

PM-WANI

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, PM-WANI gets major citizen-friendly upgrade to make public wi-fi simpler and more accessible.

- **PM-WANI** - The Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) framework.
- **Launched** - In 2021 by the Department of Telecommunication
- **Aim** - To accelerate the proliferation of internet services by setting up public Wi-Fi hotspots in the country, especially in rural areas.
- **Features**
- **License-Free Setup** - Small vendors and local entrepreneurs can set up Public Data Offices (PDOs) without needing to pay any registration fees, licenses, or complex government approvals.
- **Ultra-Affordable Plans** - The framework is designed for extreme cost-effectiveness.
- Users can purchase sachet data plans (as little as ₹5 to ₹10 for 1GB) or highly affordable monthly subscriptions.
- **No SIM Card Required** - No need for a traditional telecom SIM card to get online.
- Users connect directly via Wi-Fi using any compliant mobile app.

PM-WANI ECOSYSTEM



PDO

Public Data Office will establish, maintain, and operate PM-WANI compliant Wi-Fi Hotspots and provide last-mile connectivity to deliver Broadband services to subscribers by procuring internet bandwidth from telecom service providers and/or internet service providers.



PDOA

Public Data Office Aggregator will provide aggregation services such as authorization and accounting to PDOs, thereby facilitating PDOs in providing services to the end consumer.



App Provider

App Provider 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.



Central Registry

Central Registry will maintain the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs. It is currently maintained by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT).

Recent upgrades

- **Simplified Laptop Connection via QR Authentication** - The DoT now permits QR-based authentication for secondary devices like laptops to ease PM-WANI access.
- Users can connect by scanning a QR code on the login page using an authenticated

smartphone app, reducing friction for a faster, secure experience.

- **Flexible Short-Duration Access Plans** - To assist users at public locations like transit hubs and malls, the DoT has advised operators to offer sachet-style validity plans:
 - 15, 30, and 60 minutes
- These plans enhance affordability for commuters and students while boosting operator revenue and hotspot utilisation.
- **Standardised Hotspot Identification** - SSID nomenclature is now standardised with PMWANI branding to help users identify authentic networks.

References

1. [PIB| Major Upgrade for PM-WANI](#)
2. [PIB| PM-WANI](#)

