

## **BIF Hails Epoch Making Cabinet Approval for Connecting all 6.4L villages**

*Will mainstream Digital Public Connectivity benefit Digital India and Inclusivity*

**New Delhi, 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2023:** BIF, a prominent policy forum, and think-tank, celebrates the cabinet approval aimed at providing broadband connectivity to every village in the country. The approval of the BharatNet project, with an outlay of Rs 1.39 lakh crore, marks a historic step towards achieving the goals of Digital India and Inclusivity and promises to catalyze socio-economic development and progress for the nation.

This government initiative presents a unique opportunity to deliver affordable and reliable connectivity to every individual in rural areas, bridging the digital divide and fostering Digital Transformation. By coupling this effort with the flagship program of PM-WANI Public Wi-Fi hotspots and utilizing cutting-edge Wi-Fi products like Wi-Fi 6E & Wi-Fi 7, every villager can potentially access high-speed and affordable broadband, comparable to their urban counterparts in cities, aligning with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Prayaas.' The ripple effects of this government initiative will pave the way for the creation of local self-employment opportunities and entrepreneurship at the village level.

Lauding the efforts of the Government, Mr. TV Ramachandran, President of Broadband India Forum said, ***"This historic decision by the Union Cabinet is bound to boost the country's digital connectivity quotient by delivering high-speed broadband to every Indian in a most efficient and expeditious manner, thereby helping the nation to achieve its goal of attaining 'Antyodaya'."***

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### **About Broadband India Forum**

Broadband India Forum (BIF) functions as a policy forum and think-tank that works for the development & enhancement of the entire broadband ecosystem in a holistic, technology-neutral and service-neutral manner. BIF has established itself as a thought leader and a credible and effective voice, to help propel the nation to achieve the country's ambitious vision of creating a Digital India. To achieve this, BIF works to promote the rapid development of policies, so as to facilitate affordable and high-speed ubiquitous broadband throughout the country.