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Vodafone Idea strengthens portfolio of digital content offerings with specially curated Bihu playlists

271 words

12 April 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, April 12 -- With the Assamese New Year around the corner, Vodafone Idea (Vi) has come up with something special to get customers into the festive spirit. Vi in partnership with Hungama Music, has curated special playlists of Assamese songs that herald the New Year. These playlists are available to all Vi customers on Hungama Music on the Vi App.

Vi offers 6 months premium subscription of Hungama Music at no extra cost with ad-free experience, unlimited downloads, endless playlists, podcasts, music videos, to all Vi users on Vi App. On the occasion of Bihu, Vi customers can access the Rongali Bihu playlists containing popular Assamese songs that have been put together for their listening pleasure.

Vi has been strengthening its portfolio of digital content offerings ranging from entertainment, health & fitness, education and skilling. The Hungama Premium subscription on the Vi App is for all customers, providing access to ad-free music in 20 languages, across genres from Hungama's huge library of millions of songs, besides unlimited downloads, music videos, latest Bollywood news, caller tunes, podcasts, etc.

Vodafone Idea is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership. It is developing world-class infrastructure to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings conveniently accessible through an ecosystem of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence.

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Telecom News

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

714 words

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The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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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.

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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Disclosure under SEBI Takeover Regulations

66 words

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Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, April 11 -- Promoter/Promoter Group of Vodafone Idea Limited has submitted a disclosure under Regulation 31(4) of SEBI Takeover Regulations for the year ended 31-Mar-2022

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General updates

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India, April 11 -- Vodafone Idea Limited has informed the Exchange about Compliance Certificate For The Financial Year Ended March 31, 2022

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General updates

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India, April 11 -- Vodafone Idea Limited has informed the Exchange about Compliances-Certificate under Reg. 74 (5) of SEBI (DP) Regulations, 2018 for the quarter ended 31 March 2022.

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5G Highway: Issues involved and challenges ahead—Explained

Kiran Rathee

426 words

9 April 2022

Financial Express

AIWFIE

English

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What is 5G:

Like 4G, 5G is also a wireless network technology but the characteristics are very different when it comes to speed, latency, etc. For instance, 5G can have a peak speed of up to 20 Gbps against the peak speed of 1 Gbps in 4G. It has lower latency compared to 4G. With 5G, driverless cars, remote surgeries, telemedicine/tele-education, and machine-to-machine communication are possible. It is much more than just plain voice and data services. Jio has suggested 10% upfront payment, 5 years moratorium and 25 annual EMI payments.

Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have suggested no upfront payment, 6 years moratorium and 24 annual EMI payments. 700 MHz: It is a premium 4G band but can be used for 5G services. It was put up for auctions in 2016 and 2021 but both times due to its high reserve price no operator bid for it.

In 2021, Trai had reduced the reserve price by 43% compared to 2016 auctions, at Rs 6,568 crore per MHz. But it was still quite high for pan-India 5 MHz block as operators would have had to shell out Rs 32,840 crore.

How will operators pay for the spectrum post-auctions:

The deferred payment option with RBI repo rate as interest, which has been followed after 2010 auctions, has been preferred by all the operators with some differences over upfront payment, moratorium period, and a number of installments to make deferred payments.

For consumers: 5G services would mean converged services which would enable them to connect all devices. Services like metaverse, e-commerce, e-education, telemedicine, etc will see stupendous growth. Countries where 5G launched so far

5G deployment has been going on since 2019. US, Europe, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Brazil, etc, have already launched 5G services.

Spectrum bands for 5G usage

Spectrum in the frequency range of 3,300-3,670 MHz has been notified.

Millimeter-wave bands ranging from 24.25 to 28.5 GHz can also be used for 5G. Spectrum in 582-617 MHz, 700 MHz band, and other frequencies can also be utilised.

Pricing of 5G spectrum:

Trai in 2018 had recommended a reserve price of Rs 492 crore per MHz for 3,300-3,600 MHz band. The price meant that for a pan-India minimum block of 20 Mhz, operators would have to shell out Rs 9,840 crore.

[5G services would mean converged services which would enable them to connect all devices.](#)

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Hindustan Times, Business_V2

DoT gives bank guarantees back to Airtel and Voda Idea

Gulveen Aulakh

338 words

9 April 2022

Hindustan Times

HNTM

English

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New Delhi, April 9 -- The government has returned bank guarantees of nearly Rs.23,000 crore to Bharti Airtel Ltd and Vodafone Idea Ltd, two people familiar with the matter said, offering a major relief to the telecom operators.

