

**Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting**  
**Chaired by the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya**  
**Held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 at 4:00 PM**  
**At Main Secretariat, Building Shillong**

The 6<sup>th</sup> SBC meeting was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 and was chaired by Shri D. P. Wahlang, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya.

The objective of the meeting was to fast-track telecom penetration in the State and sort out issues related to the execution and rollout of telecom projects.

The Attendance sheet is placed at *Annexure – A*.

The following invitees also attended the meeting through Video Conference:

- 1) Deputy Commissioners of Districts and their Representatives
- 2) Representative from DIPA
- 3) Representative from COAI
- 4) Representative from Bharti Hexacom Ltd (Airtel) – USOF 4G project
- 5) Representative from RJIO

**Presentation by DoT NE LSA**

The DDG (Rural) DoT NE LSA made a presentation (*enclosed at Annexure-B*) and covered the following:

- Meghalaya: Telecom Profile at a Glance
- Telecom Right of Way (RoW) Rule 2024 and related issues
- Call Before u Dig (CBuD)
- Mapping of Street Furniture
- Status & issues of ongoing USOF Projects in Meghalaya
- Issues related to Electricity Connections at Telecom Sites
- Telecom infrastructure theft in Meghalaya

**Discussions and decisions made:**

**1. Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024**

Based on the power conferred by the Telecommunications Act, 2023, DoT-Gol notified the new 'Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024.' The Rules provide for establishment, operation and maintenance of underground and overground telecom network in public and private properties. A copy of the Rules is enclosed at *Annexure C*. All States are mandated to **adapt the same w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025**. In view of this the following decisions were made: -

- 1.1. To de-notify the Meghalaya Telecom Infrastructure Policy (Amendment) 2024 w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 except for the following sections that need to be retained:
  - 1.1.1. State Level Institutional Mechanism notified, prior to 2024, to facilitate sound decision making & responsive action in telecom matters (Section 2 to 8) and
  - 1.1.2. State Nodal Dept & State Nodal Officer nominated, prior to 2024, to facilitate telecom policy implementation (Section 9).

1.2. To make necessary modifications in the Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal by NBM.

1.3. All Local Authorities (i.e. Nodal Officers of Public Entities) shall adopt the new 'Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024' and shall onboard on the Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal <https://gatishaktisanchar.gov.in/>

1.4. NE LSA DoT-Gol shall provide Capacity Building of the Local Authorities (i.e. Nodal Officers of Public Entities) in co-ordination with IT&C Department, Government of Meghalaya by **15<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

## 2. Click/ Call Before you Dig (CBuD)

The 'Call Before u Dig' (CBuD) mobile application of DoT-Gol, aims to prevent damage to telecom/ other assets like optical fibre cables because of uncoordinated excavation. The CBuD App connects excavators and asset owners through Short Message Service (SMS) /Email notifications and 'click-to-call' feature so that there are planned excavations while ensuring the safety of underground assets. *In case of damages while digging, the excavator is liable to pay compensation to the telecom asset owners as per Rule 20 of the 'Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024.'*

For Meghalaya, the Secretary PWD (Roads) is the State Nodal Officer for the CBuD App.

**The SBC endorsed the decision of the Working Committee under SBC that:**

2.1. All TSPs/ IPs and entities involved in excavations should immediately onboard on the CBuD App with the help of NE-LSA, DoT-Gol & IT&C Dept, GoM.

2.2. All State Depts./ Bodies like PWD, PHE, Municipalities, Electricity/other Utilities etc., having underground infrastructure, should on-board all the required Levels of Users on CBuD App as early as possible. It is understood from DoT-Gol NE-LSA, that the CBuD App can be used even if the underground infrastructures have not been mapped in the PM Gatishakti GIS Portal.

2.3. *The respective Depts/Authorities shall on-board L3/ L4 Users as mentioned in the table below by end of November 2024: -*

S No	Name of Department/ Authority/ Agency	L1 users	L2 Users	L3 Users	L4 Users
1.	PWD Roads	1	2	23	0
2.	MePDCL	NA	1	5	0
3.	Shillong Municipal Boards	NA	1	0	0
4.	Forest & Environment	NA	1	40	0
5.	Urban Affairs	NA	1	0	0
6.	PHE	NA	1	21	0

2.4. The Deputy Commissioners-cum-Chairperson, District Level Digital Connectivity Monitoring Committee (DLDCMC) shall include CBuD as one of their agenda during their District Level Monitoring Committee meetings for monitoring of CBuD usage.

