



Administration of
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (UT)
Department of Information Technology
Daman & Diu e-Governance Society
Vidyut Bhavan, Kachigam,
Nani Daman

DIR(IT)/Broadband Readiness Index (BRI)/2019/ 91

Date: 29/05/2026

Subject: Minutes of 13th Meeting of UT Broadband Committee of UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu held on 12.05.2026

The 13th UT Broadband Committee Meeting of UT of DNH&DD was held on 12th May, 2026 at 11:00 AM under the Chairmanship of Shri Ankur Garg, IAS, Advisor to Administrator, DNH & DD at the Conference Hall of Secretariat, Vidyut Bhavan, Kachigam, Daman.

The meeting was attended by officers from Department of Telecommunications (DoT), UT administration, BSNL, BBNL Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Representatives from DIPA & COAI and other concerned departments. The list of participants is attached as Annexure-I.

At the outset, Shri S. Ajith Kumar, ITS, Additional Director General Telecom, Gujarat LSA, DoT welcomed the Chairperson and all the participants of the meeting. Shri Avinash Khatri, Director (Rural-2). Gujarat LSA, provided a briefing on the detailed agenda points. The points discussed in the meeting and action plan for the issues are as under:

1. Telecom Roll-out in DNH & DD

The status of telecom rollout in DNH & DD was reviewed. It was noted that as per the coverage criteria of Govt of India, all 95 census villages have been covered with 4G services and 94 villages have been covered with 5G services. The Chair appreciated the progress made by the Telecom Service Providers and emphasized the need for further strengthening telecom infrastructure in uncovered and weak coverage areas.

Action Point:

- a) All TSPs to continue expansion and optimization of 4G/5G services across DNH & DD.

2. Shadow Areas in UT

The issue of pending shadow areas in DNH & DD was discussed. It was informed that, out of 47 initially identified shadow areas, coverage has improved in 35 areas, while coverage in the remaining 12 areas is still pending.

Further, it was highlighted that under 4G Saturation Project, BSNL Mobile Towers have already been installed in the UT to improve mobile connectivity in the uncovered area. However, it is understood that Intra Circle Roaming (ICR) services are yet to be operationalized in the UT of DNH & DD. Hence, the chair directed to activate and implement Intra Circle Roaming (ICR) in the UT of DNH & DD.

It was highlighted that the Fort Area, Moti Daman is experiencing poor mobile network connectivity. Since the UT Secretariat and other major government offices are located in this area, frequent VVIP and official movements take place, making reliable telecom connectivity essential.

Action Points:

- a) Department of (IT), DNH & DD to take up the matter with Administrator, DBN for implementation Intra Circle Roaming (ICR) in the UT of DNH & DD.
- b) BSNL shall expedite the optimization of existing 4G network (Behadunpada, Khokarapada, Murdolpada, Patelpada, Vadpada, Fanaspada, Fatherpada and Gondpada).
- c) All the TSPs to improve the network coverage in the mentioned 12 shadow area by optimisation or new tower deployment.
- d) DoT to take necessary action for establishing the New Tower at Fort area to ensure 100% coverage of all TSPs
- e) Gujarat LSA, DoT shall pursue the matter with DBN for deployment of telecom towers to provide coverage in the remaining shadow areas (Jabarmal, Margachmal, Chilkhaldapada and Vangadpada) including both urban and rural areas.

3. Review of Amended BharatNet Project

The scope of the project was briefed to the committee, and the Committee reviewed the progress of the Amended BharatNet Project in the UT of DNH & DD. It was informed that BSNL is the Project Management Agency, NCC Ltd. is the Project Implementation Agency, and EPIL is the Independent Engineer. The project covers 38 Gram Panchayats across Daman, Diu, and DNH, and the survey and handover/takeover activities for all GPs have been completed.

GM (BharatNet) informed that trenching work of 12.5 km in Daman and 207 meters in Diu has been completed, while ducting and OFC laying activities are yet to commence.

The Chair desired that the execution of the project, along with provisioning of 3580 rural home FTTH connections, may be completed within the current calendar year.

