

E-Mail

**Government of Punjab
Department of Industries & Commerce
(Infra Section)
pbtelecominfra@gmail.com**

To

1. Administrative Secretary, Departments of Revenue, Rehabilitation & Disaster Management
2. Administrative Secretary, Good Governance & Information Technology.
3. Administrative Secretary, Department of Housing & Urban Development.
4. Administrative Secretary, Department of Forest
5. Administrative Secretary, Department of Rural Development & Panchayats.
6. CMD, PSPCL
7. Administrative Secretary, Department of PWD (B&R)
8. Administrative Secretary, Department of Local Government
9. Secretary, Punjab Mandi Board
10. All Deputy Commissioners in the State of Punjab
11. Additional Director General Telecom, Punjab LSA
12. All General Managers, District Industries Centre in the State
13. Chief General Manager, BSNL.
14. Representative of Digital Infrastructure & Providers Association (DIPA), New Delhi.
15. Representative of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), New Delhi.

Memo no. Infra/SBC/Meeting/26/1000-B

Dated:- 06.03.24 .

Sub: Minutes of Meeting- 4th State Broadband Committee Meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab.

In this regard, the Minutes of Meeting regarding 4th State Broadband Committee Meeting held under the chairmanship of the worthy Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab on 06.02.2026 at 3:00 PM at Committee Room (CR-6), Punjab Civil Secretariat-1, Sector-1, Chandigarh are enclosed herewith for information and further necessary action.

You are requested to pass suitable orders to concerned Officers to take prompt and earnest action in compliance with the decisions taken during the meeting and ensure timely implementation of the same.

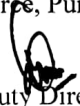

Deputy Director (Infra)

Endst. No. Infra/SBC/Meeting/26/1001-B

Dated:- 06.03.24 .

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following:-

1. OSD to CS, Punjab for kind information of Chief Secretary, Punjab.
2. PS to Admin. Secy, I & C for kind information of Administrative Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Punjab
3. PS to DIC for kind information of Director, Industries & Commerce, Punjab.


Deputy Director (Infra)



Government of Punjab
Department of Industries and Commerce
(Infra Branch)
pbtelecominfra@gmail.com

Minutes of the 4th Punjab State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting held in hybrid mode (physical and through video conference) on 6th February, 2026 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Punjab, Sh. K.A.P. Sinha to review issues relating to the telecom sector in the State of Punjab.

The list of attendees is enclosed at Annexure-A.

At the outset, the Administrative Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, Punjab, Shri K.K. Yadav welcomed the Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, the Members of the State Broadband Committee (SBC), and all other participants.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of telecommunication infrastructure in the overall development of the State of Punjab and stressed that all stakeholders should make dedicated and coordinated efforts for the growth and development of digital communications to achieve socio-economic progress of the State.

The Additional Director General, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), emphasized the critical role of digital connectivity and broadband infrastructure and highlighted that a 10% increase in broadband penetration leads to approximately 1% growth in GDP.

Thereafter, the agenda items were presented, detailed deliberations were held on each agenda point, and decisions were taken accordingly, which are detailed below.

1. It was informed that the Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 stand implemented in the State of Punjab with effect from 01.01.2025 vide notification No. infra/RoW/5150-A dated 17.10.2025, issued by the Department of Industries and Commerce, Punjab.

24

In the meeting, it was directed that all concerned State Departments, Authorities, Urban Local Bodies, and other stakeholders shall ensure effective implementation of the Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024, in accordance with the aforesaid notification.

2. Telecommunication (Right of Way) Forms on Fastrack Punjab Portal:

It was informed that the Department of Industries and Commerce, Punjab made the following Telecommunication (Right of Way) forms live on its State Portal i.e., Fastrack Punjab Portal (erstwhile Invest Punjab Business First Portal):

- a. Information Form for installation of Mobile Towers on property other than Public Property (Private Property) under Rule 15 of Telecom (RoW) Rules 2024.
- b. Application Form for laying underground OFC in Public Property under Rule 6 of Telecom (RoW) Rules 2024.
- c. Application Form for laying Overground/Overhead OFC in Public Property under Rule 8 of Telecom (RoW) Rules 2024.
- d. Application Form for installing Mobile Towers in Public Property under Rule 8 of Telecom (RoW) Rules 2024.
- e. Application Form for laying underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) under Amended BharatNET Project (ABP) as Special Project under Rule 12 of Telecom (RoW) Rules 2024.