In an affidavit in the Supreme Court, the department of telecommunications (DoT) said it returned the bank guarantees as the carriers opted for a moratorium on spectrum auction instalments and no such instalment **payments** were due until the moratorium period ends in 2025. Vodafone Idea will gain the most from the government decision as it has been seeking a return of the bank guarantees, which would help pare its debt by Rs.15,000 crore. The debt reduction process will be aided further by converting interest on the dues-from adjusted gross revenue and spectrum **payments** amounting to Rs.16,000 crore-into equity to be held by the government. Vodafone Idea's debt pile is at Rs.1.9 trillion.

Vodafone Idea recently received an infusion of Rs.4,500 crore from its promoters, Vodafone Group Plc and Aditya Birla Group. The telco is also in talks with investors to raise an additional Rs.10,000 crore through equity or debt, funds that will be critical to purchase 5G airwaves in upcoming spectrum auctions amid intense competition from larger rivals Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel. According to a person familiar with the matter, bank guarantees of about Rs.7,000-8,000 crore have been returned to Airtel.

DoT told the top court that the telcos were directed to submit bank guarantees equal to the next payable instalment, including the part of the deferred amount due with the instalment, 13 months before the next due date after the moratorium period ends.

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MINT, Companies

Returned bank guarantees to Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel: DoT tells SC

Gulveen Aulakh

391 words

8 April 2022

Mint

HNMINI

English

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New Delhi, April 8 -- The department of telecommunications (DoT) has returned bank guarantees (BGs) to Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, according to an affidavit filed by the department in the Supreme Court. The bank guarantees amount to nearly Rs.23,000 crore.

The department told the apex court that the BGs have been returned since the carriers had opted for a moratorium on spectrum auction installments and no such installment **payments** were due till post the moratorium period ends in 2025.

The move will come as a major relief to debt-laden Vodafone Idea which has been seeking return of the BGs from the government. This will help it lower its debt by a massive Rs.15,000 crore. The reduction in debt will further be helped by the conversion of interest on the dues - from adjusted gross revenue and spectrum payments amounting to Rs.16,000 crore - into equity to be held by the Indian government. Vodafone Idea's total debt pile is nearly Rs.1.9 trillion.

According to sources, bank guarantees of about Rs.7,000- Rs.8,000 crore have been returned to Airtel.

"Pursuant to the Cabinet decision and in the view of the fact that VIL and BAL had opted for such moratorium on spectrum auction instalments and no installment due necessitating security in the form of financial BGs till 13 months before the next payable instalment post moratorium period, DoT has returned the existing bank guarantees submitted by VIL and BAL, which were for securitizing the deferred annual spectrum installments in respect of the past auctions," the affidavit submitted by the DoT in the Supreme Court said. Mint has seen a copy.

The payments were due for auctions held in 2012,2014, 2015 and 2016.

The DoT told the Court that the telcos have been directed to submit FBGs of equal to next payable installment, including the part of the deferred amount due with the installment, 13 months before the next due date after the moratorium period.

Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea did not comment on the development as of Friday afternoon.

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Vodafone Idea inks pact with Apna, Enguru, Pariksha to enhance engagement with job aspirants

253 words

7 April 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, April 7 -- Vodafone Idea (Vi) has entered into **partnership** with job **platform** Apna, English learning **platform** Enguru and government exam preparatory **platform** Pariksha to enhance engagement with users, specially the job aspirants, and reduce customer churn on the network.

Under the partnership with Apna, Vi customers will not pay any fee for accessing services and they will get higher visibility for jobs compared to other aspirants. The Vi will provide 14 days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts on the English learning platform 'enguru'. Thereafter, learners can continue on the platform at 15-25 per cent discounted price after the trial period. Under the arrangement with Pariksha, Vi Jobs & Education will offer the aspirants of central and state government jobs, one-month free subscription to 'Pariksha'. This will also include unlimited mock tests across more than 150 exams and post free period, users can continue at a subscription fee of Rs 249 per year.

Vodafone Idea is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership. It is developing world-class infrastructure to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings conveniently accessible through an ecosystem of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence.

