

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
(Communications Wing)

From
The Director (Communications)
IT, E&C Department, 1st Floor,
Block-IV, 1st Floor,
A.P. Secretariat,
Velagapudi.

To
a) The Senior Deputy Director General,
APLSA, DoT, Vijayawada.
b) All the Committee Members & Spl.
Invitees.

Lr.No.ITC01-COOR0GOIM/8/2022-COMMUNICATIONS, DT:01.04.2025

Sir/Madam,

Sub: IT, E&C Dept., - State Broadband Committee - Minutes of Meeting held on
17.03.2025 at 12.30 PM - Communicated - Reg.

The Government vide G.O.Rt.No.12, IT, E&C Department, DT:25.03.2021 has reconstituted the State Broadband Committee. The Minutes of 7th State Broadband Committee meeting held on 17.03.2025 at 12.30 PM at CS Conference Hall, AP Secretariat, Velagapudi are communicated for information and for further follow up action.

Yours faithfully


Director (Communications)

Encl: as above

Copy to:

- 1) The OSD to the Chief Secretary (w.e.)
- 2) The PS to Secretary, IT, E&C Department.
- 3) The PS to Special Secretary, IT, E&C Department.

Minutes of the 7th State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting held on 17.03.2025 at 12.30 Hrs at CS conference hall, Andhra Pradesh (AP) Secretariat Buildings, Velagapudi

The following Officers were present:

1. Sri. K Vijayanand, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government (Govt.) of Andhra Pradesh & Special (Spl.) Chief Secretary to Govt., Energy Department (Dept.)
2. Sri. Kantilal Dande, IAS, Principal Secretary, Transport, Roads & Buildings Dept., (VC)
3. Sri. S. Suresh Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration & Urban Development Dept., (VC)
4. Sri. Katamneni Bhaskar, IAS, Secretary, Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITE&C) Dept.,
5. Sri. Kumar Vishwajeet, IPS, Principal Secretary, Home Dept., (VC)
6. Sri. Rahul Pandey, IFS, APCCF, HOFF (VC)
7. Smt. M. Vani, Project Director (PD), Certified Municipal Revenue Officer (CMRO), O/o Chief Commissioner of Land Administration [CCLA] (VC)
8. Sri. Srinivas Reddy, Managing Director, AP Road Development Corporation [APRDC] (VC)
9. Sri. N. Srinivasulu, Addl. Secretary, Environment, Forest, Science & Technology Dept., (VC)
10. Sri. Dhavuryan Naik, Director (Communications), ITE&C Dept.,
11. Sri. P Bharadwaj, Chief Technical Officer (CTO), Andhra Pradesh State FiberNet Limited [APSFL] (VC)
12. Sri. Suresh, General Manager (GM), APSFL (VC)
13. Sri. Sandeep, Manager, APSFL (VC)

DoT:

1. Sri. J. V. Raja Reddy, ITS, Addl. DG, Andhra Pradesh Licensed Service Area (APLSA), Vijayawada, Member Convenor
2. Sri. T. Vara Prasad, ITS, Dy. DG, APLSA, Vijayawada.
3. Sri. G. V. Manoj Kumar, ITS, Director, APLSA, Vijayawada.
4. Sri. J. Ramachandraiah, Asst. Director (Rural), AP LSA, Vijayawada.
5. Sri. Kushal Ram Chittari, ADET (Rural), APLSA, Vijayawada.
6. Sri. M Ravi Sankar, Assistant Director (Tech), APLSA, Vijayawada.

BSNL& BBNL:

1. Sri. M. Seshachalam, ITS, CGM, AP Circle, Vijayawada.
2. Sri. B. Ravi Kumar, ITS, CGM and State Head, BBNL AP (VC)
3. Sri. K Murali Krishna, ITS, GM, AP Circle, Vijayawada
4. Sri. J. Uday Kumar, DGM, AP Circle, Vijayawada
5. Sri. Venugopal, AGM, AP Circle, Vijayawada.

