

GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION
Nagaland: Kohima

No. IT&C/18-6/20/196

Dated Kohima, the 26th February 2025

**MINUTES OF THE 3rd STATE BROADBAND COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
11TH FEBRUARY 2025 IN THE CHIEF SECRETARY CONFERENCE HALL**

The 3rd State Broadband Committee meeting was held on 11th February 2025, at 2.00 PM in the Chief Secretary Conference Hall under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Nagaland for monitoring and effective implementation of the National Broadband Mission in the State. The attendance sheet is enclosed as **Annexure A**.

The Chief Secretary and Chairman of the State Broadband Committee welcomed all the participants present in the meeting and the agenda of the meeting was placed before the committee by Deputy Director General (DDG), Department of Telecommunications (DoT), License Service Area (LSA), Nagaland, Member convener.

1. Status of Telecom Services in Nagaland.

The Deputy Director General (DDG) of the LSA, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Nagaland, provided an overview of the telecom sector in the state, highlighting key aspects such as subscriber percentages, tele-density, BTS deployment, optical fiber cable (OFC) connectivity, and the coverage of mobile and fixed-line networks by all Telecom Service Providers. He also informed that total OFC laid in Nagaland is about 8867 km and after review of OFC connectivity for 16 District Headquarters (DHQs) and 74 Block Headquarters (BHQs) with all TSPs, ISPs, PSUs and State Power Department, it has been found that there is no OFC presence in one DHQ and 11 BHQs. Under the 4G Saturation Project, out of 323 sites planned, 57 are currently operational and under this scheme as on 31.12.2024, 361 uncovered village has been identified, out of which 306 uncovered villages has been included under 4G saturation Project and the remaining 55 uncovered villages are being planned to be included.

Key initiatives undertaken by DoT, Govt of India were also highlighted which include the introduction of the New Telecom Act, 2023, the New Telecommunication Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2024, and the launch of National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0. Other significant developments include the introduction of the Call Before You Dig (CBuD) App, the Digital Communication Readiness Index (DCRI), the Digital Intelligent Platform (DIP), the Sanchar Saathi Portal & App, the Chakshu & Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR), and the Know Your Mobile & Know Your ISP initiatives, along with the establishment of 5G Use Case Labs.



2. Telecommunication Right of Way (RoW) Policy 2024.

The DDG, LSA, DoT, Nagaland, provided an overview of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, which was enacted by the Indian Parliament with the objective of modernizing the legal framework governing telecommunications in India. He also covered the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 which has come into effect on 01.01.2025, which were formulated under the new Act to replace the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016, and its amendments, aiming to simplify, expedite, and standardize the process of telecom infrastructure deployment while ensuring fair compensation, transparency. He informed the members that these rules are binding and do not require adoption by the State. In this connection, he sought the support of the State Government for effective implementation and requested the State Government to issue notification for effective implementation.

To enforce smooth implementation of the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024, the Chief Secretary directed the issuance of a notification to all departments for its incorporation and implementation.

Action: Department of IT&C.

3. Usage of Call Before You Dig (CBuD) App.

The Department of IT&C, Nagaland, presented the current usage of the CBuD App in the State and informed that State Government has already issued notification mandating prior intimation through CBuD App before any digging activities in the State, and training with key stakeholders was conducted on 2nd Feb 2023 and 3rd Sep 2024 in co-ordination with O/o DDG LSA Nagaland and DoT, Gol.

To enforce and increase usage of CBUD app the Chief Secretary directed that a circular be issued to all line departments and Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to ensure:

- Implementation of the CBuD app.
- Mandatory incorporation in all RFPs, work orders, and agreements.
- Inclusion of review of CBuD in agenda of District-Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) meetings.
- Creation of District Level Telecom user login in CBuD for District level authorities.

Action: Department of IT&C.

4. Incorporation of MoHUA Addendum on Provision of In-Building Solutions (IBS) into Model Building Bylaws.

The Commissioner & Secretary, Urban and Municipal Affairs Department, informed that the MoHUA Addendum on In-Building Solutions (IBS), 2016 for incorporation into the Nagaland Building By-Laws, 2012 has been examined and notification is under submission for approval by the Government.



Action: Department of Urban and Municipal Affairs.

5. Expansion and Utilization of OPGW for Reliable OFC Connectivity.

The Chief Engineer (T&G), Power Department, highlighted the progress of implementation of OPGW in the State that can be utilized for OFC connectivity and informed the members that:

- 255 km of OPGW cable is available, covering 6 Districts Hq and 10 blocks Hq.
- Plan to connect 66 KVA substations to cover all districts within two years.
- 239 km of OPGW cable to be leased out to BSNL on commercial terms.

The committee members emphasized that Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) is the most reliable medium for Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) connectivity in hilly terrain, particularly in Nagaland, where narrow roads and frequent landslides often lead to damage of conventional OFC infrastructure. In this regard, the Power Department was instructed to extend OPGW connectivity to all District Headquarters (DHQs) and Block Headquarters (BHQs) across the State.

Action: Department of Power.

