

**Minutes of the 6th meeting of the State Broadband Committee (SBC)
held on 24-01-2024**

The meeting, chaired by the Chief Secretary, commenced at 5 PM. The list of participants is attached as Annexure I.

The Addl. DGT, DoT, Kerala LSA mentioned that although meeting of SBC was not held in the last year, many meetings had been held with the Chief Secretary, Secretary(E&ITD) etc. for resolving issues related to the Telecom sector. The DDG (Rural), DoT, Kerala LSA made a presentation on agenda points which is attached as Annexure II. Regarding the proposed Right of Way (RoW) Guidelines for the State, the Secretary, E&ITD informed that it would be discussed in detail in the ensuing Inter Departmental Co-ordination Committee (IDCC) meeting.

The points of discussions and the decisions taken in the meeting are given below:-

1) Clearance for Towers at CRZ/wetland sites:- The Secretary (E&ITD) informed that no such issues were noticed yet.

Recommendation:- The Additional DGT, DoT, Kerala LSA shall forward the list of tower locations pending clearance in CRZ/ wetland areas to the Environment Department for taking necessary action in the matter.

2) 'Green Energy Open Access' and 'Composite billing' scheme for multiple connections:-

Recommendation:- The Power Department may examine the matter of adoption and implementation of the Notifications of Ministry of Power related to load aggregation for availing 'Green Energy Open Access' and on the 'Composite billing' scheme for multiple connections and take a decision in the matter as early as possible.

3) Issues related to DLP roads:- The Addl DGT explained that, at present, the Road Authorities are calculating the restoration / Bank Guarantee (BG) charges assuming the entire road width (5.5 m) whereas the trench width is only 40-60 cm, which is resulting in exorbitant BG value. Similarly, in DLP roads for HDD, Aerial OFC, where only pits are taken, but charges are calculated for entire length & width of the road. This issue with DLP roads needs to be rationalized.

Recommendation:- The Secretary, Public Works Department shall look into the issues pointed out by the Addl DGT, DoT, Kerala LSA.

4) RoW Pendency:-

Recommendation:- The Electronics and IT Department shall convene necessary meetings with the stakeholders for reducing the pendency.

5) Remarks given by the Special invitees of SBC

a) Shri. Harpreet Kainth, Convener (Operations), DIPA mentioned the high RoW charges prevailing in the state and the delay in disposing RoW applications.

b) Shri. Dhananjay Gawanday, Head, Infrastructure Division, COAI raised the following issues:-

i) The procedure of issuing Government Order for RoW permissions exists only in Kerala and this delays the process of getting RoW permissions.

ii) During the Sabarimala pilgrimage season there is huge increase in Telecom traffic but TSPs are not getting permission for Towers, CoW, BTS etc, and the charges are exorbitantly high.

iii) In certain areas like agricultural land exception can be given for essential services and this may be extended to Telecom Infrastructure also.

iv) Provision for the establishment of CoW (Cell on Wheels) needs to be included in the new RoW Policy.

v) The Trivandrum Corporation is charging exorbitant rates for poles, and requested that all Corporation / Civic authorities should align the rates as specified in the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules.

c) Shri. Ramakant Gupta, DIPA emphasized on the need for Green Energy Open Access and Composite billing in the Telecom sector in the state.

The Secretary (E&ITD), remarked that most of the issues raised by the special invitees will be resolved with the notification of the proposed RoW Guidelines and with the implementation of the Sugama 2.0 RoW portal.

Recommendation:- The special invitees representing the organisations may submit the issues mentioned in the meeting to the Secretary, Electronics and Information Technology Department for further necessary action.

The meeting concluded at 05:25 PM.

Annexure I

List of Participants

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
<u>Kerala State</u>		
1	Dr. Venu V. IAS	Chief Secretary & Chairman, SBC
2	Dr. Rathan U. Kelkar IAS	Secretary, E&IT Department
3	Shri. Mohammed Y Safirulla K. IAS	Special Secretary, LSGD.
4	Smt. Anu Kumari IAS	Director, KSITM
5	Shri. Vishnu Raj IAS	Deputy Secretary, PWD.
6	Shri. Sandeep K.G.	Chief Engineer, LID & EW.
7	Shri. Subil B.S	KSITM
<u>Department of Telecommunications, Kerala LSA</u>		

1	Smt. V. Sobhana ITS	Additional Director General Telecom & Convenor SBC
2	Shri. N. S. Deepu, ITS	Deputy Director General (Rural)
3	Shri. S. Ajith Kumar ITS	Deputy Director General (State Coordination)
4	Shri. Seetharaman T.A., ITS	Asst Director General (Rural)
5	Shri. Biju N.	Assistant Director
<u>Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited</u>		
1	Shri. B. Sunil Kumar, ITS	Chief General Manager, BSNL, Kerala Circle & Special Invitee SBC
2	Shri. Ramesh Raj S.N.	GM, NWP-CM, Kerala Circle
<u>Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)</u>		
1	Shri. Dhananjay Gawanday	Head Infrastructure Division, COAI, Special Invitee SBC
<u>Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA)</u>		
1	Shri. Harpreet Singh Kainth	Convener (Operations), DIPA, Special Invitee SBC
2	Shri. Ramakant Gupta	DIPA, Special Invitee SBC



Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Government of India

6th State Broadband Committee Meeting

KERALA - 24 January 2024

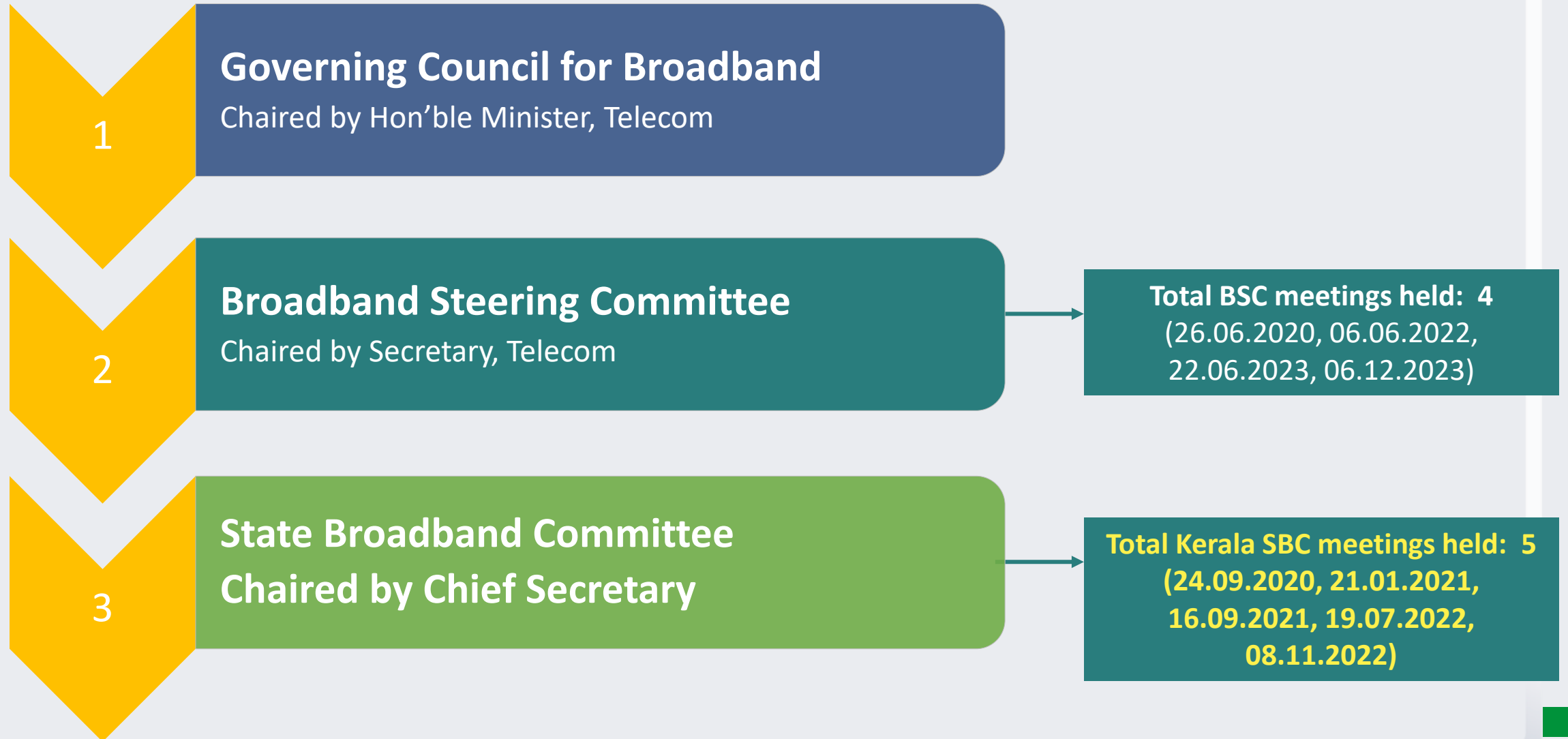


राष्ट्रीय ब्रॉडबैंड अभियान
National Broadband Mission




AGENDA

- 1) National Broadband Mission Targets
- 2) Notification of Kerala Right of Way Policy
- 3) Right of Way Permissions
- 4) SUGAMA 2.0
- 5) Addendum to Model Building Byelaws 2016 issued by MoHUA.
- 6) PMWANI
- 7) USO funded 4G Saturation project (implemented by BSNL)
- 8) Other Points-
 - i. Clearance on the CRZ sites.
 - ii. Policy for Shared Duct Infrastructure etc