## 3. Mapping of Street Furniture

3.1. The DDG(Rural) stressed the need to digitally map the Street Furniture as this is an enabler towards speedy installation of 5G BTSs in the State.

- 3.2. As updated by State Planning Department (i.e. the State Nodal Dept. for PM GatiShakti Portal), the status of mapping of Street furniture in the State is as follow: -

Traffic Lights	Govt Building	Bus Terminal	Bus Shelter	Electric Poles (MeECL/MePDCL)	Street Light	Remarks (if any)
NA	1665	5	0	Shillong Circle= 15051 Ri Bhoi Circle = 12802 <b>Total = 27853</b>	0	Features Mapped of Shillong Circle and Ri Bhoi Circle shared with BISAG-N for updating on PMG Portal

- 3.3. The Representative from Planning Department also informed that finalizing of the remaining data, including data from MePDCL Circles, is only possible when the concerned Line Department/ State Utility is ready with the data at their end. *The Chair requested the Representative from Power Department to take necessary steps to collect & share data with Planning Dept so that mapping of Street furniture of the remaining Circles of MePDCL can be completed.*

#### 4. Issues under USOF 4G Projects by BHL (Airtel)

- 4.1. The main issues in this Project (as shown in slide 31 of the Presentation attached at Annexure B) pertains to inaccessibility of the following villages by motorable road for transportation of materials for installation of Towers:
- 4.1.1. Artan Village in East Jaintia Hills District
  - 4.1.2. Gongjagre Village in South Garo Hills District
  - 4.1.3. Thadteja Village in South West Khasi Hills District
- 4.2. The Chair directed the respective Deputy Commissioners to propose alternate sites in lieu of the above Sites, and the same should be communicated to the IT&C Dept. by 11/11/2024.

#### 5. Issues under USOF 4G Saturation Projects by BSNL

- 5.1. The main issues in this project (as shown on Slide 31, of the Presentation attached at Annexure B) pertains to village level objections while installing towers.
- 5.2. The Chair directed BSNL to resolve the issues from their side first and then take the help from the respective District Administrations if the issues persist.

#### 6. Issues under USOF Amended BharatNet/ BharatNet-III Project by BBNL/ BSNL

- 6.1. Under this project a total of 1899 Villages are planned to be connected through Optical Fibre Cable. Of the total, 1168 villages are unconnected, 122 villages are upgradation of BharatNet-I Sites and 609 villages are upgradation of BharatNet-II Sites. BBNL/ BSNL requested the State to identify suitable buildings having space and electricity connection to instal the necessary equipment.
- 6.2. The Chair directed the DCs to provide necessary support and facilitation to BBNL /BSNL Officials and to identify buildings with adequate space & reliable electricity supply as per the List of 1192 Villages mentioned in Slide 30 of the presentation placed at Annexure B.

7. **Model Building Byelaws:** To incorporate Addendum to Model Building Byelaws, 2016 as per provisions in IBS issued by MoHUA.

7.1. The National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018 mandated installation of Telecom infra & associated cabling, IBS (In Building Solution) in all Commercial/ Residential/ Govt. Buildings as per National Building Code of India. In this regard, the State needs to incorporate Model Building Byelaws so that Digital Infra deployment/ Digital Connectivity ready provisions are part of their Common Telecom Infra (CTI) such as:

- i. Telecom Duct
- ii. Common Pathways
- iii. Runways for Cables, etc.

7.2. As per the suggested Addendum, **Occupancy-cum-completion Certificates are to be granted only after ensuring that Common Telecom Infra (CTI)** as per prescribed standards are in place. Besides, necessary provisions of visit for DoT/ TRAI Officials along with joint inspection with TSP/IPS who might suggest relevant modifications in the CTI Plan to ensure common access.

7.3. The representative from Urban Affairs Department informed that the draft Cabinet Memo has been prepared for the State Cabinet to discuss & approve.

7.4. The Chair directed the representative of the Urban Affairs Department to actively pursue the matter.

8. **Electricity Connections (MeECL/ MePDCL) at Telecom sites**

8.1. The issues related to electricity connections at Telecom sites are mentioned in Slides 35-41 of the presentation attached at Annexure B

8.2. The SBC directed the representative of Power Dept/ Utilities to examine the root causes of the different delays in the electricity connection & billing processes and devise long term solutions. MeECL/ MePDCL should also carefully consider the remaining requests of the TSP/ISP and COAI/DIPA. Once done, Power Dept. should inform about its recommendations/ action taken to the IT&C Dept., which is the Nodal Department.

