



## PM-WANI

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### Why in News?

The [Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface \(PM-WANI\)](#) framework aims to enhance internet accessibility across India by setting up public Wi-Fi hotspots.

- With 246,993 hotspots installed as of November 2024, the initiative is a key part of [India's Digital India mission](#), aiming to provide affordable and widespread internet access.

### What is PM-WANI?

- **About:** Launched in 2020 by the [Department of Telecom \(DoT\)](#), the PM-WANI framework aims to expand public Wi-Fi hotspots across India, particularly in rural areas.
  - It allows local businesses, like shopkeepers, to set up Wi-Fi hotspots, providing affordable internet access and supporting the goals of the [National Digital Communications Policy, 2018](#).
- **Importance:** By enabling **local businesses** to become Wi-Fi providers without requiring licenses or fees, the scheme promotes ease of doing business and ensures rapid deployment.
  - PM-WANI will significantly **improve internet access fostering digital inclusion and innovation**.
- **PM-WANI Ecosystem:**
  - **Public Data Office (PDO):** Establishes, maintains, and operates PM-WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots.
    - PDOs provide last-mile connectivity by procuring internet bandwidth from telecom or internet service providers and delivers broadband services to subscribers.
  - **Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA):** Provides aggregation services such as authorization and accounting to PDOs.
    - PDOA facilitates PDOs in delivering services to end consumers.
  - **App Provider:** Develops an application to register users and display PM-WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots nearby. Authenticates potential broadband users for accessing the internet service.
  - **Central Registry:** It maintains the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs. It is currently managed by the [Centre for Development of Telematics \(C-DoT\)](#).
    - C-DoT was established in 1984. It is an autonomous Telecom R&D (Research and Development) centre of **DoT (Department of Telecom), Ministry of Communications**. It is a registered society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.

### National Digital Communications Policy, 2018

- **About:** NDCP, 2018 aims to transform India into a digitally empowered economy by enhancing digital infrastructure and services.
  - **NDCP 2018 set a goal to deploy 10 million public Wi-Fi hotspots by 2022.**
- **Key Objectives:** Ensuring universal broadband access, creating four million jobs, increasing the Digital Communications sector's [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#) contribution to 8%, and ensuring

digital sovereignty.

- **Key features:** It involves providing broadband at **50 Mbps for all citizens**, ensuring connectivity in uncovered areas, **attracting USD 100 billion in investments**, training one million individuals in [New Age Skills](#).
  - NDCP 2018 also focuses on expanding the [Internet of Things](#) ecosystem, establishing data protection, and ensuring accountability and security in digital communications.
- **NDCP, 2018 and Wi-Fi hotspots Target:** India has missed its public Wi-Fi rollout target, achieving **just 0.5 million hotspots** instead of the 10 million goal set by the NDCP, 2018.

**Note:** The [Bharat 6G Vision](#) targets **50 million public Wi-Fi hotspots by 2030**, requiring significant growth and reduced connectivity costs to achieve this goal.

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