



**WORLD WI-FI DAY**

18 June 2026

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# PM-WANI

The Foundation for India's  
Digital Public Infrastructure

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A White Paper by Broadband India Forum  
Released on the occasion of World Wi-Fi Day,  
2026

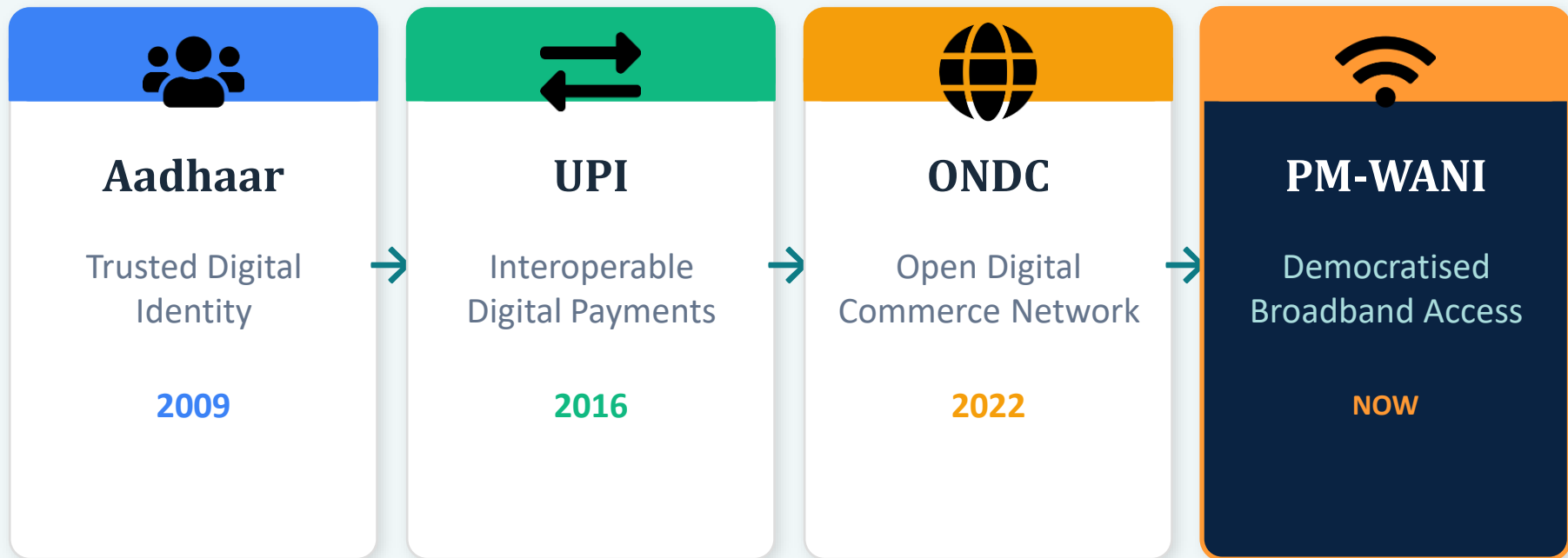


**BROADBAND INDIA FORUM**

"Think Tank for Digital Transformation"

# India's Next Digital Public Infrastructure Opportunity

From Aadhaar to UPI, India built digital rails; *open, interoperable platforms*



PM-WANI is India's opportunity to create the next population-scale Digital Public Infrastructure for broadband connectivity.

# The Missing Layer in India's Broadband Architecture

## Mobile Broadband

Affordable. Ubiquitous. Mobile-First.

## Fixed Broadband

High Capacity. Limited Reach.

## Shared / Public Wi-Fi

The Missing Layer —  
PM-WANI opportunity.

*India's 3 Broadband Layers*



### Mobile-First Nation

*95%+ internet users access the internet primarily through smartphones.*



### Limited Fixed BB

*Fixed broadband penetration remains low and unevenly distributed.*



### Public Wi-Fi Gap

*India lacks a ubiquitous, shared and affordable broadband access layer.*

# PM-WANI is Transitioning from Policy Vision to National Broadband Infrastructure



**4 Lakh+**

Hotspots Deployed



**2.4 Cr**

Users Onboarded



**58 PB**

Data Consumed

## Why Recent Reforms Were a Game-Changer

✓ Retail FTTH connections now permitted for PM-WANI hotspots

✓ Hotspot aggregation enabled — new business models unlocked

✓ Roaming & tariff rationalisation — economics transformed

✓ Policy experiment → Commercially scalable broadband platform

# BharatNet + PM-WANI = Last-Mile Broadband Inclusion



  
**BharatNet  
Creates Reach**

  
**PM-WANI  
Creates Usage**

  
**Together They  
Create Inclusion**

*"BharatNet and PM-WANI solve different parts of the same challenge. Together they create the most compelling digital inclusion opportunity in India."*

# The Next Challenge: From Hotspots to Networks

## Today's Fragmentation

- Multiple apps required
- Multiple logins
- Multiple wallets
- No seamless roaming
- No portability
- Disconnected islands



## The UPI Moment for Wi-Fi

*A Neutral Interoperability Layer*

**Discovery**

**Authentication**

**Roaming**

**Interoperability**

**Settlement**

*Just as UPI transformed fragmented payments → seamless national experience, a similar neutral layer can unify PM-WANI into a national broadband platform.*

# The Future: Public Wi-Fi as a National Broadband Access Platform



## 6 GHz Spectrum

Delicensed 6 GHz band provides the spectrum foundation for next-gen Wi-Fi.



## ISP-as-PDOA Model

6,000+ ISPs across India represent enormous expansion potential.



## Institutional Wi-Fi

Schools, hospitals, transport hubs & public spaces as anchor points.



## Wi-Fi-Ready Buildings

Public Wi-Fi readiness as a standard of modern digital infrastructure.



## Digital Inclusion

Shared broadband access for millions of underserved citizens.



## National BB Platform

PM-WANI evolves into India's unified broadband access layer.

# Rethinking Success: Outcome-Based Public Wi-Fi Metrics

## Old Approach

### Count Hotspots

Success = infrastructure deployed.  
Output-driven. Misses actual impact.

*The question was always:  
'How many hotspots did we build?'*



## New Approach

▶ Active Users

▶ Data Consumption

▶ Utilisation Rates

▶ Hotspot Density

*Broadband infrastructure exists to enable usage, not merely deployment.*

# Key Messages from the White Paper

**01** PM-WANI complements — not competes with — mobile broadband.

**02** PM-WANI extends the reach and utilisation of BharatNet.

**03** Recent 2024–25 reforms have materially improved deployment economics.

**04** Interoperability & seamless UX represent the next growth frontier.

**05** India can build Digital Public Infrastructure for broadband access, just as it did for identity and payments.



# **THANK YOU**

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**Realising the Hon'ble PM's Bharat 6G Vision :  
50 Million Wi-Fi Hotspots by 2030**