



SE GADGETS NEWS
HD Reliance Jio's browser JioPages comes to OnePlus TVs brings new modes and more
BY Manisha Singh
WC 316 words
PD 14 April 2022
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LA English
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OnePlus has announced its partnership with Reliance Jio. The collaboration offers the integration of Reliance Jio's browser JioPagest with OnePlus TVs. OnePlus claims that JioPages browser will provide an enhanced browsing experience to its TV users via a faster Chromium engine migration that catches up with new web trends. It will help offer enhanced webpage rendering along with consistent desktop-like experience on the TV screens, coupled with smoother mouse navigation and voice search, and an in-built Adblocker, as per the company. Reliance Jio launched JioPages browser in 2020. It is built on Chromium Blink engine. Earlier this year, Jio added Secure Mode to JioPages browser. The mode allows users to access private browsing without the need of any browser extensions. OnePlus claims that VPN and Secure Mode, the two key highlights of JioPages, will enable users to access global **content** securely and without browser ads.

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In addition, OnePlus TV users can browse through the Top Sites of various categories in one click and add their favorite websites as Quicklinks on home screen. With Quicklinks, a wide variety of Jio specific content such as JioMart, JioCinema, JioSaavn would be just a click away. For those unaware, JioPages comes with regional language support which enables the user to navigate the app in Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Gujarati, and other regional languages. This will ensure that OnePlus TV users get access to a selection of curated videos across a variety of categories with personalized recommendations and the language of their choice. OnePlus TV users can select from three browsing modes: Standard Mode, Private Mode, and Study Mode. Targeted at students, the Study Mode provides a class-wise curation of educational content along with subject-wise channel suggestions, as well as quick access to popular educational websites.

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CO rjioi : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd
IN ibrows : Web Browsers | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software | i3302021 : Applications Software | icomp : Computing | iint : Online Service Providers | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services
NS cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News
RE india : India | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia
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SE Home Entertainment
HD **OnePlus Collaborates With JioPages to Bring Web Browsing on OnePlus TV**
BY Jasmin Jose
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OnePlus has announced that it is collaborating with JioPages to offer a Web browser on the OnePlus TV. JioPages, the Web browser offered by telecom giant Reliance Jio, will provide browsing option to the OnePlus TV via a Chromium engine migration. JioPages comes equipped with new features like VPN and Secure Mode to enable access to a variety of **content** for the OnePlus TV users. The users also have the option to browse through the Top Sites of various categories and add Quicklinks on their home screen. OnePlus TV users can select from three browsing modes — Standard Mode, Private Mode, and Study Mode. JioPages debuted on Android TV during mid-March and comes with regional language support.

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[JioPages](#) will extend browsing features to [OnePlus TV](#) via a faster Chromium engine migration. The company says that this will help keep the browsing experience secure and provide a “desktop-like experience on the TV screens, coupled with smoother mouse navigation and voice search”. The browser also comes with an inbuilt Adblocker.

The Web browser by Reliance will come with two new features — VPN and Secure Mode —to enable access to global content and to limit third-party tracking and unnecessary browser advertisement.

OnePlus TV users will have the option to browse through the Top Sites of various categories through one click and add desired websites as Quicklinks on their home screen. Quicklinks also provides access to Jio specific apps like JioMart, JioCinema, and JioSaavn among others.

JioPages comes with regional language support for Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, and Gujarati among others. OnePlus TV users can select from three browsing modes —Standard Mode, Private Mode, Study Mode. The Study Mode provides a class-wise curation of educational content along with subject-wise channel suggestions, as well as access to popular educational websites.

Jiopages [debuted](#) on Android TV in March this year. The JioPages browser arrived as an update to the JioBrowser for Android mobile users and is claimed to have over 10 million downloads on the platform. The Web browser supports eight Indian languages and includes features such as a dedicated Videos section and a PDF reader to ease Web browsing for smart TV users. JioPages also came with a News section to let smart TV viewers watch trending news in any of the eight supported languages and even download e-newspapers to read news on a bigger screen. Why are they still making more Harry Potter? We discuss this on [Orbital](#), the Gadgets 360 podcast. Orbital is available on [Spotify](#), [Gaana](#), [JioSaavn](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Amazon Music](#) and wherever you get your podcasts.

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NS gptech : Personal Technology | glife : Living/Lifestyle | gtvradi : Television/Radio | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment

IPD JioPages

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SE Info-tech
HD **Jio Kerala to step up 4G network by 15% this fiscal**

BY BL Kochi Bureau

WC 213 words

PD 13 April 2022

SN BusinessLine Online

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Reliance Jio is expanding its 4G network in Kerala by about 15 per cent in the new fiscal. It currently has over 15,000 4G network sites in the State.

The expansion aims to augment Jio's 4G and 'enhanced Mobile Broadband Service' (eMBB) network for high-quality **connectivity** across the State.

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The company had in early 2021 announced a 15 per cent expansion of 4G network, which it completed by end December

Late in 2021, as per Kerala government guidelines, Jio focused on enhanced coverage in tribal hamlet areas, which is expected to help launch new economic activities in these parts and assist relief agencies during natural disasters. The company, during the pandemic, deployed over 30 towers in remote areas, based on requests from the residents.

In the past year, it has deployed an additional 30 MHz spectrum and enhanced backhaul capacity in Kerala circle to help meet the growing demand for data.

Data demand and data consumption has increased post Covid with the expansion of work-from-home facility, online education, and use of OTT platforms for calls and entertainment.

The company offers 1 Gbps broadband connectivity via Jio fiber across 40 towns in Kerala.

CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | idct : Digital Cellular Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | itech : Technology | iwrlssl : Wireless Area Network Technology

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE kerala : Kerala | india : India | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dypcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia

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SE Nagpur
 HD NMC neither levying daily fine nor getting free internet from RJIL
 BY Anjaya Anparthi
 WC 492 words
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 SC TOI
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Nagpur: The Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) is not recovering daily fine from Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL) despite lapse of deadline given for laying optical fibre cable. Also, the civic body has continued to neglect taking free internet services from the telecommunication company. TOI had on Monday reported RJIL laid a cable in internal lane of Adhyapak Layout and damaged NMC's main drinking water pipeline causing loss as well as affecting supply to many parts of South-West Nagpur. The pipeline was broken on Saturday afternoon and the civic body has not levied fine or registered FIR against RJIL until now. Municipal commissioner Radhakrishnan B reportedly directed NMC officials to study terms and conditions mentioned in permission and levy fine on RJIL. But the officials did not levy any fine or register FIR with police on Monday. As per terms and conditions mentioned in permission, NMC has to levy fine of Rs500 per day on RJIL in case it has not laid cable within three months.

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Permission of around 70km was given to RJIL between July and October. Work on around 15km cable is reportedly pending as on date. However, NMC officials are not recovering the daily fine. Also, NMC has to take free of cost internet from RJIL. But the free of cost facility is not being demanded by NMC since 2016. Instead, NMC is taking internet services from other service providers and paying for it. MLA Vikas Thakre had demanded NMC should register FIR with police against RJIL and recover fine for breaking drinking water pipeline, which comes under essential services. Former mayor Sandip Joshi said nexus between NMC engineers and private companies like RJIL is causing huge financial loss. "There are various types of provisions in agreement but NMC engineers work only in the interest of RJIL and not the city. It is the responsibility of NMC engineers to monitor works, ensure there is no damage to civic infrastructure or inconvenience to citizens. They should also forfeit bank guarantee for improper restoration or violation of the agreement. When it comes to companies like RJIL, all go silent," he alleged. The officials of NMC Laxmi Nagar Zone confirmed to TOI that RJIL did not come to them or take site clearance of routes where the company is laying cables. "Damage to drinking water pipeline would have been avoided if they had contacted us before starting works," they said. The NMC hot mix department which gives permission had made it mandatory for RJIL to seek site clearance from assistant commissioner before commencing any works. BOXIAN* NMC did not levy fine or register FIR against RJIL three days after damage to pipeline* NMC also avoiding recovery of daily fine for delay by RJIL in completing works* Free internet services also not being taken from RJIL* Bank guarantee not forfeited despite poor restoration

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HD 5G spectrum auction recommendation, ICICI Securities

BY CT Bureau

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The regulator (Trai) has released 'recommendations on auction of spectrum in frequency bands identified for IMT/5G' that include the crucial reserve price for C-band. On comparable basis, regulator has cut C-band reserve price by 36%, but due to higher validity period, total pay-out for C-band has changed only little to Rs476bn (100MHz pan-India for 30 years). Spectrum prices for 700MHz have seen steeper cut of 58% (on comparable basis) but still remain expensive; it has even cut prices for 800MHz (which Reliance Jio bought in previous auction). Spectrum supply remains adequate to easily accommodate three players for C-band and thus, we expect bidding intensity to remain muted in the upcoming auction. The regulator has recommended much easier **payment** option with 30 equal annual instalments that should plug any large cashflow mismatch for Bharti / Reliance Jio. We would wait for NIA for fine prints on the upcoming auction.

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Spectrum supply rising. DoT has requested for inclusion of more spectrum bands including 526-612MHz, 600MHz and 28GHz. The regulator has recommended to enhance availability of spectrum in 800MHz band, and relook at certain guard bands that should also increase spectrum availability. Trai has also recommended to provide roadmap for future spectrum band availability based on IMT working. But it has advised to avoid auctioning 526-612MHz band in the upcoming auction. The critical band for the upcoming auction is C-band, which has ample supply. C-band (3300-3670MHz) has enough spectrum for three players with 370MHz spectrum availability; thus bidding intensity may remain muted. 28GHz band (24.25-28.5GHz) could be of interest, but the band may not require large investments. Further, regulator has recommended to conduct harmonisation exercise within 6 months of auction, which should improve spectral efficiency for operators across bands.

Reserve prices' recommendations are optically higher (vs expectation) on 30 years validity. Trai has cut reserve prices for spectrum across bands on comparable basis (20 years validity). However, price revision looks much lower if one compares on payout basis (irrespective of validity period). This means spectrum price cut will benefit P&L (from lower amortisation impact which factors useful life of spectrum), but would continue to strain the balance sheet which is more related to total payout.

For C-band (5G spectrum), reserve prices have been cut by 35.6% to Rs3.2bn/MHz (Pan-India) on comparable basis, but now spectrum will have 30 years validity which means spectrum reserve prices will be Rs4.8bn/MHz (Rs476bn for 100MHz pan-India). We were factoring Rs300bn for 5G spectrum or Rs15bn/pa, which broadly stays unchanged, but total payout (from net debt perspective) will increase by Rs176bn based on recommended reserve prices. 700MHz spectrum band prices have been cut by 58% on comparable basis to Rs27.5bn/MHz; and for 5MHz Pan-India (30 years) the payout is still expensive at Rs206bn. For 800MHz band, spectrum prices have been cut by 23.8% on comparable basis.

Reserve prices for 28MHz are recommended at Rs105mn/MHz (pan-India, 30 years). For a block of 400-500MHz, the spectrum will cost Rs40-50bn.

* Spectrum payment schedule easing. Regulator has recommended two payment options – option-1: full or part upfront payment within 10days of auction completion. For part upfront payment, buyer will have moratorium for proportionate period of payment, and balance shall be payable in equal annual instalments over the remaining period; and option-2: payment of 30 equal annual instalments of the total bid value.

* No surprise in block size; revision in spectrum cap recommended. Block size remains reasonable for C-band and 28GHz at 10MHz and 50MHz, respectively. Block size in remaining spectrum bands remains mostly same with minor tweaking. Regulator has recommended spectrum cap across bands with sub-GHz (including 600MHz band) at 40%, C-band and 28GHz at 40% each, and cumulative on remaining bands at 40%. It has recommended to do away with overall spectrum cap.

* Spectrum surrender guidelines recommendations. 1) Permitting surrender of spectrum after minimum 10 years of date of spectrum acquisition for spectrum sold henceforth; 2) operator should make request at least 12 months prior to spectrum surrender; 3) DoT should provide in-principle approval in 60 days of date of application; 4) operators should clear all spectrum related dues as communicated by DoT; 5) DoT should put the proposed spectrum surrendered for auction immediately; 6) operator will be barred for 2 years to participate in spectrum auction in that particular band; and 7) surrender fees should be minimum with only administrative fees of Rs100k.

* Spectrum auction annually. 1) Fresh valuation exercise should be conducted every three years; 2) for spectrum sold in previous auction, indexation (using applicable MCLR if >1years) should be applied for next auction reserve price; and 3) if spectrum remains unsold in previous auction, past recommended reserve price should be considered for next auction.

Other highlights

* DoT is already considering assigning spectrum for 5G services to BSNL / MTNL.

* Trai has recommended certain measures to mitigate the inter-operator interference in TDD bands. The measures include: 1) operators should be assigned contiguous spectrum in each spectrum bands; 2) spectrum frequency should be same for each operator across circles; and 3) interference mitigation should be left to mutual coordination between the operators.

* Regulators want operators to be mandated to publish the network deployment map on their website depicting the serviced area on C-band and 28GHz band.

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IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

SE ET Special
HD **Trai Cuts 5G Base Price, sets Rates for New Bands**
BY Our Bureau
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LP

Regulator looks to encourage aggressive bids by telcos, suggests easy **payment** options

LATEST SPECTRUM PRICING RECOMMENDATIONSNew Delhi | Kolkata: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on Monday slashed the base price of 5G airwaves in its latest recommendations, while setting rates for new bands in the 600 MHz and 26-28 GHz bands.

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It has cut the price of the coveted 700 MHz band by 40%, while also lowering the price of the 3300-3670 MHz band by 36%, in a bid to attract aggressive bidding by operators Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea.

The pricing recommendations were for spectrum with a 20-year tenure. "The reserve price of spectrum allocation in case of 30 years should be equal to 1.5 times the reserve price of spectrum allocation for 20 years for the respective band," Trai said in its recommendations.

It also said that for long-term growth and sustainability of the telecom sector, infusing liquidity and encouraging investment, carriers should be allowed easy payment options, including part payment with flexibility of moratorium.

The regulator has also recommended to the government that all available air- waves in existing bands - 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz - and those in new bands - 600 MHz, 3300-3670 MHz and 24.25-28.5 GHz - be auctioned in the upcoming 5G spectrum sale.

It also suggested that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) undertake a harmonisation exercise in 800 MHz, 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands immediately after conducting the auction.

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SE Nagpur
HD Telco **cable** laying damages pipeline, hits water supply, NMC takes no action
BY Anjaya Anparthi
WC 581 words
PD 12 April 2022
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Nagpur: Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL) laid optical **fibre cable** in residential lane of Adhyapak Layout in South-West Nagpur without taking permission from the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) and also damaged main drinking water pipeline interrupting supply to many areas for over 24 hours. Despite this, the civic body did not slap any penalty or register FIR with police against RJIL. RJIL's petty contractor started laying the **cable** using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) technology in Adhyapak Layout on Saturday afternoon. In the process, NMC's 600mm diameter main pipeline supplying water to many parts of South-West Nagpur got damaged.

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This resulted in sudden interruption in drinking water supply to a large number of houses on Saturday and Sunday. With the help of Orange City Water Private Limited, the NMC managed to repair the pipeline on Sunday afternoon and restored water supply by night. One of the residents told TOI, "I had alerted the contractor's employees about the main drinking water supply in the area well before they started digging. None paid heed and also no one from NMC was present." MLA Vikas Thakre told TOI, "NMC should have registered FIR against RJIL yesterday itself. Also, fine should have been slapped on the company. This was mandatory as public property, that too essential service like water supply, got hampered. It is very clear that officials of NMC are in hand in glove with RJIL and hence no action. People residing in the area will lodge complaint with the police against RJIL and also the NMC in case the civic body fails to act against the private company on Monday." NMC executive engineer Shweta Banerjee said, "Priority was to repair the pipeline and resume water supply, which we along with the OCW did on war footing. RJIL's petty contractor has accepted to bear the cost of pipeline repairs. We will discuss the matter and take necessary action on RJIL." As per documents, copies of which are with TOI, the hot mix department had allowed RJIL to lay 24km-long optical fibre cable on October 29, 2021. The permission was to lay cable from Bombay Biryani centre to Anusaya Mangal Karyalay. However, the cable was laid much beyond the permitted area — up to garden in Adhyapak Layout and that too in residential area. Sources said it is mandatory for the RJIL to use ground penetrating radar technology for locating underground civic infrastructure like pipelines etc before starting the work. The damage to the main pipeline itself proves no such measures were taken. Moreover, RJIL was not allowed to dig tar road, but here it has done that also. Most importantly, the company was supposed to complete the works within three months from October 29, 2021. However, the work is still continuing even after five months. Earlier also, RJIL had damaged NMC's drinking water pipeline, storm water drain, sewage lines, MSEDCL's power cables etc. Due to lack of barricading, a toddler had died after falling in a ditch dug up by RJIL. Even after such incidents, the NMC has continued to give permission to RJIL to carry out cable laying works, but failed to monitor. After laying its cables, RJIL has never done the restoration in a proper manner and caused financial loss to the NMC. RJIL spokespersons did not reply to TOI despite repeated calls, messages and mail.

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 HD Focus precisely to prevent subscriber churn: Express Analytics' Hemant Warudkar
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The California-based Express Analytics business intelligence company said that it offers custom-built solutions to telecom companies to check customer erosion, and boost average revenue per user following the artificial intelligence (AI) and predictive modeling-backed processes. "Customer churn is never a good thing for any business, and it holds true for the telecom industry that includes wireless, landline and Internet services. Our solutions for this industry focus precisely on prevention of subscriber churn," Hemant Warudkar, founder and chief executive, Express Analytics told ET. Further, the top executive of an analytics company said that the prevention of churn, use-time optimisation, and expanding the network coverage area based on the backbone of data analytics are a few processes it deploys within telecom companies. Subscriber churn or erosion, is one of the critical areas plaguing the incumbent telecom service providers.

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In 2011, the telecom regulator initiated mobile number portability, allowing the users to change their carriers by retaining their mobile number. By January 2022, the accumulated porting requests rose to 670.95 million, from 661.42 million as of December 31, 2021, with a total of 9.53 million requests in a month alone, according to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) statistics. Indian telecom operators lost nearly 9.38 million mobile users as per the telecom watchdog that principally included Mukesh Ambani owned-Reliance Jio losing 9.3 million subscribers, and Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi) witnessing 0.38 million subscribers loss. "We also monitor and track drops offs, be it from the app, website or other forms of communications in order to re-engage them customers with artificial intelligence and predictive modeling," Warudkar said, adding that the intelligence is used to throw up recommendations in line with a customers likes and dislikes, ending in an increased rate of customer satisfaction which eventually leads to a higher ratio of customer retention. The company said that it offers marketing services to telcos that are rolling out data-based products and services, especially in India's semi-urban areas including tier 2 and tier 3 cities. "Unlike some of their western counterparts, the Indian telecom industry is grappling with rapidly falling average revenue per user (ARPU), and all our solutions are thus geared to not only arresting the fall, but also boosting the user revenue," the top executive added. The company, however, didn't reveal the names of telecom operators it has partnered with. Telcos' postpaid ARPU fell from Rs 215 in the quarter ending June 2021 to Rs 212.28 in the quarter ending September 2021 while for prepaid users, the revenue slightly improved to 102.16 from Rs 99 in the quarter ending June 2021, according to Trai data. The US-based company that has recently forayed into India operations, sees growing demand for mining big data to convert it into operational decisions, and increasing digital transformation of public and private sector companies following the Covid-19 outbreak. Early this year, Express Analytics has partnered with Mavcomm Advisory which inked a pact with the state-run Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) to expand the latter's business worldwide. In 2019, the company also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Goa, to collaborate in the field of data science and analysis, including in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technology.

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SE Telecom News

HD **Trai slashes base price of 33-36 GHz bands, 700 MHz bands**

WC 714 words

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The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on Monday slashed the base price of 5G airwaves in its latest recommendations, while setting rates for new bands in the 600 MHz and 26-28 GHz bands. It has cut the price of the coveted 700 MHz band by 40%, while also lowering the price of the 3300-3670 MHz band by 36%, in a bid to attract aggressive bidding by operators Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea. The pricing recommendations were for spectrum with a 20 year tenure. "The reserve price of spectrum allocation in case of 30 years should be equal to 1.5 times the reserve price of spectrum allocation for 20 years for the respective band.," Trai said in its recommendations. It has also said that for the long-term growth and **sustainability** of the telecom sector, infusing liquidity and encouraging **investment**, the carriers should be allowed easy **payment** options including part **payment** with flexibility of moratorium.

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The regulator has also recommended to the government that all available airwaves in existing bands -- 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz -- and those in new bands -- 600 MHz, 3300-3670 MHz and 24.25-28.5 GHz -- be auctioned in the upcoming 5G spectrum sale. It has also suggested that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) undertake a harmonisation exercise in 800 MHz, 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands immediately after conducting the auction so that frequencies assigned to TSPs are contiguous. For the airwaves in 3300-3670 MHz range -- popularly known as mid-band 5G spectrum -- Trai has suggested that both "band plans -- n77 and n78 -- should be permitted and flexibility be given to telcos to adopt any these band plans based on their business/commercial considerations. For airwaves in the 24.25-28.5 GHz range -- the coveted millimeter waves -- the regulator has given telcos the flexibility to adopt to any band plan -- n257 or n258 -- based on frequencies assigned to them and other business/commercial considerations. To provide greater flexibility to operators, a block size of 10 MHz for the 3300-3670 MHz 5G band and 50 MHz for 24.25-28.5 GHz 5G band have been recommended. Trai has further recommended that such spectrum would be assigned in a contiguous manner. But Trai has decided against auctioning airwaves in the 526-612 MHz range as these are being used by the ministry of I&B (MIB). "Since MIB is using the 526-582 MHz band extensively across the country for TV transmitters; the 526-612 MHz frequency range should not be put to auction in the forthcoming sale," Trai said in a media statement. The regulator also noted that band plan(s) for the frequency range 526-612 MHz are yet to be defined by 3GPP/ITU and that the development of a 5G ecosystem in 526-612 MHz frequency range will take some time. The government had been pushing Trai to send its pricing recommendations by March end itself, so that it can hold the much awaited 5G spectrum sale in May. The government wants initial 5G rollouts by August 15, India's Independence Day. The Trai has also called on the DoT to come out with a plan for refarming 526-582 MHz band to be used for IMT or 5G deployments. It added that to make the 526-582 MHz band available for 5G, DoT should work with MIB to prepare a plan for an early migration from analogue to digital transmission, so that the frequency band from 526-582 MHz can be vacated for 5G services. Trai has also called for rationalization of spectrum caps in the run up to the 5G airwaves sale. It has proposed a 40% cap on combined spectrum holding in sub-1 GHz bands, a 40% cap on combined airwave holdings in 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands. It has recommended an individual band-specific cap of 40% for 5G bands such as 3300-3670 MHz and mmWaves (24.25- 28.5 GHz) bands. In its recommendations to DoT, Trai has also proposed to scrap overall cap across all bands.

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AN Document ECTIM00020220411ei4b00044

SE India
HD **Tata Group's super app 'Neu' faced several glitches on Day 1**

WC 256 words

PD 8 April 2022

SN Indo-Asian News Service

SC HNIANS

LA English

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New Delhi, April 8 (IANS) Tata Group, which has launched its much-awaited super app called 'Neu,' bringing most of the daily consumer offerings on one **platform**, faced several issues on the first day of the launch.

Downloaded more than 5 lakh times on day 1 on Google Play Store, users faced sign-up issues and slow response time.

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The users flooded social media with several complaints as Tata Neu's search engine was way slower than Amazon or Flipkart.

Tata Neu aims to take on Reliance and Amazon in the race to become the most popular super consumer app, addressing 12 segments including grocery, electronics, flights, hotels, health, beauty, luxury, cricket, entertainment and others.

Other companies like Amazon, Paytm and Reliance Jio have already built their super apps, where they provide services such as payments, content streaming, shopping, travel bookings, groceries, among others.

Mukesh Ambani-owned Reliance Industries' JioMart is also set to get into the super app business.

Globally, successful super apps have been built around core services like social messaging, digital payments, food tech, e-mobility, online shopping, paying utility bills and so on.

India's consumer digital economy is projected to reach a massive \$800 billion by 2030 and online retail will make the bigger pie, according to market research firm RedSeer.

The online retail market in the country is likely to grow to \$350 billion in gross merchandise value (GMV) over the next decade, the report noted.

--IANS

na/svn/

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IN i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | itech : Technology | i1 : Energy | i14 : Downstream Operations | i14001 : Petroleum Refining | i64 : Retail/Wholesale | i656000301 : Etailing | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i8396 : Diversified Holding Companies | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | iecom : E-commerce | ifosfl : Fossil Fuels | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | iint : Online Service Providers | iretail : Retail

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PUB IANS India Pvt. Ltd.

HD Trai scraps charges for USSD-based mobile banking services

BY Kiran Rathee

WC 308 words

PD 8 April 2022

SN Financial Express

SC AIWFIE

LA English

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LP

In a bid to boost digital financial inclusion, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has scrapped tariffs for unstructured supplementary service data (USSD)-based mobile banking and **payment** services. The mobile operators were charging 0.50 paisa per session from 2G customers for availing such services.

However, the scrapping of charges will not have any major financial impact on mobile operators as only a miniscule number of 2G customers of Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea use USSD-based services. Reliance Jio, being a 4G-only player doesn't have such customers.

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Trai had earlier issued a tariff order in 2013 prescribing a ceiling tariff of Rs 1.50 per USSD session for USSD-based mobile banking service. Subsequently, the authority through an amendment in 2016, reduced USSD-based tariff for banking and payment services ceiling from Rs 1.50 to Rs 0.50 paisa per session.

To review the existing regulatory framework, Trai issued a draft order on November 24, 2021 proposing 'nil' charge for USSD sessions for mobile banking and payment services. "After analysing the comments received from stakeholders and other data/ information available with it, the authority is of the view that, to protect the interests of the USSD users and to promote digital financial inclusion, rationalisation of USSD charges is required. In view of the same, the authority has decided that the subscribers will not be charged for USSD for mobile banking and payment service," Trai said in its tariff order.

The authority will continue to keep a watch on the progress of service and may review the charge after a period of two years.

[Subsequently, the authority through an amendment in 2016, reduced USSD-based tariff for banking and payment services ceiling from Rs 1.50 to Rs 0.50 paisa per session.](#)

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PUB Indian Express Group

AN Document AIWFIE0020220408ei480000a



HD Saregama India surges ~2% as Pankaj Chaturvedi steps up as CFO

CR India Infoline News Service

WC 210 words

PD 6 April 2022

SN Indiainfoline News Service

SC INFOIN

LA English

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In its regulatory filing today, [Saregama India](#) has informed that the company has approved the appointment of **Mr.** Pankaj Chaturvedi as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Company w.e.f. April 11, 2022.

Mr. Pankaj will take charge of the office of **Mr.** Vineet Garg who shall relinquish his office effective from April 10, 2022. **Mr.** Vineet cited personal reasons for his resignation.

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The company also approved the sub-division of one equity share of Rs10 each to 10 equity shares of Rs1 each.

Mr. Pankaj Chaturvedi is a Chartered Accountant who brings over 2 decades of rich experience in various industries including Aviation, Telecom, and consumer electronics. He was responsible for handling areas such as Accounting, Planning & Strategy, Business finance, Risk Assurance, and Analytics across organizations such as Go Airlines, Vodafone, Reliance Jio, and Hitachi. Presently, he is associated as Chief Financial Officer at Go Airlines (India) Ltd. until April 10, 2022.

Saregama India is currently trading at Rs5,014.65 up by Rs90.4 or 1.84% from its previous closing of Rs4,924.25 on the BSE. The scrip touched intraday high and low of Rs5,120 and Rs4,990.05 respectively.

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IN i75 : Airlines | i7501 : Passenger Airlines | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i97106 : Music/Sound Recording | iairtr : Air Transport | ilowair : Low Cost Airlines | imed : Media/Entertainment | isound : Sound/Music Recording/Publishing | itsp : Transportation/Logistics

NS c411 : Management Moves | csImc : Senior Level Management | c41 : Management | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

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IPD Saregama India Updates

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AN Document INFOIN0020220407ei460000n

SE Telecom News
 HD **Mobile services are now as essential as fuel: Analysts**
 BY Kalyan Parbat
 WC 489 words
 PD 6 April 2022
 SN The Economic Times
 SC ECTIM
 LA English
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 LP

Mobile services are now essential fuel and immune to price hikes as consumers are hooked to data and video services on their smartphones further goaded by the mass popularity of UPI-based mobile payments even in villages, analysts said. The phenomenon was underlined by the negligible impact of the price hikes last November-December on the active mobile user bases of India's top telcos, Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea. "Mobile services are seen as essential now, like fuel, which has to be filled irrespective of the cost...we got this response even in villages during recent on-ground checks," Kunal Vora, head of India Equity Research, BNP Paribas, told ET. The reason is that consumers in both urban and rural markets are now habituated to data services, especially video, along with the sheer omnipresence of UPI-based mobile **payment** transactions. "Consumers compare telecom recharges to fuel calling it an essential service that they must avail of, regardless of price hikes," Vora

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added. BNP estimates that the total volume of UPI-based mobile payment transactions jumped 95% on-year to a whopping Rs 8.3 lakh-crore (roughly, \$110 billion) in February 2022. In fact, the market share of UPI as a preferred payment mode has jumped to 22% in February 2022 from 14% in February 2021. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a payments system that enables people to instantly transfer cash from their accounts to another account linked to a mobile phone. With rising mobile penetration in rural India, the ubiquitous cell phone is seen as a powerful tool to drive digital financial inclusion. Analysts said the limited impact of the November-December 2021 tariff hikes on telcos' active user base also underscores that mobile services are viewed as essential and that the telecom sector has regained high pricing power. Jefferies said the acceleration in active subscriber additions to 5.9 million for the overall telecom sector in January 2022 - compared to 4.2 million in December 2021 -- was despite a full month of price hikes. This, it added, "is encouraging as it indicates acceptance of the new tariffs." Market leader Jio added the highest number of active mobile users - 4.2 million - in January 2022, followed by Airtel, which added 1.3 million such subscribers. Even struggling Vi lost fewer active users in January (0.7 million), compared to 2.1 million in December, which suggests its active user base was largely stable. Active, or visitor location register (VLR), data put out every month by the telecom regulator indicates the number of customers actively using a mobile network. BNP's Vora said the telecom industry was largely holding on to active mobile user base month-on-month despite the sharp tariff hike by operators, a slowdown in consumption and higher handset costs is a positive indicator.