3. Information Form for Installation of Mobile Towers on property other than Public Property (Private Property):

- a. It was informed that under Rule 15 of the Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024, there is no provision for issuance of acknowledgement against submission of an Information Form by a Facility Provider (Telecom Service Provider (TSP)/Infrastructure Provider (IP)). However, the State Government is issuing acknowledgement within a period of thirty days against submission of the Information Form, after scrutiny of the form and on the recommendation of the department under whose jurisdiction the site falls, in order to ensure compliance with applicable State laws and rules, non-encroachment of public land, validity of private ownership/possession of the space, absence of any pre-existing mobile tower at the site, and to facilitate Facility Providers (TSPs) in smooth installation of mobile towers without complications or interference.



In the meeting, it was decided that acknowledgement shall be auto-generated on the portal against submission of the Information Form if the State Government fails to process the Information Form within thirty (30) working days. Accordingly, it was strictly directed to all concerned departments to process each submitted Information Form well within thirty (30) working days, so as to avoid auto-generation of acknowledgement.

Deputy Commissioners shall monitor and review the processing of Information Forms in their respective districts on a fortnightly basis and shall ensure timely disposal of all pending cases.

It was further decided that the Facility Provider shall commence any activity related to installation of a mobile tower, only after issuance of acknowledgement by the respective Deputy Commissioner, on the portal.

In case a Facility Provider initiates any activity relating to installation of a mobile tower prior to issuance of such acknowledgement, the same shall attract action as per applicable laws and rules of the public entity.

- b. It was observed that in certain cases there are pending property tax or other dues in respect of the land/building for which an agreement has been executed between the Facility Provider and the owner of the land/building, payable to various State Government Departments, Urban Local Bodies, Authorities, or other Government bodies.

In this regard, it was decided that acknowledgement for installation of a mobile tower shall not be denied merely on the ground that there are pending property tax or other dues in respect of the land/building payable to such Departments, Urban Local Bodies, Authorities, or other Government bodies.

This shall be without prejudice to the right of the concerned authority to recover such pending dues in accordance with law, as applicable.

By

- c. It was observed that Facility Providers have submitted Information Forms for installation of mobile towers in unauthorised areas/colonies.

In this regard, it was decided that acknowledgement for installation of a mobile tower shall be denied on the ground that the agreement on an unauthorised chunk of land shall be legally void ab initio.

It was further decided that the concerned State departments shall endeavour to provide suitable Government land/buildings in or near such unauthorised areas/colonies on liberal terms and conditions, wherever feasible, for installation of mobile towers, so as to ensure adequate telecom connectivity in such areas.

Provision of Government land/buildings for installation of mobile towers shall not be construed as regularisation of unauthorised areas/colonies.

- d. It was observed that Facility Providers have submitted Information Forms for installation of mobile towers at sites located within areas governed by a notified Master Plan which does not permit such installations such as proposed sector road, ring road etc. in the plans.

In this regard, it was decided that acknowledgement for installation of a mobile tower at a particular location shall be denied in cases where the location of land/building falls within a notified Master Plan that does not allow installation of mobile towers at that location, as per the applicable zoning regulations.

- e. It was observed that Facility Providers have submitted Information Forms for installation of mobile towers at sites located within Lal Dora, Village Phirni or Abadi Deh areas.

In this regard, it was decided that acknowledgement for installation of a mobile tower shall not be denied merely on the ground that the land/building falls within Lal Dora, Village Phirni, or Abadi Deh.