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Vi partners Apna, Enguru, Pariksha to enhance engagement with job seekers

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Free Press Journal

ATFPRE

English

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Telecom operator Vodafone Idea on Wednesday announced its **partnership** with job **platform** Apna, English learning **platform** Enguru and government exam preparatory **platform** Pariksha to enhance engagement with users, specially the job aspirants, and reduce customer churn on the network. Under the **partnership** with Apna, Vi customers will not pay any fee for accessing services and they will get higher visibility for jobs compared to other aspirants.

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Vi to empower Bharat youth with Employment and Skilling opportunities

India Education Diary Bureau Admin

1,019 words

7 April 2022

India Education Diary

HTEDUD

English

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India, April 7 -- Having a good job and being equipped with the right skills are two crucial factors for success in career and life. Vi, India's leading telecom operator, has announced a set of offerings for the youth of Bharat to help them with finding employment, becoming more employable & also help them prepare for government jobs.

Giving wings to its customers aspirations, for a better tomorrow, Vi Jobs & Education integrates India's largest job search platform 'Apna', leading English learning platform 'Enguru' and 'Pariksha' a platform specializing in government employment exam preparation.

Primarily targeted towards the large prepaid user base in India, Vi Jobs & Education on the Vi App offers a one stop solution for youth to search for jobs, improve spoken English skills and excel in Govt. employment exams, empowering them to fulfil their career dreams.

Commenting on the launch of this unique proposition, Avneesh Khosla, CMO, Vodafone Idea Limited, said "In line with Vi's brand promise 'together for tomorrow', we've been looking at the need gaps in consumers' daily lives, where we believe we can play a role of an enabler to help them get ahead in life. When we look at youth in this country their key aspiration is to get a good job and become more employable. The relevance of digital skills and fluency in spoken English have become more pronounced for today's youth. Further, Government Employment remains a top choice for the large part of this segment, particularly for those coming from tier 2 & 3 cities. Based on these insights, we have curated the Vi Jobs & Education proposition in partnership with Apna, Enguru and Pariksha. We believe, that these integrated solutions will enable Vi customers to further their efforts in gaining a competitive edge and march ahead to meet their career aspirations."

1. Job Search Made Easy With Vi Jobs & Education on the Vi App:

The State of Mobile 2022 report suggests that Job-Searches will be the top category for mobile users across the globe. And the emergence of gig economy, according to a joint report by BCG and Michael & Susan Dell Foundation - 'Unlocking the Potential of the Gig Economy in India', can serve up to 90 million jobs in the non-farm sector alone.

Vi Jobs & Education on the Vi App in partnership with apna, offers free priority access to India's largest job listing. Priority access ensures double the visibility prospects to recruiters, thus double the chance of interview opportunities for a quick job search solution. This service will be available for all Vi customers at no cost.

Commenting on the partnership, Nirmal Parikh, CEO and Founder, apna.co said "In the last few months alone, apna enabled more than 350 million interviews and professional conversations because of the fast internet proliferation in deep pockets of India made possible by leading telecom operators like Vi. Access to the internet has not only opened avenues for people, but has also played a significant role in reducing the collar divide between professionals. In the coming years, we are certain to completely dismantle this divide through our inclusive platform. As we continue our journey of impacting a billion lives, we are thrilled to partner with a telecom provider such as Vi to digitally empower the youth of our country by giving them an easy access to hyperlocal opportunities around them"

2. English Education Made Easy With Vi Jobs & Education on the Vi App:

English fluency increases prospects of getting a job, getting a better salary and progressing in one's career, in certain segments.

Vi Jobs & Education in partnership with leading English learning platform 'enguru' offers 14 days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts. Learners can continue with the platform at 15%

to 25% discounted price after the trial period. The users will also be entitled to free access of interactive, gamified, industry specific self-learning modules, worth Rs 1500.

Speaking on the association Udit Hinduja, COO, Enguru said "We are excited to partner with Vi on bringing a mobile-first, affordable & high quality English learning program to their subscribers. Enguru's live classes allow users to practice speaking with expert teachers & students from across the country, with classes offered through the day across all levels of English. We believe our product will help Vi subscribers in their interview preparation & career growth."

3. Preparation for Govt. Jobs Exams made easy with Vi Jobs & Education on the Vi App:

Government jobs have always been highly sought-after for as long as they have existed in India. Each year, millions of youth aspire to land themselves a Government job.

Making the process of applying of Govt jobs convenient for Vi users, Vi Jobs & Education in partnership with Pariksha offers the aspirants of Central/State Govt. jobs , one month free subscription to 'Pariksha'. This also includes unlimited mock tests across 150+ exams. At the end of the free period, users can continue at a nominal subscription fee of Rs. 249/year.

