

**Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the State/UT Broadband Committee,
UT of Lakshadweep held on 08.04.2022 though video conference**

The 3rd meeting of the State Broadband Committee, UT of Lakshadweep was convened by Dr. P.T. Mathew, Sr.DDG DoT Kerala and Member- Convenor of the SBC. The meeting was held through video conference and was chaired by Shri A. Anbarasu, Advisor to Administrator, UT of Lakshadweep on 08.04.2022 at 1130 hrs.

The list of participants is given in Annexure - 1.

The agenda for the meeting is given at Annexure – 2.

1. Dr. P.T. Mathew, Convenor of State Broadband Committee (UT of Lakshadweep) & Sr.DDG, DoT, Kerala LSA in his welcome address talked about the need for further expansion of telecom services in view of the KLI submarine OFC project, after which abundant bandwidth will be available in Lakshadweep. The TSPs should plan their Towers and OFC network in advance so that upcoming technologies like 5G can be rolled out smoothly in Lakshadweep. He welcomed all participants to the meeting.
2. Chairman, Shri. A. Anbarasu, Advisor UTL, in his address appreciated the support rendered by BSNL in upgradation of the Satellite bandwidth from 1.07 Gbps to 1.7 Gbps, which has helped in addressing the bandwidth requirement of the islands to a large extent. After the full implementation of the KLI submarine OFC project, there will be a permanent solution to the bandwidth issues faced by the people of Lakshadweep, who are eagerly looking forward to the completion of the KLI project. He assured all possible support to BSNL for timely completion of the KLI project. He also requested BSNL to install Wi-Fi hotspots in the islands for the tourists and public for the Smart City project. He also stated that USOF support has been sought for installation of new towers, which will be required for rollout of 5G. The Admin has taken a decision that 10 Mbps VSAT terminals installed by BBNL in Village Dweep Panchayats in rental premises will have to be shifted to Govt premises. Detailed RoW Policy notification will be issued in a week.
3. Shri. Shashank Mani Tripathi, Secretary (IT), in his address said that his team is working closely with BSNL to address all issues in order to ensure the timely completion of KLI project.
4. A presentation was given by Shri. N.S.Deepu, DDG (Rural), DoT, Kerala LSA covering the agenda points. He briefed the Committee on the following points
 - a) Approval process and authorities involved in Right of Way to be defined
 - b) Progress of onboarding of UT of Lakshadweep onto Sugam Sanchar – Centralised RoW Portal and defining L1,L2,L3 users for the RoW portal .

c) The UT Administration may come out with a policy for utilizing street furniture for installation of small cells required for 5G.

d) The RoW Policy also needs to enable both underground and aerial OFC installation for Fiber To The Home (FTTH) connections after completion of KLI project.

Copy of the presentation is given at Annexure-3

5. The Chairman informed that a massive road expansion project is being undertaken in the Islands in which there will be changes in both width and alignment. The strategy for rollout of OFC post KLI needs to take into consideration the road expansion in the islands also. The strategy can be formulated in a separate discussion between Collector, UTL and BSNL. Sr.DDG DoT stated that there can be a separate meeting to discuss this issue. The Chairman also stated that due to the peculiar geographical conditions in Lakshadweep, due to very strong winds during monsoon, there is a danger of coconut trees/branches falling on the aerial OFC and damaging it. So underground cabling is preferable. This needs to be explored further to come up with a final decision since only a few kms of OFC would be required in each island.
6. Shri. C.V.Vinod, CGM, BSNL Kerala, in his address thanked Lakshadweep administration for their support in executing the KLI project. He requested for support in inter-island transportation for KLI project related work. BSNL officials need to shuttle between islands for project inspection related work. BSNL can come up with plan for OFC network expansion keeping in view the road expansion work in all Islands. BSNL is taking all possible efforts to upgrade the telecom infrastructure in all Islands and to ensure minimum outage during spells of bad weather.

The Chairman informed that during the monsoon period from May 15 to September 15, due to rough weather there is very little movement of vessels and only big ships ply. It is advisable to shift as much material as possible before 15th May. During monsoon, the focus is on essential commodities than construction materials. Helicopters are used only for medical emergencies. The Administration will try its best to move BSNL manpower in spite of the above limitations. BSNL can use civil engineers of Lakshadweep Administration also for the inspection work. The Office of Lakshadweep Administration in Kochi can be utilized for necessary co-ordination and approvals by liaising with the Administrative Officer. A meeting for the Coastal Zone Management Authority is scheduled to meet next week in which all pending approvals for KLI project will be looked into. CGM BSNL thanked the Advisor for the support extended for KLI project.