- f. It was observed that public complaints are being received from local residents regarding the installation of mobile towers,

citing concerns related to non-ionising electromagnetic field (EMF) emissions (often referred to as EMR).

In this regard, DoT LSA Punjab conveyed that radio frequency signals used in mobile communications fall within the non-ionising spectrum (distinct from harmful ionising radiations such as X-rays and gamma rays). The EMF exposure limits prescribed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India for Base Station Emissions are more stringent than ICNIRP reference levels. DoT LSA Field Units have been entrusted with the task of conducting audits on the self-certification furnished by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and carrying out test audits of BTS sites on a random basis and in all cases where there is a public complaint. Any member of the public can also request an official on-site EMF exposure measurement through the Tarang Sanchar portal on payment of the prescribed fee.

In view of the above, cooperation of all stakeholders, including the general public and Local Self Government institutions (Gram Panchayats, Municipal Councils/Committees, etc.), is required to dispel misconceptions regarding mobile tower EMF emissions.

Accordingly, it was decided that acknowledgement for installation of a mobile tower shall not be denied on the basis of public complaints or resolutions passed by Urban Local Bodies or Gram Panchayats citing concerns relating to non-ionising electromagnetic field (EMF) emissions (often referred to as EMR) from the proposed mobile tower.

It shall, however, be ensured by the TSP/IPs that no mobile tower in the State of Punjab operates in excess of the EMF exposure limits prescribed by DoT.

- g. It was observed that under Rule 15 of the Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024, it is provided that the person having ownership, control, or management over the property and the Facility Provider may mutually decide whether to get the agreement registered under the provisions of the Registration Act, 1908, pursuant to sub-section (3) of Section 14 of the Telecommunication Act, 2023.

It has also been noted that as per Section 17(1)(d) of the Registration Act, 1908, leases of immovable property from

SM

year to year, or for any term exceeding one year, or reserving a yearly rent, are required to be compulsorily registered.

Accordingly, it was decided that any agreement entered into by a Facility Provider with a person having ownership, control, or management over such property under Rule 15 of the Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024, which falls within the ambit of Section 17(1)(d) of the Registration Act, 1908, shall be compulsorily registered under the Registration Act, 1908. Necessary changes shall be made in the Information Form on the portal to reflect this requirement.

It shall also be ensured that the provisions of Section 17(1)(d) of the Registration Act, 1908 are complied with in respect of all Information Forms for which acknowledgement has already been issued or shall be issued in future.

Acknowledgement shall be liable to be withdrawn in case of non-compliance with the above requirement.

- h. It was observed that Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) is requiring submission of a registered lease agreement executed between the owner of property other than Public Property and the Facility Provider for release of a new electricity connection for installation of a mobile tower.

The matter was deliberated in the meeting, and it was decided that the Facility Provider shall submit a duly registered lease agreement, executed between the owner of property other than Public Property and the Facility Provider, for release of new electricity connection for the mobile tower, in accordance with the applicable guidelines of PSPCL, for release of a new electricity connection.

- i. It was observed that facility providers are submitting Information Forms where ownership is held by multiple co-owners in proportionate shares, without any specific physical demarcation of the property, i.e., properties recorded under Mushtarka Khata. Execution of an agreement under Rule 15 of the Telecom (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 between the facility provider and only one co-owner, without the consent of the remaining co-owners, is likely to result in disputes.

Sm

Accordingly, it was decided that a copy of the Fard issued by the office of the Tehsildar shall be submitted along with the Information Form to ascertain the number of owners of the property.

In cases where there is more than one owner and the facility provider intends to execute an agreement with a particular co-owner, the facility provider shall either:

- (a) submit the consent of all other co-owners for execution of the agreement; OR**
- (b) submit a Kabja Tasdeek Report/Report of Possession issued by the competent authority, certifying the legal possession of a specific, physically demarcated area/property by the concerned co-owner with whom the agreement is proposed to be executed, for installation of the mobile tower within such demarcated area/property.**

This shall be without prejudice to the rights of any co-owner and subject to any order passed by a competent court.