Commenting on the tie-up Vikram Shekhawat, Co-founder, Pariksha said "Pariksha is the largest and the fastest growing vernacular test prep platform which is on a mission to democratize education and make relevant, credible, quality content available to everyone preparing for govt exams in the country. With this deep integrated partnership with one of the largest and most trusted telecom partners, we will be able to reach our goal faster and narrow the gap between opportunities for over 75 million govt job aspirants across Bharat. This partnership will act as the new age digital book and will create the largest impact at the bottom of the pyramid."

The three propositions are in line with Vi's strategy to curate a wide range of digital offerings of relevance to its users to help them thrive and stay ahead.

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Vodafone-Idea to offer jobs, educational opportunities to users

FE Bureau

176 words

7 April 2022

Financial Express

AIWFIE

English

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To provide employment and skilling opportunities to its pre-paid subscribers, Vodafone Idea on Wednesday partnered with a set of digital start-ups like Apna, Enguru and Pariksha.

Apna is a job search **platform**, while Enguru is an English learning **platform**. Pariksha is a **platform** specializing in government employment exam preparation. The company will integrate the three platforms with its Vi app to offer jobs and **education** services to its customers.

“The relevance of digital skills and fluency in spoken English has become more pronounced for today’s youth. Further, government employment remains a top choice for a large part of this segment, particularly for those coming from tier 2 & 3 cities. Based on these insights, we have curated the Vi Jobs & Education proposition in partnership with Apna, Enguru and Pariksha,” said Avneesh Khosla, CMO, Vodafone Idea.

[Pariksha is a platform specializing in government employment exam preparation. The company will integrate the three platforms with its Vi app to offer jobs and education services to its customers.](#)

Document AIWFIE0020220407ei470000r

GADGETS NEWS

Vodafone Idea to offer jobs, educational opportunities to users in India

298 words

7 April 2022

The Times of India

TOI

English

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NEW DELHI: Telecom operator Vodafone Idea has launched Vi jobs and **Education** on the Vi app. This new initiative is targeted at the youth of Bharat to help them with finding employment and also help them prepare for government jobs. Primarily targeted toward the large prepaid user base in India, Vi Jobs & **Education** on the Vi App offers a one-stop solution for youth to search for jobs, improve spoken English skills and excel in Govt. employment exams, empowering them to fulfill their career dreams. Vodafone Idea has partnered with 'Apna, the English learning **platform** Enguru and Pariksha, a **platform** specializing in government employment exam preparation for this initiative. Vi Jobs & **Education** on the Vi App in **partnership** with Apna offers free priority access to India's largest job listing. Priority access ensures double the visibility prospects to recruiters, thus double the chance of interview opportunities for a quick job search solution.

This service will be available for all Vi customers at no cost. With Enguru, Vi users will get 14 days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts. Learners can continue with the platform at a 15% to 25% discounted price after the trial period. The users will also be entitled to free access to interactive, gamified, industry-specific self-learning modules, worth Rs 1500. Making the process of applying for government jobs convenient for Vi users, Vi Jobs & Education in partnership with Pariksha offers the aspirants of Central/State Govt. jobs, one month free subscription to 'Pariksha'. This also includes unlimited mock tests across 150+ exams. At the end of the free period, users can continue at a nominal subscription fee of Rs 249/year.

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Document TOI0000020220406ei46000q0

Vi to empower Bharat youth with employment and skilling opportunities

CT Bureau

Distributed by Contify.com

981 words

6 April 2022

Communications Today

ATCOMT

English

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Having a good job and being equipped with the right skills are two crucial factors for success in career and life. Vi, India's leading telecom operator, has announced a set of offerings for the youth of Bharat to help them with finding employment, becoming more employable & also help them prepare for government jobs.

Giving wings to its customers aspirations, for a better tomorrow, Vi Jobs & Education integrates India's largest job search platform 'Apna', leading English learning platform 'Enguru' and 'Pariksha' a platform specializing in government employment exam preparation.

Primarily targeted towards the large prepaid user base in India, Vi Jobs & Education on the Vi App offers a one stop solution for youth to search for jobs, improve spoken English skills and excel in Govt. employment exams, empowering them to fulfil their career dreams.