6. Shared Duct Policy.

The Deputy Director General (DDG), License Service Area (LSA), DoT, Nagaland, highlighted the recent draft policy and advisory on common duct /post shared by Department of Telecommunication, Govt of India and the importance of common share duct/post for both underground and overground infrastructure including power cables, gas pipelines, water pipelines, and telecom cables. He outlined that a common shared duct system is crucial for optimizing space utilization, reducing frequent road excavations, minimizing infrastructure costs, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of utility networks. By integrating multiple utility services within a single duct system, the state can enhance operational efficiency, improve maintenance coordination, and mitigate disruptions caused by uncoordinated infrastructure development.

In this regard, the Chief Secretary directed the Department of IT&C to assess the feasibility of implementing a common utility duct system in the state, after which a committee comprising of relevant departments may be constituted if needed.

Action: Department of IT&C.

7. Progress and Targets of the 4G Saturation Project.

The Chief General Manager (CGM), BSNL, provided an update on the 4G Saturation Project implementation, reporting that out of the 323 planned towers, only 57 are currently operational, and BSNL has committed to commission an additional 50 by



March 2025. He also noted that the demand note for electricity connectivity to 61 new tower sites remains pending with the State Power Department, and requested for early consideration of the matter.

Expressing serious concern over the prolonged delay, the Chief Secretary underscored that the project, originally set for completion in 2023, has now been pushed to December 2025 significantly impacting digital connectivity, especially in remote and rural areas. This delay is not only hindering the state's digital transformation but also affecting essential services, economic opportunities, and public welfare. The Chief Secretary directed the Department of IT&C to examine and escalate the matter for taking with the Ministry of Communications, DoT, urging immediate intervention. Additionally, CGM, BSNL was instructed to accelerate the implementation of the 4G Saturation Project and submit monthly progress reports to the IT&C Department without fail.

Action: CGM BSNL, Nagaland and IT&C Department.

8. Progress and Targets of the BharatNet Project.

The Principal General Manager (PGM), BharatNet, BSNL, presented the status of BharatNet implementation across three phases:

- Phase-I: 116 GPs on OFC.
- Phase-II: 120 GPs on VSAT.
- Phase-III (Amended BharatNet Project): Under this project, 1026 new GPs / villages are planned. Thus, total GPs/ villages covered under BharatNet project so far will be 1262 including 289 GPs/ villages on OFC ring.

After due deliberation regarding the uncovered GPs/Villages in the State, the committee suggested that the 1,663 villages with LGD codes under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj would be considered when determining the total number of villages in the state for the Project and the remaining 401 villages should also be included under the BharatNet Project to ensure comprehensive digital connectivity across the State. PGM BharatNet, BSNL assured the committee that the matter will be taken up with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Govt of India for necessary approvals and inclusion of these villages under the BharatNet Project.

The committee noted persistent issues with frequent Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) cuts and the non-operational status of several VSAT sites. Emphasizing the need for immediate resolution, the PGM, BSNL was directed to submit plan for restoring the affected sites under Phase-I and Phase-II. Also, in this connection, PGM BSNL BharatNet was instructed to give a comprehensive implementation plan for the entire BharatNet Project in State covering all villages/GPs.

The Commissioner and Secretary, IT&C, informed the members that the BharatNet Project has been declared as a Special Project by the Ministry of Communications,



DoT, Gol, and that under the new RoW Rules 2024, deemed approval must be granted during its implementation in the state. After deliberation, the committee noted the matter and directed IT&C Department to take up necessary follow-up actions with all the stockholders for the smooth implementation of the Project. .

To ensure successful implementation, it was agreed that OFC connectivity to all District Headquarters (DHQs) and Block Headquarters (BHQs) is essential. The CGM, BSNL was instructed to expedite the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for uncovered Districts Hq (DHQs) and Block Hq (BHQs).

Action: PGM BharatNet BSNL, CGM BSNL and Department of IT&C.

9. Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) & Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).

DIPA and COAI appreciated the cooperation of the State IT&C Department in facilitating telecom infrastructure installation and sought the support of the State Government for effective implementation of the New Telecommunication Right of Way Rule 2024, Issuance of an acknowledgment during the RoW portal application process for private properties, replacement of faulty electric meters with smart meters etc.

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

Sd/-(Dr. J. ALAM) IAS

Chief Secretary to the Government of Nagaland

No. IT&C/18-6/20

Dated Kohima, the February 2025

Copy to:

1. The Deputy Secretary to the Chief Secretary, Nagaland Kohima for information, please.
2. The AHoDs / HoDs, Power, PWD, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Urban Development, Nagaland, Kohima, please.
3. The DDG, LSA, DoT, Gol, Nagaland, Dimapur, please.
4. The CGM, NE-II, BSNL Nagaland, Dimapur, please.
5. The PGM, BharatNet (BSNL), please.
6. The GM, BSNL, Nagaland, please.
7. The DDG COAL, Cellular Operator Association of India (COAL)
8. The DG, Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA).
9. All Telecom Service Providers / Infrastructure Providers.
10. Office Copy.


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Additional Secretary to the Government of Nagaland