1.a) NBM-Implementation Structure



1.a) NBM - Deliverables

 DELIVERABLES	 STRATEGIES 
Broadband access to all villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USOF projects incl 4G saturation • BharatNet
Availability of high-speed broadband of 50 Mbps to all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy to enhance broadband investment • FTTH proliferation
Accelerate fiberisation, including of Telecom Towers & Mapping of Fiber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISPs numbers up from 1616 to 2471 • BharatNet expansion & Tower fiberisation
Enhance Connectivity & Quality of Service (QoS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4G saturation and 5G rollout • QoS Mission by TRAI and DoT
Facilitate Rollout of 5G & Strengthen 4G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5G launched and being monitored • 4G saturation under progress
Promote Make in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLI & Design Linked PLI • PMI

1.a) NBM - Annual Implementation Plan

KPI	1-year (FY 2020-21)	2-year (FY 2021-22)	3-year (FY 2022-23)	4-year (FY 2023-24)	Status (FY 2023-24)	5-year (FY 2024-25)
Broadband Connectivity to Villages (%)	50%	60%	100%	-	94.39% (Sept 23)	-
*Availability of broadband Speeds (Mbps)	4	10	25	30	Mobile BB- 75.86 Fixed BB- 55.80 (Oct 23)	50
Fiberization (Lakh KMs) Cumulative	24	27	30	40	38.87 Lakh 30.09.2023	50
Towers (in lakhs) Cumulative	7	8	10	12	7.79 Lakh 05.11.2023	15
Fiberization of Telecom Towers (%) Cumulative	35	45	55	65	42.19% 30.09.2023	70
Mapping of Fiber Cumulative	10%	40%	60%	80%	84% (Govt. PSUs) (12.06.2023)	100%

*<https://www.speedtest.net/global-index/india>

1.a) NBM - Annual Implementation Plan

KPI	Target 4 th year (FY 2023-24)	All India Status (FY 2023-24)	Kerala Target (FY 2023-24)	Kerala Status
Broadband Connectivity to Villages (%)	-	94.39% (Sept 23)	100 %	99.99 % **
*Availability of broadband Speeds (Mbps)	30	Mobile BB- 75.86 Fixed BB- 55.80 (Oct '23)	30	Mobile BB- 47.97 Fixed BB- 44.73 (Dec '23)
Fiberization (Lakh KMs) Cumulative	40	38.87 Lakh 30.09.2023	1 Lakh *	1.84 Lakh
Towers (in lakhs) Cumulative	12	7.79 Lakh 05.11.2023	45,023	21,625
Fiberization of Telecom Towers (%) Cumulative	65	42.19% 30.09.2023	65 %	39 %
Mapping of Fiber Cumulative	80%	84% (Govt. PSUs) (12.06.2023)	80 %	No state specific targets

1.b) Broadband Steering Committee Meeting on 6-12-2023: Kerala Specific Issues

1. **RoW policy yet to be aligned** with the amendment (2022 & 2023) of the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules 2016
2. **To reduce OFC laying charge** from Rs 75,000/km to as per Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules i.e., Rs 1000/km.
3. **906 RoW applications pending** for more than 60 days
4. **Deemed Approval yet to be activated** in the state RoW portal.
5. **Kerala Tower Portal yet to be integrated.**
6. **State may adopt and implement Gazette Notifications of Ministry of Power** related to **load aggregation** for availing '**Green Open Access Energy**' and on the '**Composite billing**' scheme for multiple connections. (Ex. Madhya Pradesh).

1.b) Broadband Steering Committee Meeting on 6-12-2023: Kerala Specific Issues

7. 5G rollout –

- i. Activation of **5G form on State RoW portal – To be developed and integrated.**
- ii. State is requested to **complete the mapping** of all the **street furniture** in DoT format

8. **Facilitate industry to increase BTSs Fiberization to 65% by March 2024 from 37.93% (current)** through Ease of doing business by simplification of Right of Way rules, faster RoW permissions, Priority Electricity connections and provisioning of ducts at reasonable tariff in Urban areas for laying OFC.

9. **Differential Aerial Fiber charges :-** charges for aerial fiber are different for internet service providers and cable TV operators in Kerala. (issue raised by ISPAI)

1.b) Broadband Steering Committee Meeting on 6-12-2023: Kerala Specific Issues

10. “Call Before u Dig” App (CBuD) (Enquiry -262)- Enhance its usage by holding awareness workshops, Mandating its use by all digging agencies, Issue notification covering the respective areas of Electricity, Gas, Water Pipelines, Sewerage, Roads, etc. similar to the Indian Telegraph Infrastructure Safety rules;
Mapping of underground assets on NMP is needed so as to enable alerts to be sent only if assets are available at the digging location.

