



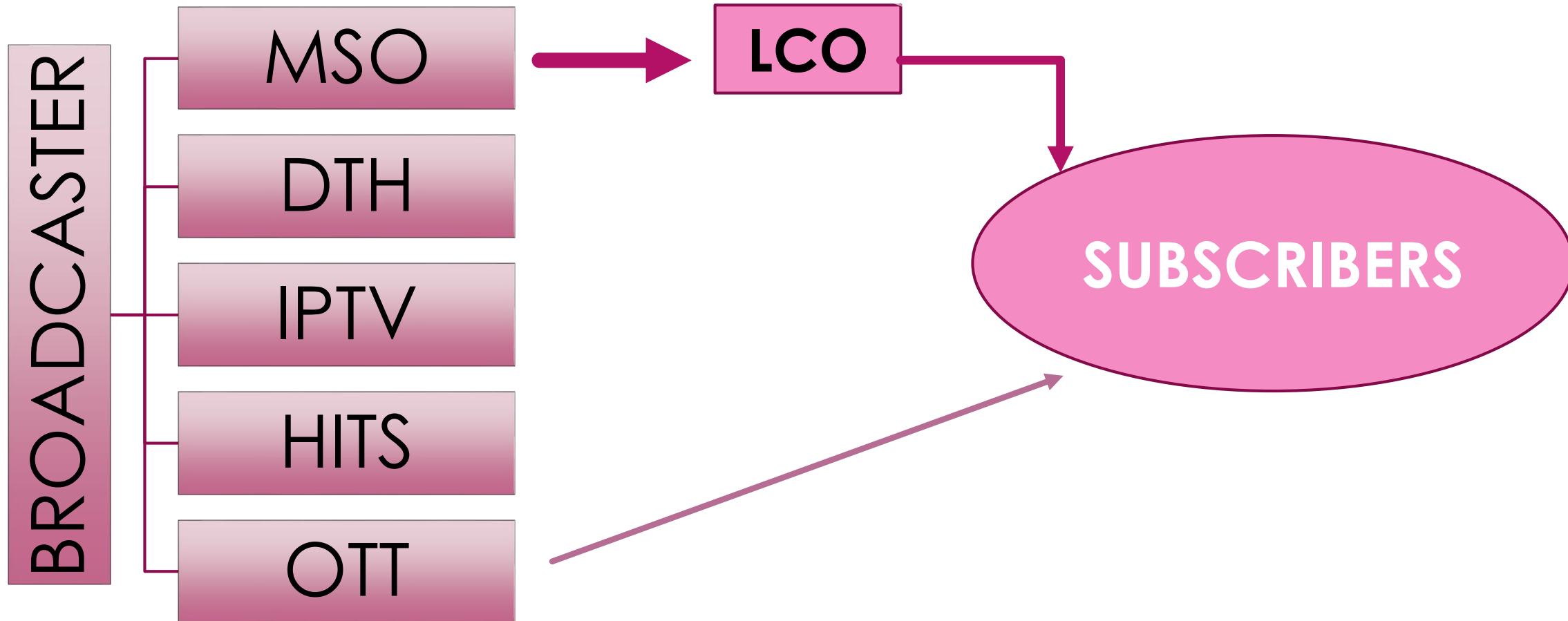
# **INTERCONNECT REGULATIONS AND THE RIGHTS OF MSOs**

**Presented By-  
Mr. Vibhav Srivastava  
Advocate  
PUNE- 19/11/2022**

# Television Industry over the Decade

- Progression from Doordarshan to Satellite TV Channels.
- Evolution from Analogue to Digital Systems.
- Broadcaster Centric Industry.
- Plurality of broadcasting channels and distribution platforms.
- Continuous reforms in the regulatory framework resulting in Over Regulation of MSOs.
- Consumer awareness regarding quality of contents and services.
- Bundling of services at low prices.
- Beginning of the era of OTT Platforms in the wake of affordable internet accessibility.

# Broadcasting & Distribution Value Chain



# ROLE OF MSOs

- Affordability and Accessibility
- Quality of Services at low price
- Stability and Protection of Consumer Interest
- Ensure Level Playing Field
- Robust Grievance Redressal Mechanism for consumers

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INTERCONNECT REGULATION'2017

- Governs Commercial and Technical Arrangements amongst service providers in broadcasting sector.
- Prescribers obligations of broadcasters vis-à-vis supply of signals on uniform terms and conditions.
- Broadcasters to respond to request from DPOs for supply of signals in prescribed time limit.
- Guidelines for providing channels on a-la carte basis.
- Obligation of distributors towards broadcasters and LCOs.
- Prescribed format for Interconnection Agreements.
- Calculation mechanism for Carriage Fee & Audit.
- Guidelines for Publication of Reference Interconnection Offers.

# Rights of MSO under Interconnect Regulation

- Difference between Carriage Fees and Placement Fees.
- Parity of Offers/Terms & Conditions.
- Freedom from Restrictive Trade Practices like Exclusivity, Unfair Demands.
- Discretionary powers to decide bouquets, packages and LCN.
- Freedom from unreasonable terms and conditions like providing guarantee of minimum subscriber base or minimum subscription percentage to broadcasters.

# DISABILITIES AND CHALLENGES

Lack of Expeditious Registration/Renewal Mechanism for MSOs

Broadcasters centric industry

High channel pricing affecting distributors and consumers at large

Constant decline in Subscriber base of MSOs

Cumbersome compliance requirement for big MSOs

Mushrooming of MSOs

Lack of regulatory mechanism for OTT

# REFORMS & RECOMMENDATIONS



**Time bound license registration and renewal process**



**Safeguard of Consumer Interest**



**Regulatory framework for OTT Platforms**



**Shift from Broadcaster centric to Consumer centric Industry**





**THANK YOU**