- j. It was observed that facility providers are submitting Information Forms for installation of mobile towers on buildings/structures which are not approved as per the applicable State Building Bye-laws.**

The State Broad Band Committee deliberated and discussed that a structure safety certificate on a building which was itself in violation of building norms could not be held to be legally valid. Therefore, it was decided that building plan approval is mandatorily required.

- k. It was observed that "Fire NOC" is being demanded for installation of Roof Top Towers on buildings having a height of more than 15 meters.**

The matter was deliberated, and it was decided that "Fire NOC" is not required for issuance of acknowledgement of the Information Form for installation of Roof Top Towers on buildings. Accordingly, the concerned departments may issue necessary directions in this regard. This shall be without prejudice to compliance with other applicable fire safety norms, wherever required.

Sm

- l. It was observed that Change of Land Use (CLU) from residential to commercial has been demanded for installation of Mobile Towers on private residential buildings or private residential plots/land or Agricultural land.

The matter was deliberated in the meeting, and it was decided that Change of Land Use (CLU) from residential/agriculture to commercial is not required for issuance of acknowledgement of the Information Form for installation of Mobile Towers on private residential buildings or private residential plots/land or agricultural land. Accordingly, the concerned departments may issue necessary directions in this regard.

- m. It was observed that Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) is demanding separate No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from other authorities of installation of mobile towers on properties other than Public Property, even in cases where the Facility Provider has already obtained acknowledgement against the Information Form submitted on the portal, for releasing new electricity connection to the facility provider.

In this regard, it is directed that PSPCL shall not demand any separate NOC, from other authorities, of installation of mobile towers on properties other than Public Property, where acknowledgement against the Information Form has already been issued on the fastrack Punjab Portal, for releasing new electricity connection to the facility provider.

This shall not preclude PSPCL from enforcing its own technical and safety requirements under applicable laws and regulations.

- n. It was observed that an AKS Sajra Plan is being sought depicting tower installation sites on khasra number.

The matter was deliberated in the meeting, and it was decided that submission of an AKS Sajra Plan is not required for issuance of acknowledgement of the Information Form for

Am

Installation of mobile towers on properties other than Public Property.

However, a schematic location plan of the site, indicating the approach road and the buildings/structures in the vicinity, shall be submitted by the Facility Provider to enable identification of the exact location of the proposed mobile tower site and to ensure proper scrutiny of the proposal.

4. Amended BharatNet Project as Special Project under Rule 12 of Telecom RoW Rules 2024

- a. It was reiterated that the BharatNet Project has been notified as a Special Project under Rule 12 of the Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024, under which all RoW applications are deemed approved upon submission, and the concerned authorities shall issue the final permission within strict time limit of seven (7) days so proactive role is required of the concerned departmental officers to act within time line.

The Chairman directed that all Deputy Commissioners shall convene weekly review meetings to ensure expeditious disposal of all pending Right of Way (RoW) applications under the BharatNet project.

The Departmental Nodal Officer shall ensure proper coordination between BSNL officials and the concerned departmental field officers for timely processing and expeditious disposal of Right of Way (RoW) applications under the BharatNet Project, including prompt resolution of site-specific and field-level issues.

- b. Availability of space for placement of BharatNet equipment at Gram Panchayats (GPs):

The Director, Rural Development & Panchayats (RDP) apprised the Chair that details of approximately 4,000 Gram Panchayat buildings have been shared with BSNL, and that the Block Development and Panchayat Officers (BDPOs) are in regular coordination with the local BSNL officials on this matter.

The PGM (BharatNet), BSNL informed that some of the identified GP buildings require repair. In response, the Director, RDP assured that BSNL may mark such buildings from the list already provided, and necessary repair works of the identified buildings shall be initiated accordingly.

c. Electricity Connections & Billing Mechanism:

The Secretary, Power apprised the Chair that approximately 500 electricity connection applications submitted by BSNL are under process, and the same shall be expedited and completed within a period of one week. It was further informed that PSPCL has migrated its billing system from SAP to ORACLE, enabling the provision of a bulk billing mechanism for such agencies.