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

SE **Startups** & Tech
HD **Vodafone UK Ups Stake in Vi to 47.61%**
BY Our Bureau
WC 224 words
PD 5 April 2022
SN The Economic Times - Mumbai Edition
SC ECTMUM
LA English
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LP

Kolkata: Vodafone Group's stake in Vodafone Idea (Vi) has increased to 47.61% while that of the Aditya Birla Group (ABG) has dipped a few decimal points to 27.4% after the latest promoter-level fund infusions to revive their loss-making telecom JV's operations and help it compete more effectively against Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel.

Vodafone Group has raised its stake in Vi - its telecom JV with ABG - to 47.61% (from earlier 44.39%) by acquiring additional shares through promoter entities - Prime Metals Ltd and Euro Pacific Securities Ltd - via a preferential allotment. Indian conglomerate, ABG, which acquired fewer fresh shares in Vi, has seen a tiny dip in its Vi stake to 27.4% from 27.66% previously.

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On March 31, the board of Vodafone Idea (Vi) had approved an allotment of 1.9666 billion and 570.9 million shares to Euro Pacific Securities and Prime Metals (PML) respectively on a preferential basis. It had also cleared a similar preferential allotment of 845.8 million shares to ABG promoter entity, Oriana Investments Pte Ltd.

These preferential allotments were constituents of the total 3.3834 billion shares allotted to the three Vi promoter group entities at ₹13.30 apiece.

FOR FULL REPORT, GO TO www.economictimes.com

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SE **Startups** & Tech

HD **Vi Board Okays Share Allotment to Promoters to Raise `4,500 crore**

BY Our Bureau

WC 362 words

PD 1 April 2022

SN The Economic Times - Mumbai Edition

SC ECTMUM

LA English

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Prime Metals, Oriana Investments, Euro Pacific Securities to get 3.383 b shares

New Delhi: Vodafone Idea (Vi) said on Thursday its board cleared the allotment of 3.383 billion equity shares at `13.30 each to three promoter group entities - Euro Pacific Securities, Prime Metals and Oriana Investments - raising about `4,500 crore.

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This follows the telecom operator's announcement in early March that it would raise `14,500 crore, including `4,500 crore from promoters Vodafone Group Plc of the UK and the Aditya Birla Group, which would help it cut debt and invest in its network to take on Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel more effectively. It also needs to compete in the upcoming 5G auctions meaningfully.

The cash-strapped telco plans to raise the balance `10,000 crore from external investors, and has been talking to the likes of private equity player Apollo Global Management for up to \$1 billion (about `7,500 crore).

Under the proposal cleared by the capital raising committee of its board, 1,96,66,35,338 equity shares would be issued to Euro Pacific Securities, 57,09,58,646 shares to Prime Metals and 84,58,64,661 shares to Oriana Investments, Vodafone Idea said in a filing with stock exchanges. The three are investment vehicles of the Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group.

The shares will be issued at a `

3.30 per share premium to the face value of

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10. On Thursday, shares of the company closed 0.15% lower at

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9.68 on the BSE. Before the allotment, the Aditya Birla Group held more than 27% stake in Vi, while Vodafone Group owned over 44%.

The telecom department is working to prepare the groundwork for the auction of 5G radio waves and regulator Trai's recommendations on spectrum pricing and other aspects are expected shortly.

Telecom service providers, especially Vodafone Idea, had got a shot in the arm with the government last September clearing a wide-ranging relief package that included a four-year moratorium on paying spectrum and adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues.

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AN Document ECTMUM0020220401ei410000e

SE Funding

HD OneCode has raised \$13 million in fresh funding led by General Catalyst

WC 398 words

PD 1 April 2022

SN The Economic Times

SC ECTIM

LA English

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Bengaluru: OneCode, a platform that provides on-ground resellers to financial firms, has raised \$13 million (or Rs 100 crore) as a part of its latest round of funding led by General Catalyst, the company said in a prepared statement on Thursday. Existing investors including Sequoia Capital India's Surge, Nexus Venture Partners, and Waterbridge Ventures also participated in the round. Other participating investors included angel investors such as Vidit Aatrey and Sanjeev Barnwal, cofounders, Meesho; Madhusudan R, founder of M2P, Vikas Choudhary president, Reliance Jio, DSP Family Office, and Reddy Futures Fund. According to the company, it will use the capital to invest in hiring across functions and accelerate its product and technology development.

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With the investment, the company will be expanding its presence to 100 additional cities and will increase the size of its agent network. Founded in 2019 by Manish Shara and Yash Desai, OneCode is a platform that connects new-age digital-first brands with relevant sellers to sell their products and services to trust deficit, less tech savvy users. "Trust deficit is the biggest problem in fintech adoption in India. People are less trusting of traditional acquisition channels like websites and apps. This is exactly what we are solving for. Our distribution network of trusted agents offers the much-needed assurance to customers as people rely heavily on their networks for recommendations, especially when it comes to critical financial services," said OneCode chief executive and cofounder, Manish Shara. Since inception, OneCode claims to have supported over 25 lakh customers and catered to their financial service needs, through its offline distribution channels, the company said. At present, OneCode's clientele includes large banking institutions including IDFC First, SBI, Bank of Baroda as well as new-age fintechs such as Navi, Groww, Jupiter, and more. The platform also has a network of over 1 million resellers, who have the option to work with over 50 partner brands OneCode works with. In a recent interaction with ET, earlier this week, former Softbank investor and managing director of General Catalyst, Deep Nishar said that the Silicon Valley-based fund is evaluating startups across segments such as consumer, fintech, web3 and crypto, agri-tech in India. The firm may also hire a local team to boost its investment play in the country.

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SE India
HD India Deciphered: Where Internet is mobile, cash rules and startups are replacing IT as the great white hope
WC 522 words
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A report by Blume Ventures offers insights into what is pulling India back, and what is moving it forward: it is a country where Reliance Jio enabled massive internet penetration which translated into almost all of it being on mobile, with almost zero growth in home internet usage. It is also a country where a small class of consumers is sustaining the India consumption story. And for all the Amazons and the Meeshos, just over a tenth of consumers have shopped online. Most online shopping is based on COD or cash-on-delivery despite growing and strong adoption of UPI. The more worrying concerns are about India's future, or its young people: young men in their 20s spend their time preparing for exams which qualify them for government jobs as these are well-paying. ITES or IT enabled services have kept entry salaries low in the private sector, further explaining the attraction for government jobs.

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Higher education in India continues to be of poor quality and neither job-givers nor job-seekers see a degree as a step to a job.90560649 Women stay at home. Societal pressures keep them chained to home and hearth, and shows up in their low and still declining labour force participation. Only when work promises security and high income, such as that of pilots, India beats the world in propelling women to these slots.A language taxIndia's young pay a tax when they don't speak English, since not knowing English comes in the way of their social and economic mobility. The three paths for mobility for India's young are English, competitive exams – including NEET, JEE, SAT, TOEFL – or last, exit from the country.High prevalence of mobile Internet has fuelled aspirations – with Indians gorging on content and video calling – but full signs of a digital economy are missing. India doesn't shop online as much as it browses, and it still pays by cash when it does.90560660 Growing divideThe small consumer class is also due to a growing divide between the rich and poor in Covid times. The richest 20% saw a sharp rise in their income while the income of the poorest 20% fell to half of what they earned before the pandemic. The poor quality of higher education is also reflected in engineering: India's engineers are most active in creating GitHub accounts in the world but less than 4% can write high-quality code. All this means India's IT sector is not where India's young are pinning their hopes.90560663 It is startups which have taken over, flexible as these employers are in where and how they pick talent. One in every eight new companies is a startup. Startup talk has entered mainstream culture and conversations because of Nykaa and Zomato IPOs, besides Shark Tank India.The most startups are in five areas: EdTech, SaaS, Retail, HealthTech and FinTech. India birthed more unicorns in 2021 than all the previous years put together.

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SE Telecom News
HD Telecom companies call on government for easier 5G spectrum **payment** terms: Devusinh Chauhan, MoS for communications

WC 560 words

PD 31 March 2022

SN The Economic Times

SC ECTIM

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Telecom companies have called on the government for easier 5G spectrum **payment** terms in the upcoming auction, Devusinh Chauhan, minister of state for communications, told Lok Sabha Wednesday.

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This, even as a parliamentary panel on IT, headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, voiced concerns around the delayed launch of 5G services in India and also called on the regulator and the government to cut starting price of 5G airwaves in the upcoming sale. "Some TSPs have represented seeking easier payment terms for 5G spectrum," Chauhan said in reply to a query in Parliament. Both Vodafone Idea MD Ravinder Takkar and Bharti Airtel CEO Gopal Vittal had recently underlined the need for the sector regulator and the telecom department to ensure easier 5G spectrum payment terms in the upcoming sale to ease financial stress for telcos. The Tharoor-led panel, in turn, said in a report that while its high time 5G services are rolled out in India in some specific use cases, "it does not see any progress in that direction". In fact, the panel called on DoT to review all its policies relating to 5G so that the country isn't left behind in the 5G race. It added that the current pricing of 5G spectrum is exorbitant compared to other countries, and accordingly, pushed for a pricing review. India's top telcos—Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea—in their recent submissions had urged the regulator to cut the starting price of 5G airwaves in the mid-band and 700 Mhz bands, by up to 95% and set low starting rates for the new frequencies to be put on sale. They have said this was critical for operators to get the financial headroom to invest top dollars in capital-intensive 5G mobile broadband networks. Trai secretary V Raghunandan had on Tuesday told ET that the regulator would submit its much awaited recommendations on 5G airwaves pricing in a week to 10 days. The government wants to start the spectrum auction by May-June to facilitate roll out of the next-gen wireless broadband networks by August 15, the country's Independence Day. The government has earmarked a mix of mid-band airwaves in the 3.3-3.67 Ghz range, millimetre waves (26/28 Ghz) and key sub-Ghz bands such as 600 Mhz and 700 Mhz for 5G services. Separately, Union telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told Lok Sabha that India's indigenous 4G mobile network has been prepared in the shortest possible span and would be rolled out soon. He added that Indian scientists had predicted 5G networks would also be ready by the end-2022. "Indian engineers have prepared the country's own 4G network, which is ready for launch very soon... the whole world is looking at us with surprise on how India has built its 4G network so soon," Vaishnaw told Parliament. Telecom secretary K Rajaraman had recently said that the indigenously developed 4G network to be deployed by state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam (BSNL) would be economical and would also overcome network security-related fears such as hidden backdoors in telecom gear. Vaishnaw also told Parliament that after many years, BSNL had reported an operating profit after improvement in its services.

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AN Document ECTIM00020220401ei4100041

HD [Funding alert] OneCode raises \$13M in Series A round led by General Catalyst

BY Payal Ganguly

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WC 453 words

PD 31 March 2022

SN Your Story

SC ATYOST

LA English

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LP

The commission-based distribution **platform** for financial products will utilise the capital for hiring and expansion.

Bengaluru-based business-to-consumer (B2C) fintech and financial services company OneCode has raised \$13 million (Rs 100 crore) in its Series A **funding** round led by venture capital firm, General Catalyst. Returning investors Sequoia Capital India's Surge, Nexus Venture Partners, and Waterbridge Ventures also participated in the round.

TD

OneCode had raised \$5 million led by Surge and Nexus Venture Partners in July 2021.

Angel investors in the company including co-founders of Meesho - Vidit Aatrey and Sanjeev Barnwal, Madhusudhan of M2P, Vikas Choudhary - President at Reliance Jio, DSP Family Office, and Reddy Futures Fund also participated in the round.

A YourStory Tech50 startup, OneCode will invest the capital to hire talent across functions and accelerate product and technology development. The company will also expand its presence to an additional 100 cities and will invest in growing its agent network.

Manish Shara and Yash Desai

Founded in 2019 by former DineOut executives, Manish Shara and Yash Desai, OneCode uses its network of agents to recommend financial products to its users in Tier-II, III and IV cities. The startup works on a commission-based distribution model, recommending products across more than 10 categories including credit cards, loans, pocket insurance, bank accounts, and others.

"Trust deficit is the biggest problem in fintech adoption in India. People are less trusting of traditional acquisition channels like websites and apps. This is exactly what we are solving for. Our distribution network of trusted agents offers the much-needed assurance to customers as people rely heavily on their networks for recommendations, especially when it comes to critical financial services," said Manish Shara, CEO and Co-founder of OneCode, in a statement issued by the company.

Co-founder Yash Desai calls OneCode's business "Meesho for financial products" in India.

Currently, OneCode partners with the likes of IDFC First, SBI, Bank of Baroda as well as new age startups like Navi, Groww, Jupiter, and others. The company claims to have generated over Rs 100 crore in earnings for its agents since inception and has over one million registered users on the platform.

"Manish and Yash have built a robust fintech platform for India with a vision to bring best-in-breed financial services to millions of consumers who would otherwise be left out of the growth of the Internet and the opportunities that it creates" said Anand Chandrasekaran, partner at General Catalyst in the statement.

This is General Catalyst's second investment this week after agritech company FarMart, as it adds to its India portfolio.

CO nincap : Nexus Venture Partners | rjiol : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | seqind : Sequoia Capital India LLP | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN ifmsoft : Financial Technology | ifinal : Financial Services | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i81502 : Trusts/Funds/Financial Vehicles | i8150203 : Private Equity | ialtinv : Alternative Investments | iinv : Investing/Securities

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SE BUSINESS
HD OneCode raises Rs 100 cr led by General Catalyst

WC 189 words

PD 31 March 2022

SN Press Trust of India

SC PRTRIN

LA English

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New Delhi, Mar 31 (PTI) Fintech firm OneCode on Thursday said it has raised Rs 100 crore in a **funding** round led by General Catalyst.

The series A **funding** round also saw participation from existing investors including Sequoia Capital India's Surge, Nexus Venture Partners, and Waterbridge Ventures.

TD

Angel investors like Vedit and Sanjeev from Meesho, Madhusudhan from M2P, Vikas Choudhary (President at Reliance Jio), DSP Family Office, and Reddy Futures Fund also participated in the funding round, the startup said.

"OneCode will use this capital to invest in hiring across functions and accelerate the product and tech development. The company will be expanding its presence to 100 additional cities and will increase the size of its agent network by 500 per cent by 2025," OneCode said.

"Its distribution network of trusted agents offers the much-needed assurance to customers as people rely heavily on their networks for recommendations, especially when it comes to critical financial services," OneCode Co-founder and CEO Manish Shara said.

The company was founded in 2019 by Manish Shara and Yash Desai. PTI PRS

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CO nincap : Nexus Venture Partners | rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | seqind : Sequoia Capital India LLP | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i81502 : Trusts/Funds/Financial Vehicles | i8150203 : Private Equity | ialtnv : Alternative Investments | ifinal : Financial Services | iinv : Investing/Securities

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AN Document PRTRIN0020220331ei3v00e4e

HD Airtel vs Jio vs Vi: Best prepaid recharge plans under Rs 500

WC 557 words

PD 30 March 2022

SN India Today Online

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LA English

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Airtel, Jio and Vi are offering several prepaid recharge plans under Rs 500. Some of the plans not only offer unlimited benefits, but also free access to **OTT** subscriptions. A few of them are either offering Disney+ Hotstar subscription or Amazon's Prime Mobile Edition along with unlimited calls and daily data benefits. If you are looking for the best prepaid recharge plans under Rs 500, then keep reading to know more.

Jio Rs 299, Rs 419, Rs 259 prepaid recharge plan

TD

Reliance Jio has a Rs 299 prepaid plan, which ships with unlimited voice calls to any network as well as 100 SMS per day. It even includes 2GB daily data, so users get 56GB of data on a monthly basis. The plan comes with a validity period of 28 days. This is the best plan for those who want 2GB of data on a daily basis.

If you think that 2GB won't be enough, then you can buy the Rs 419 Jio prepaid plan as this one includes 3GB of data per day. Apart from this, customers also get unlimited calls and 100 SMS per day for 28 days.

If your budget is less than this and you think that 1.5GB will be enough for you, then you can consider purchasing the Rs 259 recharge plan, which will remain valid for one full month. This basically means that if you recharge your phone number on March 5, then the plan will expire on April 5. The plan also includes unlimited calls, 1.5GB of daily data, and 100 SMS per day.

Those who want Disney+ Hotstar subscription can buy the Rs 499 Jio prepaid recharge plan, which also offers 2GB of daily data, 100 SMS per day, and unlimited calls with a validity period of 28 days.

Airtel Rs 349, Rs 499 prepaid recharge plans

Airtel is offering a Rs 349 prepaid plan that bundles 2GB of daily data, unlimited calls, 100 SMS per day, free access to Amazon Prime Mobile Edition, and Rs 100 cashback on FASTag. There is also Rs 499 prepaid recharge plan, which comes with Disney+ Hotstar subscription, 2GB of daily data, unlimited calls, 100 SMS and more. Both the plans come with a validity period of 28 days.

Vi Rs 499, Rs 359 prepaid recharge plans

Vodafone idea (Vi) has prepaid plans similar to Airtel. The telecom operator has a Rs 349 prepaid pack that includes 2GB of daily data, unlimited calls, and 100 SMS per day for 28 days. Apart from this, customers also get up to 2GB of backup data every month at no extra cost and this can be claimed via the company's ViApp. The plan also supports night data facility without limits, which is applicable from 12:00AM to 6:00AM. It even includes weekend data rollover facility. There is also a Rs 499 Vi prepaid recharge plan that offers all the above-mentioned benefits, as well as one of year of Disney+ Hotstar Mobile subscription.

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CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | ippcell : Prepaid Mobile Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

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SE Tech & Internet
HD Adani ropes in Google Cloud for IT transformation deal

WC 362 words

PD 30 March 2022

SN The Economic Times

SC ECTIM

LA English

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Bengaluru: The Adani Group has struck a multi-year partnership with Google Cloud to migrate the Ahmedabad-based firm's business-critical applications and collaborate in its data centre business. The group aims to transfer over 250 business-critical applications such as database management software SAP HANA to Google Cloud's infrastructure to centralise workflows and streamline operations, it said in a statement. The strategic collaboration involves modernising the group's IT operations at scale. "The inevitability and pace of cloud adoption mandates that every business redefine its business model.

TD

This provides new challenges and new opportunities that will not only be transformational but will also require new forms of industry collaboration," said Gautam Adani, chairman, Adani Group. Google has been aggressively expanding its presence in India and had announced big partnerships with the likes of Reliance Jio and Airtel recently. In June 2021, Jio entered into a partnership with Google Cloud to power its 5G services, retail and other businesses and build new services across gaming, healthcare, education. The country's largest telecom player also said it will tap into Google Cloud's innovations in AI/ML, data and analytics, and other cloud-native technologies. Google also announced an investment of up to \$1 billion in Bharti Airtel. The partnership was to make smartphones more affordable, to drive 4G upgrades and jointly develop network domain 5G use cases. "Adani's SAP migration is one of the fastest we have seen at scale and is already delivering significant value across its business. Our continued collaboration will spearhead new digital platforms that will have a transformative impact," said Thomas Kurian, chief executive officer, Google Cloud. The first phase of the Adani-Google partnership is well under way, with the Adani Group making swift progress migrating its extensive IT footprint from its existing on-premises data centre and colocation facilities to Google Cloud. The group forayed into the data centre business last year after inking a joint venture deal with US-based EdgeConneX, a leading data centre operator, to develop one gigawatt (GW) of data centre capacity across the country.

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NS cdbus : Digitalization | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

SE Companies & Economy
HD Adani Group Strikes Deal with GoogleCloud
BY Our Bureau
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CO adexns : Adani Enterprises Limited | rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | gognew : Google LLC | goog : Alphabet Inc. | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd
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HD **Bharti Airtel looks at two-three rounds of fresh tariff hikes**

BY Kiran Rathee

WC 471 words

PD 29 March 2022

SN Financial Express

SC AIWFIE

LA English

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Bharti Airtel is looking at two-three rounds of fresh tariff hikes in the coming years to attain its targeted Arpu (average revenue per user) of `300. However, any move to increase rates will depend on Reliance Jio following suit. The company also plans to continue with its annual capex of around `20,000-21,000 crore over the next two-three years as it rolls out its **5G network**.

The company shared the details of its plans with analysts on March 25.

TD

The Arpu of Bharti Airtel has risen from Rs 117 in Q3FY20 to Rs 163 in Q3FY22. Apart from tariff hikes, Arpu can be inflated through feature phones upgrades and monetisation of digital engagement.

Over the past two quarters, the company has done several tariff hikes to improve Arpu. It had increased tariffs on certain postpaid plans across retail and enterprise segments during Q2FY22, while in November 2021 it increased the prepaid tariffs across all price points by 20-25%, including unlimited plans as well as combo vouchers.

After the Q3FY22 results, Gopal Vittal, MD and CEO, India and South Asia, had said the company hopes to achieve Arpu of Rs 200, preferably in 2022 itself, and then settle soon after in the next few years to Rs 300. "From my perspective, I do expect a tariff hike sometime in 2022, don't think it's going to happen in the next 3-4 months simply because of the SIM consolidation and growth needs to come back, but I do expect another round of tariff increases. Of course, it ought to be determined by the competitive dynamics and by what happens to the other players, but we would not hesitate to lead it as we have done in the recent past," Vittal had said.

The company reiterated its focus on quality subscribers by offering good experience. The company said a 40% reduction in network complaints over the past two years reflects its efforts to improve experience.

"It did not view affordability as a constraint for smartphone customers and is willing to lead future tariff hikes subject to Jio also following suit. Omnichannel experience with converged offerings, digital propositions (Xstream, payments bank and WYNK, etc) and an aspirational brand positioning along with network investments have enabled Airtel to gain premium customers — Airtel's share of 4G net adds has grown in the past 3 years (32% in FY20 to 70% in 1H FY22)," Credit Suisse said in a report.

Bharti Airtel is also looking to leverage its digital offerings to improve experience and cut costs. In the wired broadband segment, it targets 40 million customers by FY25 from the current 16 million.

[Bharti Airtel is also looking to leverage its digital offerings to improve experience and cut costs.](#)

CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | bhatev : Bharti Airtel Ltd. | bhrten : Bharti Enterprises Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

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AN Document AIWFIE0020220329ei3t00002

HD Reliance close to sealing 5G deal with Samsung

BY SURAJEET DAS GUPTA New Delhi

WC 603 words

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SN Business Standard

SC BSTN

PG 2

LA English

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Advanced talks on to rope in South Korean major as third-party tech provider

Reliance Jio is in advanced talks with South Korean consumer electronics and telecom gear maker Samsung for the latter to be its third party technology provider, complementing its efforts to roll out a **5G network** across the country.

TD

Reliance has developed its own indigenous 5G technology, including the core and 5G radios and plans to launch standalone 5G services - unlike its rivals who will start with non-standalone 5G in which the core of the network will still be on 4G.

Samsung and Reliance have taken the crucial steps towards a collaborative effort by starting 5G test trials in Mumbai, a key city in the 5G sweepstakes. Reliance is also testing its 5G solutions on its own in Mumbai and in Jamnagar.

Even earlier, the two companies enjoyed a close relationship as it was Samsung which built Reliance Jio's 4G network after winning the bid despite tough competition from Huawei and European players. Reliance's 5G trial tests with Ericsson in Delhi and Nokia have not yet begun, according to sources.

The same sources say Reliance Jio has received approval to use Samsung's equipment after Samsung was recently endorsed as a 'trusted source' by the National Security Council Secretariat.

Under the government's telecom rules, it is mandatory for an OEM player to gain this 'trusted' tag before it can supply any equipment to telcos. Telcos wishing to buy equipment for OEMs first need to make an application to the Secretariat saying they would like to buy equipment from a certain company. The next step is for the OEM to apply for the 'trusted source' tag. Jio received similar permissions for Ericsson, Nokia, Dell and Cisco.

Owing to the Chinese-India conflict on the border in Ladakh, the Chinese giant Huawei has yet to receive permission to participate in the 5G telecom gear sweepstakes in India.

At a recent event, Matthew Oommen, Reliance Jio president and the company's key technology person, said Reliance was currently focusing on building the various 5G platforms and was not shy of collaborating with 'third party' technology providers in addition to its own. Reliance Jio did not, however, comment on the issue. Nor did Samsung respond to queries.

Reliance is developing not only its own indigenous 5G technology but is also ensuring the back-end manufacturing of telecom gear within India. For instance, it recently announced that it will be setting up a JV with US-based Sanmina Corporation, the sixth largest electronics manufacturing services company in the world, and will invest Rs 1,670 crore in its Indian unit.

The JV plant, which is eligible for the government's Production Linked Incentive scheme in telecom products, will be used for Reliance Jio's telecom gear needs.

The ambition at Reliance Jio is to become a global player able to take on incumbent telecom gear players such as Ericsson, Huawei and Nokia.

However, open radio network technology, rather than proprietary technology where software and hardware used to be bundled and offered by the same player, lies at the core of 5G. Telcos now have the upper hand as they can choose to collaborate with a range of technology providers and buy equipment from a whole range of players, as well as marry them with their own indigenous technology.

For Samsung (one of the newest telecom gear players), Reliance has been its dominant customer for 4G, apart from telcos in its own home market as well as in Japan.

CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | sansel : Samsung Electronics Co Ltd | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN idct : Digital Cellular Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | iwrllsl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i34542 : Audio/Video Equipment | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | icnp : Consumer Goods | idurhg : Durable Household Products | ielec : Consumer Electronics | ihome : Home Electronics/Appliances

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

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HD Jio launches Rs 555, Rs 2,999 plans with free Disney+ Hotstar subscription for IPL 2022

WC 465 words

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LA English

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Reliance Jio has launched two new plans for its subscribers that will let them watch the IPL 2022 tournament for free. The company, in partnership with **OTT platform** Disney+ Hotstar, has launched affordable prepaid plans priced at Rs 555 and Rs 2999 that offer DisneyPlus Hotstar subscription at no extra cost.

The new Rs 555 and Rs 2999 plans are in addition to Jio's existing list of cricket plans. The cheapest plan on the list costs Rs 499 and goes all the way up to Rs 3119. The new Rs 555 and Rs 2999 plans can be availed only by those who have been continuously on any Jio active plan for the last 28 days. These plans are available for prepaid Jio subscribers.

TD

The Rs 555 Jio plan is basically a data-on plan, which means it offers you extra data over your existing current and it has no calling or SMS benefits included. Jio says that this plan is mainly for cricket viewing and you need to have a different existing plan in order to avail of this.

Coming to what the new plan offers, you get 1GB data per day for 55 days along with subscription to select Jio apps and DisneyPlus Hotstar for 12 months. Your download speed will be reduced to 64Kbps once you exhaust your daily data limit. However, note that the Hotstar subscription is eligible only for mobile viewing and not for TV or laptops.

The Jio Rs 2999 is an annual plan available only for a limited time period. The plan offers 2.5GB data per day along with unlimited voice calling benefits, 100 SMS per day, and complimentary subscription to Jio apps. The plan comes bundled with a Disney+ Hotstar subscription for one year. This is also a mobile subscription plan.

If you want to watch the IPL 2022 on the big screen, Jio has Rs 1499 and Rs 4199 plans also. These offer DisneyPlus Hotstar subscription on a large screen.

The Rs 1,499 will get you 2GB per day, unlimited voice calling, and 100 SMS per day for 84 days along with a year Premium subscription to DisneyPlus Hotstar app. The Rs 4199 plan offers 3GB per day, along with unlimited voice calling and SMS benefits. This plan also offers DisneyPlus Hotstar subscription for one year on large screens.

Also Read | [Dell updates its top-end XPS 15, XPS 17 laptops with 12th gen Intel chips, faster RAM than before](#) Also Read | [Reliance Jio adds new Rs 259 cricket add-on prepaid plan with Disney+ Hotstar](#) Also Read | [Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Gen 1+ tipped for May launch, flagship phones likely to debut in June](#)

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SE Companies
HD **BSNL Seeks DoT Intervention to Bag Govt-funded Connectivity Projects**
BY Muntazir.Abbas@timesinternet.in
WC 395 words
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LA English
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LOSING OUT TO AIRTEL, JIO...

New Delhi: State-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam (BSNL), which has been losing out to private sector rivals such as Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio on some prestigious government-funded digital connectivity programmes, has sought the telecom department's intervention, citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) campaign.

TD

In a letter to telecom secretary K Rajaraman, BSNL chairman Pravin Kumar Purwar said, "BSNL is in the best position and has the past experience of rolling out mobile networks in difficult terrains with complete professionalism. It is requested that the work of providing coverage to the uncovered villages should be given on nomination basis to BSNL, which will be carried out with Indian designed and manufactured equipment."

