



Government of India
Department of Telecommunications
O/o Deputy Director General, NE LSA, Tripura
1st Floor, Door Sanchar Bhawan
Kaman Chowmohani, Agartala - 799001

F. No. DoT/NELSA/Tripura/Corr/2024-25/SBC

Dated 04th May 2026

Record Note of the 6th Meeting of the State Broadband Committee (SBC) of Tripura held on 16th April 2026 at 4:00 PM

The State Broadband Committee (SBC), Tripura, was formed on 7 August 2020 under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to review broadband work and improve digital connectivity in the State.

Its 6th meeting was held on 16 April 2026 at the State Secretariat. The Director (IT) welcomed the participants, and the DDG, DoT, NE LSA Tripura, led the discussion.

The DDG thanked the State Government for its support in resolving field issues and speeding up telecom projects. He also noted progress since the last meeting, including the CBuD cabinet note and reduced TSECL demand notes for 17 4G saturation sites.

He then presented the Action Taken Report of the 5th meeting, reviewed ongoing telecom projects, and highlighted key issues needing State support.

During the meeting, the following key points were discussed:

1. **Status of the 3rd International Internet Gateway (IGW) of BSNL at Agartala:** The PGM CNTX, BSNL NER, presented the status of the Agartala IGW and the future plan for improving Tripura's international connectivity through Bangladesh Submarine Cable PLC (BSC-PLC). BSNL had taken 10 Gbps bandwidth in 2016, which was increased to 20 Gbps in 2022. Due to low utilization of 20 Gbps international connectivity and administrative reasons, DoT funding was not approved, and the two Bangladesh links were decommissioned in April 2025 and October 2025. At present, BSNL is using a 10 Gbps link from Bharti Airtel for connectivity to Chennai/Mumbai. For long-term connectivity, a 60 Gbps core upgrade and a 20 Gbps IGW are required.

The Chief Secretary observed that the International Gateway (IGW) is a strategic asset with significant potential to support the emergence of Tripura as a major IT hub and to contribute to the overall digital and economic development of the entire North Eastern region. He emphasized that strengthening this infrastructure would be important not only for improving international connectivity in the State, but also for promoting future investments, digital services, and technology-based growth. In this regard, he requested the PGM CNTX, BSNL NER, to prepare and submit a detailed proposal indicating the fund requirement for revival and strengthening of the IGW.

2. **Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI):** The DDG Tripura deliberated on the Government of India's Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme which is designed to incentivize State to undertake meaningful, time-bound reforms in return for substantial capital funding. The scheme bridges the gap between policy intent and on-ground execution by tying fund releases to verified reform outcomes. The Chief Secretary noted that this initiative presents a significant opportunity to enhance Tripura's IT infrastructure and designated the Director (IT) as the primary coordinator. Furthermore, he directed all relevant departments to prioritize these initiatives for immediate and expedited execution. DoT to provide Gazette notification with regards RoW already implemented in state following which a demand may be sent from the state and also instructed the Department of Power to examine the implementation of composite billing.

3. **The DBN funded 4G Saturation Project in Tripura:** The DDG NE LSA Tripura informed that as of March 2026, the project reached 88% completion, with 104 of the 118 Category-1 sites commissioned. To achieve full 4G coverage across all identified locations in Tripura, State support was sought to resolve two key infrastructure constraints:
- (i) The joint site surveys were conducted for 41 locations situated within 100 meters of High Tension (HT) lines. Consequently, the EB demand notes for 17 of these sites have been revised to below the sanctioned threshold of Rs 3 lakh. Further, the Director (Technical), TSECL, confirmed that the remaining surveys are complete and assured that the revised demand notes would be issued expeditiously.
 - (ii) Regarding additional village coverage initiatives under this project, it was noted that government land has been allotted for five out of the sixteen additional villages approved by the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN). The Chief Secretary directed that for remaining sites land allotment is to be done as early as possible.
 - (iii) BSNL sought exclusion of the Chakpur village site on account of its difficult accessibility, as the location can be reached only by boat, making transportation of equipment and future maintenance both operationally difficult and financially unviable. The Chief Secretary, however, emphasized the sites's critical strategic importance for extending coverage to a large underserved area and its significance from a disaster management perspective. He observed that the additional expenditure arising from such logistical challenges may be considered under disaster management funding and directed BSNL to submit a detailed proposal indicating the financial requirement for executing works at such critical and geographically difficult locations.
4. **Amended BharatNet Program Status:** It was informed that BSNL has shortlisted Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) for implementation of the Amended BharatNet project. Advance Purchase Order (APO) has been issued, and project implementation is scheduled to start in May 2026. The rollout is planned to be completed within two years, followed by eight years of maintenance and technical support by TCIL.

