

No. 5-1/2026-NBM-SASCI
Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
(Universal Broadband Section)

Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001

Dated 30th April 2026

To:

1. Chief Secretary to State Government (as per list attached)
2. Chief Secretary to the Government of NCT of Delhi / Puducherry / Jammu and Kashmir

Subject: Operational Guidelines for Part VI of Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for the financial year 2026-27

Reference is invited to the letter no. 44(1)/PF-S/2026-27 (CAPEX), dated 27.3.2026, of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, regarding launch of a redesigned Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for the financial year (FY) 2026-27 (“SASCI 2026-27”).

2. Part VI of SASCI 2026-27 provides for incentive to States / Union Territories (UTs) for implementation of the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 [“RoW Rules, 2024”] under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. The grouping of States/UTs for the purpose of providing incentives under the said Part, is as under:

Category	A	B	C	D
Amount earmarked (in crore ₹)	250	150	75	25
States / Union Territories	1. Karnataka 2. Uttar Pradesh 3. Madhya Pradesh 4. Maharashtra 5. West Bengal 6. Kerala 7. Tamil Nadu 8. Andhra Pradesh	1. Haryana 2. Odisha 3. Gujarat 4. Rajasthan 5. Telangana 6. Bihar 7. Punjab	1. Jharkhand 2. Uttarakhand 3. Himachal Pradesh 4. Chhattisgarh 5. Assam 6. Goa 7. Delhi 8. Jammu and Kashmir	1. Arunachal Pradesh 2. Manipur 3. Meghalaya 4. Mizoram 5. Nagaland 6. Sikkim 7. Tripura 8. Puducherry

2.1 The said incentive may be utilised by State/UT Governments concerned for capital projects in any sector.

3. As per paragraph 15(vi) of SASCI 2026-27, operational guidelines are required to be issued. Accordingly, the Government of India hereby issues the annexed operational guidelines for SASCI 2026-27, with a view to—

- (a) provide clarity to State/UT Governments regarding the requirements and associated timelines under the scheme;
- (b) specify the milestones for determining eligibility for incentives; and
- (c) to define certification mechanisms for verification of compliance.

4. The following shall be nodal officers of DoT:

- (a) For RoW issues, Shri Nijamuddin, Director, National Broadband Mission, DoT (Tel.: 011 23326004; email: dir3@broadbandmission.gov.in); and
- (b) For BharatNet, Shri S. Harikrishnan, Director (Policy), Office of Administrator, Digital Bharat Nidhi, DoT (Tel.: 011 23737459; email: dirpolicy2.dbn-dot@gov.in).

5. This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Digitally signed by

Sahil Garg

Date: 30-04-2026

12:30:54

(Sahil Garg)

Director

Tel.: 011 23036913

Email: dir.ubb-1@gov.in

Copy, for information, to:

- 1. Principal Private Secretary to Administrator, Digital Bharat Nidhi, Department of Telecommunications (DoT)
- 2. Principal Private Secretary to Joint Secretary (Telecommunications), DoT
- 3. Deputy Director General, National Broadband Mission, DoT
- 4. Director (PF-S), Department of Expenditure

Annex to letter no. 5-1/2026-NBM-SASCI, dated 30.4.2026

Operational Guidelines for Part VI of Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for the financial year 2026-27

1. *Outlay and incentive ceiling:* Each State/UT shall be eligible for incentive up to the ceiling amount allocated under its respective category, subject to achievement of the requirements under the scheme within during FY2026-27.
2. *Scheme requirements, timelines and verification mechanisms:* The reforms to be carried out by State/UT Governments and the manner of calculation of eligible incentive are as set out in the succeeding paragraphs.
 - 2.1 *Implementation of RoW Rules, 2024*
 - 2.1.1 Issuance of orders — Incentive earmarked: 30%
 - (a) *Requirement (target date: 30.7.2026):* Issuance of orders regarding implementation of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and RoW Rules 2024 by—
 - (i) the State/UT Governments; and
 - (ii) all State Public Sector Undertakings / Corporations etc.
 - (b) *Verification mechanism:* The compliance regarding issuance of orders and adherence to various provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the RoW Rules, 2024 by State/UT Governments and public entities shall be validated through issuance of a certificate by the nodal officer of State/UT Government concerned, along with feedback obtained from the telecom industry and office of the Licensed Service Area (LSA) concerned confirming uniform and effective implementation across all entities concerned within the State/UT.
 - 2.1.2 Creation and integration of online State/UT RoW portal — Incentive earmarked: 15%
 - (a) *Requirement (target date: 30.9.2026):*
 - (i) Creation of an online State and UT RoW portal, integrated with State entities, for submission and processing of RoW and BharatNet applications; and
 - (ii) Integrating the State RoW portal with the Telecom eServices Portal of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for MIS and centralised monitoring.
 - (b) *Verification mechanism:* Compliance shall be validated through technical verification of portal functionality and integration. Based on successful integration and feedback obtained from the telecom industry, the National Broadband Mission (NBM), DoT shall confirm that the portal is operational and uniformly implemented across all entities concerned in the State/UT.
 - 2.1.3 Disposal of all backlog applications — Maximum incentive earmarked: 15%
 - (a) *Incentive structure:*
 - (i) 15% incentive on 100% disposal of backlog applications that were pending as on 31.3.2026;