BSNL's top executive said in the letter dated March 14 that the telco would complete the connectivity programme within 24 months of the date of award.

The letter comes close on the heels of BSNL partnering with homegrown Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and state-driven Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) for the commercial rollout of fourth-generation, or 4G, services together with a 5G upgradable network.

Despite the deployment of telecom networks in critical left wing extremism (LWE)-hit areas in a "record time" by the state-owned telco, the department awarded the LWE-II programme to Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio last year. A further initiative to connect aspirational villages has also been bagged by the two private telecom operators, the letter pointed out.

In the ambitious telecom connectivity initiative for the Northeast region, the department awarded sites that were earlier reserved for BSNL on a nomination basis to Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio, even in scenarios where only a single bidder turned up.

The contracts were awarded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) which is a Rs 55,000-crore strong corpus meant to provide telecom connectivity in rural and remote regions.

BSNL has not received a single mobile project in the last five years, and all projects of USOF have been awarded to two private telecom service providers only "in the name of open tendering," said Rakesh Kumar Bhatnagar, director-general, Voice of Indian Communication Technology Enterprises (VoICE), in a letter dated March 17 to the USOF administrator.

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SE Telecom News
HD **BSNL loses out state-funded initiatives to Airtel, Jio, telecom department's intervention**
BY Muntazir Abbas
WC 108 words
PD 26 March 2022
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LA English
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State-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL), which has been losing out to private sector rivals such as Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio on some prestigious government-funded digital **connectivity** programmes, has sought the telecom department's intervention, citing Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) campaign. In a letter to telecom secretary K Rajaraman, BSNL chairman Pravin Kumar Purwar said, "BSNL is in the best position... It is requested that the work of providing coverage to the uncovered villages should be given on nomination basis to BSNL."

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IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services
NS gpol : Domestic Politics | gcat : Political/General News | gpir : Politics/International Relations
RE india : India | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcos : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia
PUB Bennett, Coleman & Co., Ltd.
AN Document ECTIM00020220325ei3p0008q

SE **Cryptocurrency**
 HD **Glance to Bring NFT Games on Lockscreen, Buys India's Gambit Sports Firm**
 BY Radhika Parashar
 WC 500 words
 PD 25 March 2022
 ET 10:54
 SN NDTV
 SC NDTVIN
 LA English
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 LP

Lockscreen **platform** Glance has purchased Indian **gaming** firm Gambit Sports as part of its plans to bring **NFT gaming** services on your smartphone. An unconsolidated subsidiary of InMobi Group and funded by Google, Glance designs lockscreens with inbuilt games. Glance has finalised the acquisition deal of Bengaluru-based Gambit Sports for an undisclosed amount just a month after it secured a deal with Reliance Jio. The **platform** aims to add an **NFT** element to its live lockscreen games.

Founded in 2015, Gambit Sports owns and operates popular **fantasy sports gaming platform** NostraGamus. The company claims to have close to 10 million registered users.

TD

"We have already started seeing great traction for live gaming. With Glance and Gambit's combined strengths and our belief that there is a game for every person. We envision doubling the number of monthly active gamers on Glance Games in the next year," Yashashvi Takallapalli, Co-Founder and CEO, Gambit Sports said in a statement.

Glance intends to use the gaming techniques from Gambit Sports and launch engaging live **gaming** experiences including tournaments, game shows, game streaming, and multiplayer games on lockscreen, that will later feature NFTs.

NFTs, or non-fungible tokens, are digital collectibles built on blockchain. They could be inspired from game characters and cartoons among other items.

NFT-based gaming is expanding relevant communities, especially among the Gen-Z population. That is the target group Glance is aiming to capture.

"Gen-Z spends more time on gaming than on any other activity online Giving users live, connected, interactive gaming experiences on the lockscreen is key to Glance's vision of building the world's largest live Internet platform," noted Piyush Shah, Co-Founder of InMobi Group and President and COO of Glance.

The lockscreen-maker plans to add **play-to-earn** feature to its NFT-based games to rope in more gamers to use its services.

"We also aim to launch creator-led NFTs for live gaming which will generate unique play-to-earn and play-to-own possibilities for the entire gaming ecosystem," Shah added.

After raising a funding of \$200 million (roughly Rs. 1,523 crore) from Jio, Glance will be integrating its lockscreens with **Jio handsets** in the coming months.

A **DappRadar report** had recently said that a whopping 804,000 unique active players connected to blockchain-based games in July 2021.

The blockchain gaming industry grew by 765 percent in 2021, a **Forbes report** claimed in January this year.

Earlier this week, PUBG developer [Krafton](#) struck a deal with Solana Labs, stirring up rumours about its potential plans to add crypto and NFT elements to its games. [Click here to view video](#) Will the 2022 iPhone SE sink or swim? We discuss this on [Orbital](#), the Gadgets 360 podcast. Orbital is available on [Spotify](#), [Gaana](#), [JioSaavn](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Amazon Music](#) and wherever you get your podcasts.

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CO mkhj : InMobi Pte. Ltd. | rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN igamsof : Games Software | icellph : Cell/Mobile/Smart Phones | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software | i3302021 : Applications Software | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | i34411 : Mobile Communications Devices | i3454 : Personal Electronics | icnp : Consumer Goods | icomp : Computing | ielec : Consumer Electronics | ihandaps : Handheld Electronic Devices | ilgood : Leisure/Travel Goods | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | imobsoft : Mobile Applications Software

NS c181 : Acquisitions/Mergers/Shareholdings | cacqu : Acquisitions/Mergers | gptech : Personal Technology | c18 : Ownership Changes | cactio : Corporate Actions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | glife : Living/Lifestyle | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE india : India | banga : Bengaluru | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | karna : Karnataka | sasiaz : Southern Asia

IPD NFTs

PUB NDTV Convergence Ltd

AN Document NDTVIN0020220326ei3p0000j

SE Tech
HD **Airtel 5G to roll out in India soon after the spectrum auction**
BY Hans News Service
WC 418 words
PD 25 March 2022
SN The Hans India
SC HANIND
LA English
CY Copyright 2022. Hyderabad Media House Limited
LP

Airtel's 5G services will be rolled out shortly after the government concludes the spectrum auction, an executive said in an interview on the sidelines of a physical event on Thursday where the telecommunications company demonstrated its next-generation network. The New Delhi-based telecom operator is moving to take on Reliance Jio, the country's largest telecom company, setting the stage for its 5G launches. He demonstrated the Airtel **5G network** at its Network Experience Center in Manesar, Gurugram, showcasing an immersive video experience using the 3500 MHz band test spectrum allocated by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

CTO Randeep Sekhon suggested in an interview with 91Mobiles that Airtel will launch its 5G services in the country within 2-3 months after the spectrum auction.

TD

"While this is not a race, we believe Airtel is very ready to launch 5G after the spectrum auction," he said, as quoted by the website.

Sekhon also underlined that 5G plans in the country are expected to be similar to 4G tariffs.

Airtel demonstrated the potential of its 5G services by recreating cricketer Kapil Dev's 175-innings stadium experience at the 1983 Cricket World Cup. He realized the experience by playing a 4K video of the match simultaneously for 50 concurrent users, available on a network that offers an average speed of 200 Mbps and a latency of around 20 milliseconds.

The operator also displayed a 5G-powered hologram of the cricketer to demonstrate its next-generation network running on an Ericsson 5G radio in non-autonomous (NSA) and autonomous (SA) modes on 3500 band test spectrum. MHz

In January last year, Airtel demonstrated its 5G network live in Hyderabad. Also, it launched its 5G test network on Gurugram to offer a speed of more than 1 Gbps in the testing phase in June.

Airtel also partnered with Qualcomm last year to bolster its 5G network rollout in the country.

Like Airtel, last year Jio also announced that it is testing its 5G network with speeds of up to 1 Gbps. Jio has a list of partners on board, including Google, Intel, and Qualcomm.

That said, the government has yet to announce the exact dates for its 5G-focused spectrum auction. However, it is expected to take place sometime in May, and it is safe to speculate that carriers should be able to start their 5G services in India from August.

[Click to view image](#)

CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | ddtmm : India Department of Telecommunications | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd
IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | idct : Digital Cellular Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | itech : Technology | iwrssl : Wireless Area Network Technology

NS c22 : New Products/Services | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE delhi : Delhi | india : India | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia

IPD Tech

PUB Hyderabad Media House Limited

AN Document HANIND0020220325ei3p0005k

SE Telecom
HD **Airtel 5G to Roll Out Soon After Spectrum Auction Concludes, Plans Could Be Similar to 4G Tariffs: Report**
BY Jagmeet Singh
WC 464 words
PD 25 March 2022
ET 07:21
SN NDTV
SC NDTVIN
LA English
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LP

Airtel 5G services will be rolled out soon after the government concludes spectrum auction, an executive said in an interview on the sidelines of a physical event on Thursday where the telco demonstrated its next-generation network. The New Delhi-based telecom operator is on a move to take on Reliance Jio — the largest telco in the country — by setting up the stage for its 5G rollouts. It conducted a demonstration of the Airtel **5G network** at its Network Experience Centre in Manesar, Gurugram, by showcasing an immersive video experience using the 3,500MHz band test spectrum allotted by the Department of Telecom (DoT).

TD

CTO Randeep Sekhon [suggested](#) in an interview with 91Mobiles that [Airtel](#) will launch its [5G](#) services in the country within 2–3 months of the spectrum auction.

"While this is not a race, we believe Airtel is very ready to launch 5G after the spectrum auction," he said, as quoted by the website.

Sekhon also underlined that 5G plans in the country are expected to be similar to 4G tariffs.

Airtel demonstrated the potential of its 5G services by recreating the stadium experience of cricketer Kapil Dev's 175-run innings at the 1983 Cricket World Cup. It conducted the experience by playing a 4K video of the match simultaneously for 50 concurrent users, available on a network delivering 200Mbps of average speed and a latency of under around 20 milliseconds.

The operator also showcased a 5G-powered hologram of the cricketer to demonstrate its next-generation network that was running on an [Ericsson](#) 5G Radio in non-standalone (NSA) and standalone (SA) modes over 3,500MHz band test spectrum.

In January last year, Airtel [demonstrated its 5G network live](#) in Hyderabad. It additionally kicked off its [5G trial network](#) in Gurugram to offer over 1Gbps speed in the testing phase in June.

Airtel also [tied up with Qualcomm](#) last year to bolster its 5G network rollout in the country.

Similar to Airtel, [Jio](#) also last year [announced](#) that it is testing its 5G network with up to 1Gbps speed. Jio has a list of partners on board, including [Google](#), [Intel](#), and [Qualcomm](#).

That said, the government has not yet announced exact dates of its 5G-focussed spectrum auction. However, it is expected to take place [sometime in May](#), and it's safe to speculate that the operators should be able to kick off their 5G services in India starting August. Why is 5G taking so long? We discuss this on [Orbital](#), the Gadgets 360 podcast. [Orbital](#) is available on [Spotify](#), [Gaana](#), [JioSaavn](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Amazon Music](#) and wherever you get your podcasts.

[Click here to view video](#)

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IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | idct : Digital Cellular Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | itech : Technology | iwrssl : Wireless Area Network Technology

NS c22 : New Products/Services | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE delhi : Delhi | india : India | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia

IPD Airtel 5G

PUB NDTV Convergence Ltd

AN Document NDTVIN0020220325ei3p0008s

SE **Startups** & Tech
HD 'Diesel Price Rise may Shave Off 100 bps from Telcos' Margins'
BY Kalyan.Parbat@timesgroup.com
WC 387 words
PD 25 March 2022
SN The Economic Times - Kolkata Edition
SC ECTKOL
LA English
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LP

Impact will be felt in June qtr, which was expected to be good due to tariff hikes: analysts

Kolkata: The recent increase in diesel rates for bulk industrial users is likely to inflate the overall network costs of India's top telcos, Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea (Vi), denting operating margins by around 100 basis points (bps) in the June quarter.

TD

One basis point is 0.01%. Payouts toward diesel are a key component of a telco's overall network costs, which are around 2224% of sales. Diesel costs form part of a telco's energy bill that also includes electricity costs (for grid support) and battery costs.

Earlier this week, diesel prices went up by a massive

,

25 per litre for bulk industrial users.

Analysts said the impact of the increase in fuel prices would be manifest in the June quarter that is expected to, otherwise, see decent revenue and operating income growth on the back of recent tariff increases.

"The jump in diesel rates for bulk industrial users will increase overall network costs of telcos and reduce their operating income (Ebitda) growth in the June quarter by around 1-2 percentage points, compared with what they would have reported under normal circumstances had diesel rates not risen," a sector analyst at a leading global brokerage told ET.

Another industry analyst said that "higher telco payouts toward diesel would also negatively impact operating margins in the June quarter by an estimated 50-100 bps." The big three private carriers were earlier estimated to report around 4-5% sequential expansion in revenue and slightly higher Ebitda growth in the April-June quarter, FY23, but those numbers could dip modestly following the fuel price increase. Telecom sector revenues had risen by 4.5% and 4.2% sequentially in the second and third quarters, respectively, of FY22.

Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vi did not respond to ET's queries on the subject.

Analysts, though, said higher diesel rates won't have any impact on current quarter earnings, with telcos estimated to report much higher sequential revenue growth of around 10% and even higher operating income growth, helped by the full beneficial impact of last November's tariff increases.

CO idcell : Vodafone Idea Ltd | rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd
IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services
NS csmlbs : Small/Medium Businesses | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter

RE india : India | kolk : Kolkata | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia | wbeng : West Bengal

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AN Document ECTKOL0020220325ei3p00002

SE Nagpur
HD **NMC keeps 2,000km optical fibre idle, allows digging 400km for pvt network**
BY Anjaya Anparthi
WC 671 words
PD 25 March 2022
SN The Times of India
SC TOI
LA English
CY (c) 2022 The Times of India Group
LP

Nagpur: The Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) has delayed its own plan to give high speed internet and television facility to all houses by making available over 2,000km optical **fibre cable** network across the city. Instead, it has decided to permit Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL) to dig 400km roads to lay optical **fibre** cables, mostly in interior residential areas. The civic body continues to give permission to RJIL even though it has violated norms since 2015. RJIL has submitted applications to lay optical **fibre** cables stretching over 400km at 80 locations, including some concrete roads. Even while accepting RJIL's restoration has been very poor, municipal commissioner Radhakrishnan B told TOI, "Existing network is along major roads and RJIL sought permission in interiors. Our network is overloaded.

TD

State government had approved Urban Mahanet Project in which RJIL will provide high speed internet service free of cost to all government offices, hospitals, schools and other establishments by investing in the infrastructure. We are planning to revise existing policy to ensure proper restoration. We are exploring option of undertaking restoration on our own by charging RJIL or any other agency. Till now, restoration was in the hands of these agencies." Under the Rs520 crore Safe and Smart City Project, NMC's special purpose vehicle Nagpur Smart and Sustainable Development Corporation Limited (NSSCDCL) had laid optical fibre cable over 1,200km with 700 junctions. In 2018, NSSCDCL planned to lay network in interior areas connecting these junctions and give high speed internet and television facilities to all government establishments. Process to give access from 700 junctions to existing cable operators was kicked-off in August 2020, who already have reached each and every house in the city. CEO of NSSCDCL Bhuvaneshwari S said, "Tender process to appoint project management consultant (PMC) has been completed. PMC will come up with various ideas to monetize the network of optical fibre cable and other infrastructure we have within six months, which will also cover past plans." Apart from 1,200km of NMC, RJIL had laid network of over 750km since 2015, of which some is in interior areas. Activist Shehbaz Siddiqui, who had filed a petition for justice to the toddler who died in a pit dug by RJIL, said the company should have been blacklisted after the girl's death in 2015. "NMC records prove RJIL violated norms and faced penalties. Apart from damaging roads and footpaths, RJIL destroyed storm water drains, water pipelines and sewage lines. Still, NMC continues to entertain RJIL. Government appointed NSSCDCL and gave funds to develop and take smart systems to all houses. It is a clear case of supporting capitalism for delaying own project and allowing RJIL to reach to all houses first," he said. A RJIL spokesperson said the company will not comment on this issue. In December last year, RJIL laid around 50km cable to upgrade services to 5G. TOI had highlighted destruction to cement concrete and tar roads, and improper restoration following which a fine of Rs2.25 crore was levied on RJIL. Craters have developed as restoration was not proper. TOI had many times reported about improper restoration of cement concrete roads and footpaths by many agency including RJIL. Many corporators and activists had lodged complaints over delay in restoration, and trenches and pits left open for long posing threat to people as well as animals. BOXIAN* RJIL laid optical fibre cable over 750km in city since 2015* NMC's SPV laid network of 1,200km fibre cable by 2018* SPV planned internal network and high speed internet and TV to all houses* SPV also leased capacity to cable operators, who reached all houses in 2020* Projects delayed and now PMC has been appointed* RJIL sought permission to lay 400km cables to reach all houses* NMC decided to give permission* RJIL had violated norms by not laying cables as per guidelines, and improper restoration

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CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN ioptoel : Optoelectronic Devices | i34531 : Semiconductors | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE india : India | mahara : Maharashtra | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia

PUB Bennett, Coleman & Co., Ltd.

AN Document TOI0000020220325ei3p000gd

SE Telecom
 HD **Vi MiFi Portable 4G Wireless Router for Postpaid Users With 5 Hours Battery Backup Launched in India**
 BY David Delima
 WC 376 words
 PD 24 March 2022
 ET 13:37
 SN NDTV
 SC NDTVIN
 LA English
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LP

Vodafone Idea on Thursday announced the launch of the Vi MiFi portable 4G router for customers on the telecom provider's postpaid plans. The pocket-sized router launched by the telecom operator is claimed to deliver high speed Internet up to 150Mbps. Users can also connect up to 10 Wi-Fi enabled **devices** including smartphones, smart TVs, laptops, tablets and IoT **devices**, according to Vi. The wireless router is equipped with a 2,700mAh battery that is said to offer up to five hours of use on a single charge.

Vi MiFi price in India, availability

TD

Vi MiFi [price](#) in India is set at Rs. 2,000 and the wireless router is available for purchase along with a [Vi](#) postpaid plan. The service will be available for purchase in stores in [60 cities](#) for customers who are subscribed to Vi postpaid plans starting at Rs. 399, according to the telecom operator.

It is worth noting that [Reliance Jio's](#) JioFi JMR540 router is [priced](#) at Rs. 1,999, and the company provides its M2S router for [free](#) on a 'use and return basis' for certain postpaid plans.

Vi MiFi specifications

The newly launched Vi MiFi portable router offers speeds of up to 150Mbps on a 4G connection for customers on a Vi postpaid plan, according to the telecom operator. The wireless router is capable of connecting to up to 10 devices simultaneously. It supports Wi-Fi enabled devices such as smartphones, laptops, smart TVs, tablets, CCTVs, and smart speakers.

The wireless router is designed to work with Vi postpaid connections and creates a personal hotspot for users to connect their devices to. Vi MiFi wireless router packs a 2,700mAh battery that is claimed to offer up to five hours of battery life on the single charge. The portable wireless router comes with a 1 year warranty, according to the telecom operator. [Click here to view video](#) Why is 5G taking so long? We discuss this on [Orbital](#), the Gadgets 360 podcast. Orbital is available on [Spotify](#), [Gaana](#), [JioSaavn](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Amazon Music](#) and wherever you get your podcasts.

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CO idcell : Vodafone Idea Ltd | rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd
 IN iwrssl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i3454 : Personal Electronics | icellph : Cell/Mobile/Smart Phones | i33031 : LAN/WAN Hardware | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | i34411 : Mobile Communications Devices | ibrdbi : Broadband Equipment | ielec : Consumer Electronics | ihandaps : Handheld Electronic Devices | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
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Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia

IPD Vi MiFi

PUB NDTV Convergence Ltd

AN Document NDTVIN0020220325ei3o00007

HD Prime Time Awards 2021: Asian Paints & Madison Media walk away with big honours

BY exchange4media Staff

CR Distributed by Contify.com

WC 275 words

PD 24 March 2022

SN Exchange4Media.com

SC ATEXME

LA English

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LP

Reliance Jio, Wipro Consumer Care, and Motilal Oswal Financial Services among other Gold & Silver winners.

The exchange4media Prime Time Awards is a recognition of the best in TV advertising, and a testament to the lasting impact of television **content** on people's lives. On Thursday, the eighth edition of the awards once again honoured the best who sailed through the difficult times of 2021, holding their heads high.

TD

The event has been co-powered by Colors Marathi.

In the latest edition of the awards, Madison Media walked away with Media Agency of the Year awards, while Asian Paints was felicitated as Advertiser of the Year. Madison Media's work with Asian Paints for the Spotlight of India campaign won multiple plaudits and metals.

Meanwhile, Wipro Consumer Care Private Limited was awarded both Gold and Silver metals in the FMCG category, while Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd. scooped up the Gold for Best Television Advertisement with its Do It Yourself campaign, which was also awarded across several other categories.

Reliance Jio's JioFiber Campaign 2020 got the Gold for Best Use of TV to Create Brand Awareness, and Mindshare's campaign for UltraTech Cement Limited won gold for the Best Use of Influencers/Celebrities on TV.

The night also witnessed Housing.com's 'Yahan Search Khatam Karo' campaign pick up the Gold for e-commerce, and Starcom India walking away with the big honour for its Lenskart campaign. Other big winners included Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited and Disney India who picked up multiple metals across different categories.

CO aspnt : Asian Paints Ltd | motlow : Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd | rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | madadv : Madison Communications Pvt Ltd | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN i8382 : TV Advertising | i838 : Advertising Services | iadv : Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | imark : Marketing | i25 : Chemicals | i2551 : Paints/Coatings | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i831 : Financial Investment Services | ibasicm : Basic Materials/Resources | icnp : Consumer Goods | ifinal : Financial Services | ihmpro : Home Improvement Products | iinv : Investing/Securities

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE india : India | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia

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AN Document ATEXME0020220324ei3o0000o

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

SE	Startups & Tech
HD	Samsung to Tap PLI to Make 4G, 5G Gear
BY	Danish.Khan@timesinternet.in
WC	179 words
PD	24 March 2022
SN	The Economic Times - Delhi Edition
SC	ECTDEL
LA	English
CY	Copyright © 2022. Bennett, Coleman & Co., Ltd.
LP	<p>Will apply for next edition of PLI scheme: sources</p> <p>New Delhi: In a change in stance, Samsung has conveyed to the telecom department about its intention to apply for the next edition of the production-linked incentive (PLI) 2.0 scheme for network equipment to locally manufacture 4G and 5G products.</p>
TD	<p>The Korean telecom gear maker is in talks with Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel for 4G expansion and 5G supply contracts, people familiar with the matter said. "Samsung has made its stance clear to the DoT in recent meetings. During its discussions, Samsung shared a letter with the government that says it will be interested in the phase 2 of the PLI scheme," a person familiar with the matter told ET. In mid-2021, Samsung had decided not to take part in the initial PLI scheme for network equipment, reasoning that setting up a plant for network equipment was not viable at that time in India with just one client, Reliance Jio Infocomm.</p>
CO	rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited rti : Reliance Industries Ltd
IN	i7902 : Telecommunication Services
NS	csmlbs : Small/Medium Businesses ccat : Corporate/Industrial News ncat : Content Types nfact : Factiva Filters nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter
RE	delhi : Delhi asiaz : Asia bric : BRICS Countries devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries dvpcz : Developing Economies india : India indsubz : Indian Subcontinent sasiaz : Southern Asia
PUB	Bennett, Coleman & Co., Ltd.
AN	Document ECTDEL0020220324ei3o00014

HD Vedantu appoints Nikhil Rungta as chief growth officer

BY FE Online

WC 265 words

PD 22 March 2022

SN Financial Express Online

SC FIEXON

LA English

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LP

Ed-tech **platform** Vedantu has announced the appointment of Nikhil Rungta as its chief growth officer. Rungta will report to Vamsi Krishna, CEO and co-founder, Vedantu. In his new role, he will be responsible for scaling and driving growth across all business units and his mandate will include brand, social and digital marketing, strategic partnerships, PR and YouTube.

"Vedantu is a student-centric brand that aims to provide education to every student by encouraging them to achieve their dreams. I look forward to taking Vedantu to the next level of growth by building scalable solutions and improving learning outcomes for every child across," Rungta said on his appointment.

TD

In a career spanning over 20 years, Rungta has worked with various global organisations such as Google, Intuit, Yahoo, Reliance Jio, Housing.com and Yatra.com. He is a BSc graduate from Hindu College, Delhi University and has done Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (PGDBA) in Marketing with International Business..

"As we look towards creating impact at scale, Nikhil's extensive background and skills will spearhead growth for our various business verticals. Nikhil is an industry veteran and adept at consumer tech and start-up space solving complex and real time business challenges. We believe his leadership background is the kind of expertise we need in Vedantu to succeed in all spheres," Krishna said.

Read Also: IIT Madras partners with TCS to launch M Tech in Industrial AI

[Rungta has previously worked with organisations like Google, Intuit, Yahoo, Reliance Jio, Housing.com and Yatra.com.](#)

CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | undlh : University of Delhi | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN i8395464 : Internet Search Engines | i8385 : Digital Marketing | iadv : Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | iint : Online Service Providers | imark : Marketing | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services

NS c411 : Management Moves | c41 : Management | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

PUB Indian Express Group

AN Document FIEXON0020220323ei3m0000j



HD Vedantu ropes in Nikhil Rungta as Chief Growth Officer

BY Afaqs, News Bureau

CR Distributed by Contify.com

WC 349 words

PD 22 March 2022

SN afaqs!

SC AFAQIN

LA English

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He will be responsible for scaling and driving growth across all business units and will directly report to Vamsi Krishna, CEO & Co-Founder.

Vedantu, the online learning platform has announced the appointment of Nikhil Rungta as Chief Growth Officer. Nikhil will be responsible for scaling and driving growth across all business units, directly reporting to Vamsi Krishna, CEO & Co-Founder. His mandate will include brand, social and digital marketing, strategic partnerships, PR and YouTube. Nikhil will also play a critical role in strengthening the Vedantu brand and help in making it one of India's most preferred online education companies amongst students, parents, and teachers.

TD

Nikhil is a seasoned leader with strong management experience across consumer internet, technology, and SaaS organizations. Nikhil has held leadership roles at Google, Intuit, Yahoo, Reliance Jio, Housing.com and Yatra.com. In a career spanning over 20 years, Nikhil has successfully scaled businesses, built marquee brands, and led high performance teams, in both turnaround and high-growth situations. Nikhil's robust experience across global companies and start-ups will help accelerate growth at Vedantu.

Vamsi Krishna, CEO & Co-Founder, Vedantu said, "As we look towards creating impact at scale, Nikhil's extensive background and skills will spearhead growth for our various business verticals. Nikhil is an industry veteran and adept at consumer tech & start-up space solving complex and real time business challenges. We believe his high leadership background is the kind of expertise we need in Vedantu to succeed in all spheres. I welcome Nikhil to team Vedantu and look forward to work with him."

On this new beginning, Nikhil Rungta, chief growth officer, Vedantu said, "Vedantu is a student-centric brand that aims to provide education to every student by encouraging them to achieve their dreams. I am delighted to embark on a new journey in the EdTech sector and look forward to taking Vedantu to the next level of growth by building scalable solutions and improving learning outcomes for every child across the country."

CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN ielear : E-learning/Educational Technology | i983 : Educational Services | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services

NS c411 : Management Moves | cdbus : Digitalization | c41 : Management | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE india : India | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia

PUB Banyan Netfaqs Pvt. Ltd.

AN Document AFAQIN0020220323ei3m0000d

HD Now Disney hotstar+ free with Jio - check here

BY Monitor News Desk

WC 547 words

PD 22 March 2022

SN Kashmir Monitor

SC HTKASM

LA English

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Srinagar, March 22 -- With some of their prepaid and postpaid contracts, major telecom providers such as Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone-idea (Vi) provide free access to many OTT services. Select prepaid plans from Jio, Airtel, and Vi provide free access to a variety of streaming sites, including Disney+ Hotstar, Amazon Prime Video, Netflix, and others. Today, we'll take a look at Reliance Jio's prepaid plans that include free Disney+ Hotstar access.

In India, Disney+ Hotstar has three plans: Super, Premium (monthly), and Premium (yearly) (yearly). The monthly plan costs Rs 899 and the annual plan costs Rs 1499. The Premium monthly plan costs Rs 299 per month. You'll need to go to the official Disney+ Hotstar website to purchase these plans. If you don't want to pay for a plan, go with a prepaid option that gives you free access to the streaming platform.

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Jio plans with complimentary Disney+ Hotstar are shown below.

The Rs 3119 prepaid plan includes a one-year subscription to Disney+ Hotstar, unlimited talking, 740GB of data with a 2GB daily data limit, 100 SMS per day, and free access to the Jio suite of applications. This plan has a 365-day validity period. The Rs 4199 prepaid package includes a one-year subscription to Disney+ Hotstar, unlimited calling, a total of 1095GB data with a daily data restriction of 3GB, 100 SMS per day, and free access to the Jio suite of applications. This plan has a 365-day validity period. The Rs 1499 prepaid package includes a one-year subscription to Disney+ Hotstar, unlimited calling, 168GB of data with a 2GB daily data restriction, 100 SMS per day, and free access to the Jio suite of applications. This plan has an 84-day validity period. The Rs 499 prepaid package includes a one-year subscription to Disney+ Hotstar, unlimited calling, 56GB of data with a 2GB daily data restriction, 100 SMS per day, and free access to the Jio suite of applications. This plan has a 28-day validity period. The Rs 601 prepaid package includes a one-year subscription to Disney+ Hotstar, unlimited talking, 90GB of data with a 3GB daily data restriction, 100 SMS per day, and free access to the Jio suite of applications. This plan has a 28-day validity period. A total of 6GB of 4G data is included in the plan. The Rs 799 prepaid package includes a one-year subscription to Disney+ Hotstar, unlimited calling, 112GB of data with a 2GB daily data restriction, 100 SMS per day, and free access to the Jio suite of applications. This plan has a 56-day validity period. The Rs 659 prepaid plan includes a one-year subscription to Disney+ Hotstar, 84GB of data with a 1.5GB daily usage limit, and free access to the Jio suite of apps. This plan has a 56-day validity period. This package does not include calling or texting.

