

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

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

To
The Advisor,
AP LSA
Department of Telecommunications,
Hyderabad.

Lr.No.ITC01-COOROGOIM/7/2020-COMMUNICATIONS, DT:21.09.2021

Sir,

Sub: IT,E&C Dept., - State Broadband Committee - Minutes of Meeting held on
06.09.2021 at 6.00 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 2nd State Broadband Committee meeting held on 06.09.2021 at 6.00 PM at the camp office of the Chief Secretary to the Govt., of Andhra Pradesh are communicated herewith for information and further follow up action.

Yours faithfully


Director (Communications)

21/09/2021

Encl: as above

Copy to:

- 1) All the Committee members
- 2) The OSD to Chief Secretary to Govt., of AP
- 3) The PS to Principal Secretary, IT,E&C Department
- 4) The PS to Special Secretary, IT,E&C Department

Minutes of 2nd State Broadband Committee meeting held at 18:00 Hrs on 06-09-2021 in the chambers of the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

The 2nd State Broadband Committee (SBC) meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh at 18.00 hrs and the following have attended the meeting.

State Government:

1. Sri. Adityanath Das IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of A.P.
2. Smt. G. Jaya Lakshmi, IAS, Prl. Secretary to Govt., IT,E&C Department, Govt., of A.P.
3. Sri. M. Girija Shankar IAS, Commissioner, PR&RD Department, Govt., of A.P.
4. Sri. P.V. Chalapathi Rao IFS, Spl. Secretary, EF,S&T Department, Govt., of A.P.
5. Sri. Subba Reddy, Engineer-In-Chief, PR Engg Department, Govt., of A.P.
6. Sri. P. Anjaiah, ED, AP State Fibernet Ltd
7. Sri. T. Murali Krishna, GM, APRDC, R&B Department, Govt., of A.P.

DoT:

1. Sri. Nizamul Haq, ITS, Advisor, DoT through Video Conference (VC)
2. Sri. G.V. Rama Krishna, ITS, Sr. DDG, DoT, AP LSA, Vijayawada
3. Sri. G. Raghavendra Rao, ITS, DDG (Rural), DoT, AP LSA, Vijayawada
4. Sri. A. Robert Ravi, ITS, DDG, DoT, AP LSA, Vijayawada
5. Sri. P. Venkatesham, ITS, Director, DoT, AP LSA, Vijayawada
6. Sri. G. Dinesh, ITS, ADG, DoT, AP LSA, Vijayawada
7. Sri. B. Subba Rao, Asst. Director (Rural), DoT, AP LSA, Vijayawada

COAI & TAIPA (Through VC):

1. Sri. Kshem Kapoor, Deputy Director, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)
2. Sri. Tilak Raj Dua, DG, Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) (Formerly TAIPA).
3. Sri. Ashish Garg, Asst. Manager, DIPA (Formerly TAIPA).

Proceedings of the committee on 06-09-2021:

At the outset the Dy. Director General (Rural), AP LSA welcomed all the participants from various stake holding Departments, members from DIPA and COAI. He elaborated the role of State Broadband Committee to provide the "Broadband to all and Connectivity to all Uncovered Areas" with support of State Government as per the directives of National Broadband Mission to achieve the targets envisaged in the National Digital Communication Policy-2018.

The Sr. DDG, AP LSA informed about need of provision of coverage to 2236 uncovered villages in the State of AP, most of the villages are located in Tribal and Forest areas. He further informed to utilize the Bharatnet fiber for Government institutions wherever fiber is ready. The Chief Secretary asked DoT to recommend the proposal to the State Government.

The Committee discussed the agenda items and the decisions are as follows:

1. Issue of State RoW Guidelines:

- a. The DDG (Rural) informed the need to issue state Right of Way (RoW) policy in line with GoI RoW Rules-2016. Elaborated main features of GoI RoW rules 2016, like one time Administrative charges, single window online portal and deemed approval for RoW permissions.

The committee noted that issue of AP RoW Guidelines 2021 is in final stage and the guidelines will be released shortly.

- b. Regarding online portal for granting RoW permissions, Currently, MA&UD and TR&B departments are having portals for according online Telecom Tower/ RoW permissions. The Forest Department is also having a portal (PARIVESH, GoI) developed by NIC. The committee decided that after issue of RoW guidelines, APTS will take up the activity of integrating the above portals by developing a common application platform. The stake holding Departments shall coordinate with APTS for development of RoW online portal.

2. Pending RoW Permissions:

The DDG (Rural) informed the pending RoW permissions with various departments and abnormal delay taking place particularly with Forest department.

The Spl. Secretary (EFS&T) has informed that the Right of Way permissions in the forest areas are regulated by Forest Conservation Act (FCA) and earlier permissions authority was delegated to State Forest Department. However recently, GoI has changed the policy and are tackling directly in the forest areas.

The Chief Secretary suggested DoT to take up the issue and bring to the notice of Steering Committee of National Broadband Mission for settling the issues at national level.

The Director General, DIPA informed analytics on different indicators of Telecom infrastructure like Tower density, Fiberisation of Towers and also requested for early issue of State RoW policy. He provided the status of pending RoW permissions and requested to expedite for early approvals.

Also, the Director General, COAI referred the draft RoW policy and pointed out charges for installation of Micro equipment and poles are high and requested to consider for reasonable charges. He also informed about the pending RoW permissions.

The Chief Secretary asked all the stake holding departments for early action on pending RoW permissions.

3. The Following other items were discussed:

- a. The DDG (Rural) informed that some of the locations under uncovered villages are commercially viable for Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) according to the present population and the number of habitations in that village/ cluster of villages. TSPs can plan to provide coverage in those villages.

The Chief Secretary requested the members of DIPA and COAI to install new Towers in uncovered areas.

- b. DDG (Rural) informed that usage of data can be enhanced by utilizing the new technologies particularly using of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and also informed DDG (A&C) will demonstrate the various projects taken up by DoT, Vijayawada.

- (i) DDG (A&C) explained the project of Cell on Balloon (CoBAL) taken up in Nurmathi police camp of Visakhapatnam district. He further informed the project is at final stage of trials. Six to seven villages can be covered by keeping balloon at a height of 100 mtrs and more villages can be covered as the height of the balloon is increased.

- (ii) He explained the other project of "Eradication of Malaria" in Paderu area and another project for effective results in Agriculture taken up in Rampachodavaram ITDA area by utilizing the AI and Drones. Explained the developed systems in AI in detail. He informed that any "Startups" working in the field of Agriculture, Telemedicine etc. can join hands in these initiatives.

4. In the concluding remarks, the Chief Secretary informed that

- a. the issue of state RoW guidelines is in final stage and about to release the guidelines shortly. Assured to take steps for effective functioning of District committees to settle the disputes at an early time.
- b. COAI and DIPA to install and to fiberize the Towers in uncovered areas as the data usage in rural areas increased due to various development activities taken up by the Government and data usage will be more in coming days due to digitalization of newly established Government institutions like Village Secretariates, Rythu Bharosa Kendras, Digital Libraries and most of the work force is working from home. He assured to sort out any issues faced by COAI and DIPA in the process of installation of Towers.
- c. the State Government is encouraging more Startups in various fields. New technologies like AI, Drones and IOT can be utilized in various IT based and relevant Startups. He has assured that such Startups will be encouraged to work in collaboration with DoT unit at Vijayawada.

5. The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks.

ADITYA NATH DAS
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

Y. Venkata Rao.
SECTION OFFICER (FAC)