The current status of the Amended BharatNet initiative is detailed as follows:

Amended BharatNet					
Sl.	No of Blocks	Phase-I Site Upgrades	Phase-II Site Upgrades	New Villages/GPs	Total Villages/GPs planned
1	58	597	140	381	1118

The Current Status of BharatNet:

Phase	Total GPs	Service Ready	Operational
Phase I (OFC)	878	598	110
Phase II (Satellite)	142	142	45
Combined Total;	1020	740	155

The current status of the proposals previously deliberated to ensure the effective implementation of the Amended BharatNet scheme is as follows:

- i) **District Level Telecom Committee:** As mandated in the MoU to the Amended BharatNet scheme, BSNL has addressed letters to the District Magistrates & Collectors of the eight districts in Tripura for constitution of DLTC.
- ii) **State Support for signing of the MoU Addendum:** The Director (IT), Tripura, informed that while the Rural Development and Law Departments have granted their consent to the addendum to the MoU, the Power Department has expressed conflicting views following the vetting process. Upon being apprised by the DDG, Tripura, that other states have already signed the same addendum, the Chief Secretary directed that these precedents be carefully studied and the matter resubmitted to him for further

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consideration. He further observed that the number of operational sites was comparatively fewer than those service ready.

5. **48-Fiber OPGW Deployment Initiative:** It was informed that Tripura Power Transmission Limited (TPTL) has currently commissioned 24-fibre OPGW covering 80% of the state's 132kV transmission network, meeting all SCADA and tele-control requirements. RailTel, BSNL and PGCIL are currently leasing dark fibres from this network. While existing capacity is adequate, the adoption of 48-fibre OPGW is under consideration for future requirements, subject to funding from the Government of India.
6. **Issues Raised by the Participants:** During the deliberations on critical telecom infrastructure, participants highlighted specific bottlenecks and requested state intervention to expedite resolutions.
 - i) **Bulk Diesel Procurement Facilitation:** Sh. Raman Srivastava, representative from the Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) has raised concern that district-level restrictions on diesel sale in loose containers are affecting refuelling of DG sets at remote tower sites, creating risk of network disruption and emergency service failure. DIPA requested a State-level exemption for diesel supply for telecom infrastructure companies. The Chief Secretary stated that the restrictions were based on Central Ministry directions and asked DIPA to submit similar exemption orders issued by other States for examination.
 - ii) **Use of Duct Laid by Agartala Smart City Ltd.:** BSNL requested permission to use the duct infrastructure created by Agartala Smart City Ltd. (ASCL) for laying its Optical Fiber Cable (OFC), as its existing network had been substantially damaged during excavation works. It was noted that the duct can also be used for telecom cables. The Chief Secretary directed that the proposal be formally taken up with the CEO of Agartala Smart City Ltd. for further coordination and approval.
 - iii) **RoW Issue with NHIDCL:** BSNL has highlighted a critical operational bottleneck regarding substantial delays in securing Right-of-Way (RoW) permissions from the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL). These delays are a hindrance to the rapid deployment of digital connectivity across the state. In response, the Chief Secretary directed that these administrative hurdles be addressed and resolved through a mutual coordination meeting with NHIDCL to establish an expedited approval process.
 - iv) **IBS Installation Issue at IGM Hospital, Agartala:** DIPA raised the pending issue of In-Building Solution (IBS) installation at IGM Hospital. Although the Letter of Intent was issued in August 2024 and RoW approval was granted in May 2025, the work is still pending due to clearance issues from PWD and the Medical Superintendent of the hospital. The Chief Secretary requested the Secretary, PWD & Health, to personally examine the matter for early resolution.
 - v) **Ground-Based Tower (GBT) at Tripura Science City:** DIPA has raised an issue regarding the pending approval for a GBT installation at Tripura Science City, for which a proposal was submitted on January 7, 2026. To expedite this process and ensure timely installation, the Chief Secretary advised the concerned DIPA member to formally communicate the specific details to the Director (IT) for necessary intervention and resolution.
 - vi) **Smart Meter Installation at Telecom Sites:** DIPA has requested the prioritized installation of smart meters at approximately 1,500 telecom tower sites in Tripura to ensure accurate billing and energy efficiency under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). In response, the Director (Technical), TSECL, noted that smart meters have already been successfully installed at 540 telecom tower locations. To address the remaining sites, the Chief Secretary directed that the deployment be completed

expeditiously to resolve pending billing disputes and streamline power management for critical infrastructure.

