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भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India



**Consultation Paper on
the Framework for Service Authorisations
to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023**

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Tower F, NBCC World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029

Written Comments on the Consultation Paper are invited from stakeholders by 01.08.2024 and counter-comments by 08.08.2024. The comments and counter-comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form, to Shri Akhilesh Kumar Trivedi, Advisor (Networks, Spectrum and Licensing), TRAI on the email ID advmn@traigov.in. Comments and counter-comments received from stakeholders will be posted on the TRAI's website (www.traigov.in).

For any clarification/ information, Shri Akhilesh Kumar Trivedi, Advisor (Networks, Spectrum and Licensing), TRAI, may be contacted at Telephone No. +91-11-20907758.

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Chapter I: Introduction

A. Invention of the telegraph and telephone

- 1.1 On May 24, 1844, in the U.S. Capitol, Samuel Morse sent the first official telegraph¹ message to his assistant, Alfred Vail, who was waiting at the B&O Railroad depot in Baltimore. The message chosen was "*What hath God wrought?*" As Morse tapped out the message in Morse code, the series of electrical pulses travelled over the wire to Baltimore. Alfred Vail received the message and immediately relayed it back to Morse, confirming the successful transmission. This event marked a pivotal moment in the history of communication.
- 1.2 The phrase "*What hath God wrought?*" symbolized the awe and wonder at the new technology and its potential to transform society. The successful demonstration proved the practicality of the telegraph, leading to rapid adoption and expansion of telegraph networks worldwide. This first message not only highlights the technical achievement but also reflects the sense of amazement and reverence felt by the inventors and the public at the dawn of a new era in communication.
- 1.3 The invention of the telegraph marked the beginning of the information age. The telegraph's impact on society has been profound, transforming industries, government operations, and personal communication, and its legacy continues to influence modern technology.
- 1.4 The invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell is another pivotal moment in the history of communication technology. Bell's initial work was focused on improving the telegraph system, but he soon conceived the idea of transmitting the human voice over a wire. Bell believed that if sound could be converted into electrical signals, it could be transmitted and then reconverted back into sound at the other end. In 1875, Bell

¹ The word, "telegraph" is derived from the Greek word "telegraphein". The word "tele" means 'far' and "graphein" means 'to write'. Telegraph is an apparatus for sending messages over a distance by using a code. Source: <https://www.spjmr.com/gallery/1-spjmr-542.f.pdf>

partnered with Thomas Watson, and started working on developing a device that could transmit sound.

- 1.5 On March 10, 1876, in his Boston laboratory, Bell accidentally spilled battery acid on his clothes. In his moment of distress, he called out to his assistant, Thomas Watson, in the next room, "*Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you.*" To Bell's astonishment, Watson heard his voice clearly through the receiver. This unplanned moment of frustration became the historic first successful voice transmission over a telephone, signalling the birth of a new era in communication.
- 1.6 Bell's invention of the telephone was not just a technical achievement but also a moment of profound human connection, symbolized by his call for assistance and Watson's prompt response. This underscores the telephone's fundamental purpose: to bring people together, regardless of distance.
- 1.7 In 1891, AT&T chief engineer and Electrical Review writer John J. Carty projected in his "Prophets Column" that "*[a] system of telephony without wires seems one of the interesting possibilities, and the distance on the earth through which it is possible to speak is theoretically limited only by the curvature of the earth.*" Carty added, "*Someday we will build up a world telephone system, ..., which will join all the people of the earth into one brotherhood.*"²

B. Inception of the ITU

- 1.8 In the mid-19th century, as telegraph networks were expanding across Europe and beyond, there arose a need for international cooperation and standardization to ensure seamless communication across borders. The idea of creating an international organization dedicated to telecommunications gained momentum during the International Telegraph Conferences held in Europe in the 1860s. In 1865,

² Source: <https://www.elon.edu/u/imagining/time-capsule/150-years/back-1870-1940/>

representatives from 20 countries gathered in Paris to sign the International Telegraph Convention. On May 17, 1865, International Telegraph Union was established.³

C. Enactment of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933

1.9 In India, the first telegraph was installed in 1851 under the British rule. Three decades later, in 1881, the telephone was introduced in India. In 1885, the Imperial Legislative Council enacted a legislation on telecommunications namely the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 accorded the Central Government an exclusive privilege of establishing, maintaining, and working telegraph in India. The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 also empowered the Central Government to grant a license to any person to establish, maintain or work a telegraph within any part of India.

1.10 Till the end of the 19th century, telegraphs and telephones worked exclusively on wired systems. Wireless telecommunications became possible only in the 20th century. The first communication over radio waves was sent by Guglielmo Marconi on December 12, 1901⁴. In India, radio telephone communications between England and India were opened in 1933. In the same year, the Imperial Legislative Council enacted the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933. This Act prohibited the possession of wireless telegraphy apparatus without a license.

D. Telecommunications from 1947 to 1991

1.11 At the time of independence, all foreign telecommunications companies were nationalized to create the Posts and Telegraphs Department, a state-run monopoly⁵. In 1947, there were 86,000 telephones in India. By 1982, the number of telephones increased to 29.81 lakhs⁶. At that stage, the tele density in the country was less than a half percent. The 1980s witnessed the first attempts at restructuring of the

³ In 1932, the International Telecommunication Union adopted its current name, reflecting its expanded mandate to regulate and coordinate all forms of international telecommunications. In 1947, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) became a specialized agency of the United Nations. Today, the ITU is a key organization in the global telecommunications ecosystem, facilitating international cooperation.

⁴ Source: <https://study.com/academy/lesson/history-of-the-radio.html>

⁵ Source: <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/cqi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1072&context=ciima>

⁶ Source: <https://www.spjmr.com/gallery/1-spjmr-542.f.pdf>

administration and operation of telecommunications in the country. In 1984, the Posts & Telegraphs Department was bifurcated into two separate Departments, viz., the Department of Posts (DoP) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)⁷. In 1986, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) were incorporated as public sector enterprises wholly owned by the Government under the DoT. MTNL was established to provide telecommunication services in Delhi and Mumbai, and VSNL was established to provide all international telecommunication services.

E. Opening of telecom services sector to private investment in 1992

1.12 Until the early 1990s, the telecommunication services sector in the Independent India remained a state monopoly. In 1991, the Government of India announced the New Economic Policy (NEP) 1991 and initiated a variety of policies of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation (LPG). In January 1992, the DoT invited bids for licenses for cellular mobile telephone service (CMTS) in the four metro cities. The DoT offered two licenses per metro city. In July 1992, the Government of India announced the opening of the sub-sector of value-added services to private investment for the following services:

- (a) Electronic Mail
- (b) Voice Mail
- (c) Data Services
- (d) Audio Text Services
- (e) Video Text Services
- (f) Video Conferencing
- (g) Radio Paging
- (h) Cellular Mobile Telephone.

⁷ Source: https://www.indiapost.gov.in/VAS/DOP_PDFFiles/Annual_Report_1984-85.pdf

F. Announcement of the National Telecom Policy in 1994

1.13 In May 1994, the Government announced National Telecom Policy (NTP) 1994 with an objective of *"telecommunication for all and telecommunication within the reach of all"*. With respect to the eight value added services opened by the Government in July 1992 (as mentioned in the previous paragraph), the NTP 1994 stated that *"[i]n respect of the first six of these services. companies registered in India are permitted to operate under license on non-exclusive basis. This policy would be continued. In view of the constraints on the number of companies that can be allowed to operate in the area of Radio Paging and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service, however, a policy of selection is being followed in grant of licenses through a system of tendering. This policy will also be continued ..."* With respect to the basic services, NTP 1994 stated that *"companies registered in India will be allowed to participate in the expansion of the telecommunication network in the area of basic telephone services also."*

1.14 In September 1994, the Government of India issued the guidelines for private sector entry in basic services. In November 1994, the Government issued the Metro CMTS licenses in the country⁸. In 1995, the first mobile services were launched in Calcutta (now Kolkata)⁹. In January 1995, the Government invited bids for basic services licenses and also for CMTS licenses in the circles other than Metro areas. In December 1995, the Government issued 34 CMTS circle licenses and 6 basic service licenses in the country.

G. Delhi Science Forum Judgment of 1996

1.15 In February 1996, The Supreme Court of India delivered a judgement in Delhi Science Forum case¹⁰. In the judgement, the Supreme Court of India made the following

⁸While the bids for Metro CMTS licenses were invited in January 1992, the licenses could be granted in November 1994 due to litigations by the rejected bidders, who challenged the selection process on the grounds that it was unclear and arbitrary. The Supreme Court of India decided that it would not interfere into the government decision making function until and unless they are patently arbitrary and unfair. Source: <https://cis-india.org/telecom/resources/licensing-framework-for-telecom>

⁹ ibid

¹⁰ In Delhi Science Fortum case, the petitioners had questioned the power of the Central Government to grant licenses to different non-Government companies to establish and maintain telecommunications system in the country and the validity of the procedure adopted by the Central Government for the said grant. Source: https://digiscr.sci.gov.in/pdf_viewer?dir=YWRtaW4vanVkZ2VtZW50X2ZpbGUvanVkZ2VtZW50X3BkZi8xOTk2L3ZvbHVtZSAyL1BhcnOgSS8xOTk2XzJfNzY3LTc5NF8xNzAyNDQzNDE0LnBkZg==

observations with respect to the need for an independent telecom regulatory authority in India:

"The new Telecom Policy is not only a commercial venture of the Central Government, but the object of the policy is also to improve the service so that the said service should reach the common man and should be within his reach. The different licensees should not be left to implement the said Telecom Policy according to their perception. ... The existence of a Telecom Regulatory Authority with the appropriate powers is essential for introduction of plurality in the Telecom Sector. The National Telecom Policy is a historic departure from the practice followed during the past century. Since the private sector will have to contribute more to the development of the telecom network than DOT/MTNL in the next few years, the role of an independent Telecom Regulatory Authority with appropriate powers need not be impressed, which can harness the individual appetite for private gains, for social ends. The Central Government and the Telecom Regulatory Authority have not to behave like sleeping trustees, but have to function as active trustees for the public good."

H. Negotiations on Basic Telecom Services at the WTO (1994-1997)

1.16 In February 1997, the World Trade Organization (WTO) successfully concluded nearly three years of extended negotiations on market access for basic telecommunications services¹¹, which resulted in commitments to liberalize the telecom sector by 69 countries. India also participated in these negotiations¹². The participating countries agreed that the market access commitments will cover not only cross-border supply of telecommunications but also services provided through the establishment of foreign firms, or commercial presence, including the ability to own and operate independent telecom network infrastructure¹³. The participants succeeded in elaborating a set of

¹¹ Source: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres97_e/summary.htm

¹² Source: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/serv_e/telecom_e/telecom_results_e.htm

¹³ Source: https://www.wto.org/english/news_E/pres97_e/pr67_e.htm

principles covering matters such as competition safeguards, interconnection guarantees, transparent licensing processes, and the independence of regulators¹⁴.

I. Establishment of TRAI in 1997

1.17 In March 1997, by an Act of Parliament¹⁵ namely, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997¹⁶, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was established to regulate the telecommunications services in the country. Through the Act, TRAI was given a range of regulatory and recommendatory functions apart from the function of settling disputes between service providers.

J. Opening of Internet Services for private participation in 1998

1.18 In 1998, the Government of India opened Internet services sector for private participation with a view to encourage growth of Internet and increase its participation.

K. Announcement of a New Telecom Policy in 1999

1.19 In 1999, the Government of India announced a new policy framework through the New Telecom Policy (NTP) 1999. In the policy document, the Government recognized that *“the result of privatization has so far not been entirely satisfactory.... The main reason, according to the cellular and basic operators has been that the fact that actual revenues realized by these projects have been far short of the projections and the operators are unable to arrange financing for their projects. ...The government views the above developments with concern as it would adversely affect the further development of the sector and recognizes the need to take a fresh look at the policy framework for this sector.”*

¹⁴ Source: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres97_e/summary.htm

¹⁵ In July 1996, the TRAI Bill 1996 was introduced in the Indian Parliament. After presidential assent, the TRAI Bill, as passed by Parliament, became the TRAI Act 1997 on 28th March 1997.

¹⁶ https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/1929/1/AA1997_24tele.pdf

1.20 The NTP 1999 stated that the New Policy Framework must focus on creating an environment, which enables continued attraction of investment in the sector and allows creation of communication infrastructure by leveraging on technological development; towards this end, the New Policy Framework would look at the telecom services sector as follows:

- (a) Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs), Fixed Service Providers (FSPs) and Cable Service Providers, collectively referred to as 'Access Providers'
- (b) Radio Paging Service Providers
- (c) Public Mobile Radio Trunking Services (PMRTS) Providers
- (d) National Long Distance Operators (NLDOs)
- (e) International Long Distance Operators (ILDOS)
- (f) Other Service Providers
- (g) Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service Providers
- (h) V-SAT based Service Providers

1.21 The salient provisions of the NTP 1999 are given below:

- (a) Apart from the two private operators already licensed as CMSPs, DoT/ MTNL would be licensed to be the third operators in each service area. The entry of more CMSPs in a service area will be permitted based on the recommendations of TRAI.
- (b) The CMSPs and FSPs will be required to pay a one-time entry fee, as well as license fee based on a revenue share. The appropriate level of entry fee and the percentage of revenue share arrangement for different service areas would be recommended by TRAI.
- (c) The period of license for CMSPs and FSPs will be 20 years.
- (d) The national long distance service will be opened for competition with effect from 1st January 2000.

- (e) The subject of opening of international telephony service to competition will be reviewed by the year 2004.
- (f) The PMRTS Providers will be permitted to provide mobile radio trunking services within their service area of operation, for which they will be granted separate license on a non-exclusive basis.
- (g) The Government has opened the GMPCS market in India and has issued a provisional license. The terms of the final license would need to be finalized in consultation with TRAI.
- (h) The VSAT Service Providers will be granted separate license on a non-exclusive basis for an initial period of 20 years.
- (i) There are multiple licenses that have been issued by the Government for cellular mobile services, basic services, radio paging services, internet services etc. It is the Government's intention to satisfactorily resolve the problems being faced by existing operators in a manner which is consistent with their contractual obligations and is legally tenable.
- (j) Currently, the licensing, policy making and the service provision functions are with a single authority. The Government has decided to separate the policy and licensing functions from the service provision function as a precursor to corporatization. The corporatization of DoT shall be done keeping in mind the interests of all stakeholders by the year 2001.
- (k) The resources for meeting the Universal Service Obligations (USO) would be raised through a 'universal access levy' which would be a percentage of the revenue earned by all the operators under various licenses.
- (l) The Government is committed to a strong and independent regulator with comprehensive powers and clear authority to effectively perform its functions.

L. Amendment of the TRAI Act in 2000

1.22 In March 2000, the Indian Parliament amended the TRAI Act. The salient features of the amendment are as below:

- (a) Establishment of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) for adjudicating disputes between licensor and licensees, between two or more service providers, and between a service provider and a group of consumers, and to hear and decide appeals against any direction, decision or order of TRAI under the Act
- (b) Introduction of a clear distinction between the regulatory functions and recommendatory functions of TRAI
- (c) Making it mandatory for the Central Government to seek TRAI's recommendations with respect to the need and timing for introduction of a new service provider and the terms and conditions of license to a service provider
- (d) Inclusion of the regulatory function of laying down the standard of quality of service to be provided by the service providers and ensuring quality of service
- (e) Inclusion of the regulatory function of fixing the terms and conditions of interconnectivity between the service providers
- (f) Inclusion of the recommendatory function on efficient management of available spectrum.

M. Entry of the third cellular operator and opening of NLD service in 2000

1.23 In February 2000, the DoT (Department of Telecom Services, later BSNL) was given CMTS license as the third operator in 21 circles. MTNL was also permitted to provide CMTS. In September 2000, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) was formed by

corporatization of Department of Telecom Services. In August 2000, the Government opened National Long Distance (NLD) Service for private participation¹⁷.

N. Entry of the fourth cellular operator in 2001

- 1.24 In January 2001, the Government of India issued the guidelines for the fourth CMTS license. In March 2001, the Government invited bids from Indian Registered Companies for award of licenses to the fourth CMTS operator.¹⁸ After following the tender process, the Government issued the fourth CMTS license for four metros and 13 circles in September-October 2001.
- 1.25 In October 2001, TRAI recommended that the universal service levy (USL) should be levied at the rate of 5 percent of the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) of all categories of network operators and carriers.

O. Opening of ILD Service in 2002

- 1.26 After considering the TRAI's Recommendations¹⁹ on 'Opening of the International Long Distance Service Market' dated 12.11.2001, the Government opened International Long Distance (ILD) services for private participation.

P. TRAI's recommendations on Unified Licensing in 2003

- 1.27 In October 2003, TRAI sent its recommendations on Unified Licensing to the DoT²⁰. An extract of the summary of recommendations is given below:

"In the interest of consumers of the telecom sector and to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector, the Authority recommends that the country should migrate

¹⁷ In the year 2000, the Government invited applications for the Infrastructure Providers Category-I (IP-I) and Category-II (IP-II). IP-I was under a registration framework while IP-II was under a licensing framework. In December 2005, IP-II licenses were discontinued, and IP-II licensees were asked to migrate to the NLD license.

¹⁸ Source: <https://archive.pib.gov.in/archive/releases98/lyr2001/rjun2001/29062001/r290620018.html>

¹⁹ Source: <https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/13m.pdf>

²⁰ Source: <https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recomodifiedfinal.pdf>

to "Unified Licensing" Regime for all telecom services. As a preparatory step, Unified Access License will be implemented for access services in each circle. Finally, within six months Unified Access Licensing through an Authorisation process for all services and all geographical areas should be initiated. Service providers will be free to offer all services in all geographical areas through automatic licensing/ authorisation subject to notifying the Regulatory Authority and compliance with published guidelines. The guidelines will be published by the Government/ Regulator to include various terms & conditions of authorisation, e.g., nominal entry fee, Universal Service Obligation (USO), security conditions, etc. Service providers who need spectrum for their services will approach Government of India separately. The guidelines for spectrum allocation which would cover the methodology for spectrum pricing, will also be notified by the Government. Service providers would be given choice to migrate to the new regime or maintain the present position."

Q. Introduction of Unified Access Service License in 2003

1.28 In November 2003, the Government issued the 'Guidelines for Unified Access (Basic & Cellular) Services Licence'²¹. Through the guidelines, the Government conveyed, *inter-alia*, that it "has decided to move towards a Unified Access Services Licensing regime. As a first step, as recommended by TRAI, Basic and Cellular services shall be unified within the service area. In pursuance of this decision, the following shall be the broad Guidelines for the Unified Access Services License.

- (i) *The existing operators shall have an option to continue under the present licensing regime (with present terms & conditions) or migrate to new Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) in the existing service areas, with the existing allocated/ contracted spectrum.*

²¹ Source: https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Preconsultation_paper_ULR_15_nov_2003.pdf

- (ii) *The license fee, service area, rollout obligations and performance bank guarantee under the Unified Access Services Licence will be the same as for Fourth Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs).*
 - (iii) *The service providers migrating to Unified Access Services Licence will continue to provide wireless services in already allocated/contracted spectrum and no additional spectrum will be allotted under the migration process for Unified Access Services Licence.*
 - (iv) *In addition to services permissible under current licences, Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) may also offer limited mobility facility existing within Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) as permitted to Basic Service Providers at appropriate tariffs through concepts such as home-zone operations, etc.*
- ...”

R. TRAI’s Recommendations on the Guidelines for Unified License in 2012

1.29 In April 2012, TRAI sent its recommendations on ‘Guidelines for Unified License/ Class License and Migration of Existing Licenses’ to the DoT. The salient recommendations in respect of Unified License are given below:

“Unified Licence will be service and technology neutral and the Unified Licensee shall be permitted to provide any telecom service, as defined below on a non-exclusive basis, anytime, anywhere, using any technology within its licence area as prescribed below:

a. Collection, carriage, transmission and delivery of voice and/or non-voice messages over Licensee’s network in the designated licence area and includes provision of all types of access services. Unified licensee can also provide Internet Telephony, Internet Services including IPTV and Broadband Services including triple play i.e. voice, video and data. The Licensee shall be free to enter an agreement with other service provider in India or abroad for providing roaming facility to its subscriber under full mobility service unless advised/ directed by TRAI otherwise.

b. Unified Licensee can provide dark fibres, Right of Way, duct space, towers on lease/ rent/ sale basis to the licensees of telecom services on mutually agreed terms and conditions. The Licensee will also be allowed to install and share active network limited to antenna, feeder cable, Node B, Radio Access Network (RAN) and transmission systems and to seek SACFA siting clearance for erecting towers with or without agreement with licensed Service Providers.

c. Unified Licensee can provide Voice mail, Audiotex, Videotex, UMS, Radio paging and PMRTS.

d. Unified Licensee is permitted to provide leased circuit within its licence area. Public network is not to be connected with leased circuits/ CUGs.

e. A Unified Licensee shall be permitted to offer any/ all services covered under 'Class licence' and 'Licensing through Authorisation' but not vice-versa.

f. The Licensee cannot provide any other service which otherwise require a separate licence.

g. The Licensee cannot provide broadcasting services, for which a separate licence/ registration is required as per Cable TV Act 1995 and guidelines for DTH Licence issued by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

5.2 The services which a Unified Licensee can offer will be as below:

a. National level Unified Licence shall permit the Licensee to offer any or all of the telecom services mentioned in Clause 5.1 in any/ all service areas; GMPCS, NLD and ILD services and Resale of IPLC.

b. Service area level Unified Licence shall permit the Licensee to offer any or all of the telecom services mentioned in Clause 5.1 except National Long Distance (NLD), International Long Distance (ILD), Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) services, Resale of IPLC and services covered under Class Licence.

c. District level Unified Licence shall permit the Licensee to offer any or all of the telecom services mentioned in Clause 5.1 in the district for which licence is given. However, a

District level Unified licensee shall not be permitted to offer NLD, ILD, GMPCS, VSAT & Resale of IPLC, INSAT-MSS and wireless access service. Also, these Licensees would not be entitled for assignment of spectrum resources for access services. District level Unified Licence will not be given for Metro areas of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.”

- 1.30 Through the recommendations of April 2012, TRAI also recommended class licenses for VSAT service and INSAT MSS-R Service. Besides, TRAI recommended for licensing through authorization for Voice Mail Service, Audiotex, Videotex, Unified Messaging Service and other value added services using the network of Unified Licensee.

S. Announcement of a new National Telecom Policy in 2012

- 1.31 In June 2012, the Government of India announced the National Telecom Policy (NTP) 2012²². The NTP 2012 had a vision to “*provide secure, reliable, affordable and high quality converged telecommunication services anytime, anywhere for an accelerated inclusive socio-economic development.*” One of the objectives of the NTP 2012 was to “*strive to create One Nation - One License across services and service areas*”. To meet its goals and objectives, the NTP 2012 conceptualized a strategy to “*frame appropriate Policies for new licensing framework, migration of existing licensees to new framework, exit policy, measures for ensuring adequate competition etc. in consultation with TRAI*”.

T. Introduction of Unified Licensing Regime in 2013

- 1.32 After considering the recommendations of TRAI for Unified Licenses, the Government, in August 2013, introduced Unified Licensing (UL) regime, under which, a single Unified License will be issued to the eligible applicant(s). In this regard, the Government, through the Guidelines for Grant of Unified Licenses, conveyed, *inter-alia*, that the basic features of Unified License (UL) would be as below:

²² Source: https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/NTP_2012.pdf

"(i) The allocation of spectrum is delinked from the licenses and has to be obtained separately as per prescribed procedure. At present, spectrum in 800/ 900/ 1800/ 2100/ 2300/ 2500 MHz band is allocated through bidding process. For all other services and usages like Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS), the allocation of spectrum and charges thereof shall be as prescribed by Wireless and Planning and Co-ordination wing of Department of Telecommunications from time to time.

(ii) Applicant can apply for Unified License along with authorisation for any one or more services listed below:

a. Unified License (All Services)

b. Access Service (Service Area-wise) ...

c. Internet Service (Category-A with All India jurisdiction)

d. Internet Service (Category-B with jurisdiction in a Service Area) ...

e. Internet Service (Category-C with jurisdiction in a Secondary Switching Area) ...

f. National Long Distance (NLD) Service

g. International Long Distance (ILD) Service

h. Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service

i. Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS)

j. Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) Closed User Group (CUG) Service

k. INSAT MSS-Reporting (MSS-R) Service.

l. Resale of International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC) Service".

U. TRAI's Recommendations on VNO in 2015

1.33 In May 2015, TRAI sent its recommendations on 'Introducing Virtual Network Operators in telecom sector' to the Government. The salient features of the recommendations are given below:

- (a) Virtual Network Operators (VNOs) should be introduced through a proper "licensing framework" in the Indian telecom sector. VNOs that enter the network would do so based on arriving at a mutual agreement between a network service operator (NSO) and a VNO.
- (b) VNOs should be permitted for all services notified in the Unified License.
- (c) The terms and conditions of sharing of infrastructure between the NSO and VNO should be left to the market i.e. on the basis of mutually accepted terms and conditions between the NSO and the VNO.
- (d) VNOs should be permitted to set up their own network equipment viz. BTS, BSC, MSC, RSU, DSLAMs, LAN switches, where there is no requirement of interconnection with other NSO(s). Therefore, they should not be allowed to own/install equipment viz. GMSCs, Soft-switches and TAX.
- (e) For introducing VNO in the sector, there should be a separate category of license namely UL (VNO). The UL (VNO) will contain similar authorizations for services and service areas as provided in the existing UL.
- (f) Initially the duration of the License of a VNO should be fixed as 10 years extendable further for 10 years at a time by the licensor.
- (g) there should not be a restriction on the number of VNO licensees per service area.
- (h) there should be no restriction on the number of VNOs parented by an NSO.
- (i) VNOs will be allowed to have agreements with more than one NSO for all services other than access services and such services which need numbering and unique identity of the customers.

V. Introduction of VNO regime in 2016

1.34 After considering the recommendation of TRAI on VNO, the Government, in 2016, introduced VNOs under the regime of Unified License for VNO with the aim to delink the

“licensing of networks from the delivery of services”. A VNO may provide telecommunication services to consumers by using the network of its parent NSO. VNOs are essentially service delivery operators and are treated as an extension of NSOs. The VNOs are not allowed to install equipment interconnecting with the network of other NSOs. No spectrum is assigned to VNOs.

W. Announcement of National Digital Communication Policy 2018

1.35 In September 2018, the Government of India announced the National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP) 2018. The NDCP 2018 has a vision *"[t]o fulfil the information and communication needs of citizens and enterprises through the establishment of a ubiquitous, resilient, secure, accessible and affordable Digital Communications Infrastructure and Services; and in the process, support India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society."* One of the strategies of the NDCP 2018 is *"[r]eforming the licencing and regulatory regime to catalyse Investments and Innovation, and promote Ease of Doing Business"*.

X. Enactment of the Telecommunications Act, 2023

1.36 In December 2023, the Indian Parliament enacted a new statute namely, 'the Telecommunication Act, 2023'²³. The Act amends and consolidates the law relating to development, expansion and operation of telecommunication services and telecommunication networks, assignment of spectrum, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

1.37 The Section 3 of the Act grants the power of authorisation to the Central Government. The Section 3 is reproduced below:

"3(1) Any person intending to —

²³ Source: <https://egazette.gov.in/WriteReadData/2023/250880.pdf>

(a) provide telecommunication services;

(b) establish, operate, maintain or expand telecommunication network; or

(c) possess radio equipment,

shall obtain an authorisation from the Central Government, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees or charges, as may be prescribed.

(2) The Central Government may while making rules under sub-section (1) provide for different terms and conditions of authorisation for different types of telecommunication services, telecommunication network or radio equipment.

(3) The Central Government, if it determines that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, may provide exemption from the requirement of authorisation under sub-section (1), in such manner as may be prescribed.

(4) Any exemption granted prior to the appointed day under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 or the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 shall continue under this Act, unless otherwise notified by the Central Government.

(5) Any authorised entity may undertake any merger, demerger or acquisition, or other forms of restructuring, subject to any law for the time being in force and any authorised entity that emerges pursuant to such process, shall comply with the terms and conditions, including fees and charges, applicable to the original authorised entity, and such other terms and conditions, as may be prescribed.

(6) A licence, registration, permission, by whatever name called, granted prior to the appointed day under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 or the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, in respect of provision of telecommunication services or telecommunication network—

(a) where a definite validity period is given, shall be entitled to continue to operate under the terms and conditions and for the duration as specified under such licence or registration or permission, or to migrate to such terms and conditions of the relevant authorisation, as may be prescribed; or

(b) where a definite validity period is not given, shall be entitled to continue to operate on the terms and conditions of such licence or registration or permission for a period of five years from the appointed day, or to migrate to such terms and conditions of the relevant authorisation, as may be prescribed.

(7) Any authorised entity which provides such telecommunication services as may be notified by the Central Government, shall identify the person to whom it provides telecommunication services through use of any verifiable biometric based identification as may be prescribed.

(8) The Central Government may, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees or charges as may be prescribed, allot telecommunication identifiers for use by authorised entities.

(9) The Central Government may allow use of telecommunication identifiers allotted by international bodies which are recognised by the Central Government from time to time.

Y. The DoT's Reference dated 21.06.2024

1.38 Through a letter dated 21.06.2024 (**Annexure 1.1**), the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India has sent a reference to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (hereinafter, also referred to as "TRAI", or "the Authority") under Section 11(1)(a) of the TRAI Act, 1997 (as amended), on the subject – *'Seeking recommendations of TRAI on terms and conditions, including fees or charges, for authorisation to provide telecommunication services as per the provisions of the Telecommunications Act 2023'*. An extract of the reference dated 21.06.2024 is reproduced below:

"The Telecommunications Act, 2023 has been published in the Official Gazette of India. It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint. Section 3(1)(a) of the Act provides for obtaining an authorisation by any entity/ person intending to provide telecommunication services, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees or charges, as may be prescribed. A background note on related aspects in this regard including relevant sections of the new Act that may have bearing on the terms and conditions of authorisations is attached as Annexure to this reference.

2. *In this regard, under Section 11(1)(a) of the TRAI Act, 1997 (as amended), TRAI is requested to provide its recommendations within 60 days of receipt of this reference on terms and conditions, including fees or charges, for authorisation to provide telecommunication services as per the provisions of the Telecommunications Act 2023."*

1.39 The background note annexed with the DoT's reference dated 21.06.2024 is reproduced below:

- "1. *Section 3(1)(a) of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides for obtaining an authorisation by any entity/ person intending to provide telecommunication services, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees or charges, as may be prescribed.*
2. *Section 59 of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides for amendment to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. It provides that "licensee" means an authorised entity providing telecommunication services under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, or registered for providing cable television network under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 or any other Act for the time being in force.*"
3. *Currently the licensing and regulatory framework for different types of telecommunication services is being governed as per the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. The extant licenses/registrations are as follows:*
 - i. *Access Service authorisation under Unified License (UL) and UL-Virtual Network Operator (UL-VNO)*
 - ii. *Internet Service authorisation under UL and UL-VNO*
 - iii. *National Long Distance (NLD) Service authorisation under UL and UL-VNO*
 - iv. *International Long-Distance Service (ILD) Service authorisation under UL and UL-VNO*
 - v. *Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service authorisation under UL and UL-VNO*
 - vi. *Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS) authorisation under UL and UL-VNO*
 - vii. *Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorisation under UL and UL-VNO*
 - viii. *Captive VSAT CUG authorisation (Standalone)*
 - ix. *Audio Conferencing/ Audiotex/ Voice Mail Service authorisation under UL*

- x. *Machine to Machine (M2M) Service authorisation under UL and UL-VNO*
 - xi. *M2M Service Provider registration*
 - xii. *WPAN/WLAN Connectivity Providers Registration*
 - xiii. *Resale of IPLC Service authorisation under UL-VNO*
 - xiv. *Access Service Category-B authorisation under UL-VNO*
 - xv. *CNPN Authorisation*
 - xvi. *CMRTS Authorisation*
 - xvii. *Rules for In-Flight and Maritime Connectivity (IFMC) permission*
 - xviii. *IP-1 Registration*
 - xix. *NOC for sale/rent of International Roaming SIM Cards*
 - xx. *Mobile Number Portability (MNP) service license*
 - xxi. *PM WANI service registration*
 - xxii. *Captive Authorisations (on case-to-case basis)*
4. *Section 3(2) of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides for different terms and conditions of authorisation for different types of telecommunication services.*
 5. *Section 3(5) of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides that any authorised entity may undertake any merger, demerger or acquisition, or other forms of restructuring, subject to any law for the time being in force and any authorised entity that emerges pursuant to such process, shall comply with the terms and conditions, including fees and charges, applicable to the original authorised entity, and such other terms and conditions, as may be prescribed.*
 6. *Section 3(6) of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides that a licence, registration, permission, by whatever name called, granted prior to the appointed day under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, in respect of provision of telecommunication services shall be entitled to continue to operate under the terms and conditions and for the duration as specified under such licence or registration or permission, or to migrate to such terms and conditions of the relevant authorisation, as may be prescribed.*
 7. *Many other Sections of the Telecommunications Act 2023 may have, either direct or indirect, linkages with the terms and conditions of the authorisation for providing telecommunication services. Some of these Sections of the Telecommunications Act 2023 are 4 to 9, 19 to 24, 28 to 42, 44, 45, 49, and 55. Many terms and*

conditions of the extant licensing and regulatory framework relates to different Sections of the Telecommunications Act 2023. Further, some of the terms and conditions will be required to be amended/incorporated in light of certain new provisions in this Act and policy/ Act in related sectors such as Space. The possibility of reducing the number of authorisations and simplification/merger/rationalization of the terms and conditions to improve Ease of Doing Business, may also be examined.”

Z. The Present Consultation Paper

1.40 In this background, this consultation paper has been prepared to solicit comments of stakeholders on specific issues related to the framework for the service authorisations to be granted under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 (**Annexure 1.2**). Chapter I provides background information. Chapter II examines the issues related to the authorisation framework under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. Chapter III examines the issues related to financial conditions. Chapter IV summarizes the issues for consultation.

Chapter II: Examination of Issues

A. The extant licensing framework for telecommunication services

- 2.1 Prior to the enactment of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, the Central Government administered the licensing of telecommunication services broadly through the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933²⁴.
- 2.2 Hitherto, the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 was the main legislation dealing with the establishment, maintenance and working of telegraphs in the country. It provided the Central Government an exclusive privilege of establishing, maintaining and working telegraphs²⁵ in India, and a power to grant a license, on such conditions and in consideration of such payments as it thinks fit, to any person to establish, maintain or work a telegraph within any part of India. The Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 regulated the possession of wireless telegraphy apparatus in the country. Section 3 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 prohibited the possession without licence of wireless telegraphy apparatus.²⁶
- 2.3 The extant telecommunication service licensing regime began in 1994 when the DoT granted licenses to private entities for cellular mobile telephone service (CMTS) in the four metro areas of the country. Since then, many telecommunication services have been brought under licensing regime in the country. Since 2013, the Government of India was following the Unified Licensing (UL) regime for telecommunication services. Eligible entities could obtain appropriate authorizations²⁷ under Unified License from the

²⁴ Apart from these two statutes namely, the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, Parliament enacted the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (as amended). Through this Act, TRAI and Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) have been established - TRAI for regulating the telecommunication services, and TDSAT for adjudicating disputes and dispose of appeals.

²⁵ Section 3 (1AA) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 provides that "telegraph" means any appliance, instrument, material or apparatus used or capable of use for transmission or reception of signs, signals, writing, images and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, visual or other electro-magnetic emissions, Radio waves or Hertzian waves, galvanic, electric or magnetic means.

²⁶ [Section 60(1) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides that "[s]ubject to the other provisions of this section, the enactments namely, the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, are hereby repealed."]

²⁷ Authorizations under Unified License: Access Service, Internet Service, NLD Service, ILD Service, GMPCS Service, PMRTS Service, VSAT CUG Service, Audio Conferencing/ Audiotext/ Voice Mail Service, and Machine to Machine Service

Government and provide a range of telecommunication services to their customers. Apart from the Unified License, the Government also granted Unified License for VNO²⁸ [UL (VNO)] to eligible entities. For the services which were not covered under the UL or UL (VNO), the Government granted standalone licenses/ authorizations/ registrations/ NOC²⁹ etc. The Government prescribed different sets of terms and conditions for various authorizations under UL and UL (VNO) and standalone licenses/ authorizations/ registrations/ NOC³⁰ etc.

2.4 As far as assignment of spectrum to licensees is concerned, the extant Unified License, in Chapter VII, provides as below:

"41. Right to use the spectrum: This License Agreement does not confer any right to assignment and use of spectrum for which separate specific Frequency Assignment shall be required from Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) Wing."

2.5 Further, para 2(i) of the Guidelines for Grant of Unified License provides that "[t]he allocation of spectrum is delinked from the licenses and has to be obtained separately as per prescribed procedure."

B. The salient points of the DoT's reference dated 21.06.2024

2.6 Through the reference dated 21.06.2024, the DoT has requested TRAI to provide recommendations on terms and conditions, including fees and charges, for authorisations to provide telecommunication services as per the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023. In the background note annexed with the reference, DoT has indicated that various sections³¹ of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the

²⁸ Authorizations under Unified License for VNO: Access Service, Internet Service, NLD Service, ILD Service, GMPCS Service, PMRTS Service, VSAT CUG Service, Resale of IPLC Service, Access Service Category B, and Machine to Machine Service

²⁹ Standalone licenses/ authorizations/ registrations/ NOC: Mobile Number Portability (MNP) service license, CMRTS License, CNPN License, In-flight and Maritime Connectivity (IFMC) service authorization, M2M Service Provider registration, WPAN/ WLAN Connectivity Providers registration, IP-I Registration, PM-WANI service registration, No objection certificate (NOC) for sale/ rent of International Roaming SIM Cards, and other captive authorizations.

³⁰ NOC is acronym of No Objection Certificate.

³¹ In the background Note, the DoT has drawn attention to the provisions of the clauses 3(1)(a), 3(2), 3(5) and 3(6) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and has stated that many other sections, such as sections 4 to 9, 19 to 24, 28 to 42, 44, 45, 49 and 55 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 may have either direct or indirect linkages with the terms and conditions of the authorization for providing telecommunication services.

policies/ Acts in related sectors such as Space may have a bearing on the terms and conditions of the service authorisations under the Act. The DoT has also requested TRAI to examine the possibility of reducing the number of authorisations and simplification/ merger/ rationalization of the terms and conditions to improve Ease of Doing Business.

C. Telecommunication Services

2.7 The Section 3(1)(a) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides that any person, intending to provide telecommunication services³², shall obtain an authorisation from the Government subject to such terms and conditions including fees or charges, as may be prescribed.

2.8 For the purpose of understanding, telecommunication services may be classified into two broad categories namely, public and non-public. The telecommunication services may also be classified in terms of captive and non-captive. In this regard, the following definitions may be used:

- (a) 'Public telecommunication service' means the telecommunication service which is provided to the general public³³.
- (b) 'Non-public telecommunication service' means the telecommunication service which is not provided to the general public³⁴.
- (c) 'Captive telecommunication service' means the telecommunication service which is provided by an entity to meet its internal communication needs.
- (d) 'Non-captive telecommunication service' means the telecommunication service which is provided by an entity to third parties such as enterprises.

³² The Section 2 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides, *inter-alia*, the definitions of "telecommunication service", "telecommunication" and "message" as below:

(t) "telecommunication service" means any service for telecommunication;

(p) "telecommunication" means transmission, emission or reception of any messages, by wire, radio, optical or other electro-magnetic systems, whether or not such messages have been subjected to rearrangement, computation or other processes by any means in the course of their transmission, emission or reception;

(g) "message" means any sign, signal, writing, text, image, sound, video, data stream, intelligence or information sent through telecommunication;

³³ Everyone may have access to public telecommunication services. Public telecommunication services provide access to the globally interconnected telecommunication networks such as public switched telephone network (PSTN), Public land mobile network (PLMN) and public internet.

³⁴ Non-public telecommunication services are generally consumed by enterprises for their internal or private use. Such services do not provide access to the globally interconnected telecommunication networks such as PSTN, PLMN and public internet.

2.9 Based on the above framework, the telecommunication services could be classified in terms of the following matrix. For indicative purposes, a few candidate services have been mentioned in the respective boxes of the matrix.

Public	Public telephony Service through PSTN and PLMN, Public Internet Service	-
Non-public	Provision of International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC), Provision of Domestic Leased Circuit (DLC)	Mission Critical Push-to-Talk (MCPTT) Service for the self-use, Provision of Captive Non Public Network (CNPN) for the self-use
	Non-captive	Captive

Table 2.1: Classification of telecommunication services on the basis of their usage

2.10 By their very nature, public telecommunication services involve not only consumer interest but also a significant public interest. As these services are consumed on a large scale, a substantial business interest is also involved in such services. For these reasons, public telecommunication services receive a significant regulatory attention worldwide. In India, the public telecommunication services are, in general, being regulated through the extant Unified Licensing regime. The non-public telecommunication services are often regulated with a somewhat lower regulatory obligation. In many cases, the providers of public telecommunication services are also permitted to provide non-public non-captive services. The captive telecommunication service providers are usually regulated through much lighter licenses.

D. Broad Framework for Authorisations to be Granted Under Section 3(1) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023

(1) The manner of granting authorisations

- 2.11 For providing telecommunication services under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, a person shall have to obtain an authorisation from the Central Government. At the level of nomenclature, this is in departure from the extant regime under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, under which the Central Government granted licenses for providing telecommunication services. Therefore, one of the effects of the enactment of the Telecommunication Act, 2023 would be that, henceforth, the persons desirous of providing telecommunication services in the country will have to obtain authorisations from the Central Government under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 instead of licenses under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.
- 2.12 In India, the first set of telecommunication service licenses were granted for cellular mobile telephone service (CMTS) in the four metro areas of Delhi, Bombay (now Mumbai), Calcutta (now Kolkata) and Madras (now Chennai) in November 1994. Prior to issuing the CMTS licenses, the DoT issued a tender document and invited tenders from Indian companies for providing CMTS workable on License. The tender document stated that the franchisee selected would have to provide and operate the service according to the conditions laid down by the DoT. The Tender document contained general conditions, commercial conditions, technical conditions, and financial conditions to be applicable on the Licensee company. The bidders had to submit a compliance statement to fully comply with the terms and conditions stipulated in the tender document and had to furnish financial bids. Based on the evaluation of the bids, the Government entered into license agreements with the selected bidders for franchising cellular mobile telephone service with them.
- 2.13 For granting CMTS licenses for circles other than metropolitan cities, the Government of India issued a similar tender document in January 1995. The tender document stated that there would be a maximum of two operators in each telecom circle. After following

a tender process, the Government entered into license agreements with the selected bidders. A similar process was followed in the year 2001 when the Government invited tenders for the fourth cellular operator in various service areas and, after following a tender process, entered into license agreements with the selected bidders.

2.14 Under the Unified Licensing regime, the practice of inviting tenders for obtaining telecommunication service license and selecting bidders upon evaluation of their bids was no longer being followed. Any eligible entity which applied in the prescribed application form could obtain a Unified License on a non-exclusive basis. However, the practice of entering into a license agreement between the Government of India and the licensee company continued in the Unified Licensing regime as well.

2.15 While the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 did not provide any definition of the term "license", the Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides a definition of the term "authorisation" as below:

"authorisation" means a permission, by whatever name called, granted under this Act for -

(i) providing telecommunication services;

(ii) establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding telecommunication networks; or

(iii) possessing radio equipment;

2.16 From the examination of international scenario on this aspect, it has been observed that in the countries like the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia, Singapore, etc., the applicants seek authorizations for the provision of the telecommunication services from the sector regulators/ governments and provide the necessary information to them. If satisfied, the sector regulators/ governments authorize the applicants to provide the requested service(s) by way of issuing a license/ authorization/ permission/ registration to them. Such licensees are obliged to comply with the provisions of telecommunications laws apart from the rules and regulations prescribed by the sector regulators/ governments.

2.17 As authorisation is a permission under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, it may require to be deliberated as to whether it would be desirable that the authorisations are issued by the Central Government to the applicant entity under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 in line with the international practices in place of the extant practice of entering into an agreement between the Government of India and the applicant entity.