The Chairman emphasized that the bulk billing mechanism is highly efficient and directed that the bulk billing mechanism shall be employed and its limits may be suitably enhanced, so that all tower companies are able to utilize the upgraded system effectively for ease of bill payment.

d. Direction on Quality of Restoration Works to avoid damage to roads or other infrastructure:

Director, Industries and Commerce brought to the notice of the Chair that as per the provisions of the BharatNet agreement, in case any road or other infrastructure is damaged during the laying of underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), the same is required to be restored to its prior state by BSNL at its own cost.

An incident relating to damage of a road during BharatNet works in District Patiala was highlighted. In this regard, the Chief General Manager, BSNL assured the Chair that such incidents would not recur in future and that any road or infrastructure damaged due to BharatNet works shall be restored by BSNL at the earliest.

The Chairman directed BSNL to put in place a suitable mechanism to ensure the quality of restoration works carried out after laying of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC). The concerned departments shall also verify the quality of restoration works executed in their respective jurisdictions. Both BSNL and the concerned departments shall ensure that proper restoration of existing roads or other public infrastructure during execution of works.

5. Pending dues/charges/liabilities payable by various Facility Providers: In respect of already established telecom infrastructure, It was observed that there are pending dues/charges/liabilities payable by various Facility Providers to State Government

Departments, Urban Local Bodies, Authorities, or other Government bodies.

In this regard, all such Facility Providers were directed to clear their outstanding dues within a period of thirty (30) calendar days from the date of issuance of a demand notice by the concerned Government body.

It was further decided that permission or acknowledgement for new telecom infrastructure under the Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 shall not be denied solely on the ground that there are pending dues/charges/liabilities payable by the Facility Provider to the concerned Department, Urban Local Body, Authority, or other Government body for another already installed telecom infrastructure.

This shall be without prejudice to the right of the concerned Government body to recover such dues in accordance with law.

- 6. Delay in submission of Bank Guarantee or reply to raised observation:** It was observed that there are delays in submission of Bank Guarantees by facility providers against demand letters issued by the concerned departments in respect of various Right of Way (RoW) application forms. The facility provider also delayed in replying to the observation raised by the concerned departments. Such delays even result in deactivation of the application form and subsequent closure.

The Chairman directed all facility providers to put in place appropriate mechanisms to ensure submission of the requisite Bank Guarantee at the earliest after issuance of the demand letter.

- 7. District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) Meetings and Timely processing of various RoW Applications:**

- a. The Chairman directed that all Deputy Commissioners shall convene regular District Level Telecom Committee meetings to review telecom issues and to ensure expeditious disposal of all pending Right of Way (RoW) applications under the Telecom (RoW) rules 2024 on the fastrack Punjab portal within timeline to avoid any deemed permission.**
- b. The Departmental Nodal Officer shall ensure proper coordination between representatives of Facility Provider**

24

and the concerned departmental field officers for timely processing and expeditious disposal of Right of Way (RoW) applications under Telecom (RoW) rules 2024 on the fastrack Punjab portal, including prompt resolution of site-specific and field-level issues.

8. Installation of Mobile Towers in public property under Rule 8 of Telecom RoW Rules 2024: Fixation of Rent/Compensation for Installation of Mobile Towers on Public Buildings/Land:

Director, Industries informed the Chair that Part-III of the Schedule to the Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 provides that where establishment of a telecommunication network (mobile tower) renders a public property unlikely to be used for any other purpose, compensation for the value of such public property—either as a one-time payment or on an annual basis—shall be assessed at rates as may be decided by the concerned public entity through a general order.

In this context, the representative of COAI requested that uniform compensation rates may be notified by the State departments to ensure consistency and transparency.

The Chairman directed the concerned departments to notify such compensation/rent rates, on the basis of the prevailing collector rates, for providing building/land for the installation of mobile towers on public property.