9. **Telecom infrastructure theft situation in Meghalaya**

9.1. The Representative of DIPA informed that Infrastructure Providers (IPs) experience recurrent incidents of theft of their essential equipment such as Battery Banks, Cables, DG cranking devices and active radio equipment like RRUs (Remote Radio Units) and BBUs (Base Band Units).

9.2. The consolidated theft data is as shown in the table below:

Year	State	IP-1	No. of Sites where Theft Incident happened	FIR Lodged	Approx Cost of Theft Items in Rs.	Action Required	Request for Government Support
2024	Meghalaya	Indus Tower Ltd	40	34	82,77,372/-	Prompt registration for theft cases	Direct District Authorities & Police for immediate action
2024	Meghalaya	ATC	24	7	49,45,781/-	Investigations to apprehend culprits	Ensure protection of critical telecom infrastructure
Total					1,32,23,153/-	Enhanced security (increased patrols,	

9.3. The Chair directed the Representative of DIPA & TSPs/IPs to provide the details of the theft cases to Home(Police) Department with a copy to IT&C Dept to follow-up.

9.4. The Chair asked the Representative from Home (Police) Department to take up the FIR filed by TSPs/IPs on priority and also to ensure security of Telecom Infrastructure installed in the State.

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



(D. P Wahlang)  
Chief Secretary  
Government of Meghalaya

Enclosed:

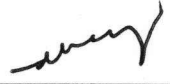
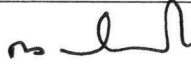

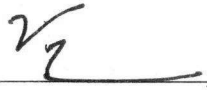
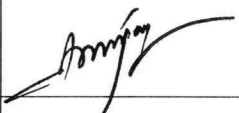


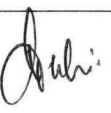
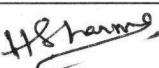

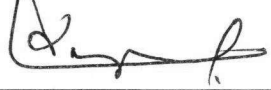


ANNEXURE A: Attendance

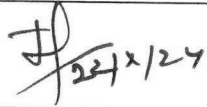






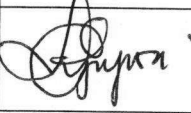



ANNEXURE B: Copy of the Presentation made during the 6<sup>th</sup> SBC Meeting

ANNEXURE C: Telecommunication (Right of Way) Rules, 2024

## ATTENDANCE SHEET

Meeting of the State Broadband Committee (SBC) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024 at 4:00 PM in the Main Conference Hall, Main Secretariat Building.

Sl No.	Name and designation	Signature
1.	Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, and Chairman State Broadband Committee (SBC)	
2.	Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Information Technology & Communication.	
3.	Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Information Technology & Communication.	
4.	C&S Planning	
5.	JS., ITC	
6.	I. Majum S/S POWER DEPTT.	
7.	Nandlal Suchday DDG(C) NECSA	
8.	RAJ KUMAR, CGM, BSNL NE 7 circle	
9.	Yahida Apolui DDG(R), NECSA	
10.	Harsh Sharma, DIO(R), NECSA	
11.	C. Lakshminarayanan, GM(D), BSNL	
12.	H-L. Nongkhetaw, PEM(Planning), BSNL	
13.	R. K. Sone, GM(CM), BSNL	
14.	Shyamal Ghosh, DGM(CM&HQ) BSNL.	

Sl No.	Name and designation	Signature
15.	Shri. D.P. MARAK, IPS, IGP/SB	
16.	Pankaj Dasgupta, IPS, SP (SCRB)	
17.	Souwalta Rymbai, MLS	
18.	Shri L. Shalun ACE (MAE) PWB (R)	
19.	Shri. T. Wanning CF, Forest & Env	
20.	Manjit Nath, Head SMT, Meghalaya	
21.	Deborghiel Dikhar, SIO, DTC	
22.	A. Langpa PC-MEC	
23.	Smti M. Shira Kshir, Dy. Secy, C&RA	M&Cshir
24.	KAUSTHIK SAIKIA, Sr. Consultant SMT	
25.	Cherikurak R. Marak, JIO, DTC	
26.	Narayana Cralati, Consultant, PIPSD Dept for PM GATISHAKTI	
27.		
28.		
29.		