2.18 In this background, the Authority solicits the views of stakeholders on the following question:

Issue for Consultation:

Q1. For the purpose of granting authorisations under Section 3(1) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, whether the Central Government should issue an authorisation to the applicant entity, as is the international practice in several countries, in place of the extant practice of the Central Government entering into a license agreement with the applicant entity? In such a case, whether any safeguards are required to protect the reasonable interests of authorized entities? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

(2) The structure of authorisations

2.19 The Extant licensing framework consists of a regime of Unified License, Unified License for VNO and standalone licenses/ authorizations/ registrations/ NOC³⁵ etc. Generally, the provision of public telecommunication services and non-public non-captive telecommunication services is being governed through the Unified License and Unified License for VNO, and the provision of captive telecommunication services and value

³⁵ Standalone licenses/ authorizations/ registrations/ NOC: Mobile Number Portability (MNP) service license, CMRTS License, CNPN License, In-flight and Maritime Connectivity (IFMC) service authorization, M2M Service Provider registration, WPAN/ WLAN Connectivity Providers registration, IP-I Registration, PM-WANI service registration, No objection certificate (NOC) for sale/ rent of International Roaming SIM Cards, and other captive authorizations.

added services is being governed through standalone licenses/ authorizations/ registrations/ NOC etc.

2.20 The extant Unified License has nine separate authorizations viz. Access Service, Internet Service, National Long Distance (NLD) Service, International Long Distance (ILD) Service, Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service, Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS), Commercial Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) Closed User Group (CUG) Service, Audio Conferencing/ Audiotex/ Voice Mail Service and Machine to Machine (M2M) Service. For granting authorizations to eligible entities to provide services under Unified License, the Government has laid down 'The Guidelines for Grant of Unified License'³⁶. The guidelines provides information on the structure of the Unified License and the application process for the Unified License. The guidelines had separate clauses on eligibility conditions for obtaining Unified License, entry fee, license fee, terms of the License, equity holding in other companies, provision of telecommunication services using satellite media, security conditions, migration/ renewal of existing licenses etc.

2.21 Through the Guidelines for Grant of Unified License, the Government laid down the following process for the grant of Unified License:

- (a) The Applicant will apply to the Government for the grant of Unified License with one, several or all authorizations with a non-refundable processing fee and an undertaking to fully comply with the terms and conditions of the Guidelines for Grant of Unified License, and the License Agreement.
- (b) After examination of the application and having satisfied that the applicant fulfills all the eligibility conditions, the Government will issue a letter of intent (LoI) for the award of Unified License with a demand for submission of entry fee, bank guarantees and an undertaking to clear all dues to the DoT under the license agreement.

³⁶ The updated guidelines are available at the URL: https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/1_UL%20guidelines%20with%20M2M%20without%20INSAT%20MSS%20R%20dated%2017012022.pdf?download=1

- (c) The applicant will submit to the Government the entry fee, bank guarantees and an undertaking to fully comply with the terms and conditions of the Unified License and the guidelines.
- (d) The Government will enter into a license agreement for Unified License.

2.22 The License Agreement for Unified License document has the following components:

- (a) A two-page license agreement for Unified License; and
- (b) A Schedule to the license agreement.

2.23 The two page license agreement for Unified License contains, *inter-alia*, the following elements:

- (a) The name of the parties to the agreement viz. the Licensor (the Government of India) and the Licensee;
- (b) A clause that the Licensor has agreed to grant Unified License with authorization(s) for the provision of service(s) in the service area(s) as per the relevant terms and conditions described in the Schedule to the Unified License Agreement;
- (c) Effective date of the license;
- (d) Validity period of the license unless it is revoked earlier by the Licensee;
- (e) A clause that the Licensee agrees and undertakes to fully comply with the terms and conditions stipulated in the License Agreement;
- (f) A clause that the license has been granted on a non-exclusive basis;
- (g) A clause that the license shall be governed by the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 and Information Technology Act, 2000, as modified or replaced from time to time or any other relevant Act; and
- (h) The signatures of the parties to the agreement and witnesses with date and place.

2.24 The Schedule to the Unified License Agreement contains the terms and conditions under the Unified License in two parts (Part-I and Part-II). The terms and conditions contained in Part-I were to be applicable for all services provided under the license unless specified otherwise. Part-II consists of the terms and conditions specific to the respective service authorization, which were in addition to the terms and conditions contained in Part-I.

- 2.25 Part-I of the Unified License consists of seven chapters on General Conditions, Commercial Conditions, Financial Conditions, Technical Conditions, Operating Conditions, Security Conditions, and Spectrum allotment and use. These chapters contained the common terms and conditions applicable for all services, unless specified otherwise.
- 2.26 Part-II of the Unified License consists of nine chapters on Access Service, Internet Service, NLD Service, ILD Service, GMPCS Service, PMRTS Service, Commercial VSAT CUG Service, Audio Conferencing/ Audiotext/ Voice Mail Service, and M2M Service. The details on the scope of services under each service authorization issued under Unified License are available in **Annexure 2.1**. These chapters contained the terms and conditions specific to the respective service authorizations.
- 2.27 The licensing scheme under the Unified License for VNO³⁷ is similar to the licensing scheme for the Unified License with slight variations. The Unified License for VNO has all the service authorizations as contained in the Unified License except the authorization for Audio Conferencing/ Audiotext/ Voice Mail Service. It has two additional authorizations on 'Resale of International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC) Service', and 'Access Service Category B'. The details on the scope of services under each service authorization issued under UL for VNO are available in **Annexure 2.2**. For granting authorizations to provide services under Unified License for VNO, the Government has laid down 'The Guidelines for Grant of Unified License (Virtual Network Operators)³⁸.
- 2.28 In addition to the Unified License and Unified License for VNO, the Government granted licenses for a few other services on standalone basis, under different terminologies like authorisation, license, registration, no objection certificate etc. as listed below:

³⁷ A holder of the Unified License for VNO is treated as an extension of network service operators (NSOs) holding Unified License. A VNO may provide telecommunication services to consumers by using the network of its parent NSO. VNOs are essentially service delivery operators and are treated as an extension of NSOs. The VNOs are not allowed to install equipment interconnecting with the network of other NSOs. No spectrum is assigned to VNOs.

³⁸ Updated guidelines are available at the URL:
https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/UL%20VNO%20guidelines%20with%20M2M%20without%20INSAT%20MSS%20R%20dated%2017012022_1.pdf?download=1

- (a) Captive Mobile Radio Trunking Service (CMRTS) License
- (b) Captive VSAT CUG License
- (c) Mobile Number Portability (MNP) Service Provider License
- (d) Captive Non Public Network (CNP) License
- (e) Authorization to provide In-flight and Maritime Connectivity (IFMC) service
- (f) Infrastructure Provider (IP-I) Registration
- (g) M2M Service Provider registration
- (h) Wireless Private Area Network/ Wireless Local Area Network (WPAN/ WLAN) Connectivity Providers Registration
- (i) Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM WANI) Service Registration
- (j) No Objection Certificate (NOC) for sale/rent of International Roaming SIM Cards
- (k) Captive Authorisations (on case-to-case basis)

The details on the scope of services under the above-listed authorization, License, registration, NOC, etc. are available in **Annexure 2.3**.

2.29 Similar to the Unified License and Unified License for VNO, the standalone licenses were, generally, governed by the guidelines for the grant of respective licenses. The licenses were granted, generally, in the form of license agreements between the Government of India and the licensee company. The license agreements contained the terms and conditions of the licenses as Schedule to the license agreements. For example, the License Agreement for Provision of CMRTS contained a two page license agreement for CMRTS and two schedules. Schedule I contained the Service Area of the license and Schedule II contained General Conditions, Commercial Conditions, Financial Conditions, Technical Conditions, Operating Conditions, and Special Conditions.

2.30 In short, the licenses for the provision of telecommunication services were, hitherto, being granted in the form of license agreements between the Government of India and the licensee. The terms and conditions applicable on the licensee were included in the Schedule to the license agreement. The Schedule consists of several chapters containing an array of conditions such as General Conditions, Commercial Conditions, Financial Conditions, Technical Conditions, Operating Conditions, Security Conditions etc. It is noteworthy that the License Agreement for Unified License with its Schedule was about

a 200-page document. The License documents were frequently amended to accommodate any changes made in the terms and conditions of the respective licenses.

2.31 It is noteworthy that Section 56 of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides, *inter alia*, as below:

"56. (1) The Central Government may, by notification, and subject to the condition of previous publication, make rules not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the terms and conditions, including fees or charges for obtaining authorisation under sub-section (1) of section 3³⁹;

2.32 Further, Section 3(2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides as below:

"(2) The Central Government may while making rules under sub-section (1) provide for different terms and conditions of authorisation for different types of telecommunication services, telecommunication networks and radio equipment."

2.33 Further, Section 56(3) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides as below:

"(3) Every rule made under this Act and amendment to the Schedule made under section 57 shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or amendment to the Schedule or both Houses agree that the rule or amendment to the Schedule should not be made, the rule or amendment to the Schedule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form

³⁹ The sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides as below:

3. (1) Any person intending to—

(a) provide telecommunication services;

(b) establish, operate, maintain or expand telecommunication network; or

(c) possess radio equipment,

shall obtain an authorisation from the Central Government, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees or charges, as may be prescribed.

or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or amendment to the Schedule.”

- 2.34 In short, the Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides, *inter-alia*, that the Central Government may, by notification, make rules for the terms and conditions of the authorisations to be granted under the Act; the rules may provide for different terms and conditions for different authorisations; such rules shall be laid before Parliament; the rules shall have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, as agreed by both Houses of Parliament.
- 2.35 In light of the above, it may be seen that the Telecommunications Act, 2023 has envisaged to make rules on the terms and conditions of the authorisations to be granted under the Act.
- 2.36 From the study of the international practices on this aspect, it is seen that the telecom service authorisation/ license issued by several sector regulators/ governments such as Australia, the United States of America etc. are lean documents with only the essential elements written in them. Telecom service licensees are governed by a set of prescribed rules under the applicable statutes as per the services being offered by them.
- 2.37 In light of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the international practices in several countries, it requires to be deliberated as to whether the extant practice of including the entire terms and conditions of the license in the license document should be discontinued; instead, an authorisation document should be issued by the Central Government to the applicant entity containing the essential aspects such as the service area, scope of the service, validity period, authorisation fee etc. The detailed terms and conditions may be covered under the rules to be made under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, with suitable safeguards to protect the reasonable interests of the authorised entities in case of any amendment to the rules. The rules to be made for this purpose, in case it is decided to do so, could broadly be divided into general rules, commercial rules, technical rules, operating rules, security rules, financial

rules etc. The information provided through the extant Guidelines for Grant of Unified License and Unified License for VNO, which includes, *inter-alia*, the information on the application process for the License, eligibility conditions for obtaining the License, conditions for transfer/ Merger of the License etc. could be made part of the general rules. Certain terms and conditions which are operational in nature and may require to be changed on a frequent basis such as the conditions on know your customer (KYC) and subscribers' verification could be prescribed in the form of guidelines under the respective rules.

2.38 As discussed above, in case an authorisation document is issued by the Central Government to the applicant entity containing the essential aspects such as the service area, scope of the service, validity period, authorisation fee etc. and the detailed terms and conditions are covered under the rules made under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, it is desirable to provide long term regulatory stability and business continuity in order to protect the interest of service providers. As the telecom sector is a dynamic sector with the technology and service delivery changing at fast pace, the terms and conditions of the authorisations and the associated rules may need to be amended from time to time to make it progressive and adaptive to the needs of time. Needless to say, such amendments in the authorisations or associated rules should be done in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner facilitating the growth and development of the sector.

2.39 In this background, the Authority solicits views of stakeholders on the following set of questions:

Issues for consultation:

Q2. Whether it will be appropriate to grant authorisations under Section 3(1) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 in the form of an authorisation document containing the essential aspects of the authorisation, such as service area, period of validity, scope of service, list of applicable rules, authorisation fee etc., and the terms and conditions to be included in the form of rules to be made under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 with

suitable safeguards to protect the reasonable interests of the authorised entities in case of any amendment in the rules? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q3. In case it is decided to implement the authorisation structure as proposed in the Q2 above, -

- (a) Which essential aspects of authorisation should be included in authorisation documents?**
- (b) What should be the broad category of rules, under which, terms and conditions of various authorisations could be prescribed?**
- (c) Whether it would be appropriate to incorporate the information currently provided through the extant Guidelines for Grant of Unified License and Unified License for VNO, which included, *inter-alia*, the information on the application process for the license, eligibility conditions for obtaining the license, conditions for transfer/ Merger of the license etc., in the General Rules under the Telecommunications Act, 2023?**
- (d) What could be the broad topics for which the conditions may be required to be prescribed in the form of guidelines under the respective rules?**

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q4. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what safeguards are required to be put in place to ensure the long-term regulatory stability and business continuity of the service providers, while at the same time making the authorisations and associated rules a live document dynamically aligned with the contemporary developments from time to time? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

2.40 At this stage, it will be worthwhile to mention that Section 4 (2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides that "[a]ny person intending to use spectrum will require an assignment from the Central Government." In other words, in case an authorised entity requires spectrum for providing telecommunication services, it will

have to obtain the right to use of spectrum separately. This consultation paper deals with the issues related to authorisations for providing telecommunication services under Section 3(1) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023. It does not deal with matters related to assignment and use of spectrum by the authorized entity.

E. Need for a single authorisation for the provision of end-to-end telecommunication services

2.41 Till the year 2012, the telecommunication licensing regime in the country was service specific. The licensees had to obtain separate licenses from the Government for different telecommunication services such as Access Service, National Long Distance (NLD) Service, International Long Distance (ILD) Service, Internet Service, Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS) etc.

2.42 In April 2012, TRAI sent its recommendations on 'Guidelines for Unified License/ Class License and Migration of Existing Licenses' to the DoT. The salient recommendations of TRAI in respect of Unified License were as below:

"Unified Licence will be service and technology neutral and the Unified Licensee shall be permitted to provide any telecom service, as defined below on a non-exclusive basis, anytime, anywhere, using any technology within its licence area as prescribed below:

a. Collection, carriage, transmission and delivery of voice and/ or non-voice messages over Licensee's network in the designated licence area and includes provision of all types of access services. Unified licensee can also provide Internet Telephony, Internet Services including IPTV and Broadband Services including triple play i.e. voice, video and data. The Licensee shall be free to enter an agreement with other service provider in India or abroad for providing roaming facility to its subscriber under full mobility service unless advised/ directed by TRAI otherwise.

b. Unified Licensee can provide dark fibres, Right of Way, duct space, towers on lease/ rent/ sale basis to the licensees of telecom services on mutually agreed terms and conditions. The Licensee will also be allowed to install and share active network limited to antenna, feeder cable, Node B, Radio Access Network (RAN) and transmission

systems and to seek SACFA siting clearance for erecting towers with or without agreement with licensed Service Providers. c. Unified Licensee can provide Voice mail, Audiotex, Videotex, UMS, Radio paging and PMRTS.

d. Unified Licensee is permitted to provide leased circuit within its licence area. Public network is not to be connected with leased circuits/ CUGs.

e. A Unified Licensee shall be permitted to offer any/ all services covered under 'Class licence' and 'Licensing through Authorisation' but not vice-versa.

f. The Licensee cannot provide any other service which otherwise require a separate licence.

g. The Licensee cannot provide broadcasting services, for which a separate licence/ registration is required as per Cable TV Act 1995 and guidelines for DTH Licence issued by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

5.2 The services which a Unified Licensee can offer will be as below:

a. National level Unified Licence shall permit the Licensee to offer any or all of the telecom services mentioned in Clause 5.1 in any/ all service areas; GMPCS, NLD and ILD services and Resale of IPLC.

b. Service area level Unified Licence shall permit the Licensee to offer any or all of the telecom services mentioned in Clause 5.1 except National Long Distance (NLD), International Long Distance (ILD), Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) services, Resale of IPLC and services covered under Class Licence.

c. District level Unified Licence shall permit the Licensee to offer any or all of the telecom services mentioned in Clause 5.1 in the district for which licence is given. However, a District level Unified licensee shall not be permitted to offer NLD, ILD, GMPCS, VSAT & Resale of IPLC, INSAT-MSS and wireless access service. Also, these Licensees would not be entitled for assignment of spectrum resources for access services. District level Unified Licence will not be given for Metro areas of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata."

- 2.43 In short, through the recommendations of April 2012, TRAI recommended, *inter-alia*, a national level Unified License to permit the Licensee to offer any or all of the telecom services such as access services, internet telephony, internet services, voice mail, audiotext, Videotex, unified messaging service, radio paging, PMRTS, GMPCS, NLD, ILD and resale of IPLC at national level.
- 2.44 Further, one of the objectives of the National Telecom Policy (NTP) 2012 was to "*strive to create One Nation - One License across services and service areas*".
- 2.45 In this background, the Government of India introduced Unified Licensing regime in the country in August 2013 and permitted any eligible entity to obtain one, several or all authorizations under the Unified License viz. Access Service, Internet Service, NLD Service, ILD Service, GMPCS Service, PMRTS Service, VSAT CUG Service, INSAT MSS-R Service, and Resale of IPLC Service⁴⁰. In case an entity chose to obtain authorizations for all the services under Unified License, it had to pay lower Entry Fee, Bank Guarantees and Application Processing Fee as compared to the respective sum total of Entry Fee, Bank Guarantees and Application Processing Fee for individual authorizations. As Access Service authorizations were still at the Telecom Circle/ Metro area level, a Unified License (all services) permitted a licensee to provide access service in all the 22 service areas. However, it provided no advantage to the licensee at the network or operational level. Thus, it would not be incorrect to say that in a real sense, the Unified License (all services) was only a compendium of all authorizations; there was no true unification of services in the Unified License.
- 2.46 It is noted that, at present, practically all wireless access service providers have national footprints. They operate cellular mobile services in all licensed service areas in the country⁴¹. They also hold authorisations for NLD service and ILD service, under which

⁴⁰ In later years, the authorizations for INSAT MSS-R Service, Resale of IPLC Service were removed from the Unified License, and two new authorizations on Audio Conferencing/ Audiotext/ Voice Mail Service, and Machine to Machine Service were included under the Unified License.

⁴¹ The Access Service authorization holders are permitted to provide, *inter-alia*, access service on wireline and/ or wireless media, Internet Service, M2M service, Voice Mail/ Audiotex/ unified Messaging Service/ Video Conferencing, leased circuits, captive non public network (CNP) as a service within their respective service areas.

they can carry switched bearer telecommunication traffic as well as provide leased circuits and virtual private networks. It is further noted that the wireless access service providers provide seamless national roaming across the nation to their subscribers on their own networks and, for all practical purposes, their consumers face the same or similar tariffs for the usage of voice, SMS and data on national roaming as compared to the tariffs for the usage from home service area.

2.47 In addition, 3GPP has developed the Non-Terrestrial Network (NTN)⁴² standard to provide wireless connectivity beyond the Earth's surface. This standard supports various scenarios with different terminal types: frequency bands, services and orbits.⁴³ For instance, satellite access networks operating in Frequency Range 1 (FR1) could offer direct connectivity to outdoor handheld devices and car-or drone-mounted devices via the 5G NR standard as well as to outdoor IoT devices via the 4G NB-IoT/ eMTC standard. While 3GPP Release 17 enabled NTN in 5G, Release 18 includes updates, such as NTN-IoT enhancements, NTN-NR additions of new frequencies and new service and traffic models. As NTN based communications would preferably have a national footprint, Access Service authorisation holders may not be able to derive the full benefits of NTN based communications under the extant scheme of licensed service area (LSA) based on telecom circle/ Metro area for Access Service authorisation.

2.48 In view of the foregoing discussion, it requires to be deliberated as to whether there is a need for introducing a unified service authorisation on national level, which may permit the authorised entity to provide all telecommunication services under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 on a national level, and whether such a unified service

⁴² Non-terrestrial networks (NTN) are networks or segment of networks that use either Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UASs) operating typically between 8 and 50 km altitude, including High Altitude Platforms (HAPs) or satellites in different constellations to carry a transmission equipment relay node or a base station.

NTNs are envisioned to extend telecom coverage to areas which are not covered by terrestrial networks. Development of NTNs would also provide opportunities to expand the usage of communication technologies to develop new use cases and applications in different sectors for the benefit of society and achieving the UN SDGs.

The World Radiocommunication Conferences 2023 considered the integration of IMT systems with mobile-satellite systems to enhance connectivity, particularly in remote areas. WRC-23 identified 2 GHz and 2.6 GHz bands for using high-altitude platform stations as IMT base stations (HIBS) and established regulations for their operations. WRC also recognized that this technology offers a new platform to provide mobile broadband with minimal infrastructure using the same frequencies and devices as IMT mobile networks and can contribute to bridging the digital divide in remote and rural areas and maintain connectivity during disasters.

⁴³ Source: https://www.rohde-schwarz.com/us/solutions/test-and-measurement/wireless-communication/cellular-standards/5g-test-and-measurement/non-terrestrial-networks-ntn/non-terrestrial-networks-ntn_256719.html

authorisation should also include satellite-based telecommunication services in its scope. This may enable an efficient network design, optimization of infrastructure by eliminating duplicate/ redundant infrastructure and provision of full range of services using any media. Such a unified service authorisation could include in its scope the provision of all kinds of services including Access Service, Internet Service, NLD Service, ILD Service, Mobile Radio Trunking Service, Satellite-based Telecommunication Services, etc., so that the authorized entity may provide end-to-end telecommunication services, which are permitted under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, without the need for any other separate authorisation.

2.49 Having said that, the Authority is cognizant of the fact that smaller players may still want to offer one or a few services in a smaller/ limited geographical area. Therefore, it would be desirable that the option of obtaining separate authorisations for various services with the relevant service areas should continue to be available to desirous applicants.

2.50 While the proposed single unified service authorisation for the provision of end-to-end telecommunication services can be made available with pan-India service area, it is noted that to protect the interest of the smaller players, there may be a need for continuing the extant practice of the assignment of access spectrum and network interconnection at Telecom Circle/ Metro Area level. For this purpose, the authorised entity, with a permission to provide end-to-end telecommunication services at National level, may be required to continue to fulfill certain requirements/ obligations at the telecom circle/ Metro area level.

2.51 In this background, the Authority solicits views of stakeholders on the following set of questions:

Issues for Consultation:

Q5. In addition to the service-specific authorisations at service area level, whether there is a need for introducing a unified service authorisation at National level for the provision of end-to-end telecommunication

services with pan-India service area under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly justify your response.

Q6. In case it is decided to introduce a unified service authorisation at National level for the provision of end-to-end telecommunication services-

- (a) What should be the scope of service under such an authorisation?**
- (b) What terms and conditions (technical, operational, security related, etc.) should be made applicable to such an authorisation?**
- (c) Would there be a need to retain some of the conditions or obligations to be fulfilled at the telecom circle/ Metro area level for such an authorisation?**
- (d) Should assignment of terrestrial access and backhaul spectrum be continued at the telecom circle/ Metro area level for such an authorisation?**
- (e) Any other suggestion to protect the interest of other authorised entities/ smaller players upon the introduction of such an authorisation.**

Kindly provide a detailed response with justification.

F. Need for enhancing the scope under the Internet Service Authorisation

2.52 Under the extant licensing regime under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, an internet service authorization holder is permitted, *inter-alia*, to perform the following activities under its scope of service⁴⁴:

⁴⁴ The Scope of Internet Service under Unified License is given below:

"2. Scope of Internet Service: Scope of this Authorization covers the following:

2.1(i) The Licensee may provide Internet access including IPTV. The subscriber shall have unrestricted access to all the content available on Internet except for such content which is restricted by the Licensor/designated authority under Law. The Licensee shall not offer VPN/Closed User Group services to its subscribers.

(ii) The Licensee may provide Internet Telephony through Public Internet by the use of Personal Computers (PC) or IP based Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) connecting only the following:

a) PC to PC; within or outside India

b) PC / a device / Adapter conforming to TEC or International Standard in India to PSTN/PLMN abroad.

c) Any device / Adapter conforming to TEC or International Standard connected to ISP node with static IP address to similar device / Adapter; within or outside India.

...

- (a) It can provide Internet access including IPTV, Internet Telephony through Public Internet in a limited manner, and Unified Messaging Service.
- (b) It can provide Internet Service to any VSAT Service subscriber in its Service area, in case the licensee is having Commercial VSAT CUG service authorisation.
- (c) For the carriage of the traffic of its customers, it can establish its own transmission links on optical fibre cable (OFC) or radio communication or underground copper cable within its service area.
- (d) It can install, operate and commission International Internet Gateway in the service area using satellite or submarine cable as medium after obtaining security clearance/ approval from Licensor. With International internet gateway, it can sell international internet bandwidth to other licensed internet service providers. It cannot provision IPLC services.

2.53 As may be seen from the above, an Internet Service authorization holder is permitted to deploy its own transmission links within its service area for its internal use. However, it is not permitted to sell domestic bandwidth viz. domestic leased circuits/ domestic virtual private networks to third parties. Thus, though an Internet Service authorization holder under the extant licensing regime might, at the resource level, be having a capability to provide domestic leased circuits/ Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) within its service area, yet it could not provide such services to third parties.

2.54 In simple words, an Internet Service authorization holder under the extant licensing regime is not permitted to provide non-public communication services such as leased

(v) For carrying originating and terminating traffic of its subscribers, the licensee may establish its own transmission links within its service area. For this purpose, the Licensee may also establish 'Last Mile' linkages within the service area either on fibre optic cable or radio communication or underground copper cable. ...

(vi) Unified Messaging Services (UMS) within the scope of (i) to (ii) above can be provided by the Licensee.

(vii) Internet Service to any VSAT Service subscriber can be provided, if the VSAT is located within the Service area of the Licensee. For this purpose, a direct interconnection of VSAT Network Hub through leased line obtained from an authorized service provider to the Licensee's node/ server shall be permitted only for the Internet traffic. ...

...

(ix) Licensee may install operate and commission International Internet Gateway in the service area using satellite or submarine cable as medium after obtaining security clearance/approval from Licensor.

(x) Licensee with International internet gateway is allowed to sell international internet bandwidth to other licensed internet service providers. Provision of IPLC service is not covered under the scope of this authorization."

circuits⁴⁵. On the other hand, an Access Service authorization holder under the extant licensing regime is permitted to provide leased circuits within its service area.

2.55 In view of the above, *prima facie*, there could be a need to enhance the scope of Internet Service authorisation by way of including the provision of leased circuits/ VPNs within its service area.

2.56 In this background, the Authority solicits views of stakeholders on the following set of questions:

Issues for consultation:

Q7. Within the scope of Internet Service authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, whether there is a need for including the provision of leased circuits/ Virtual Private Networks within its service area? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q8. In case it is decided to enhance the scope of Internet Service authorisation as indicated in the Q7 above, -

(a) What should be terms and conditions (technical, operational, security related, etc.) that should be made applicable on Internet Service authorisation?

(b) Any other suggestion to protect the reasonable interests of other authorised entities upon such an enhancement in the scope of service.

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

⁴⁵ In the extant Unified License, the term 'Leased circuit' was defined as below:

"*LEASED CIRCUIT: Leased circuit is defined as point to point non-switched physical connections/ transmission bandwidth including virtual private network (VPN) using circuit or packet switched technology.*"

Source: <https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/Compendium-UL-AGREEMENT%20updated%20up%20to%2031032024.pdf?download=1>

G. Need for reducing the number of authorisations or adding new authorisations

- 2.57 In the background note attached with the reference dated 21.06.2024, the DoT has mentioned, *inter-alia*, that the possibility of reducing the number of authorisations may also be examined.
- 2.58 In this regard, it is noted that one way of reducing the number of authorisations could be removing some of the authorisations which may have become redundant with the passage of time, or by merging/ clubbing some of the authorisations in case the technological/ market development warrants so. In the following sub-sections, we will explore the possibility of merging/ clubbing of some of the authorisations.

(1) Possibility of clubbing the scopes of the extant NLD Service authorization and ILD Service authorization under a single authorisation

- 2.59 Under the extant Unified Licensing regime, there are two authorizations namely, NLD service authorization and ILD Service authorization. The scopes of these authorizations include, *inter-alia*, the long distance carriage of switched bearer telecommunication traffic, long distance voice service through calling cards and the provision of Leased Circuit/ Virtual Private Network (VPN) Services over their respective networks viz. National Long distance Network and International Long Distance Networks respectively. It has been observed that many service providers, who have obtained NLD service authorization, have also obtained ILD service authorization to provide national as well as international long distance carriage of switched bearer telecommunication traffic and domestic as well as international private leased circuits. At present, there are 31 ILD Service licensees and 51 NLD Service licensees. Out of the 31 ILD Service licensees, 26 have also obtained NLD Service licenses.
- 2.60 Keeping the above in view, *prima facie*, there appears to be a possibility of merging the scopes of the NLD Service authorization and ILD Service authorization into a single authorisation namely Long Distance Service authorisation under new service authorisation framework. The scope of Long Distance Service authorisation can be kept as, *inter-alia*, the long distance carriage of switched bearer telecommunication traffic,

long distance voice service through calling cards and the provision of Leased Circuit/ Virtual Private Network (VPN) Services over both the national long distance network and international long distance network.

2.61 In this background, the Authority solicits views of stakeholders on the following set of questions:

Issues for consultation:

Q9. Whether there is need for merging the scopes of the extant National Long Distance (NLD) Service authorization and International Long Distance (ILD) Service authorization into a single authorisation namely Long Distance Service authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q10. In case it is decided to merge the scopes of the extant NLD Service authorization and ILD Service authorization into a single authorisation namely Long Distance Service authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, -

- (a) What should be the scope of service under the proposed Long Distance Service authorisation?**
- (b) What terms and conditions (technical, operational, security related, etc.) should be made applicable on the proposed Long Distance Service authorisation?**
- (c) Any other suggestions to protect the reasonable interests of other authorised entities upon the introduction of such an authorisation?**

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

(2) Possibility of clubbing the scopes of the extant GMPCS and Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorization under a single authorisation

- 2.62 Under the extant licensing regime, under Unified License, there are two separate authorizations for the provision of satellite-based telecommunication services namely, GMPCS authorization and Commercial VSAT CUG authorization. The GMPCS authorization permits the authorised entity to provide, *inter-alia*, satellite-based telephony services and data services. On the other hand, the VSAT CUG authorisation permits the authorized entity to provide, *inter-alia*, satellite-based data connectivity between various sites of a user within the territorial boundary of India [i.e. data connectivity within a closed user group (CUG)], and backhaul connectivity to Access Service providers. The scope of VSAT CUG authorisation also provides that the authorized entity after obtaining ISP license may use the same Hub station and VSAT (remote station) to provide Internet service to subscribers, and in this case VSAT (remote station) may be used as a distribution point to provide Internet service to multiple independent subscribers.
- 2.63 In short, while the GMPCS authorization permits the provision of public telecommunication services (Public Telephony and Public Internet), the Commercial VSAT CUG authorization permits the provision of non-public non-captive services (data connectivity within a CUG). The two authorizations have, generally, mutually exclusive services under their respective scopes.
- 2.64 In short, for satellite-based telecommunication services, there is no single authorisation, under the extant licensing regime, that permits an authorised entity to provide an access to public telecommunication networks as well as data connectivity to enterprises. It is noteworthy that under the extant licensing regime, Access Service authorization permits the authorized entity to provide not only access to public telecommunication networks but also leased circuits within its service area.
- 2.65 Keeping the above in view, it requires to be deliberated as to whether the scopes of GMPCS authorization and Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorization should be

merged under a single satellite-based telecommunication service authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. The satellite-based telecommunication service authorisation may have, within its scope, the permission to, *inter-alia*, provide satellite-based access to Public Telephony Service and Public Internet Service as well as satellite-based data connectivity to enterprises. This could prove to be operationally more efficient for the service providers.

2.66 In this background, the Authority solicits views of stakeholders on the following set of questions:

Issues for consultation:

Q11. Whether there is need for merging the scopes of the extant GMPCS authorization and Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorization into a single authorisation namely Satellite-based Telecommunication Service authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q12. In case it is decided to merge the scopes of the extant GMPCS authorization and Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorization into a single authorisation namely Satellite-based Telecommunication Service authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, -

(a) What should be the scope of service under the proposed Satellite-based Telecommunication Service authorisation?

(b) What should be terms and conditions (technical, operational, security related, etc.) that should be made applicable on the proposed Satellite-based Telecommunication Service authorisation?

(c) Any other suggestion to protect the reasonable interests of other authorised entities upon the introduction of such an authorisation?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

(3) Possibility of clubbing the scopes of the extant IP-I registration and DCIP authorization (as recommended by TRAI) under a single authorisation

- 2.67 The existing framework for regulating the telecom infrastructure providers in India is prescribed in the guidelines for 'Registration of Infrastructure Provider Category-I' issued by DoT. As per the Guidelines, IPs-I can provide assets such as Dark fibers, Right of Way, Duct space, and Towers on lease/rent-out/sale basis to the licensees of the telecom services on mutually agreed terms and conditions.
- 2.68 The DoT, through its letter dated 09.03.2009 clarified that the scope of IP-I registration, which was till then limited to passive infrastructure, has been enhanced to cover the active infrastructure, if this active infrastructure is provided on behalf of the licensees, i.e. they can create active infrastructure limited to antenna, feeder cable, Node B, Radio Access Network (RAN) and transmission system for and on behalf of UASL/CMSP licensees. Further, through its letter dated 28.11.2016, DoT clarified that "*IP-I providers are not permitted to own and share active infrastructure. The IP-I providers can only install the active elements (limited to antenna, feeder cable, Node B, Radio Access Network (RAN) and transmission media only) on behalf of Telecom licensees i.e. these elements should be owned by the companies who have been issued license under Section 4 of Telegraph Act, 1885.*"
- 2.69 Meanwhile, on 12.04.2021 TRAI issued Recommendations on Telecommunications Infrastructure Policy. These recommendations covered various infrastructure elements including Towers, In Building Solution (IBS), Distributed Antenna System (DAS), etc. Through these recommendations, the Authority recommended, *inter alia*, as below: *Infrastructure providers should be permitted to install and share active network limited to antenna, feeder cable, Node B, Radio Access Network (RAN) and transmission system, subject to the condition that they are brought under the Unified Licensing regime as recommended by this Authority in May 2010.*

2.70 On 13.03.2020, TRAI issued its recommendations on 'Enhancement of Scope of Infrastructure Providers Category-I (IP-I) Registration'. In these recommendations, the Authority recommended, *inter-alia*, as below: -

The scope of Infrastructure Providers Category – I (IP-I) Registration should be expanded to satisfy the present need for telegraph in the country.

The expanded scope of the IP-I registration should include to own, establish, maintain, and work all such infrastructure items, equipment, and systems which are required for establishing Wireline Access Network, Radio Access Network (RAN), and Transmission Links. However, it shall not include core network elements such as Switch, MSC, HLR, IN etc. The scope of the IP-I Registration should include, but not limited to, Right of Way, Duct Space, Optical Fiber, Tower, Feeder cable, Antenna, Base Station, In-Building Solution (IBS), Distributed Antenna System (DAS), etc. within any part of India.

2.71 Subsequently, the DoT, through its letter dated 11.08.2022 informed, *inter-alia*, as below:

"The undersigned has been directed to refer to TRAI Recommendations dated 13.03.2020 on the subject "Enhancement of Scope of Infrastructure Providers Category-1 (IP-I) Registration" and subsequent communications held in this regard as mentioned above.

2. The aforesaid recommendations have been examined in the Department and legal advice from AS&LA(T) DoT was also taken on this issue who inter-alia opined that:

** "Active Infrastructure can be provided only by Telecom Licensees.*

IP-I registration holders cannot be allowed to provide active infrastructure under their IP-I registration, unless they are shifted to licensing regime."

3. After detailed deliberations/ examination, it has been decided by DoT that the aforesaid TRAI Recommendations can't be accepted.

4. However, the competent authority has decided for creation of a new category of license namely Telecom Infrastructure License' (TIL). Such licensees may be permitted to establish, maintain and work all equipment for wireline access, radio access and transmission links, except the core equipment and holding of spectrum. Further, the department is of the view that IP-I registration holders (existing/ new) may also be permitted to obtain Telecom Infrastructure License on voluntary basis.

5. TRAI is requested to give recommendations for the terms and conditions of such license, applicable license fee etc. under section 11(1)(a) of the TRAI Act 1997."

2.72 In view of the DoT's letter dated 11.08.2022, TRAI submitted its recommendations on 'Introduction of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) Authorization under Unified License (UL)' dated 08.08.2022.

2.73 It is observed that the Section 1(s) and Section 3(1) of the Telecommunication Act, 2023 provides, *inter-alia*, as below:

Section 1 (s): "telecommunication network" means a system or series of systems of telecommunication equipment or infrastructure, including terrestrial or satellite networks or submarine networks, or a combination of such networks, used or intended to be used for providing telecommunication services, but does not include such telecommunication equipment as notified by the Central Government;"

Section 3 (1): "Any person intending to—

(a) provide telecommunication services;

(b) establish, operate, maintain or expand telecommunication network; or

(c) possess radio equipment,

shall obtain an authorisation from the Central Government, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees or charges, as may be prescribed."

2.74 Through Section 1(s) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, "infrastructure" has been included in the definition of "telecommunication network". Section 3(1) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides that any person intending to establish, operate, maintain or expand telecommunication network shall obtain an authorisation from the Central Government. In essence, the IP-1, which was so far governed through the registration, will be governed through an authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. At a broad level, the instrument of authorisation of both IP-I and DCIP (as recommended by TRAI) will be the same (i.e. establishing, operating, maintaining and expanding telecommunication network) under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

Therefore, a case for clubbing the scopes of IP-I and DCIP (as recommended by TRAI) into a single authorisation under the new authorisation framework needs to be explored.

2.75 In this background, the Authority solicits the views of stakeholders on the following set of questions:

Issues for Consultation:

Q13. Whether there is a need for merging the scopes of the extant Infrastructure Provider-I (IP-I) and DCIP authorization (as recommended by TRAI) into a single authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q14. In case it is decided to merge the scopes of the extant IP-I and DCIP (as recommended by TRAI) into a single authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, -

(a) What should be the scope under the proposed authorisation?

(b) What terms and conditions should be made applicable to the proposed authorisation?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

(4) Possibility of clubbing the scopes under other authorisations

2.76 In the year 2013, when the Unified Licensing regime was introduced in the country, one of the authorisations under the Unified License was for Resale of IPLC⁴⁶ Service. This authorization permitted the authorization holder to provide end-to-end IPLCs between India and the country of destination by obtaining the international bandwidth from the licensed ILD service providers. In the year 2016, when the Unified License for VNO

⁴⁶ International Private Leased Circuit

regime was introduced in the country, all the authorisations available under Unified License were created under the Unified License for VNO as well, including ILD Service authorization and Resale of IPLC Service authorization. As the scope of the Resale of IPLC Service authorization under the newly introduced Unified License for VNO regime was similar to the scope of the Resale of IPLC Service authorization under Unified License regime, the Resale of IPLC authorization under Unified License was removed thereafter.

- 2.77 Under the extant Unified License for VNO regime, the ILD authorisation permits the authorized entity to provide international calling cards, while the Resale of IPLC Service permits the authorized entity to provide end-to-end IPLC between India and the country of destination by obtaining the international bandwidth from the licensed ILDOs. With a view to bring operational efficiency, there is a possibility of merging the scopes of these authorizations under a single authorisation.
- 2.78 Further, under the extant licensing framework, there are two separate registrations in M2M ecosystem namely, 'M2M Service Provider registration' and 'WPAN/ WLAN Connectivity Provider registration'. Under the M2M Service Provider registration, the registrant is permitted to provide M2M services to third parties using telecom resources of the authorized telecom licensees. On the other hand, under the WPAN/ WLAN Connectivity Provider registration, the registrant is permitted to use WPAN/ WLAN technologies for providing M2M connectivity for commercial purposes, operating in unlicensed spectrum. It has been noticed that most of the entities have acquired both the registrations. Keeping the above in view, *prima facie*, it appears that the scopes of the extant M2M Service Provider registration and WPAN/ WLAN Connectivity Provider registration should be merged under a single authorisation namely, M2M Service Provider authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.
- 2.79 In addition to the above, the clubbing of the scopes of some other authorisations under the extant licensing regime into a single authorisation under the Telecommunication Act, 2023, may also be desirable. Besides, certain authorizations under the extant licensing regime could have become redundant and therefore, it may be preferable to not include such authorisations under the Telecommunication Act, 2023.

2.80 In this background, the Authority solicits the views of stakeholders on the following set of questions:

Issues for Consultation:

Q15. Whether there is a need for clubbing the scopes of some of the other authorisations into a single authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 for bringing more efficiency in the operations? If yes, in your opinion, the scopes of which authorisations should be clubbed together? For each of such proposed (resultant) authorisations, -

(a) What should be the scope of the service?

(b) What should be the service area?

(c) What terms and conditions (technical, operational, security, etc.) should be made applicable?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justification.

Q16. Whether there a need for removing some of the existing authorizations, which may have become redundant? If yes, kindly provide the details with justification.

(5) Possibility of introducing new authorisations under the new authorisation framework

2.81 Apart from the above, there could be a need for the introduction of certain new authorisations or a sub-category of an extant authorisation. For instance, under the extant licensing regime, Access Service authorization was granted on telecom circle/ Metro area level. There was no Access Service authorization at district or Secondary Switching Area (SSA) level. The need for a national level unified service authorisation for the provision of end-to-end telecommunication services under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 is already being examined through the Question No....

above. Therefore, the need for a district level Access Service authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 may also be examined.

2.82 It is noteworthy that there is an authorisation for Access Service Category B under the extant UL (VNO) regime. The service area of Access Service Category B authorization is the geographical area of a district of a State/ Union Territory. It is noted that consumers generally demand wireline telephony and Broadband Internet in a bundled manner. While the extant Unified License provides Internet Service Provider (ISP) category 'C' to operate in a smaller geography, there is no such enablement for wireline or access services. In case a sub-category of authorisation for Access service with a smaller geographical area, which may be similar to the service area for Access Service Category B under UL (VNO) regime, is introduced, it may encourage the entry of smaller players in the market for the provision of wireline and Internet services, in a bundled manner. Further, it may be recalled that the Authority, through the Recommendations⁴⁷ on 'Telecommunication Infrastructure Sharing, Spectrum Sharing and Spectrum Leasing' dated 24.04.2024, has recommended that spectrum leasing should be permitted among Access Service providers for a specified geographical area which could be smaller than the area of the telecom circle. Therefore, *prima facie*, there could be a possibility of introducing a sub-category of authorisation for Access service with a smaller geographical area, which may be similar to the service area for Access Service Category B under UL (VNO) regime. This could enable an entity to take access service authorisation for a district, take spectrum on lease from an entity holding access spectrum in the telecom circle/ Metro area, and provide access services in its authorised service area (i.e. district).

2.83 Further, in the recent past, TRAI has made recommendations for the introduction of the following licenses/ authorisations/ registration, which are under the consideration of the DoT and a decision is yet to be taken:

(a) Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) Authorization

⁴⁷ Source: https://traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_24042024.pdf

- (b) IXP Authorization
- (c) Content Delivery Network (CDN) Registration
- (d) Satellite Earth Station Gateway License.

The scope of services under the above authorizations, as recommended by TRAI, are available in **Annexure 2.4**. Authorisations for the above services may also be required to be included in the authorisation framework under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, subject to the approval of the Government.

2.84 In addition, based on the references received from the Government, TRAI has held comprehensive consultations with stakeholders on the following issues:

- (a) Data Communication Services Between Aircraft and Ground Stations Provided by Organizations Other Than Airports Authority of India
- (b) Review of Terms and Conditions of PMRTS and CMRTS Licenses
- (c) Connectivity to Access Service VNOs from more than one NSO.

Based on the outcome of the consultation processes in respect of the above issues, necessary changes could be incorporated in the new authorisation framework under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

2.85 In this background, the Authority solicits the views of stakeholders on the following set of questions:

Issues for Consultation:

Q17. Whether there is a need for introducing certain new authorisations or sub-categories of authorisations under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? If yes, -

- (a) For which type of services, new authorisations or sub-categories of authorisations should be introduced?**
- (b) What should be the respective scopes of such authorisations?**
- (c) What should be the respective service areas for such authorisations?**

(d) What terms and conditions (general, technical, operational, Security, etc.) should be made applicable for such authorisations? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

2.86 For ease of understanding, the proposed framework for the flagship service authorisations, as discussed in the above sections, can be seen at a glance in the following table.

S. No.	Proposed name of service authorisation	Type of Services permitted under the authorisation			Service Area Category @		
		Public Telephony Service	Public Internet Service	Private Leased circuit/ VPN	A	B	C
1	Unified service	✓	✓	✓	✓		
2	Access Service	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
3	Internet Service		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Long Distance Service	✓*		✓	✓		
5	Satellite-based Telecommunication Service	✓	✓	✓	✓		

* to the extent of carriage of switched bearer telecommunication traffic

@ The Service Area categories could be defined in a manner similar to the categorization of Service Area in the Unified License and Unified License for VNO: Category A: National level (Pan India), Category B: Telecom Circle/ Metro area and Category C: SSA/ District

2.87 In addition to the flagship service authorisations mentioned above, service authorisations would be available for other services as mentioned in the DoT's reference

dated 21.06.2024. Further, new authorisations may be introduced as indicated in para 2.83 and para 2.84 above.