- vii) **Green Energy Open Access Framework:** In alignment with the 2nd Amendment to the Green Energy Open Access Rules 2022 (dated 23 May 2023), DIPA has requested that eligibility for Green Energy Open Access be extended to consumers with a contracted load of 100 kW or more and that supply caps for captive users be removed. It was further requested that the Tripura Electricity Regulatory Commission (TERC) formally adopt these provisions into the state regulatory framework. The Chief Secretary noted that the State Government has already taken up the matter with TERC and advised DIPA to also meet with the Commission to facilitate the issuance of the necessary notifications.
- viii) **Power Infrastructure and Billing Discrepancies:** DIPA highlighted several issues regarding power supply to telecom sites, including the replacement of faulty meters and issue of average billing despite the presence of functional meters. Furthermore, DIPA raised concerns regarding load upgradation constraints at existing Low Tension (LT) connected sites. In response, the Chief Secretary directed DIPA to provide TSECL with a detailed list of the affected sites and faulty meters for immediate verification. He further instructed TSECL to accord priority to replacement of faulty meters with smart meters and advised both parties to hold a meeting to resolve the load upgradation and billing issues through mutual consultation.

In his concluding remarks, the Chief Secretary, emphasized that telecom infrastructure is critical for the State's growth and development. He stressed the need for revival of the BSNL IGW and directed all concerned departments to implement SASCI works on priority. He also observed that the number of operational sites was comparatively lower than the number of service-ready sites under BharatNet project and directed concerned stake holders to expedite the operationalization of all service-ready BharatNet sites at the earliest.

Further, he instructed all the state departments to address the infrastructure-related issues raised by Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on priority to facilitate smooth telecom expansion across the state.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks and a commitment to accelerating Tripura's digital transformation goals.

(S/d)
Chief Secretary,
Government of Tripura

To
All Participants.

Copy to:

1. PS to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tripura for kind information of the Chief Secretary.
2. PS to the Principal Secretary, Forest, Govt. of Tripura for kind information of the Principal Secretary.
3. The Secretary, IT, Govt. of Tripura for kind information.
4. The Secretary, Urban Development and RD & Panchayats, Govt. of Tripura for kind information.
5. The Secretary, PWD, Govt. of Tripura for kind information.
6. The Secretary, Power, Govt. of Tripura for kind information.
7. The Secretary, Tribal Welfare, Govt. of Tripura for kind information.



Annexure-I

List of Participants:

A. From State Government

1. Shri Jitendra Kumar Sinha, Chief Secretary, ~~Govt.~~ of Tripura
2. Shri R. K. Samal, PCCF & HoFF and Principal Secretary (Forests), Govt. of Tripura
3. Shri Kiran Gitte, Secretary, IT, Govt. of Tripura
4. Shri Milind Ramteke, Secretary, Urban Development, Govt. of Tripura
5. Shri Jeya Ragul Geshan B, Director, IT, Govt. of Tripura
6. Shri Subir Sen, Director Technical, TSECL
7. Shri Remrasai Mog, Joint Director, DIT
8. Shri Syamal Debbarma, SE, DIT
9. Shri Jahar Debbarma, Sr. Manager, TSECL
10. Smt Supriya Chakma, SIO, DIT
11. Shri Suvit Debbarma, SIO, DIT

B. From Dept. of Telecommunications, BSNL, TSPs and Telecom Associations

12. Shri Anil Kumar Gehlot, Deputy Director General, Dept, of Telecommunications, Gol
13. Shri Edwinson Swer, Principal GM, BSNL, NE
14. Shri Sajal Kumar Saha, DGM, BSNL
15. Shri Subrata Datta, AGM, BSNL
16. Shri Narayan Bhowmik, Asst. Director, Department of Telecommunications, Gol
17. Shri Ankit Shaw, Jr Telecom Officer, Department of Telecommunications, Gol
18. Shri Dhananjay, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)
19. Shri Raman Srivastava, Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA)
20. Shri Somen Lahin, Reliance Jio
21. Shri Khokan Das, Reliance Jio
22. Shri Sourav Acharjee, Indus Tower Ltd.
23. Shri Sristik Das, CTCL
24. Shri Aneep Roy, R/F Eng., Vodafone Idea Ltd.
25. Shri Abhijit Chakrabharty, R/F Eng., Vodafone Idea Ltd.
26. Shri Lal Babu, Airtel


Dy. Director General
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