

Government of India (भारत सरकार)

Ministry of Communications (संचार मंत्रालय),

Department of Telecom (दूरसंचार विभाग)



Office of Addl. Director General, Gujarat LSA

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Dated: 22-03-2024

Minutes of the 4th Gujarat State Broadband Committee Meeting for the year 2023-24 held on 20.03.2024

The 4th meeting of Gujarat State Broadband Committee (SBC) for the year 2023-24 was held on 20-03-2024 under the Chairmanship of Shri Raj Kumar, Chief Secretary Government of Gujarat at Conference Hall of Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat in Gandhinagar. Shri Ajatshatru Somani, Addl. DGT, DoT, Gujarat LSA was the convener of the meeting. The meeting was attended by:

➤ ***Government of Gujarat Side:***

1. Shri S. J. Haider, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries & Mines, Govt. of Gujarat.
2. Ms Mona Khandhar, Principal Secretary, Panchayat, Rural Housing & Rural Development Department and Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Gujarat.
3. Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Government of Gujarat.
4. Shri C. P. Patel, Chief Engineer, Road & Building Department, Government of Gujarat
5. Ms Shalini Duhan, Deputy Secretary, (Housing & Projects), Urban Development Department, Government of Gujarat.
6. Smt Bhakti Shamal, Joint Secretary, Energy Petrochemicals Department, Government of Gujarat
7. Ms. Hinaba Jadeja, Under Secretary, Revenue Department, Government of Gujarat.

➤ ***Department of Telecom. Side:***

1. Shri Ashish Thaker, DDG (Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA
2. Dr. Kunj B. Sharma, Director (Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA
3. Ms. Yadav Neha Jaiprakash, ADET (Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA
4. Shri. Ganpat Patel, AD (Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA
5. Shri. Kamal Panwar, Consultant (Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA

➤ ***BSNL / BBNL Side:***

1. Shri Sandeep Sawarkar CGM, BSNL
2. Shri Hemant Pandey, PGM (CM), BSNL Gujarat

➤ ***COAI / DIPA Representatives*** :Through Video Conferencing.

The Director(Rural), Department of Telecommunications, Gujarat LSA, on behalf of the Additional Director General, Telecommunications, Gujarat LSA and convener of the State Broadband Committee, welcomed the chairman, members, and all participants of the committee. Furthermore, he briefed them on the agenda of the committee meeting and the actions needed to achieve the objectives.

The Director(Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA delivered a detailed presentation, covering all the agenda points of the meeting.

4G Saturation Project Status & Issues:

The status of the 4G Saturation project and the work carried out by BSNL were summarized by Shri Hemant Pandey, PGM(CMTS), BSNL. He also explained the categorization of sites into CAT-1 to CAT-5 for the 4G Saturation Project. The Following issues were discussed in the meeting.

- A. BSNL is facing land allocation issues at two sites: Bahej (Tapi District) and Vadia (Chhota Udepur District). There is no government land available at these locations, and private owners are also unwilling to provide land for towers.
 - *BSNL was instructed to explore possibilities to acquire land in nearby villages to cover the mentioned two villages.*
- B. BSNL informed that high demand notes were raised for electricity connections and annual rent for government lands at some new sites. Furthermore, BSNL expressed gratitude to the Chair for reducing the EB demand notes and the high rent of government lands for sites that were requested in the previous SBC meeting.
 - *The chair instructed the Energy & Petrochemicals Department to consider the BSNL request and reduce the higher EB demand notes. The official from the Revenue Department mentioned that a letter has been issued to all the District Collectors, informing them that, as a special case for the BSNL, the annual rent for government lands is to be fixed at a maximum of ₹24,000 for the USOF Saturation of 4G Mobile Services project.*
- C. BSNL informed the committee that 8 revenue lands in Chhota Udaipur District fall under the ESZ and require clearance from the Wildlife Boards. These cases were pending with the DFO Vadodara for the necessary processes.

It was informed that the necessary clearance will be issued after due procedures are completed.

The committee was apprised that 17 sites have been radiated out by the BSNL.

1. Status of 5G Roll out in Gujarat:

The Addn. DGT, DoT, Gujarat LSA, presented the current status of 5G sites in the Gujarat state and assured the committee that the installation work of 5G sites in Gujarat is progressing very well.

- (I) The Chair inquired about the low speed at 5G sites, to which the Addn DGT explained that it was due to a backhaul connectivity issue. The ADGT further stated that to enhance the quality of 5G service, fiber connectivity is necessary, and therefore, expediting the Right of Way (RoW) clearance and utilizing street furniture is crucial.
- (II) The Principal Secretary(DST) clarified that the installation of overhead OFC will not be allowed on high-tension electricity poles. However, DISCOMs under EPD may consider installation on low-tension electricity poles, provided that adequate safety measures are taken. EPD was advised to study the provisions in policies of other states regarding the utilization of DISCOMs' infrastructure for the rollout of 5G networks. The DoT, Gujarat LSA office was instructed to share copies of policies from other states with EPD.

(III) The Chair instructed to provide 4G and 5G services in the Dholera activation area, where the foundation stone for the Semiconductor fab has already been laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The Principal Secretary(DST) also directed the implementation of network coverage, including 5G, in Dholera. Additionally, she requested that BSNL submit a proposal within at least 15 days.

(IV) The Chair instructed to establish more State Funded 5G Labs.