H. Terms and Conditions of the Authorisations Under the new Framework

2.88 Through the reference dated 21.06.2024, the DoT has requested the Authority to provide its recommendations on the terms and conditions including fees and charges for authorisations to provide telecommunication services as per the provisions of the Telecommunications Act 2023.

2.89 As already mentioned in an earlier section, as per the extant licensing framework, Schedule to the Unified License Agreement contains the terms and conditions under the Unified License, and Unified License for VNO in two parts (Part-I and Part-II). The terms and conditions contained in Part-I are to be applicable for all services provided under the license unless specified otherwise. Part-II consists of the terms and conditions specific to the respective service authorization, which were in addition to the terms and conditions contained in Part-I.

2.90 Part-I of the extant Unified License consists of seven chapters on General Conditions, Commercial Conditions, Financial Conditions, Technical Conditions, Operating Conditions, Security Conditions, and Spectrum allotment and use. The broad topics on which conditions are contained under each chapter are indicated below:

Chapter of Unified License	Broad topics on which conditions were laid down in the Chapter
General Conditions	Ownership of the Licensee Company, Scope of the License, Duration of License, Renewal of License, Modifications in the Terms and Conditions of License, Restrictions on 'Transfer of License', Provision of Service,

	<p>Delivery of Service, Requirement to furnish information, Penalty, Suspension, Surrender, Termination/ Revocation of License, Actions pursuant to Termination of License, Force-Majeure, Set Off, Way Leave, Dispute Settlement, Other Conditions</p>
Commercial Conditions	Tariffs
Financial Conditions	<p>Fees payable, Definition of 'Adjusted Gross Revenue', Schedule of payment of Annual License Fees and other dues, Bank Guarantees, Preparation of accounts</p>
Technical Conditions	<p>Technical conditions including requisite monitoring/ interception facilities, Compliance to Directions/ Instructions including EMF Rules, Standards, Engineering details, Network Interconnection, Interface, Quality of Service</p>
Operating Conditions	<p>Subscriber Registration and provision of service, Subscriber Terminals, Obligations imposed on the Licensee, Sharing of infrastructure, Inspection and Testing of Installations, Right to inspect,</p>

	Location of Network Elements, Confidentiality of information, Prohibition of certain Activities by the Licensee
Security Conditions	Security conditions including equipment from trusted source, Record of operation and maintenance, Record of supply chain, Record of all software updates and changes, Penal provisions, Subscriber verification, Maintenance of all commercial records/ CDR/ EDR/ IPDR, Calling Line Identification (CLI), Application of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885
Spectrum allotment and use	Right to use the spectrum, Frequency assignment, Limit of Cap for spectrum holding

2.91 Part-II of the Unified License consists of nine chapters on Access Service, Internet Service, NLD Service, ILD Service, GMPCS Service, PMRTS Service, Commercial VSAT CUG Service, Audio Conferencing/ Audiotext/ Voice Mail Service, and M2M Service. These chapters contain the terms and conditions specific to the respective service authorizations under similar heads as indicated above.

2.92 The extant Unified License for VNO has all the service authorizations as contained in the Unified License except the authorization for Audio Conferencing/ Audiotext/ Voice Mail Service. Further, UL (VNO) has two additional authorizations on Resale of International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC) Service, and Access Service Category B. Part-I of the extant Unified License for VNO consists of seven chapters on General Conditions, Commercial Conditions, Financial Conditions, Technical Conditions, Operating Conditions, Security Conditions, and Spectrum allotment and use. The broad topics on which conditions are contained under each chapter are indicated below:

Chapter of Unified License for VNO	Broad topics on which conditions were laid down in the Chapter
General Conditions	Ownership of the Licensee Company, Scope of the License, Duration of License, Renewal of License, Modifications in the Terms and Conditions of License, Restrictions on 'Transfer of License', Provision of Service, Delivery of Service (Service to subscriber), Requirement to furnish information, Penalty, Suspension, Surrender, Termination/ Revocation of License, Exit from Service Delivery (Business by a VNO) Actions pursuant to Revocation of License, Force-Majeure, Set Off, Way Leave, Dispute Settlement, Other Conditions
Commercial Conditions	Tariffs
Financial Conditions	Fees Paid/Payable, Entry Fee License Fee Definition of 'Gross Revenue, Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR)' and 'Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)', Schedule of payment of Annual License Fee, Spectrum Usage Charges and other dues, Bank Guarantees, Performance Bank Guarantee, Financial Bank Guarantee,

	Preparation of accounts
Technical Conditions	Technical conditions Compliance to Directions/ Instructions, The Applicable System, Engineering Details, Interface, Quality of Service
Operating Conditions	Subscriber Registration and Provision of service, The Subscriber Terminals, Obligations imposed on the Licensee, Sharing of infrastructure, Inspection and Testing of Installations, Right to inspect, Location of Network Elements, Confidentiality of information, Prohibition of certain Activities by the Licensee
Security Conditions	Security Conditions Application of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885
Spectrum allotment and use	-

2.93 For granting authorizations to provide services under the extant Unified License, the Government has laid down the Guidelines for Grant of Unified License. The broad provisions contained in the Guidelines for Grant of Unified License include the following:

- a) General conditions including eligibility conditions, process for application etc.
- b) Entry Fee
- c) License Fee
- d) Terms of License including, non-exclusivity, validity period, renewal conditions
- e) Restrictions on holding equity in other companies in the event of holding access spectrum
- f) Provision of Telecommunication services for using satellite media
- g) Security conditions

- h) Migration/ Renewal of existing licenses
- i) Provision that after issue of the guidelines, no other license for any of the services covered in the UL shall be issued/extended/renewed.
- j) Right of Licensor to modify the guidelines and terms and conditions of the License, in public interest or in the interest of the security of the State or for proper conduct of the telegraphs.

2.94 For granting authorizations to provide services under the extant UL (VNO), the Government has laid down the Guidelines for Grant of UL (VNO). The broad provisions contained in the Guidelines for Grant of UL (VNO) include the following aspects:

- a) General conditions including eligibility conditions, process for application, restriction etc.
- b) Financial Conditions including Entry Fee, License Fee and Bank Guarantees
- c) Terms of License including, non-exclusivity, validity period, renewal conditions
- d) Restrictions on holding equity in other companies in the event of holding access spectrum
- e) Security conditions
- f) Right of Licensor to modify the guidelines and terms and conditions of the License, in public interest or in the interest of the security of the State or for proper conduct of the telegraphs.

2.95 As mentioned in an earlier section, in addition to the Unified License and Unified License for VNO, the Government granted licenses for a few other services on a standalone basis, under different terminologies like authorisation, license, registration, no objection certificate etc. as listed below:

- (a) Captive Mobile Radio Trunking Service (CMRTS) License
- (b) Captive VSAT CUG License
- (c) Mobile Number Portability (MNP) Service Provider License
- (d) Captive Non Public Network (CNP) License
- (e) Authorization to provide In-flight and Maritime Connectivity (IFMC) service
- (f) Infrastructure Provider (IP-I) Registration
- (g) M2M Service Provider registration

- (h) Wireless Private Area Network/ Wireless Local Area Network (WPAN/ WLAN) Connectivity Providers Registration
- (i) Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM WANI) Service Registration
- (j) No Objection Certificate (NOC) for sale/rent of International Roaming SIM Cards
- (k) Captive Authorisations (on case-to-case basis)

2.96 Similar to the Unified License and Unified License for VNO, the standalone licenses are also governed by the guidelines for the grant of respective licenses. The license agreements contain the terms and conditions of the respective licenses.

2.97 It is noteworthy that Section 3(1) of the Telecommunication Act 2023 provides that any person intending to (a) provide telecommunication services; (b) establish, operate, maintain, or expand telecommunication network; or (c) possess radio equipment, shall obtain an authorisation from the Central Government, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees or charges, as may be prescribed. Section 3(2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides that the Central Government may while making rules under sub-section (1) provide for different terms and conditions of authorisation for different types of telecommunication services, telecommunication network or radio equipment.

2.98 In essence, the Telecommunication Act, 2023 envisages, *inter-alia*, that (a) the rules made under the Act will specify terms and conditions under various authorisations to be granted under the Act, and (b) the terms and conditions could be different for different authorisations.

2.99 In the background Note annexed to the reference dated 21.06.2024, the DoT has drawn attention to the provisions of the clauses 3(1)(a), 3(2), 3(5) and 3(6) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and has stated that many other sections, such as sections 4 to 9, 19 to 24, 28 to 42, 44, 45, 49 and 55 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 may have either direct or indirect linkages with the terms and conditions of the authorisation for providing telecommunication services.

2.100 It is noted that the sections specifically mentioned by the DoT in the background note annexed to the reference relate to following aspects:

Section No. of the Telecommunications Act, 2023	Broad topic	Sub-topics
3(1)(a)	Powers of Authorisation	Requirement of authorisation for providing Telecommunication Services
3 (2)		Terms and conditions of authorisation
3 (5)		Merger and demerger of authorisations
3 (6)		Continuation of operations under the existing licenses and provision for migration of existing licenses to authorisations under the new Act
4	Powers of assignment of spectrum	Assignment of spectrum
5		Re-farming and harmonisation
6		Technology neutral use of spectrum
7		Optimal utilization of spectrum
8		Establishment of monitoring and enforcement mechanism
9		No refund of fess on suspension, curtailment, revocation or variation of authorisation or assignment
19	Standards	Power to notify standards
20	Public safety	Provisions for public emergency or public safety
21	National security and Protection of telecommunication Networks	Measures for national security, etc.
22		Protection of telecommunication network and telecommunication services
23		Power to give directions
24	Digital Bharat Nidhi	Establishment of Digital Bharat Nidhi

28	Protection of users	Measures for protection of users
29		Duty of users
30		Dispute resolution mechanism to redress user grievances
31	Adjudication of certain contraventions	Definitions of terms used in the Chapter
32		Breach of terms and conditions of authorisation or assignment
33		Contraventions of Act
34		Voluntary undertaking for contraventions
35		Adjudicating Officer
36		Designated Appeals Committee
37		Process to be followed by Adjudicating Officer and Designated Appeals Committee
38		Enforcement
39		Appeals on matters relating to section 32
40		Appeals on matters relating to section 33
41		Jurisdiction of civil court barred
42	Offences	General provisions relating to offences
44		Supply of information to authorized Officers
45	Miscellaneous	Creation of security interests
49		Penalties not to affect other liabilities
55		Rights in Continental Shelf and Exclusive Economic Zone.

[For detail of the above provisions, the Annexure 1.2 of this consultation paper may kindly be referred to.]

2.101 In the background note annexed to the reference dated 21.06.2024, the DoT has also stated that simplification/ merger/ rationalization of the terms and conditions to improve Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) may also be examined.

2.102 *Prima facie*, there is a need for reviewing all types of terms and conditions under the extant licenses and authorisations keeping in view the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and for improving EoDB in the telecommunication sector. For illustration, a few possible cases are mentioned in the succeeding paragraphs.

(1) IFMC

2.103 In December 2018, the Government of India notified Flight and Maritime Connectivity Rules, 2018. At that time, none of the entities held GMPCS authorization. Therefore, in respect of the provision of data service by the companies not holding a License under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, it was mentioned that such companies should enter into a commercial agreement with at least one licensee of (i) access service or ISP category A; and (ii) commercial VSAT CUG service or NLD service, having satellite gateway earth station within the service area of partnering licensee in case connectivity through satellite is used. As GMPCS authorizations have already been granted in the country, *prima facie*, there is a need for including GMPCS (or the new authorisation for satellite-based telecommunication services) along with Commercial VSAT CUG service as a licensee with whom IFMC provider should enter into a commercial agreement with for the provision of data services.

2.104 As per the provisions on the 'Applicability' under the Flight and Maritime Connectivity Rules, 2018, "[t]he IFMC service provider, shall establish, maintain and work telegraph to provide wireless voice or data or both type of telegraph messages on ships within Indian territorial waters and on aircraft within or above India or Indian territorial waters."

2.105 In this regard, it is worth noting that Section 55 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides as below:

"55. The privilege of the Central Government to grant authorisations or assignment under this Act in the Continental Shelf and the Exclusive Economic Zone of India and

the rights of an authorised entity or assignee, as the case may be, shall be subject to the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones Act, 1976, and applicable international laws as accepted and ratified by India.”

2.106 The provisions contained in Section 55 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, may have to be suitably incorporated in relevant authorisations including IFMC authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

(2) VNO

2.107 Virtual Network Operators (VNOs) were permitted in India in 2016. VNOs are Service Delivery Operators (SDOs) treated as an extension of network service operators (NSOs), who do not own the underlying core network(s), i.e., VNOs are not allowed to install equipment interconnecting with the network of other NSOs. No spectrum is assigned to VNOs. As per the existing framework, VNOs are allowed to have agreements with more than one NSO for all services other than Access Service and such services which need numbering and unique identity of the customer. For wireline access services through Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange (EPABX), the connectivity of different NSOs at different EPABX is allowed, however, the connectivity with more than one NSOs at a particular EPABX is not permitted.

2.108 The extant UL (VNO) license for service delivery is quite successful in respect of some of the authorizations such as the ISP Category-C authorization, ISP Category B authorization, Access Service Category B, and NLD Service authorization. However, the UL (VNO) licensing regime in respect of Access Services (with Telecom Circle/ Metro area as the service area) has not been equally successful. In a nutshell, it may not be incorrect to say that Access Service, through VNOs, has not proliferated well in the country.

2.109 As per the extant licensing regime, the authorisations under Unified License for VNO majorly contain similar terms and conditions as prescribed in respective authorisations under Unified License. Globally, the Service Delivery Operator (SDO) layer is usually kept

at the level of light-touch regulation. Therefore, there could be a need to make the terms and conditions applicable for VNOs lighter in order to encourage service innovations.

2.110 Further, TRAI has already released a consultation paper on 'Connectivity to access service VNOs from more than one NSO' on 23.02.2024 to deliberate on the need for VNOs to parent with multiple NSOs for access services in the following conditions:

- (a) When an Access Service VNO wants to take connectivity from a NSO for wireline services and another NSO for wireless services (e.g. a case when Access Service VNO takes connectivity from a NSO who is providing only wireline services in that area then such VNO has no option for providing wireless services in that area due to existing restrictions.)
- (b) Access Service VNOs who intend to provide wireline services only, may require to take connectivity from more than one NSOs. For example, a case, when an Access Service VNO takes connectivity from a NSO for wireline services, but that NSO may not have services in some other areas within the LSA where the VNO wants to provide its services. In such case, the VNO may be permitted to take connectivity from more than one NSOs for wireline service.

2.111 Apart from the above, there may be a need to deliberate as to whether the Access Service VNOs should be permitted to parent with multiple NSOs holding Access Service authorisation for providing wireless access service.

2.112 An entity holding Access Service authorization under Unified License can also provide Internet Service in its service area. However, an entity holding Internet Service authorization under Unified License (VNO) is permitted to parent only to the entity holding Internet Service authorization under Unified License. One view could be that for the provision of Internet Services, the VNOs for Internet Service should also be permitted to parent with the entity holding Access Service authorisation. Likewise, in case it is decided to create a separate unified service authorisation for the provision of end-to-end telecommunication services, VNOs of various services could be allowed to parent with such unified service providers. In essence, *prima facie*, it appears desirable

to permit service-specific parenting of VNOs in place of the extant practice of permitting authorisation-specific parenting.

(3) Ownership of Network and Equipment by Authorised Entity

2.113 The terms and conditions of the extant Unified License prescribe that the licensee shall be responsible for owning the applicable systems for providing the services authorised under the license agreement. In this regard, the relevant clauses, contained in Chapter-I of the Unified License, are reproduced below:

"2.2 (v) It is obligatory upon the Licensee to provide the services by establishing a state-of-the-art digital network.

2.4 Licensee shall make its own arrangements for all infrastructure involved in providing the service and shall be solely responsible for the installation, networking, operation and commissioning of necessary infrastructure, equipment and systems, treatment of subscriber complaints, issue of bills to its subscribers, collection of revenue, attending to claims and damages arising out of its operations etc. However, the Licensee may share the infrastructure as permitted under the scope of respective service authorization in PART-II of the Schedule to the License Agreement or as per the directions/instructions issued by the Licensor from time to time.

7. Provision of Service: The Licensee shall be responsible for, and is authorized to own, install, test and commission all the Applicable systems for providing the Service authorized under this License agreement. "

2.114 Further, in Chapter-VI (Security Conditions) of the extant Unified License, the following clause confers a right upon the Licensor to take over the service, equipment, and networks of the licensee under certain situations:

"39.16 Licensor shall have the right to take over the Service, equipment and networks of the Licensee (either in part or in whole of the Service Area) in case any directions are issued in the public interest by the Government of India in the event of a National emergency / war or low intensity conflict or any other eventuality. Any specific orders or directions from the Government of India issued under such conditions shall be applicable to the Licensee and shall be strictly complied with."

2.115 With the technological developments occurring at a very fast pace in the telecommunications sector, the virtualization of networks and equipment is taking place and the same is now possible for telecom networks also. Network virtualization is rewriting the rules for the way services are delivered from the software-defined data center to the cloud, to the edge etc. This approach moves networks from static, inflexible, and hard-wired to dynamic, agile, software-defined and optimized.

2.116 Furthermore, infrastructure sharing is being resorted to by the service providers which includes active infrastructure sharing also, wherein the equipment is owned by one licensee, and it is shared by other licensee(s). In view of the above, it may be desirable to deliberate upon the requirement of ownership of equipment by the service providers as prescribed in the extant Unified License.

(4) Authorisation for PM-WANI

2.117 In order to leverage public Wi-Fi network for delivery of broadband services, PM-WANI ecosystem was created by the Government to facilitate the rolling out of a Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) infrastructure with the broadband services being provided under distributed architecture and unbundling of infrastructure to improve performance by different players under the PM-WANI eco system.

2.118 Under the distributed architecture and unbundling of functions, the WANI eco-system is operated by different players as outlined below:

- (a) Public Data Office (PDO): To establish, maintain, and operate only WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points and deliver broadband services to subscribers.

- (b) Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA): As an aggregator of PDOs and perform the functions relating to Authorization and Accounting.
- (c) App Provider: To develop an App to register users and discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the nearby area and display the same within the App for accessing the internet service.
- (d) Central Registry: To maintain, in accordance with the WANI architecture and specifications, the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs. To begin with, the Central Registry is maintained by C-DoT.

2.119 WANI ensures the interworking among systems and software applications used by these distributed entities i.e. PDOA, PDO, App Provider, and Central Registry.

2.120 In the NDCP 2018, under the mission of connecting India, for creating a robust digital communication infrastructure, one of the goals for 2022 was to enable deployment of public Wi-Fi Hotspots, and to reach 5 million by 2020 and 10 million by 2022. For this, one of the strategies was for establishing a 'National Broadband Mission – Rashtriya Broadband Abhiyan' to secure universal broadband access. Under this, for 'NagarNet' was for establishing 1 million public Wi-Fi Hotspots in urban areas and for 'JanWiFi' was for establishing 2 million Wi-Fi Hotspots in rural areas.

2.121 As on 04.07.2024, a total 1,99,935 numbers of Wi-Fi hotspots have been established under PM-WANI ecosystem. To enhance the number of Wi-Fi hotspots and to speed-up the establishment of Wi-Fi hotspots in the country under the PM-WANI framework, it is desirable to remove the regulatory barriers, if any, for the proliferation of Wi-Fi hotspots.

2.122 Further, as already discussed, the Authority has made recommendations for certain service authorisations (as mentioned in para 2.83 above), which are under the consideration of the DoT and on which the DoT has yet to take a decision. Further, the Authority is already in the process of consultation with stakeholders on some of the authorisations (as mentioned in para 2.84 above), for which the stakeholders have already submitted their comments. However, there may be a need to make some

changes in the terms and conditions under such authorisations in light of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

2.123 The Government has been granting captive authorisations on case to case basis. Generally, such authorisations permit captive users to establish point-to-point connectivity. Considering that these are isolated captive networks, there may be a need to subject such authorisations with a light regulation.

2.124 In this background, the Authority solicits the views of stakeholders on the following set of questions:

Issues for Consultation:

Q18. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and technological/ market developments, -

(a) What changes (additions, deletions, and modifications) are required to be incorporated in the respective scopes of service for each service authorisation with respect to the corresponding authorizations under the extant Unified License?

(b) What changes (additions, deletions, and modifications) are required to be incorporated in the terms and conditions (General, Technical, Operational, Security, etc.) associated with each service authorisation with respect to the corresponding authorizations under the extant Unified License?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q19. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and technological/ market developments, -

(a) What changes (additions, deletions, and modifications) are required to be incorporated in the respective scopes of service for each service authorisation with respect to the corresponding authorizations under the extant Unified License for VNO?

(b) What changes (additions, deletions, and modifications) are required to be incorporated in the terms and conditions (General, Technical, Operational, Security, etc.) associated with each service authorisation with respect to the corresponding authorizations under the extant Unified License for VNO?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q20. Whether the Access Service VNOs should be permitted to parent with multiple NSOs holding Access Service authorisation for providing wireless access service? If yes, what conditions should be included in the authorisation framework to mitigate any possible adverse outcomes of such a provision? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q21. Considering that there are certain overlaps in the set of services under various authorisations, would it be appropriate to permit service-specific parenting of VNOs with Network Service Operators (NSOs) in place of the extant authorisation-specific parenting? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q22. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and technological/ market developments, -

(a) What changes (additions, deletions, and modifications) are required to be incorporated in the respective scopes of service for each service authorisation with respect to the corresponding extant standalone licenses/ authorizations/ registrations/ NOC etc.?

(b) What changes (additions, deletions, and modifications) are required to be incorporated in the terms and conditions (General, Technical, Operational, Security, etc.) associated with each service authorisation with respect to the corresponding extant standalone licenses/ authorizations/ registrations/ NOC etc.?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q23. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and market developments, whether there is a need to make some changes in the respective scopes and terms and conditions associated with the following service authorisations, recently recommended by TRAI:

- (a) Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) Authorization (under Unified License)**
- (b) IXP Authorization (under Unified License)**
- (c) Content Delivery Network (CDN) Registration**
- (d) Satellite Earth Station Gateway (SESG) License**

If yes, kindly provide a detailed response with justifications in respect of each of the above authorisations.

Q24. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and market developments, any further inputs on the following issues under consultation, may be provided with detailed justifications:

- (a) Data Communication Services Between Aircraft and Ground Stations Provided by Organizations Other Than Airports Authority of India;**
- (b) Review of Terms and Conditions of PMRTS and CMRTS Licenses; and**
- (c) Connectivity to Access Service VNOs from more than one NSO.**

Q25. Whether there is a need for introducing any changes in the authorisation framework to improve the ease of doing business? If yes, kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q26. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and market/ technological developments, whether there is a need to make some changes in the extant terms and conditions, related to ownership of network and equipment, contained in the extant Unified License? If yes, please provide the details along with justifications.

Q27. Whether any modifications are required to be made in the extant PM-WANI framework to encourage the proliferation of Wi-Fi hotspots in the country? If yes, kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q28. What should be the broad framework including the specific terms and conditions that should be made applicable for captive authorisations, which are issued on a case-to-case basis? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

2.125 In the background note annexed to the reference dated 21.06.2204, the DoT has also stated that the policies/ Acts in related sectors such as Space may have a bearing on the terms and conditions of the service authorisations under the Act. In this regard, it has been observed that the Government of India has formulated the Indian Space Policy-2023 as an overarching, composite, and dynamic framework to implement the reforms in space domain. As per the Indian Space Policy-2023, the Indian National Space Promotion & Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) shall function as an autonomous Government organization, mandated to promote, hand-hold, guide and authorize space activities in the country. For this purpose, IN-SPACe shall periodically issue guidelines and procedures, that would among other things promote ease of doing business.

2.126 The Indian Space Policy-2023 provides that IN-SPACe shall accord authorizations, *inter-alia*, for the following space activities:

- (a) *the establishment and/or operations of space object(s) [which includes communication satellites].*
- (b) *use of Space Objects for communication/broadcast services to or from Indian Territory in coordination with other concerned Departments of Government of India. Use of authorized space object(s):*
 - (i) *for broadcast services shall be governed by the rules, regulations & policies of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB)*
 - (ii) *for telecommunication services shall be governed by the rules, regulations and policies of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications.*

2.127 The Indian Space Policy-2023 further provides that NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), as the Public Sector Undertaking under DoS, shall:

- (a) be responsible for commercialising space technologies and platforms created through public expenditure.*
- (b) manufacture, lease, or procure space components, technologies, platforms and other assets from private or public sector, on sound commercial principles.*
- (c) service the space-based needs of users, whether Government entities or NGEs, on sound commercial principles.*

2.128 Subject to such guidelines/ regulations as prescribed by IN-SPACe, Non-Governmental Entities have also been permitted to offer national and international space-based communication services, through self-owned or procured or leased GSO/ NGSO communication satellites.

2.129 In short, IN-SPACe shall accord authorization for the establishment and/ or operations of space based object(s) (which includes communication satellites). The use of authorized space object(s) for telecommunication services shall be governed by the rules, regulations and policies of DoT.

2.130 It is worth mentioning that the Guidelines for Grant of Unified License issued by the DoT has the following stipulation in respect of the provision of telecommunication services using satellite media:

"In case of provision of services by the Licensee through the satellite media, the Licensee shall abide by the prevalent Government orders, directions, guidelines or regulations on the subject like satellite communication policy, V-SAT policy etc. For use of space segment and setting up of the Earth Station etc., the Licensee shall directly coordinate with and obtain clearance from Network Operations and Control Centre (NOCC), apart from obtaining SACFA clearance. The clearance from other authorities as may be applicable shall also be obtained by the Licensee."

2.131 In view of the foregoing discussion, it requires to be deliberated as to what amendments are required to be incorporated in the terms and conditions of authorisations for providing telecommunications services using satellite-based resources. Accordingly, the Authority solicits the views of stakeholders on the following set of questions:

Issues for Consultation:

Q29. What amendments are required to be incorporated in the terms and conditions of authorisations for providing telecommunications services using satellite-based resources in light of the policy/ Act in the Space Sector? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q30. Whether the provisions of any other Policy/ Act in the related sectors need to be considered while framing terms and conditions for the new authorisation regime? If yes, kindly provide a detailed response with justification.

I. Migration of the existing service licensees to the new authorisation regime

2.132 The DoT, through the background note to the reference dated 21.06.2024, has informed, *inter-alia*, that "*Section 3(6) of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides that a licence, registration, permission, by whatever name called, granted prior to the appointed day under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, in respect of provision of telecommunication services shall be entitled to continue to operate under the terms and conditions and for the duration as specified under such licence or registration or permission, or to migrate to such terms and conditions of the relevant authorisation, as may be prescribed.*"

2.133 It is worth noting that the extant Guidelines for Grant of Unified License also permitted the migration/ renewal of existing licenses. The guidelines stated that "*[i]n order to ensure that the UL Regime covers all existing Licenses, a migration path is offered to the existing licensees to migrate to UL regime. Licenses of any of the existing Telecom*

Service Provider shall be eligible to migrate to UL with any number of additional services.”

2.134 The guidelines also provided the conditions for the migration and a procedure for the migration of existing licensees. The relevant provisions on Migration/ Renewal of existing Licenses under the Guidelines for Grant of Unified License are reproduced below:

“8.2 It would be open for existing Licensees of any Telecom service to migrate to Unified License well before the due date of expiry of existing license. However, it would be mandatory for an existing Licensee to apply for Unified License Regime under following conditions:

a) All the Telecom Service Providers who wish to expand the scope of their license/ service to include any additional service(s) or any licensed area/Service Area(s), shall have to apply for Unified License regime for that authorization. Further, on expiry of any of their current license(s), the Telecom Service Providers shall have to migrate its relevant license(s) to Unified License with relevant authorization at the time of renewal/extension of license and obtain spectrum separately, which is delinked from Unified License, if required.

8.3 The procedure for migration of existing licensees are as follows:-

(i) On migration, Unified License shall be for a period of 20 years from the effective date of UL, irrespective of the validity period of the License already held.

(ii) Entry fee applicable to migration to Unified License shall be equal to entry fee for new Unified License except for Internet Service Provider with BWA spectrum. For migration of ISP with BWA spectrum to UL regime with authorisation of providing access services, which enables it to provide mobile voice services also using BWA spectrum, an additional fee equal to the difference between the entry fee for UASL as per details in Annexure V and entry fee paid for ISP license shall be payable in addition to the entry fee as applicable for new UL.

However, a rebate on pro-rata basis to the Telecom Service Provider in entry fee for migration to UL license with respect to ILD/ NLD/ UL(AS)/ UASL/ CMTS licenses only shall be given as per formulae below:

SL No.	Type of Existing License	Rebate
1	ILD/NLD	Rs 12.5 lakh x No of years remaining for existing NLD/ ILD License validity.
2	UASL/ CMTS in various service area	Rs 5 lakh for each service area except J&K and NE and Rs. 2.5 lakh J&K and NE service area x No of years remaining for existing UL(AS)/UASL.CMTS License validity subject to maximum limit of Rs. 15 crore.

(iii) In respect of other licensees who may opt to migrate to Unified License, pro-rata rebate to the Telecom Service Provider may be given on the Entry Fee paid, if any, by them for obtaining their respective Licenses based on the balance number of years (Part of year shall not be counted). However, no Entry Fee refund shall be made by the Licensor.

(iv) After migration, the terms and conditions of Unified License shall be applicable, however, Roll out obligation and any other relevant liabilities including financial dues and treatment of violations and imposition of penalty thereof, if any, associated with the existing Licenses/spectrum shall remain applicable under the terms of existing license even after migration to Unified License.

(v) In case of an existing Licensee holding spectrum acquired through auction or otherwise under any existing License, migrates to UL, the validity period of the spectrum already held by them shall remain same. e.g. if a Telecom Service Provider was granted a license on 1.1.2006 in Bihar Service Area and was assigned spectrum subsequently, the validity of spectrum held will be till 31.12.2025. On migration to UL on any date, say 01.04.2014, the validity of spectrum held in Bihar (Service Area) shall still remain 31.12.2025 while the validity of UL shall be 31.3.2034.

(vi) Any decision by the Licensor regarding charges payable for holding spectrum shall remain applicable even after migration to UL for the spectrum already held by it.

(vii) Existing licensees who have been allotted spectrum through an administrative process other than auction and who opt to migrate to UL, may be subjected to a charge for any spectrum they hold, as per decision of the Government from time to time.

(viii) For existing licensee migrating to Unified License or renewing the License, the eligibility criteria of net worth as specified in Clause no. 1(x) will not be applicable.

8.4 The Resource, Coverage test certificates issued to existing licensees as a part of compliance to roll-out obligations, extant permissions for deployment for Foreign Nationals and the service authorisations already granted to existing licences whose licences have expired/ are expiring in future, except the spectrum won in the auction, will be reassigned/ revalidated to the respective authorisations under new Unified License for that service areas unless any specific situation requires a review. This shall be subject to realization of charges/ fees for each resource as applicable in conformity with the extant guidelines/ instructions.

Resources shall mean Mobile County Code (MCC), Mobile Network Code (MNC), Access Codes, Signaling Points Codes (SPC), Location Routing Number (LRN), Telemarketers Numbers, and Frequency for Microwave backhaul, Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) clearances from Network Operation and Control Centre (NOCC), Frequencies for Satellite Based Service, Standing Advisory Committee for Frequency Allocation (SACFA) clearances and other administratively assigned frequencies.

8.5 Spectrum sharing and trading would be permitted as per guidelines issued by the Government from time to time.

8.6 The administratively assigned access spectrum may be liberalized as per guidelines issued by the Government from time to time. Administratively allotted spectrum in 800 & 1800 MHz bands refers to the spectrum allotted prior to auction of right to use spectrum in November 2012.”

2.135 The Authority is of the view that it would be desirable to stipulate specific conditions, if any, for the migration of the existing licensees to the new authorisation regime under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the procedure for the migration of the existing licensees to the new authorisation regime.

2.136 In this background, the Authority solicits the views of stakeholders on the following questions:

Issues for Consultation:

Q31. What conditions should be made applicable for the migration of the existing licensees to the new authorisation regime under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q32. What procedure should be followed for the migration of the existing licensees to the new authorisation regime under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

J. Merger, demerger or acquisition, or other forms of restructuring

2.137 Through the background note annexed to the reference dated 21.06.2024, the DoT has informed, *inter-alia*, that "*Section 3(5) of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides that any authorised entity may undertake any merger, demerger or acquisition, or other forms of restructuring, subject to any law for the time being in force and any authorised entity that emerges pursuant to such process, shall comply with the terms and conditions, including fees and charges, applicable to the original authorised entity, and such other terms and conditions, as may be prescribed.*"

2.138 The extant Unified License agreement has the following provision related to restriction on transfer of license:

"6.1 Restrictions on 'Transfer of License': The Licensee shall not, without the prior written consent of the Licensor as described below, either directly or indirectly, assign or transfer this License in any manner whatsoever to a third party or enter into any agreement for sub-License and/or partnership relating to any subject matter of the License to any third party either in whole or in part i.e. no sub-leasing/partnership/third party interest shall be created. For provision of the service by the Licensee, the Licensee may appoint or employ franchisee, agents, distributors and employees.

6.2 The Licensor shall have the right to direct the Licensee to warn, penalize or terminate the services of the franchisee or agent or distributor or employee (servant), after considering any report of conduct or antecedents detrimental to the security of the nation. The decision of the Licensor in this regard shall be final and binding and in any case the Licensee shall bear all liabilities in the matter and keep the Licensor indemnified for all claims, cost, charges or damages in this respect.

6.3 Intra service area mergers and acquisitions as well as transfer of licenses shall be subject to the guidelines issued on the subject from time to time by the Licensor.

6.4 Further, the Licensee may transfer or assign the License Agreement with prior written approval of the Licensor, in the following circumstances, and if otherwise, no compromise in competition occurs in the provisions of Telecom Services:-

(i)(a) When transfer or assignment is requested in accordance with the terms and conditions on fulfillment of procedures of Tripartite Agreement if already executed amongst the Licensor, Licensee and Lenders; or

(i)(b) Whenever amalgamation or restructuring i.e. merger or demerger is sanctioned and approved by the High Court or Tribunal as per the law in force; in accordance with the provisions; more particularly Sections 230 to 233 of Companies Act, 2013; provided that scheme of amalgamation or restructuring is formulated in such a manner that it shall be effective only after the written approval of the Licensor for transfer/merger of Licenses, and

(ii) Prior written consent/ No Objection of the Licensor has been obtained for transfer or merger of Licenses as per applicable guidelines issued from time to time. Further, the transferee/ assignee is fully eligible in accordance with eligibility criteria as applicable for grant of fresh License in that area and show its willingness in writing to comply with

the terms and conditions of the License agreement including past and future roll out obligations as well as to comply with guidelines for transfer/merger of Licenses including for charges as applicable; and

(iii) All the past dues are fully paid till the date of transfer/assignment by the Transferor Company and Transferee Company; and thereafter the transferee company undertakes to pay all future dues inclusive of anything remained unpaid of the past period by the outgoing company. [NOTE: The format of the Tripartite Agreement shall be provided by the Licensor as and when requested by the Licensee and the Tripartite Agreement, if signed, shall become part of this License agreement as annexure.]

2.139 At present, the Transfer and Merger of licenses are governed through the guidelines issued by DoT on the subject 'Guidelines for Transfer/Merger of various categories of Telecommunication service licenses/authorisation under Unified License (UL) on compromises, arrangements and amalgamation of the companies' dated 20.02.2014 (as amended from time to time). Based on a reference received from the DoT, the Authority sent Recommendations on 'Reforming the Guidelines for Transfer/Merger of Telecom Licenses' dated 21.02.2020 to the DoT. The said recommendations are under the consideration of the DoT and are yet to be implemented by the DoT.

2.140 The Authority is of the view that the proposed service authorisation framework under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 should have broad provisions on transfer of authorisations. Such provisions on transfer of authorisations may be included under the General Rules, as already deliberated in para 2.37 above. Once the proposed service authorisation framework is put in place, new guidelines for the transfer/ merger of authorisations under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 can be formulated. The recommendations of the Authority on the new guidelines for transfer/ merger of authorisations may be obtained at that stage.

2.141 In this background, the Authority solicits the views of stakeholders on the following question:

Issue for Consultation:

Q33. Do you agree that new guidelines for the transfer/ merger of authorisations under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 should be formulated after putting in place a framework for the authorisations to be granted under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

K. Civil Penalties for breach of terms and conditions of the authorisations under the Telecommunications Act, 2023

2.142 It is noted that the Section 32 of the Telecommunications Act 2023, provides that –

"32. (1) In case of breach of any of the terms and conditions of authorisation or assignment granted under this Act, the Adjudicating Officer shall, pursuant to an inquiry under the provisions of this Chapter—

(a) pass an order in writing in respect of one or both of the following, namely:—

(i) direct such authorised entity, or assignee to do or abstain from doing any act or thing to prevent such breach or for such compliance;

(ii) impose civil penalties as specified in the Second Schedule; and

(b) make recommendations for the consideration of the Central Government regarding suspension, revocation, or curtailment of the duration of the authorisation or assignment.

(2) The Central Government may, after due consideration of the recommendations of the Adjudicating Officer under clause (b) of sub-section (1), suspend, curtail or revoke the authorisation or assignment, as the case may be, which may be reversed if the substantial violation is remedied to the satisfaction of the Central Government.

(3) While imposing penalties specified in the Second Schedule under this section and section 33, the Adjudicating Officer shall have due regard to the following factors, namely:—

(a) nature, gravity and duration of the contravention, taking into account the scope of the contravention;

- (b) number of persons affected by such contravention, and the level of harm suffered by them;*
- (c) intentional or negligent character of the contravention;*
- (d) repetitive nature of the contravention;*
- (e) action taken by the concerned person to mitigate the contravention, including by providing a voluntary undertaking under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 34;*
- (f) revenue loss caused to the Central Government;*
- (g) any aggravating factors relevant to the circumstances of the case, such as the amount of disproportionate gain or unfair advantage, wherever quantifiable, made as a result of the contravention; and*
- (h) any mitigating factors relevant to the circumstances of the case, such as the timely rectification of the contravention, or steps taken for the avoidance of loss as a result of the contravention.”*

2.143 Further, the second schedule of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides a table depicting graded civil penalties depending on the prescribed categorization, as given below.

Categorisation	Civil Penalty
Severe	Up to Rs. 5 Crore
Major	Up to Rs. 1 Crore
Moderate	Up to Rs. 10 lakh
Minor	Up to Rs. 1 lakh
Non-severe	Written warning

2.144 In view of the above, there could be a need for issuing guidelines to decide on the types of violations which would fall under each category. In this background, the Authority solicits the views of stakeholders on the following questions:

Issues for Consultation:

Q34. Whether there is a need to formulate guidelines for deciding on the types of violations of terms and conditions which would fall under each

category as defined in the Second Schedule of the Telecommunications Act, 2023? If yes, kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q35. Are there any other inputs/ suggestions relevant to the subject? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

2.145 The following chapter examines the issues related to financial conditions.

Chapter-III: Financial Conditions

3.1 This Chapter deals with the financial terms and conditions including fees or charges for various service authorisations under the present UL/ UL (VNO) license regime and other standalone licenses/ registrations/ authorisations/ permissions as detailed at para 2.19 to para 2.30 of Chapter-II.

3.2 The financial aspects relating to equity, net worth, entry fees, bank guarantee, definition of gross revenue, applicable gross revenue, adjusted gross revenue, license fee, spectrum usage charges, application processing fees, and formats for reporting revenue/license (authorisation) fees and related issues, have been covered in this chapter.

A. Service authorisations under the present UL/UL(VNO) licensing regime

3.3 As per the existing UL/UL(VNO) licensing regime, the licensee company is required to pay a one-time, non-refundable application processing fee and entry fee for obtaining a service authorisation under the license. The licensee can also obtain the authorisation for all the services at one time by paying the Entry Fee prescribed under All services.

3.4 The licensee is also required to pay an annual license fee as a percentage of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), which is to be paid in four quarterly instalments during each financial year commencing 1st of April. Further, in case the licensee company obtains spectrum, then the spectrum related charges also become payable. However, in the order dated 21.06.2022 issued by DOT, it has been mentioned that for spectrum acquired through auctions held after 15.09.2021 in different access spectrum bands, no spectrum usage charge (SUC) shall be charged.

3.5 In addition to the above, the licensee is required to submit a Financial Bank Guarantee (FBG) and a Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) separately for each service and service area.

Minimum equity and network

- 3.6 The applicant company is required to have a minimum paid-up equity capital equal to the sum of the paid-up equity capital required for each Service and minimum net worth equal to the sum of the net worth required for each Service opted by the Licensee as per Table 3.1 below. The requirement under the license for the total minimum paid-up equity capital and minimum network is limited to Rs. 25 crore each. The licensee is required to maintain the required minimum paid-up equity during the currency of license.
- 3.7 The licensee is required to declare its paid-up equity capital and submit a compliance report on the 1st day of January of every year to the Licensor, duly certified by Company Secretary or Statutory Auditor and countersigned by a duly authorized Director of the Licensee Company.

Table 3.1
Minimum equity and network

Sl No	Service	UL		UL(VNO)	
		Minimum Equity (Rs. Cr.)	Minimum Network(Rs. Cr.)	Minimum Equity (Rs. Cr.)	Minimum Network (Rs. Cr.)
1	All services	25.000	25.000	10.0	10.0
Service Authorization wise requirements					
1	Access Service (Telecom Circle/ Metro Area)	2.500	2.500	1.0	1.0
2	NLD (National Area)	2.500	2.500	1.000	1.000
3	ILD (National Area)	2.500	2.500	1.000	1.000
4	VSAT (National Area)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	PMRTS (Telecom circle/Metro)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	GMPCS (National Area)	2.500	2.500	1.000	1.000
7	ISP"A"(National Area)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8	ISP "B" (Telecom circle/Metro Area)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9	ISP "C" (SSA)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

10	Audio Conferencing/ Audiotex/Voicemail service	Nil	Nil	-	-
11	Resale of IPLC	-	-	1.250	1.250
12	Access Service Cat B	-	-	-	0.050
13	Machine to Machine 'A' (National Area)	Nil	Nil	Not prescribed	Not prescribed
14	Machine to Machine 'B' (Telecom circle/ Metro Area)	Nil	Nil	Not prescribed	Not prescribed
15	Machine to Machine 'C' (SSA)	Nil	Nil	Not prescribed	Not prescribed

Application Processing Fee

- 3.8 In April 2023, the Department of Telecommunications has amended the application processing fee for various service authorisations under the UL/UL(VNO) license agreement.
- 3.9 The application processing fee of Rs. 10,000/- for each service authorisation and Rs. 1,00,000/- for all the services has been prescribed under the license.

Entry Fees

- 3.10 Under the present UL/UL(VNO)licensing regime, there is a provision of Entry Fees for each service authorisation. Entry fee is the one-time non-refundable fee that a licensee is required to pay for obtaining authorisation under the license.
- 3.11 Department of Telecommunications vide its letter dated 3rd March 2022 sought TRAI's recommendations on 'Rationalization of Entry Fees and Bank Guarantees in Unified License / Unified License (Virtual Network Operators) License. Accordingly, the Authority issued a Consultation Paper on 'Rationalization of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees' on 26th July 2022 and after following an open public consultation process gave its recommendations to DOT on 19.09.2023.