The Chair expressed concern over the slow pace of execution and directed NCC Ltd. to ramp up the execution of trenching, OFC laying, and related activities to ensure timely completion of the project. The Chair also directed Secretary (Panchayat)/ Secretary (IT) to take up the matter with Administrator, DBN, DoT for inclusion of 12 newly formed Gram Panchayats under the project.

GM (BharatNet) requested access to Gram Panchayat buildings during weekends, whenever required, for carrying out maintenance activities. Secretary (Panchayat) agreed to the request and assured all necessary support related to the project.

Action Point:

- a) NCC Ltd. to ramp up the execution of trenching, OFC laying, and related activities to ensure timely completion of the project.
- b) BSNL to initiate activities for utilization of the project by providing rural household FTTH connections and ensure completion by 31.12.2026.
- c) Secretary (IT)/ Secretary (Panchayat) to take up the matter with Administrator, DBN for inclusion of 12 newly formed Gram Panchayats under the Amended BharatNet Project along with the existing 38 Gram Panchayats in the UT.

4. Samriddh Gram Panchayat Project

The targets and achievements under the Samriddh Gram Panchayat Project were reviewed for all 03 panchayats. The Chair emphasized the need for improving FTTH penetration among public institutions, private enterprises and households in Gram Panchayats.

The Chair further directed that the Gram Panchayats which achieve the prescribed FTTH connection targets under the project may be declared as "Samriddh Gram Panchayats".

Action Point:

- a) BSNL to expedite provision of FTTH connections under the project.
- b) Gujarat LSA to identify and declare eligible Gram Panchayats as "Samriddh Gram Panchayats" upon achievement of prescribed targets.

5. Utilization of CBuD (Call Before You Dig) Application

The status of utilization of the CBuD (Call Before You Dig) application in the UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu was reviewed. It was observed that the usage of the application remains low compared to the excavation activities being undertaken in the UT. It was further noted that Government departments such as PWD, Water Supply and other executing agencies are not regularly utilizing the application.

The Chair directed Secretary (PWD) to ensure mandatory use of the CBuD application for all digging and excavation activities in the UT and to sensitize and mobilize all concerned field agencies for its effective implementation.

Action Point:

PWD and all concerned Government departments shall ensure mandatory utilization of the CBUd application for all excavation activities and sensitize field offices and executing agencies for its effective implementation across the UT.

6. Smart Metering of Telecom Towers

ADG (Electrical), Gujarat LSA informed to the committee that the installation of Smart meter of telecom towers are still pending in the UT. It was apprised that CAPAX approval has been obtained by the torrent power and administrative approval of the UT administration was pending for budgetary approval. It was also apprised that Torrent Power has already started smart meter installation in Gujarat state from 1st May regardless of any subsidy.

Addl DGT, GJ LSA informed that the UT of DNH&DD is one of the last states/UT where smart meter installation on telecom tower is pending.

The Chair directed the Secretary (Power) to initiate the implementation process of Smart Meters in the UT of DNH & DD.

7. Promotion of Sanchar Saathi Portal/Application

The Committee reviewed the citizen-centric initiatives available under the Sanchar Saathi platform, including CEIR, TAFCOP, and CHAKSU. During the discussion, Director (Rural) suggested that information relating to the Sanchar Saathi portal/application may be displayed on public digital display boards to enhance awareness and publicity of the platform and to promote mobile safety and security among citizens of the UT.

Action Point:

Concerned departments to undertake awareness and publicity activities for the Sanchar Saathi portal/application, including display of information on public digital display boards across the UT.

8. Issues Raised by DIPA**A) Rejection of Telecom Tower Applications in Silvassa**

DIPA submitted that three online RoW applications for telecom tower submitted in Silvassa were rejected due to a requirement for additional NOCs from PWD and GMDIC. However, as per the online process, clearances are required only from the Planning & Development Authority/Town Planning and the Silvassa Municipal Council. The insistence on additional NOCs is not in line with the online process and is causing avoidable delays in deployment.

(Online application no: DN/GBT/Govt/84764, DN/GBT/Govt/84765, DN/GBT/Govt/84767)

The Chair directed the DC, Silvassa over phone during the meeting to resolve the issue on priority and advised DIPA to coordinate and meet the DC accordingly.

