

Government of India  
Ministry of Communications  
Department of Telecommunications  
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**\*\*Major boost for use of Broadband Internet in India\*\***

**\*\*Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) to proliferate  
Broadband access through Public Wi-Fi Hotspots across the country\*\***

**\*\*Last-mile Public Wi-Fi Hotspot service providers under PM-WANI require no license  
or registration and pay no fees to Department of Telecom\*\***

**\*\*Massive encouragement for entrepreneurs to leverage Broadband through Public  
Wi-Fi for business models\*\***

**New Delhi, 09 December, 2020**

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today approved the proposal of Department of Telecom (DoT) to proliferate Broadband through Public Wi-Fi networks under the framework of Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI). This framework takes forward the goal of National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 (NDCP) of creating a robust digital communications infrastructure.

The PM-WANI framework envisages provision of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Hotspot providers and will consist of the following elements:

- Public Data Office (PDO), which will establish, maintain, and operate PM-WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points and provide last-mile connectivity to deliver Broadband services to subscribers by procuring internet bandwidth from telecom service providers and/ or internet service providers;
- Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA), which will provide aggregation services such as authorization and accounting to PDOs, thereby facilitating PDOs in providing services to the end consumer;
- App Provider, who will develop an Application to register users and 'discover' and display PM-WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the proximity for accessing the internet service and also authenticate the potential Broadband users;
- A Central Registry, which will maintain the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs. To begin with, the Central Registry will be maintained by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT).

To facilitate ease of doing business and encourage local shops and small establishments to become Wi-Fi providers, it has been approved that the last-mile Public Wi-Fi providers require no license, no registration and will not need to pay any fees to DoT. In fact, PDOAs, who will aggregate the last-mile providers will also not require any license. These PDOAs will only have to register, for which no fees will be charged. The registration process will be completed within 7 working days of the receipt of applications.

PM-WANI framework will also encourage App Providers who will offer services for registering and authenticating users. ...2..

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The potential user who wants to access Broadband through Public Wi-Fi will need to download the relevant App, get authenticated, and thereafter access Broadband at any Public Wi-Fi Hotspot. When the user reaches a Public Wi-Fi Hotspot, the App on the mobile phone will show various available networks. The user can then choose the Public Wi-Fi network of choice, pay an amount – either online or through voucher – and use the network till the balance is exhausted.

It is expected that with Public Wi-Fi Broadband, the user experience and Quality of Service for Broadband will be improved significantly. This service will be specially useful in rural areas where Public Wi-Fi Hotspots are also being created under BharatNet.

Proliferation of Public Wi-Fi Hotspots will lead to increased employment for small and micro entrepreneurs, and provide them with an additional source of income. The telecom and internet service providers will also benefit due to the sale of bandwidth to PDOs.

Made in India Wi-Fi access points are envisaged to be encouraged for use in PM-WANI, for which guidelines will be issued by DoT separately.