3.12 The following table highlights the present and recommended entry fee for various service authorisations under Unified License agreement:

Table 3.2
Entry fee under UL license: Present vs. Recommended

S. No.	Service	Present Entry Fee (Rs. in cr.)	Recommended Entry Fee (Rs. in cr.)
1	UL (All services)	15.000	Summation of entry fee for individual authorisations
Service Authorisation wise requirements			
1.	Access Service (Telecom Circle /Metro Area)	1.000 (0.5 for NE & J&K)	0.5 (0.25 for NE & J&K)
2.	NLD (National Area)	2.500	0.5
3.	ILD (National Area)	2.500	0.5
4.	VSAT (National Area)	0.300	0.3
5.	PMRTS (Telecom circle/Metro)	0.005	0.002
6.	GMPCS (National Area)	1.000	1.000
7.	ISP "A" (National Area)	0.300	0.1
8.	ISP"B"(Telecom circle/Metro Area)	0.020	0.005 0.0025 (J&K and NE)
9.	ISP"C"(SSA)	0.002	Nil
10.	Audio conferencing/ Audiotex/ Voice mail	0.100	Nil
11.	Machine to Machine 'A' (National Area)	0.300	Nil

12.	Machine to Machine 'B' (Telecom circle/ Metro Area)	0.020	Nil
13.	Machine to Machine 'C' (SSA)	0.002	Nil

3.13 The following table highlights the present and recommended entry fee for various service authorisations under UL-VNO license:

Table 3.3

Entry fee under UL(VNO) license: Present vs. Recommended

S. No.	Service Authorisation(s) (VNO)	Entry Fee (Rs. in crore)	Recommended Entry Fee (Rs. in crore)
1.	UL (VNO-All services)	7.5	Summation of entry fee for individual authorisations
Service Authorisation wise requirements			
1	Access Service (Telecom Circle / Metro Area)	0.5 (0.25 for NE & J&K)	0.125 (0.0625 for NE & J&K)
2	NLD (National Area)	1.250	0.125
3	ILD (National Area)	1.250	0.125
4	VSAT (National Area)	0.150	0.075
5	PMRTS (Telecom circle/Metro)	0.0025	0.001
6	GMPCS (National Area)	0.500	0.125
7	ISP "A" (National Area)	0.150	0.05
8	ISP "B" (Telecom circle/Metro Area)	0.010	0.0025 (0.00125 for J&K and NE)
9	ISP "C" (SSA)	0.001	Nil
10	Resale of IPLC	0.500	0.05
11	Access Service Cat B	0.0165	Nil
12	Machine to Machine 'A' (National Area)	0.150	Nil
13	Machine to Machine 'B' (Telecom circle/ Metro Area)	0.010	Nil
14	Machine to Machine 'C' (SSA)	0.001	Nil

Bank Guarantees

- 3.14 Presently, the licensee company is required to submit two different types of bank guarantees viz. Financial Bank Guarantee and Performance Bank Guarantee.
- 3.15 The Financial Bank Guarantee (FBG) is meant to securitise the liabilities in respect of License Fee and other dues not otherwise securitized, and the Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) is meant to cover any violation of license conditions and to ensure the performance under license agreement.
- 3.16 Regarding bank guarantees for various service authorisations under UL, the Authority vide its Recommendations on 'Rationalization of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees' dated 19.09.2023, recommended the following:
- a. *Financial Bank Guarantee and Performance Bank Guarantee should be merged into a single Bank Guarantee.*
 - b. *This Bank Guarantee should be submitted to securitize the License fee and other dues not otherwise securitized, to cover the violation of license conditions and to ensure the performance under license agreement/regulations including compliance of instructions issued by the Licensor (DoT)/regulator from time to time.*
 - c. *The amount of Bank Guarantee in case of UL should be submitted separately for each service and service area initially before signing the License Agreement or subsequent authorisation of service(s), as the case may be, valid for one year.*
 - d. *For the initial year, the amount of Bank Guarantee should be as prescribed at Table 3.4 given below. For the subsequent years, the amount of Bank Guarantee should be higher of the initial year BG or 20% of the estimated sum payable (of license fee for two quarters and other dues not otherwise securitized).*
 - e. *The Bank Guarantee should be subject to periodic review on six-monthly basis by DoT.*
 - f. *The above provisions should be applicable for existing as well as new entrants.*

3.17 Further, it is mentioned that the term "other dues not otherwise securitized" at point (b) of para 3.16 above, includes the dues arising out of penalties/ financial disincentives imposed by the licensor (DoT)/ regulator (TRAI).

Table 3.4
Merged Bank Guarantee across various authorisations

S. No.	Service Authorisation	Amount of merged BG for the initial year (Rs. in crore)
1	All services	44.000
Service Authorisation wise requirements		
1	Access Service (Telecom Circle / Metro Area)	2.000
2	NLD (National Area)	1.000
3	ILD (National Area)	1.000
4	VSAT (National Area)	0.100
5	PMRTS (Telecom circle/Metro)	0.002
6	GMPCS (National Area)	0.500
7	ISP "A" (National Area)	0.400
8	ISP "B" (Telecom circle/Metro Area)	0.020
9	ISP "C" (SSA)	0.001
10	Audio Conferencing/ Audiotex/ Voice mail Service	0.020
11	Machine to Machine 'A' (National Area)	0.400
12	Machine to Machine 'B' (Telecom Circle/ Metro Area)	0.020
13	Machine to Machine 'C' (SSA)	0.001

Gross Revenue (GR), Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR), Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)

- 3.18 The term Gross Revenue (GR) with reference to the revenue sharing regime, in general, is the revenue earned from the operations under the licenses issued to the service provider including revenue from other sources. The License and service specific definition of GR is stipulated in the respective service license agreements.
- 3.19 The Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) is arrived at after certain items are deducted from the Gross Revenue, being revenue from non-telecom activities and certain items mentioned in Annexure VIII/VII of the UL/UL(VNO) License Agreement respectively. As such, the ApGR is equal to GR of the licensee as reduced by revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations, revenue from activities under a license/ permission issued by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, receipts from the USO Fund, and items of other income, which include, income from dividend, income from interest, capital gains on account of profit of sale of fixed assets and securities, gains from foreign exchange rate fluctuations, income from property rent, insurance claims, Bad Debts recovered and excess provisions written back.
- 3.20 For the purpose of arriving at the AGR, certain deductions are allowed from the ApGR. These deductions are specific for the different service authorisations under the license agreement. In addition, UL(VNO) licensees are permitted to reduce (i) charges paid to its parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges; and (ii) charges paid to NSOs towards Bulk/Wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges, minutes and SMSs, from its ApGR while calculating AGR.
- 3.21 AGR is the base on which license fee (LF) and spectrum usage charges (SUC) are computed by using the applicable rate.
- 3.22 The Gross Revenue, Applicable Gross Revenue and Adjusted Gross Revenue, as defined in the license agreement, for different service authorisations are given in **Annexure 3.1**.

License fee

- 3.23 An annual License fee as a percentage of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is required to be paid by the Licensee service-area wise, for each authorized service from the effective date of the respective authorisation. Presently, the License fee is 8% of the AGR across all authorisations, inclusive of Universal Service Obligation (USO) Levy which is presently 5% of AGR and is required to be paid in four quarterly instalments during each financial year commencing 1st of April.
- 3.24 Vide section 24(1) of The Telecommunication Act 2023, the USO fund created under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has been renamed as the "Digital Bharat Nidhi".

Spectrum Related Charges

- 3.25 In case the Licensee obtains spectrum, the licensee is required to pay spectrum related charges, including payment for allotment and use of spectrum, as per provisions specified in the relevant Notice Inviting Application (NIA) of the auction of spectrum or conditions of spectrum allotment/LoI/directions/instructions of the Licensor/WPC Wing in this regard. These spectrum related charges are payable in addition to the License fee.
- 3.26 However, in the order dated 21.06.2022 issued by DOT, it has been mentioned that for spectrum acquired through auctions held after 15.09.2021 in different access spectrum bands, no spectrum usage charge (SUC) shall be charged.
- 3.27 As cited at the preceding para, DoT in its letter dated 21.6.2024 has mentioned that:
Section 3(2) of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides for different terms and conditions of authorisation for different types of telecommunication services".
"Many terms and conditions of the extant licensing and regulatory framework relates to different sections of the Telecommunications Act 2023 and some of the terms and conditions will be required to be amended/ incorporated in the light of certain new provisions in this Act policy/ Act in related sectors such as Space".

3.28 DOT has further stated that

“The possibility of reducing the number of authorisations and simplification/merger/rationalization of the terms and conditions to improve Ease of Doing Business, may also be examined”.

3.29 In view of the above, the following questions arise for consultation with regard to the financial conditions mentioned in the license agreement: -

Issues for consultation:

Q36. In case it is decided to introduce a unified service authorisation for the provision of end-to-end telecommunication services with pan-India service area, what should be the: -

- (i) Amount of application processing fees**
 - (ii) Amount of entry fees**
 - (iii) Provisions of bank guarantees**
 - (iv) Definitions of GR, ApGR and AGR**
 - (v) Rate of authorisation fee**
 - (vi) Minimum equity and networth of the Authorised entity**
- Please support your response with proper justification.**

Q37. In case it is decided to enhance the scope of Internet Service authorization as indicated in the Q7 above, what should be the:

- (i) Amount of application processing fees**
 - (ii) Amount of entry fees**
 - (iii) Provisions of bank guarantees**
 - (iv) Definitions of GR, ApGR and AGR**
 - (v) Rate of authorisation fee**
 - (vi) Minimum equity and networth of the Authorised entity**
- Please support your response with proper justification.**

Q38. In case it is decided to merge the scopes of the extant NLD Service authorization and ILD Service authorization into a single authorization namely Long Distance Service authorization under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what should be the: -

- (i) Amount of application processing fees**
- (ii) Amount of entry fees**
- (iii) Provisions of bank guarantees**
- (iv) Definitions of GR, ApGR and AGR**
- (v) Rate of authorisation fee**
- (vi) Minimum equity and networth of the Authorised entity**

Please support your response with proper justification.

Q39. In case it is decided to merge the scopes of the extant GMPCS authorization and Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorization into a single authorization namely Satellite-based Telecommunication Service authorization under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what should be the: -

- (i) Amount of application processing fees**
- (ii) Amount of entry fees**
- (iii) Provisions of bank guarantees**
- (iv) Definitions of GR, ApGR and AGR**
- (v) Rate of authorisation fee**
- (vi) Minimum equity and networth of the Authorised entity**

Please support your response with proper justification.

Q40. In case you are of the opinion that there is a need for clubbing the scopes of some other authorisations into a single authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 for bringing more efficiency in the operations, what should be the:

- (i) Amount of application processing fees**
- (ii) Amount of entry fees**
- (iii) Provisions of bank guarantees**

- (iv) Definitions of GR, ApGR and AGR**
- (v) Rate of authorisation fee**
- (vi) Minimum equity and networth of the Authorised entity**

Please support your response with proper justification.

Q41. In case you are of the opinion there is a need to introduce certain new authorisations or sub-categories of authorisations under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what should be the: -

- (i) Amount of application processing fees**
- (ii) Amount of entry fees**
- (iii) Provisions of bank guarantees**
- (iv) Definitions of GR, ApGR and AGR**
- (v) Rate of authorisation fee**
- (vi) Minimum equity and networth of the Authorised entity**

Please support your response with proper justification.

Q42. What should be the amount of application processing fees for the various service authorisations including VNOs, other than the merged/clubbed/new service authorisations? Please provide your response for each of the service authorisation separately.

Q43. Whether the amount of entry fee and provisions for bank guarantee for various service authorisations including VNOs, other than the merged/clubbed/new service authorisations, should be:

- i. kept the same as existing for the various service authorisations under the UL/UL(VNO) license**
- ii. kept the same as recommended by the Authority for the various service authorisations under the UL/UL(VNO) license, vide its Recommendations dated 19.09.2023**
- iii. or some other provisions may be made for the purpose of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees**

Please support your response with proper justification separately for each authorisation.

Q44. Whether there is a need to review any of the other financial conditions for the various service authorisations including VNOs, other than the merged/clubbed/new service authorisations? Please provide your response for each service authorisation separately with detailed justification.

B. Other standalone licenses/ registrations/ authorisations/ permissions

3.30 The existing financial conditions for the licenses/ registrations/ authorisations/ permissions other than the UL/UL(VNO) authorisations are given as under: -

3.31 Captive VSAT CUG authorisation

Entry fee:

The entry fee for the license is Rs. fifteen lakhs and is non-refundable/ non-adjustable.

Bank Guarantee:

Initial FBG is of Rs. three lakhs, which remains valid for six months. Thereafter, FBG remains valid for one year, for an amount equivalent to the highest estimated sum payable for two quarters towards license fee.

Annual license fee:

Annual license fee is Rs. 10,000/- per annum per VSAT multiplied by total number of VSATs installed.

Processing fee:

The processing fee for the application is Rs. 25,000/- (non-refundable).

3.32 **M2M service provider registration**

Processing fee:

A non-refundable processing fee of Rs. 5,000/- is payable for M2MSP registration along with the application form.

3.33 **WPAN/WLAN connectivity providers registration**

Processing fee:

A non-refundable processing fee of Rs. 5,000/- is payable for WPAN/WLAN Connectivity Providers registration along with the application form.

3.34 **CNPN authorisation**

Fees:

CNPN Licensee are not required to pay any Entry Fee and License Fee.

However, the applicants have to pay one-time non-refundable application processing fee of Rs. 50,000/-.

3.35 **In-Flight and Maritime connectivity (IFMC) permission**

Annual Fee:

The IFMC service provider is required to pay annual fee of one rupee on annual basis in addition to the satellite bandwidth charges, license fees, spectrum charges and such other charges which are to be paid by the telecom licensees under the respective licenses.

The Revenue earned by the partnering licensee from IFMC service providers or by the licensee providing IFMC services is included in the gross revenue of the licensee, for the purpose of license fee and spectrum usage charges.

Application processing fees:

The application processing fee is Rs.50,000/- (non-refundable).

3.36 **IP-1 registration**

Processing fee:

A non-refundable processing fee of Rs. 5,000/- is payable for IP-1 registration along with the application form.

3.37 **NOC for sale/ rent of International Roaming SIM cards**

Processing fee:

A non-refundable processing fee of Rs. 5,000/- is payable for No Objection Certificate (NOC) registration along with the application form.

3.38 **Captive Mobile Radio Trunking Service (CMRTS) authorisation:**

Application Processing Fee:

The application processing fee is Rs. 20,000/-for CMRTS License.

Entry Fee:

Presently, there is no provision of entry fee for CMRTS License.

License Fees:

The CMRTS licensees are required to pay license fee except for agencies working for public service such as Police, Fire and Government Security. The license fee for CMRTS systems is Rs.300/- per annum per terminal subject to a minimum of Rs.25,000/- per annum per licensed area.

Radio Spectrum Charges:

In addition to the license fee, the royalty and fees are separately paid for use of Radio Spectrum. The present arrangement of Spectrum Charging from captive mobile radio trunking service licenses are subject to changes made by WPC from time to time.

Bank Guarantees:

PBG is not applicable, only FBG is required to be submitted. The FBG of Rs. 20,000 initially before signing the license agreement valid for one year and subsequently the

amount is equivalent to 20% of the estimated sum payable (of license fee for two quarters and other dues not otherwise securitized). The Authority vide Recommendations dated 19.09.2023 had recommended that for CMRTS, the existing provisions of financial bank guarantee should continue.

3.39 **Mobile Number Portability (MNP) service license**

Entry Fee:

Presently, an entry fee of Rs 1 crore is levied on MNP License. The Authority in its Recommendations dated 19.09.2023 had recommended that entry fee for MNP license should be reduced from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 50 lakh taking a view that the entry fee should be reduced to increase competition in this segment.

License Fees:

As per current licensing regime, license fee for MNP Licenses is levied at the rate of 1 % of AGR. There is a moratorium of licence fee payment for first two years from effective date of the licence. The proforma for the Statement of Revenue and License fee as prescribed under the MNP license is given at **Annexure 3.2**.

Bank Guarantees:

As per the current licensing regime, the MNP operators are required to submit PBG of Rs. 20 lakhs valid for two years. After completion of one year from the successful commencement of operation, the amount of PBG is reduced by 50%, i.e. PBG is equal to Rs.10 Lakhs, and this 50% amount of PBG shall be released after the expiry of license period. On the other hand, initially the MNP licensee shall submit the FBG of 40 lakhs, valid for three years and subsequently the amount is equivalent to 20% of the estimated sum payable (of license fee for two quarters and other dues not otherwise securitized). Regarding bank guarantees for MNP License, the following was recommended by the Authority in its recommendation dated 19.9.2023:

- a. Financial Bank Guarantee and Performance Bank Guarantee should be merged into a single Bank Guarantee.*
- b. This Bank Guarantee should be submitted before signing the License Agreement, valid for one year.*

c. For the initial year, the amount of Bank Guarantee should be 40 lakh. For the subsequent years, the amount of Bank Guarantee should be higher of 10 lakh or 20% of the estimated sum payable (of license fee for two quarters and other dues not otherwise securitized).

Further, it is mentioned that the term "other dues not otherwise securitized" at point (c) above, includes the dues arising out of penalties/ Financial Disincentives (FDs).

3.40 Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM -WANI) registration

As per the extant provisions, different entities under the PM-WANI framework are not required to pay any entry/registration fee, license fee or any other charges. The following different entities may register under PM-Wani Framework:

- PDO: Any entity can be a PDO. No Registration with DoT is required.
- PDOA: It can be any company registered under the Companies Act 2013. PDOA will be registered by DoT without payment of any registration fee.
- App Provider: It can be any company registered under the Companies Act 2013. App Provider will be registered by DoT without payment of any registration fee.

3.41 Captive Authorisations (on case-to-case basis)

As mentioned at para 2.123 above, captive authorisations are granted on a case to case basis to permit captive users to establish point-to-point connectivity.

As such there are no financial condition on such authorisations, however, if in case the licensee obtains spectrum, the licensee will be required to pay spectrum related charges, as per provisions /conditions of spectrum allotment/ LoI/ directions/ instructions of the Licensor/WPC Wing.

3.42 With respect to the above licenses/ registrations/ authorisations/ permissions, the following questions arise for consultation: -

Issues for Consultation:

Q45. In case it is decided to merge the scopes of the extant IP-I Registration and the Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) authorization into a single authorization under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what should be the: -

- i. Amount of application processing fees**
- ii. Amount of entry fees**
- iii. Any other Fees/Charge**
- iv. Minimum equity and networth etc. of the Authorised entity.**

Please support your response with proper justification.

Q46. For MNP license and CMRTS authorisation, should the amount of entry fee and provisions of bank guarantees be:

- i. kept same as existing for the respective license/authorisation.**
- ii. kept the same as recommended by the Authority vide its Recommendations dated 19.09.2023**
- iii. or some other provisions may be made for the purpose of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees**

Please support your response with proper justification separately for each authorisation.

Q47. For other standalone licenses/ registrations/ authorisations/ permissions, should the existing framework for financial conditions be continued? Please provide detailed justification.

Q48. If answer to question above is no, what should be the new/revised financial requirement viz. bank guarantee/ entry fee/ processing fee/ authorisation fees/ registration fees or any other charge/ fees? Please provide detailed justification in support of your response for each other license/ registration/ authorisation/ permission separately.

Q49. In case of the merged M2M-WPAN/WLAN service authorisation, what should be the processing fees or any other applicable fees/ charges. Please support your response with proper justification.

C. Formats for quarterly statements of Revenue and License fee under the present licensing regime

3.43 Presently, the licensees are required to submit a statement of revenue share and license fee, separately for each service and service area, alongwith quarterly payment of license fee and spectrum usage charges under each service authorisation. As per UL and UL(VNO) license conditions, the quarterly payment of license fee and spectrum usage charges is required to be made with an affidavit as at Annexure A together with Appendix I and Appendix II to Annexure A (Statement of Revenue and License Fee) of the respective Chapter of service authorisation of UL and UL(VNO) licenses. Similarly, an affidavit is also required to be submitted by the MNP licensees as per the terms and conditions of their license.

3.44 The proformas for the Statement of Revenue and License fee payable, as prescribed under the present licensing regime, are given at **Annexure 3.2**.

3.45 The aforesaid quarterly statements of each year are also required to be audited by the Licensee's Auditors appointed by the Licensee under Section 224 of the Companies' Act, 2013.

3.46 Regarding the formats for quarterly statements of Revenue and License fee for the various service authorisations, the following questions arise for consultation: -

Issues for consultation:

- Q50. In the interest of ease of doing business, is there a need to replace the Affidavit to be submitted with quarterly payment of license fee and spectrum usage charges with a Self-Certificate (with similar content)? Please justify your response.**
- Q51. Is there a need to revise/ modify/simplify any of the existing formats of Statement of Revenue Share and License Fee for each license/authorisation (as detailed at Annexure 3.2)? In case the answer to the question is yes, please provide the list of items to be included or to be deleted from the formats alongwith detailed justification for the inclusion/deletion.**
- Q52. In case of a unified service authorisation for the provision of end-to-end telecommunication services with pan-India service area, what should be the format of Statement of Revenue Share and License Fee for each of these authorisations? Please support your response with justification.**
- Q53. In case the scope of Internet Service authorization is enhanced, what should be the format of Statement of Revenue Share and License Fee for each of these authorisations? Please support your response with justification.**
- Q54. In case of merged extant NLD Service authorization and ILD Service authorization into a single authorization namely Long Distance Service authorization, what should be the format of Statement of Revenue Share and License Fee for each of these authorisations? Please support your response with justification.**
- Q55. In case of merged extant GMPCS authorization and Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorization into a single authorization namely Satellite-based Telecommunication Service authorization, what should be the**

format of Statement of Revenue Share and License Fee for each of these authorisations? Please support your response with justification.

Q56. In case you have proposed to club the scope of some of other authorizations OR introduce certain new authorisations/ sub-categories of authorisations, what should be the format of Statement of Revenue Share and License Fee for each of these authorisations? Please support your response with justification.

D. Other issues:

a) Reconciliation statement and Norms for preparation of annual financial statements

- 3.47 As per UL and UL (VNO) license conditions, a reconciliation between the figures appearing in the quarterly statements submitted in terms of the of the License Agreement with those appearing in annual accounts are required to be submitted by the licensees along with a copy of the published annual accounts audit report and duly audited quarterly statements within seven calendar days of the date of signing of the audit report.
- 3.48 The annual financial account and the statement are required to be prepared following the norms as prescribed in Annexure-B of the respective chapter of service authorizations of the UL and UL (VNO) licenses and Annexure-III of the MNP license. The statements and accounts submitted are assessed and verified by the Licensor and through its units namely Offices of Controller of Communication Accounts in respective service areas, as may be notified from time to time
- 3.49 Now, the question arises of the need to review the norms for the preparation of annual financial statements (that is, the statements of Revenue and License Fee) as prescribed under the respective chapter of service authorizations of UL, UL(VNO) and MNP licenses.

Issue for consultation:

Q57. Whether there is a need to review/ simplify the norms for the preparation of annual financial statements (that is, the statements of Revenue and License Fee) of the various service authorizations under UL, UL(VNO) and MNP licenses? Please give detailed response with proper justification for each authorization/license separately.

b) Migration

3.50 The Authority in its Recommendations on 'Guidelines on unified licence/ class licence and migration of existing licence' dated 16.04.2012 recommended the following terms and conditions for migration of existing license to Unified License: -

On coming into force of the Unified Licence, all the existing licences issued under Section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 shall stand automatically converted to the Unified Licence. This will be the Unified Licence (restricted).....

The conditions of Unified Licence (restricted) shall be the same as existing licence.....

A holder of Unified Licence (restricted) shall have the option to apply for and migrate to a Unified Licence.

In the event a holder of Unified Licence (restricted) desires to expand/alter the service(s) offered or service area(s) of operations, it shall be required to migrate to Unified Licence and pay the prescribed entry fee.....

.....the Entry Fee already paid, in case of NLD/ILD/UAS /CMTS licence only, will be adjusted on pro rata basis for the balance validity period of the existing Licence as per formula given. However, in cases where the Entry Fee already paid exceeds the Entry Fee to be paid now for migrating to Unified Licence, there will be no refund of the Entry Fee.....

On expiry of the validity of the Unified Licence (restricted), the licensee shall be required to take a Unified Licence.

3.51 Section 3(6) of the Telecommunication Act 2023 provides that a licence, registration, permission, by whatever name called, granted prior to the appointed day under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 in respect of provision of telecommunication services shall be entitled to continue to operate under the terms and conditions and for the duration as specified under such license or registration or permission, or to migrate to such terms and conditions of the relevant authorisation, as may be prescribed.

3.52 Thus, in case the licensee opts for migration of any of the authorisation, the question arises as to how the entry fee will be adjusted/ calculated in that case. In addition to this, the question also arises whether there should be any application processing fee in case of migration or not.

Issues for consultation

Q58. In case of migration, how the entry fee already paid by the company be calculated/ prescribed for the relevant authorisation(s)? Please provide detailed justification in support of your response.

Q59. Should the application processing fee be applicable in case of migration. In case the response is yes, what should be amount of application processing fee? Please give reason(s) in support of your answer.

c) Security Interest

3.53 Section 45 of The Telecommunications Act provides that:

"The Central Government may provide for such security interest which an authorised entity may provide to lenders financing such entities on such terms and conditions of such security interest as may be prescribed."

3.54 Thus, a question arises as to what should be the terms and conditions of the security interest.

Issues for consultation:

Q60. What should be terms and conditions of security interest which Government may prescribe? Please provide detailed response.

Q61. Whether there are any other issues/ suggestions relevant to the fees and charges for the authorisations to provide telecommunication services? The same may be submitted with proper explanation and justification.

3.55 The following chapter lists the issues for consultation.

Chapter-IV: Issues for Consultation

Stakeholders are requested to provide a detailed response with justifications for the following questions:

- Q1. For the purpose of granting authorisations under Section 3(1) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, whether the Central Government should issue an authorisation to the applicant entity, as is the international practice in several countries, in place of the extant practice of the Central Government entering into a license agreement with the applicant entity? In such a case, whether any safeguards are required to protect the reasonable interests of authorized entities? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.**
- Q2. Whether it will be appropriate to grant authorisations under Section 3(1) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 in the form of an authorisation document containing the essential aspects of the authorisation, such as service area, period of validity, scope of service, list of applicable rules, authorisation fee etc., and the terms and conditions to be included in the form of rules to be made under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 with suitable safeguards to protect the reasonable interests of the authorised entities in case of any amendment in the rules? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.**
- Q3. In case it is decided to implement the authorisation structure as proposed in the Q2 above, -**
- (a) Which essential aspects of authorisation should be included in authorisation documents?**
 - (b) What should be the broad category of rules, under which, terms and conditions of various authorisations could be prescribed?**
 - (c) Whether it would be appropriate to incorporate the information currently provided through the extant Guidelines for Grant of Unified License and Unified License for VNO, which included, *inter-alia*, the**

information on the application process for the license, eligibility conditions for obtaining the license, conditions for transfer/ Merger of the license etc., in the General Rules under the Telecommunications Act, 2023?

- (d) What could be the broad topics for which the conditions may be required to be prescribed in the form of guidelines under the respective rules?**

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

- Q4. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what safeguards are required to be put in place to ensure the long-term regulatory stability and business continuity of the service providers, while at the same time making the authorisations and associated rules a live document dynamically aligned with the contemporary developments from time to time? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.**
- Q5. In addition to the service-specific authorisations at service area level, whether there is a need for introducing a unified service authorisation at National level for the provision of end-to-end telecommunication services with pan-India service area under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly justify your response.**
- Q6. In case it is decided to introduce a unified service authorisation at National level for the provision of end-to-end telecommunication services-**
- (a) What should be the scope of service under such an authorisation?**
 - (b) What terms and conditions (technical, operational, security related, etc.) should be made applicable to such an authorisation?**
 - (c) Would there be a need to retain some of the conditions or obligations to be fulfilled at the telecom circle/ Metro area level for such an authorisation?**
 - (d) Should assignment of terrestrial access and backhaul spectrum be continued at the telecom circle/ Metro area level for such an authorisation?**

(e) Any other suggestion to protect the interest of other authorised entities/ smaller players upon the introduction of such an authorisation.

Kindly provide a detailed response with justification.

Q7. Within the scope of Internet Service authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, whether there is a need for including the provision of leased circuits/ Virtual Private Networks within its service area? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q8. In case it is decided to enhance the scope of Internet Service authorisation as indicated in the Q7 above, -

(a) What should be terms and conditions (technical, operational, security related, etc.) that should be made applicable on Internet Service authorisation?

(b) Any other suggestion to protect the reasonable interests of other authorised entities upon such an enhancement in the scope of service.

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q9. Whether there is need for merging the scopes of the extant National Long Distance (NLD) Service authorization and International Long Distance (ILD) Service authorization into a single authorisation namely Long Distance Service authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q10. In case it is decided to merge the scopes of the extant NLD Service authorization and ILD Service authorization into a single authorisation namely Long Distance Service authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, -

(a) What should be the scope of service under the proposed Long Distance Service authorisation?

(b) What terms and conditions (technical, operational, security related, etc.) should be made applicable on the proposed Long Distance Service authorisation?

(c) Any other suggestions to protect the reasonable interests of other authorised entities upon the introduction of such an authorisation?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q11. Whether there is need for merging the scopes of the extant GMPCS authorization and Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorization into a single authorisation namely Satellite-based Telecommunication Service authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q12. In case it is decided to merge the scopes of the extant GMPCS authorization and Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorization into a single authorisation namely Satellite-based Telecommunication Service authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, -

(a) What should be the scope of service under the proposed Satellite-based Telecommunication Service authorisation?

(b) What should be terms and conditions (technical, operational, security related, etc.) that should be made applicable on the proposed Satellite-based Telecommunication Service authorisation?

(c) Any other suggestion to protect the reasonable interests of other authorised entities upon the introduction of such an authorisation?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q13. Whether there is a need for merging the scopes of the extant Infrastructure Provider-I (IP-I) and DCIP authorization (as recommended by TRAI) into a single authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q14. In case it is decided to merge the scopes of the extant IP-I and DCIP (as recommended by TRAI) into a single authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, -

(a) What should be the scope under the proposed authorisation?

(b) What terms and conditions should be made applicable to the proposed authorisation?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q15. Whether there is a need for clubbing the scopes of some of the other authorisations into a single authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 for bringing more efficiency in the operations? If yes, in your opinion, the scopes of which authorisations should be clubbed together? For each of such proposed (resultant) authorisations, -

(a) What should be the scope of the service?

(b) What should be the service area?

(c) What terms and conditions (technical, operational, security, etc.) should be made applicable?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justification.

Q16. Whether there a need for removing some of the existing authorizations, which may have become redundant? If yes, kindly provide the details with justification.

Q17. Whether there is a need for introducing certain new authorisations or sub-categories of authorisations under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? If yes, -

(a) For which type of services, new authorisations or sub-categories of authorisations should be introduced?

(b) What should be the respective scopes of such authorisations?

(c) What should be the respective service areas for such authorisations?

(d) What terms and conditions (general, technical, operational, Security, etc.) should be made applicable for such authorisations?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q18. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and technological/ market developments, -

(a) What changes (additions, deletions, and modifications) are required to be incorporated in the respective scopes of service for each service authorisation with respect to the corresponding authorizations under the extant Unified License?

(b) What changes (additions, deletions, and modifications) are required to be incorporated in the terms and conditions (General, Technical, Operational, Security, etc.) associated with each service authorisation with respect to the corresponding authorizations under the extant Unified License?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q19. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and technological/ market developments, -

(a) What changes (additions, deletions, and modifications) are required to be incorporated in the respective scopes of service for each service authorisation with respect to the corresponding authorizations under the extant Unified License for VNO?

(b) What changes (additions, deletions, and modifications) are required to be incorporated in the terms and conditions (General, Technical, Operational, Security, etc.) associated with each service authorisation with respect to the corresponding authorizations under the extant Unified License for VNO?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q20. Whether the Access Service VNOs should be permitted to parent with multiple NSOs holding Access Service authorisation for providing wireless access service? If yes, what conditions should be included in the authorisation framework to mitigate any possible adverse outcomes of such a provision? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q21. Considering that there are certain overlaps in the set of services under various authorisations, would it be appropriate to permit service-specific parenting of VNOs with Network Service Operators (NSOs) in place of the extant authorisation-specific parenting? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q22. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and technological/ market developments, -

(a) What changes (additions, deletions, and modifications) are required to be incorporated in the respective scopes of service for each service authorisation with respect to the corresponding extant standalone licenses/ authorizations/ registrations/ NOC etc.?

(b) What changes (additions, deletions, and modifications) are required to be incorporated in the terms and conditions (General, Technical, Operational, Security, etc.) associated with each service authorisation with respect to the corresponding extant standalone licenses/ authorizations/ registrations/ NOC etc.?

Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q23. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and market developments, whether there is a need to make some changes in the respective scopes and terms and conditions associated with the following service authorisations, recently recommended by TRAI:

(a) Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) Authorization (under Unified License)

(b) IXP Authorization (under Unified License)

(c) Content Delivery Network (CDN) Registration

(d) Satellite Earth Station Gateway (SESG) License

If yes, kindly provide a detailed response with justifications in respect of each of the above authorisations.

- Q24. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and market developments, any further inputs on the following issues under consultation, may be provided with detailed justifications:**
- (a) Data Communication Services Between Aircraft and Ground Stations Provided by Organizations Other Than Airports Authority of India;**
 - (b) Review of Terms and Conditions of PMRTS and CMRTS Licenses; and**
 - (c) Connectivity to Access Service VNOs from more than one NSO.**
- Q25. Whether there is a need for introducing any changes in the authorisation framework to improve the ease of doing business? If yes, kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.**
- Q26. In view of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and market/ technological developments, whether there is a need to make some changes in the extant terms and conditions, related to ownership of network and equipment, contained in the extant Unified License? If yes, please provide the details along with justifications.**
- Q27. Whether any modifications are required to be made in the extant PM-WANI framework to encourage the proliferation of Wi-Fi hotspots in the country? If yes, kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.**
- Q28. What should be the broad framework including the specific terms and conditions that should be made applicable for captive authorisations, which are issued on a case-to-case basis? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.**
- Q29. What amendments are required to be incorporated in the terms and conditions of authorisations for providing telecommunications services using satellite-based resources in light of the policy/ Act in the Space Sector? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.**
- Q30. Whether the provisions of any other Policy/ Act in the related sectors need to be considered while framing terms and conditions for the new**

authorisation regime? If yes, kindly provide a detailed response with justification.

- Q31. What conditions should be made applicable for the migration of the existing licensees to the new authorisation regime under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.**
- Q32. What procedure should be followed for the migration of the existing licensees to the new authorisation regime under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.**
- Q33. Do you agree that new guidelines for the transfer/ merger of authorisations under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 should be formulated after putting in place a framework for the authorisations to be granted under the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.**
- Q34. Whether there is a need to formulate guidelines for deciding on the types of violations of terms and conditions which would fall under each category as defined in the Second Schedule of the Telecommunications Act, 2023? If yes, kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.**
- Q35. Are there any other inputs/ suggestions relevant to the subject? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.**
- Q36. In case it is decided to introduce a unified service authorisation for the provision of end-to-end telecommunication services with pan-India service area, what should be the: -**
- (i) Amount of application processing fees**
 - (ii) Amount of entry fees**
 - (iii) Provisions of bank guarantees**
 - (iv) Definitions of GR, ApGR and AGR**
 - (v) Rate of authorisation fee**
 - (vi) Minimum equity and networth of the Authorised entity**
- Please support your response with proper justification.**

Q37. In case it is decided to enhance the scope of Internet Service authorization as indicated in the Q7 above, what should be the:

- (i) Amount of application processing fees**
- (ii) Amount of entry fees**
- (iii) Provisions of bank guarantees**
- (iv) Definitions of GR, ApGR and AGR**
- (v) Rate of authorisation fee**
- (vi) Minimum equity and networth of the Authorised entity**

Please support your response with proper justification.

Q38. In case it is decided to merge the scopes of the extant NLD Service authorization and ILD Service authorization into a single authorization namely Long Distance Service authorization under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what should be the: -

- (i) Amount of application processing fees**
- (ii) Amount of entry fees**
- (iii) Provisions of bank guarantees**
- (iv) Definitions of GR, ApGR and AGR**
- (v) Rate of authorisation fee**
- (vi) Minimum equity and networth of the Authorised entity**

Please support your response with proper justification.

Q39. In case it is decided to merge the scopes of the extant GMPCS authorization and Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorization into a single authorization namely Satellite-based Telecommunication Service authorization under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what should be the: -

- (i) Amount of application processing fees**
- (ii) Amount of entry fees**
- (iii) Provisions of bank guarantees**

- (iv) Definitions of GR, ApGR and AGR**
- (v) Rate of authorisation fee**
- (vi) Minimum equity and networth of the Authorised entity**

Please support your response with proper justification.

Q40. In case you are of the opinion that there is a need for clubbing the scopes of some other authorisations into a single authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 for bringing more efficiency in the operations, what should be the:

- (i) Amount of application processing fees**
- (ii) Amount of entry fees**
- (iii) Provisions of bank guarantees**
- (iv) Definitions of GR, ApGR and AGR**
- (v) Rate of authorisation fee**
- (vi) Minimum equity and networth of the Authorised entity**

Please support your response with proper justification.

Q41. In case you are of the opinion there is a need to introduce certain new authorisations or sub-categories of authorisations under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what should be the: -

- (i) Amount of application processing fees**
- (ii) Amount of entry fees**
- (iii) Provisions of bank guarantees**
- (iv) Definitions of GR, ApGR and AGR**
- (v) Rate of authorisation fee**
- (vi) Minimum equity and networth of the Authorised entity**

Please support your response with proper justification.

Q42. What should be the amount of application processing fees for the various service authorisations including VNOs, other than the merged/clubbed/new service authorisations? Please provide your response for each of the service authorisation separately.

Q43. Whether the amount of entry fee and provisions for bank guarantee for various service authorisations including VNOs, other than the merged/clubbed/new service authorisations, should be:

- i. kept the same as existing for the various service authorisations under the UL/UL(VNO) license**
- ii. kept the same as recommended by the Authority for the various service authorisations under the UL/UL(VNO) license, vide its Recommendations dated 19.09.2023**
- iii. or some other provisions may be made for the purpose of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees**

Please support your response with proper justification separately for each authorisation.

Q44. Whether there is a need to review any of the other financial conditions for the various service authorisations including VNOs, other than the merged/clubbed/new service authorisations? Please provide your response for each service authorisation separately with detailed justification.

Q45. In case it is decided to merge the scopes of the extant IP-I Registration and the Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) authorization into a single authorization under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what should be the: -

- i. Amount of application processing fees**
- ii. Amount of entry fees**
- iii. Any other Fees/Charge**
- iv. Minimum equity and networth etc. of the Authorised entity.**

Please support your response with proper justification.

Q46. For MNP license and CMRTS authorisation, should the amount of entry fee and provisions of bank guarantees be:

- i. kept same as existing for the respective license/authorisation.**
- ii. kept the same as recommended by the Authority vide its Recommendations dated 19.09.2023**
- iii. or some other provisions may be made for the purpose of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees**

Please support your response with proper justification separately for each authorisation.

Q47. For other standalone licenses/ registrations/ authorisations/ permissions, should the existing framework for financial conditions be continued? Please provide detailed justification.

Q48. If answer to question above is no, what should be the new/revised financial requirement viz. bank guarantee/ entry fee/ processing fee/ authorisation fees/ registration fees or any other charge/ fees? Please provide detailed justification in support of your response for each other license/ registration/ authorisation/ permission separately.

Q49. In case of the merged M2M-WPAN/WLAN service authorisation, what should be the processing fees or any other applicable fees/ charges. Please support your response with proper justification.

Q50. In the interest of ease of doing business, is there a need to replace the Affidavit to be submitted with quarterly payment of license fee and spectrum usage charges with a Self-Certificate (with similar content)? Please justify your response.

Q51. Is there a need to revise/ modify/simplify any of the existing formats of Statement of Revenue Share and License Fee for each license/authorisation (as detailed at Annexure 3.2)? In case the answer to the question is yes, please provide the list of items to be included or to be deleted from the formats alongwith detailed justification for the inclusion/deletion.

- Q52. In case of a unified service authorisation for the provision of end-to-end telecommunication services with pan-India service area, what should be the format of Statement of Revenue Share and License Fee for each of these authorisations? Please support your response with justification.**
- Q53. In case the scope of Internet Service authorization is enhanced, what should be the format of Statement of Revenue Share and License Fee for each of these authorisations? Please support your response with justification.**
- Q54. In case of merged extant NLD Service authorization and ILD Service authorization into a single authorization namely Long Distance Service authorization, what should be the format of Statement of Revenue Share and License Fee for each of these authorisations? Please support your response with justification.**
- Q55. In case of merged extant GMPCS authorization and Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorization into a single authorization namely Satellite-based Telecommunication Service authorization, what should be the format of Statement of Revenue Share and License Fee for each of these authorisations? Please support your response with justification.**
- Q56. In case you have proposed to club the scope of some of other authorizations OR introduce certain new authorisations/ sub-categories of authorisations, what should be the format of Statement of Revenue Share and License Fee for each of these authorisations? Please support your response with justification.**
- Q57. Whether there is a need to review/ simplify the norms for the preparation of annual financial statements (that is, the statements of Revenue and License Fee) of the various service authorizations under UL, UL(VNO) and MNP licenses? Please give detailed response with proper justification for each authorization/license separately.**

- Q58. In case of migration, how the entry fee already paid by the company be calculated/ prescribed for the relevant authorisation(s)? Please provide detailed justification in support of your response.**
- Q59. Should the application processing fee be applicable in case of migration. In case the response is yes, what should be amount of application processing fee? Please give reason(s) in support of your answer.**
- Q60. What should be terms and conditions of security interest which Government may prescribe? Please provide detailed response.**
- Q61. Whether there are any other issues/ suggestions relevant to the fees and charges for the authorisations to provide telecommunication services? The same may be submitted with proper explanation and justification.**

Annexure 1.1: DoT's reference dated 21.06.2024

F. No. 20-1350/2024 AS-I (Vol.-II)
Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
(Access Service Division)
20-Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

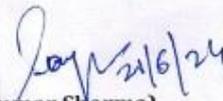
Dated: 21.06.2024

Subject: Seeking recommendations of TRAI on terms and conditions, including fees or charges, for authorisation to provide telecommunication services as per the provisions of the Telecommunications Act 2023 - regarding

The Telecommunications Act, 2023 has been published in the Official Gazette of India. It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint. Section 3(1)(a) of the Act provides for obtaining an authorisation by any entity/person intending to provide telecommunication services, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees or charges, as may be prescribed. A background note on related aspects in this regard including relevant sections of the new Act that may have bearing on the terms and conditions of authorisations is attached as Annexure to this reference.

2. In this regard, under Section 11(1)(a) of the TRAI Act, 1997 (as amended), TRAI is requested to provide its recommendations within 60 days of receipt of this reference on terms and conditions, including fees or charges, for authorisation to provide telecommunication services as per the provisions of the Telecommunications Act 2023.

3. This has the approval of the competent authority.


(Sanjeev Kumar Sharma)
Deputy Director General (AS)
Phone: 23036918

To,
The Secretary
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
7th Floor, Tower-F,
World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar,
New Delhi: 110029

Background Note

1. Section 3(1)(a) of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides for obtaining an authorisation by any entity/person intending to provide telecommunication services, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees or charges, as may be prescribed.
2. Section 59 of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides for amendment to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. It provides that "licensee" means an authorised entity providing telecommunication services under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, or registered for providing cable television network under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 or any other Act for the time being in force."
3. Currently the licensing and regulatory framework for different types of telecommunication services is being governed as per the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. The extant licenses/registrations are as follows :
 - i. Access Service authorisation under Unified License (UL) and UL-Virtual Network Operator (UL-VNO)
 - ii. Internet Service authorisation under UL and UL-VNO
 - iii. National Long Distance (NLD) Service authorisation under UL and UL-VNO
 - iv. International Long-Distance Service (ILD) Service authorisation under UL and UL-VNO
 - v. Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service authorisation under UL and UL-VNO
 - vi. Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS) authorisation under UL and UL-VNO
 - vii. Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorisation under UL and UL-VNO
 - viii. Captive VSAT CUG authorisation (Standalone)
 - ix. Audio Conferencing/ Audiotex/ Voice Mail Service authorisation under UL
 - x. Machine to Machine (M2M) Service authorisation under UL and UL-VNO
 - xi. M2M Service Provider registration
 - xii. WPAN/WLAN Connectivity Providers Registration
 - xiii. Resale of IPLC Service authorisation under UL-VNO
 - xiv. Access Service Category-B authorisation under UL-VNO
 - xv. CNPN Authorisation
 - xvi. CMRTS Authorisation
 - xvii. Rules for In-Flight and Maritime Connectivity (IFMC) permission
 - xviii. IP-1 Registration
 - xix. NOC for sale/rent of International Roaming SIM Cards
 - xx. Mobile Number Portability (MNP) service license
 - xxi. PM WANI service registration
 - xxii. Captive Authorisations (on case-to-case basis)
4. Section 3(2) of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides for different terms and conditions of authorisation for different types of telecommunication services.
5. Section 3(5) of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides that any authorised entity may undertake any merger, demerger or acquisition, or other forms of restructuring,

subject to any law for the time being in force and any authorised entity that emerges pursuant to such process, shall comply with the terms and conditions, including fees and charges, applicable to the original authorised entity, and such other terms and conditions, as may be prescribed.

