

Email**Saumyata Bhargava**

Fwd: .. Views and Comments on. Consultation Paper No. 16/2023 "Digital Inclusion in the Era of emerging Technologies "

From : S.M.K. Chandra <ja-cadiv@traigov.in> Tue, Oct 03, 2023 02:50 PM
Subject : Fwd: .. Views and Comments on. Consultation Paper No. 16/2023 "Digital Inclusion in the Era of emerging Technologies " 📎 1 attachment
To : Saumyata Bhargava <Saumyata.bhargava@traigov.in>

From: consumerk2@gmail.com
To: "A.K Singh" <advisorit@traigov.in>
Cc: "S.M.K. Chandra" <ja-cadiv@traigov.in>
Sent: Sunday, October 1, 2023 10:37:07 PM
Subject: Fwd: .. Views and Comments on. Consultation Paper No. 16/2023 "Digital Inclusion in the Era of emerging Technologies "

Respected sir
Enclosed herewith as above

With regards
Padam Mohan Misra
Secretary
Upphokta Sanrakshan and Kalyan samiti KANPUR NAGAR
CAG-MEMBER

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **May Sha** <maysharma58@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Oct 1, 2023, 21:26
Subject: ...
To: <consumerk2@gmail.com>

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14 KB

From : S.M.K. Chandra <ja-cadiv@tra_i.gov.in> Tue, Oct 03, 2023 02:49 PM
Subject : Fwd: .. Views and Comments on. Consultation Paper No. 16/2023 "Digital Inclusion in the Era of emerging Technologies "  1 attachment
To : Saumyata Bhargava <Saumyata.bhargava@tra_i.gov.in>

From: "A.K Singh" <advisorit@tra_i.gov.in>
To: "S.M.K. Chandra" <ja-cadiv@tra_i.gov.in>
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 9:54:16 AM
Subject: Fwd: .. Views and Comments on. Consultation Paper No. 16/2023 "Digital Inclusion in the Era of emerging Technologies "

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To: "A.K Singh" <advisorit@tra_i.gov.in>
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Views and comments on 16/2023 paper on Digital Inclusion in the Era of Emerging Technologies by Consumer UPOBHOKTA SANRAKSHAN KALYAN SAMITI KANPUR (CAG member)

Issues for consultation

Q.1 Apart from efforts made by the Government through various Projects for provisioning of broadband connectivity under NDCP 2018 and NBM 2019 and other schemes, what additional measures are required to fulfill the objectives of universal connectivity in India?

Ans-To transform India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge economy, Government of India launched the Digital India programme in July 2015. It is part of the e-governance initiatives taken by the government to move towards SMART (Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent) governance. The Digital India programme is an umbrella programme that covers many departments and weaves together many ideas and thoughts into a single comprehensive vision. It includes many existing as well as new schemes so that each of them is seen as a part of a larger goal, implemented in a synchronised manner with multiple line ministries. The Digital India Programme is centred around three key vision areas.

Q.2 Whether connecting GPs/villages/village institutions through BharatNet has helped in improving digital connectivity in an effective manner? If not, what additional measures are required to ensure universal connectivity across all GPs/villages/village institutions in an efficient and time bound manner?

Ans-Digitalisation of the economy and society has become irrevocable, and it is set to penetrate every sector of the economy and human life deeply. Digitalisation helps in staying connected across distances and at any time for accessing information, receiving basic services including health care, working or studying from home, financial transactions, staying in touch with friends and family, entertainment, etc. Online connectivity is a means for self-empowerment providing enhanced personal and societal well-being and promoting digital livelihoods in the process.

Q.3 Will the schemes supported by USOF other than BharatNet suffice the need of universal connectivity in the country? If not, what additional measures or changes in strategy are required to ensure universal connectivity to all unconnected areas? Please provide your answer with suitable justification.

Ans-India has made a remarkable journey in digital transformation over the years and is now the second-largest telecom market in the world in terms of telecom subscribers. India is also the fastest growing telecom market in the world with a growth rate of active mobile broadband subscriptions

Q.4 What steps should be taken to encourage service providers for effective utilisation of the BharatNet infrastructure in provisioning of connectivity to institutions/households/individuals?

Ans-BharatNet project, launched by the Government envisages to connect all the villages and Gram Panchayats (GPs) or Village Councils of India by high-speed broadband internet connectivity through optical fibre cable (OFC) links. As of 2022, over 1,85,975 GPs have been made service ready.

Q.5 Is there any need to take steps to make satellite internet a viable option for providing connectivity to remote/ inaccessible areas? If yes, please provide your answer with suitable justification. If not, what are the other alternatives for provision of connectivity in these areas?

Ans-To address the challenge of providing mobile connectivity to remote and rural areas, where the setup costs for infrastructure such as mobile towers, fibre cables, and base stations are high and revenue generation is limited, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been established by the Government. The USOF serves as a financial instrument to support connectivity projects in these underserved areas. The primary objective of the USOF is to ensure affordable access of reliable and widespread telecom network in rural and remote regions. To achieve this goal, several schemes have been/ are being implemented through the USOF.

Q.6 What measures are required for adopting a collaborative approach to utilise Digital Connectivity Infrastructure created by the service providers or through government-aided schemes to extend connectivity to the people in unserved areas? Please provide your answer with suitable justification.

Ans-There is a need to identify the potential areas where policy intervention may be required to ensure 100% digital inclusion. The usage gap of mobile internet in India is 61% in 2021 as per the report published by GSMA . Usage gap is the number of people not using mobile internet despite living in areas having mobile connectivity. The internet density in urban areas of the country is 104.77%, whereas, in rural areas, it is 38.33% as of September 2022. The two figures indicate a gap of more than 66% in internet penetration in the urban and rural areas of the country . Further, there is a gender gap in terms