



May 5, 2015

Dear Prime Minister Modi,

As a national conversation on net neutrality is taking place across India, we write today in support of the open Web. Net neutrality is critical to maintaining the continued success of the open Internet as an engine for innovation, opportunity, and learning.

We stand firm in the belief that all users should be able to experience the full diversity of the Web. For this to be possible, Internet Service Providers must treat all content transmitted over the Internet equally, regardless of the sender or the receiver. At a time when users are increasingly being pushed into private, walled gardens and Internet malls providing access to only a limited number of sites, action is needed to protect the free and open Web.

Zero rating is not the right solution to connect the world's unconnected billions, but we do recognize the need for new and alternative market solutions to bring people online to the open Web. We know this is no simple task, but we are committed to doing our part alongside other actors in the Internet community to address these challenges.

However, in the absence of strong net neutrality protections enshrined in Indian law, the harmful practices typically associated with net discrimination -- throttling, blocking, and paid prioritization -- will occur with dangerous consequences for innovation, competition, and the quality of users' experience on the Web.

A central pillar of net neutrality and a major contributing force to the Internet's success has been the concept of "innovation without permission." So it is with great concern that we note the recent consultation paper from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), which seeks to establish onerous licensing policies which would increase the costs of creating on the Web, thereby discouraging Indian entrepreneurs from building the next Internet giant. What's more, establishing an enabling environment for development on the Web creates a virtuous cycle that provides more value to existing users and incentivizes new users to come online.

We hope you will heed the calls of more than a million Indians who are speaking out via SaveTheInternet.in for real net neutrality and that you will direct your government to defend the openness and vibrancy of the Web.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "w. Mitchell Baker".

Mitchell Baker
Executive Chairwoman
Mozilla Foundation