6. Section 3(6) of the Telecommunications Act 2023 provides that a licence, registration, permission, by whatever name called, granted prior to the appointed day under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, in respect of provision of telecommunication services shall be entitled to continue to operate under the terms and conditions and for the duration as specified under such licence or registration or permission, or to migrate to such terms and conditions of the relevant authorisation, as may be prescribed.
7. Many other Sections of the Telecommunications Act 2023 may have, either direct or indirect, linkages with the terms and conditions of the authorisation for providing telecommunication services. Some of these Sections of the Telecommunications Act 2023 are 4 to 9, 19 to 24, 28 to 42, 44, 45, 49, and 55. Many terms and conditions of the extant licensing and regulatory framework relates to different Sections of the Telecommunications Act 2023. Further, some of the terms and conditions will be required to be amended/incorporated in light of certain new provisions in this Act and policy/Act in related sectors such as Space. The possibility of reducing the number of authorisations and simplification/merger/rationalization of the terms and conditions to improve Ease of Doing Business, may also be examined.

Annexure 1.2: The Telecommunication Act, 2023

रजिस्ट्री सं० डी० एल०—(एन)04/0007/2003—23

REGISTERED NO. DL—(N)04/0007/2003—23



सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-24122023-250880
CG-DL-E-24122023-250880

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II—खण्ड 1
PART II—Section 1
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं० 52] नई दिल्ली, रविवार, दिसम्बर 24, 2023/पौष 3, 1945 (शक)
No. 52] NEW DELHI, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023/PAUSHA 3, 1945 (SAKA)

इस भाग में भिन्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।
Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 24th December, 2023/Pausha 3, 1945 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 24th December, 2023 and is hereby published for general information:—

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT, 2023

No. 44 OF 2023

[24th December, 2023.]

An Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to development, expansion and operation of telecommunication services and telecommunication networks; assignment of spectrum; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fourth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY

1. (1) This Act may be called the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

(2) It extends to,—

(i) the whole of India; and

(ii) to any offence committed or contravention made outside India by any person, as provided in this Act.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the commencement of that provision.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "appointed day" means such date as the Central Government may, by notification appoint under sub-section (3) of section 1;

(b) "assignment" of a radio frequency or radio frequency channel means the permission for a radio station to use a radio frequency or radio frequency channel under specified conditions;

(c) "assignee" means a person holding an assignment of a radio frequency or radio frequency channel under section 4;

(d) "authorisation" means a permission, by whatever name called, granted under this Act for—

(i) providing telecommunication services;

(ii) establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding telecommunication networks; or

(iii) possessing radio equipment;

(e) "authorised entity" means a person holding an authorisation under section 3;

(f) "critical telecommunication infrastructure" means telecommunication networks notified under sub-section (3) of section 22;

(g) "message" means any sign, signal, writing, text, image, sound, video, data stream, intelligence or information sent through telecommunication;

(h) "National Frequency Allocation Plan" means guidelines issued from time to time by the Central Government for the use of the spectrum;

(i) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette and the expression "notified" shall be construed accordingly;

(j) "person" shall include an individual, any company or association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, by whatsoever name called or referred to;

(k) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(l) "radio equipment" means telecommunication equipment used or capable of use for telecommunication by means of Hertzian or radio waves;

(m) "radio waves" means electromagnetic waves of frequencies propagated in space without any artificial guide;

(n) "Schedule" means a schedule to this Act;

(o) "spectrum" means the range of frequencies of Hertzian or radio waves;

(p) "telecommunication" means transmission, emission or reception of any messages, by wire, radio, optical or other electro-magnetic systems, whether or not such messages have been subjected to rearrangement, computation or other processes by any means in the course of their transmission, emission or reception;

(q) "telecommunication equipment" means any equipment, appliance, instrument, device, radio station, radio equipment, material, apparatus, or user equipment, that may be or is being used for telecommunication, including software and intelligence integral to such telecommunication equipment; and excludes such equipment as may be notified by the Central Government;

(r) "telecommunication identifier" means a series of digits, characters and symbols, or a combination thereof, used to identify uniquely a user, a

telecommunication service, a telecommunication network, elements of a telecommunication network, telecommunication equipment, or an authorised entity;

(s) "telecommunication network" means a system or series of systems of telecommunication equipment or infrastructure, including terrestrial or satellite networks or submarine networks, or a combination of such networks, used or intended to be used for providing telecommunication services, but does not include such telecommunication equipment as notified by the Central Government;

(t) "telecommunication service" means any service for telecommunication;

(u) "user" means a natural or legal person using or requesting a telecommunication service, but does not include person providing such telecommunication service or telecommunication network.

CHAPTER II

POWERS OF AUTHORISATION AND ASSIGNMENT

3. (1) Any person intending to—

Authorisation.

(a) provide telecommunication services;

(b) establish, operate, maintain or expand telecommunication network; or

(c) possess radio equipment,

shall obtain an authorisation from the Central Government, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees or charges, as may be prescribed.

(2) The Central Government may while making rules under sub-section (1) provide for different terms and conditions of authorisation for different types of telecommunication services, telecommunication network or radio equipment.

(3) The Central Government, if it determines that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, may provide exemption from the requirement of authorisation under sub-section (1), in such manner as may be prescribed.

13 of 1885.
17 of 1933. (4) Any exemption granted prior to the appointed day under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 or the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 shall continue under this Act, unless otherwise notified by the Central Government.

(5) Any authorised entity may undertake any merger, demerger or acquisition, or other forms of restructuring, subject to any law for the time being in force and any authorised entity that emerges pursuant to such process, shall comply with the terms and conditions, including fees and charges, applicable to the original authorised entity, and such other terms and conditions, as may be prescribed.

13 of 1885.
17 of 1933. (6) A licence, registration, permission, by whatever name called, granted prior to the appointed day under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 or the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, in respect of provision of telecommunication services or telecommunication network—

(a) where a definite validity period is given, shall be entitled to continue to operate under the terms and conditions and for the duration as specified under such licence or registration or permission, or to migrate to such terms and conditions of the relevant authorisation, as may be prescribed; or

(b) where a definite validity period is not given, shall be entitled to continue to operate on the terms and conditions of such licence or registration or permission for a period of five years from the appointed day, or to migrate to such terms and conditions of the relevant authorisation, as may be prescribed.

(7) Any authorised entity which provides such telecommunication services as may be notified by the Central Government, shall identify the person to whom it provides telecommunication services through use of any verifiable biometric based identification as may be prescribed.

(8) The Central Government may, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees or charges as may be prescribed, allot telecommunication identifiers for use by authorised entities.

(9) The Central Government may allow use of telecommunication identifiers allotted by international bodies which are recognised by the Central Government from time to time.

Assignment
of spectrum.

4. (1) The Central Government, being the owner of the spectrum on behalf of the people, shall assign the spectrum in accordance with this Act, and may notify a National Frequency Allocation Plan from time to time.

(2) Any person intending to use spectrum shall require an assignment from the Central Government.

(3) The Central Government may prescribe such terms and conditions as may be applicable, for such assignment of spectrum, including the frequency range, methodology for pricing, price, fees and charges, payment mechanism, duration and procedure for the same.

(4) The Central Government shall assign spectrum for telecommunication through auction except for entries listed in the First Schedule for which assignment shall be done by administrative process.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section,—

(a) "administrative process" means assignment of spectrum without holding an auction;

(b) "auction" means a bid process for assignment of spectrum.

(5) (a) The Central Government may, by notification, amend the First Schedule for assignment of spectrum—

(i) in order to serve public interest; or

(ii) in order to perform government function; or

(iii) in cases where auction of spectrum is not the preferred mode of assignment due to technical or economic reasons.

(b) The notification referred to in clause (a) shall be laid before each House of Parliament.

(6) The Central Government, if it determines that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, may exempt,—

(a) from the requirement of assignment under sub-section (2), in such manner as may be prescribed; and

(b) by notification, specific usages within specified frequencies and parameters, from the requirements of sub-section (2).

(7) Any exemption with respect to use of spectrum granted under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 prior to the appointed day, shall continue under this Act, unless otherwise notified by the Central Government.

13 of 1885.
17 of 1933.

(8) Any spectrum assigned through the administrative process prior to the appointed day, shall continue to be valid on the terms and conditions on which it had been assigned, for a period of five years from the appointed day, or the date of expiry of such assignment, whichever is earlier.

(9) Any spectrum assigned through auction prior to the appointed day, shall continue to be valid on the terms and conditions on which it had been assigned.

5. The Central Government may, to enable more efficient use of spectrum, re-farm or harmonise any frequency range assigned under section 4, subject to such terms and conditions, as may be prescribed.

Re-farming
and
harmonisation.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section,—

(a) "harmonisation" means rearrangement of a frequency range;

(b) "re-farming" means repurposing of a frequency range for a different use, other than that for which it is used by an existing assignee.

6. The Central Government may enable the utilisation of the spectrum in a flexible, liberalised and technologically neutral manner, subject to such terms and conditions, including applicable fees and charges, as may be prescribed.

Technologically
neutral use of
spectrum.

7. (1) The Central Government may, to promote optimal use of the available spectrum, assign a particular part of a spectrum that has already been assigned to an entity, known as the primary assignee, to one or more additional entities, known as the secondary assignees, where such secondary assignment does not cause harmful interference in the use of the relevant part of the spectrum by the primary assignee, subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

Optimal
utilisation of
spectrum.

(2) The Central Government may, notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, after providing a reasonable opportunity of being heard to the assignee concerned, determine that any assigned spectrum has remained unutilised for insufficient reasons for such period as may be prescribed, terminate such assignment, or a part of such assignment, or prescribe further terms and conditions relating to spectrum utilisation.

8. (1) The Central Government may establish by notification, such monitoring and enforcement mechanism as it may deem fit to ensure adherence to terms and conditions of spectrum utilisation and enable interference-free use of the assigned spectrum.

Establishment
of monitoring
and
enforcement
mechanism.

(2) The Central Government may permit the sharing, trading, leasing and surrender of assigned spectrum, subject to the terms and conditions, including applicable fees or charges, as may be prescribed.

9. No person shall be entitled to the refund of any fees or charges paid in respect of or under an authorisation or assignment granted under this Act, if such authorisation or assignment is suspended, curtailed, revoked or varied.

No refund of
fees.

CHAPTER III

RIGHT OF WAY FOR TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK

10. For the purpose of this Chapter,—

Definition of
terms used in
this Chapter.

(a) "facility provider" means the Central Government or any authorised entity, including any contractor or sub-contractor or agent working for the Central Government or authorised entity, and shall include their successor or assignee;

(b) "public entity" means,—

(i) the Central Government;

(ii) the State Government;

(iii) local authority;

(iv) any authority, body, company or institution incorporated or established by the Central Government or the State Government, or under any statute; or

(v) any non-government entity vested with the ownership, control or management of any public facility or class of public facilities, as may be notified by the Central Government;

(c) "public property" means any property, whether movable or immovable including any machinery, which is owned by, or in the possession of, or under the control or management of any public entity.

Right of way for telecommunication network in public property.

11. (1) Any facility provider may submit an application to a public entity under whose ownership, control or management, the public property is vested, to seek permissions for right of way for telecommunication network under, over, along, across, in or upon such public property.

(2) On receipt of an application from a facility provider under sub-section (1), the public entity shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (4), grant permission for all or any of the following acts, namely:—

(a) survey such property for the purpose of assessing the feasibility for establishing telecommunication network; or

(b) enter the property from time to time to establish, operate, maintain, repair, replace, augment, remove or relocate any telecommunication network.

(3) The public entity shall grant permission under sub-section (2) in an expeditious manner and within such timelines as may be prescribed, and subject to such administrative expenses and compensation for right of way, which shall not exceed such amount as may be prescribed.

(4) Any rejection of an application under sub-section (1) shall be based on reasonable grounds to be recorded in writing.

(5) The facility provider shall do as little damage as possible to the public property, and ensure that the functionality and continuity of operations over such public property is not adversely affected, while undertaking any of the activities for which permission has been granted under sub-section (2).

(6) If any damage is caused to the property, the facility provider shall, at the option of the public entity, either,—

(a) restore such property to its state as existed prior to the undertaking of such activities; or

(b) pay compensation for such damage as may be mutually agreed.

(7) The provisions of this section shall be applicable to any public property vested for such projects or class of projects as notified by the Central Government, in respect of which, applications under sub-section (1) shall be made to the public entity granting the concession, contract or permission for such projects.

Right of way for telecommunication network on property not covered under section 11.

12. (1) Any facility provider may submit an application to the person under whose ownership, control or management of property not covered under section 11 is vested, to seek right of way for telecommunication network under, over, along, across, in or upon such property.

(2) On receipt of an application from a facility provider, the person receiving the application may enter into an agreement, specifying consideration as mutually agreed, for—

(a) undertaking surveys as may be required by the facility provider for the purpose of assessing the feasibility for establishing telecommunication network; or

(b) establishing, operating, maintaining, repairing, replacing, augmenting, removing or relocating any telecommunication network by the facility provider.

(3) The facility provider shall do as little damage as possible to the property when undertaking any of the activities for which permission has been granted under sub-section (2).

(4) In case of any damage to the property, the facility provider shall restore such property to its state as existed prior to the undertaking of such activities, failing which the person granting permission under sub-section (2), shall be entitled to compensation as may be mutually agreed, for any such damage.

(5) The Central Government may by rules provide for the procedure to be followed by a facility provider to enter, survey, establish, operate, maintain, repair, replace or relocate the telecommunication network, including the notice period, the manner of issuance of notice, the framework governing objections by owner or occupier of the property, the manner in which such objections would be resolved, and matters relating to the compensation payable for any damage.

(6) If the person under sub-section (2) fails to provide the right of way requested, and the Central Government determines that it is necessary so to do in the public interest, it may, either by itself or through any other authority designated by the Central Government for this purpose, determine that such facility provider shall be permitted the right of way to establish, operate, maintain such telecommunication network, subject to such terms and conditions, including charges for the right of way, and compensation for damage to the property, if any, to be payable to such person as may be prescribed.

13. Any person providing right of way under section 11 or section 12, shall ensure grant of right of way to the facility providers in a non-discriminatory manner and, as far as practicable, on a non-exclusive basis.

Non-discriminatory and non-exclusive grant of right of way.

14. (1) A facility provider shall not have any right, title or interest in the property on which telecommunication network is established, except the right to use the property as provided under section 11 or section 12.

Telecommunication network distinct from property on which it is installed.

(2) The telecommunication network installed on any property, shall not be subject to any claims, encumbrances, liquidation or the like, relating to such property.

(3) The telecommunication network installed on any property, shall not be considered as part of such property, including for the purposes of any transaction related to that property, or any property tax, levy, cess, fees or duties as may be applicable on that property.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, no public entity, except with the permission of an officer authorised by the Central Government for this purpose, shall have the authority to take any coercive action, such as sealing, preventing access, or forcible shutdown of the telecommunication network established by an authorised entity, except where such actions may be necessary to deal with any natural disaster or public emergency.

15. (1) The Central Government may notify infrastructure projects or class of infrastructure projects, whether being developed by a public entity by itself, through a public private partnership or by any other person, that may require establishment of common ducts or conduits or cable corridors, for installation of telecommunication network.

Power of Central Government to establish common ducts and cable corridors.

(2) The telecommunication network referred to in sub-section (1) shall be made available on open access basis to facility providers, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees and charges, as may be prescribed.

Removal,
relocation or
alteration of
telecommunication
network.

16. (1) Where, under section 11 or section 12, telecommunication network has been placed by the facility provider, under, over, along, across, in or upon any property, and any person entitled to do so desires to deal with that property in such a manner so as to render it necessary or convenient that the telecommunication network should be removed or relocated to another part thereof or to a higher or lower level or altered in form, he may require the facility provider to remove, relocate or alter the telecommunication network accordingly.

(2) If compensation has been paid under sub-section (6) of section 11, or sub-section (4) of section 12, such person shall, when making the requisition under sub-section (1), tender to the facility provider the amount requisite to defray the expense of the removal, relocation or alteration on such terms as may be mutually agreed.

(3) If any dispute arises under this Chapter, the matter shall be determined by the authority referred to in sub-section (2) of section 18.

(4) If the facility provider omits to comply with the requisition, the person making such requisition, may apply to the District Magistrate within whose jurisdiction the property is situated, to order the relocation or alteration.

(5) The District Magistrate receiving the application may, at its discretion and for reasons to be recorded in writing, approve or reject such relocation or alteration, subject to such conditions as it determines fit, including the relocation of the telecommunication network to any other part of the property or to a higher or lower level or for the alteration of its form, and the order so made shall be final.

Notice to
facility
provider.

17. (1) Any person desiring to exercise his right to deal with his property in such a manner as is likely to cause damage or to interrupt or interfere with the telecommunication network established under the provisions of this Act, or to interrupt or interfere with telecommunication services, shall give prior notice of such duration and in such manner, as may be prescribed, to the facility provider, the Central Government or to any authority that may be notified by the Central Government.

(2) The facility provider shall respond to such notice with details of such telecommunication network and precautionary measures to be undertaken, within such timelines as may be prescribed.

(3) Where a person referred to in sub-section (1) gives a notice of his exercise of the right relating to his property with the *bona fide* intention of averting imminent danger of personal injury to himself or any other person, such person shall be deemed to have complied with the provisions of the said sub-section.

(4) Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of sub-section (1), or deals with any property in such a manner as is likely to cause, or causes, damage to any telecommunication network, or is likely to interrupt or interfere, or interrupts or interferes with telecommunication services, a District Magistrate may, on the application of the facility provider, order such person to abstain from dealing with such property in such manner for a period not exceeding one month from the date of his order and forthwith to take such action with regard to such property as may be in the opinion of the District Magistrate necessary to remedy or prevent such damage, interruption or interference during such period.

(5) If any dispute arises relating to damages, the matter shall be determined by the authority referred to under sub-section (2) of section 18.

Dispute
resolution
relating to this
Chapter.

18. (1) The District Magistrate, or any other authority as notified by the Central Government, within whose jurisdiction the property is situated, shall have the exclusive powers to resolve any disputes under this Chapter, except for disputes referred to under sub-section (2) of this section.

(2) If any dispute arises relating to compensation under sub-section (6) of section 11, sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 12, and sub-section (5) of section 17, it shall, on an application made for that purpose by either of the disputing parties to the District Judge within whose jurisdiction the property is situated, be determined by him.

(3) Every determination of a dispute by a District Magistrate or District Judge under this section, shall be final.

(4) Nothing in sub-section (3) shall affect the right of any person to recover by suit the whole or any part of any compensation paid by the facility provider, from the person who has received the same.

CHAPTER IV

STANDARDS, PUBLIC SAFETY, NATIONAL SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS

19. The Central Government may notify standards and conformity assessment measures in respect of—

Power to notify standards.

(a) telecommunication equipment, telecommunication identifiers and telecommunication network;

(b) telecommunication services, in consonance with any regulations notified by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India from time to time;

(c) manufacture, import, distribution and sale of telecommunication equipment;

(d) telecommunication security, including identification, analysis and prevention of intrusion in telecommunication services and telecommunication networks;

(e) cyber security for telecommunication services and telecommunication networks; and

(f) encryption and data processing in telecommunication.

20. (1) On the occurrence of any public emergency, including disaster management, or in the interest of public safety, the Central Government or a State Government or any officer specially authorised in this behalf by the Central Government or a State Government, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do, by notification—

Provisions for public emergency or public safety.

(a) take temporary possession of any telecommunication service or telecommunication network from an authorised entity; or

(b) provide for appropriate mechanism to ensure that messages of a user or group of users authorised for response and recovery during public emergency are routed on priority.

(2) On the occurrence of any public emergency or in the interest of public safety, the Central Government or a State Government or any officer specially authorised in this behalf by the Central Government or a State Government, may, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do, in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, defence and security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, or for preventing incitement to the commission of any offence, subject to such procedure and safeguards as may be prescribed, and for reasons to be recorded in writing, by order—

(a) direct that any message or class of messages, to or from any person or class of persons, to or from any telecommunication equipment or class of telecommunication equipment, or relating to any particular subject, brought for

transmission by, or transmitted or received by any telecommunication service or telecommunication network, shall not be transmitted, or shall be intercepted or detained, or shall be disclosed in intelligible format to the officer mentioned in such order; or

(b) direct that any telecommunication service or class of telecommunication services to or from any person or class of persons, to or from any telecommunication equipment or class of telecommunication equipment, or relating to any particular subject, transmitted or received by any telecommunication service or telecommunication network, shall be suspended.

(3) The press messages, intended to be published in India, of correspondents accredited to the Central Government or a State Government shall not be intercepted or detained, unless their transmission has been prohibited under clause (a) of sub-section (2).

(4) The action specified under sub-section (1), sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) shall be for such duration and in such manner as may be prescribed.

Measures for national security, etc.

21. The Central Government may, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do, in the interest of national security, friendly relations with foreign States, or in the event of war, by notification take such measures as are necessary in the circumstances of the case, including issuing directions in respect of the following, namely:—

(a) use of telecommunication equipment, telecommunication services, telecommunication network and telecommunication identifiers;

(b) standards applicable to manufacture, import and distribution of telecommunication equipment;

(c) standards to be adopted by authorised entities or assignees;

(d) procurement of telecommunication equipment and telecommunication services only from trusted sources;

(e) suspension, removal or prohibition of the use of specified telecommunication equipment and telecommunication services from countries or person as may be notified; or

(f) taking over the control and management of, or suspending the operation of, or entrusting any authority of the Central Government to manage any or all of any telecommunication services, or any telecommunication network or part thereof, connected with such telecommunication services.

Protection of telecommunication network and telecommunication services.

22. (1) The Central Government may by rules provide for the measures to protect and ensure cyber security of telecommunication networks and telecommunication services.

(2) The measures may include collection, analysis and dissemination of traffic data that is generated, transmitted, received or stored in telecommunication networks.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression "traffic data" means any data generated, transmitted, received or stored in telecommunication networks including data relating to the type, routing, duration or time of a telecommunication.

(3) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare any telecommunication network, or part thereof, as Critical Telecommunication Infrastructure, disruption of which shall have debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety.

(4) The Central Government may by rules provide for the standards, security practices, upgradation requirements and procedures to be implemented for such Critical Telecommunication Infrastructure.

23. If it appears necessary or expedient so to do in the public interest, the Central Government may direct any authorised entity to transmit in its telecommunication services or telecommunication network, specific messages, in such manner as may be specified.

Power to give directions.

CHAPTER V

DIGITAL BHARAT NIDHI

13 of 1885. 24. (1) The Universal Service Obligation Fund created under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, shall, from the appointed day, be the "Digital Bharat Nidhi", under the control of the Central Government, and shall be used to discharge functions as set forth in this Act.

Establishment of Digital Bharat Nidhi.

(2) Any sums of money attributable to the Digital Bharat Nidhi that is paid pursuant to an authorisation under section 3, shall be credited to the Digital Bharat Nidhi.

(3) The balance to the credit of the Digital Bharat Nidhi shall not lapse at the end of the financial year.

(4) All amounts payable under licences granted prior to the appointed day towards the Universal Service Obligation, shall be deemed to be the amounts payable towards the Digital Bharat Nidhi.

25. The sums of money received towards the Digital Bharat Nidhi under section 24, shall first be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, and the Central Government may, if Parliament by appropriation made by law in this behalf so provides, credit such proceeds to the Digital Bharat Nidhi from time to time for being utilised exclusively to meet any or all of the following objectives, namely:—

Crediting of sum to Consolidated Fund of India.

(a) support universal service through promoting access to and delivery of telecommunication services in underserved rural, remote and urban areas;

(b) support research and development of telecommunication services, technologies, and products;

(c) support pilot projects, consultancy assistance and advisory support towards provision of service under clause (a) of this section;

(d) support introduction of telecommunication services, technologies, and products.

26. The Digital Bharat Nidhi shall be administered in a manner, as may be prescribed.

Administration of Digital Bharat Nidhi.

CHAPTER VI

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

27. The Central Government may, for the purposes of encouraging and facilitating innovation and technological development in telecommunication, create one or more regulatory sandboxes, in such manner, and for such duration, as may be prescribed.

Regulatory sandbox.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, the expression "regulatory sandbox" refers to a live testing environment where new products, services, processes and business models which may be deployed, on a limited set of users, for a specified period of time, with certain relaxations from the provisions of this Act.

CHAPTER VII

PROTECTION OF USERS

Measures for protection of users.

28. (1) For the purposes of this section, "specified message" means any message offering, advertising or promoting goods, services, interest in property, business opportunity, employment opportunity or investment opportunity, whether or not—

(a) the goods, services, interest, or opportunity are real; or

(b) it is lawful to acquire such goods, services, property, interest or take up the opportunity.

(2) The Central Government may by rules provide for measures for protection of users, in consonance with any regulations notified by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India from time to time, including measures such as—

(a) the prior consent of users for receiving certain specified messages or class of specified messages;

(b) the preparation and maintenance of one or more registers, to be called as "Do Not Disturb" register, to ensure that users do not receive specified messages or class of specified messages without prior consent; or

(c) the mechanism to enable users to report any malware or specified messages received in contravention of this section.

(3) An authorised entity providing telecommunication services shall establish an online mechanism to enable users to register any grievance pertaining to the telecommunication service, and redressal of such grievances, in such manner as may be prescribed.

Duty of users.

29. No user shall—

(a) furnish any false particulars, suppress any material information, or impersonate another person, while establishing his identity for availing of telecommunication services; or

(b) fail to share information as required under this Act.

Dispute resolution mechanism to redress user grievances.

30. (1) The Central Government may establish or approve one or more online dispute resolution mechanisms for the resolution of disputes between users and authorised entities providing telecommunication services.

(2) Every authorised entity providing telecommunication services shall participate in the dispute resolution mechanism established under sub-section (1), and shall comply with such terms and conditions of participation in such mechanism as may be prescribed.

(3) This section shall not affect the rights of consumers under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

35 of 2019.

CHAPTER VIII

ADJUDICATION OF CERTAIN CONTRAVENTIONS

Definitions of terms used in this Chapter.

31. For the purposes of this Chapter,—

(a) "Adjudicating Officer" means an officer appointed under section 35; and

(b) "Designated Appeals Committee" means the committee appointed under section 36.

Breach of terms and conditions of authorisation or assignment.

32. (1) In case of breach of any of the terms and conditions of authorisation or assignment granted under this Act, the Adjudicating Officer shall, pursuant to an inquiry under the provisions of this Chapter—

(a) pass an order in writing in respect of one or both of the following, namely:—

(i) direct such authorised entity, or assignee to do or abstain from doing any act or thing to prevent such breach or for such compliance;

(ii) impose civil penalties as specified in the Second Schedule; and

(b) make recommendations for the consideration of the Central Government regarding suspension, revocation, or curtailment of the duration of the authorisation or assignment.

(2) The Central Government may, after due consideration of the recommendations of the Adjudicating Officer under clause (b) of sub-section (1), suspend, curtail or revoke the authorisation or assignment, as the case may be, which may be reversed if the substantial violation is remedied to the satisfaction of the Central Government.

(3) While imposing penalties specified in the Second Schedule under this section and section 33, the Adjudicating Officer shall have due regard to the following factors, namely:—

(a) nature, gravity and duration of the contravention, taking into account the scope of the contravention;

(b) number of persons affected by such contravention, and the level of harm suffered by them;

(c) intentional or negligent character of the contravention;

(d) repetitive nature of the contravention;

(e) action taken by the concerned person to mitigate the contravention, including by providing a voluntary undertaking under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 34;

(f) revenue loss caused to the Central Government;

(g) any aggravating factors relevant to the circumstances of the case, such as the amount of disproportionate gain or unfair advantage, wherever quantifiable, made as a result of the contravention; and

(h) any mitigating factors relevant to the circumstances of the case, such as the timely rectification of the contravention, or steps taken for the avoidance of loss as a result of the contravention.

33. (1) The Adjudicating Officer shall, upon receipt of a complaint in such form, manner and accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed, relating to contravention of this Act as specified in the Third Schedule, or *suo motu*, conduct an inquiry under the provisions of this Chapter, pass an order in writing specifying the civil penalty up to an amount as specified in the Third Schedule, payable by the person committing such contravention.

Contraventions
of Act.

(2) The provisions of the Third Schedule shall apply to the abetment of, or attempt to commit, or conspiracy to commit such contravention, as they apply to such contravention.

34. (1) Any authorised entity or assignee committing the contravention as provided under section 32 or under serial No. 4 of the Third Schedule may, prior to any notice or initiation of process of determination of such contravention, submit a voluntary undertaking to the Adjudicating Officer, disclosing such contravention and measures taken or to be taken to mitigate such contravention.

Voluntary
undertaking
for
contraventions.

(2) The acceptance of voluntary undertaking given under sub-section (1), subject to the provisions of sub-section (6), shall constitute a bar on proceedings under this Chapter.

(3) Where the Adjudicating Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a contravention as provided under section 32 or under serial No. 4 of the Third Schedule may have occurred, then it shall serve a notice to the authorised entity or assignee concerned under the relevant section.

(4) At any time during the process of hearing under sub-section (3), the authorised entity or assignee, may, submit a voluntary undertaking specifying the mitigation measures it proposes to take in respect of such contravention.

(5) The acceptance of the voluntary undertaking submitted under sub-section (4), subject to the provisions of sub-section (6), shall be construed as a mitigation measure and shall be duly considered for the purpose of determination of civil penalties under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 32, or under serial No. 4 of the Third Schedule.

(6) The voluntary undertaking under sub-section (1) or sub-section (4) of this section, may include an undertaking to take a specified action within a specified time; an undertaking to refrain from taking a specified action; and an undertaking to publicise the voluntary undertaking.

(7) The Adjudicating Officer may accept the voluntary undertaking under sub-section (1) or sub-section (4), or with the agreement of the authorised entity or assignee providing the voluntary undertaking, vary the terms included in such voluntary undertaking.

(8) When the authorised entity or assignee providing a voluntary undertaking fails to comply with any terms of such undertaking, the Adjudicating Officer may, after giving such authorised entity or assignee a reasonable opportunity of being heard, proceed with imposition of civil penalties specified under the Second Schedule or the Third Schedule, as applicable.

Adjudicating
Officer.

35. (1) For the purposes of this Chapter, the Central Government shall, by an order published in the Official Gazette, appoint any officer of the Central Government not below the rank of Joint Secretary as one or more Adjudicating Officers for holding an inquiry in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The Adjudicating Officer may, upon the holding of such inquiry, pass such order as he deems fit in accordance with the provisions of section 32 or section 33.

Designated
Appeals
Committee.

36. (1) The Central Government may, by an order published in the Official Gazette, appoint officers of the Central Government not below the rank of Additional Secretary, as members of one or more Designated Appeals Committee to which any person aggrieved by an order made by the Adjudicating Officer under sub-section (1) of section 32 or under section 33, may prefer an appeal.

(2) Every appeal under sub-section (1) shall be filed within a period of thirty days from the date on which the copy of the order made by the Adjudicating Officer is received by the aggrieved person, and shall be in such form, manner and be accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed.

Process to be
followed by
Adjudicating
Officer and
Designated
Appeals
Committee.

37. (1) The functioning of the Adjudicating Officer and the Designated Appeals Committee shall, as far as possible, be digital by design and they shall function as digital offices and deploy such techno-legal measures as may be prescribed, to enable online process for their functioning.

(2) The Adjudicating Officer and Designated Appeals Committee shall have the same powers as a civil court, and all proceedings before it shall be deemed to be judicial proceedings within the meaning of sections 193 and 228 of the Indian Penal Code.

45 of 1860.

Enforcement.

38. Any order made by the Adjudicating Officer or the Designated Appeals Committee shall be executable in the same manner as if it were a decree of civil court; and such orders shall be deemed to be final decrees under this section on the expiry of the period allowed for preferring an appeal against such orders as provided in section 36 and section 39.

- 24 of 1997. **39.** Any person aggrieved by an order of the Designated Appeals Committee under section 36, in so far as it pertains to matters under sub-section (1) of section 32, or an order of the Central Government under sub-section (2) of section 32, may prefer an appeal to the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal constituted under section 14 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, within a period of thirty days from the date on which a copy of the order is received by such authorised entity or assignee. Appeals on matters relating to section 32.
- 40.** Any person aggrieved by an order of the Designated Appeals Committee under section 36, in so far as it pertains to matters under section 33, may prefer an appeal to any civil court having jurisdiction over the matter. Appeals on matters relating to section 33.
- 41.** No civil court shall have jurisdiction in respect of any matter which the Adjudicating Officer, the Designated Appeals Committee, the Central Government or the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal are empowered by or under this Chapter to determine. Jurisdiction of civil court barred.

CHAPTER IX

OFFENCES

- 42. (1)** Whoever provides telecommunication services or establishes telecommunication network without authorisation under sub-section (1) of section 3, or causes damage to critical telecommunication infrastructure shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend up to two crore rupees, or with both. General provisions relating to offences.
- (2) Whoever directly or indirectly or through personation—
- (a) gains or attempts to gain unauthorised access to a telecommunication network or to data of an authorised entity or transfers data of an authorised entity; or
- (b) intercepts a message unlawfully,
- shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend up to two crore rupees, or with both.
- Explanation.*—For the purposes of this sub-section,—
- (i) the expression "personation" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it under section 416 of the Indian Penal Code;
- (ii) data of an authorised entity includes call data records, internet protocol data records, traffic data, subscriber data records and the like.
- (3) Whoever,—
- (a) possesses or uses without an authorisation, any equipment that blocks telecommunication;
- (b) uses telecommunication identifiers not allotted or permitted in accordance with sub-sections (8) and (9) of section 3;
- (c) tampers with telecommunication identifiers;
- (d) possesses radio equipment without an authorisation or an exemption that can accommodate more than specified number of subscriber identity modules;
- (e) obtains subscriber identity modules or other telecommunication identifiers through fraud, cheating or personation;
- (f) wilfully possesses radio equipment knowing that it uses unauthorised or tampered telecommunication identifiers,
- 45 of 1860.

shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend up to fifty lakh rupees, or with both.

(4) Whoever wilfully contravenes any measures specified in the notification on national security under section 21 shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend up to two crore rupees, or with both and the Central Government may, if it deems fit, also suspend or terminate the telecommunication service of such person.

(5) Whoever causes damage to telecommunication network, other than critical telecommunication infrastructure shall be liable for compensation for the damage caused and fine which may extend up to fifty lakh rupees.

(6) Whoever abets any offence, or attempts to commit, or conspires to commit an offence under this Act, shall if the act abetted or conspired is committed in consequence of such abetment or conspiracy, be punished with the punishment provided for the offence.

(7) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, all offences specified under this section shall be cognizable and non-bailable.

2 of 1974.

(8) No court inferior to that of a Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or a Chief Judicial Magistrate of first class shall try any offence punishable under this Act.

Power to search.

43. Any officer authorised by the Central Government in this behalf, may search any building, vehicle, vessel, aircraft or place in which he has reason to believe that any unauthorised telecommunication network or telecommunication equipment or radio equipment in respect of which an offence punishable under section 42 has been committed, is kept or concealed and take possession thereof.

Supply of information to authorised officers.

44. Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, where the Central Government is satisfied that any information, document or record in possession or control of any authorised entity or assignee relating to any telecommunication service, telecommunication network or use of spectrum, availed by any entity or consumer or subscriber is necessary to be furnished in relation to any pending or apprehended civil or criminal proceedings, an officer, specially authorised in writing by the Central Government in this behalf, shall direct such authorised entity or assignee to furnish such information, document or record to him and the authorised entity or assignee shall comply with the direction of such officer.

CHAPTER X

MISCELLANEOUS

Creation of security interests.

45. The Central Government may provide for such security interest which an authorised entity may provide to lenders financing such entities on such terms and conditions of such security interest as may be prescribed.

Certification of person for operation of radio equipment on a vessel or aircraft.

46. The Central Government may grant certification to any person to operate a radio equipment on such class of vessels registered under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, aircrafts registered under the Aircraft Act, 1934 and any other category of vessels or vehicles as may be notified by the Central Government, in accordance with such terms and conditions, including applicable fees and charges, as may be prescribed.

44 of 1958.
22 of 1934.

Certification for amateur station operator.

47. The Central Government may by rules provide for the manner of certification of person to install and operate an amateur station and such rules may specify the qualifications and terms and conditions subject to which, a certification for operating an amateur station may be granted, including through conduct of examinations for granting such certification, the fees and charges to be paid thereof, and other connected matters.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section,—

(a) "amateur services" means radio communication services for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorised person interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without any pecuniary interest;

(b) "amateur station" means a radio station operated by an amateur for amateur services.

48. No person shall possess or use any equipment that blocks telecommunication unless permitted by the Central Government, or any authority authorised for specific purpose by the Central Government. Prohibition of use of equipment which blocks telecommunication.
49. (1) The penalties imposed pursuant to the provisions of Chapter VIII or Chapter IX, shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any liability in respect of payment of compensation or payment of any fees or charges due by an authorised entity or assignee. Penalties not to affect other liabilities.
- (2) The provisions of this Act are in addition to and without prejudice to any other liability which a person may have incurred under any other law for the time being in force.
50. This Act shall apply to any offence committed or contravention made outside India by any person if the act or conduct constituting such offence or contravention involves a telecommunication service provided in India, or telecommunication equipment or telecommunication network located in India. Act to apply for offence or contravention committed outside India.
51. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Central Government, the State Government, or any other authority under this Act or any person acting on their behalf, as the case may be, for anything which is done in good faith, or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rule, regulation or order made thereunder. Protection of action taken in good faith.
52. (1) The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not be construed in derogation of the provisions of any other law, and shall be construed as consistent with such law, for the time being in force. Consistency with other laws.
- (2) If any conflict arises between a provision of this Act and a provision of any other law for the time being in force in the whole of India or restricted to the application within the territory of any State, the provision of this Act shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.
53. The implementation of the Act shall be digital by design and the Central Government shall take any such measures as necessary to enable the digital implementation of the Act. Implementation of Act.
54. No employee of an authorised entity shall, in any legal proceeding to which such authorised entity is not a party, be compelled to appear as a witness to prove the information contained in any electronic records submitted under sub-section (4) of section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, except as required by order of the Court or a Judge made for special cause. Employee of authorised entity not to be compelled to appear as witness.
55. The privilege of the Central Government to grant authorisations or assignment under this Act in the Continental Shelf and the Exclusive Economic Zone of India and the rights of an authorised entity or assignee, as the case may be, shall be subject to the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones Act, 1976, and applicable international laws as accepted and ratified by India. Rights in Continental Shelf and Exclusive Economic Zone.
56. (1) The Central Government may, by notification, and subject to the condition of previous publication, make rules not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, to carry out the purposes of this Act. Power of Central Government to make rules.

1 of 1872.

80 of 1976.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the terms and conditions, including fees or charges for obtaining authorisation under sub-section (1) of section 3;

(b) the manner of exemption for providing authorisation under sub-section (3) of section 3;

(c) the terms and conditions, including fees and charges, applicable to the original authorised entity that emerges pursuant to any merger, demerger, acquisition, or other forms of restructuring, under sub-section (5) of section 3;

(d) the terms and conditions for migration under sub-section (6) of section 3;

(e) the verifiable biometric based identification to be used by an authorised entity of telecommunication services under sub-section (7) of section 3;

(f) the terms and conditions, including fees or charges for allotment of telecommunication identifiers for use by authorised entities under sub-section (8) of section 3;

(g) the terms and conditions for the assignment of spectrum, including the frequency range, methodology for pricing, price, fees and charges, payment mechanism, duration and procedure under sub-section (3) of section 4;

(h) the manner of exemptions for assignment of spectrum under sub-section (7) of section 4;

(i) the terms and conditions for re-farming and harmonisation under section 5;

(j) the terms and conditions, including applicable fees and charges, and any other relevant condition subject to which the utilisation of the spectrum in a flexible, liberalised and technologically neutral manner under section 6;

(k) the terms and conditions for optimal utilisation of spectrum under sub-section (1) of section 7;

(l) the period of unutilised spectrum for insufficient reasons and further terms and conditions relating to spectrum utilisation under sub-section (2) of section 7;

(m) the terms and conditions, including applicable fees or charges for sharing, trading, leasing and surrender of assigned spectrum, under sub-section (2) of section 8;

(n) the timeline for granting permission for right of way for telecommunication network in public property; and the amount for administrative expenses and compensation for right of way under sub-section (3) of section 11;

(o) the procedure to be followed by a facility provider to enter, survey, establish, operate, maintain, repair, replace or relocate the telecommunication network, including the notice period, the manner of issuance of notice, the framework governing objections by owner or occupier of the property, the manner in which such objections would be resolved, and matters relating to the compensation payable for any damage under sub-section (5) of section 12;

(p) the terms and conditions, including charges for right of way, and compensation for damage to the property, under sub-section (6) of section 12;

(q) the terms and conditions, including fees and charges subject to which the telecommunication network to be made available on open access basis to facility providers under sub-section (2) of section 15;

(r) the procedure and manner for giving prior notice under sub-section (1) of section 17;

(s) the timeline for responding the notice with details of telecommunication network and precautionary measures to be undertaken by the facility provider under sub-section (2) of section 17;

(t) the procedure and safeguards for public emergency or public safety under sub-section (2) of section 20;

(u) the duration and manner of taking action for public emergency or public safety under sub-section (4) of section 20;

(v) the measures to protect and ensure cyber security of, telecommunication networks and telecommunication services under sub-section (1) of section 22;

(w) the standards, security practices, upgradation requirements and procedures to be implemented for the Critical Telecommunication Infrastructure under sub-section (4) of section 22;

(x) the manner for administration of Digital *Bharat Nidhi* under section 26;

(y) the manner and duration for creating Regulatory Sandbox under section 27;

(z) the measures for protection of users under sub-section (2) of section 28;

(za) the manner for registration of any grievance and redressal of such grievances pertaining to the telecommunication service under sub-section (3) of section 28;

(zb) the terms and conditions for participating in the dispute resolution mechanism under sub-section (2) of section 30;

(zc) the form, manner and fees to be accompanied with the complaint under sub-section (1) of section 33;

(zd) the manner for holding inquiry by the Adjudicating Officer under sub-section (1) of section 35;

(ze) the form, manner and fees for filing an appeal before the Designated Appeals Committee under sub-section (2) of section 36;

(zf) the techno-legal measures for functioning of the Adjudicating Officer and the Designated Appeals Committee under sub-section (1) of section 37;

(zg) the terms and conditions of security interest under section 45;

(zh) the terms and conditions, including applicable fees and charges for granting certificates under section 46;

(zi) the manner of certification, qualification, and terms and conditions, including fees and charges for the examination for amateur station operator under section 47;

(zj) any other matter which is to be, or may be, prescribed, or in respect of which provision is to be made by rules.

(3) Every rule made under this Act and amendment to the Schedule made under section 57 shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both

Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or amendment to the Schedule or both Houses agree that the rule or amendment to the Schedule should not be made, the rule or amendment to the Schedule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or amendment to the Schedule.

Power of
Central
Government
to amend
Schedules.

57. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Central Government may, by notification,—

(a) amend the First Schedule;

(b) amend the Second Schedule or the Third Schedule:

Provided that penalty or civil penalty specified in such Schedules shall be not exceeding ten crore rupees.

(2) Any amendment made under sub-section (1) shall have effect as if enacted in this Act and shall come into force on the date of the notification, unless the notification otherwise directs.

Power to
remove
difficulties.

58. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may be necessary or expedient, for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiration of three years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

Amendment
to Act 24 of
1997.

59. In the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997,—

(a) in section 2,—

(i) in sub-section (1),—

(A) for clause (e), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

'(e) "licensee" means an authorised entity providing telecommunication services under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, or registered for providing cable television network under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 or any other Act for the time being in force;'

7 of 1995.

(B) for clause (ea), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

'(ea) "licensor" means the Central Government which grants an authorisation for telecommunication services under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, or registration under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 or any other Act for the time being in force;'

7 of 1995.

(C) after clause (j), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

'(ja) "telecommunication" shall have the meaning as assigned to it in the Telecommunications Act, 2023;'

(D) for clause (k), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

'(k) "telecommunication services" means any service for telecommunication;'

13 of 1885.
17 of 1933.
7 of 1995.

(ii) in sub-section (2), for the words and figures "the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 or the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933", the words, figures and brackets "the Telecommunications Act, 2023 or the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995" shall be substituted;

(b) in section 4, for the proviso, the following provisos shall be substituted, namely:—

"Provided that a person who is, or has been, in the service of Government shall not be appointed—

(a) as a Chairperson unless such person has held the post of Secretary to the Government of India or any equivalent post in the Central Government or the State Government; or

(b) as a member unless such person has held the post of Additional Secretary to the Government of India or any equivalent post in the Central Government or the State Government:

Provided further that a person who is, or has been, in a service other than that of Government, shall be appointed—

(a) as a Chairperson if such person has at least thirty years of professional experience and has served as a member of the board of directors or a chief executive of a company in the areas as specified in this section; or

(b) as a Member if such person has at least twenty-five years of professional experience and has served as a member of the board of directors or chief executive of a company in the areas as specified in this section.";

(c) in section 11,—

(i) in sub-section (1),—

13 of 1885.
7 of 1995.