Action Point:

- a) DIPA representatives to meet the Collector, Silvassa and brief the issue for early resolution.
- b) All concerned departments to adhere to the Telecom RoW Rules, 2024 and avoid seeking any additional documents beyond the prescribed provisions.

B) RoW Deemed Approval Granted but Work Not Permitted by Authority:

DIPA submitted that installation of three telecom towers at Daman Collectorate sites remains pending, as the concerned authority has not permitted commencement of work despite NOC deemed approval. (Online application no: DN/GBT/Govt/551, DN/GBT/Govt/77372, DN/GBT/Govt/77374)

The Chair directed the DC, Daman over phone during the meeting to resolve the issue on priority and further advised DIPA to coordinate and meet the DC accordingly.

Action Point:

- a) DIPA representatives to meet the Collector, Daman and brief the issue for early resolution.
- b) All concerned departments to adhere to the Telecom RoW Rules, 2024.

9. Issues raised by COAI:

- A. COAI informed the Committee that the use of the CBuD (Call Before You Dig) application needs to be actively encouraged across the UT. It was further submitted that member telecom operators have experienced multiple incidents of underground fibre damage on the Silvassa–Naroli, Sayli–Rakholi, and Rakholi–Kherdi routes due to road expansion works, pipeline laying, and culvert construction activities.

Action Point:

All concerned departments and executing agencies shall ensure mandatory utilization of the CBuD application for all excavation activities and sensitize field offices and executing agencies for its effective implementation across the UT.

B. Requirement of Registered Lease Deed for Electricity Connections

COAI submitted that Registered Lease Deeds are being demanded while processing applications for electricity connections for mobile tower sites, causing delays in provisioning of telecom infrastructure.

The Chair directed Torrent Power not to insist on submission of Registered Lease Deeds while processing electricity connection applications for mobile towers and to process such applications as per the applicable guidelines and provisions.

Action Point:

Torrent Power to avoid insisting on Registered Lease Deeds for electricity connection applications pertaining to mobile tower sites and ensure timely processing of such applications.

10. Issues raised by BSNL:

General Manager (BharatNet) highlighted that, PWD Department tab is no visible on the online RoW permission portal, due to which they are facing difficulties in obtaining required permission from PWD Department.

The official from PWD Department informed that due technical issues, Department is not able to create Bank Accounts, due to which the it is not able to integrated the account details in the RoW portal.

The Chairperson, instructed the PWD Department to create Bank Accounts and integrate the account details in the RoW portal on urgent basis & accept the application in physical mode (offline application) till the completion of integration process.

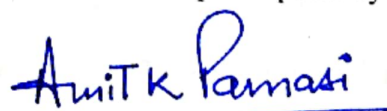
Action Point:

Department of IT, DNH & DD to issue necessary directions to PWD Department regarding the same.

Conclusion

The Chair emphasized the importance of robust telecom infrastructure and digital connectivity for the State's socio-economic development and directed all stakeholders to work in close coordination for the timely resolution of telecom-related issues.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and the participants by Director (Rural-2), Gujarat LSA, DoT.



Director- cum-Joint Secretary (IT)

U.T. of DNH & DD

To,

All participants (Through email).

Copy to:

- 1) PA to Advisor to the Hon'ble Administrator, DNH & DD for kind information.
- 2) PA to Secretary (IT), DNH & DD for kind information.

The list of the participants attended the 13th meeting of the Union Territory Broadband Committee are as follows:

1. The Chief Conservator of Forests, DNH & DD.
2. The Secretary (IT), DNH & DD.
3. The Secretary (Urban Development), DNH & DD
4. The Secretary (Power & Non-Conventional (Renewable) Sources of Energy), DNH & DD.
5. The Secretary (PWD), DNH & DD.
6. The Secretary (Rural Development, PRI and Community Development), DNH & DD.
7. Representatives from DoT working in the LSA in Gujarat.
8. Representatives from IT Department, DNH & DD.
9. Representatives from BSNL
10. Representatives from BBNL.
11. Representatives from Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).
12. Representatives from Towers and Infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA)