

Bringing the Internet to more Indians—starting with 10 million rail passengers a day

When I was a student, I relished the [day-long railway journey](#) I would make from Chennai Central station (then known as Madras Central) to [IIT Kharagpur](#). I vividly remember the frenetic energy at the various stations along the way and marveled at the incredible scale and scope of [Indian Railways](#).



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Googleplex today

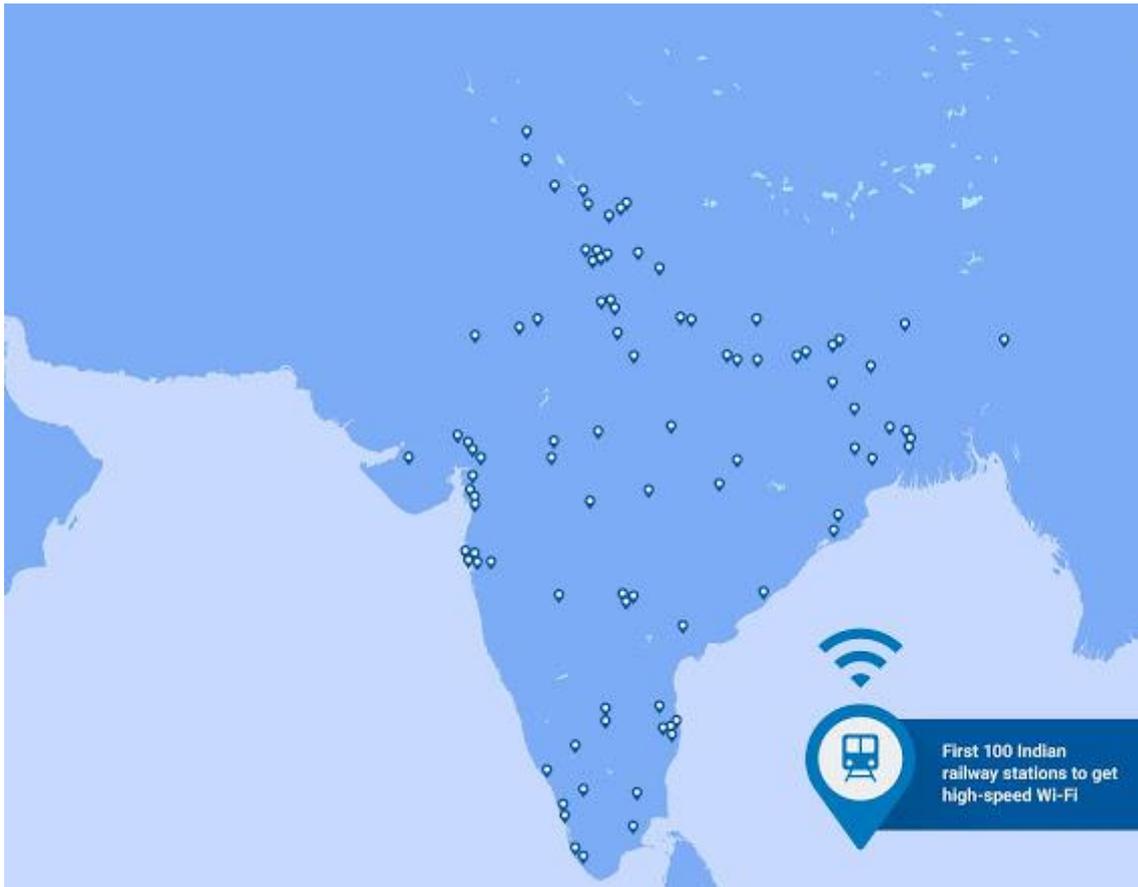
I'm very proud to announce that it's the train stations of India that are going to help get millions of people online. In the past year, 100 million people in India started using the Internet for the first time. This means there are now more Internet users in India than in every country in the world aside from China. But what's really astounding is the fact that there are still nearly one billion people in India who aren't online.

We'd like to help get these next billion Indians online—so they can access

the entire web, and all of its information and opportunity. And not just with any old connection—with fast broadband so they can experience the best of the web. That's why, today, on the occasion of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to our U.S. headquarters, and in line with his Digital India initiative, we announced a new project to provide high-speed public Wi-Fi in 400 train stations across India.

Working with [Indian Railways](#), which operates one of the world's largest railway networks, and [RailTel](#), which provides Internet services as RailWire via its extensive fiber network along many of these railway lines, our Access & Energy team plans to bring the first stations online in the coming months. The network will expand quickly to cover 100 of the busiest stations in India before the end of 2016, with the remaining stations following in quick succession.

Even with just the first 100 stations online, this project will make Wi-Fi available for the more than 10 million people who pass through every day. This will rank it as the largest public Wi-Fi project in India, and among the largest in the world, by number of potential users. It will also be fast—many times faster than what most people in India have access to today, allowing travelers to stream a high definition video while they're waiting, research their destination, or download some videos, a book or a new game for the journey ahead. Best of all, the service will be free to start, with the long-term goal of making it self-sustainable to allow for expansion to more stations and other places, with RailTel and more partners, in the future.



This map shows the first 100 stations that will have high-speed Wi-Fi by the end of 2016

We think this is an important part of making the Internet both accessible and useful for the more than 300 million Indians already online, and the nearly one billion more who are not.

But it's not the only piece. To help more Indians get access to affordable, high-quality smartphones, which is the primary way most people there access the Internet, we [launched Android One last year](#). To help address the challenges of limited bandwidth, we recently [launched](#) a feature that makes mobile webpages load faster and with less data, and we've made [YouTube available offline](#) with [offline Maps coming soon](#).

To help make web content more useful for Indians, many of whom don't speak English, we launched the Indian Language Internet Alliance last

year to foster more local language content, and have built greater local language support into our products—including Hindi Voice Search, an improved Hindi keyboard and support for seven Indian languages with the latest versions of Android. And finally, to help all Indians reap the benefits of connectivity, we've been ramping up [efforts to help women](#), who make up [just a third](#) of Internet users in India today, get the most from the web.

Just like I did years ago, thousands of young Indians walk through Chennai Central every day, eager to learn, to explore and to seek opportunity. It's my hope that this Wi-Fi project will make all these things a little easier.

by Sundar Pichai, CEO, Google

Source: <https://googleblog.blogspot.pt/2015/09/bringing-the-internet-to-more-indians.html>

300,000 logging in each week from 15 railway stations across India

May 12, 2016

Guwahati station, the gateway to India's easternmost states, has just become the 15th train station in India to offer our free, high-speed Wi-Fi service. The other stations that have just come online include Allahabad, Jaipur, Patna and Ujjain Junction, following quickly on the heels of the nine stations announced last month.

As the network has expanded, the number of people logging in has as well – we're thrilled that more than 300,000 people are now using this high-speed Wi-Fi each week.



But we're not stopping there. Based on the incredible demand we've seen at Mumbai Central, the first station that came online in January, we're now also working with RailTel and Indian Railways to extend the project to cover 17 of the busiest suburban stations across Mumbai, stations that more than 1.5 million people pass through every day, by the end of this year.

For any Mumbaikars out there, these stations will include Bandra Terminus, Borivali, Chattrapati Shivaji Terminus, Churchgate, Dadar, Kalyan, Kurla, Panvel, Thane and Vashi.

Here's an updated map of the stations that now have Wi-Fi, and the stations we plan to reach by the end of the year:



Details about how to use the service are here, and keep watching this space as we continue to expand to more and more stations across the country.

Posted by Gulzar Azad, Head of Access Programs, Google India

Source: <http://googleindia.blogspot.pt/2016/05/300000-logging-in-each-week-from-15.html>