(A) for the words and figures "Indian Telegraph Act, 1885", the words, figures and brackets "Telecommunications Act, 2023 or the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995" shall be substituted;

(B) in the fifth proviso, for the portion beginning with the words "may, within fifteen days from the date of receipt" and ending with the words "take a final decision", the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"shall, within thirty days from the date of receipt of such reference communicate to the Central Government any further recommendations that it may have, after considering the reference made by the Central Government and after receipt of further recommendation if any, the Central Government shall take a final decision.";

(ii) in sub-section (2),—

13 of 1885.
7 of 1995.

(A) for the words and figures "Indian Telegraph Act, 1885", the words, figures and brackets "Telecommunications Act, 2023 or the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995" shall be substituted;

(B) after the proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

"Provided further that the Authority may direct an authorised entity or class of authorised entities providing telecommunication services, to abstain from predatory pricing that is harmful to competition, long term development and the overall health of the telecommunication sector.";

(d) in section 14, in clause (a),—

(i) sub-clause (i) shall be omitted;

(ii) for paragraph (C), the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"(C) any disputes to be adjudicated by the Adjudicating Officer or the Designated Appeals Committee under the Telecommunications Act, 2023;

(iii) after clause (c), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

"(d) hear and dispose of appeals under section 39 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

Any action instituted under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 and pending immediately before the appointed day in the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal, shall continue to be heard and disposed of by the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal as if this Act had not been passed;"

24 of 1997.

(e) for section 38, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

"38. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and, in particular, nothing in this Act shall affect any jurisdiction, powers and functions required to be exercised or performed by the appropriate authority in relation to any area falling within the jurisdiction of such authority."

Application of certain laws.

CHAPTER XI

REPEAL AND SAVINGS

Repeal of certain Acts and savings.

60. (1) Subject to the other provisions of this section, the enactments namely, the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, and the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, are hereby repealed.

13 of 1885.
17 of 1933.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the provisions aforesaid, anything done or any action taken including any grant of license, registration or assignment, any order, or proceeding, pending or ongoing, under the repealed provisions shall be deemed to have been done or taken under this Act, and the provisions of this Act shall have effect in relation thereto.

(3) The provisions of Part-III of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 shall continue to apply to all cases pertaining to laying down of transmission lines under section 164 of the Electricity Act, 2003 as if the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has not been repealed, and the provisions of Part-III of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 shall continue in force with reference to section 164 of the Electricity Act, 2003 till such time as section 164 of the Electricity Act, 2003 is amended.

13 of 1885.
36 of 2003.

- 13 of 1885.
17 of 1933.
61. All rules, orders, made or purported to have been made under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 or under the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, shall, in so far as they relate to matters for which provision is made in this Act and are not inconsistent therewith, be deemed to have been made under this Act as if this Act had been in force on the date on which such rules, orders were made, and shall continue in force unless and until they are superseded by any rules made under this Act.
- Existing rules to continue.
- 13 of 1885.
17 of 1933.
62. All acts of executive actions done, decisions taken, actions done, proceedings taken and orders passed, prior to the appointed day, by the Central Government, by any officer of the Central Government, or by any other authority, with respect to assignment of spectrum or provision of telecommunication services, or telecommunication network or establishment of telecommunication infrastructure, in the belief or purported belief that the acts done, decisions taken, actions done, and proceedings taken, were being done, taken or passed under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, or the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, shall be as valid and operative as if they had been done, taken or passed in accordance with law; and no suit or other legal proceeding shall be maintained or continued against any person whatsoever, on the ground that any such acts, decisions, proceedings taken were not done or taken in accordance with law.
- Validation of certain acts and indemnity.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

[See sections 4 (4), (5) and 57(I)]

ASSIGNMENT OF SPECTRUM THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS

1. National security and defence.
2. Law enforcement and crime prevention.
3. Public broadcasting services.
4. Disaster management, safeguarding life and property.
5. Promoting scientific research, resource development, and exploration.
6. Safety and operation of roads, railways, metro, regional rail, inland waterways, airports, ports, pipelines, shipping, and other transport systems.
7. Conservation of natural resources and wildlife.
8. Meteorological department and weather forecasting.
9. Internationally recognised dedicated bands for amateur stations, navigation, telemetry, and other like usages.
10. Use by Central Government, State Governments, or their entities or other authorised entities for safety and operations of mines, ports and oil exploration and such other activities where the use of spectrum is primarily for supporting the safety and operations.
11. Public Mobile Radio Trunking Services.
12. Radio backhaul for telecommunication services.
Explanation.—The term "radio backhaul" shall mean the use of radio frequency only to interconnect telecommunication equipment, other than the customer equipment in telecommunication networks.
13. Community Radio Stations.
14. In-flight and maritime connectivity.
15. Space research and application, launch vehicle operations and ground station for satellite control.
16. Certain satellite-based services such as: Teleports, Television channels, Direct To Home, Headend In The Sky, Digital Satellite News Gathering, Very Small Aperture Terminal, Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellites, National Long Distance, International Long Distance, Mobile Satellite Service in L and S bands.
17. Use by Central Government, State Governments or their authorised agencies for telecommunication services.
18. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).
19. Testing, trial, experimental, demonstration purposes for enabling implementation of new technologies, including for creation of one or more Regulatory Sandboxes.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

[See sections 32(1) (a) and 34 (8)]

CIVIL PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER SECTIONS 32 AND 34.

Categorisation	Civil Penalty
Severe	Up to Rs. 5 Crore
Major	Up to Rs. 1 Crore
Moderate	Up to Rs. 10 lakh
Minor	Up to Rs. 1 lakh
Non-severe	Written warning.

THE THIRD SCHEDULE

[See sections 33(1), (2), 34(1), (3), (5) and 34(8)]

CIVIL PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN CONTRAVENTIONS

Sl. No.	Contravention under the Act	Civil Penalty
1.	(a) Possessing radio equipment without an authorisation or an exemption, except for the offence under clauses (d) and (f) of sub-section (3) of section 42; (b) Use of subscriber identity modules in excess of number notified.	First Offence: Civil penalty up to fifty thousand rupees. Each subsequent offence: Civil penalty up to two lakh rupees for each such instance.
2.	Use by any person or entity of a telecommunication service or telecommunication network knowing or having reason to believe that such telecommunication service or telecommunication network does not have the required authorisation under this Act.	Civil penalty up to ten lakh rupees.
3.	Contravention of the provisions of section 28 (Measures for protection of users).	First Offence: Civil penalty up to fifty thousand rupees. Each subsequent offence: Civil penalty up to two lakh rupees for each such instance, or suspension of telecommunication service, or a combination thereof.
4.	Contravention of any provision of this Act or rules, or any terms or conditions of an assignment or authorisation in relation to any matter under this Act, for which no penalty or punishment is provided elsewhere in this Act.	First Offence: Civil penalty up to twenty-five thousand rupees. Second or subsequent offence: Further Civil penalty up to fifty thousand rupees for every day after the first during which the contravention continues.

S.K.G. RAHATE,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Annexure 2.1: Scope of Authorizations under the Unified License⁴⁸

A. Access Service Authorisation

2. **Scope of Access Service:** Scope of this authorization covers the following:

2.1(a)(i) The Access Service under this authorization covers collection, carriage, transmission and delivery of voice and/or non-voice MESSAGES over Licensee's network in the designated Service Area. The Licensee can also provide Internet Telephony, Internet Services including IPTV, Broadband Services and triple play i.e. voice, video and data. While providing Internet Telephony service, the Licensee may interconnect Internet Telephony network with PSTN/PLMN/GMPCS network. The Licensee may provide access service, which could be on wireline and / or wireless media with full mobility, limited mobility and fixed wireless access.

(ii) Licensee may enter into mutual commercial agreements for roaming facilities (within same service area or other service areas) with other Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Licensees/ Unified Access Service LICENSEES/Unified License (Access Services) LICENSEES /Unified Licensees with Access Service authorization, unless otherwise directed by Licensor, irrespective of spectrum band held or technology deployed by such licensees. Licensee may also enter into mutual commercial agreements for roaming facilities (within same service area or other service areas) with Unified Licensees having Category 'A', Category 'B' and Category 'C' Internet Service Provider (I SP) authorizations/ Category 'A', Category 'B' and Category 'C' Internet Service Providers, for providing Internet Access Services only. However, any Roaming arrangement shall not entitle the Licensee to acquire customer in the spectrum band not held or technology not deployed or for services/facilities not offered by the Licensee in its network.

(iii) The Licensee can acquire customer for delivery of services offered in its network using only the spectrum band held & technology deployed by the Licensee. While

⁴⁸ <https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/Compendium-UL-AGREEMENT%20updated%20up%20to%2031032024.pdf?download=1>

roaming on other Licensees' network, the services availed by the subscriber shall be limited to only those services which have been subscribed in its home network.

- (iv) The Licensee may also enter into agreements with telecom service providers abroad for providing roaming facility to its subscriber unless directed by Licensor otherwise.
- (v) The Licensee may provide leased circuits within its respective service area. Interconnection of leased circuits, whether point to point or in CUG network, with PSTN/PLMN/GMPCS/Internet Telephony Network is not permitted.
- (vi) The Licensee may also provide Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging services, Video Conferencing over its network to the subscribers falling within its SERVICE AREA on non-discriminatory basis. All the revenue earned by the Licensee through these services shall be counted towards the revenue for the purpose of paying License Fee under the LICENSE AGREEMENT.
- (vii) Deleted.
- (viii) Except those services permitted under the scope of this authorization, the Licensee shall not provide any service / services which require a separate service authorization / license.
- (ix) The Licensee may offer "Home Zone Tariff Scheme (s)" as a subset of full mobile service in well defined geographical Areas through a tariff of its choice within the scope of orders of TRAI on the subject. Numbering and interconnection for this service shall be same as that of fully mobile subscribers.
- (x) Spectrum sharing, Surrender and leasing would be permitted as per guidelines issued by the Government from time to time.
- (xi) Licensee may provide Captive Non-Public Network (CNPN) as a service to enterprise(s) by using network resources (such as through network slicing) over its PLMN.

- (xii) Licensee may establish isolated CNPN for enterprises using IMT spectrum assigned to it for establishing PLMN. While establishing such isolated CNPNs, it will be the responsibility of the Licensee to ensure that the prescribed QoS to their customers through public network is maintained.
 - (xiii) In case the Licensee decides to surrender the spectrum, which is being used for CNPNs, it shall give prior notice, at least 6 months before the effective date of surrender of spectrum, to its CNPN customers.
- 2.1(b) In respect of subscriber availing limited mobility facility, the mobility shall be restricted to the local area i.e. Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) in which the subscriber is registered. While deploying such systems, the LICENSEE has to follow the SDCA based linked numbering plan in accordance with the National Numbering Plan of the respective SDCA within which the service is provided and it should not be possible to authenticate and work with the subscriber terminal equipment in SDCA other than the one in which it is registered. Terminal of such subscriber in wireless access system can be registered in only one SDCA. Multiple registration or Temporary subscriber/ Subscription facilities in more than one SDCA using the same Subscriber terminal in wireless access systems is not permitted and the same Subscriber Terminal cannot be used to avail Limited Mobile facility in more than one SDCA. The system shall also be so engineered to ensure that hand over of subscriber does not take place from one SDCA to another SDCA under any circumstances, including handover of the calls through call forwarding beyond SDCA. The LICENSEE must ensure that the mobility in case of such limited mobile service/ facility remains restricted to SDCA.
- 2.2 Licensee may carry intra-circle long distance traffic on its network. However, subject to technical feasibility, the subscriber of the intra-circle long distance calls, shall be given choice to use the network of another Licensee in the same service area, wherever possible. The Licensee may also enter into mutual agreements with other UL Licensee (with authorization for access service)/ other Access service licensee/National Long Distance Licensee for carrying its intra-Circle Long Distance traffic.

- 2.3 For provision of the service by the Licensee, the Licensee may appoint or employ franchisee, agents, distributors and employees. Responsibilities for ensuring compliance of terms & conditions of the License shall vest with the Licensee and not with the Franchisee. The terms of franchise agreement between Licensee and his franchisee shall be settled mutually by negotiation between the two parties involved. The Licensee shall report the details of such Franchisee to the Licensor as prescribed from time to time.
- 2.4 The Licensee may provide internet service by using the Cable Network of authorized Cable Operator, as last mile linkage, subject to applicable Cable Laws (The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995) as modified from time to time.
- 2.5 Stands modified.
- 2.6(i) For provision of Internet Telephony, Internet Services, Broadband Services and triple play i.e. voice, video and data, the Conditions No. 2.1(i), 2.1(vii), 2.1(ix), 2.1(x), 2.2 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Chapter IX (Internet Service) shall also be applicable.
- (ii) Internet Telephony calls originated by International out roamers from international locations shall be handed over at the International gateway of licensed ILDOs and International termination charges shall be paid to the terminating access service provider. In case the Licensee is not able to ensure that Internet Telephony call originated outside of the country is coming through ILDO gateway, International out-roaming to Internet Telephony subscribers of the access provider shall not be allowed. Further, the calls originated outside the country using internet telephony shall be routed through ILD (International Long Distance) Gateway like any other international call.
- (iii) The mobile numbering series should be used for providing Internet Telephony by Licensee. TSPs are allowed to allocate same number to the subscriber both for Cellular Mobile service and Internet Telephony service.

The access service licensee should use private ENUM in its network for Telephone number mapping from E.164 to SIP/H.323 addresses and vice-versa.

(iv) The licensees should comply with all the interception and monitoring related requirements as specified in the licence as amended from time to time for providing Internet Telephony.

The Public IP address used for originating/terminating Internet Telephony calls should be made a mandatory part of CDR in case of Internet Telephony. The location details in form of latitude and longitude should also be provided wherever it is feasible.

CLI Restriction (CLIR) facility should not be provided for Internet Telephony Subscribers.

(v) IP Address assigned to a subscriber for Internet Telephony shall conform to IP addressing Scheme of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) only.

(vi) The Licensees providing Internet Telephony service may facilitate access to emergency number calls using location services; however it is not mandated to provide such services at present. The subscribers may be informed about the limitation of providing access to emergency services to Internet Telephony subscribers in unambiguous terms.

(vii) The Licensees must inform QoS parameter supported by them for Internet Telephony so that the subscribers can take an informed decision.

B. Internet Service Authorisation

2. **Scope of Internet Service:** Scope of this Authorization covers the following:

2.1(i) The Licensee may provide Internet access including IPTV. The subscriber shall have unrestricted access to all the content available on Internet except for such content which is restricted by the Licensor/designated authority under Law. The Licensee shall not offer VPN/Closed User Group services to its subscribers. The content for IPTV shall be regulated as per law in force from time to time.

Licensee may enter into mutual commercial agreements for roaming facilities (within same service area or other service areas) with other Cellular Mobile

Telephone Service Licensees/ Unified Access Service LICENSEES/Unified Licensees with Access Service authorization/ Unified Licensees having Category 'A', Category 'B' and Category 'C' Internet Service Provider (ISP) authorizations/ Category 'A', Category 'B' and Category 'C' Internet Service Provider (ISP) Licensees, for providing Internet Access Services only. However, any Roaming arrangement shall not entitle the Licensee to acquire customer in the spectrum band not held or technology not deployed or for services/facilities not offered by the Licensee in its network.

- (ii) The Licensee may provide Internet Telephony through Public Internet by the use of Personal Computers (PC) or IP based Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) connecting only the following:
- a) PC to PC; within or outside India
 - b) PC / a device / Adapter conforming to TEC or International Standard in India to PSTN/PLMN abroad.
 - c) Any device / Adapter conforming to TEC or International Standard connected to ISP node with static IP address to similar device / Adapter; within or outside India.

Explanation: Internet Telephony is a different service in its scope, nature and kind from real time voice service as offered by other licensees like Basic Service Licensees, Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Licensees, Unified Access Service (UAS) Licensees, Unified Licensee (Access Service), Unified Licensee with authorization for access services.

- (iii) The Internet Telephony, only as described in condition (ii) above, can be provided by the Licensee. Voice communication to and from a telephone connected to PSTN/PLMN/GMPCS and use of E.164 numbering is prohibited.
- (iv) Addressing scheme for Internet Telephony shall conform to IP addressing Scheme of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) only and the same shall not use National Numbering Scheme / plan applicable to subscribers of Basic / Cellular Telephone service Translation of E.164 number / private number to IP address allotted to any device and vice versa, by the licensee to show compliance with IANA numbering scheme is not permitted.

- (v) For carrying originating and terminating traffic of its subscribers, the licensee may establish its own transmission links within its service area. For this purpose, the Licensee may also establish 'Last Mile' linkages within the service area either on fibreoptic cable or radio communication or underground copper cable. In case of radio links, procedure as mentioned in Chapter VII of this License shall be applicable.
- (vi) Unified Messaging Services (UMS) within the scope of (i) to (ii) above can be provided by the Licensee.
- (vii) Internet Service to any VSAT Service subscriber can be provided, if the VSAT is located within the Service area of the Licensee. For this purpose, a direct interconnection of VSAT Network Hub through leased line obtained from an authorized service provider to the Licensee's node/server shall be permitted only for the Internet traffic. The Licensee shall provide to the Licensor a monthly statement of VSAT subscribers served with their locations and details of leased line interconnection with the VSAT Hub. The VSAT Hub, however, need not be located in the service area of the Licensee.
- (viii) The Licensee may provide internet service by using the Cable Network of authorized Cable Operator, as last mile linkage, subject to applicable Cable Laws (The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995) as modified from time to time.
- (ix) Licensee may install operate and commission International Internet Gateway in the service area using satellite or submarine cable as medium after obtaining security clearance/approval from Licensor.
- (x) Licensee with International internet gateway is allowed to sell international internet bandwidth to other licensed internet service providers. Provision of IPLC service is not covered under the scope of this authorization.
- (xi) The Licensee may share "passive" infrastructure namely building, tower, dark fibre, duct space, Right of Way owned, established and operated by it under the scope of this Authorization with other Licensees.

2.2 All subscribers, except dial up subscribers, shall be within the service area.

2.3 Principle of non-discriminatory treatment, definition of specialised services and reasonable traffic management and other exceptions:

(i) A Licensee providing Internet Access Service shall not engage in any discriminatory treatment of content, including based on the sender or receiver, the protocols being used or the user equipment.

(ii) The Licensee is prohibited from entering into any arrangement, agreement or contact, by whatever name called, with any person, natural or legal, that has the effect of discriminatory treatment of content.

(iii) Nothing contained in this provision shall restrict:

a) The provision of any Specialised Service by a Licensee, provided that:

- The Specialised Services are not usable or offered as a replacement for Internet Access Service; and
- The provision of the Specialised Services is not detrimental to the availability and overall quality of Internet Access Service.

b) Any measure adopted by the Licensee that are proportionate, transient and transparent in nature and fall under any of the following categories:

- Reasonable traffic management practices as may be specified from time to time;
- Provision of emergency services or any services provided during time of grave public emergency, as per the process laid down by the Licensor/TRAI;
- Implementation of any order of a court or direction issued by the Government, in accordance with law;
- Measures taken in pursuance of preserving the integrity and security of the network and equipment; and
- Measures taken in pursuance of an international treaty, as may be specified by the Government.

(iv) For the purpose of this provision:

- a) "Content" shall include all content, applications, services and any other data, including its end-point information, which can be accessed or transmitted over the Internet.
- b) "Discriminatory treatment" shall include any form of discrimination, restriction or interference in the treatment of content, including practices like blocking, degrading, slowing down or granting preferential speeds or treatment to any content.
- c) "Specialised services" shall mean services other than Internet Access Services that are optimised for specific content, protocols or user equipment, where the optimisation is necessary in order to meet specific quality of service requirements.

Provided that the Licensees is authorised to provide such services in accordance with the provisions contained in this license, as modified from time to time.

C. National Long Distance (NLD) Service Authorisation

2. Scope of the NLD Service: Scope of this Authorization covers the following:

2.1(a) The NLD Service Licensee shall have the right to carry inter-circle switched bearer telecommunication traffic over its national long distance network. The Licensee may also carry intra-circle switched traffic where such carriage is with mutual agreement with originating access service provider.

(b) The Licensee can also, in respect of Basic Service, make mutually agreed arrangements with the concerned Service Providers for picking up, carriage and delivery of the traffic from different legs between Long Distance Charging Center (LDCC) and Short Distance Charging Centers (SDCCs).

(c) In the case of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service traffic, the inter-circle traffic shall be handed/taken over at the Point of Presence (POP) situated in LDCA at the location of Level I TAX in originating/terminating service area. For West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir such locations shall be Asansol, Shimla & Jammu respectively.

(d) The Licensee can provide Leased Circuit / Virtual Private Network (VPN) Services

- (e) Further, only for provision of Leased Circuits/Close User Groups (CUGs) on leased circuits and for provision of national long distance voice service through Calling Cards, falling within the scope of, and, in accordance with clauses 2.1 (a) and 2.1(b) above, the Licensee can access the subscribers directly. While providing the domestic leased circuits, the Licensee shall be required to make own suitable arrangements for leased circuits /agreements with the Access Providers for last mile. Public network is not to be connected with leased circuits/CUGs.
- 2.2(i) The Licensee can provide bandwidth to other telecom service licensees also. Further, the licensee can also provide connectivity to the service providers which have obtained registration for M2M service.
- (ii) The Licensee may share "passive" infrastructure namely building, tower, dark fibre, duct space, Right of Way owned, established and operated by it under the scope of this Authorization with other Licensees.
- 2.3 (i) Access to the subscribers for provision of National Long Distance voice services (excluding message services) through Calling Cards shall be strictly within the scope of and in accordance with clauses 1.1(a) to 1.1(d) above. Provision of other Intelligent Network based services (except Intelligent Network service for operation of Calling Cards) such as tele-voting and toll-free services is not allowed to Licensee. Provision of Value Added Services such as SMS/ MMS, ringtones etc. through calling cards is also not allowed.
- (ii) The charges and sharing of revenues for the service features, network architecture and resources used for providing NLD voice services through calling cards shall be such as are mutually agreed between the service providers within the framework of and in accordance with regulations, directions, orders or instructions as may be issued from time to time by TRAI and directions, orders or instructions as may be issued from time to time by the Licensor.
- (iii) The licensee shall clearly indicate to the subscriber the specifications of the service to be offered through Calling Cards at the time of entering into contract with such subscriber.

D. Scope of International Long Distance (ILD) Service Authorisation

2. **Scope of ILD Service:** Scope of this Authorization covers the following:
- 2.1 The ILD Service Licensee shall have the right to carry switched bearer telecommunication traffic over international long distance network for providing International connectivity to the Network operated by foreign carriers.
- 2.2 The Licensee shall have full flexibility to offer all types of bearer services. The Licensee will provide bearer services so that end-to-end tele-services such as voice, data, fax, video, multi-media etc. can be provided by Access Providers to the customers.
- 2.3 The Licensee may offer international bandwidth on lease to other eligible licensees who are permitted to have international connectivity under their license. The Licensee shall not access the subscribers directly, except for provision of International Private Leased Circuits/CUG network. The domestic leg of the IPLC shall be through NLD service provider or Access Service Provider or both as the case may be for which the Licensee may enter into an arrangement with them. Public network is not to be connected with leased circuits/CUGs.
- 2.4 (i) The Licensee may provide international bandwidth on lease to Resellers who are issued license for 'Resale of IPLC' under Section 4 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.
- (ii) The Licensee may share "passive" infrastructure namely building, tower, dark fibre, duct space, Right of Way owned, established and operated by it under the scope of this Authorization with other Licensees.
- 2.5 (i) Further, the Licensee may also access the subscribers directly for provision of international long distance voice service only through calling cards.
- (ii) The charges and sharing of revenues for the service features, network architecture and resources used for providing ILD voice services through calling cards shall be such as are mutually agreed between the service providers within the framework of and in accordance with regulations/directions/orders/instructions that may be issued from time to time by TRAI/Licensor.

(iii) The licensee shall clearly indicate to the subscriber the specifications of the service to be offered through Calling Cards at the time of entering into contract with such subscriber.

2.6 The Licensee may establish Cable Landing Station (CLS) for submarine cable with prior permission of Licensor for which a separate application is to be submitted in the prescribed proforma. Access/ Co-location at the CLS shall be governed by the orders/regulations/directions issued by Licensor/ TRAI from time to time.

2.7 Equal access to bottleneck facilities at the Cable Landing Stations (CLS) including landing facilities for submarine cables for licensed operators on the basis of non-discrimination shall be mandatory. The terms and conditions for such access provision and the charges for such access provision shall be governed by the regulations/ orders as may be made by the Licensor/ TRAI from time to time.

E. Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service Authorisation

2. **Scope of the GMPCS Service:** Scope of this Authorization covers the following:

2.1 The licensee may provide, in its area of operation, all types of mobile services, including voice and non-voice messages, data services by establishing GMPCS Gateway utilizing any type of network equipment including circuit and/or packet switches. The licensee may also provide satellite-based data connectivity to the IoT devices/ Aggregator devices.

2.2 The Licensee shall establish Land Earth Station Gateway in India for the purpose of providing Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service. GMPCS Service may be provided using one or more Satellite Systems provided that the Land Earth Station Gateway Switch is established separately in India for each Satellite System.

F. Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS) Authorisation

2. **Scope of PMRTS Service:** Scope of this Authorization covers the following:

2.1 The licensee is permitted to provide Public Mobile Radio Trunk Service (PMRTS)
The PMRTS refers to:

- (i) a two way land mobile service in which users communicate among themselves through a pair of radio frequencies out of a pool in a designated frequency band, assigned to the system using pair of radio frequencies and
- (ii) the pair of frequencies is allocated on placement of call request and returned to the pool on completion of call and
- (iii) the communication usually takes place through repeater station (also called base station). Once user is assigned a channel (a pair of frequencies) by the system, no one else can interfere with the communication.

G. Commercial Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) CUG Service Authorisation

2. **Scope of VSAT CUG Service:** Scope of this Authorization is to provide the following:

2.1(i)(a) Data connectivity between various sites scattered within territorial boundary of India using VSATs. The users of the service should belong to a Closed User Group (CUG).

(b) VSAT licensee after obtaining ISP license may use same Hub station and VSAT (remote station) to provide Internet service directly to the subscribers, and in this case VSAT (remote station) may be used as a distribution point to provide Internet service to multiple independent subscribers.

(c) Backhaul connectivity for cellular mobile services through satellite using VSAT to the Access Service providers.

(d) Backhaul connectivity using VSAT to Access Service Providers for establishing Wi-Fi hotspots.

(e) The VSAT terminal of the Commercial VSAT CUG Service provider, which used to provide cellular mobile backhaul link or Wi-Fi hotspot backhaul link, is to be located in the service area of the Access service provider, where the backhaul

is used. However, the VSAT hub can be located anywhere in the country. The from the hub station to the respective network element of the cellular mobile network can be provided through the terrestrial connectivity obtained from an author service provider.

(f) VSAT terminal may also be used to aggregate the traffic from M2M/ IoT devices/aggregator devices.

(g) VSAT licensee may use VSAT to provide backhaul connectivity to service providers having license/ Authorization/ Registration for M2M services.

(h) User terminal stations on moving platforms are also permitted for provisioning of connectivity subject to compliance to relevant TEC standard(s) and conditions mentioned therein.

(ii) Long distance carriage rights, granted for NLD, ILD and Access service, are not covered under the scope of this service except the backhaul connectivity mentioned in para 2.1(i) (c) & (d) above.

(iii) The Closed User Group Domestic Data Network via INSAT Satellite System using VSAT shall be restricted to geographical boundaries of India.

(iv) The Licensee can set up a number of CUGs using the shared hub infrastructure.

(v) PSTN/PLMN connectivity is not permitted except the backhaul connectivity mentioned in para 2.1(i) (c) & (d) above.

(vi) Stands deleted

H. Scope of Audio Conferencing/ Audiotex/ Voice Mail service

2. **Scope Of Audio Conferencing/ Audiotex/ Voice Mail Service:** Scope of this authorization covers the following:

2.1 The Licensee may provide Audio Conferencing/ Audiotex/ Voice Mail services to the subscribers using Licensed Service Provider's Network as under:

- i. Audio Conferencing:** The Audio Conferencing Service allows users from multiple locations to join a single audio conference and interact at the same time. The audio conference services provide real-time transmission of voice between groups of users in two or more locations. The service is bidirectional via telecommunication networks, and provides for interconnection of two or more audio conference terminals.
- ii. Audiotex:** It is either an interactive or a non-interactive non real time service which provides through appropriate access by standardized procedure for users of Audiotex service to communicate with database (database system shall be present within national boundaries) via telecom network. A subscriber can retrieve the information at any time by interacting with the Audiotex Service Equipment by using phone and/or the information stored in Audiotex equipment can be disseminated to the subscriber on his phone in accordance with conditions mentioned in this chapter.
- iii. Voice Mail Service:** In a Voice Mail Service (VMS), the subscriber has a voice mail box with voice mailbox number from authorized telecom service provider. Any subscriber can leave/ retrieve his message in/ from his Voice mail box via a licensed telecommunication network using a combination of store & retrieve techniques. A VMS subscriber can leave/ retrieve this message by dialing voice mail box number at his convenience in accordance with conditions mentioned in this chapter.

2.2 Point to point conferencing and calling card facility shall not be provided by the Licensee. However, Point-to-point conferencing services may be provided to the registered enterprises in India, subject to the following conditions:-

- i. The calls shall originate and terminate within India.
- ii. The complete routing/ switching of the Audio Conferencing calls should remain within India.
- iii. The Telephone Number resources used by the Licensee shall be taken only from Licensed Service Providers in India.
- iv. There shall not be any illegal by pass of Telecom traffic for providing such conferencing services. The Licensee shall have to give an undertaking in this regard.

2.3 Except those services permitted under the scope of this authorization, the Licensee shall not provide any service / services which require a separate service authorization license.

2.4 The Service Providers who are providing Audiotex services on commercial basis, to other entity/ entities, will be covered under this authorization/ license.

I. Machine to Machine Service (M2M) Service Authorization

2. Scope of M2M Service: Scope of this authorization covers the following:

2(i) The Licensee shall own the underlying network to provide connectivity and related services for M2M Service Providers.

(ii) The Licensee can perform functions such as:

(a) access and integration of resources provided by other providers;

(b) support and control of the M2M/IoT capable infrastructure;

(c) offering of M2M/IoT capabilities, including network capabilities and resource exposure to other providers.

(iii) The Licensee intending to provide services exclusively through the LPWAN or equivalent technologies using unlicensed spectrum shall be covered under this authorization. Such licensees may also obtain licensed spectrum to provide M2M services exclusively, if they desire to provide M2M services in the licensed band.

(iv) Except those services permitted under the scope of this authorization, the Licensee shall not provide any service / services which require a separate service authorization / license.

(v) The Unified Licensees having Access Service authorization and Unified Access Services (UAS) licensees can provide the M2M services covered under this authorization and need not to obtain this authorization separately.

Annexure 2.2: Scope of Authorisations under the Unified License (VNO)⁴⁹

I. Access Service Authorisation

2. **Scope of Access Service:** Scope of this authorization covers the following:

2.1(a)(i) The Access Service under this authorization covers collection, carriage, transmission and delivery of voice and/or non-voice MESSAGES over Licensee's & or NSO's network in the designated Service Area. The Licensee can also provide Internet Telephony, Internet Services including IPTV, Broadband Services and triple play, i.e. voice, video and data. While providing Internet Telephony service, the Licensee's parent NSO may interconnect Internet Telephony network with PSTN/PLMN/GMPCS network. The Licensee may provide access service, which could be on wireline and/or wireless media with full mobility, limited mobility and fixed wireless access.

(ii) The Licensee can acquire customer for delivery of services offered in its network and/or NSO's network using only the spectrum band held & technology deployed by the NSO(s). While roaming on other Licensees' network, the services availed by the subscriber shall be limited to only those services which have been subscribed in its parent NSO's home network.

(iii) The NSO(s) to which the licensee is connected/parented may also enter into agreements with telecom service providers abroad for providing roaming facility to subscriber's of licensee unless directed by Licensor otherwise.

(iv) The Licensee may provide leased circuits within its respective service area. Interconnection of leased circuits, whether point to point or in CUG network, with PSTN/PLMN/GMPCS/Internet Telephony Network is not permitted.

⁴⁹ <https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/Compendium-VNO-AGREEMENT%20updated%20up%20to%2031032024.pdf?download=1>

- (v) The Licensee may also provide Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging services, Video Conferencing over its network to the subscribers falling within its SERVICE AREA on non-discriminatory basis. All the revenue earned by the Licensee through these services shall be counted towards the revenue for the purpose of paying License Fee under the LICENSE AGREEMENT.
 - (vi) Deleted.
 - (vii) Except those services permitted under the scope of this authorization, the Licensee shall not provide any service/ services which require a separate service authorization/ license.
 - (viii) The Licensee may offer "Home Zone Tariff Scheme (s)" as a subset of full mobile service in well-defined geographical Areas through a tariff of its choice within the scope of orders of TRAI on the subject. Numbering and interconnection for this service shall be same as that of fully mobile subscribers.
- 2.1(b) In respect of subscriber availing limited mobility facility, the mobility shall be restricted to the local area, i.e. Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) in which the subscriber is registered. While deploying such systems, the LICENSEE has to follow the SDCA based linked numbering plan in accordance with the National Numbering Plan of the respective SDCA within which the service is provided and it should not be possible to authenticate and work with the subscriber terminal equipment in SDCAs other than the one in which it is registered. Terminal of such subscriber in wireless access system can be registered in only one SDCA. Multiple registration or Temporary subscriber/ Subscription facilities in more than one SDCA using the same Subscriber terminal in wireless access systems is not permitted and the same Subscriber Terminal cannot be used to avail Limited Mobile facility in more than one SDCA. The system shall also be so engineered to ensure that hand over of subscriber does not take place from one SDCA to another SDCA under any circumstances, including handover of the calls through call forwarding beyond SDCA. The LICENSEE must ensure that the mobility in case of such limited mobile service/ facility remains restricted to SDCA.
- 2.2 Licensee may carry intra-circle long distance traffic on its network.

2.3 For providing service, the Licensee may setup and operate rural telephone exchange and last mile linkages thereof. Cable Operators registered under The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the amendments thereto may act as VNO to provide Internet and Voice services, to use the last mile linkages in rural area.

2.4 Stands deleted

2.5(i) For provision of Internet Telephony, Internet Services, Broadband Services and triple play, i.e. voice, video and data, the Conditions No. 2.1(i), 2.1(vii), 2.2, 5, 6, and 7 of Chapter IX (Internet Service) shall also be applicable.

(ii) Internet Telephony calls originated by International out roamers from international locations shall be handed over at the International gateway of licensed ILDOs and International termination charges shall be paid to the terminating access service provider. In case the Licensee is not able to ensure that Internet Telephony call originated outside of the country is coming through ILDO gateway, International out roaming to Internet Telephony subscribers of the access provider shall not be allowed. Further, the calls originated outside the country using internet telephony shall be routed through ILD (International Long Distance) Gateway like any other international call.

(iii) The mobile numbering series should be used for providing Internet Telephony by a Licensee. TSPs are allowed to allocate same number to the subscriber both for Cellular Mobile service and Internet Telephony service. The access service licensee should use private ENUM in its network for Telephone number mapping from E.164 to SIP/H.323 addresses and vice-versa.

(iv) The licensees should comply with all the interception and monitoring related requirements as specified in the license as amended from time to time for providing Internet Telephony.

The Public IP address used for originating/terminating Internet Telephony calls should be made a mandatory part of CDR in case of Internet Telephony. The location details in form of latitude and longitude should also be provided wherever it is feasible

CLI Restriction (CLIR) facility should not be provided for Internet Telephony Subscribers.

- (v) IP Address assigned to a subscriber for Internet Telephony shall conform to IP addressing Scheme of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) only.
- (vi) The Licensees providing Internet Telephony service may facilitate access to emergency number calls using location services; however it is not mandated to provide such services at present. The subscribers may be informed about the limitation of providing access to emergency services to Internet Telephony subscribers in unambiguous terms.
- (vii) The Licensees must inform QoS parameter supported by them for Internet Telephony so that the subscribers can take an informed decision.
- (viii) In case of provision of Internet Telephony by Licensee, the numbering resource allocation should be done by the parent NSO.

II. Internet Service Authorisation

1. Scope of Internet Service: Scope of this Authorization covers the following:

- 2.1(i) The Licensee may provide Internet access including IPTV. The subscriber shall have unrestricted access to all the content available on Internet except for such content which is restricted by the Licensor/designated authority under Law. The Licensee shall not offer VPN/Closed User Group services to its subscribers. The content for IPTV shall be regulated as per law in force from time to time.
- (ii) The Licensee may provide Internet Telephony through Public Internet by the use of Personal Computers (PC) or IP based Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) connecting only the following:
 - (a) PC to PC; within or outside India
 - (b) PC / a device / Adapter conforming to TEC or International Standard in India to PSTN/PLMN abroad.

(c) Any device / Adapter conforming to TEC or International Standard connected to ISP node with static IP address to similar device / Adapter; within or outside India.

Explanation: Internet Telephony is a different service in its scope, nature and kind from real time voice service as offered by other licensees like Basic Service Licensees, Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Licensees, Unified Access Service (UAS) Licensees, Unified Licensee (Access Service), Unified Licensee with authorization for access services.

- (iii) The Internet Telephony, only as described in condition (ii) above, can be provided by the Licensee. Voice communication to and from a telephone connected to PSTN/PLMN/GMPCS and use of E.164 numbering is prohibited.
- (iv) Addressing scheme for Internet Telephony shall conform to IP addressing Scheme of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) only and the same shall not use National Numbering Scheme / plan applicable to subscribers of Basic / Cellular Telephone service. Translation of E.164 number / private number to IP address allotted to any device and vice versa, by the licensee to show compliance with IANA numbering scheme is not permitted.
- (v) For carrying originating and terminating traffic of its subscribers, the licensee may establish its own transmission links within its service area. For this purpose, the Licensee may also establish 'Last Mile' linkages within the service area either on fiber optic cable or radio communication or underground copper cable, coaxial cable for cable TV subject to applicable cable laws (The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995) as modified from time to time. In case of radio links, procedure as mentioned in Chapter VII of this License shall be applicable.
- (vi) Unified Messaging Services (UMS) within the scope of (i) to (ii) above can be provided by the Licensee.
- (vii) The Licensee may share "passive" infrastructure namely building, tower, dark fiber, duct space, Right of Way owned, established and operated by it under the scope of this Authorization with other VNO Licensees.

2.2 All subscribers, except dial up subscribers, shall be within the service area.

2.3 Principle of non-discriminatory treatment, definition of specialised services and reasonable traffic management and other exceptions:

- (i) A Licensee providing Internet Access Service shall not engage in any discriminatory treatment of content, including based on the sender or receiver, the protocols being used or the user equipment.
- (ii) The Licensee is prohibited from entering into any arrangement, agreement or contact, by whatever name called, with any person, natural or legal, that has the effect of discriminatory treatment of content.
- (iii) Nothing contained in this provision shall restrict:
 - (a) The provision of any Specialised Service by a Licensee, provided that:
 - The Specialised Services are not usable or offered as a replacement for Internet Access Service; and
 - The provision of the Specialised Services is not detrimental to the availability and overall quality of Internet Access Service.
 - (b) Any measure adopted by the Licensee that are proportionate, transient and transparent in nature and fall under any of the following categories:
 - Reasonable traffic management practices as may be specified from time to time;
 - Provision of emergency services or any services provided during time of grave public emergency, as per the process laid down by the Licensor/TRAI;
 - Implementation of any order of a court or direction issued by the Government, in accordance with law;
 - Measures taken in pursuance of preserving the integrity and security of the network and equipment; and
 - Measures taken in pursuance of an international treaty, as may be specified by the Government.
- (iv) For the purpose of this provision:

- (a) "Content" shall include all content, applications, services and any other data, including its end-point information, which can be accessed or transmitted over the Internet.
- (b) "Discriminatory treatment" shall include any form of discrimination, restriction or interference in the treatment of content, including practices like blocking, degrading, slowing down or granting preferential speeds or treatment to any content.
- (c) "Specialised services" shall mean services other than Internet Access Services that are optimised for specific content, protocols or user equipment, where the optimisation is necessary in order to meet specific quality of service requirements.

Provided that the Licensees is authorised to provide such services in accordance with the provisions contained in this license, as modified from time to time.

III. National Long Distance (NLD) Service Authorisation

2. Scope of the NLD Service: Scope of this Authorization covers the following:

- 2.1(a) A UL (VNO) Licensee with authorization for NLD shall be parent to NSO(s) only.
 - (b) The Licensee may pickup, carry and deliver to NSO(NLDO) for further carriage & termination.
 - (c) The Licensee can provide Leased Circuit / Virtual Private Network (VPN) Services by using infrastructure of its parent NSO.
 - (d) Further, only for provision of national long distance voice service through Calling Cards, falling within the scope of, and, in accordance with clauses 2.1 (a) and 2.1(b) above, the Licensee can access the subscribers directly.
- 2.2(i) The Licensee may share "passive" infrastructure namely building, tower, dark fiber, duct space, Right of Way owned, established and operated by it under the scope of this Authorization with other Licensees.
- 2.3(i) Access to the subscribers for provision of National Long Distance voice services (excluding message services) through Calling Cards shall be strictly within the

scope of and in accordance with clauses 2.1(a) to 2.1(c) above. Provision of other Intelligent Network based services (except Intelligent Network service for operation of Calling Cards) such as tele-voting and toll-free services is not allowed to Licensee. Provision of Value Added Services such as SMS/ MMS, ringtones, etc. through calling cards is also not allowed.

2.3(ii) The charges and sharing of revenues for the service features, network architecture and resources used for providing NLD voice services through calling cards shall be such as are mutually agreed between the service providers within the framework of and in accordance with regulations, directions, orders or instructions as may be issued from time to time by TRAI and directions, orders or instructions as may be issued from time to time by the Licensor.

2.3(iii) The licensee shall clearly indicate to the subscriber the specifications of the service to be offered through Calling Cards at the time of entering into contract with such subscriber.

IV. International Long Distance (ILD) Service Authorisation

3. **Scope of ILD Service:** Scope of this Authorization covers the following:

2.1(i) The Licensee may share "passive" infrastructure namely building, tower, dark fiber, duct space, Right of Way owned, established and operated by it under the scope of this Authorization with other Licensees.

2.2(i) Further, the Licensee may also access the subscribers directly for provision of international long distance voice service only through calling cards.

(ii) The charges and sharing of revenues for the service features, network architecture and resources used for providing ILD voice services through calling cards shall be such as are mutually agreed between the service providers within the framework of and in accordance with regulations/directions/orders/instructions that may be issued from time to time by TRAI/Licensor.

- (iii) The licensee shall clearly indicate to the subscriber the specifications of the service to be offered through Calling Cards at the time of entering into contract with such subscriber.

V. Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service Authorisation

4. Scope of the GMPCS Service: Scope of this Authorization covers the following:

2.1 The licensee may provide, in its area of operation, all types of mobile services including voice and non-voice messages, data services using NSO's GMPCS gateway utilizing any type of network equipment including circuit and/or packet switches.

VI. Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS) Authorisation

5. Scope of PMRTS Service: Scope of this Authorization covers the following:

2.1 The licensee is permitted to provide Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS). The PMRTS refers to:

- (i) a two way land mobile service in which users communicate among themselves through a pair of radio frequencies out of a pool in a designated frequency band, assigned to the system using pair of radio frequencies and
- (ii) the pair of frequencies is allocated on placement of call request and returned to the pool on completion of call and
- (iii) the communication usually takes place through repeater station (also called base station). Once user is assigned a channel (a pair of frequencies) by the system, no one else can interfere with the communication

VII. Commercial Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) CUG Service Authorisation

6. Scope of VSAT CUG Service: Scope of this Authorization covers the following:

- 2.1(i)(a) Data connectivity between various sites scattered within territorial boundary of India using VSATs. The users of the service should belong to a Closed User Group (CUG).
- (b) VSAT licensee after obtaining ISP license may use same Hub station and VSAT (remote station) to provide Internet service directly to the subscribers, and in this case VSAT (remote station) may be used as a distribution point to provide Internet service to multiple independent subscribers.
- (c) Backhaul connectivity for cellular mobile services through satellite using VSAT to the Access Service providers.
- (d) Backhaul connectivity using VSAT to Access Service Providers for establishing Wi-Fi hotspots.
- (e) The VSAT terminal of the Commercial VSAT CUG Service provider, which is used to provide cellular mobile backhaul link or Wi-Fi hotspot backhaul link, is to be located in the service area of the Access service provider, where the backhaul is used. However, the VSAT hub can be located anywhere in the country. The connectivity from the hub station to the respective network element of the cellular mobile network can be provided through the terrestrial connectivity obtained from an authorized service provider.
- (ii) Long distance carriage rights, granted for NLD, ILD and Access service, are covered under the scope of this service except the backhaul connectivity mentioned in para 2.1(i) (c) & (d) above.
- (iii) The Closed User Group Domestic Data Network via INSAT Satellite System using VSAT shall be restricted to geographical boundaries of India.
- (iv) The Licensee can set up a number of CUGs using the shared hub infrastructure.
- (v) PSTN/PLMN connectivity is not permitted except the backhaul connectivity mentioned in para 2.1(i) (c) & (d) above.

