



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 17th February 2026

Record Note of the 5th Meeting of the State Broadband Committee (SBC) of Tripura held on 15th January 2026 at 5:00 PM

The State Broadband Committee (SBC), Tripura, chaired by the Chief Secretary, was constituted vide OM No. F.22(22))/DIT/Comm/2018/Vol-1/2389-98 dated 7 August 2020 to monitor and review National Broadband Mission (NBM) works. It acts as the nodal coordination body for broadband expansion to strengthen digital connectivity and support socio-economic development in Tripura.

The 5th meeting of the SBC was held on 15th January, 2026 at 5:00 PM under chairmanship of the Chief Secretary in the Conference Hall No. II, State Secretariat Building.

The DDG, NE LSA Tripura (DoT), warmly welcomed all participants and placed on record sincere gratitude to the Chief Secretary for the consistent guidance and wholehearted support extended by the State Government in facilitating the expansion of the telecommunications network across Tripura. It was noted that this continued cooperation has been vital in resolving field-level issues, ensuring smoother project execution, and accelerating connectivity improvements for citizens.

Thereafter, a detailed presentation was made on the Action Taken Report (ATR) covering follow-up on the action points of the 4th State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting. The presentation also outlined the status of ongoing telecom projects in Tripura and flagged key infrastructure issues that require state-level support for timely resolution.

During the meeting, the following key points were discussed:

1. **4G Saturation Project:** The DDG NE LSA Tripura informed that as of December 2025, the project reached 85% completion, with 101 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 proposed tower site at Chakpur village (Gomati district) is accessible only by boat, leading BSNL to request site cancellation on 22 November 2025 due to high transport and maintenance costs; the issue has been taken up by the District Administration and referred to the SDM, Karbook, with progress being monitored at the State level; and
- (ii) EB demand notes issued by TSECL for 87 sites are exceeding BSNL's sanctioned limit of ₹3 lakh per site for EB extensions while many remote sites currently run on solar power. The GM, BSNL Tripura BA, has indicated that although these remote rural locations currently use solar power, the grid connectivity is essential to guarantee 100% operational availability.

He highlighted that 41 sites are situated within 100 metres of HT lines and requested a reduction in the amount of EB demand notes to below the sanctioned ₹3 lakh threshold for these locations. In response, the Director (Technical), TSECL, confirmed that joint site surveys are underway and are expected to be completed within 20

days, after which EB demand notes will be reviewed with the objective of adjusting the costs to fall within the approved ₹3 lakh limit.

2. **Additional Village Coverage Initiatives:** A detailed briefing was given on DoT's strategy to extend digital infrastructure to underserved areas, with a focus on achieving end-to-end connectivity in Tripura's rural regions, tribal settlements, and border villages through schemes such as the 4G Saturation Project.

In support of these efforts, the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) approved six sites in January 2025 and a further ten sites in December 2025 for coverage under the 4G Saturation Project. These sites are earmarked to connect mobile-uncovered villages identified under PM-JANMAN, DA-JGUA, and the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP-II).

3. **BharatNet Program Status:** It was informed that BharatNet Phases I and II have been formally completed, and all residual works from these phases will be subsumed under Phase III (Amended BharatNet).

The current status of BharatNet Phases I & II is as follows:

Sl.	Scheme	Total GPs	Total GPs Service Ready	Operational GPs
1	Ph-I (OFC media)	878	598	110
2	Ph-II (Satellite media)	142	142	45
	Total:	1020	740	155

The General Manager, BBNL/BharatNet, BSNL NE-1, stated that the low operational status across Gram Panchayats (GPs) is mainly due to OFC breakdowns, equipment failures, and insufficient support from vendors, whose contracts have now expired. He added that the Amended BharatNet programme adopts a single-vendor model, expected to ensure faster and more efficient fault rectification and significantly improve network uptime and overall performance.

The Chief Secretary expressed the expectation of noticeable improvement in addressing the operational issues and formally asked the General Manager BharatNet to take necessary corrective measures immediately to improve network.