2) Notification of Kerala Right of Way Policy

- Comprehensive RoW/ Telecom Policy aligned with the ITRoW 2016 is pending for a long time. Major highlights in RoW Policy are :
 - ❖ Timelines for RoW for OF laying permissions (max 60 days) else deemed permission – especially to be considered for Aerial OF laying cases initially.
 - ❖ Administrative Fees Rs 1000 per Km for OFC, Rs 10000 for tower.
 - ❖ Aerial OFC Charges Rs 1000 per Km (Administrative Fees)
 - ❖ Street Furniture for Small Cells (Rs 300 per annum in urban and Rs 150 per annum in Rural areas per street Furniture).
 - ❖ Street Furniture for Aerial OFC : Rs 100 per annum per street furniture
 - ❖ All applications have to be Online (OFC, Tower, KSEB poles, Street Furniture etc)
 - ❖ SPOC for each Agency to be notified for better coordination.

2) Use of Street infrastructure for installation of 5G Small Cells

- All Public agencies owning Street Furniture (Electric Poles, Traffic Signals, Lamp Posts, Metro Pillars, Bus Stops, etc) to be governed by a single **Street Furniture Policy**.
- The charges for use of Street Furniture is required to be nominal, to facilitate proliferation of 5G Small Cells, and the state to get the benefit of 5G Services.
- **Bulk Permissions**, OFC Cable extension to Street Furniture, Power Supply to Street furniture's need to be part of the Policy
- Committee may be constituted for formulation of policy for “**Street Infrastructure**” for fast roll out of 5G.

3) Right of Way Permissions

- Kerala State has the **4th highest pendency among states**;
- Measures to be taken for giving permission within 60 days
- Pendency PE Dec 2023

Authority	< 2Months	>=2M <3Months	>=3M <6Months	> = 6M < 1year	>=1 yr < 2year	> = 2year	Grand Total
PWD	189	91	247	98	54	13	692
Grama Panchayath	117	38	120	56	29	1	361
Municipality	17	9	39	34	9	2	110
Corporation	16	9	18	14	5		62
District Panchayath	2	5	8	6			21
Block Panchayath			1				1
Grand Total	341	152	433	208	97	16	1247
		906 applications pending more than 60 days					

3) Right of Way Permissions

- Issues related to DLP roads
 - ❖ Authorities in general now calculating DLP width as 5.5 M resulting in exorbitant BG value. This needs to be reconsidered based on actual requirement of <1M.
 - ❖ The same calculation is being considered for DLP calculation of Aerial proposals. Entire route length is being considered for DLP calculation whereas the requirement is limited to pits only. Separate Circular required for DLP calculation for Aerial proposals.
- Aerial OFC Pole charges to be made in line with the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules.

4) SUGAMA 2.0

- New RoW Portal to be expedited, as many integration issues, with Central Portal is pending.
- Higher level officers review from PWD, LSGD, KSEB, KWA etc is required to streamline and simplify the process of approvals, wok flow etc.,
- From the Telecommunication Sector this is a single window portal for OFC (Underground, Aerial), Tower intimation, Street Furniture etc.,

5) Model Building Bye-Laws,2016 Common Telecommunication Infrastructure

- Ministry of Housing and urban development (MoHUA) has issued Model Building Bye-Laws,2016 on CTI.
- Relevant chapters of National Building Code have to be incorporated in the State Building Code and State Rules.
- Buildings are to be constructed in such a way that they are 'Digital Infrastructure deployment' / 'Digital Connectivity' ready.
- Provision of telecom ducts / common pathways / runways (digital access paths) to reach to the accessible parts of the buildings.
- Detailed guidelines are ready by ITE&C Dept. Clarification wrt role of DoT – Ir received from DoT is already shared with ITE&C .

6) PM-WANI (WiFi) in Kerala

- This scheme is to promote local shops and small establishments to become Wi-Fi providers (Public Data Offices - PDOs) and thereby help them generate additional stream of income.
- PM-WANI Hotspots can be deployed in Fair Price Shops, Hospitals / Primary Health Centers , Tourist Sites, Smart Cities, Bus stands, Public places /utility offices.
- Migration of existing public Wi-Fi hotspots to PM-WANI and new WiFi Hotspots may be brought under PM-WANI.

7)USO Funded 4G Saturation Project

- Land allocation: Wildlife clearances
- Electricity connections: Assistance from Tribal welfare Department/ KSEB under RDSS for KSEB demand notes above Rs 2 lakhs.
- Free RoW permissions for OFC connectivity as provided for BharatNet.

8) Other Points

- **Tower constructions in CRZ/Wetland areas**-Necessary orders to facilitate construction of telecommunication towers in coastal /wetland areas ‘
- Policy for **Shared Duct Infrastructure**



Thank You