COAI & DIPA (through Video Conference):

1. Sri. Dhanunjay, Director, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)
2. Sri. Mukesh Kumar, COAI
3. Sri. S. Srivastava, Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA)
4. Sri. Greesh Kumar, DIPA
5. Smt. Deepthi, DIPA

The Secretary, ITE&C Department briefed the following issues related to tower sites and Right of Way (RoW) issues in Andhra Pradesh (AP) State:

- a. ITE&C Department, Forest Department, and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) conducted a review meeting on forest related issues and instructions were issued to the concerned for resolving the issues.
 - b. There are no Revenue issues and a few Forest issues (142) relate to clearance for laying the towers and optic fiber cables (OFC).
 - c. BSNL is requesting fee waivers and exemptions due to the paucity of funds.
 - d. Regarding the Roadways to tower sites, Collectors were instructed to permit laying of the *Katcha* Road under Recognition of Forest Rights Act (RoFR). Collectors/PO, Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDAs) will sanction minor expenditures from National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) for laying the *katcha* Roads without using machinery.
2. The Chief Secretary instructed the TSPs to pay the statutory fees to Government Departments as per the fees applicable. No exemption will be given in this regard.
3. The Chief General Manager (CGM), BSNL has clarified that the issues were sorted out after the meeting of the Secretary, ITE&C Department with the Forest Department, and TSPs. The issues addressed, and resolved during this meeting are presented below:
- a. In Forest areas, BSNL is in full readiness to institute the Avifauna Environmental study and pay the required Survey charges (Rs. 25 Lakhs).
 - b. Regarding the exemption letter requested for Advertisement charges for Stage-I and Stage-II, the exemption letter was suitably issued and resolved.
 - c. In the Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) District (for 16 to 18 sites) where the towers were erected, the Forest Department is demanding RoW permissions since these areas are classified as "Reserve forest" areas and "tiger reserves" etc. BSNL was requested to give an undertaking in writing to the District Collector stating that "an environmental clearance certificate is not required". BSNL has submitted the same for clearance.
4. The Nodal Officer from the Forests Department clarified on the exemption issued on the Advertisement charges for Stage-I and Stage-II. The Stage-I clearance will be issued by the Government of India, while the Stage-II will be issued by State Government. Therefore, the Forest Department issued exemption for Stage-II to BSNL. Regarding Stage-I exemption, the BSNL team shall engage with the officials of the MoEF & CC, Government of India at Chennai suitably facilitated by the State Forest Department.
5. Issues raised by COAI:
- a. The AP TR&B RoW Online Portal is having issues with regard to the processing of applications in their RoW portal.
 - i. The Secretary, ITE&C Department clarified that the Government of AP issued instructions to migrate all the Stake Holding Department RoW portals to the Central Gatishakti portal. The TR&B portal migration is yet to be migrated, which would be expedited within seven working days.
 - b. The DISCOM's application charges for the Overhead Telegraphy Line (OFC) on the electricity poles is not aligned with the GoI Right of Way (RoW) Rules 2024.
 - i. The Chief Secretary directed the Secretary, ITE&C Department to share the Government of India (GoI) Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2024, which shall be verified, and necessary directions would be issued to DISCOMs.

- c. COAI informed that currently there is a mandate to use Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) survey only. Since the telecom projects are linear projects, it is requested to allow the use of normal Global Positioning System (GPS), on the widely popular Keyhole Markup Language (KML) files for the Forest permissions.
 - i. As the DGPS survey is world standard technology, the Secretary, ITE&C Department has rejected the proposal.
 - ii. The Nodal Officer from the Forest Department informed that if the KML file is not constructed from the DGPS survey, the PARIVESH portal will not accept the file.
 - d. Regarding refund of Security Deposits from Municipalities & R&B, the Chief Secretary directed to share the details, for further discussions with the Finance Department.
6. Issues Raised by DIPA
- a. Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) is not providing the electricity connection to mobile towers as mandated in the new GoI Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2024, and insisting on the NOCs in the private property. APSPDCL is requested to provide the electricity for mobile towers as per the GoI Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2024.
 - i. The Chief Secretary informed that the new rule positions will be checked and accordingly, directions will be issued to all the DISCOMs on providing the electricity connections to mobile towers.
 - b. Regarding the high demand note in the APIIC, the CS instructed DIPA to consolidate such cases and put forth before the State Government, to examine the merits on a case-by-case basis.
7. The Sr. DDG, APLSA requested to give the industry status to Telecom Sector and provide the mobile tower's electricity charges with industrial tariff as was done in Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. The Chief Secretary advised to file the proposal before the AP Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) and necessary support will be provided from State Government.
8. Regarding Smart / Prepaid Electricity meters, the Sr. DDG, APLSA requested for the deployment of smart meters for the mobile towers to pay the bills of the towers located in different locations. The Chief Secretary requested DIPA to share the data of the deployment rate of smart meters for mobile towers and necessary directions will be issued to DISCOMs for the deployment of smart meters.
9. The Chief Secretary instructed to facilitate the mobile projects in the State. The State Government is relaxing the existing rules and refrained from imposing additional restriction in the Forest sites. *The TSPs and Forest Department are advised to take up these Forest related issues with GoI, since the MoEF&CC imposed restriction at various levels.*

K. VIJAYANAND
CHIEF SECRETARY