7. Shri M.Chandrasekhar, State Head , BBNL Kerala, in his address informed the committee that 10 VSAT have been installed in Panchayats in Lakshadweep by the project execution agency TCIL. One site at Minicoy is facing issues since it is at the brim of the satellite coverage area. Out of the remaining 9 sites, 2 sites at Chetlat and Amini were installed in rented premises which have to be dismantled and shifted to Govt premises as per instructions from the local administration. The cost of shifting is covered under USOF but a formal letter for shifting of the equipment is required from the Administration. 10 Mbps bandwidth has been provisioned in both uplink and downlink on a 10:1 contention ratio. A solution for Wi-Fi hotspots can be discussed

with the Administration to get it implemented. He requested the Administration to nominate Nodal officer for this purpose.

8. Shri. Vikrant Raja, Secretary (Forest & Environment), informed that Kadamath Island is turning out to be an educational hub in the UT after the inauguration of new 3 educational institutions in this year. There is not enough bandwidth available to the institutes currently and additional bandwidth needs to be commissioned in Kadamath.
9. Shri. Kshem Kapoor, COAI requested the Administration to allow aerial OFC wherever Underground OFC cannot be laid. Airtel is the only member TSP of COAI currently operating in Lakshadweep and chalking out plans for fiberisation in Lakshadweep post KLI project completion. He also requested the Administration in transportation both from mainland and inter island.

Secretary (IT) informed COAI that the Administration expects more TSPs to set up their networks in Lakshadweep post KLI project completion. The Chairman suggested that there could be a separate meeting with TSPs to discuss this.

10. Shri. Harpreet Singh, DIPA requested the Administration to provide a list of Govt Land and Buildings for installation of towers so that the TSPs can plan their networks accordingly. Presentation from DIPA is given at Annexure-4

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri. Girish Kataria, Director (Rural), DoT Kerala. He thanked the Chairman, Shri.A.Anbarasu for positive responses to the points raised during the meeting. He also thanked all the other members for their active participation.



Dr. P.T.Mathew, ITS
Sr DDG & Convenor SBC,
Department of Telecommunications, Kerala LSA
Ernakulam

Encl : Annexure 1,2,3&4

Annexure –1: List of participants.

UT of Lakshadweep Administration

SI No	Name	Designation
1	Shri A Anbarasu	Advisor to Administrator, Chairman of SBC
2	Shri Shashank Mani Tripathi	Secretary (IT)
3	Shri.Vikrant Raja	Secretary (Environment & Forest)
4	Shri.Sushil Singh	Director (IT)
5	Shri.Satyanand Jha	Project Manager, Dept of IT

DoT, Kerala LSA

SI No	Name	Designation
1	Dr.P.T.Mathew	Sr.DDG, Member Convener SBC
2	Shri.N.S.Deepu	DDG(Rural)
3	Shri.GirishKataria	Director (Rural)
5	Shri.Seetharaman T.A.	ADG(Rural)

BSNL

SI No	Name	Designation
1	Shri C.V.Vinod	CGM,Kerala
2	Shri.N.K.Sukumaran	GM(Core Network)
3	Shri.Kunhikoya	TDM,Lakshadweep

BBNL

SI No	Name	Designation
1	Shri M Chandrasekhar	State Head

COAI

SI No	Name	Designation
1	Shri.Kshem Kapoor	Dy.Director

DIPA

SI No	Name	Designation
1	Shri.Harpreet Singh	AVP, Operations

Annexure-2: Agenda

Broadband Committee Meeting, Lakshadweep on 08/04/2022 11:30 a.m. by VC

AGENDA

1. Welcome Address by Convenor Dr. P.T.Mathew, ITS,
Sr. DDG, DoT, Kerala LSA
2. Address by Chairman Shri. A. Anbarasu IAS,
Advisor, UT of Lakshadweep
3. Address by Member Shri. Shashank Mani Tripathi IAS,
Secretary (IT), UT of Lakshadweep
4. Address by other members from UT of Lakshadweep Administration
5. Presentation by DoT and discussion Shri. N.S.Deepu ITS,
DDG(R), DoT Kerala LSA
6. Address by Special Invitee Shri. C.V. Vinod, ITS,
CGM, BSNL, Kerala
7. Address by Special Invitee Shri. M.Chandrasekhar, ITS,
CGM, BBNL, Kerala
8. Address by Special Invitee Shri P.Ramakrishna, Pr.Advisor, COAI
9. Address by Special Invitee Shri T.R.Dua, DG, DIPA
10. Discussion by Members
11. Vote of Thanks.

Points for discussion

- RoW Policy of UT of Lakshadweep – Approval process
- Progress of onboarding of UT of Lakshadweep onto Central RoW Portal (SUGAM SANCHAR Portal)
- Progress of Submarine Optical Fiber cable project(KLI Project) by BSNL for Lakshadweep Islands
- Progress of 10 Mbps VSAT connectivity by BBNL to all Dweep Panchayats
- Network Planning of Optical Fibre Cable and Towers/BTS
- Any other issues raised by members/invitees