Village Telecom Coverage in Assam:

Total Villages	Covered by any Technology	Covered by 4G	Uncovered by 4G	4G UC and planned	Under plan
26,429 (RGI)	26,262 (99.36%)	26206(99.15%)	223 (0.84%)	174	49
28,543 (LGD)	27,825 (97.48%)	27,680 (96.97%)	863 (3.02%)	566	297
29,202 (Total)	28,432 (97.36%)	28,284 (96.85%)	918 (3.14%)	620	298

DoT/Assam LSA presented the village telecom coverage report of Assam. The Chair enquired about the status of the coverage of the Shadow areas and the criterion/ methodology of ascertaining the Lat-Long of the Village that was sought from DoT. LSA informed that the coordinates methodology for villages is being discussed at DoT HQ level and once received, it will be shared with State IT Dept. Based on this, State IT Dept would share the village coordinates details which would facilitate the process for ascertaining an accurate picture of telecom coverage across Rural Assam and planning for covering the villages effectively. LSA has also informed that it has submitted the proposal to the DoT HQ for framing the standard coverage criteria & SoP for dealing with the Shadow areas of partially covered villages which is under process at DoT HQ.

4. DBN Projects:
a. BSNL 4G Saturation Project:

BSNL gave a brief presentation on the 4G Saturation project being funded by DoT/DBN. Following is the land allotment status:

4G Saturation: Land Allotment/ Acquisition Status	Cat: I-III & IV	Cat V	Cat VI
• Total Uncovered Villages under USOF 4G Saturation (Scope)	2,901	915	404
• Total Villages Surveyed:	2,901	915	259
Villages dropped after survey	2,080	675	
• Total Villages to be covered after Initial Survey	821	240	
• Total Sites to cover above villages after Initial Survey	821		
• Sites dropped subsequent to the survey	375		
• Total Sites Proposed to Cover these Villages	446		
• Total Sites Break Up:			
o Govt. /Council Sites	275		
o Forest Sites	54		
o Private Sites Proposed due to Non-Availability of Govt. Land	117		
• As on Date Land Allocation Done:	430		
o Govt. /Council	275		
o Forest Sites	49		
o Private	108		
• Pending Site Acquisition	16		
o Govt.	0		
o Forest	4		
o Private	12		

Pending Forest Land: 4 Sites of Forest are pending namely – Gollachera & Kachurthal (where Stage I approval has been received), Bangla Vasha (approved by State Secretary), and Mugachang (through FRA 2006 & NOC awaited). BSNL informed that they are following up with the Forest Dept. State IT Dept also commented that the issue is being taken up at their end also to expedite the allotment of land.

Access Issues: BSNL further informed that there are 6 sites where they are facing access issues.

S L	District	Block	Village Name	BSNL Comments	Remarks
1	Cachar	Lakhipur	Chandikhal FV (Chandghat FV)	Taken up with DC, Cachar and other district administration who have assured assistance	Joint survey report to be submitted to DoT.
2	Dibrugarh	Chabua	Charkhalia Chapori Nc	Joint Survey completed. Access issue - no motorable road	Joint survey report to be submitted to DoT.
3	Dima Hasao	Haflong	Kaizakham	Joint Survey with IaaSP & State Govt representatives pending due to Rain	Joint survey report to be submitted to DoT.
4	Karbi Anglong	Diphu	New Mulsang	Joint Survey completed. Report awaited from IaaSP	Joint survey report to be submitted to DoT.

5	Karbi Anglong	Phuloni	Babu Rongchion (Langlokso)	Joint Survey with IaaSP & State Govt representatives pending due to Rain	Joint survey report to be submitted to DoT.
6	Karbi Anglong	Phuloni	Songkor Hanse Gaon	Joint Survey with IaaSP & State Govt representatives pending due to Rain	Joint survey report to be submitted to DoT.