9. Renewal of Permissions granted under Telecom Guidelines 2013 and 2015:

Director, Industries informed the Chair that telecom service providers were granted permissions for installation of mobile towers under the erstwhile Telecom Guidelines 2013 and 2015, with a validity period of ten (10) years. Some of these permissions have already expired, while others are due to expire in the coming years.

It was further conveyed that the said policies do not contain any provision for renewal of permissions. In the absence of a renewal mechanism, continuation of such mobile towers may lead to legal and regulatory non-compliance.

After deliberations, it was decided to draft a renewal framework for permissions granted under the Telecom Guidelines 2013 and 2015, to ensure continued legality and regulatory compliance of existing mobile towers.

52

10. Regularization of irregular telecom towers installed without permission:

It was apprised that approximately 7,700 telecom towers are currently operating in the State without requisite permissions. It was further informed that under earlier telecom guidelines, only a limited number of such towers could be regularized, primarily due to non-submission or incomplete documentation by the facility providers.

The Chairman took serious note of the issue and directed the Department of Industries & Commerce to explore a comprehensive scheme for such telecom towers, with clearly defined eligibility conditions, documentation requirements, timelines and applicable charges, so as to bring such infrastructure into legal compliance.

11. Installation of Mobile Towers under 4G Saturation Project:

Administrative Secretary, Industries & Commerce informed the Chair that Deputy Commissioners are required to identify suitable land measuring approximately 200 square metres (about 2,000 sq. ft.) and allot the same free of cost to BSNL for erection of 4G mobile towers in 11 villages across 5 districts, namely Fazilka (Mohar Khiva), Pathankot (Palah, Simbal, Jaitpur, Kalanhu-Bassa and Sanger-Bassa), Hoshiarpur (Fatehpur, Kothi and Harjiana), Gurdaspur (Bharial) and Sangrur (Ramgarh Gujran), under the 4G Saturation Project.

Chief General Manager (CGM), BSNL added that the identified land should preferably be located in close proximity to the concerned villages to ensure effective network coverage.

The Chairman directed all Deputy Commissioners to identify and allot suitable land expeditiously for strengthening telecom connectivity in the identified villages.

Accordingly, all Deputy Commissioners were directed to carefully examine local conditions, identify the most suitable available land, and share the details with BSNL at the earliest to provide telecom connectivity to such remote areas.

24

12. Lack of mobile network and internet connectivity in several areas of District Hoshiarpur:

The Chairman directed BSNL and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to examine and address the issues related to poor mobile and internet connectivity in various villages of District Hoshiarpur.

Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur apprised the Chair that inputs had already been obtained from BSNL following a joint field visit.

Deputy Director General (Rural), Punjab LSA, DoT suggested that inputs from private Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) should also be obtained for a comprehensive assessment.

The Chairman observed that the affected villages fall in the Kandi area, where terrain-related challenges exist, and emphasized the need for a coordinated approach. **Accordingly, the Chairman directed that DC, Hoshiarpur, BSNL, DoT and private TSPs jointly review the connectivity gaps and finalize suitable measures including 4G Saturation Project to improve mobile and internet network coverage in these villages.**

The Chairman also directed all Deputy Commissioners, in coordination with DoT LSA Punjab and all Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), to jointly review the status of telecom connectivity in their respective districts, and shall identify connectivity-deficient areas and take coordinated measures to ensure adequate and reliable telecom connectivity in such areas.

13. Issue regarding refund for non-installed tower sites where permissions were granted under previous telecom policies:

Director, Industries & Commerce informed the Chair that Reliance Jio has sought refund of fees/charges deposited with State authorities in respect of certain mobile tower sites where permissions were granted under the Telecom Guidelines 2013, 2015 and 2020, but the towers could not be installed due to public objections/issues.

The Chairman observed that the matter requires due examination and decided that the concerned State Departments shall examine the cases on merit and, wherever found justified, initiate the refund process in accordance with applicable rules and procedures.