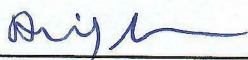
4. **Amended BharatNet Program Status:** It was informed that BSNL has shortlisted Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) for the Phase III Amended BharatNet project. Advance Purchase Order (APO) will be issued shortly, and project implementation is scheduled to start in March 2026. The 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

To ensure the effective implementation of the Amended BharatNet scheme, after deliberation, the followings were proposed during the meeting:

- i) **Joint Inspection Initiative:** Joint inspection teams to be formed comprising DIT, BSNL, Panchayat Department, and BDO officials to inspect BharatNet infrastructure & its working condition, FTTH connections, and WiFi hotspots and periodically, say, every month to DIT and DOT for effective and necessary supervision.



- ii) **State Support for signing of the MoU Addendum:** State support is requested to expedite the signing of the current addendum to the MoU, and returning it to the DoT HQ, New Delhi, to ensure early execution of the scheme.
5. **Call Before u Dig (CBuD) App:** DoT has launched the Call Before u Dig (CBuD) initiative to improve coordination between excavation agencies and owners of underground utilities, thereby reducing asset damage, service interruptions, and financial losses arising from unplanned digging. The initiative strengthens safety by enabling excavators to directly inform utility owners and safeguard critical assets such as optical fibre cables, gas pipelines, and power lines during underground works. State government support was sought to issue a notification mandating CBuD use before any excavation.

For effective implementation, it was suggested to:

- i) make CBuD usage a compulsory clause in all RFPs, work orders, and contractor agreements of State departments;
- ii) link a small portion of contractor payments to submission of verified CBuD usage records as an accountability measure; and
- iii) have PHE, Power, Gas and PWD departments issue orders prescribing penalties for non-use of CBuD that results in damage to utility assets.

The Chief Secretary highly appreciated the initiative and acknowledged its importance in preventing damage to critical underground infrastructure and avoiding service disruptions. He directed the DOT to assist the Directorate of Information Technology to take action towards issuing the required mandatory State notification at the earliest.

6. **48-Fiber OPGW Deployment Initiative:** The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) have jointly called for strengthening fibre-optic networks by using power transmission corridors to support broadband expansion. In this regard, CEA, vide its directive No. CEA-PS-17-24/1/2024-PCD dated 22 November 2024, has instructed all State Transmission Utilities (STUs) and Transmission Service Providers (TSPs) to deploy Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) with a minimum of 48 fibres replacing the usual 24-fibre configuration in all forthcoming projects. The policy, backed by CEA guidelines on commercial utilization of spare fibre, also enables Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to lease surplus capacity for improving last-mile connectivity.

Pursuant to the communication dated 10 June 2025 from Secretary (Telecom) to the Chief Secretary, DoT Tripura further took up the matter with the Power Secretary, Government of Tripura, on 16 December 2025, requesting that Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited (TSECL) adopt the 48-fibre OPGW specifications in future works. Early State-level adoption is crucial to fast-track telecom infrastructure growth and advance Tripura's digital connectivity objectives by effectively leveraging existing power infrastructure.

7. **Green Energy Open Access Framework:** The Ministry of Power's Green Energy Open Access Rules 2022, along with subsequent amendments, facilitate the telecommunications sector's access to renewable energy, thereby reducing operational costs and environmental impact.

The Second Amendment dated 23 May 2023 extends Green Energy Open Access eligibility to consumers with a contracted/sanctioned load of **100 kW or more** (either individually or aggregated within the same electricity division) and removes supply caps for captive users. It was requested that the Tripura Electricity Regulatory Commission (TERC) incorporate and operationalize the Second Amendment, as taken up on 16 December 2025.

8. **Street Furniture Mapping for 5G Small Cell Deployment:** To speed up 5G small cell rollout and ease telecom expansion across Tripura, DoT has sought comprehensive mapping of street furniture assets. The initiative requires all such assets to be captured with accurate geolocation and onboarded onto the State Master Plan (SMP) and National Master Plan (NMP) platforms.



It was requested that the street furniture dataset be submitted to the designated BISAG-N Nodal Officer for Tripura in the prescribed format, along with standardized structural details, verified ownership information, and proper classification, so that the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan can be effectively used for 5G planning and spatial coordination.

