

Govt mulls interoperability for public Wi-Fi network

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The government is considering a proposal to enable interoperability for public Wi-Fi network, which will translate into a seamless connectivity experience for users, a top department of telecom official said today.

Telecom secretary Aruna Sundararajan said 3.7 lakh Wi-Fi hotspots have been deployed by the industry ~ against the stated commitment of rolling out one million Wi-Fi hotspots by December 2019 ~ and added that once security nod is obtained on interoperability, it would lead to seamless experience for users and generate new revenue sources for small entrepreneurs.

“Working in tandem with the Trai (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) and with service providers, we are hoping to deploy an interoperable public Wi-Fi network,” Ms Sundararajan said.

She was speaking at an event "De-licensing of 5 GHz for public Wi-Fi" organised by Broadband India Forum (BIF).

“Telecom service providers have committed to a target of rolling out one million Wi-Fi hotspots by end of 2019, and so far we are at about 3.7 lakh Wi-Fi hotspots, which have been deployed, but they have not yet become interoperable. Once we get the security clearance for this, we expect to have a full interoperable Wi-Fi ecosystem, which will be pioneering,” she said.

The proposed model of interoperability will be a “gamechanger”, she added.

“The MHA (ministry of home affairs) has to give the final security clearance, they are looking at it. We expect it to be given shortly,” Ms Sundararajan told reporters.

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