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CT For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at contentservices@htlive.com

CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services

RE india : India | kash : Kashmir | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia

PUB The Kashmir Monitor

AN Document HTKASM0020220322ei3m000b7

HD Jio prepaid plans with free Disney+ Hotstar subscription: Here's the full list

WC 558 words

PD 21 March 2022

SN India Today Online

SC INTYON

LA English

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Major telecom operators like Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone-idea (Vi) offer free access to several **OTT** platforms with some of its prepaid as well as postpaid plans. From Disney+ Hotstar to Amazon Prime Video to Netflix and more, select prepaid plans from Jio, Airtel, and Vi bring free access to a bunch of streaming platforms. Today, let's take a quick look at prepaid plans from Reliance Jio that offer free access to Disney+ Hotstar.

In India, Disney+ Hotstar offers three plans, categorised as Super, Premium (monthly), and Premium (yearly). The base plan starts at Rs 899 and goes up to Rs 1499 for the annual plan. The Premium monthly plan is priced at Rs 299. To buy these plans, you will need to head over to the official [Disney+ Hotstar](#) website. If you are not willing to purchase a plan, opt for a prepaid plan that offers free access to the streaming **platform**.

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List of Jio plans with free Disney+ Hotstar

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- Rs 4199 prepaid plan offers free Disney+ Hotstar subscription plan for a year, unlimited calling benefits, total of 1095GB data with 3GB daily data limit, 100 SMS per day and free access to Jio suite of apps. This plan comes with 365 days validity.

- Rs 1499 prepaid plan offers free Disney+ Hotstar subscription plan for a year, unlimited calling benefits, total of 168GB data with 2GB daily data limit, 100 SMS per day and free access to Jio suite of apps. This plan comes with 84 days validity.

- Rs 499 prepaid plan offers free Disney+ Hotstar subscription plan for a year, unlimited calling benefits, total of 56GB data with 2GB daily data limit, 100 SMS per day and free access to Jio suite of apps. This plan comes with 28 days validity.

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IN imsoft : Streaming Services | idistr : Media Content Distribution | iint : Online Service Providers | imed : Media/Entertainment | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services

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HD Jio prepaid plans with free Disney+ Hotstar access for one-year: Here's the full list

WC 561 words

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LA English

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Major telecom operators like Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone-idea (Vi) offer free access to several **OTT** platforms with some of its prepaid as well as postpaid plans. From Disney+ Hotstar to Amazon Prime Video to Netflix and more, select prepaid plans from Jio, Airtel, and Vi bring free access to a bunch of streaming platforms. Today, let's take a quick look at prepaid plans from Reliance Jio that offer free access to Disney+ Hotstar.

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SE India Business
HD **FDI trebles to \$6.8bn in Jan, clocks \$45bn in April-Jan**
WC 156 words
PD 20 March 2022
SN The Times of India
SC TOI
LA English
CY (c) 2022 The Times of India Group
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NEW DELHI: India's foreign direct **investment** (FDI) more than trebled in January to \$6.8 billion, helping reduce the pace of decline from last year. Data released by RBI on Thursday pegged FDI inflows during April-January this year at \$45 billion, compared to \$51.1 billion in the corresponding period last year, translating into a decline of a little under 12%. The numbers also showed that FDI out of India increased 63% to \$13.5 billion, resulting in a sharper decline in net FDI. Net overseas direct **investment** is estimated to have declined 26.4% to \$31.5 billion. Government sources said that FDI inflows have been healthy this year but saw a massive increase last year due to mega deals stitched by Reliance Jio, which saw investments from the likes of Facebook and Google.

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IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services
NS efdi : Foreign Direct Investment | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | e51 : Trade/External Payments | e511 : Capital Movements/Invisible Trade | ecat : Economic News
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AN Document TOI0000020220319ei3j0004o

SE Times Business
HD **FDI trebles to \$6.8bn in Jan, clocks \$45bn in April-Jan**
BY TIMES NEWS NETWORK
WC 154 words
PD 19 March 2022
SN The Times of India - Mumbai Edition
SC TOIMUM
LA English
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HD **FDI trebles to \$6.8bn in Jan, clocks \$45bn in April-Jan**
BY TIMES NEWS NETWORK
WC 237 words
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SN The Times of India - Delhi Edition
SC TOIDEL
LA English
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Government sources said FDI inflows have been healthy this year but saw a massive increase last year due to mega deals stitched by Reliance Jio, which saw investments from the likes of Facebook and Google. On a gross basis, which includes disinvestment, FDI inflows are estimated to have declined by over 4% to \$69.7 billion. This is because, during April-January this year, repatriations or disinvestment went up nearly 13% to \$24.6 billion, RBI data showed.

The government has been seeking FDI flows into several sectors, particularly infrastructure. Inflows are expected to pick up only after the investment cycle revives, although there is expectation that the Rs 2 lakh crore PLI scheme will see large FDI flows.

CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd
IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services
NS efdi : Foreign Direct Investment | e51 : Trade/External Payments | e511 : Capital Movements/Invisible Trade | ecat : Economic News
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SE Times Business
HD FDI trebles in Jan at \$6.8bn, clocks \$45bn in April-Jan
BY TIMES NEWS NETWORK
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LA English
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HD Vodafone Idea ties up with Nazara Tech for online gaming foray

BY Kiran Rathee

WC 524 words

PD 15 March 2022

SN Financial Express

SC AWFIE

LA English

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Unable to match the capex spends of rivals Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, loss-making Vodafone Idea is betting on partnerships to increase its average revenue per user (Arpu). The company, which has tie-ups with several leading over-the-top (OTT) platforms, on Monday marked its foray into the online gaming market through a partnership with Nazara Technologies.

Gaming is turning out to be a strong use case for mobile operators as it has high growth potential and can be monetised easily. As per estimates, there are around 433 million mobile gamers in the country and the number is expected to cross 650 million by 2025.

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Reliance already has a JioGames platform, open for both Jio and non-Jio users. Bharti Airtel is also trying to tap the gaming opportunity. Airtel had last year demonstrated a cloud-gaming session in a 5G environment.

Globally, in terms of app spends, gaming accounted for 68% of consumer spending in mobile apps in 2021. Gaming is quite popular for Indian smartphone users, accounting for 15% of smartphone time.

Vodafone Idea's entry into gaming will allow its customers to access over 1,200 titles across 10 genres. The company is offering Vi games in three categories – free, gold pass and platinum. The gold pass will offer 30 games for Rs 50 (postpaid) and Rs 56 (prepaid) with a validity of 30 days, while platinum games will be available on pay per download for Rs 25 for postpaid and Rs 26 for prepaid. Apart from this, around 250 free games will be available on the platform.

"We are seeing a significant uptake of gaming consumption in India with more than 95% of gaming enthusiasts using the mobile device to enjoy a wide variety of content. We see gaming as a major focus area of our digital content strategy and we intend to build a comprehensive play encompassing most facets of gaming," Avneesh Khosla, chief marketing officer of Vodafone Idea, said.

The company said gaming fits well in its strategic roadmap to scale up proportion of high Arpu customers, drive digital adoption and monetisation. The company, however, did not share what kind of jump in Arpu it is expecting through gaming.

Vodafone Idea has the lowest Arpu of Rs 115 among the mobile operators. In terms of capex spends, Vodafone Idea invested around Rs 3,290 crore during the nine months of the current fiscal compared with Rs 11,980 crore for Airtel. Though the company has announced that its promoters would infuse Rs 4,500 crore into the company, analysts feel the amount is minuscule when compared with the requirements of the company. Further, Vodafone Idea would also find it difficult to reverse the loss of subscribers as it will remain behind Jio and Airtel in terms of pan-India network capabilities and service offerings like providing subsidised devices. Both Airtel and Jio are giving lucrative offers to customers on devices.

[Gaming is turning out to be a strong use case for mobile operators as it has high growth potential and can be monetised easily. \(File\)](#)

CO idcell : Vodafone Idea Ltd | nzrtch : Nazara Technologies Limited | rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | ratel : Vodafone Group Plc | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software |

i3302021 : Applications Software | icnp : Consumer Goods | icomp : Computing | igamsof : Games Software | ilgood : Leisure/Travel Goods | itech : Technology

NS ccapex : Capital Expenditure | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | c11 : Corporate Strategy/Planning | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

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PUB Indian Express Group

AN Document AIWFIE0020220315ei3f00009

HD Telcos want govt to ensure easier pay terms for 5G spectrum

BY CT Bureau

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WC 662 words

PD 14 March 2022

SN Communications Today

SC ATCOMT

LA English

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Telecom sector leaders are counting on the regulator and the government to ensure easier **payment** terms for 5G spectrum in the upcoming auctions.

They have also underlined the criticality of fast-track fiberisation of tower networks as India braces to roll out 5G later this year.

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"The industry is expecting easier payment terms such that financial stress is neither aggravated nor does it nullify the liquidity support provided by the government with the (recent) reforms package," Vodafone Idea managing director Ravinder Takkar said.

Last week, Vi's board cleared a plan to raise Rs 4,500 crore from promoters Vodafone UK and India's Aditya Birla Group via a preferential allotment and an extra Rs 10,000 crore from external investors, to take on Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel and participate in the upcoming 5G spectrum auction.

Bharti Enterprises vice chairman Akhil Gupta called for a comprehensive augmentation of the country's optic fibre resources to enable the targeted 80-85% fiberisation of towers required for 5G networks to handle a likely massive surge in data traffic.

The government has been pushing the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to send its 5G spectrum pricing recommendations by the end of this month so that it can hold the auction in May. It wants initial 5G rollouts by August 15.

Takkar said India's upcoming 5G rollouts are happening "at the right time" as the market and overall ecosystem is maturing. He, however, reiterated the industry's demand for adequate supply of 5G airwaves at affordable rates in the upcoming sale.

He said that "it's imperative each operator gets adequate spectrum at a significantly lower pricing than present levels".

The recent 5G trials, he said, had also proven that higher data speeds, low latency and reliability of the next-generation mobile broadband technology have the potential to hugely boost performance of businesses, revolutionise customer experience, change consumer lifestyles and positively impact rural Indians.

Bharti's Gupta urged the government to take "policy decisions quickly and (issue) necessary guidelines before it's too late" as 5G infrastructure needs would be of a very different magnitude than 4G.

"5G will need hundreds of thousands of small cells due to the nature of spectrum used, and these small cells will have to be practically 100% on fibre from Day 1, which is why there will have to be a big augmentation of inter-state, intra-state and intra-city optic fibre networks," Gupta said at the event.

The government has earmarked a mix of mid-band airwaves in the 3.3-3.67 Ghz range, millimetre waves (26/28 Ghz) and key sub-Ghz bands such as 600 Mhz and 700 Mhz for 5G services.

The 5G ecosystem in India had become "broader and deeper as technology companies, especially startups and SMEs are working hard to develop indigenous 5G technologies and services," said AK

Tiwari, member, Digital Communications Commission (DCC), the highest decision-making body in the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

"The DoT-funded 5G testbed is almost ready to offer 5G testing services for technology and use-case companies...it will be accessible to all at an affordable cost, mainly for startups and SMEs," Tiwari said.

Vi's Takkar said that "startups would have a significant play in the whole 5G ecosystem."

Vi is working with a host of innovative startups to build propositions for Industry 4.0, smart cities and smart citizens alike, he added.

Tata Consultancy Services' chief operating officer NG Subramaniam said there was a need to "encourage and steer investments in R&D across the various dimensions of networks, radios, antennae, computers, storage systems and experiential applications".

He said "an aligned vision for the future of 5G and 6G technologies" in terms of outcomes with cross coverage, capacity, experience, trust and security should be the top priority.

CO aditbg : Aditya Birla Group | idcell : Vodafone Idea Ltd | ratel : Vodafone Group Plc | rjiol : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN idct : Digital Cellular Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | iwrssl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i8396 : Diversified Holding Companies | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services

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SE Companies
HD **Telcos Seek Easier Pay Terms in 5G Auctions**
BY Our Bureau
WC 678 words
PD 12 March 2022
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Want adequate supply of 5G airwaves at affordable rates in the auctions

New Delhi: Telecom sector leaders are counting on the regulator and the government to ensure easier **payment** terms for 5G spectrum in the upcoming auctions.

TD

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Last week, Vi's board cleared a plan to raise `4,500 crore from promoters Vodafone UK and India's Aditya Birla Group via a preferential allotment and an extra `10,000 crore from external investors, to take on Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel and participate in the upcoming 5G spectrum auction.

Bharti Enterprises vice chairman Akhil Gupta called for a comprehensive augmentation of the country's optic fibre resources to enable the targeted 80-85% fiberisation of towers required for 5G networks to handle a likely massive surge in data traffic.

The government has been pushing the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) to send its 5G spectrum pricing recommendations by the end of this month so that it can hold the auction in May. It wants initial 5G rollouts by August 15.

Takkar said India's upcoming 5G rollouts are happening "at the right time" as the market and overall ecosystem is maturing. He, however, reiterated the industry's demand for adequate supply of 5G airwaves at affordable rates in the upcoming sale.

He said that "it's imperative each operator gets adequate spectrum at a significantly lower pricing than present levels".

The recent 5G trials, he said, had also proven that higher data speeds, low latency and reliability of the next-generation mobile broadband technology have the potential to hugely boost performance of businesses, revolutionise customer experience, change consumer lifestyles and positively impact rural Indians.

Bharti's Gupta urged the government to take "policy decisions quickly and (issue) necessary guidelines before it's too late" as 5G infrastructure needs would be of a very different magnitude than 4G.

"5G will need hundreds of thousands of small cells due to the nature of spectrum used, and these small cells will have to be practically 100% on fibre from Day 1, which is why there will have to be a big augmentation of interstate, intra-state and intra-city optic fibre networks," Gupta said at the event.

The government has earmarked a mix of mid-band airwaves in the 3.3-3.67 Ghz range, millimetre waves (26/ 28 Ghz) and key sub-Ghz bands such as 600 Mhz and 700 Mhz for 5G services.

The 5G ecosystem in India had become "broader and deeper as technology companies, especially startups and SMEs are working hard to develop indigenous 5G technologies and services," said AK Tiwari, member, Digital Communications Commission (DCC), the highest decision-making body in the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

"The DoT-funded 5G testbed is almost ready to offer 5G testing services for technology and use-case companies...it will be accessible to all at an affordable cost, mainly for startups and SMEs," Tiwari said.

Vi's Takkar said that "startups would have a significant play in the whole 5G ecosystem."

Vi is working with a host of innovative startups to build propositions for Industry 4.0, smart cities and smart citizens alike, he added.

Tata Consultancy Services' chief operating officer NG Subramaniam said there was a need to "encourage and steer investments in R&D across the various dimensions of networks, radios, antennae, computers, storage systems and experiential applications".

He said "an aligned vision for the future of 5G and 6G technologies" in terms of outcomes with cross coverage, capacity, experience, trust and security should be the top priority.

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SE VARIETY
HD **NIXI asks TRAI to mandate telcos to join internet exchanges**

WC 462 words

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LA English

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Mumbai, March 11 VARIETY

The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has written to TRAI asking that both telecom service providers and internet service providers mandatorily connect to at least one internet exchange point. This comes after the regulator noted that while a wide distribution of internet exchange points (IXPs) is needed for the entire internet **ecosystem** and to encourage broadband penetration in India, the proliferation of IXPs remains poor.

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However, telecom operators Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio disagreed with NIXI, stating that telecom service providers (TSPs) and internet service providers (ISPs) should be given the freedom to choose which IXP to join.

Private internet exchange ExtremeIX said that while it is integral for TSPs to connect with IXPs, instead of a mandate, the industry must understand why TSPs choose not to join internet exchanges. Once the issues are rectified, TSPs would naturally be induced to join.

TRAI, in a consultation paper, noted that service providers in India prefer to establish their peering facilities at competing exchanges, or within ISPs, against the national internet exchange NIXI. As a result of this, NIXI carries less data traffic than its global counterparts which are an integral part of their respective internet infrastructure. For the internet exchange ecosystem overall, the regulator noted that proliferation of IXPs still remains low, and concentrated in specific cities.

Consequently NIXI has asked the regulator that TSPs/ISPs be mandated to interconnect to at least one IXP in an LSA (link-state advertisement).

"Peering with IXPs is expected to reduce connectivity charges and latency. IXPs also develop an internet ecosystem, thereby increasing the digital economy."

Telcos oppose move

Telecom operators, on the other hand, remain unanimous in their argument that they should not be mandated to connect to internet exchanges.

"Interconnect choice should be given to TSPs/ISPs. While doing so, they will have flexibility to select IXP based on traffic volumes and technical and commercial factors, as well as enhancing consumer experience. Mandating interconnection at LSA level will bring in inherent inefficiencies into the ecosystem," said Vodafone Idea

Bharti Airtel chimed in with, "We believe that there should not be any mandate to connect at exchange as it is a decision of ISP how it wants to peer with other ISPs. Presently, the market has grown substantially on its own; therefore, we see no reason for any mandate on interconnecting at exchanges."

It said that peering decisions should be driven as per operational requirements.

"While IXPs should allow non-discriminatory access to all ISPs and other players, it should also be left to ISPs to decide which IXPs they intend to join. This will create healthy competition between IXPs and allow growth of efficient IXPs," said Jio.

CO idcell : Vodafone Idea Ltd | rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | trauth : Telecom Regulatory Authority of India | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | iint : Online Service Providers | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

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HD **Telcos seek easier pay terms in 5G auctions**
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New Delhi: Telecom sector leaders are counting on the regulator and the government to ensure easier **payment** terms for 5G spectrum in the upcoming auctions. They have also underlined the criticality of fast-track fiberisation of tower networks as India braces to roll out 5G later this year. "The industry is expecting easier **payment** terms such that financial stress is neither aggravated nor does it nullify the liquidity support provided by the government with the (recent) reforms package," Vodafone Idea managing director Ravinder Takkar said on the second day of ET Telecom's 5G Congress 2022. Last week, Vi's board cleared a plan to raise 4,500 crore from promoters Vodafone UK and India's Aditya Birla Group via a preferential allotment and an extra 10,000 crore from external investors, to take on Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel and participate in the upcoming 5G spectrum auction. Bharti Enterprises vice chairman Akhil Gupta called for a comprehensive augmentation of the country's optic **fibre**

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resources to enable the targeted 80-85% fiberisation of towers required for 5G networks to handle a likely massive surge in data traffic. The government has been pushing the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) to send its 5G spectrum pricing recommendations by the end of this month so that it can hold the auction in May. It wants initial 5G rollouts by August 15. Takkar said India's upcoming 5G rollouts are happening "at the right time" as the market and overall ecosystem is maturing. He, however, reiterated the industry's demand for adequate supply of 5G airwaves at affordable rates in the upcoming sale. He said that "it's imperative each operator gets adequate spectrum at a significantly lower pricing than present levels". The recent 5G trials, he said, had also proven that higher data speeds, low latency and reliability of the next-generation mobile broadband technology have the potential to hugely boost performance of businesses, revolutionise customer experience, change consumer lifestyles and positively impact rural Indians. Bharti's Gupta urged the government to take "policy decisions quickly and (issue) necessary guidelines before it's too late" as 5G infrastructure needs would be of a very different magnitude than 4G. "5G will need hundreds of thousands of small cells due to the nature of spectrum used, and these small cells will have to be practically 100% on fibre from Day 1, which is why there will have to be a big augmentation of inter-state, intra-state and intra-city optic fibre networks," Gupta said at the event. The government has earmarked a mix of mid-band airwaves in the 3.3-3.67 Ghz range, millimetre waves (26/28 Ghz) and key sub-Ghz bands such as 600 Mhz and 700 Mhz for 5G services. The 5G ecosystem in India had become "broader and deeper as technology companies, especially startups and SMEs are working hard to develop indigenous 5G technologies and services," said AK Tiwari, member, Digital Communications Commission (DCC), the highest decision-making body in the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). "The DoT-funded 5G testbed is almost ready to offer 5G testing services for technology and use-case companies...it will be accessible to all at an affordable cost, mainly for startups and SMEs," Tiwari said. Vi's Takkar said that "startups would have a significant play in the whole 5G ecosystem." Vi is working with a host of innovative startups to build propositions for Industry 4.0, smart cities and smart citizens alike, he added. Tata Consultancy Services' chief operating officer NG Subramaniam said there was a need to "encourage and steer investments in R&D across the various dimensions of networks, radios, antennae, computers, storage systems and experiential applications". He said "an aligned vision for the future of 5G and 6G technologies" in terms of outcomes with cross coverage, capacity, experience, trust and security should be the top priority.

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SE Info-tech
HD **NIXI asks TRAI to mandate telcos to join any internet exchange**
BY Ayushi Kar
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The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has written to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, asking that both telecom service providers and internet service providers mandatorily connect to at least one internet exchange point. This comes after the regulator noted that while a wide distribution of internet exchange points (IXPs) is needed for the entire internet **ecosystem** and to encourage broadband penetration in India, the proliferation of IXPs remains poor.

However, telecom operators Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio disagreed with NIXI, stating that telecom service providers (TSPs) and internet service providers (ISPs) should be given the freedom to choose which IXP to join, and must do so on their own accord.

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Private internet exchange ExtremeIX said that while it is integral for TSPs to connect with IXPs, instead of a mandate, the industry must understand why TSPs choose not to join internet exchanges. Once the issues are rectified, TSPs would naturally be induced to join.

Low proliferation of IXPs

Unlike the rest of the globe, where internet exchanges are an integral part of the internet infrastructure, telecom operators in India continue to not be reliant on internet exchanges such as NIXI, ExtremeIX and DEC-IX. In its consultation paper, Regulatory Framework for Promoting Data Economy Through Establishment of Data Centres, Content Delivery Networks, and Interconnect Exchanges in India, TRAI noted that especially in the case of India's national internet exchange NIXI, there has been resistance amongst service providers against joining the exchange, preferring instead to establish their peering facilities at competing exchanges, or within ISPs. As a result of this, NIXI carries less data traffic than its global counterparts. For the internet exchange ecosystem overall, the regulator noted that proliferation of IXPs still remains low, and concentrated in specific cities.

Consequently NIXI has asked the regulator that TSPs/ISPs be mandated to interconnect to at least one IXP in an LSA (link-state advertisement).

"Peering with IXPs is expected to reduce connectivity charges and latency, which ensures a quality broadband to end consumers. IXPs also develop an internet ecosystem promoting development of various internet-related activities, thereby increasing the digital economy."

BusinessLine had earlier reported that NIXI had plans to add 16 additional exchanges after remaining stagnant at 8-9 exchanges for the past decade.

Telcos on the other hand remain unanimous in their argument that they should not be mandated to connect to internet exchanges.

"Interconnect choice should be given to TSPs/ISPs. While doing so, TSPs/ISPs will have flexibility to select IXP of their choice based on traffic volumes and technical and commercial factors, as well as enhancing consumer experience. The cost of encouraging IXPs at State level should not be counter subsidised through TSPs by mandating interconnection at LSA level as it will bring in inherent inefficiencies into the ecosystem," said Vodafone Idea.

Bharti Airtel chimed in with, "We believe that there should not be any mandate to connect at exchange as it is a decision of ISP how it wants to peer with other ISPs. Presently, there is no mandate on peering arrangement between ISPs and the market has grown substantially on its own; therefore, we see no reason for any mandate on interconnecting at exchanges."

It said that peering decisions should be driven as per operational requirements.

"While IXPs should allow non-discriminatory access to all ISPs and other players, it should also be left to ISPs to decide which IXPs they intend to join. This will create healthy competition between IXPs and allow growth of efficient IXPs," said Jio.

Telcos resistance of a mandate to join internet exchanges is extremely important given that they (Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel) hold a sizeable chunk of the broadband consumer base.

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HD Jio's new subsea **cable** system IAX to connect the Maldives directly to India and Singapore

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Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (Jio), India's largest 4G and mobile broadband digital service provider, will land the next generation multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea **cable** system in Hulhumale, Maldives.

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The high capacity and high-speed IAX system will connect Hulhumale' directly with World's major internet hubs in India and Singapore. "This is the first stride towards enhancing our connectivity infrastructure and opening vast opportunities for our people through providing secure, affordable and high-quality services. We also aim to diversify our economy and establish ourselves as a key communications hub in South Asia. Aside from economic development, this will accelerate social development through high-speed internet access throughout the Maldives allowing us to attain the equitable development we seek," Maldives' minister of economic development Uz Fayyaz Ismail, said while speaking at the launch of the Maldives' first international cable system. "Today's global economy is driven by low-latency broadband, connecting people, businesses, content, and services. IAX will not only connect Maldives to the world's content hubs, but it will also support the explosive growth in data demand expected from the new initiatives being launched by the government of Maldives," said Mathew Oommen, president, Reliance Jio. "Jio is very pleased to be working with the government of the Maldives to help realise this ambition by providing high-quality, terabit capacity supporting Web 3.0-capable internet services," he added. The IAX system originates in Mumbai in the west and connects directly to Singapore, with branches, including additional landings in India, Malaysia, and Thailand. The IndiaEurope-Xpress (IEX) system connects Mumbai to Milan, landing in Savona, Italy, and includes additional landings in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean. IAX is expected to be ready for service end-2023, while IEX will be ready for service in mid-2024. These high capacity and high-speed systems will provide more than 200Tb/s of capacity at speeds of 100 Gb/s, over 16,000 kilometers. Employing open system technology and the latest wavelength switched RoADM/branching units ensures rapid upgrade deployment and the ultimate flexibility to add/drop waves across multiple locations. IEX and IAX together will be one of the most important developments in telecommunications infrastructure in this decade, linking India, Europe to Southeast Asia, and now the Maldives, say a Reliance Jio release.

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NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

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IPD reliance jio infocomm

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HD Telcos, Tech Firms Spar Over **Fibre** for Data Centres
BY Kalyan.Parbat@timesgroup.com
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Submit their views to Trai on entry barriers for providing **fibre connectivity** to DCs

Kolkata:Telecom companies and global tech players are sparring again - this time over providing **fibre connectivity** to data centres (DCs), considered a key broadband infrastructure for driving growth in the IT-enabled services space.

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In its submission to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai)Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), Reliance Jio has urged the regulator to back fibre connectivity to DCs only via "licenced entities". It has warned that any "unwarranted interference would result in regulatory uncertainty, threaten national security and result in wastage of resources causing market distortions, litigation and economic inefficiencies in the sector".

Tech companies, on their part, have countered Jio's views, saying any draconian entry barriers would lead to a concentration of DCs around urban markets as telcos have seldom invested in such broadband infrastructure in rural areas and small towns, and would also undermine the growth prospects of the nascent DC industry.

"...advocating fibre connectivity to DCs only by licensed entities and disallowing captive use of dark fibre will be detrimental to the growth of an infant DC industry that's heavily reliant on such infrastructure," the Broadband India Forum (BIF) said in its Trai submission. Having "insurmountable barriers to entry" will also affect the welfare of consumers, said the BIF, which counts Amazon, Cisco, Google, Microsoft, Facebook-owner Meta, Qualcomm and Intel among its members.

Trai, in its discussion paper on the regulatory framework for establishing DCs and content delivery networks (CDNs), has estimated the Indian DC market to be \$1.5 billion in 2022, and grow at a 11.4% compounded annual rate to scale the \$5-billion mark by 2025. A Nasscom study estimates the global data centre market to reach \$200 billion a year by 2025, driven by investments in hyper-scale DCs amid rising demand for cloud services.

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Jio wants only licensed entities to offer **fibre connectivity**; tech cos say it will hit DC sector

Kolkata: Telecom companies and global tech players are sparring again - this time over providing **fibre connectivity** to data centres (DCs), considered a key broadband infrastructure for driving growth in the IT-enabled services space.

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In its submission to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), Reliance Jio has urged the regulator to back fibre connectivity to DCs only via "licensed entities". It has warned that any "unwarranted interference would result in regulatory uncertainty, threaten national security and result in wastage of resources causing market distortions, litigations and economic inefficiencies in the sector". Bharti Airtel has also backed Jio's view, saying any challenges around delivering fibre connectivity to DCs can be easily overcome if associated "right of way (RoW) issues are resolved quickly".

Tech companies, on their part, have countered Jio's views, saying any draconian entry barriers would lead to a concentration of DCs around urban markets as telcos have seldom invested in such broadband infrastructure in rural areas and small towns, and would also undermine the growth prospects of the nascent DC industry.

"...advocating fibre connectivity to DCs only by licensed entities and disallowing captive use of dark fibre will be detrimental to the growth of an infant DC industry that's heavily reliant on such infrastructure," the Broadband India Forum (BIF) said in its Trai submission. Having "insurmountable barriers to entry" will also affect the welfare of consumers, said the BIF, which counts Amazon, Cisco, Google, Microsoft, Facebook-owner Meta, Qualcomm and Intel among its members.

Trai, in its discussion paper on the regulatory framework for establishing DCs and content delivery networks (CDNs), has estimated the Indian DC market to be \$1.5 billion in 2022, and grow at a 11.4% compounded annual rate to scale the \$5-billion mark by 2025. For full report, go to www.economictimes.com

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Jio says only 'licensed entities' should offer **fibre connectivity**; tech cos warn it will hurt segment

Kolkata: Telecom companies and global tech players are sparring again - this time over providing **fibre connectivity** to data centres (DCs), considered a key broadband infrastructure for driving growth in the IT-enabled services space. In its submission to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), Reliance Jio has urged the regulator to back **fibre connectivity** to DCs only via "licensed entities". It has warned that any "unwarranted interference would result in regulatory uncertainty, threaten national security and result in wastage of resources causing market distortions, litigations and economic inefficiencies in the sector".

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Tech companies, on their part, have countered Jio's views, saying any draconian entry barriers would lead to a concentration of DCs around urban markets as telcos have seldom invested in such broadband infrastructure in rural areas and small towns, and would also undermine the growth prospects of the nascent DC industry. "...advocating fibre connectivity to DCs only by licensed entities and disallowing captive use of dark fibre will be detrimental to the growth of an infant DC industry that's heavily reliant on such infrastructure," the Broadband India Forum (BIF) said in its Trai submission. Having "insurmountable barriers to entry" will also affect the welfare of consumers, said the BIF, which counts Amazon, Cisco, Google, Microsoft, Facebook-owner Meta, Qualcomm and Intel among its members. Trai, in its discussion paper on the regulatory framework for establishing DCs and content delivery networks (CDNs), has estimated the Indian DC market to be \$1.5 billion in 2022, and grow at a 11.4% compounded annual rate to scale the \$5-billion mark by 2025. A Nasscom study estimates the global data centre market to reach \$200 billion a year by 2025, driven by investments in hyper-scale DCs amid rising demand for cloud services. FOR FULL REPORT, GO TO www.economictimes.com

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HD Telcos to opt for hybrid model for **5G network** rollout

BY Kiran Rathee

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Telecom operators are looking at rolling out their 5G networks through a hybrid model, with equipment sourced from both vendors like Nokia, Ericsson and Samsung as well as players in the emerging area called open RAN. Mavenir, Cisco, TCS, Intel etc operate in the open RAN segment, which is a system integrator model. Operators feel that the use of open or virtualised radio networks (RAN) reduces costs and enhances productivity.

According to some estimates, 5G deployments that leveraged open RAN saw capex savings of as high as 49%, while some studies project average savings for **cloud** network deployments to be 37% over a five year period. Additionally, O-RAN will allow service providers to offer a plethora of new **cloud**-delivered services to enterprises and end-consumers, reduce their time-to-market, and create new revenue streams.

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Bharti Airtel, which is also doing a 5G trial with open RAN provider Mavenir in Punjab circle, has found the results very encouraging. Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea too have done several tests and trials around open RAN in the past with good results.

Usually, radio access network (RAN), which includes base station and antennas, makes up for the majority of the network cost. Since open RAN enables telecom service providers to diversify supply chains, and bring in unprecedented levels of interoperability and agility, capex can be brought down drastically.

But as the open RAN technology is yet to be tested fully, it will take a couple of years for the operators to deploy it at macro level or pan-India basis. As per officials in various telecom firms, at the initial rollout of 5G networks, traditional vendors will be utilised but over the next 2-3 years, the share of open RAN will increase by as much as 50%. "5G is going to be software driven and open RAN gives much more flexibility to an operator to plan its network. Gone are the days of proprietary end-to-end network of any vendor," said an executive with one of the telecom firms.

The government too supports open networks as it gives an opportunity to local firms to make some components of telecom network. Earlier, because of proprietary networks, it was difficult for Indian firms to enter into telecom equipment space but with open RAN, there will be opportunities for local firms to manufacture equipment.

Last year, Bharti Airtel had announced collaboration with TCS for implementing made in India 5G open RAN solution for its rollout. Airtel is a board member of O-RAN alliance and is committed to explore and implement open RAN based networks in India. Similarly, Reliance Jio is testing a home-made 5G solution as part of the 5G trials.

According to a recently published report by Dell'Oro Group, preliminary findings suggest that on a global basis total open RAN revenues remained on the upside both in 2020 and during 2021, bolstering the thesis that open RAN is here to stay and the architecture will play an important role before 6G. As per the report, open RAN revenues are expected to account for around 15% of the overall 2G-5G RAN market by 2026, reflecting healthy traction in multiple regions with both basic and advanced radios.

“The Asia Pacific region is dominating the open RAN market in this initial phase and is expected to play a leading role throughout the forecast period, accounting for more than 40% of total 2021-2026 revenues,” the report highlighted.

[The government too supports open networks as it gives an opportunity to local firms to make some components of telecom network. Earlier, because of proprietary networks, it was difficult for Indian firms to enter into telecom equipment space but with open RAN, there will be opportunities for local firms to manufacture equipment.](#)

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PUB Indian Express Group

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SE Telecom News
 HD **Telcos, tech players spar over data centre fiberization**
 BY Kalyan Parbat
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LP

Telecom companies and global tech players are sparring again — this time over providing **fibre connectivity** to data centres (DCs), considered a key broadband infrastructure for driving growth in the IT-enabled services space. In its submission to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), Reliance Jio has urged the regulator to back **fibre connectivity** to DCs only via “licenced entities”.

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It has warned that any “unwarranted interference would result in regulatory uncertainty, threaten national security and result in wastage of resources causing market distortions, litigations and economic inefficiencies in the sector”. Tech companies, on their part, have countered Jio’s views, saying any draconian entry barriers would lead to a concentration of DCs around urban markets as telcos have seldom invested in such broadband infrastructure in rural areas and small towns, and would also undermine the growth prospects of the nascent DC industry. “...advocating fibre connectivity to DCs only by licensed entities and disallowing captive use of dark fibre will be detrimental to the growth of an infant DC industry that’s heavily reliant on such infrastructure,” the Broadband India Forum (BIF) said in its Trai submission. Having “insurmountable barriers to entry” will also affect the welfare of consumers, said the BIF, which counts Amazon, Cisco, Google, Microsoft, Facebook-owner Meta, Qualcomm and Intel among its members. Trai, in its discussion paper on the regulatory framework for establishing DCs and content delivery networks (CDNs), has estimated the Indian DC market to be \$1.5 billion in 2022, and grow at a 11.4% compounded annual rate to scale the \$5-billion mark by 2025. A Nasscom study estimates the global data centre market to reach \$200 billion a year by 2025, driven by investments in hyper-scale DCs amid rising demand for cloud services. Jio has also slammed mobile value-added services providers, saying their worries around telco networks not being suited to deliver cloud services were “factually misplaced”, given that telcos were poised to roll out low-latency, high speed 5G networks. It added that licensed telcos had already made sizeable investments in networks to support enterprise customers with quality broadband services. The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), in its Trai submission, said traditional mobile phone networks “are principally designed for mobile voice services or public data services, such as IP services, and accordingly, not suitable for cloud services which require very high availability, bandwidth and low-latency for extremely high amounts of data”. The IAMAI represents India’s online and mobile value-added services sectors. Bharti Airtel has also countered this, saying any challenges around delivering fibre connectivity to DCs can be easily overcome if associated “right of way (RoW) issues are resolved quickly”. Separately, India’s top two telcos, Jio and Airtel, have sparred over the need to regulate CDNs — used by global tech players to locally host data — to ensure tighter enforcement of net neutrality rules. Jio wants Trai to back its call for bringing CDNs under a regulatory framework so that “contractual pacts between Internet companies, CDNs, telcos and ISPs can be monitored for any anticompetitive practices and violation of any net neutrality principles”. The CDNs, typically, are a geographically distributed group of servers that work together to provide swift delivery of Internet content. As a result, they are popular with Internet companies and content providers who deploy them to improve customer experience and save bandwidth needs. Airtel, in its submission to Trai, said “commercial arrangements between CDNs and ISPs should continue to be governed by market forces and (that) no regulatory intervention is required”. This, it said, is since the benefits from CDNs are mutual for content providers and ISPs. It added that the real priority for Trai “should be to increase Internet penetration by incentivising TSPs/ISPs (in the form license fee waivers) as they have made substantial investments in not only increasing such penetration but also in meeting India’s security needs by ensuring bona fide use of the service and monitoring internet traffic”. Airtel said “CDNs, operated by unlicensed entities, could be brought under a simple registration framework for enforcing requirements of quality of

services, security and content blocking". In August 2017, Trai had recommended a free and open Internet and even suggested monetary penalties for violation of net neutrality rules, starting at Rs 50,000 per violation a day but capped at Rs 50 lakh. It had also mooted a multi-stakeholder body, comprising telcos, ISPs, content providers, civil society organisations and consumer representatives to detect violations. In August 2018, the telecom department backed Trai's recommendations but said actual monitoring and enforcement of the rules would remain with it, and that the proposed stakeholder body would play only an advisory role.

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HD RIL strengthens local tech capabilities for India's 5G race

BY Gagandeep Kaur

WC 535 words

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LP

India's Reliance Jio Infocomm, part of the country's biggest enterprise, Reliance Industries (RIL), has been accelerating the rollout of indigenous technologies and forging partnerships to strengthen its 5G capabilities locally and deliver cost-effective solutions at competitive pricing globally.

The company has invested INR16.7 billion (\$220 million) in the US-listed integrated manufacturing services provider Sanmina Corp to set up a joint venture (JV) that will focus on high technology infrastructure **hardware**, mainly 5G telecom network equipment, cleantech and **cloud** infrastructure for both Indian and overseas markets.

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As part of the agreement, Reliance, through its subsidiary, Reliance Strategic Ventures, will invest in California-based Sanmina's existing Indian entity, SCI India Private Ltd, to hold a 50.1% stake in the JV. Sanmina, on the other hand, will contribute to its existing contract manufacturing business.

The new JV will help the oil-to-telecom conglomerate fulfill its own need for 5G telecom gear and give it a solid starting ground to become a global player in selling 5G tech and competing against dominant gear makers Ericsson, Nokia and Huawei. Jio has mentioned in the past that it hopes to sell its indigenously developed 5G stack in the global market. The partnership will also enable Jio to benefit from the Indian government's "Make in India" manufacturing campaign and offer telecom equipment at a competitive price.

Next-generation 5G stack

RIL has recently also developed a compact 5G as a service solution called 'Jio 5G Hyperlite Stack,' which it plans to offer to enterprises and businesses. Aayush Bhatnagar, Senior Vice President of Jio, revealed this interesting development through a LinkedIn post.

"The solution can be deployed on-prem as a pre-packaged core network, complete with fully integrated indoor and outdoor radio cells. Other options of edge deployment are also possible," says Bhatnagar. Enterprises can govern the 5G in a box deployment from the cloud at any time round the clock. Jio has also recently conducted trials of connected drones on 5G spectrum made available by the government for tests.

Last year, the Mukesh Ambani-led RIL had increased its stake to 5% in Himachal Futuristic Cable Limited (HFCL), India's largest integrated telecom network provider. HFCL specializes in the manufacturing of telecom equipment and optical fiber cable. The company is also believed to be in talks with other Indian firms for a possible acquisition.

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As the Indian market moves closer to 5G spectrum auction and the possible launch of services later this year, there is a heightened activity among the service providers to prepare networks for 5G. All the telcos are conducting 5G trials and forming partnerships, so they are able to launch services quickly once the spectrum auction is complete.

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- Gagandeep Kaur, contributing editor, special to [Light Reading](#)

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HD Reliance Retail, Fynd named in Fast Company's annual list
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New Delhi, March 9 -- Reliance Industries led Reliance Retail and Fynd have been named to Fast Company's prestigious annual list of the World's Most Innovative Companies - the Asia Pacific for 2022. Reliance's retail arm ranked third in the list and received recognition for its new commerce initiative, JioMart and its innovative integration with WhatsApp.

Fynd which is the omnichannel **platform** from Reliance-backed Shopsy Retail Technologies ranked 9 in the list for its innovative retail technology solution that helped store owners with no online presence sell goods remotely when they had to shut due to the pandemic.

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Such would be the second recognition in recent years for RIL's businesses. Earlier, Reliance Jio in 2018 was ranked at number 17 in Fast Company's list of the world's 50 Most Innovative Companies.

In the current year, the Fast Company list honours businesses that are making the biggest impact on their industries and culture as a whole-ultimately thriving in today's ever-changing world. These companies are creating the future today with some of the most inspiring accomplishments of the 21st century. Additionally, to the World's 50 Most Innovative Companies, 528 organizations are recognized across 52 categories.

Reliance Retail which is the largest retailer in India has witnessed robust growth over the years which has triggered a large socio-economic transformation on an extraordinary scale in India. Reliance Retail's operating model unleashes the aspirational energy of the new, resurgent India. Its guiding philosophy rests on the tenets of enabling inclusion, growth and building sustainable societal value for millions of Indians.

The retail chain firm through its JioMart aims is to transform and grow the small merchant ecosystem so that the merchant partners prosper and can service their customers better. Reliance Retail's robust operating model and capabilities have withstood the testing times posed by the pandemic.

When the world was struggling to cope in maintaining sustainability in business activities during the time pandemic hit, especially in the lockdown period, the JioMart platform enabled Reliance Retail continuously served the Kirana partners, so that they in turn could serve their customers.

In a statement, the company stated that "the award is a testament to the impact JioMart has had and the significant new value it has created for small merchants, customers and all other partners in the retail ecosystem."

Meanwhile, Reliance-owned startup, Fynd is supporting retail businesses to accelerate growth. It is a one-stop shop for building omnichannel solutions using innovative retail technology reducing the complexities of adding new brands, channels, store locations, fulfilment centers, and more.

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SE Today's Paper

HD **Net neutrality debate resurfaces as telcos clash with big tech firms**

WC 428 words

PD 7 March 2022

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Mumbai, March 6 Today's Paper

The net neutrality debate has resurfaced with telecom operators, including Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea, backing a proposal to regulate **content** delivery networks (CDNs).

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Jio says that CDNs, which were kept out of TRAI's 2017 recommendations on net neutrality, need regulatory re-examination as internet companies start to tie up with specific ISPs to deliver higher quality services to certain groups of customers.

On the other hand, industry bodies such as Nasscom and US India Business Council (USIBC) counter that the CDN market is currently growing and the regulator should adopt a cautious approach.

A CDN refers to a geographically distributed group of servers that work together; internet companies employ CDN services to deliver services faster. In turn, CDN service providers have deals with telecom operators and internet service providers to host servers in their networks. CDNs are used by Internet companies including search engines (such as Google), OTT content providers (Netflix, Hotstar, Amazon Prime), e-commerce companies, and banking and financial companies, among others.

'Unequal playing field'

"Dominant players can dictate terms for interconnection with smaller ISPs, refusing direct peering. Further, large ISP players, who are also in CDN space, can create exclusive tie-ups with large content providers like OTT platforms companies, excluding other players from direct access on equal terms. There is a need to see that the market is not misused to create dominance, hurting the business of smaller players by way of arbitrary demands," said Jio in a letter to TRAI.

"We submit that if the access to CDNs is not on equal terms, the issue of net neutrality may arise whereby customers of preferred players may be provided with better quality services," it said.

Vodafone Idea said the absence of a regulatory framework is affecting the growth of CDN and there is no level-playing field between CDN players and telecom service providers.

'Low entry barrier'

Nasscom countered saying that CDNs represent a constantly evolving, competitive and growing market in India, as is evident both from the diversity of established players (such as Akamai, which listed in 1999) and new players (such as Fastly, which listed in 2019; alongside other content-first companies such as Netflix and Google) active in the market. This is a result of the low entry barrier in the market, which has also driven down prices offered to content providers.

USIBC said TRAI should consider a cautious approach so as to not stifle CDN growth in India.

CO idcell : Vodafone Idea Ltd | nsffvp : National Association of Software and Service Companies | rjiol : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | usibco : U.S.-India Business Council | ratel : Vodafone Group Plc | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

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NS c13 : Regulation/Government Policy | cnetn : Network Neutrality | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

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SE Info-tech
HD **Net neutrality debate resurface as telcos clash with big tech on regulating content data networks**
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The net neutrality debate has resurfaced in the country as telecom operators, including Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea, are backing a proposal to regulate content delivery networks, which are used by global big tech companies to host data locally .

Telecom operators like Jio say that content delivery networks, which were kept out of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's 2017 recommendations on net neutrality, need regulatory re-examination as internet companies start to tie up with specific ISPs to deliver higher quality services to certain groups of customers.

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On the other hand, industry bodies such as the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and US India Business Council (USIBC) counter stating that the CDN market is currently growing and regulator should adopt a cautious approach.

What are content delivery networks

A content delivery network (CDN) refers to a geographically distributed group of servers that work together to provide fast delivery of Internet content. Thus, internet companies will employ CDN services to deliver services faster. In turn, CDN service providers have deals with telecom operators and internet service providers to host servers in their networks. CDNs are used by all types of Internet companies including search engines (such as Google) OTT content providers (Netflix, Hotstar, Amazon Prime) , e-commerce companies, banking and financial companies, among others. Page loading time has a direct impact on advertising and e-commerce revenues for any web-based service, which is why there is a vibrant market for the CDN services.

Reliance Jio has taken a view that the market for interconnection of ISPs and CDN needs to be regulated while it is at an nascent stage. "Dominant players can dictate terms for interconnection with smaller ISPs refusing them direct peering. Further large ISP players, who are also in CDN space, can create exclusive tie-ups with large content providers like OTT platforms companies, excluding other players from direct access on equal terms. There is a need to see that the market is not misused to create dominance, hurting the business of smaller players by way of arbitrary demands. Such a market may require regulatory interventions." said Jio in a letter to TRAI.

"We submit that if the access to CDNs is not on equal terms, the issue of net neutrality may arise whereby customers of preferred players may be provided with better quality CDN services" Jio said, which is why it asks for the examination of contractual agreements between ISPs and CDNs and the TRAI should conceptualise a regulatory framework to avoid possibility of any anti-competitive practices and violation of net neutrality principles.

Vodafone Idea has also told TRAI that the absence of a regulatory framework for CDNs is affecting the growth of CDN in India and also, creating a non-level playing field between CDN players and telecom service providers.

Industry body NASSCOM countered saying, that at present CDNs represent a constantly evolving, competitive and growing market in India is evident both from the diversity of established players (such as Akamai, which listed in 1999) and new players (such as Fastly, which listed in 2019; alongside other

content-first companies such as Netflix and Google) active in the market. This is as a result of the low entry barrier in the market, which has also driven down prices offered to content providers.

USIBC also chimed in stating that in absence of any market failures, TRAI should consider a cautious approach so as to not stifle CDNs growth in India.

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HD HMD Global to bring 5G across all price points; says financing options key for migration: CEO Florian Seiche
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HMD Global, the maker of Nokia-branded phones, is working to bring 5G technology across its portfolio globally and in India, and is taking the partner-led approach to make smartphones affordable, helping push the migration from feature phones, a top official said. "One of our key focus areas is to bring 5G deep across our portfolio. Last year, we launched six 5G **devices** in our portfolio and we have launched two exclusive models with a US carrier which were both aimed at the more affordable price point. This is allowing us to get the scale to now further expand in 2022...", HMD Global Chief Executive Officer Florian Seiche told ET in an exclusive interaction. HMD had last year partnered with Reliance Jio to offer subsidies on four smartphone models.

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Seiche said that the company is "seeing a good momentum also on this and partnership with key operator partners like Jio is encouraging." "We see consumer finances becoming more and more important in different parts of the world to again help the customers move from their features to," he said, adding that the financing options allows consumers to buy quality devices. He further added that HMD will focus on how to further deepen its ability to source locally, produce locally and enter into go-to-market partnerships for the sales and marketing. "The Indian market is very competitive so we have to look at all the aspects of the process to bring the best value to the customers." The company has started exports of its 'Made in India' feature phone to UAE and is also evaluating smartphone exports from India. "We have worked hard last year and started exports from India. Today, India is important for our local manufacturing strategy, not just for domestic but for exports as well," the top executive said. The company is working with Lava International, Dixon and Rising Star to locally manufacture feature phones and smartphones through factories in Noida, Uttar Pradesh and Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. Most of HMD's smartphones are being manufactured by Lava and Dixon while Rising Star makes feature phones for the company. Seiche said that the core growth came from smartphones – a 40% year-on-year growth in 2021 – which helped the company become profitable. "That (smartphones) is a clear driver and is also true for India. In 2022, it will be a growth driver for India. We would have been able to do even more but there is still tightness in the supply chain, especially at the entry part, but we expect to be on a strong growth trajectory for this year." HMD is also focusing on the enterprise market to sell phones bundled with services. It is building its services as a business to tap the enterprise opportunity. "It is one of the key growth drivers because enterprise focuses on quality, security and upgradability resonate. There is a very rational decision-making process, so we come out naturally very strong," he said. (The reporter is covering the Mobile World Congress 2022 at the invitation of Oppo)

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Oppo is now working towards 5G "ecosystem development" through partnerships with academia and startups. The Chinese smartphone is also open to work with Indian academia around the 6G technology, a top official said. In an interaction with ET, Tasleem Arif, R&D Head at Oppo India said that the handset company's headquarters is focused on 5G and 6G technologies and is looking to have collaboration on these areas. "There will be more partnerships in India, which will help utilise the academic strength on research related collaboration. We also provide funds for the research in India," he said. Oppo, among the top five smartphone brands in India, has set up its third lab to focus on "Power and Performance" at its Hyderabad R&D center. It had previously set up a camera and 5G labs at the center.

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Investment in all these labs are part of its global investment of \$7 billion R&D budget, which was announced in 2019. The company is closely working with Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel to better plan its product portfolio for the 5G technology. "We discuss our products and network support with them before launching," he said. Arif said that Oppo smartphones will support all possible 5G bands in India once the service is commercially available. "Our R&D teams are playing a crucial role here... whatever telcos decide in terms of network and spectrum planning comes to us and we accommodate the feedback for our product planning" The executive said that Oppo may also launch its 5G-enabled customer premise equipment in India. "Private infrastructure requires such 5G devices... globally, we have received good response and we will decide on the launch once we have services available," he added. The company had recently launched a program for startups in India to collaborate with them and find synergies. "Once shortlisted, we offer guidance on technology and allow them to utilise our labs and if there are synergies then we partner with them for products and services and provide support," Arif said. A similar program was launched by Oppo's global team, which has also shortlisted a few Indian startups. "These startups lack infrastructure and guidance. We help them expand their services. Currently, at our India R&D premise 50% of space is dedicated to the Innovation lab," he added. "As part of our Innovation strategy, we created an in-house 'Innovation' team to cultivate the patent filing culture for the engineers through rigorous training... we have witnessed a significant growth of over 128% in 2021 in the number of patents filed by OPPO India. Over 280 patents till date by India R&D out of which 140 in 2021. Our team is working towards sustaining these numbers," Arif said. (The reporter is covering the Mobile World Congress 2022 at the invitation of Oppo)

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SE Briefings
HD **Reliance Jio's \$15-million Bet on Artificial Reality**
BY Nidhi Singal
WC 81 words
PD 6 March 2022
SN Business Today
SC BTDY
LA English
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LP
Jio Platforms is investing \$15 million for a 25 per cent equity stake (on a fully diluted basis) in Pranav Mistry's Two Platforms Inc. An artificial reality firm, TWO will help Jio fast-track its adoption of tech such as **AI, metaverse** and mixed reality. "Going forward, this [partnership] would potentially result in new consumer as well as enterprise use contexts," says Prabhu Ram, Head – Industry Intelligence Group, at CMR.
CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd
IN ivrealt : Virtual Reality Technologies | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services
NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News
RE india : India | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia
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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

SE Companies
HD **Oppo Open to Collaborate with Indian Academia on 6G Tech**

BY Danish.Khan @timesinternet.in

WC 203 words

PD 5 March 2022

SN The Economic Times - Kolkata Edition

SC ECTKOL

LA English

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Barcelona: Oppo is open to collaborating with Indian academia on 6G technology, a top executive said, as the Chinese smartphone maker partners with both academia and **startups** on 5G **"ecosystem"** development".

The handset maker is focused on 5G and 6G technologies and is looking to strengthen partnerships in these areas, Tasleem Arif, R&D Head at Oppo India, told ET.

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"There will be more partnerships in India, which will help utilise the academic strength on research-related collaboration. We also provide funds for research in India," he said.

Oppo is among the top five smartphone brands in India.

The company has set up a third lab to focus on "power and performance" at its Hyderabad R&D centre. It had previously set up a camera and 5G lab at the centre.

Investments in these labs are part of its \$7 billion global capital outlay for R&D, which was announced in 2019.

The company is also closely working with Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel to better plan its product portfolio for 5G technology. "We discuss our products and network support with them before launching," Arif said.

CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | donoel : Guangdong Oppo Electronics Industry Company Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN icellph : Cell/Mobile/Smart Phones | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | i34411 : Mobile Communications Devices | i3454 : Personal Electronics | ielec : Consumer Electronics | ihandaps : Handheld Electronic Devices | itech : Technology | i34542 : Audio/Video Equipment | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | icnp : Consumer Goods | idurhg : Durable Household Products | ihome : Home Electronics/Appliances

NS cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

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AN Document ECTKOL0020220305ei350000a

SE Companies & **Startups**
HD **Jio's Next Disruption: Satellite Broadband Cost Structures**
BY Danish.Khan@timesinternet.in
WC 371 words
PD 4 March 2022
SN The Economic Times - Delhi Edition
SC ECTDEL
LA English
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LP

Jio's Oommen rebuts Sunil Mittal's contention and pitches for the auction of satcom airwaves

New Delhi: Reliance Jio Infocomm will seek to disrupt the cost structures in satellite broadband services as it has done in mobile telephony, a top executive said, and asserted that India must auction the airwaves for the segment.

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Reliance Jio president Mathew Oommen's comment comes a day after Sunil Mittal, who is the chairman of Bharti Enterprises and satellite communications company OneWeb, said that the spectrum for satcom had never been auctioned in the world, and that if India did that, it could mean the country excluding itself from broadband-from-space as a connectivity option as nobody would bid for the airwaves.

Speaking to ET on Thursday, Oommen rebutted Mittal's contention, saying that just because such airwaves had not been auctioned ever doesn't mean that it should be a norm going forward. "The dearth of spectrum we have in India should be factored in. Let us (India) lead from the front in satellite and in spectrum transformation rather than stating just because it was allocated for 30 years or 15 years, we should continue that process... it is something that I'm finding it difficult to comprehend, because I believe it is not right for India," he said on sidelines of Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

Jio announced a joint venture with Luxembourg's SES to offer satellite-based services. The JV has yet to reveal plans for launching services, but when it does, Oommen said it would aim to deliver affordable connectivity. Before Jio's entry in September 2016, the cost per GB was ₹250, he said. Back then India had the lowest per capita data consumption in the world and was 155th in the broadband index. But after Jio's entry which resulted in prices falling to the lowest in the world, India is now number one in data consumption, a similar model which can be replicated in satellite-based communications as well.

(The reporter is in Barcelona to cover the Mobile World Congress at the invitation of Oppo.)

FOR FULL REPORT, GO TO www.economictimes.com

CO rjiol : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd
IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services
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AN Document ECTDEL0020220304ei3400001

HD Reliance Industries makes debut in electronics manufacturing with US firm

BY Kiran Rathee

WC 378 words

PD 4 March 2022

SN Financial Express

SC AIWFIE

LA English

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Reliance Industries (RIL) on Thursday entered the electronics manufacturing segment through a tie-up with US-based Sanmina Corporation and will invest Rs 1,670 crore in the latter's Indian entity to take a 50.1% stake. The joint venture will manufacture high technology electronics **hardware** like **5G network** products, aerospace items, healthcare systems, among others. The partnership will allow Reliance Jio to get home-made radio equipment for its 5G rollout.

Last year, Bharti Enterprises had partnered with Dixon Technologies to make telecom equipment in the country.

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Both Sanmina and Dixon were last year selected by the government for the Rs 12,195-crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for telecom gear manufacturing. While Sanmina has reportedly committed to invest Rs 110 crore under the scheme, Dixon has committed an investment of Rs 180 crore.

With the entry of RIL and Bharti into manufacturing, the domestic telecom equipment market would undergo a change with the share of global manufacturers reducing. Chinese vendors like Huawei have already lost out after restrictions were placed on them after the Indo-China border tensions. With players like RIL and Bharti entering this segment, market shares of European vendors like Ericsson and Nokia would also come under pressure.

Although the domestic companies are not expected to meet the demand of 5G gear in the coming year, the development around manufacturing will give bargaining power to telecom firms to strike a better deal with vendors like Ericsson and Nokia, who have also been selected under the telecom PLI scheme. Nokia has committed to invest Rs 125 crore while Jabil, which is a contract manufacturer for Ericsson, has committed to put in Rs 175.60 crore.

Revenues of Sanmina SCI India (SIPL) were approximately Rs1,230 crore (or approximately \$165 million) for the fiscal ended March 31, 2021. All the manufacturing as part of the new joint venture will initially take place at Sanmina's 100-acre campus in Chennai, with the ability for site expansion to support future growth opportunities as well as to potentially expand to new manufacturing sites in India over time based on business needs.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/reliance-industries-1-1.jpg>

CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd | snmina : Sanmina Corporation | bhatel : Bharti Telecom Ltd | bhrten : Bharti Enterprises Limited

IN idct : Digital Cellular Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | itech : Technology | iwrssl : Wireless Area Network Technology | i1 : Energy | i14 : Downstream Operations | i14001 : Petroleum Refining | i3444 : Passive Components | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i8396 : Diversified Holding Companies | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | ifosfl : Fossil Fuels | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods

NS ccapex : Capital Expenditure | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | c11 : Corporate Strategy/Planning

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PUB Indian Express Group

AN Document AIWFIE0020220304ei3400007

SE Telecom News
HD RIL unit, American firm form joint venture to make telecom gear

WC 428 words

PD 4 March 2022

SN The Economic Times

SC ECTIM

LA English

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Kolkata: Reliance Strategic Business Ventures (RSBVL), a wholly-owned unit of Reliance Industries (RIL), will invest 1,670 crore to form an electronics manufacturing JV with US-based Sanmina Corp, which will mainly produce 4G and 5G telecom network equipment for local and overseas markets. The move will pit the JV directly against the likes of traditional telecom gear makers such as Ericsson, Nokia and Huawei. RSBVL will hold a 50.1% stake in the JV with Sanmina owning the remaining 49.9%. RSBVL will buy new shares in Sanmina's existing Indian manufacturing entity, Sanmina SCI India (SIPL), which will also manufacture gear for data-centres and cloud infrastructure, among others. Sanmina will contribute its existing contract manufacturing business. As a result of the investment, the Reliance-Sanmina JV entity will be capitalised with over \$200 million of cash to fund growth, the two companies said in a statement on Thursday.

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The transaction is expected to close by September 2022, subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals, the companies said. Reliance Jio director Akash Ambani said the JV would tap significant market opportunities in the country's high-tech manufacturing space. "For both growth and security, it's essential for India to be more self-reliant in electronics manufacturing in telecom, IT, data centres, cloud, 5G, new energy and other industries as we chart our path in the new digital economy," Ambani said in the statement. Sanmina's chairman Jure Sola said the joint venture will service both domestic and export markets. Last October, SIPL was among the companies that qualified for sops under the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for boosting local manufacturing of telecom network gear. The government has recently set a target of \$300 billion worth of electronics manufacturing in the country by 2026, compared with \$67.3 billion in 2020-21. To encourage the industry to achieve this, it has launched several PLI schemes. Some two years ago, RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani had said Jio had developed its own 5G technology, which would be ready for field deployments soon. He had then added that Reliance planned to offer its homegrown 5G technology to telecom companies across the world, after testing and scaling it in the Indian market. "The JV will boost Reliance Jio's 5G network gear manufacturing ambitions, and help it compete more strongly with global vendors like Ericsson, Nokia and Huawei," said Tarun Pathak, research director at Counterpoint Research.

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NS c184 : Joint Ventures/Consortia | c181 : Acquisitions/Mergers/Shareholdings | c18 : Ownership Changes | cactio : Corporate Actions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

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PUB Bennett, Coleman & Co., Ltd.

SE Electronics
 HD **RIL arm, Sanmina float local electronics manufacturing JV**
 WC 291 words
 PD 4 March 2022
 SN The Economic Times
 SC ECTIM
 LA English
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LP

Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd (RSBVL), a wholly-owned arm of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), and Sanmina Corp, a leading integrated manufacturing solutions company, have inked an agreement to create an electronics manufacturing joint venture. The JV has been formed through an **investment** in Sanmina's existing Indian entity, Sanmina SCI India Pvt Ltd. "The joint venture will create a world-class electronic manufacturing hub in India, in line with the Prime Minister's 'Make in India' vision," the companies said in a joint statement Thursday. RSBVL will hold a 50.1% stake in the JV entity with Sanmina owning the remaining 49.9%. RSBVL will achieve this ownership primarily through an **investment** of upto Rs 1,670 crore in new shares in Sanmina's existing Indian entity, while Sanmina will contribute its existing contract manufacturing business.

TD

As a result of the investment, the joint venture will be capitalized with over \$200 million of cash to fund growth. "We are delighted to work with Sanmina to access the significant market opportunity for high-tech manufacturing in India. For both growth and security, it is essential for India to be more self-reliant in electronics manufacturing in Telecom, IT, Data Centers, Cloud, 5G, New Energy and other industries as we chart our path in the new digital economy," director Akash Ambani, Reliance Jio, said in a media statement. This partnership will leverage Sanmina's 40 years of advanced manufacturing experience and Reliance's expertise and leadership in the Indian business ecosystem. The day-to-day business will continue to be managed by Sanmina's existing management team in Chennai, which will be seamless from an employee and customer perspective.

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SE Companies
 HD Reliance Jio's satcom entry won't hit OneWeb, says Sunil Mittal
 BY Danish Khan
 WC 521 words
 PD 4 March 2022
 SN The Economic Times
 SC ECTIM
 LA English
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 LP

Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Mittal said Reliance Jio's entry into satellite communications (satcom) in India would not make competition tougher for OneWeb, the satcom company part-owned by the Bharti group, as the market was large to accommodate multiple operators. Mittal warned that no satcom company would participate if the spectrum meant for the segment was auctioned. That would mean India facing the risk of excluding broadband-from-space as a **connectivity** option in the country, he cautioned. Cash-strapped telecom operator Vodafone Idea is still not out of the woods and needs "serious investments" for stability, Mittal said on Wednesday, speaking to ET on the sidelines of the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. But the government's package for the sector, which he termed as a "regulatory healing touch", will bring some respite to Vodafone Idea even as it is also taking the telecom industry on the road to recovery, Mittal said.

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'Satcom won't Disrupt Telecom' Satcom services won't disrupt the telecom industry, as the two are not in competition, said Mittal, who leads Bharti Airtel, the country's second largest telecom operator. When asked if Bharti Airtel would raise more funds via equity, like the investment by US tech major Google in the company, Mittal said: "There's nothing that is going on at the moment." Satcom in India In his first comments on Jio's entry into satcom, Mittal told ET that while the Mukesh Ambani-led company would just be distributing bandwidth (generated by Luxembourg-based partner SES) in India, OneWeb would be doing both production and distribution of bandwidth. OneWeb is a low-earth orbit satellite operator which has Bharti Global and the UK government as the major shareholders. It plans to start offering Internet-from-space services in India in mid-2022. Jio Space Technology, the joint venture between Jio Platforms and SES to deliver broadband services in India leveraging satellite technology, has yet to laid out plans for starting services in India. "India is a large country. OneWeb is a global network. India is a small portion of that in terms of bandwidth. We will have no problems selling the Indian bandwidth, which is very small," he said, adding that only 2% of OneWeb's total capacity would fall in India. Mittal said there was "zero chance" of disruption in the telecom market due to satcom, as the service was only for areas devoid of mobile networks, such as deserts, jungles, the Himalayas, water and for in-flight services. "We are not competing with GSM operators ... I have my own GSM operator," he said. He opposed Jio's call to auction spectrum needed for satellite services, saying nowhere in the world was it auctioned. "This is a shared spectrum. Everybody will use the same spectrum ... why would India want to exclude the satellite option in the country (by auctioning it)? So, if there will be an auction, obviously no satellite operator will be participating," Mittal said. (The reporter is in Barcelona at the invitation of Oppo)

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weurz : Western Europe

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AN Document ECTIM00020220303ei340000c

HD Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance To Invest \$220 Million In Making An Electronic Manufacturing Hub

BY Yessar Rosendar, Forbes Staff

WC 366 words

PD 3 March 2022

SN Forbes.com

SC FBCOM

LA English

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LP

A unit of Reliance Industries, controlled by tycoon [Mukesh Ambani](#), said it will invest up to 16.7 billion rupees (\$220 million) to team up with U.S.-listed Sanmina to build an electronics manufacturing hub in India.

The **investment** will be made by Reliance Strategic Business Ventures, according to a joint statement from Reliance and Sanmina, an electronics manufacturer, on Thursday.

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Reliance will have a 50.1% stake in the joint venture through an investment in Sanmina's India unit, Sanmina SCI India. Sanmina will own the remaining shares. The completion of the deal is subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals, and is expected to close no later than September 2022.

Akash Ambani, director of Reliance Industries' tech unit Reliance Jio, said the joint venture will provide access to the significant opportunity for high-tech manufacturing as India aims to be more self-reliant in electronics manufacturing in telecom, IT, data centers, cloud, 5G, new energy and other industries.

"Through this partnership we plan to boost innovation and talent in India, meeting both Indian and global demand," Akash Ambani said.

Sanmina SCI India had revenue of 12.3 billion rupees (\$161 million) for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021. The company's operations will be based at Sanmina's 100-acre campus in Chennai, which can be expanded.

"We are excited to partner with Reliance to build the premier integrated manufacturing solutions company in India," Jure Sola, chairman, and chief executive officer of Sanmina, said.

The Indian digital economy is growing at 50% per year and is projected to reach \$1 trillion thanks to increasing internet penetration and digital content consumption, according to management consultant firm [Redseer](#).

Mukesh Ambani held the top position in the Forbes' October 2021 list of [India's 50 Richest](#) people, with a net worth of \$92.7 billion. Ambani is upbeat on the future of the digital economy, and Reliance Jio recently has invested in the [metaverse](#) by acquiring a stake in Two Platforms, a Silicon Valley-based deep tech startup. (Disclosure: Reliance Industries owns Network18, which publishes Forbes India.)

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SE Corporate Financing Week
 HD **Industry Trend Analysis - Quick View: Bharti Airtel Taps Blockchain In Response To Intense Competition In India's Mobile Marke**
 WC 588 words
 PD 1 March 2022
 SN Corporate Financing Week
 SC CFWK
 LA English
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The Latest: India's Bharti Airtel has become the latest operator to explore blockchain technology after acquiring a strategic stake in Singapore-based blockchain-as-a-service (BaaS) technology company Aqilliz.

Implications: Aqilliz claims to have developed a patented hybrid blockchain **platform** that implements both **machine learning** and differential **privacy** to provide a blockchain service with enhanced data security. Multiple clients are able to use the blockchain and interact with customers whilst issues of data **privacy** are mitigated.

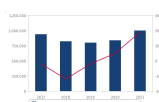
TD

Airtel intends to employ Aqilliz's service to its own advertising technology (adtech), entertainment and digital marketplace businesses, a clear demonstration of the operator's commitment to Industry 4.0 and innovation.

Applying blockchain to Airtel's existing services will enable the operator to discharge greater value - particularly pertinent at a time where the market entry of Reliance Jio has weighed heavily on Airtel's balance sheet. Recently Airtel has attempted to raise much-needed capital, announcing in September 2021 that it would conduct a large-scale sale of its shares with aim of raising INR210bn (USD2.87bn).

Can Blockchain Revitalise Volatile Revenues?

Bharti Airtel Revenue (INRmn), 2017-2021



<TD>Note: Bharti Airtel financial year ends in March. Note: Bharti Airtel, Fitch Solutions.

Blockchain is particularly useful when applied to digital marketing. In February 2021, Airtel expanded its enterprise offerings by creating Airtel Ads, enabling brands to design their own consent-based digital adverts and leveraging Airtel's 354mn-strong customer base. The operator also employs data analytics to ensure customers are receiving relevant adverts and using blockchain will augment Airtel Ads by providing automated ad campaigns based on specific sets of criteria, optimising ad spending. According to local media, Bharti Airtel's adtech business contributed nearly INR1bn (USD13.2mn) in annualised revenues during the beta release and recorded more than 8bn impressions.

Blockchain also has the potential to optimise operational costs associated with customer loyalty and rewards programmes verticals. Airtel's Airtel Thanks spearheads the operator's rewards

programme product and includes several partnerships with over-the-top players like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. Blockchain enables smart contracts recorded on a distributed ledger to promote transparency and security, reducing costs linked to inaccuracies, abuse of the system and fraud.

Airtel's primary rival, Reliance Jio, has been working in the blockchain space for some time after announcing in 2019 that it would create one of the world's largest blockchain networks. Meta's (Facebook) acquisition of a 9.9% stake in the company in 2021 could see Jio's blockchain capabilities enhanced further given the former's exploration of blockchain-based payments. Meta also has extensive experience in digital advertising which it can lend to Airtel. Implementation of blockchain also means that transactions are carried out in near real-time.

What's Next: Whilst we expect utilisation of blockchain to present opportunities for cost-optimisation and additional revenue generating verticals, we caution that many blockchain use cases are yet to move past the proof-of-concept phase and as such the technology is still very nascent. Subsequently, we do not expect Airtel to realise tangible returns on the investment until the long-term.

We are increasingly observing global telecommunications players making investments into acquiring a blockchain capability and we expect this to continue over the medium-term. We believe telecoms operators will pursue more active engagement with the technology as it matures and its direct applications become clearer.

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IN	iblock : Blockchain Technology itech : Technology i7902 : Telecommunication Services i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications i831 : Financial Investment Services i83108 : Investment Advice/Research Services ifinal : Financial Services iinv : Investing/Securities
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SE Asia Pacific Telecommunications Insight
HD **Industry Trend Analysis - Quick View: Bharti Airtel Taps Blockchain In Response To Intense Competition In India's Mobile Marke**
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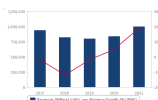
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 Bharti Airtel Revenue, INRMn (2017-2021)



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Amazon Prime Video. Blockchain enables smart contracts recorded on a distributed ledger to promote transparency and security, reducing costs linked to inaccuracies, abuse of the system and fraud.

Airtel's primary rival, Reliance Jio, has been working in the blockchain space for some time after announcing in 2019 that it would create one of the world's largest blockchain networks. Meta's (Facebook) acquisition of a 9.9% stake in the company in 2021 could see Jio's blockchain capabilities enhanced further given the former's exploration of blockchain-based payments. Meta also has extensive experience in digital advertising which it can lend to Airtel. Implementation of blockchain also means that transactions are carried out in near real-time.

What's Next: Whilst we expect utilisation of blockchain to present opportunities for cost-optimisation and additional revenue generating verticals, we caution that many blockchain use cases are yet to move past the proof-of-concept phase and as such the technology is still very nascent. Subsequently, we do not expect Airtel to realise tangible returns on the investment until the long-term.

We are increasingly observing global telecommunications players making investments into acquiring a blockchain capability and we expect this to continue over the medium-term. We believe telecoms operators will pursue more active engagement with the technology as it matures and its direct applications become clearer.

CO rjiol : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | bhatev : Bharti Airtel Ltd. | rcomve : Reliance Communications Ltd | anildm : Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group | bhrten : Bharti Enterprises Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN iblock : Blockchain Technology | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS c181 : Acquisitions/Mergers/Shareholdings | cacqu : Acquisitions/Mergers | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ciprof : Industry Profile | nanl : Analyses | nimage : Images | c23 : Research/Development | c18 : Ownership Changes | cactio : Corporate Actions | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE india : India | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia

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AN Document BMIAA00020220312ei310001c

SE Corporate Financing Week
 HD **Industry Trend Analysis - Quick View: Bharti Airtel Taps Blockchain In Response To Intense Competition In India's Mobile Marke**
 WC 588 words
 PD 1 March 2022
 SN Emerging Markets Monitor
 SC EMDN
 LA English
 CY © 2022 Fitch Solutions, Inc
 LP

The Latest: India's Bharti Airtel has become the latest operator to explore blockchain technology after acquiring a strategic stake in Singapore-based blockchain-as-a-service (BaaS) technology company Aqilliz.

Implications: Aqilliz claims to have developed a patented hybrid blockchain **platform** that implements both **machine learning** and differential **privacy** to provide a blockchain service with enhanced data security. Multiple clients are able to use the blockchain and interact with customers whilst issues of data **privacy** are mitigated.

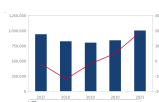
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Airtel intends to employ Aqilliz's service to its own advertising technology (adtech), entertainment and digital marketplace businesses, a clear demonstration of the operator's commitment to Industry 4.0 and innovation.

Applying blockchain to Airtel's existing services will enable the operator to discharge greater value - particularly pertinent at a time where the market entry of Reliance Jio has weighed heavily on Airtel's balance sheet. Recently Airtel has attempted to raise much-needed capital, announcing in September 2021 that it would conduct a large-scale sale of its shares with aim of raising INR210bn (USD2.87bn).

Can Blockchain Revitalise Volatile Revenues?

Bharti Airtel Revenue (INRmn), 2017-2021



<TD>Note: Bharti Airtel financial year ends in March. Note: Bharti Airtel, Fitch Solutions.

Blockchain is particularly useful when applied to digital marketing. In February 2021, Airtel expanded its enterprise offerings by creating Airtel Ads, enabling brands to design their own consent-based digital adverts and leveraging Airtel's 354mn-strong customer base. The operator also employs data analytics to ensure customers are receiving relevant adverts and using blockchain will augment Airtel Ads by providing automated ad campaigns based on specific sets of criteria, optimising ad spending. According to local media, Bharti Airtel's adtech business contributed nearly INR1bn (USD13.2mn) in annualised revenues during the beta release and recorded more than 8bn impressions.

Blockchain also has the potential to optimise operational costs associated with customer loyalty and rewards programmes verticals. Airtel's Airtel Thanks spearheads the operator's rewards

programme product and includes several partnerships with over-the-top players like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. Blockchain enables smart contracts recorded on a distributed ledger to promote transparency and security, reducing costs linked to inaccuracies, abuse of the system and fraud.

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SE GADGETS NEWS

HD OnePlus partners with Jio to bring new games to its smart TVs

WC 270 words

PD 1 March 2022

SN The Times of India

SC TOI

LA English

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OnePlus has announced a partnership with Reliance Jio to bring a curated library of JioGames to OnePlus TVs. The collaboration will bring games such as K.G.F Official Game, Alpha Guns, Jungle Adventures 3, Little Singham Treasure Hunt and many more to the smart TVs from OnePlus. For those who are unaware, JioGames offers gaming & services on different devices including smartphones, feature phones, set-top box, AR/VR headsets, esports and more. For JioGames, this collaboration is a way to reach out to the OnePlus community. Users can currently access JioGames on select OnePlus TV models. As per the company, the games will soon be expanded to some other variants of OnePlus TVs. Having entered the smart TV segment in 2019, OnePlus has successfully established itself among the leading smart TV players in a relatively short span of time.

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As per Counterpoint Research's TV Tracker Service, OnePlus witnessed a 217% YoY growth and held a 7% market share in Q3 2021, making it the 4th biggest largest TV brand in the country for the quarter. Currently, the OnePlus TVs support games offered by the Android TV operating system. The company recently launched two new affordable smart TVs in India - OnePlus Y1S and Y1S Edge are now available for purchase in India. The latest OnePlus TVs come with an HD Ready panel and support HDR10+ and HLG as well. Apart from that, the TVs support Dolby audio and run Android TV operating system with built-in Google Assistant and Chromecast.

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CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services

NS cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

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HD Maldives: Taking on 'India Out' campaign

BY N. Sathiya Moorthy

WC 1,499 words

PD 1 March 2022

SN Daily News (Sri Lanka)

SC DAINSL

LA English

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Sri Lanka, March 1 -- The Maldivian Government has taken steps to curb the 'India Out' campaign, showcasing the strategic importance of India.

A water-cannon salute for an Air India flight to celebrate the oddly-placed 46th anniversary of air travel between the two nations, an MoU between state-owned Maldives National University (MNU) and Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), and an agreement between Government-owned Ocean Connect Maldives and private sector Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL) to establish the 'Maldives IAZ Subsea Cable System'-and suddenly, the leadership of President Ibrahim Solih has begun taking on the Opposition's 'India Out' campaign, in word and deed.

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Topping it all, Indian Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar visited Male for taking bilateral programmes forward and government ministers told Parliament's Security Committee, how the Opposition's programme was motivated and hurt Maldivian interests more.

Appearing before what is also known as the '241 Security Committee', after Speaker Mohammed Nasheed had caused what is tantamount to an all-round evaluation-cum-awareness programme, Economic Affairs Minister Fayyaz Ismail explained how the Opposition campaign, identified with the former President Abdulla Yameen, posed a 'threat to the food security' of the nation. "Our food security depends a lot on imports from India", the minister said and listed rice, flour, sugar, chicken, eggs, potatoes, onions, and lentils as amongst the basic foodstuffs consumed by Maldivians in substantial quantities and supplied by India. So were certain quantities of sand and gravel for construction work, which are in short supply the world over.

The Minister had a point. As the street-opinion in Maldives goes, if South India's Thoothukudi port, for instance, were to be shut down for a week, whatever the reason, Maldivians would have to go without food, life-saving medicines, construction material, and even stationery for their school-going children and offices. Minister Fayyaz explained that an extendable three-year iron-clad agreement guaranteed that supplies to Maldives were not affected by sudden changes in India's policies, rendering his nation's food situation precarious and unpredictable. "Many of these (aid) is gained by us lobbying. For instance, quotas for construction are no longer allowed out of India. But due to the close relationship, we are allowed to continue it," he said further.

Thus, "even when they have stopped export of construction material, as part of bilateral relations, we have a quota of 100 tonnes for stone aggregates and also eight-lakh tonnes of river sand". The minister told the Parliamentary panel that "these things are very important for our food security and economy as well", pointing out how India was also a major source for tourism sector, the nation's economic mainstay.

There was an exception that India could suspend the supplies if Maldives acted in ways unacceptable to India, Minister Fayyaz said. This happened to the 'specially-privileged' sand-gravel supplies for the nation under the predecessor Yameen administration-and that of the short-lived Waheed Presidency earlier. The Minister admitted that there may be other supplier-nations, but not in terms of quantities and quality, regularity and price-stability. He added that the 'effects' of the 'India Out' campaign was beginning to be felt, but not the 'ill-effects' as such, not as yet.

Uncivilised, most dangerous

In her turn, Defence Minister Mariya Didi described the Opposition campaign as an 'uncivilised..the most dangerous campaign" that has 'disrupted internal stability', posed a threat to national and regional security, and to foreign nationals resident in the Maldives, and Maldivians resident abroad. Home Minister Imran Abdulla recalled how India funded many infrastructure and development projects in the country, and how Indian doctors, nurses, teachers and other service sector employees felt threatened by the campaign, which alone needed to be ousted.

Before the parliamentary panel, Foreign Secretary Abdul Gafoor Mohamed stated that third-nation embassies too have been expressing concerns over the Opposition campaign. "Other countries that have embassies in Maldives have also raised concerns. They have also requested to heighten security at their embassies." State Minister Ahmed Khaleel at the Foreign Ministry explained that with more diplomats residing in Maldives, such campaigns will affect other countries too. "India is biggest power in terms of economics, military, and politically in this region," he said on the Opposition's campaign, whose main focus is said to be 'India Military Out' but without clarity on the reason for it, as yet.

Desperate attempt

Responding to specific queries from panel members, Foreign Ministry officials asserted that none of the agreements that the Solih administration had signed with India were new, and they had been initiated by the predecessor Yameen administration. They clarified that foreign policy changed with every change of government and the incumbent had restored the hydrography survey agreement with India that was cancelled by the predecessor.

In a separate development, the Defence Ministry, taking its pro-active posturing further, declined to share details of the 'Uthuru Thila Falhu (UTF) coastguard base development' agreement with India, as sought by The Maldives Journal, a pro-Yameen web-outlet. This, despite, Yameen reiterating in public rallies that UTF 'is filled with danger, an Indian military base', that the Government did not have control over the island, and how the Parliament was not taken into confidence on the contents of the agreement.

Maldives' top cop, Mohamed Hameed, Police Commissioner, hit the nail on the head, when he responded to a panel query how the presence of Indian military personnel posed 'no threat' to the nation's security or internal security. He pointed out how countries help one another in geo-strategic security matters, with military personnel from different countries being involved, and added that Maldivian military personnel too are active in other countries.

However, it was left to Rozaina Adam, a senior parliamentarian from ruling Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), to take on the Opposition PPM-PNC combine's campaign, squarely. In a TV talk-show, she said it was a desperate attempt to create hate between the Maldivian people and the Solih government. She said that Yameen had taken many decisions during his administration which put Maldives at risk of losing its independence and land. "The reality is that this shows there's nothing President Yameen wouldn't do to come to power. This is a false propaganda to create a rift between the Maldivian people and the Indian people," she said.

"The claims of loss of Maldives' independence are just false," MP Rozaina said. "That's not military presence. We are not talking about armed Indian soldiers coming to take Maldives. We have seen military presence in other countries, the armed soldiers in the streets," she said. Rozaina said the campaign was born out of jealousy because the government had continued to provide uninterrupted public services despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and pointed out how Yameen's actions contradicted his observations as President.

Criminalising 'India Out'

That the ruling MDP was balanced in its approach to 'India Out' campaign became clear when the party's Parliamentary Group Speaker Nasheed's idea as the party chief to bring forward a new legislation to criminalise campaigns of the kind against friendly nations. Party MPs had initially cleared the idea of what the Opposition dubbed 'India-Out law' but in detailed discussions reportedly did not feel comfortable about penalising freedom of expression and right to protest, which are at the centre of the PPM-PNC combine. Even before the MDP got its act together, Yameen had stressed that passing a law will not stop 'India Out' campaign. Some Opposition leaders as also independent observers felt that a future non-MDP government could give retrospective effect to such a law, and haul up Speaker Nasheed to task, dubbing his continuing criticism of China as criticism of a 'friendly nation'. This is so even as the recently-floated Maldives National Party (MNP) of retired army colonel, Mohamed Nazim, estranged Defence Minister from Yameen's presidency, opposed the proposal of Nasheed, once President, as an 'obstacle to the freedom of expression'. From a purely Indian perspective, the deferment of MDP's decision may go to dilute the Opposition social media claim that New Delhi was behind the ruling party's initiative, so also the 241 committee proceedings, which would be presented to Parliament, for follow-up debate and decision, if it came to that. The fact that the MDP is divided on the 'criminalisation' concept and those concerns

centre on domestic issues pertaining to democracy and freedom of expression should silence critics of India on this and also the larger issues of their 'India Out' campaign.

(N Sathiya Moorthy is Distinguished Fellow and Head of the Observer Research Foundation's Chennai Initiative)

- Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

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NS gcat : Political/General News | gvexe : Executive Branch | ghum : Human Rights/Civil Liberties | gpol : Domestic Politics | gvote : Elections | gcom : Society/Community | gpir : Politics/International Relations | gvbod : Government Bodies

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HD India - Mobile Phones - Competitive Landscape

WC 3,230 words

PD 28 February 2022

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SC DMRP

LA English

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The Indian mobile market is highly competitive. The last few years have been marked by consolidation in the Indian telecoms industry, with the structure changing from more than eight value players to now a structure of three private and one government operator. This includes India's two private mobile service operators, Bharti Airtel and Jio Infocomm, which compete alongside state-owned mobile service provider BSNL. These companies continue to battle for market share and mobile subscribers and are currently engaged in a race for the roll-out of a 5G **ecosystem** in India.

Who are the leading players?

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Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (Jio) is an Indian telecommunications company and a subsidiary of Jio Platforms owned by Reliance Industries Limited. The company is now the market leader in terms of subscriber and revenue market share with its subscriber base increasing to 426.2 million on March 31, 2021, including over 100 million users on JioPhone. Jio's 4G coverage at present is greater than 2G coverage in India with close to 99% population coverage. In the FY2021, Jio achieved revenues of IND 90,287 crore (\$12.0 billion).

Bharti Airtel Limited, also known as Airtel, is an Indian multinational telecommunications services company based in New Delhi. The company is a leading global telecommunications company with operations in 18 countries across Asia and Africa. On March 31, 2021, the company had 471.36 million mobile customers including 321.37 million customers in India; the company added 43 million 4G customers to its mobile network during FY2021. The company's product offerings include 2G, 3G, and 4G wireless services, mobile commerce, fixed line services, high speed home broadband, DTH, enterprise services including national and international long-distance services to carriers. Its wireless business includes postpaid, prepaid, international roaming, data connectivity and other value-added services. The group's mobile services revenue from India amounted to IND555.6 billion (\$ 7.44 billion) in FY2021.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is an Indian state-owned telecommunications company and one of India's major providers of prepaid and postpaid mobile tariffs. Mobile Services, including 2G, 3G, and 4G, served over 116.72 million mobile customers as of September 31, 2021.

What strategies do leading players follow?

The emergence of the 5th generation mobile network (5G) - a new global wireless standard designed to connect machines, objects, and devices - has created a strong demand for new mobile phones. Therefore, providing customers with 5G coverage has become a priority for most mobile phone service companies. Reliance Jio has plans to roll-out 5G services in the second half of 2021. However, Bharti Airtel announced in January 2021 that its network is now 5G ready and the company is already demonstrating its network in the city of Hyderabad. The companies must wait for the Indian government to approve 5G trial applications by service providers after resisting the implementation of 5G networks by Chinese vendors over security concerns. Mobile data usage in India is expected to quadruple to over 35 exabytes per month by 2026 with 1.2 billion smartphone users, according to Ericsson Mobility Report 2020. Driving mobile fueled data consumption is a key strategy for leading players.

During February 2021, Airtel and Qualcomm announced their partnership for accelerating the rollout of 5G in India. Airtel will utilize the Qualcomm 5G RAN Platforms to roll-out virtualized and Open RAN-based 5G networks. Airtel 5G services will be able to deliver multi-gigabit internet speeds wirelessly to customers and open up a wide range of smartphone innovations which will help it attract new customers. The

company also became India's first telecom player to successfully test, demonstrate and orchestrate a live 5G service over a commercial network in Hyderabad city

Indian telcos are still expanding 4G networks to achieve national coverage. As part of its strategy to offer high speed 4G across the country, Airtel moved forward on its plan to phase out its 3G services and further augmented its 4G services. 91% of the company's data consumers were 4G customers by the end of March 31, 2020. Airtel has launched 4G services in Lakshadweep Islands. With this, Airtel has become the first mobile operator to launch high-speed data services on the tropical archipelago.

Jio has focused on providing affordable mobile phone contracts to attract a large percentage of the Indian market. The group's parent company has a large digital services portfolio including media, gaming, and retail which could be included or used as additional services to attract new customers to its mobile service.

Similarly, Airtel is utilizing value added services to attract new customers. Added services included Wynk Music, one of the top 3 music streaming services in India with 72.5 million monthly active users (MAU). Airtel Xstream, the video and LIVE TV streaming app from Airtel, crossed 37.5 million MAU, underlining its growing popularity amongst smartphone users as the go-to destination for digital content. Amazon also partnered with Airtel to launch its mobile-only video plan in India. Prime Video Mobile Edition makes high quality OTT entertainment accessible to hundreds of millions of Airtel prepaid customers.

Have there been any significant mergers or acquisitions in recent years?

Google acquired a 7.73% stake in Jio Platforms on November 24, 2020. India's antitrust watchdog approved Google's \$4.5 billion investment in the nation's largest telecom platform which came months after Facebook invested \$5.7 billion in the company in return for a 9.99% share of the company. Facebook hoped its investment would help to strengthen the social media company's presence in its largest market as well as encourage downloads of WhatsApp. Google plan to jointly develop an "entry-level affordable smartphone" with Jio Platforms that will be optimized for Android and the Play Store. However, the multibillion dollar investments will also help to pay down debts accumulated by Jio Platforms' parent company Reliance Industries.

On July 1, 2019, Airtel completed the acquisition of the consumer mobile business of Tata Teleservices. Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd, which was merged with Bharti Airtel and Bharti Hexacom. The Airtel-Tata Teleservices merger will bolster Airtel's spectrum pool with significant additional 178.5 MHz spectrum in 1,800, 2,100 and 850 MHz bands, widely used for 4G.

This section contains brief overviews of the leading companies in the Indian mobile phones market.

Company

Company Name: Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd

Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (RJIO), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, is a telecommunication service provider and mobile network operator. The company offers products such as sim cards, mobile devices and internet dongles. It also provides services that include online bill payments, plans, voice, internet data, applications and subscription services in prepaid and postpaid format. RJIO also offers value added services such as caller tunes, downloads, entertainment, news and updates, sports, astrology, finance and messaging among others. It serves individuals and business customers across India and international markets. The company has operational services offered in the UK, the US and Singapore. RJIO is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

Head office: 9th Floor Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Website: www.jio.com

Financial Year End: March

Company Overview

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Company

Company Name: Bharti Airtel Limited

Bharti Airtel Limited (Bharti Airtel or 'the company') is a provider of telecommunication services. The company offers telemedia services, digital TV services, mobile services, telemedia services, digital TV services, and passive infrastructure services. It offers 2G, 3G and 4G wireless services, fixed line, high speed broadband through DSL. Bharti Airtel offers its services to healthcare, government, media, entertainment, education, and hospitality industries. It also provides video, voice, data, network integration, data center, and managed services, as well as mobile applications and digital media solutions. It operates in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Africa. The company is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

The company reported revenues of (Rupee) INR1,006,158 million for the fiscal year ended March 2021 (FY2021), an increase of 18.8% over FY2020. The operating profit of the company was INR528 million in FY2021, compared to an operating loss of INR329,302 million in FY2020. The net loss of the company was INR150,835 million in FY2021, compared to a net loss of INR321,832 million in FY2020.

The company reported revenues of INR298,666 million for the third quarter ended December 2021, an increase of 5.4% over the previous quarter.

Head office: Bharti Crescent 1, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, Phase II, New Delhi, India

Number of Employees: 18317

Website: www.airtel.in

Financial Year End: March

Ticker: BHARTIARTL

Stock Exchange: National Stock Exchange of India

Company Overview

Bharti Airtel Limited (Bharti Airtel or 'the company') is a provider of telecommunication services. The company offers telemedia services, digital TV services, mobile services, telemedia services, digital TV services, and passive infrastructure services. It offers 2G, 3G and 4G wireless services, fixed line, high speed broadband through DSL. Bharti Airtel offers its services to healthcare, government, media, entertainment, education, and hospitality industries. It also provides video, voice, data, network integration, data center, and managed services, as well as mobile applications and digital media solutions. It operates in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Africa. The company is headquartered in New Delhi, India. The company reported revenues of (Rupee) INR1,006,158 million for the fiscal year ended March 2021 (FY2021), an increase of 18.8% over FY2020. The operating profit of the company was INR528 million in FY2021, compared to an operating loss of INR329,302 million in FY2020. The net loss of the company was INR150,835 million in FY2021, compared to a net loss of INR321,832 million in FY2020.

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Business Description

Bharti Airtel Limited (Bharti Airtel or 'the company') is a provider of telecommunications services with presence in 18 countries in Asia and Africa. The company offers mobile, voice and data solutions using 2G, 3G and 4G technologies; an integrated suite of telecom solutions; and long-distance connectivity in India, Africa and rest of the world. The company also offers digital TV and IPTV services in India. All of the services are offered under the Airtel brand. In FY2021, the company had a customer base of 471.3 million, 216,901 network towers and 606,783 mobile broadband base stations.

The company operates through five business segments: Mobile Services, Airtel Business, Homes Services, Digital TV Services and Others.

Mobile Services segment comprises of Mobile Services India, Mobile Services Africa and Mobile Services South Asia. Mobile Services India services cover voice and data telecom services provided through wireless technology (2G / 3G / 4G) in India. This includes the captive national long distance networks which primarily provide connectivity to the mobile

services business in India. This also includes intra-city fibre networks. Mobile Services Africa services cover provision of voice and data telecom services provided through wireless

technology (2G / 3G / 4G) offered to customers in Africa. Mobile Services South Asia services cover voice and data telecom services provided through wireless technology

(2G / 3G) in Sri Lanka and other Asian regions. The company also adds mobile TV, live-streaming videos, gaming, video calls, buffer-less HD video streaming and multi-tasking capabilities to offer innovative services to customers. In FY2021, the Mobile Services segment reported revenues of INR827,244 million, which accounted for 82.2% of the company's revenue.

Airtel Business segment provides information and communications technology (ICT) solutions in India. These solutions comprise of network integration, data center services, managed services, voice, data, video, digital media and enterprise mobility applications. In FY2021, the Airtel Business segment reported revenues of INR125,060 million, which accounted for 12.4% of the company's revenue.

The company's Homes Services segment provides national, international long-distance voice connectivity, other VAS, and local services. It provides retail customers with DSL and fixed-line telephone services. In FY2021, the segment served 3 million customers. In FY2021, the Homes Services segment reported revenues of INR23,292 million, which accounted for 2.3% of the company's revenue.

Under Digital TV services segment, the company encompasses digital broadcasting services. The company served a customer base of 17.7 million on its DTH platform. Bharti Airtel offers a total of 650 channels and services, including 85 high-definition (HD) channels, 60 SVOD services, six international channels, and two interactive services. In FY2021, the Digital TV Services segment reported revenues of INR30,562 million, which accounted for 3% of the company's total revenue.

Bharti Airtel's Others segment comprises strategic investments in joint ventures, support and administrative services. In FY2021, the Others segment did not generate any revenue.

Geographically, the company classifies its operations into three segments, namely India, Africa, and Others. In FY2021, India segment accounted for 68.7% of the company's revenues, followed by Africa with 27.7% and Others with 3.6%.

Company

Company Name: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) is a provider of network management and telecommunications services. The company offers a wide range of telecom services including wire line, CDMA mobile, GSM mobile, internet, broadband, carrier service, VSAT, MPLS-VPN, VoIP services and IN services. It offers mobile services, broadband services, enterprise services and landline services. The company provides internet services through leased line, account less internet, dial up and DIAS modes. It also provides managed network services and other enterprise services such as video conferencing, fleet tracking, video surveillance, web hosting and others. The company has operational presence across India. BSNL is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

Head office: Bharat Sanchar Bhawan Harish Chandra Mathur Lane, Janpath, New Delhi, Delhi, India

Number of Employees: 64536

Website: www.bsnl.co.in

Financial Year End: March

Company Overview

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) is a provider of network management and telecommunications services. The company offers a wide range of telecom services including wire line, CDMA mobile, GSM mobile, internet, broadband, carrier service, VSAT, MPLS-VPN, VoIP services and IN services. It offers mobile services, broadband services, enterprise services and landline services. The company provides internet services through leased line, account less internet, dial up and DIAS modes. It also provides managed network services and other enterprise services such as video conferencing, fleet tracking, video surveillance, web hosting and others. The company has operational presence across India. BSNL is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

Business Description

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) is a provider of telecommunication services. The company offers a wide range of mobile and communication services in India. It provides CDMA mobile, broadband, internet, GSM mobile, wireline, carrier services, VSAT, MPLS-VPN, VSAT and intelligence network services.

The company has a comprehensive range of telephone networks, telegraph networks, mobile service networks, internet service networks and customer service centers in India. BSNL service portfolio includes mobile services, broadband services, enterprise business services and landline services.

The company offers fixed line prepaid PCO, phone plus services, permanent connections, new telephone connections, transfer of telephone, intelligent network services such as universal ITC, toll free numbers/services, VPN services and others through its landline services.

The company's mobile services include post-paid, prepaid, unified messaging, international roaming, GSM PCO, GPRS/WAP/MMS, and SMS/bulk SMS services. BSNL's broadband services include landline broadband, 3G mobile broadband, GSM Wi-Fi, dial up internet, WiMAX broadband, fiber broadband and CDMA broadband.

The company's enterprise business consists of enterprise voice and mobility such as EPABX, voice VPN, ISDN/PRI/BRI, Centrex, 2G/3G mobile, and Blackberry services; internet data center services such as IDC overview, managed colocation, managed or hosting, managed IT, and cloud services; enterprise data services such as leased circuit, MPLS VPN, internet leased line, VSAT, and VPN services.

It also offers Enterprise broadband such as Wi-Max, Wi-Fi, EVDO, DSL broadband/FTTH broadband; managed services such as managed network services, managed global audio conferencing, managed SaaS, and internet data center; and Other enterprise services such as web colocation, fleet tracking, video conferencing, video surveillance, web hosting, USOF project and host of other innovative enterprise business solution services.

Its landline services include telephone lines, FLPP B-fone, and phone plus services. It also consists of intelligent network services such as universal ITC, UAN service, toll free numbers/services, VPN service, televoting services; BSNL PCO; and PRI/BRI/dial-up internet such as dial up internet, ISDN PRI, and ISDN BRI. The company through its Quality Telecom Network provides new telecom services with ICT applications across villages.

As of March 2021, the company had 125.1 million customers, 118.62 million GSM customers, 6.82 Broadband wired connections and sold 1,53,75,842 SIM in FY2021. The company covered 6254 cities/Towns with 3G services and 773 cities with 4G services facilities.

Geographically, the company has business presence across India.

Market Definition

The Mobile Phones market includes mobile phone service revenues and average minutes of use (MOU). Market values are made up of total mobile revenues containing revenues from mobile service providers and other members of the mobile service value-chain for the provision of mobile telephony services, excluding revenues from the sale of devices. Market volumes are made up of two segments: prepaid and postpaid, which consist of prepaid average monthly MOU and postpaid average monthly MOU. Minutes of use are made up from the average of voice minutes used in mobile subscriptions, including both incoming and outgoing calls, but not including M2M/IoT voice services.

All market data and forecasts are represented in nominal terms (i.e. without adjustment for inflation) and all currency conversions used in the creation of this report have been calculated using constant 2021 annual average exchange rates.

Forecast figures in this report have taken into account the estimated impact that the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the market, though the length of the pandemic and restrictions imposed by governments around the world is not certain, therefore the impact on the market is difficult to predict.

For the purposes of this report, the global market consists of North America, South America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, South Africa and Nigeria.

North America consists of Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

South America comprises Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Peru.

Europe comprises Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Scandinavia comprises Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden.

Asia-Pacific comprises Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Middle East comprises Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates.

CO rjiol : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd | bhatev : Bharti Airtel Ltd. | bhrten : Bharti Enterprises Limited

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | icellph : Cell/Mobile/Smart Phones | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | i34411 : Mobile Communications Devices | i3454 : Personal Electronics | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | ielec : Consumer Electronics | ihandaps : Handheld Electronic Devices | itech : Technology | i1 : Energy | i14 : Downstream Operations | i14001 : Petroleum Refining | ifosfl : Fossil Fuels | iindstrls : Industrial Goods

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AN Document DMRP000020220322ei3m000lc

SE India
HD **JioGames brings curated library of games to OnePlus TVs**

WC 282 words

PD 28 February 2022

SN Indo-Asian News Service

SC HNIANS

LA English

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Mumbai, Feb 28 (IANS) As **gaming** gets mainstream in India, Reliance Jio's **gaming** service JioGames on Monday announced a partnership with global technology brand OnePlus to bring a curated library of titles to select OnePlus TVs.

The collaboration will bring popular games such as K.G.F Official Game, Alpha Guns, Jungle Adventures 3, Little Singham Treasure Hunt and many more from the curated library of JioGames to the OnePlus TVs.

TD

JioGames offers gaming and services on different devices like smartphone, feature phone, set-top box, AR/VR and esports opportunities to users.

"This unique partnership is set to provide our OnePlus TV users access to a wonderful selection of games from JioGames' diverse library and help them gain a truly immersive gaming experience," said Navnit Nakra, OnePlus India CEO and Head of India region.

For content creators, JioGamesWatch enables gamers to put out all kinds of gaming content.

Users can currently access JioGames on select OnePlus TV models and the immersive gaming experience will soon be available across some other variants of OnePlus TVs.

OnePlus stepped into the smart TV segment in Q3 2019 with the launch of its Q Series in India. It witnessed a 217 per cent (on-year) growth and held a 7 per cent market share in Q3 2021 in the country, according to Counterpoint Research's TV Tracker Service.

The new OnePlus TV Y1S is available across online platforms starting at Rs 16,499 and OnePlus TV Y1S Edge across offline channels from Rs 16,999 onwards.

JioGames brings multiple stakeholders from the world of gaming together -- the players, publishers, spectators and communities.

--IANS

na/

CO rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services

NS cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

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AN Document HNIANS0020220228ei2s008et

HD Jio-Facebook partnership: Step towards Universal Basic Internet**BY** Aashish Shetty**WC** 957 words**PD** 26 February 2022**SN** The Sunday Guardian**SC** SGUARD**LA** English**CY** Copyright 2022. MJP Media Pvt. Ltd**LP**

India, Feb. 26 -- In April 2021, in a video release, Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Jio announced **investment** by global social media network giant Facebook for a 9.99% stake for Rs 43,574 crore, which values Jio at a mind boggling Rs 4.62 lakh crore. Subsequently, Jio has raised more than Rs 1 lakh crore in a bid to reduce the mounting debt and interest obligations on its balance sheet.

In January 2020, the Supreme Court of India declared access to the Internet as a fundamental right under Article 19 of the Constitution. The United Nations Human Rights Commission had in 2016 passed a non-binding resolution that effectively makes internet access a basic human right. India at that point had opposed this resolution in the UN.

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Mark Zuckerberg, founder-CEO of Facebook had in August 2014 published a 10-page whitepaper outlining his idea of how the internet should be made accessible for every person and access to data should be a fundamental right. Globally, many technology leaders and public policy experts were sceptical of Mark Zuckerberg's intentions. Facebook spent a massive amount of cash promoting this idea in India under the internet.org initiative. However, they required Facebook related applications to have priority over the network which was fiercely opposed by proponents of the right to equality on the internet. The courts supported this stand and the effort disappeared in a few months.

In the last decade, we have seen the impact technology has had on social and other aspects of human life caused by the GAFA factor, where GAFA is an acronym for leading global technology giants Google, Amazon, Facebook and Apple. This does not take into account Whatsapp and Instagram (both now part of Facebook), Microsoft or Twitter which with the exception of Microsoft are more focused just on social media networking. Regional players are also excluded which would include regional technology players and telecom giants like Verizon, AT&T or Comcast, Walmart and other e-tailers in the United states, BSNL and Flipkart in India or technology giants in the closed internet arena of China like search engine Baidu, instant messaging service WeChat or Jack Ma's Alibaba. If any two or three of these players were to combine forces where they command a majority market share they would have an almost insurmountable lead over their closest second place competitor. The Jio-Facebook deal has given birth to one such partnership with the idea of creating a mammoth JioMart to rival Amazon and Flipkart in the online marketplace, as well as hyper local essential items delivery giants like Dmart-Ready and Big Basket.

Facebook purchased WhatsApp in February 2014 for \$16 billion dollars at an effective price of \$55 per WhatsApp user. At that point WhatsApp had almost no revenue as it was and still is ad-free. Then what justified such a high acquisition cost? In 2014, WhatsApp had over 500 million global users and were adding more than 1 million users per day. Facebook had about 890 million users then but were growing at a substantially slower pace. Facebook acquired WhatsApp to get this growth of users. In a similar deal, Facebook had acquired Instagram in 2012 for \$1 billion when the company had just 13 employees.

As per Google, a major part of the new Indian users are joining the internet access content in Indian languages. This number makes sense as almost all the English speaking population already have access to the internet and the majority of users now being added are from rural areas where Indian languages are the primary medium of communication. Jio has already launched many of its phones and applications in major Indian languages. Access to effectively all the mobile internet users in India along with the ability to provide content and mobile applications in Indian languages give Jio-Facebook a substantial advantage to reach every Indian that is currently internet enabled.

The Jio-Facebook and by extension WhatsApp with its India user base of 400+ million gives the partnership a very wide reach in India rivalled only by Google. Google in addition to its search business also owns Gmail & YouTube, the world leading email and video streaming service providers. Unlike Google Pay, Facebook owned WhatsApp's Payment service was in its pilot phase in India for over two years now. This was due to its delay in complying with RBI's data localisation regulations. WhatsApp had subsequently submitted a report to the Supreme Court that its payments platform is now compliant with RBI's requirements. The audit report was prepared by an independent third-party auditor, certified by the central government's cybersecurity firm CERT-in. WhatsApp Payment was recently launched in India. This could potentially integrate well with the Jio-Mart platform.

Regulators like TRAI and Competition Commission of India need to ensure a level playing field. From a government perspective, they could encourage other industry leaders to form similar collaborations. For example, Google with its search, Gmail and YouTube user base could tie up with Vodafone, Airtel or BSNL based on target market. They could further collaborate with DMart or Big Basket to be a healthy competitor for JioMart. These are exciting times with India scheduled to launch 5G services in 2022. Multimedia content, e-commerce and other services provided over high speed networks, coupled with rural penetration would go a long way in realising the dream of Universal Basic Internet access as a fundamental right.

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PUB ITV Network (Information TV Pvt Ltd)

AN Document SGUARD0020220226ei2q00032

HD Rakuten Mobile names Amin CEO amid warning of \$4.7B **funding gap**

BY Iain Morris

WC 1,187 words

PD 25 February 2022

SN Light Reading

SC LITEREAD

LA English

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Tareq Amin managed to avoid any blushes while his boss likened him to a couple of the world's best-known technology entrepreneurs as well two of its most famous soccer players. "In the network sector and mobile, he is the Steve Jobs or Elon Musk," gushed Hiroshi Mikitani, Rakuten's CEO, seated alongside Amin on stage in Tokyo today. "He is going to make a bigger impact than Iniesta. Messi and Iniesta added and divided by two is Tareq," he added, confusingly.

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In a sector that is often compared unfavorably with Big Tech, Amin has certainly drawn attention. Recruited by Mikitani in 2018 from India's Reliance Jio, he has led the rollout of a software-based and "cloud-native" mobile network in Japan as chief technology officer of Rakuten Mobile, the subsidiary Mikitani set up. The comparison with Jobs, no doubt, is flattering: Rakuten has not (yet) had the same impact on networks that Apple had on gadgetry (or, for that matter, Iniesta had on football). But Amin has a vision that everyone - whether critic or admirer - seems to be constantly discussing.

[Click here to view Figure 1.](#)

From late March, he will step into the CEO job at Rakuten Mobile, replacing Yoshihisa Yamada, who will continue to have a group advisory role, according to a Rakuten spokesperson. Amin has already been appointed CEO of Rakuten Symphony, the international unit selling Rakuten's technologies to other carriers, and relinquished his former CTO role. Working just underneath him as Rakuten president will be Shunsuke Yazawa, the man credited with the success of Rakuten's Ichiba e-commerce marketplace, with both men reporting to Mikitani.

"On the division of responsibility, Yazawa will be chief revenue officer and own the technology deployment and site construction and oversee all the local activities in Japan while I make sure the linkage between the global business and the strategy that is driving Rakuten Mobile is synergized," said Amin. "I look at Yazawa as a partner trying to ignite the next stage of growth."

Symphony strikes the right tone

The hugely expensive project continues to worry parts of the financial community. Despite offering low-cost, all-you-can-eat services to consumers, Rakuten has not grown as fast as it must have hoped. Nearly two years after launch, just 5.5 million people use Rakuten's mobile services, including a few hundred thousand at its older MVNO (mobile virtual network operator) business.

This gives Rakuten a market share of only 2% and puts it far behind mobile new entrants in other countries, including Jio, at similar stages of their existence, according to equity analysts at New Street Research. Net additions have slowed and there is a dwindling base of MVNO customers to migrate.

Mobile losses are currently tracking at about \$1 billion a quarter on buildout costs. Yes, the company has reached a 4G population coverage target of 96% four years ahead of schedule, deploying nearly 40,000 sites across Japan. With 4G nearly done, it can also wean itself off a costly roaming deal with KDDI for zones it did not previously cover. But its 5G network comprises only about 4,000 macro sites - far fewer than rivals - and Rakuten plans to build another 10,000 this year. Funding needs remain significant.

Want to know more about 5G? Check out our [dedicated 5G content channel](#) here on Light Reading.

In fact, New Street Research envisages a \$4.7 billion funding gap between now and 2024 - even with an initial public offering of Rakuten Bank, the sale of an \$800 million investment portfolio and the generation of profits by Symphony. In a research note issued this week, New Street Research said Rakuten would probably need to raise funds in the next two or three months.

The analyst firm certainly has a more upbeat take on Symphony than it does on the domestic mobile unit. Its bear case is that Symphony will end up with a quarter of the market for open RAN, an umbrella term for more interoperable and virtualized radio access networks. The emergence of such a powerful player hardly bodes well for supplier diversity, a goal of the open RAN movement, but that is another matter.

[Click here to view Table 1.](#)

The problem for Rakuten is the relatively small size of the open RAN market. Dell'Oro, another research firm, predicts the technology will account for 15% of annual RAN market spending in the mid-2020s, sizing the total RAN market at between \$40 billion and \$45 billion a year. New Street Research broadly agrees. In its bull case for Symphony, it envisages a 50% share (bang goes diversity) of an open RAN market generating \$6.8 billion for suppliers in 2025.

But this equates to just \$3.4 billion for Symphony, about 14% of what Ericsson made last year. Even if Symphony can achieve an Ericsson-like margin of 15%, its operating profit would be as little as \$510 million. This would make only a smallish dent in New Street Research's projected loss for Rakuten Mobile of \$2.9 billion in 2025.

Enterprising moves

One thing analysts may not have considered is a planned push into the enterprise market for communications services, announced today. "We are coming to enterprise this year," said Amin. "We are in the later stage of getting our network and billing systems ready for customer trials and by the second quarter we will begin customer trials."

Besides tailoring its Link communications app to the needs of organizations big and small, Rakuten also sees an opportunity to build private mobile networks for factories and warehouses. The Internet of Things (IoT) is a further target. "Every site deployed has native support for IoT and we are the only operator in Japan with the full capability to support NB-IoT," said Amin, referring to a network technology that has lagged expectations so far.

Rakuten Mobile's management shake-up is a sign of Mikitani's enduring confidence in Amin, despite the concerns that continue to swirl around the mobile strategy. As Rakuten internationalizes, it reflects his globetrotting status as one of the most recognizable faces in telecom - someone, said Mikitani, who can immediately engage top executives at firms like Cisco, Intel and Qualcomm.

But it also moves Amin into a role where he will need to speak as much about sales and profits as he does about software and the cloud. "He is never bound by convention," said Mikitani in what sounded like a eulogy earlier today. The same persuasiveness that overcame doubts about unconventional technology choices may be needed on the commercial side, too.

Related posts:

- * [With \\$3B in bookings, Rakuten Symphony makes big app store pitch](#)
- * [Rakuten says losses to shrink, eyeing 10,000-site 5G rollout in 2022](#)
- * [Spectrum-starved Rakuten will be loss-making until 2026 - analysts](#)
- * [Rakuten remains a poor advert for open RAN](#)
- * [Rakuten turns 5G revolutionary as it nears world's first open RAN launch](#)

- Iain Morris, International Editor, [Light Reading](#)

CT morris@lightreading.com

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RE jap : Japan | asiaz : Asia | apacz : Asia Pacific | easiaz : Eastern Asia

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HD Reliance Jio Infocomm to land IAX submarine **cable** system at Hulhumale in the Maldives

WC 142 words

PD 25 February 2022

SN Telecompaper Asia

SC TELASI

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Reliance Jio Infocomm said it will land the [India-Asia-Xpress \(IAX\)](#) international submarine **cable** system in Hulhumale, Maldives. The system will connect Hulhumale directly with major internet hubs in India and Singapore.

The IAX system originates in Mumbai in the west and connects directly to Singapore, with branches including additional landings in India, Malaysia, and Thailand. The IndiaEurope-Xpress (IEX) system connects Mumbai to Milan, landing in Savona, Italy, and includes additional landings in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean. IAX should be ready for service by the end of 2023, while IEX will be ready in mid-2024.

TD

The systems will provide over 200 TB of capacity at speeds of 100 Gbps, over 16,000 kilometers. The systems will employ open system technology and RoADM/branching units.

CO rjiol : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE india : India | singp : Singapore | mumbai : Mumbai | maldr : Maldives | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | mahara : Maharashtra | sasiaz : Southern Asia | seasiaz : Southeast Asia

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HD	Reliance Jio Infocomm to land IAX submarine cable system at Hulhumale in the Maldives
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SN	Telecompaper World
SC	TELWOR
LA	English
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SE GADGETS NEWS
HD Reliance Jio launches Rs 1,499 and Rs 4,199 prepaid plans: All benefits
WC 326 words
PD 25 February 2022
SN The Times of India
SC TOI
LA English
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Reliance Jio has launched two new recharge plans for its prepaid customers. The telco has introduced Rs 1,499 and Rs 4,199 prepaid plans with up to 365 days validity and benefits like high-speed internet data. Among other benefits, the new plans come with a free Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription worth Rs1,499. The plan users will get access to 4K **content** and can stream it on four concurrent **devices** simultaneously. Reliance Jio Rs 1,499 and Rs 4,199 plans benefits Reliance Jio Rs 1,499 prepaid plan has a validity of 84 days. It offers 2GB daily data benefits along with unlimited voice calling. Users will also get a 100 SMS message limit daily along with access to Jio apps. Jio's Rs 4,199 plan is a yearly plan. It comes with 3GB of daily data for a period of 365 days. Other benefits include unlimited voice calls and 100 SMS messages per day. It also comes with free subscription to Jio apps. Both the plans are live on the Jio website along with the MyJio app.

TD It is also available through various third-party apps and sites. Jio's new plans come days after Airtel revised its Rs 2,999 prepaid plan to offer Disney+ Hotstar subscription to its users. Earlier this month, Airtel revised the plan to include a Disney+ Hotstar subscription worth Rs 499 along with a 30-day free trial to Amazon Prime Mobile edition. The plan has a validity of 365 days and offers 2GB of data per day along with unlimited voice calling data and a 100 SMS message daily limit. Similarly, Vi also has a Rs 3,099 prepaid plan that offers Disney+ Hotstar subscription. The plan is valid for 365 days and comes with 1.5GB of internet data per day.

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AN Document TOI0000020220224ei2p0006m

SE Technology
HD **Reliance Jio Rs 1,499, Rs 4,199 prepaid recharge plans launched with Disney+ Hotstar premium subscription: Check details**
BY Anshika Awasthi
WC 517 words
PD 24 February 2022
SN Financial Express Online
SC FIEXON
LA English
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LP

Reliance Jio has launched Rs 1,499 and Rs 4,199 prepaid recharge plans that will also offer customers Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription worth Rs 1,499. With this latest offer, Jio customers can access **content** on as many as four **devices** at the same time. Meaning, users can access **content** worth Rs 1,499 on mobile phones, laptops, tablets or televisions.

The new prepaid Jio recharge plans (Rs 1,499 and Rs 4,199) will also come up with high-speed data access, unlimited voice calls, and daily SMS message services. Jio, last year, revised prepaid plans with Disney+ Hotstar Mobile subscription that brought limited **content** access for users.

TD

Comparing the two newly introduced prepaid recharge plans—Jio Rs 1,499 or Rs 4,199

As we know already, users will be benefited with a one-year of Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription with the newly introduced Rs 1,499 and Rs 4,199 Jio prepaid recharge plans.

The Rs 1,499 Jio prepaid recharge plan will offer 2GB of high-speed daily data benefits with a validity period of up to 84 days. Rs 4,199 Jio plan will however come with a 3GB high-speed daily data with the validity of 365 days.

Besides bundled data benefits, Rs 1,499 and Rs 4,199 Jio recharge plans also have unlimited voice calls and 100 SMS messages to offer on a daily basis. The plans will also offer a subscription to Jio apps.

The additional benefits with Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription will also give access to live sports and Hotstar Specials, movies, Disney plus movies in both English and other languages, early access to TV series, as well as Disney+ originals. Users can watch all of this on up to four screens.