2. Industrial Facilitations Measures:

A. RoW:

Issues were raised regarding the submission and approval of offline applications for Right of Way (RoW) permission, as well as the implementation of deemed approval for online applications. The Chair directed a review of the authority-wise status of all pending RoW cases. Additionally, all departments were instructed to ensure that the pendency of cases does not exceed 60 days.

The Chair also mentioned that deemed approval should not be implemented at this time. He stated that any significant delays in online RoW approvals or offline RoW cases should be reported to the respective department. It was further advised that the authorities be instructed to accept only online applications and process them within the stipulated time limit.

- The Principal Secretary(DST) added that RoW amendment 2022 & 2023 has been considered and may be implemented before next SBC meeting.

The representatives of TSPs/ISPs mentioned that GIDCs under the Industries & Mines Department have not adopted the Gujarat Telecom Infrastructure Policy-2022. Instead, they have issued separate guidelines for telecom infrastructure under their jurisdiction.

The TSPs/ISPs were instructed to provide comprehensive details in their submissions to both the Department of Science & Technology and the Industries & Mines Department, facilitating timely decisions on this issue.

B. CBuD:

The Director (Rural) informed that an interactive session on PM Gati Shakti, CBuD, and RoW was organized by DoT, Gujarat LSA for Sabarkantha district with the Addl. DM, PHed, R & B Department, Irrigation department, GUVNL, BSNL, and Panchayat on March 14, 2024. It was very beneficial in raising awareness about the use of the CBuD App among them. It was requested that similar sessions be arranged in other districts with the coordination of state authorities and Telecommunication Service Providers (TSPs).

- The Chair agreed to the suggestion and mentioned that the DMs would be informed accordingly.

C. Formation of DLC:

The Director(Rural) mentioned that the formation of District Level Committees (DLCs) is necessary for better resolution of various issues at the district level.

- The Principal Secretary (DST) informed that 8 District Level Committees (DLCs) at the Municipal Corporation level have already been formulated, and committees for other major districts (Division HQ) will be sufficient for resolving the issues. In this regard, a necessary letter/order will be issued.

D. Duct Policy:

The Director (Rural) mentioned that the Duct Policy needs to be formulated and implemented efficiently since the draft of the policy has already been provided by the Government of India.

- The Chair suggested that the Common DUCT could be utilized at the charges set by the authorities, or service providers could explore alternative options if available.

3. Digital Inclusion:

The Addl DGT, DoT, Gujarat LSA, informed the Chair that most of the data required for the DCRI questionnaire, consisting of more than 70 parameter, has been provided. However, information/data is still pending for the remaining some parameters.

- The Deputy Director IT(DST) mentioned that the required information has already been requested from the relevant departments, and it will be shared with the DoT very soon.

4. Integration of Wi-Fi Hot spot with PMWANI Framework:

Director (Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA, informed that Wi-Fi hotspots deployed by the Govt. of Gujarat and the local government bodies installed for Smart Cities may be integrated with the PM-WANI framework to ensure proper authentication and accounting of users.

- The Chair inquired about whether these Wi-Fi hotspots would be installed at new locations or as part of a replacement/upgradation plan for existing locations. Addl. DGT, Gujarat LSA informed that they will be installed at the existing locations. Furthermore, the Chair advised that these Wi-Fi hotspots should be installed at crowded locations where a large number of citizens can utilize them.
- The Principal Secretary(DST) mentioned that the Dept. of Science & Technology (DST) is working on integrating over 7000 Wi-Fi hotspots with the PM-WANI framework.

5. CSR related Skilling Targets in Telecom Domain:

The Director (Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA asked the representatives from COAI about the progress made in meeting CSR-related skilling targets in the telecom domain.

- The Chair suggested that the skilled manpower, trained under CSR initiatives, should be assisted in finding employment or work opportunities in their trained domain, with the support of TSPs, ISPs, and similar entities.
- In last, the Chair instructed that the following information should be provided to the secretariat during the next meeting of the SBC:
 - a. No. of Locations having coverage issues.
 - b. Operator wise service parameters
- The Chair instructed that the State Level issues and unresolved District Level issues should be discussed in the next SBC meeting.

- The Chair emphasized the importance of creating job vacancies first, stating that CSR skilling activities would not be productive without job openings. He advised coordinating with relevant departments to assess the requirement and explore opportunities against the CSR initiatives. The Chair also highlighted that training activities in institutes would only be beneficial if vacancies are available. Otherwise, candidates would undergo training but face a waiting period for job opportunities.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from the Gujarat LSA, DoT, to the Chair, all other members of the committee and the participants.



(Dr. K. B. Sharma)

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Copy to:

1. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat.
2. Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue Department
3. Additional DGT, D.O.T., Govt. of India, Gujarat LSA.
4. Principal Secretary, Panchayat, Rural Housing & Rural Development Department.
5. Principal Secretary, Energy and Petrochemicals Department.
6. Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment Department.
7. Secretary, Department of Science & Technology
8. Commissioner of Land Reforms and Ex-officio Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
9. APCCF – Land, Forest and Environment Department.
10. Dy. DG (R1)/ Dy. DG (R2)/ Dir (R), D.O.T., Govt. of India, Gujarat LSA.
11. CGM, BSNL/ PGM (Mobile), BSNL/ PGM, BBNL, Gujarat.
12. Joint Managing Director, Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC).
13. Director, ICT & e-Governance, Department of Science & Technology.
14. Deputy Secretary, Urban Development & Urban Housing Department.
15. Chief Engineer, Roads & Building Department
16. Chairman, COAI.
17. Chairman, DIPA.