9. Issues Raised by the Participants: During the deliberations on critical telecom infrastructure, participants highlighted specific bottlenecks and requested state intervention to expedite resolutions.

- i) **IBS Installation Issue at IGM Hospital, Agartala:** Shri Raman Srivastava (DIPA) stated that Indus Towers Ltd. has obtained the required NOC from the Directorate of Health Services for installing an In-Building Solution (IBS) at IGM Hospital, but the work is presently stalled as the Medical Superintendent has not granted final permission, citing health concerns.
- ii) **Smart Meter Installation at Telecom Sites:** Shri Dhananjay (COAI) requested installation of smart meters at telecom tower sites under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). A detailed proposal, along with supporting correspondence, was sought for onward submission to the Department of Power, Tripura, to facilitate coordination and implementation.
- iii) **Provision of Common Duct for Telecom Fiber:** The COAI requested that the State Government incorporate provisions for a common duct for telecom fiber within its urban infrastructure development policies.
- iv) **Implementation of Green Energy Open Access:** Shri Dhananjay (COAI) appreciated DoT and the State Government's support to TSPs and urged early adoption by TERC of the 2nd Amendment (23.05.2023) to Green Energy Open Access Rules, 2022, enabling consumers with ≥ 100 kW sanctioned load (single/aggregated connections) to avail open access, with no supply cap for captive users.

In his concluding remarks, the Chief Secretary of Tripura, Shri Jitendra Kumar Sinha, IAS, emphasised that telecommunications is a vital driver of progress and socio-economic development.

To strengthen oversight and ensure faster resolution of sector issues, he directed that State Broadband Committee (SBC) meetings be held frequently. He noted that many of the difficulties faced by infrastructure providers, including Indus Towers Ltd., stem from inadequate regular coordination through such structured platforms.

Highlighting concerns over the implementation of BharatNet in Tripura, he called for close and continuous monitoring to accelerate rural connectivity. He also asked that bilateral meetings be initiated for any urgent matters requiring immediate attention.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

(S/d)
[Jitendra Kumar Sinha, IAS]
Chief Secretary,
Government of Tripura

To
All Participants.

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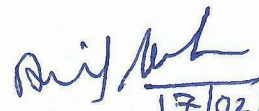
1. PS to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tripura for kind information of the Chief Secretary.
2. PS to the Principal Secretary, Forest, Govt. of Tripura for kind information of the Principal Secretary.
3. The Secretary, IT, Govt. of Tripura for kind information.
4. The Secretary, Urban Development and 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 Rajib Majumder, CE, PWD (R&S), Govt. of Tripura
4. Shri Saswata Sen, Jt. Director, Tribal Welfare, Govt. of Tripura
5. Shri Syamal Baidya, AGM(P), TSECL Corporate Office
6. Shri Muktheadhar Reang, Project Asst. Tribal Welfare
7. Shri Subir Sen, Director Technical, TSECL
8. Shri Remrasai Mog, Joint Director, DIT
9. Shri Syamal Debbarma, SE, DIT

B. From DoT, BSNL, TSPs and Telecom Associations

10. Shri Anil Kumar Gehlot, Deputy Director General, Dept, of Telecommunications, GoI
11. Shri S. L. Meena, GM, BSNL, Tripura BA
12. Shri R. K. Soni, GM, BSNL, NE-1, Shillong
13. Shri Narayan Bhowmik, Asst. Director, Department of Telecommunications, GoI
14. Shri Dhananjay, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)
15. Shri Raman Srivastava, Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA)
16. Shri Somen Lahin, Reliance Jio
17. Shri Samir Das, Reliance Jio
18. Shri Khokan Das, Reliance Jio
19. Shri Sourav Acharjee, Indus Tower Ltd.
20. Shri Sristik Das, Airtel
21. Shri Aneep Roy, R/F Eng., Vodafone Idea Ltd.
22. Shri Sandipan Biswas, DEO, DoT Tripura


17/02/26

Anil K Gehlot, ITS
Dy. Director General
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