Users can recharge their Jio number with the new prepaid recharge plans directly via MyJio app. Recharge can also be done via Jio site and with the help of various third-party apps and sites.

How to activate Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription after the Jio recharge

After recharging your account with Rs 1,499 or Rs 4,199 Jio plans, users will receive a special Disney plus Hotstar Premium coupon code in their MyJio app. You will have to use this coupon code on the Hotstar Subscription Offer webpage after signing in with your Jio number. This way, you will get one year of Disney plus Hotstar Premium membership.

Apart from Rs 1,499 and Rs 4,199 Jio recharge plans come with existing prepaid plans that offer access to Disney+ Hotstar Mobile. The mobile-focused subscription will be limited to a single mobile device. You will not be able to access content on multiple devices or even on your TV if you get a subscription for Disney+ Hotstar Mobile.

Disney+ Hotstar Mobile subscription begins with recharge plans starting at Rs. 601.

[Disney+ Hotstar Mobile subscription begins with recharge plans starting at Rs. 601.](#)

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IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | ippcell : Prepaid Mobile Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

NS c22 : New Products/Services | c314 : Pricing | c31 : Marketing | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

PUB Indian Express Group

AN Document FIEXON0020220225ei2o0001t



HD Reliance Industries' arm launches two new prepaid packs with Disney+ Hotstar premium plans

WC 290 words

PD 24 February 2022

SN Accord Fintech

SC HTACCF

LA English

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LP

India, Feb. 24 -- Reliance Industries' (RIL) telecom arm -- Reliance Jio Infocomm (Jio) has launched two new prepaid plans for its users priced at Rs 1,499 and Rs 4,199, which come with a Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription. The new plans will allow users to experience Disney+ Hotstar Premium, the Disney+ Hotstar **platform**'s most exclusive membership, on their Jio numbers. Disney+ Hotstar's Premium subscription will let users enjoy their favourite **content** in 4K on as many as 4 concurrent **devices**. This service can be used across mobiles, laptops, tablets and connected TVs.

TD

The new Rs 1,499 plan lets users enjoy a 1-Year Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription, along with 2 GB data per day, 84 days validity, unlimited voice, 100 SMS per day and subscription to Jio Apps. The Rs 4,199 plan also allows users to have a complimentary 1-Year Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription, along with 3 GB data per day, 365 days validity, unlimited calls, 100 SMS per day and subscription to Jio Apps. Once users recharge with a Rs 1,499 or Rs 4,199 plan, they will receive a unique Disney+ Hotstar Premium coupon code in their MyJio account. They can use this coupon code to avail one-year Disney+ Hotstar Premium membership.

Reliance Industries is India's largest private sector company. The company's activities span hydrocarbon exploration and production, petroleum refining and marketing, petrochemicals, retail and 4G digital services.

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AN Document HTACCF0020220224ei2o0002w

The Telegraph

HD Jio, Airtel in undersea **cable** race

WC 511 words

PD 24 February 2022

SN The Telegraph

SC ABPTTEL

LA English

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LP

Bharti Airtel on Monday announced it has joined the SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea **cable** consortium, while Reliance Jio said it will land its India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea **cable** system in Hulhumale, Maldives.

The two large operators came out with separate announcements related to undersea **cable** projects.

TD

Airtel said it is participating as a “major investor” in the SEA-ME-WE-6 and is anchoring 20 per cent of the overall investment in the cable system, which will go live in 2025.

The 12 other consortium members of SEA-ME-WE-6 include Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company, Dhiraagu (Maldives), Djibouti Telecom, Mobily (Saudi Arabia), Orange (France), Singtel (Singapore), Sri Lanka Telecom, Telecom Egypt, Telekom Malaysia, and Telin (Indonesia). The 19,200 Rkm (route kilometres) SEA-ME-WE-6 will connect Singapore and France.

In a statement, Airtel said it has joined SEA-ME-WE-6 under sea cable consortium to scale up the high-speed network for India's emerging digital economy.

“Through SEA-ME-WE-6, Airtel will add a significant amount of 100 TBps capacity to its global network,” the statement said.

Airtel has acquired one fiber pair on the main SEA-ME-WE-6 system and will co-build four fiber pairs across Singapore – Chennai – Mumbai as part of the cable system.

Airtel will land the SEA-ME-WE-6 cable system in India at new landing stations in Mumbai and Chennai.

According to the statement, SEA-ME-WE-6 will be integrated with Nxtra by Airtel's large data centres in Mumbai and Chennai.

Airtel business director and CEO Ajay Chitkara said: “Undersea cable systems along with data centres are vital infrastructure for supporting 5G and the digital economy... Our investment in SEA-ME-WE-6 is another step in our journey to future-proof our network and build large integrated capacities to enable India's digital ecosystem.”

Airtel global network spans over 365,000 Rkms and reaches 50 countries across five continents.

Nxtra, the data centre unit of Airtel, operates the largest network of data centres in India with 11 large and 120 edge data centres. Reliance Jio Infocomm will land the India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in Hulhumale, Maldives, according to a statement on Monday.

The IAX system will connect Hulhumale directly with world's major internet hubs in India and Singapore.

Jio's IAX project will land in the Maldives in collaboration with Ocean Connect Maldives, the statement said.

The IAX system originates in Mumbai in the west and connects directly to Singapore, with branches including additional landings in India, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Jio's India-Europe-Xpress (IEX) system connects Mumbai to Milan, landing in Savona, Italy, and includes additional landings in West Asia, North Africa, and the Mediterranean. IAX is expected to be ready for service end-2023, while IEX will be ready for service in mid-2024.

"These high capacity and high-speed systems will provide more than 200Tb/s of capacity at speeds of 100Gb/s, over 16,000 kilometers," the statement informed.

CO bsubcc : Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Ltd. | drguapl : Dhivehi Raajjeyge Gulhun Public Limited Company. | itteti : Ettihad Etisalat Company | maltel : Telekom Malaysia Bhd | rjioil : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | sritel : Sri Lanka Telecom PLC | bahtel : Bahrain Telecommunications Co | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

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AN Document ABPTEL0020220223ei2o000am

HD Reliance Jio announces two new plans with Disney+Hotstar Premium

WC 396 words

PD 23 February 2022

SN Voice and Data

SC CMVOID

LA English

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LP

Reliance Jio announced two new plans that offer the Disney+Hotstar Premium Subscription, the highest level subscription the **OTT** service offers. The two plans cost 1,499 and 4,199, respectively.

Reliance Jio brings new plans with Disney+Hotstar Premium

TD

Incidentally, a Disney+Hotstar Premium subscription lets the users consume content in 4K on as many as 4 concurrent devices. A user can also use the subscription across devices such as Mobiles, Laptops, Tablets, and Connected TVs.

The two plans, announced by Reliance Jio, are worth 1,499 and 4,199. The details of these plans are as follows:

1,499 plan

Of course, the plan comes with the aforementioned 1-Year Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription, which is already worth 1,499. However, along with this, Reliance Jio offers the 719 plan along with the bundle. The 719 plan comes with 2 GB of data per day, with unlimited voice and 100 SMS per day. The plan is valid for 84 days, however, the user can use the subscription for the full year. Jio also offers a complimentary subscription to all the Jio Apps with the recharge. That means the user can use apps such as JioSaavn, JioTV, and so on, with the recharge.

4199 plan

This plan comes with the Disney+Hotstar Premium subscription, which is valid for a year from the date of activation. Along with that, Reliance Jio offers a year's worth of benefits as well. The recharge, now the most expensive prepaid plan, brings 3 GB of data per day, along with unlimited calls and 100 SMS per day. Also, the plan remains valid for 365 days, and bundles in the complimentary subscription to all the Jio Apps.

How to Activate the Subscription?

Once the user has purchased the recharge, they have to do a couple of things before they can activate their subscription.

First, after the recharge has been successfully done, the user receives a unique Disney+ Hotstar Premium coupon code in the user's MyJio account. After this, the user can follow the following steps to activate the subscription.

* Visit: <https://www.hotstar.com/in/subscribe/promo>

* Sign in with your Jio number and enter the OTP.

* Enter the unique coupon code provided.

* Provide confirmation and your subscription is activated.

[Click here to view image](#)

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NS c314 : Pricing | c31 : Marketing | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

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IPD News

PUB Cyber Media India Ltd.

AN Document CMVOID0020220224ei2n00003

SE Telecom
 HD **Jio Rs. 1,499, Rs. 4,199 Prepaid Recharge Plans With Disney+ Hotstar Premium Subscription Launched**
 BY Jagmeet Singh
 WC 550 words
 PD 23 February 2022
 ET 11:31
 SN NDTV
 SC NDTVIN
 LA English
 CY Copyright. 2022. NDTV Convergence Ltd., New Delhi, India.

LP

Reliance Jio has introduced Rs. 1,499 and Rs. 4,199 prepaid recharge plans with Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription worth Rs. 1,499. With the bundled offer, Jio users can access 4K **content** on as many as four concurrent **devices** simultaneously — whether these are mobile phones, laptops, tablets, or TVs. The Rs. 1,499 and Rs. 4,199 Jio prepaid recharge plans also include high-speed data access, unlimited voice calls, and daily SMS message benefits. Last year, Jio revised prepaid plans with Disney+ Hotstar Mobile subscription that brings limited **content** access.

Jio Rs 1,499 and Rs. 4,199 prepaid recharge plan benefits

TD

The newly launched Rs. 1,499 and Rs. 4,199 [Jio](#) prepaid recharge plans come with a one-year of [Disney+ Hotstar Premium](#) subscription. However, apart from the bundled subscription, both plans carry different benefits.

While the Rs. 1,499 Jio prepaid recharge plan offers 2GB of high-speed daily data benefits and has a validity of 84 days, the Rs. 4,199 Jio plan comes with a quota of 3GB high-speed daily data and is valid for 365 days.

Jio has launched its new prepaid plans with Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription

Photo Credit: Jio

Alongside the bundled data benefits, Rs. 1,499 and Rs. 4,199 Jio recharge plans come with unlimited voice calls and 100 SMS messages on a daily basis. The plans also offer a subscription to Jio apps.

The addition of Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription brings access to live sports and Hotstar Specials, early access to TV serials, movies, Disney+ movies in both English and dubbed, and Disney+ originals. All this can be watched on up to four screens and in up to 4K quality.

You can [recharge](#) your Jio number with Rs. 1,499 and Rs. 4,199 prepaid plans directly through the MyJio app or the Jio site. The recharge plans are also available through various third-party apps and sites.

How to activate Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription after recharging with the Jio plan

Once you recharge your account with Rs. 1,499 or Rs. 4,199 Jio plan, you will receive a unique Disney+ Hotstar Premium coupon code in your [MyJio app](#). You can use this coupon code on the [Hotstar Subscription Offer webpage](#) after signing in with your Jio number to get one year of Disney+ Hotstar Premium membership.

Importantly, Rs. 1,499 and Rs. 4,199 Jio recharge plans sit alongside the existing prepaid plans that offer access to [Disney+ Hotstar Mobile](#). The mobile-focused subscription, however, is limited to a single mobile device. This means that you can't watch content on multiple devices or even on your TV if you get the Disney+ Hotstar Mobile subscription.

Jio offers Disney+ Hotstar Mobile with recharge plans [starting at Rs. 601](#).

Similar to Jio, [Airtel](#) and [Vi](#) have prepaid recharge plans with Disney+ Hotstar Mobile subscription. Why is 5G taking so long? We discuss this on [Orbital](#), the Gadgets 360 podcast. Orbital is available on [Spotify](#), [Gaana](#), [JioSaavn](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Amazon Music](#) and wherever you get your podcasts.

[Click here to view video](#)

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IPD Rs 1499 Jio prepaid recharge plan

PUB NDTV Convergence Ltd

AN Document NDTVIN0020220224ei2n0000o

HD Jio will enable NSaaS over its 5G core

BY CT Bureau

CR Distributed by Contify.com

WC 103 words

PD 23 February 2022

SN Communications Today

SC ATCOMT

LA English

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LP

Reliance Jio has developed an overlay network over its 5G core that will enable Network Slicing-as-a-Service (NSaaS).

“This **platform** pre-integrated with Jio’s home-grown **Cloud** Native OSS and BSS (TM Forum Certified), to deliver an end to end service experience starting right from a customer-facing marketplace of 5G apps,” said Aayush Bhatnagar, SVP, Jio in a LinkedIn post. “With Private and Enterprise 5G use cases maturing, this capability of NSaaS coupled with **cloud** native automation will make 5G service delivery possible at scale.”

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IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

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AN Document ATCOMT0020220224ei2n00006

SE India
HD **Jio launches two new Disney+ Hotstar bundled plans**

WC 262 words

PD 23 February 2022

SN Indo-Asian News Service

SC HNIANS

LA English

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LP

New Delhi, Feb 23 (IANS) Reliance Jio has launched two new prepaid plans for its users priced at Rs 1,499 and Rs 4,199, which come with a Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription.

The new plans will allow users to experience Disney+ Hotstar Premium, the Disney+ Hotstar **platform**'s most exclusive membership, on their Jio numbers.

TD

Disney+ Hotstar's Premium subscription will let users enjoy their favourite content in 4K on as many as 4 concurrent devices. This service can be used across mobiles, laptops, tablets and connected TVs.

With Disney+ Hotstar users can watch unlimited live sports, Hotstar Specials and serials before TV, movies, Disney+ movies (English+Dubbed), Disney+ originals, all the content on 4 screens in 4K quality, etc.

The new Rs 1,499 plan lets users enjoy a 1-Year Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription, along with 2 GB data per day, 84 days validity, unlimited voice, 100 SMS per day and subscription to Jio Apps.

The Rs 4,199 plan also allows users to have a complimentary 1-Year Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription, along with 3 GB data per day, 365 days validity, unlimited calls, 100 SMS per day and subscription to Jio Apps.

Once users recharge with a Rs 1,499 or Rs 4,199 plan, they will receive a unique Disney+ Hotstar Premium coupon code in their MyJio account. They can use this coupon code to avail one-year Disney+ Hotstar Premium membership.

--IANS

vc/vd

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PUB IANS India Pvt. Ltd.

AN Document HNIANS0020220223ei2n008py

SE MINT, Technology
 HD Reliance Jio announces Disney+ Hotstar Premium bundled packs. Details here
 BY Livemint
 WC 319 words
 PD 23 February 2022
 SN Mint
 SC HNMINT
 LA English
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 LP

New Delhi, Feb. 23 -- Reliance Jio has announced new bundled prepaid plans for its users in India. Reliance Jio new plans are priced at Rs.1,499 and Rs.4,199 that come with Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription. The plan will allow users to experience Disney+ Hotstar Premium, the Disney+ Hotstar platform's most exclusive membership, on their Jio numbers. Disney+ Hotstar's Premium subscription lets users enjoy their favourite content in 4K on as many as 4 concurrent devices. This service can be used across mobiles, laptops, tablets, and Connected TVs.

Reliance Jio Rs.1,499 plan gets you one year Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription. The prepaid plan also gets you 2GB data per day. It has a validity of 84 days. Along with it, the Rs.1,499 plan comes with unlimited calling and 100 SMS per day. It also gives the access to the Jio Apps subscription.

TD

Similarly, the Rs.4,199 prepaid pack gets you 3GB data each day for 365 days along with unlimited calling and 100 SMS per day.

How to activate the plan Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription:

1. Once you recharge with Rs.1499 or Rs.4199 plan, you will receive a unique Disney+ Hotstar Premium coupon code in your MyJio account.
2. You can use this coupon code to avail 1 year Disney+ Hotstar Premium membership.
3. To activate 1 year Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription:

A. Visit: <https://www.hotstar.com/in/subscribe/promo>

B. Sign in with your Jio number and enter the OTP

C. Enter the unique coupon code provided

D. Provide confirmation and your subscription is activated

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PUB HT Digital Streams Limited

AN Document HNMINT0020220223ei2n001md

The Telegraph

HD Jio, Airtel in undersea **cable** race

WC 511 words

PD 23 February 2022

SN The Telegraph

SC ABPTTEL

LA English

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LP

Bharti Airtel on Monday announced it has joined the SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea **cable** consortium, while Reliance Jio said it will land its India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea **cable** system in Hulhumale, Maldives.

The two large operators came out with separate announcements related to undersea **cable** projects.

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Airtel said it is participating as a “major investor” in the SEA-ME-WE-6 and is anchoring 20 per cent of the overall investment in the cable system, which will go live in 2025.

The 12 other consortium members of SEA-ME-WE-6 include Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company, Dhiraagu (Maldives), Djibouti Telecom, Mobily (Saudi Arabia), Orange (France), Singtel (Singapore), Sri Lanka Telecom, Telecom Egypt, Telekom Malaysia, and Telin (Indonesia). The 19,200 Rkm (route kilometres) SEA-ME-WE-6 will connect Singapore and France.

In a statement, Airtel said it has joined SEA-ME-WE-6 under sea cable consortium to scale up the high-speed network for India's emerging digital economy.

“Through SEA-ME-WE-6, Airtel will add a significant amount of 100 TBps capacity to its global network,” the statement said.

Airtel has acquired one fiber pair on the main SEA-ME-WE-6 system and will co-build four fiber pairs across Singapore – Chennai – Mumbai as part of the cable system.

Airtel will land the SEA-ME-WE-6 cable system in India at new landing stations in Mumbai and Chennai.

According to the statement, SEA-ME-WE-6 will be integrated with Nxtra by Airtel's large data centres in Mumbai and Chennai.

Airtel business director and CEO Ajay Chitkara said: “Undersea cable systems along with data centres are vital infrastructure for supporting 5G and the digital economy... Our investment in SEA-ME-WE-6 is another step in our journey to future-proof our network and build large integrated capacities to enable India's digital ecosystem.”

Airtel global network spans over 365,000 Rkms and reaches 50 countries across five continents.

Nxtra, the data centre unit of Airtel, operates the largest network of data centres in India with 11 large and 120 edge data centres. Reliance Jio Infocomm will land the India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in Hulhumale, Maldives, according to a statement on Monday.

The IAX system will connect Hulhumale directly with world's major internet hubs in India and Singapore.

Jio's IAX project will land in the Maldives in collaboration with Ocean Connect Maldives, the statement said.

The IAX system originates in Mumbai in the west and connects directly to Singapore, with branches including additional landings in India, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Jio's India-Europe-Xpress (IEX) system connects Mumbai to Milan, landing in Savona, Italy, and includes additional landings in West Asia, North Africa, and the Mediterranean. IAX is expected to be ready for service end-2023, while IEX will be ready for service in mid-2024.

"These high capacity and high-speed systems will provide more than 200Tb/s of capacity at speeds of 100Gb/s, over 16,000 kilometers," the statement informed.

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AN Document ABPTEL0020220222ei2n0006k

SE Telecom News
HD Undersea **cable** new battleground for Jio and Airtel

WC 351 words

PD 23 February 2022

SN The Economic Times

SC ECTIM

LA English

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LP

Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel have partnered with undersea **cable** consortiums in a bid to boost low latency-based high bandwidth capacity. Jio Monday said it has entered into an alliance with India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea **cable** system in collaboration with Ocean Connect Maldives. In a separate statement, Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Airtel said it has boarded the SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea **cable** consortium to scale up high-speed network capacity. The Indian telecom rivals are aggressively focussing on augmenting their network capacities by utilising undersea **cable** systems to meet growing low latency data demand globally, say analysts. The high capacity and high-speed IAX system is expected to be service ready by end-2023 and will connect with major internet hubs in India and Singapore. "This is beneficial for Maldives as it is getting connected to Mumbai and Singapore with Jio's global **cable** system with low latency," Jio president Mathew Oommen told ET.

TD

He added that the cost of the Internet was higher in Maldives, and it had no connectivity with any real submarine cable system. In addition, the India Europe-Xpress (IEX) system that connects Mumbai to Milan would start service in mid-2024, Jio said. In May last, Jio said it was constructing the cable systems-IAX and IEX-in association with several partners worldwide. Meanwhile, Airtel, India's second-largest telco, said it is anchoring as much as 20% of the overall investment in the SEA-ME-WE-6 cable system, which is expected to go live in 2025. "The 19,200 route km SEA-ME-WE-6 will connect Singapore and France, and will be amongst the largest undersea cable systems globally," Airtel said in the statement. SEA-ME-WE-6 system, according to the company, would be fully integrated with Nxtra by Airtel's large data centres in Mumbai and Chennai. "The undersea cable systems, as well as data centres, are vital infrastructure to support 5G and the digital economy," said Ajay Chitkara, director and chief executive, Airtel Business.

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IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS c24 : Capacity/Facilities | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

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PUB Bennett, Coleman & Co., Ltd.

AN Document ECTIM00020220222ei2n0003k

HD Reliance Jio lands Maldives undersea cable system

BY Sophia Thomson

WC 336 words

PD 22 February 2022

SN IJ Global

SC PTF

LA English

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LP

Reliance Jio, a mobile network operator and a majority-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries, has landed a multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in collaboration with Ocean Connect Maldives in the South Asian archipelago.

Reliance announced yesterday (21 February 2022) that the cable system will connect Hulhumale in the Maldives directly with major internet hubs in India and Singapore.

TD

The IAX system originates in Mumbai, Maharashtra and connects directly to Singapore with additional landings in:

- * India

- * Malaysia

- * Thailand

Separately, the India-Europe-Xpress (IEX) system connects Mumbai to Milan - landing in Savona, Italy - and includes additional landings in:

- * Middle East

- * North Africa

- * Mediterranean

The cable system will provide more than 200Tb per second of capacity at speeds of 100Gb per second over 16,000km.

IEX and IAX together will be one of the most important developments in telecoms infrastructure in this decade - linking India, Europe, Southeast Asia and the Maldives.

IAX is expected to be ready for service in Q4 2023, while IEX will be ready for service in Q2-Q3 2024.

Fayyaz Ismail, Maldives minister of Economic Development, said: "This is the first stride towards enhancing our connectivity infrastructure and opening vast opportunities for our people through providing secure, affordable and high-quality services."

Ismail continues: "We also aim to diversify our economy and establish ourselves as a key communications hub in South Asia. Aside from economic development, this will accelerate social development through high-speed internet access throughout the Maldives allowing us to attain the equitable development we seek."

Mathew Oommen, president of Reliance Jio, shared: "IAX will not only connect Maldives to the world's content hubs, but it will also support the explosive growth in data demand expected from the new initiatives being launched by the government of Maldives."

Oommen adds: "Jio is very pleased to be working with the government of the Maldives to help realize this ambition by providing high-quality, terabit capacity supporting Web 3.0-capable internet services."

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HD Reliance Jio's subsea **cable** system IAX to connect the Maldives directly to India & Singapore

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Mumbai/IBNS: Reliance Jio Infocomm will land the next generation multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea **cable** system in Hulhumale, the Maldives, directly connecting it with the world's major internet hubs in India and Singapore, the company said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

TD

Jios IAX Project to land in the Maldives is in collaboration with Ocean Connect Maldives. Reliance Jio President Mathew Oommen said, Today's global economy is driven by low-latency broadband, connecting people, businesses, content, and services. IAX will not only connect the Maldives to the world's content hubs, but it will also support the explosive growth in data demand expected from the new initiatives being launched by the government of Maldives. The IAX system originates in Mumbai in the west and connects directly to Singapore, with branches including additional landings in India, Malaysia, and Thailand. The IndiaEurope-Xpress (IEX) system connects Mumbai to Milan, landing in Savona, Italy, and includes additional landings in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean. IAX is expected to be ready for service end-2023, while IEX will be ready for service in mid-2024. These high capacity and high-speed systems will provide more than 200Tb/s of capacity at speeds of 100Gb/s, over 16,000 kilometers. Employing open system technology and the latest wavelength switched RoADM/branching units ensures rapid upgrade deployment and the ultimate flexibility to add/drop waves across multiple locations, the company said. IEX and IAX together will be one of the most important developments in telecommunications infrastructure in this decade, linking India, Europe to Southeast Asia, and now the Maldives. Maldives Minister of Economic Development, Uz Fayyaz Ismail said: The first international cable is the first stride towards enhancing our connectivity infrastructure and opening vast opportunities for our people through providing secure, affordable, and high-quality services. We also aim to diversify our economy and establish ourselves as a key communications hub in South Asia. Aside from economic development, this will accelerate social development through high-speed internet access throughout the Maldives allowing us to attain the equitable development we seek.

CO rjiol : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | rti : Reliance Industries Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE maldr : Maldives | india : India | mumbai : Mumbai | singp : Singapore | mahara : Maharashtra | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | indsubz : Indian Subcontinent | sasiaz : Southern Asia | seasiaz : Southeast Asia

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HD New Subsea **Cable** System IAX to Connect the Maldives Directly to India & Singapore; Jio's IAX Project to Land in the Maldives, in collaboration with Ocean Connect Maldives

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Release date - 21022022

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TD

The high capacity and high-speed IAX system will connect Hulhumale' directly with World's major internet hubs in India and Singapore.

The Minister of Economic Development, Hon. Uz Fayyaz Ismail, speaking about the launch of the Maldives' first international cable, said: 'This is the first stride towards enhancing our connectivity infrastructure and opening vast opportunities for our people through providing secure, affordable and high-quality services. We also aim to diversify our economy and establish ourselves as a key communications hub in South Asia. Aside from economic development, this will accelerate social development through high-speed internet access throughout the Maldives allowing us to attain the equitable development we seek.'

'Today's global economy is driven by low-latency broadband, connecting people, businesses, content, and services. IAX will not only connect Maldives to the world's content hubs, but it will also support the explosive growth in data demand expected from the new initiatives being launched by the government of Maldives,' said Mathew Oommen, President, Reliance Jio. 'Jio is very pleased to be working with the government of the Maldives to help realize this ambition by providing high-quality, terabit capacity supporting Web 3.0-capable internet services.'

The IAX system originates in Mumbai in the west and connects directly to Singapore, with branches including additional landings in India, Malaysia, and Thailand. The IndiaEurope-Xpress (IEX) system connects Mumbai to Milan, landing in Savona, Italy, and includes additional landings in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean.

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Jio has brought transformational changes in the Indian digital services space to enable the vision of Digital India for 1.3 billion Indians and propel India into global leadership in the digital economy. It has created an eco-system comprising of network, devices, applications and content, service experience and affordable tariffs for everyone to live the Jio Digital Life. As part of its customer offers, Jio has revolutionised the Indian telecom landscape by making voice calls for Jio customers free, across India, to any network, and always. Jio makes India the highest quality, most affordable data market in the world so that every Indian can do Datagiri.

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Investing on IAX cable system will be the cornerstone for OCM's 'new digital economy of Maldives' that envisions to create a fully connected Maldives without barriers for rapid digital transformation.

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Reliance Jio will land the next generation multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in Hulhumale, Maldives. The high capacity and high-speed IAX system will connect Hulhumale directly with World's major internet hubs in India and Singapore. Notably, this, along with the IEX, are two of the most important developments in telecommunications infrastructure this decade; the projects will link India, Europe to Southeast Asia, and the Maldives.

Reliance Jio to Land India-Asia-Xpress Undersea Cable in Maldives, Singapore

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Notably, Reliance Jio is building two undersea cables, the India-Asia-Xpress, and the India-Europe-Xpress. The IEX will connect Mumbai to Europe and interconnect to the east coast of the US. And conversely, the IAX connects Mumbai and Chennai to Maldives, Singapore, and other countries in Asia's Far East countries.

Incidentally, the IAX originates in Mumbai, circumventing the Cape Comorin, and going straight to Singapore. However, it has additional landings in India, at Chennai, at Hulhumale, in the Maldives, and in Malaysia and Thailand. On the other hand, the IEX connects Mumbai to Milan in Italy, first landing in Savona, Italy. This system also has landings in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean. For now, both the undersea cable systems are under construction; Jio estimates that IAX will go live in 2023-end, while IEX will go live in mid-2024.

These high-capacity and high-speed systems will provide more than 200Tb/s of capacity at speeds of 100Gb/s, over 16,000 kilometers. The systems employ open system technology and the latest wavelength switched RoADM/branching units. This ensures rapid upgrade deployment and the ultimate flexibility to add/drop waves across multiple locations.

On this occasion, the Minister of Economic Development, Maldives, Uz Fayyaz Ismail, said, "this is the first stride towards enhancing our connectivity infrastructure and opening vast opportunities for our people through providing secure, affordable, and high-quality services. We also aim to diversify our economy and establish ourselves as a key communications hub in South Asia. Aside from economic development, this will accelerate social development through high-speed internet access throughout the Maldives allowing us to attain the equitable development we seek".

Further, Mathew Oommen, President, Reliance Jio, said, "IAX will not only connect the Maldives to the world's content hubs, but it will also support the explosive growth in data demand expected from the new initiatives being launched by the government of Maldives". He added, "Jio is very pleased to be working with the government of the Maldives to help realize this ambition by providing high-quality, terabit capacity supporting Web 3.0-capable internet services".

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 LP

New Delhi: Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel have partnered with undersea **cable** consortiums in a bid to boost low latency-based high bandwidth capacity. Jio on Monday said it has entered into an alliance with IndiaAsia-Xpress (IAX) undersea **cable** system in collaboration with Ocean Connect Maldives. In a separate statement, Bharti Airtel said it has boarded the SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea **cable** consortium to scale up high-speed network capacity. The Indian telecom rivals are aggressively focussing on augmenting their network capacities by utilising undersea **cable** systems to meet growing low latency data demand globally, say analysts. The high capacity and high-speed IAX system is expected to be service ready by end-2023 and will connect with major internet hubs in India and Singapore. Our Bureau

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