

**ALTIUS TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST**

**SEBI Registration number:** IN/InvIT/18-19/0009

**Principal Place of Business:** Unit 1, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Tower 4, Equinox Business Park, LBS Marg, Kurla (West),  
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**Q3. Despite the PM WANI initiative, scaling the number of public hotspots across diverse geographies, especially in remote and underserved regions, remains uneven. What are the key challenges in expanding both the density and geographic spread of hotspots, and what strategies could help accelerate more balanced, nationwide coverage? Please provide your response in detail with justification.**

**Ans**

**Current Challenge:**

There is a conspicuously tepid response from retail establishments and ISP stakeholders towards the deployment of Wi-Fi as an Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) offering, primarily attributable to subdued end-user demand and an absence of compelling commercially viable use cases.

**Proposed Strategic Intervention:**

It is imperative that the Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund be strategically leveraged to underwrite the creation of Wi-Fi infrastructure, classifying the same as essential *Digital Connectivity Infrastructure* across high-footfall public venues, transit corridors, smart city ecosystems, and all government buildings and institutional campuses.

To catalyse nationwide scalability and ensure uniform indoor data coverage, select national-level service providers may be accorded a calibrated "*Light Touch Authorisation*" regime. This would enable the provision of indoor connectivity services, currently not mandated under the Unified Access Service Licence (UASL), while still being appropriately subsumed within a regulatory oversight framework to ensure adherence to Quality of Service (QoS) benchmarks and compliance obligations.

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**Q4. What changes, if any, are required in the existing PM-WANI framework to improve revenue certainty and long-term sustainability for PDOs/PDOAs? Please provide your response in detail with justification.**

**Ans** The following is submitted herewith :

- **National/State-Level Aggregation Framework:**

A unified National or State-level aggregator should be formally onboarded to administer Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) services, thereby enabling a frictionless and interoperable end-user experience. This architecture would eliminate redundant authentication cycles, mitigate billing and charging disputes, and uphold stringent standards of data integrity, privacy, and cyber trust.

- **Rationalized Commercial Model:**

The service framework must incorporate a monetization paradigm from the very inception of usage, however nominal the tariff may be, to instill value discipline and deter indiscriminate or non-essential consumption. Absolute free access, particularly under the guise of democratic inclusivity, risks systemic misuse and should therefore be judiciously avoided.

- **Prudent Utilization of 6 GHz Spectrum:**

The newly allocated 6 GHz spectrum must be deployed in a calibrated and policy-directed manner, synchronized with the progressive maturation of the device ecosystem. Its utilization should emulate a quasi-cellular paradigm, operating within a tightly governed regulatory architecture, wherein designated aggregators are exclusively authorized for band-specific network deployments. Furthermore, granular, location-specific frequency planning must be rigorously adhered to, particularly in the context of outdoor Access Point (AP) deployments, to ensure optimal spectrum efficiency and interference management.