14. Usage of Call Before You Dig (CBuD) Mobile App and CBuD enquiries:

- a. Director, Industries & Commerce briefed the Chair on the Call Before You Dig (CBuD) Mobile App and informed that the targets set for adoption and usage of the App have been achieved satisfactorily.

Sum

The Chairman emphasized that the CBuD App is a critical tool for protection of underground utility assets and **directed all Deputy Commissioners to instruct the concerned Executive Officers (EOs)/Authorities under their jurisdiction to strictly comply with the use of the CBuD App before undertaking any excavation or underground works.**

- b. Director, Industries & Commerce further informed that it has been proposed to mandate the use of the CBuD App in all tender documents pertaining to underground works. **The Chairman approved the proposal and directed the Department of Industries & Commerce to issue necessary instructions to all concerned State Departments to incorporate a mandatory CBuD compliance clause in relevant tenders/work orders involving excavation in public property.**

c. **Mapping of Asset Owners on Call Before You Dig (CBuD) App:**

It was informed that mapping of officers of various departments/agencies as Asset Owners on the CBuD App has been completed. **The Chairman directed the remaining departments to furnish details of the Level-2 (L-2) officers to ensure complete and accurate mapping of concerned officers on the CBuD App. It was further directed that all departments owning underground assets shall ensure that the details and credentials of their mapped officers are kept updated on the App at all times.**

Issues related to updating of credentials and mapping of officers shall be continuously monitored by the concerned department to ensure seamless functioning of the CBuD mechanism.

d. **Proactive use of CBuD App and capacity building:**

All concerned State Departments were directed to take a proactive role in ensuring that CBuD enquiries are mandatorily raised by their executing agencies/contractors (excavators) prior to commencement of any digging or excavation work on public property.

24

It was further directed that the mapped Asset Owner Officer shall promptly examine and acknowledge the CBuD enquiries raised within their respective jurisdictions on the CBuD App, so as to avoid damage to underground utilities and delays in project execution.

To strengthen implementation, it was suggested that awareness-cum-training workshops on the usage and compliance of the CBuD Mobile App may be conducted by DoT LSA, Punjab, in coordination with the concerned State Departments, for Utility Asset Owners as well as for Excavators.

15. Constitution of Digital Access Committees (DACs) under Samriddh Gram Panchayat Pilot Project:

Administrative Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Punjab informed the Chair that Digital Access Committees (DACs) under the Samriddh Gram Panchayat Pilot Project have been constituted in 139 out of 150 villages, and the formation of DACs is pending in only 11 villages.

The Chairman directed all concerned Deputy Commissioners to ensure the constitution of the pending DACs at the earliest. The Chairman further directed the Director, Rural Development & Panchayats (RDP) to coordinate with the district administration to ensure completion of the process without further delay and further to get the mandate of DACs implemented to promote telecom connectivity in the rural areas.

16. Adoption of standard designs for new street furniture to enable installation of 5G small cells:

Director, Industries & Commerce briefed the Chair regarding the standard designs for street furniture with provision for installation of 5G small cells, as recommended in the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) reports, and informed that such designs are presently feasible primarily for new townships.

During the deliberations, the Secretary, Forests and Wildlife Preservation suggested that the standard design reports prepared by TEC may be incorporated into the manuals of Indian Road Congress (IRC) under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India, as the same are universally accepted and technically validated.

Administrative Secretary, Industries & Commerce suggested that the matter may be formally taken up with DoT for necessary consideration.

See

The Chairman concurred with the suggestion and directed the Department of Industries & Commerce to take up the matter with DoT for inclusion of TEC-recommended standard designs for 5G-enabled street furniture in the relevant manuals of Indian Road Congress (IRC) under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India.

17. Construction of common ducts / conduits / cable corridors in infrastructure projects for telecom and utility networks:

Director, Industries & Commerce briefed the Chair on the concept note issued by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) regarding the construction of common ducts, conduits or cable corridors for deployment of telecommunication infrastructure (OFC) along with power and other utility networks as part of infrastructure projects.