VIII. Resale of IPLC Service Authorisation

7. **Scope of Resale of IPLC Service:** Scope of this Authorization covers the following:

- 2.1(a) The Licensee is permitted to provide end-to-end International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC) between India and country of destination for any capacity denomination by obtaining the International bandwidth from International Long Distance Service Providers (ILDOS), licensed under section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.
- (b) The Licensee shall provide the service to end subscribers by entering into arrangements for leased line with Access Providers, National Long Distance Service Providers and International Long Distance Service Providers.
- (c) The Licensee can access the subscribers for provision of IPLC only and not for any other purpose.
- (d) Licensee is allowed to sell bandwidth on retail basis with, or, without, value addition to end subscriber.
- (e) The Licensee shall not sell the bandwidth to other licensee of 'Resale of IPLC' License.
- (f) Co-location of the equipment of the licensee at cable landing station shall be as per terms and conditions as may be prescribed from time to time by TRAI.
- (g) The licensee is allowed to create own infrastructure limited to multiplexing, de-multiplexing, billing and customer management system.
- (h) Interconnection of IPLC with PSTN/PLMN/GMPCS/Internet Telephony Network is not permitted.

IX. Access Service Category B Authorisation

8. **Scope of Access Service:** Scope of this authorization covers the following:

2.1(i) The Access Service under this authorization covers collection, carriage, transmission and delivery of voice and/or non-voice MESSAGES over Licensee's & or NSO's wireline network in the designated Service Area. The Licensee can also provide Internet Telephony, Internet Services including IPTV, Broadband Services and triple play, i.e. voice, video and data. While providing Internet Telephony

service, the Licensee's parent NSO may interconnect Internet Telephony network with PSTN network. The Licensee may provide wireline access service only.

- (ii) The Licensee can acquire customer for delivery of services offered in its network and/or NSO's network using only the technology deployed by the NSO(s).
 - (iii) The Licensee may provide leased circuits within its respective service area. Interconnection of leased circuits, whether point to point or in CUG network, with PSTN Network is not permitted.
 - (iv) The Licensee may also provide Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging services, Video Conferencing over its network to the subscribers falling within its SERVICE AREA on non-discriminatory basis. All the revenue earned by the Licensee through these services shall be counted towards the revenue for the purpose of paying License Fee under the LICENSE AGREEMENT.
 - (v) Except those services permitted under the scope of this authorization, the Licensee shall not provide any service / services which require a separate service authorization / license.
- 2.2 For providing service, the Licensee may setup and operate rural telephone exchange and last mile linkages thereof. Cable Operators registered under The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the amendments thereto may act as VNO to provide Internet and Voice services, to use the last mile linkages in rural area.
- 2.3 IP Address assigned to a subscriber for Internet Telephony shall conform to IP addressing Scheme of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) only. Translation of E.164 number / private number to IP address and vice versa by the licensee for this purpose shall be as per directions/instructions issued by the Licensor.
- 2.4 For provision of Internet Telephony, Internet Services, Broadband Services and triple play, i.e. voice, video and data, the Conditions No. 2.1(i), 2.1(vii), 2.2, 5, 6, and 7 of Chapter IX (Internet Service) shall also be applicable.

Annexure 2.3: Scope of Standalone Licenses

I. Scope of Captive Mobile Radio Trunking Service (CMRTS) License

1. The Captive Mobile Radio Trunk Service License is for provisioning of Mobile Radio Trunk Service for captive use in the licensed service area.
2. The scope of Captive Mobile Radio Trunking Service (CMRTS) License⁵⁰ covers
 - 1.1 This LICENSE is granted to provide SERVICE on a non-exclusive basis in the designated SERVICE AREA by utilizing any type of network equipment, including circuit and/or packet switches, that meet the relevant International Telecommunication Union (ITU)/ Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC)/International standardization bodies such as 3GPP/ 3GPP2/ ETSI/ IETF/ ANSI/ EIA/ TIA/ IS. Provided further that the LICENSOR, on its own or through a DESIGNATED OPERATOR, shall always have a right to operate the SERVICE anywhere in India including the service area for which this license is granted.
 - 1.2 LICENSEE shall make its own arrangements for all infrastructure involved in providing the service and shall be solely responsible for installation, networking and operation of necessary equipment and systems, treatment of subscriber complaints, issue of bills to its subscribers, collection of revenue, attending to claims and damages arising out of his operations.

II. Scope of Captive Non-Public Network (CNPN) License

3. The Captive Non-Public Network (CNPN) License is to set up and operate Captive Non-Public Network.
4. The scope of the Captive Non-Public Network License⁵¹ covers the following -

⁵⁰ <https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/2022%2009%2001%20CMRTS%20Agreement.pdf>

⁵¹ <https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/CWPN%20License%20Agreement.pdf>

- (a) The licensee may establish indoor/within premise Captive Non-Public Network for own use within the area of operation of license.
- (b) The licensee shall not offer any commercial telecommunication services. The license shall be used only for establishing CNPN for its own captive use.
- (c) The licensee shall be responsible for and is authorised to own, install, test and commission all Applicable Systems to be established under this license agreement for CNPNs.

III. Mobile Number Portability (MNP) Service License

- 5. Mobile Number Portability (MNP) allows subscribers to retain their existing telephone number when they switch from one access service provider to another irrespective of mobile technology or from one technology to another of the same or any other access service provider.
- 6. As per the license agreement for Mobile Number Portability (MNP) Service, the scope of the service is as below -
 - 10.1 The licensee shall be permitted to provide, Mobile Number Portability (MNP) services in the licensed MNP zone, confirming to centralized All Call Query method that meets the relevant International Telecommunication Union (ITU)/Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC) of DoT's Technical and Performance standards as applicable.
 - 10.2 The LICENSEE shall clearly define the scope of Service to the Telecom Access Services and NLD/ILD operators at the time of entering into contract with such service providers while entering into agreement with them for providing MNP.
 - 10.3 Licensee shall make its own arrangements for all infrastructure involved in providing the service and shall be solely responsible for installation, networking and operation of necessary equipment and systems, treatment of subscriber complaints, issue of bills to Access Service Providers, collection of revenue, attending to claims and damages arising out of his operations.

- 10.4 The licensee shall establish, administer and operate the Mobile Number Portability centralized clearing house (herein after called MCH) and logically centralized Number Portability DataBase (herein after called 'NPDB') for implementation of mobile number portability in the licensed MNP zone in accordance with QoS parameters, defined criteria/ benchmarks, SLAs and other parameters including tariffs, as prescribed by TRAI/DoT from time to time.
- 10.5 The MCH and NPDB established by the licensee shall be used by all telecommunication service providers (both existing & new) (i.e. Basic, CMTS, UAS, NLD and ILD Licensee(s)) of the licensed MNP zone for the purpose of supporting porting of mobile numbers between mobile operators. As part of this activity, the Applicable System of Licensee shall contain the updated porting information which will be used by the telecommunication service providers for the purpose of routing calls to the ported end-users.
- 10.6 The Licensee company will operate the MNP system based on 'build, operate and owned basis'. It shall take into account traffic study, services to be given, etc. for dimensioning of its MCH, NPDB and database query response system. The Company shall arrange all those equipments (tools and testers etc.) which may be required for efficient working of the network from time to time.
- 10.7 The Licensee cannot provide any service except as mentioned above and which otherwise shall require a separate licence.
- 10.8 The LICENSEE is permitted to provide, SERVICE by utilizing any type of network equipment, including circuit and/or packet switches, that meet the relevant International Telecommunication Union (ITU)/Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC) / International standardization bodies as applicable.
- 10.9 It is obligatory upon the LICENSEE to provide the above stated services of good standard by establishing a state-of-the-art digital network.
- 10.10 Any dispute, with regard to provision of SERVICE shall be a matter only between the aggrieved party and the LICENSEE, who shall duly notify this to all before providing the SERVICE, and in no case the LICENSOR shall bear any liability or

responsibility. The licensee shall keep the Licensor indemnified from all claims, cost, charges or damages in the matter.

IV. Scope of In Flight and Maritime Connectivity (IFMC) Authorization

7. The In Flight and Maritime Connectivity (IFMC) service is for establishment, maintenance and working of telegraph to provide wireless voice or data or both type of telegraph messages in aircraft and on ships.
8. The rules for grant and regulation of authorisation for in Flight and Maritime Connectivity (IFMC)⁵² Authorization includes, *inter-alia*, is as below -
 3. **Applicability:** The IFMC service provider, shall establish, maintain and work telegraph to provide wireless voice or data or both type of telegraph messages on ships within Indian territorial waters and on aircraft within or above India or Indian territorial waters.
 4. **IFMC standards:**
 - (1) The Aircraft Earth Station or Earth Station in Motion established by an IFMC service provider for providing the IFMC service shall conform to the applicable standards set by International standardisation bodies, such as, International Telecommunications Union (ITU), European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE); or set by International fora such as 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).
 - (2) IFMC communication systems using Direct-Air-to-Ground Communications (DA2GC) shall be permitted to be used for in Flight Connectivity, provided they are in compliance of standards set by the international bodies referred to in sub-rule (1).
 5. **Eligibility:**
 - (1) A licensee shall be eligible to apply for authorisation to provide IFMC service if it –

⁵² https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/2018_12_17%20AS%20IFMC_2.pdf?download=1

- (a) holds a license for access service or an ISP category A license; and
 - (b) holds an NLD license or a commercial VSAT CUG service license and has satellite gateway earth station within the service area of the license as specified in clause (a), in case connectivity through satellite is used.
- (2) The following companies shall also be eligible to apply for authorisation to provide IFMC service by entering into commercial agreements as referred to in sub-rule (5) and (6), namely:-
- (a) any Indian airlines company or foreign airlines company having permission to enter Indian airspace by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation;
 - (b) any Indian shipping company or foreign shipping company whose vessels or ships call Indian ports or transit Indian territorial waters and intend to carry out communication for non-GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress and Safety System) [routine] or for commercial purpose; and
 - (c) any company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) or under any previous company law.
- (3) A licensee referred to in sub-rule (1), may provide voice or data or both services in accordance with the scope of the license, held by it.
- (4) Data service may be provided by the IFMC service provider through Wi-Fi.
- (5) For providing data service, the companies referred to in sub-rule (2), shall enter into a commercial agreement with at least one licensee of –
- (a) access service or ISP category A; and
 - (b) commercial VSAT CUG service or NLD service, having satellite gateway earth station within the service area of partnering licensee as referred to in clause (a), in case connectivity through satellite is used.
- (6) For providing voice and data service, the companies referred to in sub-rule (2), shall enter into a commercial agreement with at least one licensee of –
- (a) access service; and
 - (b) commercial VSAT CUG service or NLD service, having satellite gateway earth station within the service area of partnering licensee of access service, in case connectivity through satellite is used.

V. Scope of Infrastructure Providers – Category-I Registration

9. In the guidelines for registration of Infrastructure Providers - Category - I (IP-I) Registration⁵³, the scope of IP-I is as below -
 1. The entity is registered as Infrastructure Providers Category I (IP-I) to establish and maintain the assets such as Dark Fibres, Right of Way, Duct Space, Tower and poles⁵⁴ for the purpose to grant on lease/ rent/ sale basis to the licensees of Telecom Services licensed under Section 4 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 on mutually agreed terms and conditions. IP-I registration holders shall also share the above mentioned infrastructure with the entities as may be specified by the Central Government in the interest of national security and public interest and as per terms and conditions which may be specified by the Central Government⁵⁵. Further, IP-I registration holders shall not enter into any exclusive contract for establishing the infrastructure (under the scope of IP-I registration) or Right of Way (RoW) with any public entity⁵⁶ or any person^{57,58}.
 2. In no case the company shall work and operate or provide telegraph service including end to end bandwidth as defined in Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 either to any service provider or any other customer.

VI. Scope of M2M Service Provider and WLAN/ WPAN Connectivity Providers for M2M service Registration

⁵³ <https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/RevisedIP-1Guidelines22122021.pdf?download=1>

⁵⁴ <https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/IP-1%20Amendment.pdf?download=1>

⁵⁵ <https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/Amendment%20in%20scope%20of%20IP-1%20registration.pdf?download=1>

⁵⁶ "Public entity" means (a) the Central Government, (b) State Governments, (c) local authorities, (d) any authority, body, company or institution incorporated or established by the Central Government or State Government, or under any statute, or (e) any non-government entity vested with the ownership, control or management of any public facility or class of public facilities, as notified by the Central Government.

⁵⁷ "Person" shall include an individual, any company or association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, by whatsoever name called or referred to.

⁵⁸ <https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/IP-1%20Amendment.pdf?download=1>

10. The guidelines of Registration Process of M2M Service Providers (M2MSP) & WPAN/WLAN Connectivity Providers for M2M Services⁵⁹ contains, *'inter-alia'*, the following terms and conditions –

Definitions

- (h) “M2M Service Provider” (M2MSP) is an Indian company, registered under the Indian Companies Act, 2013 or an LLP (Limited Liability Partnership) registered under LLP Act, 2008 or a partnership firm which provides M2M services to third parties using telecom resources. Provided that
- (a) such third parties utilising M2M services from registered M2MSP in connection with its products or as part of its offerings to its end customers as a product or service, and
 - (b) any organization which intends to provide M2M services for its own use (captive use) and not for commercial purpose, shall also be covered under this definition.
- (n) “WPAN/WLAN Connectivity Provider” is an Indian company, registered under the Indian Companies Act, 2013 or an LLP (Limited Liability Partnership) registered under LLP Act, 2008 or a partnership firm which uses WPAN/WLAN technologies for providing M2M connectivity for commercial purposes, operating in unlicensed spectrum. Further, any organization which intends to use WPAN/WLAN for M2M connectivity for captive, non- commercial use, shall also be covered under this definition.

General Terms & Conditions

4. Registrant shall not infringe upon the jurisdiction of any Authorized Telecom Licensee and they shall provide only those services for which this registration is granted to them.

⁵⁹ <https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/M2MSP%20Guidelines%20.pdf?download=1>

5. In case any Authorized Telecom Licensee wishes to provide M2M Services to third parties, it can do so under current licensing framework without requiring to register for M2MSP or WPAN/WLAN Connectivity Providers.

Technical Conditions

1. M2MSP shall take the Telecom Resources from an Authorized Telecom Licensee having valid license under Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. In addition, M2MSP is authorized to use WPAN/ WLAN technologies in unlicensed spectrum/frequency exempt band to provide M2M services. In case of use of WPAN/ WLAN technologies in unlicensed spectrum/frequency exempt band, the network has to mandatorily connect to licensed telecom operators network for backhaul connectivity.
2. WPAN/ WLAN Connectivity Providers is authorized to use WPAN/WLAN technologies in unlicensed spectrum/frequency exempt band to provide connectivity for M2M services. The WPAN/WLAN Connectivity Providers network has to mandatorily connect to licensed telecom operators network for backhaul connectivity.
3. Registrant shall adhere to Know Your Customer (KYC) and related guidelines issued by the Authority to Authorized Telecom Licensee from time to time for all Telecom resources including SIM enabled devices and numbering resources. The Authority reserves the right to call for such details as and when required.

VII. Scope of PM Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) Registration

11. Under the Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) framework, it is envisaged that last mile broadband connectivity, where the consumer accesses broadband services, will be through a network of public Wi-Fi access points. Under the distributed architecture and unbundling of functions, the WANI eco-system is operated by players, as below -
 - Public Data Office (PDO): It will establish, maintain, and operate only WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points and deliver broadband services to subscribers. Any entity can be a PDO. No registration with dot is required.
 - Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA): It will be an aggregator of PDOs and perform the functions relating to Authorization and Accounting. PDOA is required to be registered by DoT without payment of any registration fee.

- App Provider: It will develop an App to register users and discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the nearby area and display the same within the App for accessing the internet service. App Provider will be registered by DoT without payment of any registration fee.
- Central Registry: It will maintain, in accordance with the WANI architecture and specifications, the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs. To begin with, the Central Registry will be maintained by C-DoT.
- Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) ensures the interworking among systems and software applications used by these distributed entities i.e. PDOA, PDO, App Provider, and Central Registry.

12. As per the 'Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) and Framework and Guidelines for Registration'⁶⁰, the scope of different WANI ecosystem player, is as below –

Public Data Office (PDO)

1. PDO will establish, maintain, and operate only WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points.
2. PDO will connect its Wi-Fi Access Point with Internet through networks of licensed Service Providers only in that area.
3. A PDO can establish multiple Wi-Fi Access Points and logically connect them with different Captive Portals of PDOAs. However, a Wi-Fi Access Point of any PDO will be logically connected with a Captive Portal of any PDOA.
4. As per the WANI framework, PDOs will have commercial agreement with licensed Telecom Service Providers (TSP) or Internet Service Providers (ISP) for internet connectivity and with PDOA for Aggregation, Authorization, Accounting, and other related functions.

⁶⁰ https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020_12_11%20WANI%20Framework%20Guidelines_0.pdf?download=1

Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA)

1. PDOA will register with Central Registry using its public certificate for signature validation. It will also register its associated PDOs' Wi-Fi Access Points along with SSIDs and locations.
2. PDOA will aggregate multiple WANI enabled Wi-Fi Access Points being operated by individual PDOs and authorize the subscribers, authenticated by the App Provider, to access internet services.
3. For payment transactions by users, PDOA will integrate the Captive Portal with different types of digital payment service providers such as UPI, e-Wallets, Credit and Debit Cards, Online Banking etc.
4. PDOA will declare the tariff for subscribers and keep account of usage of each subscriber.
5. While PDOA will maintain the details of usage of individual subscriber at a given point of time, the internet traffic will route directly from WiFi Access Point of PDO to the network of interconnecting licensed Service Provider.
6. It will be permissible for any two PDOAs to enter into a roaming agreement for permitting each other's subscribers to access Internet from any Wi-Fi Access Points associated with them.
7. All complaints of users will be addressed/ handled by the PDOA as per the orders issued by the Department of Telecommunications or its authorized representative (herein after referred to as 'DoT) from time to time.

App Provider

1. App Provider will develop and maintain a software application and backend authentication infrastructure for users to signup, discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots, and do single-click connect from within the App.
2. App Provider will register with Central Registry using its public certificate for signature validation.
3. The App will allow users to create a profile and do their mobile verification using OTP.
4. The App Provider will authenticate each subscriber periodically based on some predefined algorithm.

Central Registry Provider

1. The Central Registry will maintain, in accordance with the WANI framework, the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs.
2. The Central Registry will ensure interoperability among WANI Compliant Wi-Fi Access Points, Captive Portal of PDOA, and App.
3. The Central Registry Provider will certify the systems and software applications of App Provider or PDOA as per the checklist provided with WANI architecture and specifications within 10 working days after the App Provider or PDOA submit the same for certification. In case of any non-compliances with the WANI architecture and specifications in the systems and software applications of App Provider or PDOA, as communicated in writing by the Central Registry Provider, App Provider or PDOA will attend to the same within 20 working days and resubmit to the Central Registry Provider for certification.
4. The Central Registry Provider, on instructions from the DoT, will delete the details of App Providers, PDOAs, or PDOs.

VIII. Scope of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for sale/ rent of International Roaming SIM Cards/ Global Calling Cards of foreign operators

13. The Sale/ Rent of International SIM Cards/ Global Calling Cards of foreign operators in India provide an option to the mobile consumers in India to avail mobile services outside the country without having to pay premium roaming rates.
14. The 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) is issued for sale/rent of International Roaming SIM Cards/ Global Calling Cards of foreign operators in India with the following, '*inter-alia*', terms and conditions⁶¹:
 5. Usage of Cards outside India: The cards being offered to Indian Customers will be for use only outside India. However, if it is essential to activate the card for making test calls/emergent calls before the departure of customer and/or after the arrival of the customer, the same shall be permitted for forty-eight (48) hours only prior to departure from India and twenty-four (24) hours after arrival in India.
 6. Such test calls/emergent calls made from India through these calling cards shall be international roaming calls.

⁶¹ <https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/Revised%20NOC%20Policy.pdf?download=1>

Annexure 2.4: Scope of Services of the licenses recommended by TRAI

I. Scope of Cloud services

15. In the framework for Cloud Service Providers (CSP), the Authority in the recommendations on '*Cloud Services*', dated 14.09.2020⁶², *inter-alia*, recommended scope of Cloud Service Providers (CSP), as below -
- (i) The scope of Cloud Service Providers may be initially limited to providers offering Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) and Platform as a Service (PaaS) in India or to customers in India. Software as a Service (SaaS) providers may voluntarily enroll for membership, if they so wish. Any expansion of scope to mandate membership beyond IaaS and PaaS may be considered by the industry body on need basis and recommended to DoT for acceptance.
 - (ii) That Telecom Service Providers may not be allowed to share infrastructure and platform related to Telegraph as defined in India Telegraph Act, 1885 as amended and Telecommunication Service as defined in TRAI Act, 1997 with a Cloud Service Provider (CSP) who is not a member of CSPs' industry body registered with DoT.

II. Scope of Content Delivery Network (CDN) service

16. In the draft guidelines for registration of content delivery network (CDN) providers, the Authority in the recommendations on '*Regulatory Framework for Promoting Data Economy Through Establishment of Data Centres, Content Delivery Networks, and Interconnect Exchanges in India*', dated 18.11.2022⁶³, *inter-alia*, recommended scope of scope of Content Delivery Network (CDN) Provider, as below -

⁶² https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations_CS_14092020.pdf

⁶³ https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations_18112022.pdf

The Content Delivery Network (CDN) Provider registered company shall provide cached internet content [housed either in their own network points of presence (POPs) or in third-party data centres] to a user, from a suitable network location on a group of geographically distributed and interconnected servers, so as to improve its performance by leveraging various techniques like load balancing, caching, optimization, use of security protocols etc. Such content will be carried to a user through networks of licensees of telecom services on mutually agreed terms and conditions. Provided that for establishing and operating Data Centres, the CDN provider shall follow the rules/guidelines issued by Central/State Government from time to time.

III. Scope of IXP service

17. In the draft Unified License chapter for IXP service, the Authority in the recommendations on '*Regulatory Framework for Promoting Data Economy Through Establishment of Data Centres, Content Delivery Networks, and Interconnect Exchanges in India*', dated 18.11.2022⁶⁴, recommended, *inter-alia*, scope of IXP service scope, as below -

2. **Scope of IXP Service:** Scope of this authorization covers the following:

- (i) The Licensee shall own the underlying network element(s) to provide connectivity and related services for IXP users/ peers.
- (ii) The Licensee can perform functions such as: Peering and exchanging IP traffic originated and destined within the country, among the Telecom Service Providers who are so authorized in scope of their licenses and CDN registered entities without using international bandwidth.
- (iii) Except those services permitted under the scope of this authorization, the Licensee shall not provide any service / services which require a separate service authorization / license.

⁶⁴ https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations_18112022.pdf

Provided that the Licensees is authorized to provide such services in accordance with the provisions contained in this license, as modified from time to time.

IV. Scope of Satellite Earth Station Gateway (SESG) service

18. For the separate Satellite Earth Station Gateway (SESG) License, the Authority in the recommendations on 'Licensing framework for establishing and operating Satellite Earth Station Gateway (SESG)', dated 29.11.2022⁶⁵, recommended, *inter-alia*, scope of Satellite Earth Station Gateway (SESG) service, as below –

Scope of the SESG License shall cover the following:

- (i) The SESG Licensee may establish, maintain, and work SESGs anywhere within the territory of India for all types of satellite systems for which the Government has given the permission.
- (ii) The SESG Licensee may provide satellite-based resources to any entity, which holds license/ permission granted by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) or Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB) and is permitted to use satellite media for the provision of services under its license/ permission.
- (iii) The SESG Licensee may establish SESGs in respect of one or more Government approved satellite systems.
- (iv) The following recommendations made earlier vide TRAI's recommendations on "Licensing Framework for Satellite-based connectivity for Low Bit Rate Applications" dated 26.08.2021 are reiterated in respect of the Licensing Framework for Establishment of Satellite Earth Station Gateway:

"The Government may publish a list of approved foreign satellites/ satellite systems based on their technical and security evaluation, from whom the service licensees may procure the satellite capacities. The service licensees should be permitted to

⁶⁵ https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_29112022.pdf

choose the foreign satellite/ satellite system from the approved list and to lease the satellite capacity directly from the chosen foreign satellite/ satellite system”.

- (v) The SESG Licensee may establish one or more SESGs for each Government approved satellite system. However, the licensee shall obtain separate permission from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) before installing each SESG.
- (vi) The SESG Licensee shall not be permitted to provide any kind of telecommunication service or broadcasting service directly to the consumers, for provision of which, a separate license/ authorization/ permission is required from the Government.
- (vii) The SESG license shall be valid for a period of 20 years from the effective date of the license with a provision of renewal for 10 years.

V. Scope of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Providers (DCIP) service

19. In the draft Unified License chapter for Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Providers (DCIP), the Authority in the recommendations on 'Introduction of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) Authorization under Unified License (UL)', dated 08.08.2023⁶⁶, recommended, *inter-alia*, scope of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Providers (DCIP) Service, as below -

- 2. **Scope of the DCIP Service:** Scope of this Authorization covers the following:
 - 2.1 The authorization of DCIP shall be on non-exclusive basis without any restriction on the number of entrants.
 - 2.2 The scope of the DCIP authorization includes to own, establish, maintain, and work all such apparatus, appliance, instrument, equipment, and system which are required for establishing all Wireline Access Network, Radio Access Network (RAN), Wi-Fi systems, and Transmission Links. However, it shall not include spectrum and core network elements such as Switch, MSC, HLR, IN etc. The scope of the DCIP license also includes Right of Way, Duct Space, Dark Fiber, Poles, Tower, Feeder cable, Antenna, Base Station, In-Building Solution (IBS), Distributed Antenna

⁶⁶ https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations_08082023.pdf

System (DAS), etc. within any part of India. The scope of DCIP authorization does not include provisioning of end-to-end bandwidth using transmission systems to any customer or for its own use. However, DCIP will be allowed to install wired transmission link (but not wireless) to connect to its own BBU (Baseband Unit)/RU (Radio unit)/Antenna.

- 2.3 The items, equipment, and systems that a DCIP licensee is authorized to provide under its scope (as per para 2.2 above) are hereinafter referred to as "DCI items, equipment, and systems".
- 2.4 The scope of DCIP authorization does not include the assignment of licensed spectrum to DCIPs. Multi-Operator Radio Access Network (MORAN) sharing would only be permitted where only RAN equipment is shared not the spectrum. The end users of each operator access the services of their respective Mobile Network Operator (MNO) with the frequencies of their respective MNO.
- 2.5 The DCIP Licensee are authorised to provide DCI items, equipment, and systems on lease/rent/sale basis to any entity (excluding other DCIPs) having a valid license under section 4 of Telegraph Act 1885, and entities notified by the Government for this purpose. Hereinafter such licensed entities have been referred to as "eligible entities".
- 2.6 DCIP licensee who is also licensed under Electricity Act will be allowed to offer such DCI items, equipment, and systems (that are permitted under the scope of this authorization) on access right basis to eligible entities.
- 2.7 The DCIP Licensee should provide DCI items, equipment, and systems on mutually agreed terms and conditions to eligible entities in fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory manner. In no case DCIPs will enter into legally binding contractual agreements conferring Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) of its DCI items, equipment, and systems to specific eligible entity(ies), which may lead to exclusion of others
- 2.8 The scope of the DCIP authorization should not include:
 - (a) providing access to DCI items, equipment, and systems to any customer other than the eligible.

- (b) use of the licensed spectrum, (assigned to an eligible service provider, for provisioning of wireless Telecommunication Services) to other eligible entities, unless both eligible entities have a spectrum sharing arrangement between them.
- 2.9 In no case, DCIP License holder would use working DCI items, equipment, and systems to provide telecommunication services (including end to end bandwidth) to any customer or for its own captive use. In case it is found that DCIP is involved in such activities, then the licensor reserves the right to cancel the license and to take over the complete control of DCI items, equipment, and system of DCIP so as to ensure continuity of service to eligible entities. This will be in addition to imposition of (a) penalty as per DCIP authorization and (b) License Fee (as applicable to NLD Licensees) on revenues generated through activities that would otherwise fall under the scope of any other UL authorization/license issued by DoT.
- 2.10 The DCIP Licensee should be eligible to apply for and issue of licence under the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 to possess such wireless telegraphy apparatus (without assignment of any spectrum) that is permitted under the scope of DCIP authorization. However, the DCIP authorization holder should not be eligible to apply for and assignment of any kind of licensed spectrum.
- 2.11 The DCIP authorization holder:
- (a) should be permitted to own, establish, maintain, and work DCI items, equipment, and systems, using any technology as per the prescribed standards.
 - (b) should utilize type of equipment and products that meet TEC standards, wherever made mandatory by the Licensor from time to time. In the absence of mandatory TEC standards, the DCIP licensee should be permitted to utilize only those equipment and products which meet the relevant standards set by International standardization bodies, such as, ITU, ETSI, IEEE, ISO, IEC etc., or set by International Fora, such as 3GPP, 3GPP-2, IETF, MEF, WiMAX, Wi-Fi, IPTV, IPv6, etc. as recognized by TEC and subject to modifications/adaptation, if any, as may be prescribed by TEC/Licensor from time to time.

- c) should be bounded by the terms and conditions of DCIP license as well as instructions issued by the Licensor and by such orders/directions/regulations of TRAI issued as per the provisions of the TRAI Act, 1997, as amended from time to time.

2.12 The Licensee may share all infrastructure owned, established, and operated by it under the scope of this Authorization with other Licensees under UL (excluding DCIPs) and ISPs (not in UL), subject to condition that only such infrastructure will be shared that is allowed to be established by other licensee in its own license. To that effect, the provisions of this clause will have overriding effect on Clause 33 of Part-I of the UL.

2.13 The following conditions may be followed by DCIPs: -

- (i) While providing the DCI items, equipment, and systems to other entities, they shall satisfy themselves that such entity is eligible to obtain that DCI items, equipment, and systems, else it will be treated as a violation of the terms and conditions of this authorization.
- (ii) DCIPs shall be obligated to install DCI items, equipment, and systems in such a way that the hirer of their infrastructure is able to fulfill the Licensing conditions including technical, operating, Quality of Service (QoS) and security conditions, when riding on their DCI items, equipment, and systems; subject to such other directions as Licensor or TRAI may give from time to time.
- (iii) DCIPs shall be obligated to ensure that they enter into a formal written agreement with eligible entities before providing access to DCI items, equipment, and systems to them on lease/rent/sell basis. These agreements should invariably contain clauses obligating DCIPs to ensure that hirer of their DCI items, equipment, and systems is able to fulfill the Licensing conditions including technical, operating, QoS and security conditions, when riding on their DCI.
- (iv) On request provide to the licensor details of all network elements, its location, cable routes and capacity along with GIS mapping of its DCI items, equipment, and systems.

- (v) In security sensitive areas installation of any equipment or execution of project shall be taken up only as per Licensor's policy/guidelines.
- (vi) DCI items, equipment, and systems should not become a safety or health hazard and is not in contravention of any statute, rule, regulation, or public policy.
- (vii) DCIPs shall be obligated not to provide DCI items, equipment, and systems to those who are not authorized 'eligible entities' or whose license is revoked/suspended or not in operation.

2.14 The licensor/ TRAI reserves the right to impose the clauses defined under UL related to security, QoS, EMF compliance, data privacy, technical standards, etc. for compliance directly by DCIP, if required at any stage.

Annexure 3.1: Definition of Gross Revenue, Applicable Gross Revenue and Adjusted Gross Revenue

1. Access Service authorisation under UL

Gross Revenue:

The Gross Revenue shall be inclusive of installation charges, late fees, sale proceeds of handsets (or any other terminal equipment etc.), revenue on account of interest, dividend, value added services, supplementary services, access or interconnection charges, roaming charges, revenue from permissible leasing of spectrum, revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure and any other miscellaneous revenue, without any set-off for related item of expense, etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

ApGR shall be equal to Gross Revenue (GR) of the licensee as reduced by the items listed below:

- (i) Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations.
- (ii) Revenue from activities under a license/ permission issued by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- (iii) Receipts from the USO Fund.
- (iv) List of other income to be excluded from GR to arrive at ApGR
 - a. Income from Dividend
 - b. Income from Interest
 - c. Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities
 - d. Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations

- e. Income from property rent
- f. Insurance claims
- g. Bad Debts recovered
- h. Excess Provisions written back

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) :

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. PSTN/PLMN/GMPCS related call charges (Access Charges) paid to other eligible/entitled Telecommunication service providers within India;
- b. Roaming revenues passed on to other eligible/entitled telecommunication service providers and;
- c. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government if the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

2. Internet Service authorisation under UL

Gross Revenue:

The Gross Revenue shall be inclusive of all types of revenue from Internet services, revenue from Internet access service, revenue from internet contents, revenue from Internet Telephony service, revenue from activation charges, revenue from sale, lease or renting of bandwidth, links, R&G cases, Turnkey projects, revenue from IPTV service, late fees, sale proceeds of terminal equipment, revenue on account of interest, dividend, value added services, supplementary services, interconnection charges, roaming charges, revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure etc. allowing only those deductions available for pass through charges and taxes/levies as in the case of access services, without any set-off for related items of expense etc..

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Roaming revenue passed on to other eligible/entitled telecom service provider, and;
- b. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government if Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

3. National Long Distance (NLD) Service authorisation under UL**Gross Revenue:**

The Gross Revenue shall include all revenues accruing to the Licensee on account of goods supplied, services provided, leasing of infrastructure, use of its resources by others, application Fee, installation charges, call charges, late Fees, sale proceeds of instruments (or any terminal equipment including accessories), handsets, bandwidth, income from Value Added Services, supplementary services, access or interconnection charges, any lease or rent charges for hiring of infrastructure etc. and any other miscellaneous items including interest, dividend etc. without any set off of related items of expense, etc..

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Charges of pass-through nature paid to other telecom service providers to whose network, the Licensee's NLD network is interconnected, for carriage of calls, and:
- b. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government if Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

4. International Long Distance (ILD) Service authorisation under UL**Gross Revenue:**

The Gross Revenue shall include all revenues accruing to the Licensee on account of goods supplied, services provided, leasing of infrastructure, use of its resources by others, application Fee, installation charges, call charges, late Fees, sale proceeds of instruments (or any terminal equipment including accessories), handsets, bandwidth, income from Value Added Services, supplementary services, access or interconnection charges, any lease or rent charges for hiring of infrastructure etc. and any other miscellaneous items including interest, dividend etc. without any set off of related items of expense, etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Call charges (access charges) paid to other telecom service providers for carriage of calls, and;
- b. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government, if the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

5. Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service authorisation under UL

Gross Revenue:

The Gross Revenue shall be inclusive of installation charges, late fees, sale proceeds of handsets (or any other terminal equipment etc.), revenue on account of interest, dividend, value added services, supplementary services, access or interconnection charges, roaming charges, revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure and any other miscellaneous revenue, without any set-off for related item of expense, etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. PSTN/PLMN/GMPCS related call charges (Access Charges) paid to other eligible/entitled telecommunication service providers within India;
- b. Roaming revenues passed on to other telecom service providers, and;
- c. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government, if the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

6. Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS) authorisation under UL**Gross Revenue:**

The Gross revenue shall include all revenues accruing to the Licensee on account of goods supplied, services provided, leasing/hiring of infrastructure, use of its resources by others, application fees, installation charges, call charges, late fees, sale proceeds of instruments (or any terminal equipment including accessories), fees on account of annual maintenance contract, income from value added services, supplementary services, access or interconnection charges, etc. and any other miscellaneous item including interest, dividend etc. without any set-off of related item of expense etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Charges of pass through nature paid to other telecom service provider(s) to whose network, the licensee's network is interconnected, and;
- b. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government, if the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

7. Audio Conferencing/ Audiotex/ Voice Mail Service authorisation under UL

Gross Revenue:

The Gross Revenue shall include all revenue accruing to the Licensee on account of providing Audio Conferencing/ Audiotex/ Voice Mail services and shall be inclusive of goods supplied, installation charges, application fee, late fees, sale proceeds of handsets (or any other terminal equipment etc.), use of its resources by others, revenue on account of interest, dividend, call charges, value added services, supplementary services, access or interconnection charges, revenue from permissible sharing or leasing of infrastructure, fees on account of annual maintenance contract and any other miscellaneous revenue, without any set-off for related item of expense, etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- i. PSTN/ PLMN/ GPCS related call charges (Access Charges) actually paid to other eligible/ entitled telecommunication service providers within India;
- ii. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government if gross revenue had included as component of GST.

8. Machine to Machine (M2M) Service Authorisation under UL**GROSS REVENUE:**

The Gross Revenue shall be inclusive of installation charges, late fees, sale proceeds of M2M devices (or any other terminal equipment etc.), revenue on account of interest, dividend, value added services, supplementary services, access or interconnection charges, roaming charges, revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure and any other miscellaneous revenue, without any set-off for related item of expense, etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- i. Roaming revenues actually passed on to other eligible/ entitled telecommunication service providers and;
- ii. Goods and Service Tax on provision of service and Sales, Tax paid to the Government if gross revenue had included as component of Goods and Service Tax.

9. Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorisation under UL**Gross Revenue:**

The Gross Revenue shall include all revenues accruing to the Licensee on account of goods supplied, services provided, leasing/hiring of infrastructure, use of its resources by others, application fees, installation charges, call charges, late fees, sale proceeds of instruments (or any terminal equipment including accessories), VSAT hardware/software, fees on account of Annual Maintenance Contract/ Annual Comprehensive Maintenance Contract, income from value added services, supplementary services, access or interconnection charges, etc., and any other miscellaneous item including interest, dividend etc. without any set-off of related item of expense, etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR): For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Charges of pass through nature paid to other Telecom service provider(s) to whose network, the Licensee's network is interconnected for carriage of data, and;
- b. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government, if the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

10. Access Service authorisation under UL(VNO)

Gross Revenue:

The Gross Revenue shall be inclusive of installation charges, late fees, sale proceeds of handsets (or any other terminal equipment, etc.), revenue on account of interest, dividend, value added services, supplementary services, revenue earned from parent NSO(s), revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure and any other miscellaneous revenue, without any set-off for related item of expense, etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service under UL]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Charges paid to its parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges;
- b. Charges paid to NSOs towards Bulk/Wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges, minutes and SMSs. However, these charges should be UL(VNO) agreement governed by a written agreement, a copy of which must be provided along with the proof of actual payment for the deduction to be allowed; and
- c. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government if Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

11. Internet Service authorisation under UL(VNO)

Gross Revenue:

The Gross Revenue shall be inclusive of all types of revenue from Internet services, revenue from Internet access service, revenue from internet contents, revenue from Internet Telephony service, revenue from activation charges, revenue from sale, lease or renting of bandwidth, links, R&G cases, Turnkey projects, revenue from IPTV service, late fees, sale proceeds of terminal equipments, revenue on account of interest, dividend,

value added services, supplementary services, revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure and any other miscellaneous revenue, without any set-off for related item of expense etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service under UL]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Charges paid to its parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges;
- b. Charges paid to NSOs towards Bulk/ Wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges. However, these charges should be governed by a written agreement, a copy of which must be provided along with the proof of actual payment for the deduction to be allowed; and
- c. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government if Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

12. National Long Distance (NLD) Service authorisation under UL(VNO)

Gross Revenue:

Gross revenue shall be inclusive of total revenue accruing to the licensee by way of providing service by parenting to NLD (NSOs) including the revenue on account of supplementary/ value added services, leasing of infrastructure, interest, dividend, revenue earned from parent NSOs, revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure and any other miscellaneous revenue, without any set off for related item of expense etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service under UL]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Charges paid to its parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges;
- b. Charges paid to NSOs towards Bulk/Wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges, minutes and SMSs. However, these charges should be governed by a written agreement, a copy of which must be provided along with the proof of actual payment for the deduction to be allowed; and
- c. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government if Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

13. International Long Distance (ILD) Service authorisation under UL(VNO)**Gross Revenue:**

The Gross Revenue shall include all revenues accruing to the Licensee on account of goods supplied, services provided, leasing of infrastructure, use of its resources by others, application Fee, installation charges, call charges, late Fees, sale proceeds of instruments (or any terminal equipment including accessories), handsets, bandwidth, income from Value Added Services, supplementary services, access or interconnection charges, any lease or rent charges for hiring of infrastructure, etc. and any other miscellaneous items including interest, dividend, etc. without any set off of related items of expense, etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service under UL]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) :

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Charges paid to its parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges.
- b. Charges paid to NSOs towards Bulk/Wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges, minutes and SMSs. However, these charges should be governed by a written agreement, a copy of which must be provided along with the proof of actual payment for the deduction to be allowed.
- c. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government if Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

14. Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPS) Service authorisation under UL(VNO)

Gross Revenue:

The Gross Revenue shall be inclusive of installation charges, late fees, sale proceeds of handsets (or any other terminal equipment, etc.), revenue on account of interest, dividend, value added services, supplementary services, revenue from parent NSO, revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure and any other miscellaneous revenue, without any set-off for related item of expense, etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service under UL]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR): For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Charges paid to its parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges;
- b. Charges paid to NSOs towards minutes and SMSs. However, these charges should be governed by a written agreement, a copy of which must be provided along with the proof of actual payment for the deduction to be allowed.
- c. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government if Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

15. Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS) authorisation under UL(VNO)

Gross Revenue (GR):

The Gross revenue shall include all revenues accruing to the Licensee on account of goods supplied, services provided, leasing/hiring of infrastructure, use of its resources by others, application fees, installation charges, call charges, late fees, sale proceeds of instruments (or any terminal equipment including accessories), fees on account of annual maintenance contract, income from value added services, supplementary services, revenue earned from parent NSO, etc. and any other miscellaneous item including interest, dividend, etc. without any set-off of related item of expense etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service under UL]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Charges paid to its parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges.
- a. Charges paid to NSOs towards Bulk/ Wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges and minutes. However, these charges should be governed by a written agreement, a copy of which must be provided along with the proof of actual payment for the deduction to be allowed.
- b. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government if Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

16. Machine to Machine (M2M) Service Authorisation under UL(VNO)

Gross Revenue (GR):

The Gross Revenue shall be inclusive of installation charges, late fees, sale proceeds of M2M devices (or any other terminal equipment etc.), revenue on account of interest, dividend, value added services, supplementary services, access or interconnection

charges, roaming charges, revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure and any other miscellaneous revenue, without any set-off for related item of expense, etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service under UL]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Charges paid to its parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges.
- b. Charges paid to NSOs towards Bulk/ Wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges. However, these charges should be governed by a written agreement, a copy of which must be provided along with the proof of actual payment for the deduction to be allowed.
- c. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government if Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included the component of GST.

17. Commercial VSAT CUG Service authorisation under UL(VNO)

Gross Revenue (GR):

The Gross Revenue shall include all revenues accruing to the Licensee on account of goods supplied, services provided, leasing/hiring of infrastructure, use of its resources by others, application fees, installation charges, call charges, late fees, sale proceeds of instruments (or any terminal equipment including accessories), VSAT hardware/software, fees on account of Annual Maintenance Contract/ Annual Comprehensive Maintenance Contract income from value added services, supplementary services, etc. and any other miscellaneous item including interest, dividend, etc. without any set-off of related item of expense, etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service under UL]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Charges paid to its parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges.
- b. Charges paid to NSOs towards Bulk/Wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges. However, these charges should be governed by a written agreement, a copy of which must be provided along with the proof of actual payment for the deduction to be allowed.
- c. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government if Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST.

18. Resale of IPLC Service Authorisation under UN-VNO**Gross Revenue:**

The Gross Revenue shall include all revenues accruing to the Licensee on account of goods supplied, services provided, leasing of infrastructure, use of its resources by others, application Fee, installation charges, call charges, late Fees, sale proceeds of instruments (or any terminal equipment including accessories), handsets, band width, income from Value Added Services, supplementary services, access or interconnection charges, any lease or rent charges for hiring of infrastructure, revenue earned from parent NSOs, revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure and any other miscellaneous income, without any set-off for related item of expense etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service under UL]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Charges paid to its parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges.

