

## **BIF Hails DoT's Latest Reforms aimed at Nation-Wide Adoption of PM-WANI**

**New Delhi, 27 May 2026** — Broadband India Forum (BIF) welcomes the Department of Telecommunications' (DoT) two important notifications issued on 22 May 2026 aimed at further strengthening the PM-WANI based Public Wi-Fi ecosystem. The two notifications are extremely significant in the overall push both from the Government and by the Regulator to promote PM-WANI based Public Wi-Fi ubiquitously across the country. **PM-WANI is a unique flagship initiative of the Government of India to provide affordable, high-speed public broadband internet.**

First Notification is an advice to PDOs and PDOAs to introduce short-duration data plans (sachets) under the PM-WANI framework, which would cater to users requiring brief internet access, such as travellers, students and daily commuters, visitors in a mall/shop and other small time users. If adopted, this will enable improved adoption and monetisation of PM-WANI hotspots.

The other Notification amends the Guidelines of WANI framework, bringing QR-based authentication for secondary devices like laptops and tablets, letting users securely piggyback on their already-authenticated smartphones. This would enable users to securely authenticate secondary devices. It would also improve interoperability, ease of access and security within the PM-WANI ecosystem. The notification further standardises SSID nomenclature across PM-WANI hotspots to ensure that all such hotspots now feature standardized "PM-WANI" branding for easy network identification.

These measures reflect the Government's continued commitment towards making PM-WANI based Public Wi-Fi fully accessible and user-friendly, effectively positioning it as the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for connectivity, serving affordable internet to millions of users across India.

**"These timely, pragmatic and consumer-centric measures will further accelerate India's digital inclusion and public broadband objective"** said Mr. T.V. Ramachandran, President, Broadband India Forum. He added, **"Public Wi-Fi can't scale on monthly plans alone. Bite-sized, affordable access packs will directly boost hotspot utilisation and unlock additional revenues for PDOs and PDOAs, especially in high-footfall and underserved areas, thereby improving their business case."**

Lauding DoT's policy intent, Mr. Ramachandran stated: **"These moves are true to PM-WANI's original DNA — a light-touch, innovation-first framework open to MSMEs, VLEs, startups, kirana stores, and local businesses. PM-WANI is one of India's most important digital inclusion initiatives, with the potential to become the DPI of the connectivity layer, alongside fibre, mobile, satellite and other tech."**

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**About Broadband India Forum**

Broadband India Forum (BIF) is an independent policy forum and knowledge-based think-tank that works for the development and enhancement of the entire broadband & broadcasting 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, to facilitate affordable and high-speed ubiquitous broadband throughout the country.