It was noted that comments and inputs from concerned State Departments are required on the said concept note. ***The Chairman directed all concerned departments, particularly PSPCL, to examine the concept note and furnish their comments/observations at the earliest, so that the matter may be consolidated and taken forward for implementation.***

18. State-level support to create telecom infrastructure and curb rising theft of telecom equipment in Punjab:

The Chairman expressed concern over the rising incidents of theft of telecom equipment in the State and emphasized the need for coordinated action at the district level.

The Chairman directed all Deputy Commissioners to examine the issue in their respective districts and to take suitable preventive and corrective action in accordance with applicable rules and law, in coordination with the District Police and concerned departments, to curb such incidents and ensure protection of critical telecom infrastructure.

To ensure installation of telecom infrastructure after grant of permissions, The Chairman further directed all Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) to ensure that installation of telecom infrastructure, including mobile towers, is not obstructed at sites where the requisite permission or acknowledgement has already been issued to the Facility Provider on the Fastrack Punjab Portal. It was emphasized that law and order support shall be extended

2/

wherever required, so as to facilitate timely installation and commissioning of telecom infrastructure in accordance with applicable rules and permissions.

The Chairman thanked all the participants for their valuable inputs and active participation in the meeting. He emphasized the need for close inter-departmental coordination and timely implementation of the decisions taken to strengthen telecom infrastructure and digital connectivity across the State. The Chairman reiterated that telecom services are critical infrastructure and directed all concerned stakeholders to strictly adhere to the timelines and directions issued.

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

sent by

Sm

Annexure-A

List of Officers who attended the 4th State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab held on 06.02.2026 at 03:00 PM.

Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Department
1	Sh. DK Tiwari, IAS	Additional Chief Secretary cum Financial Commissioner	Good Governance and Information Technology
2	Sh. Priyank Bharti, IAS	Secretary	Forests and WildLife Preservation
3.	Sh. Kamal Kishor Yadav, IAS	Administrative Secretary	Industries and Commerce Punjab
3	Sh. Manjit Singh Brar, IAS	Secretary	Local Government
4	Sh. Ramvir, IAS	Secretary	Punjab State Agricultural Marketing Board
5	Smt. Surabhi Malik, IAS	Director	Industries and Commerce Punjab
6	Smt. Hargunjit Kaur, IAS	Special Secretary, Public Works Department	Special Secretary, Public Works Department
7	Sh. Uma Shankar Gupta, IAS	Director	Rural Development and Panchayats
8.	Sh. T. Benith, IAS	Additional Secretary	Revenue and Rehabilitation
9.	Sh. Sukhwinder Singh	Chief Engineer/IT	PSPCL
10.	Er. Dharminder Singh	SE (Electrical)	SE (Elect), Punjab Mandi Board, SAS Nagar
11.	Sh. Jatinder Singh Bhangoo	Engineer In Chief	Punjab Mandi Board
12.	Sh. Amanpreet Kaur Bal	Senior Town Planner	Local Government
13.	Sh. Anil Ranjan	Sr. DDG	DOT, Punjab LSA
14.	Sh. B.M. Setia	DDG (Rural)	DOT, Punjab LSA
15.	Sh. Himanshu Sharma	Director (Rural)	DOT, Punjab LSA
16.	Sh. Harsh Kumar	Assistant Director (Rural)	DOT, Punjab LSA
17.	Sh. Ajay Kumar Kararha	CGM	BSNL, Punjab
18.	Sh. SK Chopra	PGM	BSNL, Punjab
19.	Sh. Jitender Setia	PGM	BSNL, Punjab
20.	Sh. Dhananjay Gawande	Director	COAI
21.	Smt. Meena Bisht	National Head	DIPA
22.	Sh. Anoop k. Jalali	Sr. Director	NIC
23.	Sh. Navinder K Sharma	Director	NIC

Through VC			
1.	Smt. Sakshi Sawhney, IAS	Chief Administrator	GMADA
2.	All Deputy Commissioners in the State		
3.	All General Managers, District Industries Centre in the State.		