- b. Charges paid to NSOs towards Bulk/Wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges. However, these charges should be governed by a written agreement, a copy of which must be provided along with the proof of actual payment for the deduction to be allowed.
- c. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government, if Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included as component of GST

19. Access Service Category-B Authorisation under UL(VNO)

Gross Revenue:

The Gross Revenue shall be inclusive of installation charges, late fees, sale proceeds of handsets (or any other terminal equipment, etc.), revenue on account of interest, dividend, value added services, supplementary services, revenue earned from parent NSO(s), revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure and any other miscellaneous revenue, without any set-off for related item of expense, etc.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

[Same as Access service under UL]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR):

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)", following shall be excluded from the Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR):

- a. Charges paid to its parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges.
- b. Charges paid to NSOs towards Bulk/Wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges, minutes and SMSs. However, these charges should be governed by a written agreement, a copy of which must be provided along with the proof of actual payment for the deduction to be allowed.
- c. Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government if Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) had included the component of GST.

20. Mobile Number Portability under MNP License

Gross Revenue: The Gross Revenue shall be inclusive of revenue from services, Porting fees, sale proceeds of any software & hardware items, revenue on account of interest,

dividend, capital gains, value added services, supplementary services, access or interconnection charges, revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure and any other miscellaneous revenue etc., without any set-off from related items of expense.

Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR)

[Same as Access service under UL]

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)

For the purpose of arriving at the "Adjusted Gross Revenue", the Goods and Services Tax applicable (GST), as applicable, will be excluded from Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) to arrive at the Adjusted Gross Revenue, if Gross Revenue had included the component of GST.

Annexure 3.2: Formats for Quarterly Statements of Revenue and License Fee under the present licensing regime

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee
 _____ (Name and address of operator)
Access Services License No.in..... (Service Area)
Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter
of the financial year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ACTUALS FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE CURRENT QUARTER
1.	Revenue from services			
A	Revenue from wire-line subscribers:			
i.	Rentals			
ii.	Call revenue within service area			
iii.	National LONG DISTANCE CALL revenue			
iv.	International LONG DISTANCE CALL revenue			
v.	Pass thru revenue for usage of other networks (give OPERATOR-wise details)			
vi.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
vii.	Service charges			
viii.	Charges on account of any other value added services, Supplementary Services etc.			
ix.	Any other income / miscellaneous receipt from wireline subscribers.			
B	Revenue from WLL subscribers : (Fixed)			
i.	Rentals			
ii.	Call revenue within service area			
iii.	National LONG DISTANCE CALL revenue			
iv.	International LONG DISTANCE CALL revenue			
v.	Pass thru revenue for usage of other networks (give OPERATOR-wise details)			
vi.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
vii.	Service charges			
viii.	Charges on account of any other value added services, Supplementary Services etc.			
ix.	Any other income / miscellaneous receipt from WLL subscribers.			
C	Revenue from WLL subscribers: (handheld)			
i.	Rentals			
ii.	Call revenue within service area			
iii.	National LONG DISTANCE CALL revenue			

iv.	International LONG DISTANCE CALL revenue			
v.	Pass thru revenue for usage of other networks (give OPERATOR-wise details)			
vi.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
vii.	Service charges			
viii.	Charges on account of any other value added services, Supplementary Services etc.			
ix.	Any other income / miscellaneous receipt from WLL subscribers.			
D	Revenue from Mobile Services:			
D (a)	Revenue from GSM and 3G spectrum based Mobile Services:			
D(a) 1.	Post paid options:			
i.	Rentals			
ii.	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	Pass through charges (provide operator-wise details)			
v.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
vi.	Roaming charges			
vii.	Service charges			
viii.	Charges on account of any other value added services. Supplementary Services etc.			

ix.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from postpaid options.			
D(a) 2.	Pre-paid options:			
i.	Sale of pre-paid SIM cards including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	Pass through charges (provide operator-wise details)			
v.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
vi.	Roaming charges			
vii.	Service charges			
viii.	Charges on account of any other value added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
ix.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from pre-paid options.			
D(a) 3.	Revenue from Mobile Community phone service including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from Mobile Community phone service.			

D (b)	Revenue from CDMA based Mobile Services:			
D(b) 1.	Post paid options:			
i.	Rentals			
ii.	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	Pass through charges (provide operator-wise details)			
v.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
vi.	Roaming charges			
vii.	Service charges			
viii.	Charges on account of any other value added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
ix.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from post paid options.			
D(b) 2.	Pre-paid options:			
i.	Sale of pre-paid SIM cards including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	Pass through charges (provide operator-wise details)			
v.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
vi.	Roaming charges			
vii.	Service charges			
viii.	Charges on account of any other value added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
ix.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from pre-paid options.			
D(b) 3.	Revenue from Mobile Community phone service including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from Mobile Community phone service.			
D (c)	Revenue from BWA Services:			
D(c) 1.	Post paid options:			
i.	Rentals			
ii.	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	Pass through charges (provide operator-wise details)			

v.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
vi.	Roaming charges			
vii.	Service charges			
viii.	Charges on account of any other value added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
ix.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from post paid options.			
D(c) 2.	Pre-paid options:			
i.	Sale of pre-paid SIM cards including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	Pass through charges (provide operator-wise details)			
v.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
vi.	Roaming charges			
vii.	Service charges			
viii.	Charges on account of any other value added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
ix.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from pre-paid options.			
D(c) 3.	Revenue from Mobile Community phone service including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from Mobile Community phone service.			
E	Revenue from Voice Mail /any other value-added service			
2	Income from trading activity			
i.	Sale of handsets { <u>Excluding Goods and Service Tax (GST)</u> }			
ii.	Sale of accessories etc. { <u>Excluding Goods and Service Tax (GST)</u> }			
iii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from trading activity. { <u>Excluding Goods and Service Tax (GST)</u> }			
iv.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
3	Revenue from roaming.			
i.	Roaming facility revenue from own subscribers.			

ii.	Roaming revenue from own subscriber visiting other networks including STD/ISD/pass thru charges for transmission of incoming call during roaming.			
iii.	Roaming Commission earned.			
iv.	Roaming revenue on account of visiting subscribers from other networks (provide operator- wise details).			
v.	Goods and Service Tax (GST) if not included above.			
vi.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from roaming.			
4	Income from investments			
i.	Interest income			
ii.	Dividend income			
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
5.	Non-refundable deposits from subscribers			
6.	Revenue from franchisees /resellers including all commissions and discounts etc. excluding the revenues already included in IA&IB			
7.	Revenue from sharing/ leasing of infrastructure			
8.	Revenue from sale/ lease of bandwidth, links, R&G cases, turnkey projects etc.			
9.	Revenue from other Operators on account of pass through call charges (provide operator-wise details).			
10.	Revenue from other Operators on account of provisioning of interconnection (provide operator-wise details)			
11.	Revenue from Operations /Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
12.	Miscellaneous revenue			

AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY: (Add 1-12)			
BB	LESS			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VIII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total (1+2+3+4)			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA- BB)			
DD	DEDUCT:			
1	PSTN/PLMN/GMPCS related call charges (Access Charges) paid to other eligible/entitled Telecommunication service providers within India			
2	Roaming revenues passed on to other eligible/entitled telecommunication service providers and			
3	Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government.			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2+3)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @ ----- OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee
 _____(Name and address of operator)
ISP License No.in (Service Area)
Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter
of the financial year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ACTUALS FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE CURRENT QUARTER.
1.	Revenue from services			
A	Revenue from Pure Internet Service (Internet Access and Content Service):			
A1.	Post paid options:			
i.	Rentals			
ii.	Activation Charges			
iii.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
iv.	Service charges			
v.	Charges on account of any other value added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
vi.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from post paid options.			
A2.	Pre-paid options:			
i.	Sale of pre-paid option including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from pre-paid options.			
B	Revenue from Internet Telephony Service:			
B1.	Post paid options:			
i.	Rentals			
ii.	Activation Charges			
iii.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
iv.	Service charges			
v.	Charges on account of any other value added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
vi.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from post paid options.			
B2.	Pre-paid options:			
i.	Sale of pre-paid option Including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from pre-paid options.			

C	Revenue from any other value added service			
2.	Income from trading activity (all including of Goods and Service Tax (GST))			
I	Sale of Terminal Equipments			
Ii	Sale of accessories etc.			
Iii	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from trading activity.			
3.	Income from investments			
i.	Interest income			
ii.	Dividend income			
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
4.	Non-refundable deposits from subscribers			
5.	Revenue from franchisees /resellers including all commissions and discounts etc. excluding the revenues already included in IA&IB			
6.	Revenue from sharing/ leasing of infrastructure			
7.	Revenue from sale/ lease renting of bandwidth, links, R&G cases, turnkey projects etc.			
8.	Revenue from Roaming			
i.	Roaming facility revenue from own subscribers.			
ii.	Roaming revenue from own subscriber visiting other networks.			
iii.	Roaming Commission earned.			
iv.	Roaming revenue on account of visiting subscribers from other networks.			
v.	Goods and Service Tax (GST) if not included above.			
vi.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from roaming			
9.	Revenue from IPTV Services			
10.	Revenue from other Operators on account of provisioning of interconnection			
11.	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			

12.	Miscellaneous Revenue			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY :(Add 1-12)			
BB	LESS			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			
2	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VIII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vi.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total (1+2+3+4)			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)			
DD	DEDUCT:			
57 ₁ .	Roaming revenue passed on to other eligible/entitled telecom service provider.			
2.	Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @ -----			
	-----OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee
 _____(Name and address of operator)
NATIONAL LONG DISTANCE SERVICE License No.....
Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter
of the financial year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ESTIMATED FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE PREVIOUS QUARTER
1.	Revenue from Services:			
i.	Revenue from provisioning of NLD service			
ii.	Revenue from supplementary/value added services.			
iii.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
iv.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt.			
1(a)	Revenue from calling cards			
(i)	Revenue from sale of calling cards			
(ii)	Any other income/Miscellaneous receipt from Calling Cards			
(iii)	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
2.	Income from investments.			
i.	Interest income			
ii.	Dividend income			
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
3.	Non-refundable deposits.			
4.	Revenue from sharing/leasing of other infrastructure			
5.	Revenue from Operations /Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
6.	Miscellaneous revenue			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE COMPANY:(ADD 1-6)			
BB	LESS			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			

3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VIII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total (1+2+3+4)			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA- BB)			
DD	DEDUCT:			
1	Revenue of pass-through nature passed on to other service providers. (operator- wise details). Note: Lease/rent charges for hiring of infrastructure not to be deducted.			
1(a)	Revenue of pass-through nature passed on to other telecom service providers for usage of Calling cards at the originating point (Operator- wise detail)			
1(b)	Revenue of pass-through nature passed on to other telecom service providers for usage of Calling Cards at the terminating Point (operator- wise detail)			
2.	Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government.			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @ ----- ----- OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee
..... (Name and address of OPERATOR)
International Long Distance Service License No.
Statement of revenue and License Fee
for the Quarterof the financial year

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE PREVIOUS QUARTER
1.	Revenue from traffic		
A	Revenue		
i.	Outgoing traffic revenue		
ii.	Incoming traffic revenue		
iii.	Pass through revenue for usage of other networks (give OPERATOR-wise details)		
iv.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)		
v.	Service charges		
vi.	Charges on account of any other value-added services, Supplementary Services etc.		
vii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt.		
viii.	Revenue from calling cards		
a.	Revenue from sale of calling cards		
b.	Any other income/ Miscellaneous receipt from calling cards		
c.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)		
2.	Income from investments (made on the strength of this License)		
i.	Interest income		
ii.	Dividend income		
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.		
3.	Non-refundable deposits from subscribers		
4.	Revenue from franchisees		
5.	Revenue from sharing/ leasing of infrastructure		
6.	Revenue from sale/ lease of bandwidth, links, R&G cases, turnkey projects etc.		
7.	Revenue from other OPERATORS on account of pass thru call charges.		

8.	Revenue from other OPERATORS on account of provisioning of interconnection		
9.	Revenue from Operations /Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting		
10.	Miscellaneous revenue		
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE COMPANY: (Add 1-10)		
BB	LESS		
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations		
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting		
3.	Receipt from USO Fund		
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VIII		
i.	Income from Dividend		
ii.	Income from Interest		
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities		
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations		
v.	Income from property rent		
vi.	Insurance claims		
vii.	Bad Debts recovered		
viii.	Excess Provisions written back		
BB	Total (1+2+3+4)		
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA- BB)		
DD	DEDUCT:		
1	Charges passed on to other SERVICE PROVIDER(s) (OPERATOR-wise) (Copy of agreement to be provided in the first quarter.		

1(a)	Revenue of pass-through nature passed on to other telecom service providers for usage of Calling cards at the originating point (operator-wise details)		
1(b)	Revenue of pass-through nature passed on to other telecom service providers for usage of Calling Cards at the terminating Point (operator-wise detail)		
2.	Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government.		
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2)		
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (CC-DD)		
	REVENUE SHARE @ ----- OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE		

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee
(Name and address of operator)
Global Mobile Personnel Communication by Satellite Service License No...
Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter
.....of the financial year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS OF THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	FIGURES FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE FIGURES UP TO THE PREVIOUS QUARTER
1.	Revenue from Services:			
A.	Post paid options:			
i.	Rentals			
ii	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	Pass through charges			
v.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
vi.	Roaming charges			
vii	Service charges			
viii.	Charges on account of any other value-added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
ix.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from postpaid options.			
B.	Pre-paid options:			
i.	Sale of pre-paid sim cards including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from pre-paid options.			
C. i.	Revenue from Mobile Community phone service including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from Mobile Community phone service.			
2.	Income from Trading activity: [all-inclusive of Goods and Service Tax (GST)]			
i.	Sale of handsets			
ii.	Sale of accessories, including sim cards etc.			
iii.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from trading activity.			
3.	Revenue from roaming.			
i.	Roaming facility revenue from own subscribers.			
ii.	Roaming revenue from own subscriber visiting other networks including STD/ISD/pass through charges for transmission of incoming call during roaming.			
iii.	Roaming Commission earned.			

iv.	Roaming revenue on account of visiting subscribers from other networks.			
v.	Goods and Service Tax (GST) if not included above.			
vi.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from roaming.			
4.	Income from investments.			
i.	Interest income			
ii.	Dividend income			
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
5.	Non-refundable deposits from subscribers.			
6.	Revenue from franchisees / resellers, excluding revenues already included in 1A&1B			
7.	Revenue from sharing/leasing of infrastructure			
8.	Revenue from other operators from sale of bandwidth			
9.	Revenue from other operators on account of pass thru call charges.			
10.	Revenue from other operators on account of provisioning of interconnection.			
11.	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
12.	Miscellaneous revenue.			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE LICENSEE COMPANY: (Add 1-12)			
BB	LESS			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure-VIII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			

BB	Total (1+2+3+4)			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)			
DD	DEDUCT:			
1.	PSTN related Call charges passed on to basic, cellular and long-distance service provider(s) (operator-wise)			
2.	Roaming revenues passed on to CMSPs and other GMPCS service providers. (operator-wise)			
3.	Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government.			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2+3)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @ ----- OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee
(Name and address of operator)
Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service License No.....in
_____Service Area
Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter
.....of the financial year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ACTUAL FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE CURRENT QUARTER
1.	Revenue from Services:			
i.	Rentals			
ii.	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	PSTN charges			
v.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
vi.	Service charges			
vii.	Income from lease/rental/AMC of items in 2(i) and 2(ii).			
viii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from service			
2.	Income from Trading activity: {all inclusive of Goods and Service Tax (GST)}			
i.	Sale of handsets			
ii.	Sale of accessories, including sim cards, spares, consumables, etc.			
iii.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from trading activity.			
3.	Income from investments.			
i.	Interest income			
ii.	Dividend income			
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
4.	Non-refundable deposits from subscribers.			
5.	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
6.	Any other receipt/ Miscellaneous revenue.			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE LICENSEE COMPANY: (Add 1-6)			
BB	LESS			
1	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			

2	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3	Receipt from USO Fund			
4	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VIII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total (1+2+3+4)			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)			
DD	DEDUCT:			
1.	PSTN related Call charges paid on to other Access telecom service provider.			
2.	Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government.			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (CC-DD)			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee

_____ (Name and address of operator)

VERY SMALL APERTURE TERMINAL SERVICE License No.....

**Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter...
of the financial year.....**

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	FIGURES FOR CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE FIGURES UPTO THE PREVIOUS QUARTER
1.	Revenue from Services:			
i.	Revenue from provisioning of VSAT service			
ii.	Revenue from supplementary/ value added services.			
iii.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
iv.	Revenue from lease/rentals of items in 2(i) and (ii) below.			
v.	Revenue from Annual Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (ACMC)/ Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) etc.			
vi.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt.			
2.	Income from Trading activity: (all inclusive of Goods and Service Tax (GST))			
i.	Sale of VSAT including antennas and other accessories including software, hardware etc.			
ii.	Sale of accessories, etc.			
iii.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from trading activity.			
3.	Income from investments.			
i.	Interest income			
ii.	Dividend income			
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
4.	Non-refundable deposits.			
5.	Revenue from sharing/leasing of other infrastructure			
6.	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
7.	Miscellaneous revenue.			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY: (Add 1-7)			
BB	LESS			
1	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			
2	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			

3	Receipt from USO Fund			
4	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VIII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total (1+2+3+4)			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)			
DD	DEDUCT:			
1.	Revenue of pass-through nature passed on to other service providers. (operator-wise details).			
	Note: Lease/rent charges for hiring of infrastructure not to be deducted.			
2.	Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government.			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @ ----- --- OF ADJUTED GROSS REVENUE			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee
 _____(Name and address of licensee)
Audio Conferencing/ Audiotex/ Voice Mail Service
Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter of the financial
year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ACTUALS FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE CURRENT QUARTER.
1	Revenue from services			
i.	Rentals			
ii	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	PSTN charges			
v.	GST			
vi	Service charges			
vii.	Income from lease/ rental/ AMC of items in 2(i) and 2(ii).			
viii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from service			
2	Income from Trading activity			
(i)	Sale of handsets (<i>Excluding GST</i>)			
(ii)	Sale of accessories etc. (<i>Excluding GST</i>)			
(iii)	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from trading activity. (<i>Excluding GST</i>)			
(iv)	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
3	Income from investments			
(i)	Interest income			
(ii)	Dividend income			
(iii)	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
4	Non-refundable deposits from subscribers			
5	Any other receipt/ Miscellaneous revenue.			
6	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			

AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY: (Add 1-6)			
BB	LESS:			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VIII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total BB (1+2+3+4)			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA- BB)			
DD	DEDUCT:			
1	Charges actually paid to other Telecom Service Provider(s) (Operator-wise)			
2	GST paid to the Government			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (CC - DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @ ----- OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee

(Name and address of operator)

M2M Services in _____ (Service Area)

Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarterof the financial year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ACTUALS FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE CURRENT QUARTER.
1	Revenue from services			
A	Revenue from M2M subscribers:			
(i)	Rentals			
(ii)	Activation Charges			
(iii)	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
(iv)	Roaming charges			
(v)	Service charges			
(vi)	Charges on account of any other value-added services, Supplementary Services etc.			
(vii)	Any other income / miscellaneous receipt from M2M subscribers.			
B	Revenue from any other value-added service			
2	Income from trading activity			
(i)	Sale of M2M devices {Excluding Goods and Service Tax (GST)}			
(ii)	Sale of accessories etc. {Excluding Goods and Service Tax (GST)}			
(iii)	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from trading activity. {Excluding Goods and Service Tax (GST)}			
(iv)	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
3	Revenue from roaming.			
i.	Roaming facility revenue from own subscribers.			
ii.	Roaming revenue from own subscriber visiting other networks.			
iii.	Roaming Commission earned.			
iv.	Roaming revenue on account of visiting subscribers from other networks (provide operator-wise details).			
v.	Goods and Service Tax (GST) if not included above.			
vi.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from roaming.			
4	Income from investments			

(i)	Interest income			
(ii)	Dividend income			
(iii)	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
5	Non-refundable deposits from subscribers			
6	Revenue from franchisees /resellers including all Commissions and discounts etc. excluding the revenues already included in IA&IB			
7	Revenue from sharing/ leasing of infrastructure			
8	Revenue from other Operators on account of pass-through call charges (provide operator- wise details).			
9	Revenue from other Operators on account of provisioning of interconnection (provide operator-wise details)			
10	Any other income			
11	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
12	Miscellaneous revenue			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY: (Add 1-12)			
BB	LESS:			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VIII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			

iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total BB (1+2+3+4)			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA- BB)			
DD	DEDUCT			
1	Roaming revenues actually paid to other M2M service providers. (operator-wise)			
2	Goods and Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid/ payable to the Government			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @ ---- OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee
 _____(Name and address of operator)
VNO-Access Services in _____(Service Area)
Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter
of the financial year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ACTUALS FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE CURRENT QUARTER.
1	Revenue from services			
A	Revenue from wire-line subscribers:			
(i)	Rentals			
(ii)	Call revenue			
(iii)	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
(iv)	Service charges			
(v)	Charges on account of any other value-added services, Supplementary Services etc.			
(vi)	Any other income /miscellaneous receipt from wireline subscribers.			
B	Revenue from WLL subscribers: (Fixed)			
(i)	Rentals			
(ii)	Call revenue			
(iii)	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
(iv)	Service charges			
(v)	Charges on account of any other value-added services, Supplementary Services etc.			
(vi)	Any other income /miscellaneous receipt from WLL subscribers.			
C	Revenue from WLL subscribers: (handheld)			
(i)	Rentals			
(ii)	Call revenue			
(iii)	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
(iv)	Service charges			
(v)	Charges on account of any other value-added services, Supplementary Services etc.			
(vi)	Any other income /miscellaneous receipt from WLL subscribers.			
D	Revenue from Mobile Services:			
D (a)	Revenue from GSM and 3G Spectrum based Mobile Services:			
D(a) 1.	Post paid options:			
i.	Rentals			

ii	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
v.	Service charges			
vi.	Charges on account of any other value-added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
vii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from post paid options.			
D(a) 2.	Pre-paid options:			
i.	Sale of pre-paid SIM cards including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	<i>Activation Charges</i>			
Iii	<i>Airtime Revenue</i>			
Iv	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
v.	<i>Service charges</i>			
vi.	<i>Charges on account of any other value added services. Supplementary Services etc.</i>			
vii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from pre-paid options.			
D(a)3.i	Revenue from Mobile Community phone service including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from Mobile Community phoneservice.			
D (b)	Revenue from CDMA based Mobile Services:			
D(b) 1.	Post paid options:			
i.	Rentals			
ii	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
v.	Roaming charges			
Vi	Service charges			
vii.	Charges on account of any other value-added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
viii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from postpaid options.			
D(b) 2.	Pre-paid options:			
i.	Sale of pre-paid SIM cards including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Activation Charges			
Iii	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
v.	Service charges			
vi.	Charges on account of any other value-added services. Supplementary Services etc.			

vii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from pre- paid options.			
D(b)3.	Revenue from Mobile Community phone service including full value of all components charged therein.			
i.				
ii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from Mobile Community phoneservice.			
D (c)	Revenue from BWA Services:			
D(c) 1.	Post paid options:			
i.	Rentals			
Ii	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
v.	Service charges			
vi.	Charges on account of any other value- added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
vii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from postpaid options.			
D(c) 2.	Pre-paid options:			
i.	Sale of pre-paid SIM cards including full value of all components charged therein.			
Ii	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
v.	Service charges			
vi.	Charges on account of any other value- added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
vii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from pre-paid options.			
D(c)3.	Revenue from Mobile Community phone service including full value of all components charged therein.			
i.				
ii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from Mobile Community phoneservice.			
E	Revenue from Voice Mail /anyother value-added service			
2	Income from trading activity			
(i)	Sale of handsets (Excluding GST)			
(ii)	Sale of accessories etc.(Excluding GST)			
(iii)	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from trading activity. (Excluding GST)			
(iv)	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
3	Revenue from roaming.			
i.	Roaming facility revenue from own subscribers.			
ii.	Roaming revenue from own subscriber visiting other networks including STD/ISD/pass thru charges for transmission of incoming call during roaming.			
iii.	Roaming Commission earned.			

iv.	GST if not included above.			
v.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from roaming.			
4	Income from investments			
(i)	Interest income			
(ii)	Dividend income			
(iii)	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
5	Non-refundable deposits from subscribers			
6	Revenue from franchisees /resellers including all commissions and discounts etc. excluding the revenues already included in IA&IB			
7	Revenue from sharing/ leasing of infrastructure			
8	Revenue from sale/ lease of bandwidth, links, R&G cases, turnkey projects etc.			
9	Revenue from NSO on account of Roaming calls/pass through & other misc. Charges + misc.Revenue.			
10.	Any other Income			
11.	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
12.	Miscellaneous revenue			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY: (Add 1-12)			
BB	Less			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total BB (1+2+3+4):			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)			
DD	DEDUCT:			

1	Charges actually paid to parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges.			
2	Charges actually paid to NSO towards Bulk/ wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges, minutes and SMSs.			
3	Goods and Service Tax paid to the Government.			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2+3)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @ ----- ----- OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee

_____(Name and address of operator)

VNO-ISP License No. in _____ (Service Area)

Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter of the financial year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.No.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ACTUALS FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE CURRENT QUARTER.
1	Revenue from services			
A	Revenue from Pure Internet Service (Internet Access and Content Service):			
A1.	Post paid options:			
i.	Rentals			
ii.	Activation Charges			
iii.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
iv.	Service charges			
v.	Charges on account of any other value-added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
vi.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from postpaid options.			
A2.	Pre-paid options:			
i.	Sale of pre-paid option including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from pre-paid options.			
B	Revenue from Internet Telephony Service:			
B1.	Post paid options:			
i.	Rentals			
ii.	Activation Charges			
iii.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
iv.	Service charges			
v.	Charges on account of any other value-added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
vi.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from postpaid options. ⁶⁷			
B2.	Pre-paid options:			
i.	Sale of pre-paid option including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from pre-paid options.			
C	Revenue from any other value-added service			
2	Income from trading activity (all			

³⁰ Amendment vide DoT letter no. 20-271/2010-AS-I(Vol.V) dated 25th October, 2021

	including of Goods & Service Tax)			
i.	Sale of Terminal Equipments			
ii.	Sale of accessories etc.			
iii.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from trading activity.			
3	Income from investments			
i.	Interest income			
ii.	Dividend income			
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
4	Non-refundable deposits from subscribers			
5	Revenue from franchisees /resellers including all commissions and discounts etc. excluding the revenues already included in IA&IB			
6	Revenue from sharing/ leasing of infrastructure			
7	Revenue from sale/ lease renting of bandwidth, links, R&G cases, turnkey projects etc.			
8	Revenue from NSO on account of Roaming calls/pass through charges & other Charges.			
ii.	GST if not included above.			
iii.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from roaming			
9	Any other INCOME			
10	Revenue from IPTV Services			
11	Revenue paid by NSO to Licensee + Miscellaneous Revenue			
12	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY :(Add1-12)			
BB	Less			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VII			
i.	Income from Dividend			

ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total BB (1+2+3+4):			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)			
DD	Less:			
1	Goods and Service Tax paid/payable to the Government			
2	Charges actually paid to parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges			
3	Charges actually paid to NSO towards Bulk/ wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges.			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2+3)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @ ----- OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee

_____ (Name and address of operator)

VNO - NATIONAL LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter.....of the financial year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ESTIMATED FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE PREVIOUS QUARTER
1.	Revenue from Services:			
i.	Revenue from provisioning ofVNO (NLD) service			
ii.	Revenue from supplementary/value addedservices.			
iii.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
iv.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt.			
1(a)	Revenue from calling cards			
i.	Revenue from sale of calling cards			
ii.	Any other income/Miscellaneous receipt from Calling Cards			
iii.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
2.	Income from investments.			
i.	Interest income			
ii.	Dividend income			
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
3.	Non-refundable deposits.			
4.	Revenue from sharing/ leasing of other infrastructure			
5.	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
6.	Miscellaneous revenue.			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY (Add 1- 6):			
BB	Less			
1.	Revenue from operations otherthan telecom activities/ operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under alicense from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			

4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure-VII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total BB (1+2+3+4):			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)			
DD	Less:			
1.	Charges actually paid to parent NSO(s) (NLD) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges.			
2.	Charges actually paid to NSO towards Bulk/wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges, minutes and SMSs.			
3.	Good and Service Tax paid to the Government.			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE(1+2+3)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE:(CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @.....OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE:			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee

(Name and address of operator)

VNO-INTERNATIONAL LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

Statement of revenue and License Fee for the Quarter -----of the financial year----

(Amount in Rupees)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.
1.	Revenue from traffic		
A	Revenue from subscriber of ILD calling cards & any other income /miscellaneous receipt from callingcards.		
i.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)		
ii.	Service charges		
iii.	Charges on account of any other value-added services, Supplementary Services etc.		
iv.	Any other income / miscellaneous receipt.		
2.	Income from investments (made on the strength of this License)		
i.	Interest income		
ii.	Dividend income		
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.		
3.	Revenue from franchisees		
4.	Revenue from sharing/ leasing of infrastructure		
5.	Revenue from sale/ lease of bandwidth, links, R&G cases, turnkey projects etc.		
6.	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting		
7.	Any other revenue		
8.	Miscellaneous revenue		
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY: (Add 1-8)		
BB	Less		
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations		
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting		
3.	Receipt from USO Fund		
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure-VII		
i.	Income from Dividend		
ii.	Income from Interest		
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities		
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations		
v.	Income from property rent		

vi.	Insurance claims		
vii.	Bad Debts recovered		
viii.	Excess Provisions written back		
BB	Total BB (1+2+3+4):		
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)		
DD	Less:		
1	Charges actually paid to parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges.		
2	Charges actually paid to NSO towards Bulk/wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges, minutes and SMSs.		
3	Goods and Service Tax paid to the Government		
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2+3)		
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (CC-DD)		
	REVENUE SHARE @ ----- OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE		

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee

(Name and address of operator)

VNO- GLOBAL MOBILE PERSONNEL COMMUNICATION BY SATELLITE SERVICE IN INDIA

Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter

of the financial

year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS OF THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	FIGURES FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE FIGURES UP TO THE PREVIOUS QUARTER
1.	Revenue from Services:			
A.	Post paid options:			
i.	Rentals			
ii	Activation Charges			
iii.	Airtime Revenue			
iv.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
v	Service charges			
vi.	Charges on account of any other value-added services. Supplementary Services etc.			
vii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from postpaid options.			
B.	Pre-paid options:			
i.	Sale of pre-paid sim cards including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from pre-paid options.			
C. i.	Revenue from Mobile Community phone service including full value of all components charged therein.			
ii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from Mobile Community phone service.			
2.	Income from Trading activity:(all inclusive of sales tax)			
i.	Sale of handsets			
ii.	Sale of accessories, includingSIM cards etc.			
iii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from trading activity.			
3.	Income from investments.			
i.	Interest income			
ii.	Dividend income			
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
4.	Non-refundable deposits from subscribers.			
5.	Revenue from franchisees / resellers, excluding revenues already included in 1A&1B			

6.	Revenue from sharing/leasing of infrastructure			
7.	Revenue from other operators from sale of bandwidth			
8.	Revenue from other operators on account of provisioning of interconnection			
9.	Any other INCOME			
10.	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
11.	Miscellaneous revenue			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE LICENSEE COMPANY: (Add 1-11)			
BB	Less			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total BB (1+2+3+4):			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)			
DD	Less:			
1	Charges actually paid to parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges.			
2.	Charges actually paid to NSO towards Minutes and SMSs.			
3.	Goods and Service Tax paid to the Government.			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTION (1+2+3)			
EE	Adjusted Gross Revenue (CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @.....OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE:			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee

(Name and address of operator)

VNO-Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service in Service Area Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarterof the financial year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ACTUAL FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE CURRENT QUARTER
1.	Revenue from Services:			
i.	Rentals			
ii.	Activation Charges			
iii.	Revenue from NSO.			
iv.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
v.	Service charges			
vi.	Income from lease/rental/AMC of items in 2(i) and 2(ii).			
vii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from service			
2.	Income from Trading activity:(all inclusive of sales tax)			
i.	Sale of handsets			
ii.	Sale of accessories, including SIM cards, spares, consumables, etc.			
iii.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from trading activity.			
3.	Income from investments.			
i.	Interest income			
ii.	Dividend income			
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
4.	Non-refundable deposits from subscribers.			
5.	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
6.	Any other receipt/ Miscellaneous revenue.			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY:(Add 1-6)			

BB	Less			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total BB (1+2+3+4):			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)			
DD	Less:			
1.	Charges actually paid to parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges.			
2.	Charges actually paid to NSO towards Bulk/ wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges and minutes.			
3.	Goods and Service Tax paid to the Government.			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTION (1+2+3)			
EE	Adjusted Gross Revenue (CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @..... OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE:			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee

-----**(Name and address of operator)**-----

VNO-VERY SMALL APERTURE TERMINAL SERVICE

Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter of the financial
year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	FIGURES FOR CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE FIGURES UPTO THE PREVIOUS QUARTER
1.	Revenue from Services:			
i.	Revenue from provisioning of VSAT service.			
ii.	Revenue from supplementary/value added services.			
iii.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
iv.	Revenue from lease/rentals of items in 2(i) and (ii) below.			
v.	Revenue from Annual Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (ACMC)/ Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) etc.			
vi.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt.			
2.	Income from Trading activity: (all inclusive of sales tax)			
i.	Sale of VSAT including antennas and other accessories including software, hardware etc.			
ii.	Sale of accessories, etc.			
iii.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from trading activity.			
3.	Income from investments.			
i.	Interest income			
ii.	Dividend income			
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
4.	Non-refundable deposits.			
5.	Revenue from sharing/leasing of other infrastructure			
6.	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
7.	Miscellaneous revenue including revenue paid by NSO to licensee.			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY (Add 1-7):			
BB	Less			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			

2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total BB (1+2+3+4):			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)			
DD	Less:			
1.	Charges actually paid to parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges.			
2.	Charges actually paid to Bulk/ wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges.			
3.	Goods and Service Tax paid to the Government			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2+3)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE: (CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @ OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE:			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee

------(Name and address of operator)

VNO - Resale of IPLC Service

Statement of revenue and LICENCE Fee for the Quarter -----Of the financial year --

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S. No.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ESTIMATED FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE PREVIOUS QUARTER
1.	Revenue from IPLC			
A	Revenue			
i.	IPLC revenue			
ii.	Pass thru revenue for usage of other networks (give OPERATOR-wise details)			
iii.	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
iv.	Service charges			
v.	Charges on account of any other value-added services, Supplementary Services etc.			
vi.	Any other income / Miscellaneous receipt.			
2.	Income from investments.			
i.	Interest income			
ii.	Dividend income			
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
3.	Non-refundable deposits from Subscribers			
4.	Revenue from franchisees			
5.	Revenue from sharing/leasing of infrastructure			
6.	Revenue from sale/ lease of bandwidth, links, R&G cases, turnkey projects etc.			
7.	Revenue from other OPERATORS on account of pass thru call charges.			
8.	Revenue from other OPERATORS on account of provisioning of interconnection			
9.	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
10.	Miscellaneous Revenue			

AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY (ADD 1-10):			
BB	Less			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total BB (1+2+3+4):			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)			
DD	Less:			
1.	Charges actually paid to other telecom service providers for procurement of bandwidth, last mile connectivity used for provision of end-to-end IPLC; (note: Any charges paid for multiplexing, de-multiplexing, billing system and related customer management are not to be deducted.) (Operator wise) (Copy of agreement to be provided in the first year).			
2.	Charges actually paid to NSO towards Bulk/wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges.			
3.	Goods and Service Tax paid to the Government.			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2+3)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE:(CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @..... OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE:			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee

(Name and address of operator)

VNO-Access Services Category 'B' in _____ (Service Area)

Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter of the financial

year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ACTUALS FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE CURRENT QUARTER.
1	Revenue from wire-line services:			
(i)	Rentals			
(ii)	Call revenue			
(iii)	Goods & Service Tax (GST)			
(iv)	Service charges			
(v)	Charges on account of any other value-added services, Supplementary Services etc.			
(vi)	Any other income / miscellaneous receipt from wireline subscribers.			
2	Revenue from sharing/ leasing of infrastructure			
3	Revenue from sale/ lease of bandwidth, links, R&G cases, turnkey projects etc.			
4	Revenue from NSO on account pass through & other misc.Charges + misc. Revenue.			
5	Any other Income			
6.	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
7.	Miscellaneous Revenue			

AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY: (Add 1-7)			
BB	Less			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total BB (1+2+3+4):			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)			
DD	Less:			
1.	Charges actually paid to parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges.			
2.	Charges actually paid to NSOs towards Bulk/ Wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges, minutes and SMSs			
3.	Goods and Service Tax paid to the Government			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2+3)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE(CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @ ----- ---- OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee

_____ (Name and address of operator)

VNO-M2M Services in _____ (Service Area)

Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter of the financial year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ACTUALS FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE CURRENT QUARTER.
1	Revenue from services			
A	Revenue from M2M subscribers:			
(i)	Rentals			
(ii)	Activation Charges			
(iii)	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
(iv)	Roaming charges			
(v)	Service charges			
(vi)	Charges on account of any other value-added services, Supplementary Services etc.			
(vii)	Any other income / miscellaneous receipt from M2M subscribers.			
B	Revenue from any other value-added service			
2	Income from trading activity			
i.	Sale of M2M device {Excluding Goods and Service Tax (GST)}			
ii	Sale of accessories etc. {Excluding Goods and Service Tax (GST)}			
iii.	Any other income/ miscellaneous receipt from trading activity. {Excluding Goods and Service Tax (GST)}			
iv.	Goods and Service Tax (GST)			
3	Revenue from roaming.			
i.	Roaming facility revenue from own subscribers.			
ii.	Roaming revenue from own subscriber visiting other networks .			
iii.	Roaming Commission earned.			
iv.	Roaming revenue on account of visiting subscribers from other networks (provide operator-wise details).			
v.	Goods and Service Tax (GST) if not included above.			
vi.	Any other income/miscellaneous receipt from roaming.			

4	Income from investments			
(i)	Interest income			
(ii)	Dividend income			
(iii)	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
5	Non-refundable deposits from subscribers			
6	Revenue from franchisees /resellers including all commissions and discounts etc. excluding the revenues already included in IA&IB			
7	Revenue from sharing/ leasing of infrastructure			
8	Revenue from other Operators on account of pass-through call charges (provide operator-wise details).			
9	Revenue from other Operators on account of provisioning of interconnection (provide operator-wise details)			
10	Miscellaneous revenue			
11	Revenue from Operations/ Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities as well as revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY: (Add 1-11)			
BB	Less			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			

BB	Total BB (1+2+3+4):			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA-BB)			
1	Goods and Service Tax paid/payable to the Government			
2	Charges actually paid to parent NSO(s) towards applicable access charges such as carriage charges, termination charges and roaming charges			
3	Charges actually paid to NSO towards Bulk/wholesale bandwidth, leased line and bandwidth charges.			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE (1+2+3)			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE(CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @ ----- ---- OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE			

Format of Statement of Revenue and License Fee

_____ (Name and address of operator)

MNP license- Mobile Number Portability in..... (MNP Zone)

Statement of Revenue and License Fee for the Quarter

.....of the financial year.....

(AMOUNT IN RUPEES)

S.N.	PARTICULARS	ACTUALS FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER	ACTUALS FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER	CUMULATIVE UPTO THE CURRENT QUARTER
1	Revenue from services			
i.	Revenue from Mobile Number Porting fees			
ii.	Revenue from Bureau/ Outsourcing/ Support services			
2	Revenue from other services			
i.	Sale proceeds of any software items			
ii.	Sale proceeds of any hardware items			
iii.	Charges on account of any value added services, Supplementary Services etc.			
iv.	Access or interconnection charges			
v.	Any other revenue			
3	GST			
4	Service charges			
5	Income from investments			
i.	Interest income			
ii.	Dividend income			
iii.	Any other miscellaneous receipt from investments.			
6	Non-refundable deposits			
7	Revenue from franchisees /resellers including all commissions and discounts etc			
8	Revenue from sharing/ leasing of infrastructure			

9	Revenue from Operations /Activities other than Telecom Operations/ Activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
10	Miscellaneous revenue			
AA	GROSS REVENUE OF THE Licensee COMPANY: (Add 1-10)			
BB	LESS			
1.	Revenue from operations other than telecom activities/ operations			
2.	Revenue from activities under a license from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
3.	Receipt from USO Fund			
4.	Items of 'Other Income' as listed in Annexure- VIII			
i.	Income from Dividend			
ii.	Income from Interest			
iii.	Capital Gains on account of profit of Sale of fixed assets and securities			
iv.	Gains from Foreign Exchange rates fluctuations			
v.	Income from property rent			
vi.	Insurance claims			
vii.	Bad Debts recovered			
viii.	Excess Provisions written back			
BB	Total (1+2+3+4)			
CC	APPLICABLE GROSS REVENUE (ApGR) (AA- BB)			
DD	DEDUCT:			
3	Goods and Service Tax (GST) paid to the Government.			
DD	TOTAL DEDUCTIBLE REVENUE			
EE	ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE (CC-DD)			
	REVENUE SHARE @ ----- OF ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE			

List of Acronyms

Acronyms	Description
3G	3 rd Generation
3GPP	3 rd Generation Partnership Project
AGR	Adjusted Gross Revenue
ApGR	Applicable Gross Revenue
BSC	Base Station controller
BSNL	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
BTS	Base Transceiver Station
BWA	Broadband Wireless Access
CDN	Content Delivery Network
CDR	Call detail record
CLI	Calling Line Identification
CMRTS	Captive Mobile Radio Trunking Service
CMSP	Cellular Mobile Service Providers
CMTS	Cellular Mobile Telephone Services
CNPB	Captive Non Public Network
CPE	Customer Premises Equipment
CUG	Closed User Group
DCIP	Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider
DLC	Domestic Leased Circuit
DoP	Department of Posts
DoT	Department of Telecommunications
DSLAM	Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer
DTH	Direct to Home
EDR	Exchange Detail Record
EMF	Electromagnetic field
EoDB	Ease of Doing Business
FBG	Financial Bank Guarantee
FSP	Fixed Service Providers
GMPCS	Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite

Acronyms	Description
GR	Gross revenue
GSO	Geostationary Orbit
HAP	High Altitude Platform
HIBS	High Altitude Platform Stations as IMT Base Stations
IFMC	In-Flight and Maritime Connectivity
ILD	International Long Distance
ILDO	International Long Distance Operators
IMT	International Mobile Telephony
INSAT MSS-R	INSAT MSS - Reporting
IN-SPACE	Indian National Space Promotion & Authorisation Centre
IP	Internet Protocol
IPDR	IP Detail Record
IP-I	Infrastructure Provider
IPLC	International Private Leased Circuit
IPTV	Internet Protocol television
ISP	Internet Service Provider
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
KYC	know your customer
LAN	Local Area Network
LoI	Letter of Intent
LPG	liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation
LRN	Location Routing Number
LSA	Licensed Service Area
M2M	Machine to Machine
MCC	Mobile County Code
MCPTT	Mission Critical Push-to-Talk
MNC	Mobile Network Code
MNP	Mobile Number Portability
MoIB	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
MSC	Mobile Switching Center
MTNL	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

Acronyms	Description
NDCP	National Digital Communication Policy
NEP	New Economic Policy
NGE	Non-Government Entities
NGSO	Non-Geostationary Orbit
NIA	Notice Inviting Application
NLD	National Long Distance
NLDO	National Long Distance Operators
NOC	No Objection Certificate
NOCC	Network Operations and Control Centre
NR	New radio
NSIL	NewSpace India Limited
NSO	Network Service Operator
NTN	Non-Terrestrial Network
NTP	National Telecom Policy
OFC	Optical Fibre Cable
PBG	Performance Bank Guarantee
PDO	Public Data Office
PDOA	Public Data Office Aggregator
PLMN	Public Land Mobile Network
PM WANI	Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface
PMRTS	Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service
PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network
RAN	Radio Access Network
RSU	Road Side Unit
SACFA	Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation
SDCA	Short Distance Charging Area
SESG	Satellite Earth Station Gateway
SIM	Subscriber Identity Module
SMS	Short Messaging Service
SPC	Signaling Points Code
SSA	Secondary Switching Area

Acronyms	Description
SUC	Spectrum Usage Charge
TAX	Terminating Exchange
TDSAT	Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal
TEC	Telecommunication Engineering Centre
TRAI	Telcom Regulatory Authority of India
UASL	Unified Access Service License
UL	Unified License
UL (VNO)	UL (Virtual Network Operator)
UL(AS)	Unified License (Access Service)
UMS	Unified Messaging Services
UN SDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
USL	Universal Service Levy
USO	Universal Service Obligation
VNO	Virtual Network Operator
VPN	Virtual Private Network
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
VSNL	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited
Wi-Fi	Wireless Fidelity
WLAN	Wireless Local Area Network
WPAN	Wireless Personal Area Network
WPC	Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing
WRC	World Radiocommunication Conference
WTO	World Trade Organization