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- (ii) 10% incentive on disposal of up to 85% backlog applications that were pending as on 31.3.2026; and
 - (iii) No incentive in case disposal is less than 85% of backlog applications that were pending as on 31.3.2026.
 - (b) *Requirement (target date: 30.9.2026)*: All pending RoW applications submitted till 31.3.2026 to be disposed of by the State/UT authorities concerned by 30.9.2026.
 - (c) *Verification mechanism*: The data captured on the central RoW portal shall form the basis for determining the percentage of backlog applications disposed of and the corresponding eligibility for incentive. Compliance shall be verified by NBM, based on MIS reports generated from the dashboard of Telecom eServices Portal and confirmation shall be provided accordingly.
- 2.1.4 Reducing average disposal time — Incentive earmarked: 5%
- (a) *Requirement (assessment period: 1.7.2026 to 15.11.2026)*: The State/UT Government shall ensure that the average disposal time for all RoW applications submitted during the period from 1.7.2026 to 15.11.2026 is 45 days or less.
 - (b) *Verification mechanism*: Data captured on the dashboard of the Telecom eServices Portal shall be used to calculate the average disposal time and assess eligibility for the incentive. Compliance shall be determined by NBM based on the management information system reports from the dashboard of the Telecom eServices Portal and confirmation shall be provided accordingly.
- 2.2 Special project – BharatNet compliance — Incentive earmarked: 25%
- 2.2.1 Signing of the State Support Agreement
- (a) *Requirement (target date: 30.7.2026)*: Signing of Addendum to State Support Agreement for implementation of Amended BharatNet Programme
 - (b) *Verification mechanism*: The State/UT Government shall execute the Addendum to the State Support Agreement for implementation of the Amended BharatNet Programme, in the form provided by DoT, and shall submit a duly signed copy to Director (Universal Broadband), DoT within the stipulated timeframe. On receipt, Director (Universal Broadband) shall furnish confirmation in this regard.
- 2.2.2 RoW compliance for BharatNet (ongoing compliance during FY2026-27)
- (a) *Requirement*: Since Bharatnet has been notified as a special project under the RoW Rules, 2024, vide DoT notification no. S.O. 02(E), dated 1.1.2025, the following should be complied with:
 - (i) There should be no charges for RoW permissions; and
 - (ii) Provision of deemed permission within seven days of application should be made as per the aforesaid notification through an online portal to process RoW applications for BharatNet.

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- (b) *Verification mechanism*: Release of incentive for this component shall be subject to submission of a compliance certificate by nodal officer of the State/UT Government and validation by the Office of Administrator, Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), DoT regarding adherence to the requirement.

2.3 *Compliance of direction of the Ministry of Power — Incentive earmarked: 10%*

2.3.1 *Electricity connections for BharatNet*

- (a) *Requirement*: To implement the directions of the Ministry of Power to State Governments *vide* letter no. 12/01/2018-NEF(U)-Part1 (E: 246321), dated 13.1.2026 for treating electricity connections at Gram Panchayats for the Amended BharatNet Programme as government connections
- (b) *Verification mechanism*: Submission of a certificate by the State/UT Government confirming issuance of required orders and implementation by all electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs). Compliance shall be validated by the Office of Administrator, DBN, DoT.

2.3.2 *Implementation of CAF and consolidation of bill by DISCOMs*

- (a) *Requirement (target date for issuance of State Government order: 30.6.2026; target date for the implementation by all DISCOMs: 30.11.2026)*: All DISCOMs to implement Common Application Form (CAF) and consolidation of all bills of an applicant (a consumer, viz., telecom company, infrastructure providers, etc.) with reference to the Ministry of Power's letter no. 23/1/2023-R&R, dated 24.5.2023
- (b) *Verification mechanism*: Submission of a certificate by the State/UT Government confirming issuance of required orders and implementation by all DISCOMs. Compliance shall be validated by NBM through the LSA office concerned and telecom industry.

3. *Submission procedure and requirements (target date: 15.12.2026)*:

- (a) State/UT Government shall, after completing the reforms, submit a report through email addressed to dir.ubb-1@gov.in by 15.12.2026. DoT shall examine the submissions made and make recommendations to the Department of Expenditure regarding release of the incentive amount by 31.12.2026.
- (b) Based on the certificate received from DoT, the State/UT Government shall submit necessary documents through the PFMS portal as provided under the SASCI scheme.

List of Chief Secretaries to State Governments

1. Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala, Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 001, Email: chiefsecy@kerala.gov.in
2. Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand, 1st floor, Project Bhawan, Mantralaya, Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834 004, Email: cs-jharkhand@nic.in
3. Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal, Nabanna, 13th floor, 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Shibpur, Howrah - 711 102, Email: cs-westbengal@nic.in
4. Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, Odisha State Secretariat, Sachivalaya Marg, Unit-2, Bhubaneswar, Email: csori@nic.in
5. Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, Babupara, Imphal West, Manipur – 795 001, Email: cs-manipur@nic.in
6. Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, 1st floor, Room no. 110, Lal Bahadur Shastri Bhawan, Lucknow – 226 001, Email: csup@nic.in
7. Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Mantralaya, Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492 002, Email: csoffice.cg@gov.in
8. Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, Room no. 320, 3rd floor, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru – 560 001, Email: cs@karnataka.gov.in
9. Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand, 4 Subhash Road, Uttarakhand Secretariat, Dehradun - 248 001, Email: cs-uttarakhand@nic.in
10. Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, 4th floor, Mantralaya, Vallabh Bhavan-I, Bhopal – 462 004, Email: cs@mp.nic.in
11. Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, 6th floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat-1, Sector 1, Chandigarh – 160 001, Email: cs@punjab.gov.in
12. Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana, Telangana Secretariat, 5th floor, Burgula Rama Krishna Rao Bhavan NH 44, Hill Fort, Adarsh Nagar, Hyderabad - 500 063, Email: cs@telangana.gov.in
13. Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, 1st Block, 1st floor, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat Office, Velagapudi – 522 023, Email: cs@ap.gov.in
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15. Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, Assam Secretariat, CM Block, Second Floor Dispur, Guwahati - 781 006, Email: cs-assam@nic.in
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