The Chairman informed that BSNL should try to install the sites in these locations, else may submit the joint survey reports cross signed by IaaSP, BSNL & District authorities in case these are not accessible. The State may then consider sending the letter to DBN regarding deferment of these sites due to access issues.

Further, BSNL informed that 1 site in Tezpur district is planned on 15.2 km overhead cable on which 9 sites are dependent. PWD official is not allowing to lay the overhead cable. BSNL was requested to take up at the matter at district level first at DLTC platform. However, the case details can be shared with the DoT /LSA for further needful action with State level.

--Action by BSNL & PWRD/ DoT LSA.

Execution status of BSNL 4G Saturation:

Execution Status: Cat: I - IV	
Total no of sites:	446
Foundation completed	359
Tower erection completed	342
Tower ready with Electricity	118
Sites On Air	273

BSNL informed that around 25 sites are expected to go On Air by September end.

b. Bharat Net Utilization & Samridhh Gram Panchayat Pilot Project:

Targeted FTTH Connections by 31.12.2025						
Classification	Public Institutions	Achievement Status	Private Enterprises	Achievement Status	Households	Achievement Status
	(>5 per GP)		(>5 per GP)		(>5% per GP)	
FTTH Cnxs	475	46	475	14	3790	401

- a. BSNL, Assam informed that BNU has been onboarded in 49 GPs
- b. Further, BSNL is improving the service availability of the 95 selected GPs. The number of Down GPs has gone down from 22 to 15.
- c. The Chair enquired about the Status of GPDAC formation. DoT/Assam LSA informed that 26 GPDACs have been constituted in 8 Districts out of 95 GPs across 23 districts, and further informed that more are expected to be constituted before the CS e-Samiskha meeting. However, DoT/Assam LSA requested IT Dept to follow up with districts to expedite the constitution.
- d. BSNL was requested to improve the service availability and ensure that the targeted FTTH Connections are provided by 31.12.2025.
- e. State informed that the signing of State support agreement is under progress & is put up for approval from CS, Assam after which it'd be sent to DoT HQ.

--Action by BSNL, State IT Dept

5. RoW Portal Integration Progress:

As per Gati Shakti Sanchar	RoW Applications		Approved	Rejected	Under process	Pending>67D	Reverted
	5836		5361	193	6	0	276

DoT/Assam LSA informed that there are 5 optional APIs which are yet to be integrated in the State RoW portal. State IT dept informed that the same will be integrated by next month.

--Action by State IT Dept

6. Call Before you Dig:

State Users				Central Users			Registered Excavators	Enquiries	Unreported Excavations
Dept	Agency	District	Tehsil	C. State Agency	C. District	C. Tehsil			
15	53	293	166	28	426	447	1384	2963	45

The utilisation of CBuD was discussed during the deliberation on the points raised in the HMoC letter as discussed above.

The meeting ended with the Vote of thanks by DDG (Rural) to all the participants.

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

Memo eCF No. IT. 228702/2022/358-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 Secretary to Govt. of Assam, Power/PWD (Roads)/ PWD (Bldg &NH)/ Environment & Forest/DoHUA Department, Dispur, Guwahati-06
4. The State Project Director, AITEC & CSD Society, Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, Ghy-22.
5. All DC/ADC.
6. The Sr. DDG, DoT, Assam, LSA.
7. The DDG(R), LSA, Assam.
8. The CEO, Guwahati Municipal Corporation, Guwahati.
9. The CGM, BSNL, Paltan Bazaar, Guwahati01
10. The GM, Bharatnet, Assam.
11. The Area Manager, Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd.
12. The General Manager, APDCL, Bijulee Bhawan, Paltan Bazaar, Guwahati-01
13. The DG, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).
14. The Digital Infrastructure Providers Association of India (DIPA).
15. P.S. to Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Information Technology for kind information of the Secretary.
16. P.S. to Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Information Technology for kind information of the Secretary.

By orders etc.,
e-signed
Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Information Technology Department