Commenting on the launch of this unique proposition, Avneesh Khosla, CMO, Vodafone Idea Limited, said "In line with Vi's brand promise 'together for tomorrow', we've been looking at the need gaps in consumers' daily lives, where we believe we can play a role of an enabler to help them get ahead in life. When we look at youth in this country their key aspiration is to get a good job and become more employable. The relevance of digital skills and fluency in spoken English have become more pronounced for today's youth. Further, Government Employment remains a top choice for the large part of this segment, particularly for those coming from tier 2 & 3 cities. Based on these insights, we have curated the Vi Jobs & Education proposition in partnership with Apna, Enguru and Pariksha. We believe, that these integrated solutions will enable Vi customers to further their efforts in gaining a competitive edge and march ahead to meet their career aspirations."

Job Search Made Easy With Vi Jobs & Education on the Vi App: The State of Mobile 2022 report suggests that Job-Searches will be the top category for mobile users across the globe. And the emergence of gig economy, according to a joint report by BCG and Michael & Susan Dell Foundation – 'Unlocking the Potential of the Gig Economy in India', can serve up to 90 million jobs in the non-farm sector alone.

Vi Jobs & Education on the Vi App in partnership with apna, offers free priority access to India's largest job listing. Priority access ensures double the visibility prospects to recruiters, thus double the chance of interview opportunities for a quick job search solution. This service will be available for all Vi customers at no cost.

Commenting on the partnership, Nimit Parikh, CEO and Founder, apna.co said "In the last few months alone, apna enabled more than 350 million interviews and professional conversations because of the fast internet proliferation in deep pockets of India made possible by leading telecom operators like Vi. Access to the internet has not only opened avenues for people, but has also played a significant role in reducing the collar divide between professionals. In the coming years, we are certain to completely dismantle this divide through our inclusive platform. As we continue our journey of impacting a billion lives, we are thrilled to partner with a telecom provider such as Vi to digitally empower the youth of our country by giving them an easy access to hyperlocal opportunities around them"

English Education Made Easy With Vi Jobs & Education on the Vi App: English fluency increases prospects of getting a job, getting a better salary and progressing in one's career, in certain segments.

Vi Jobs & Education in partnership with leading English learning platform 'enguru' offers 14 days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts. Learners can continue with the platform at 15% to 25% discounted price after the trial period. The users will also be entitled to free access of interactive, gamified, industry specific self-learning modules, worth Rs 1500.

Speaking on the association Udit Hinduja, COO, Enguru said "We are excited to partner with Vi on bringing a mobile-first, affordable & high quality English learning program to their subscribers. Enguru's live classes

allow users to practice speaking with expert teachers & students from across the country, with classes offered through the day across all levels of English. We believe our product will help Vi subscribers in their interview preparation & career growth.”

Preparation for Govt. Jobs Exams made easy with Vi Jobs & Education on the Vi App: Government jobs have always been highly sought-after for as long as they have existed in India. Each year, millions of youth aspire to land themselves a Government job.

Making the process of applying of Govt jobs convenient for Vi users, Vi Jobs & Education in partnership with Pariksha offers the aspirants of Central/State Govt. jobs , one month free subscription to ‘Pariksha’. This also includes unlimited mock tests across 150+ exams. At the end of the free period, users can continue at a nominal subscription fee of Rs. 249/year.

Commenting on the tie-up Vikram Shekhawat, Co-founder, Pariksha said “Pariksha is the largest and the fastest growing vernacular test prep platform which is on a mission to democratize education and make relevant, credible, quality content available to everyone preparing for govt exams in the country. With this deep integrated partnership with one of the largest and most trusted telecom partners, we will be able to reach our goal faster and narrow the gap between opportunities for over 75 million govt job aspirants across Bharat. This partnership will act as the new age digital book and will create the largest impact at the bottom of the pyramid.”

The three propositions are in line with Vi’s strategy to curate a wide range of digital offerings of relevance to its users to help them thrive and stay ahead.

Document ATCOMT0020220406ei460008I



BUSINESS

Vi partners Apna, Enguru, Pariksha to enhance engagement with job aspirants

227 words

6 April 2022

Press Trust of India

PRTRIN

English

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New Delhi, Apr 6 (PTI) Telecom operator Vodafone Idea on Wednesday announced its **partnership** with job **platform** Apna, English learning **platform** Enguru and government exam preparatory **platform** Pariksha to enhance engagement with users, specially the job aspirants, and reduce customer churn on the network.

Under the **partnership** with Apna, Vi customers will not pay any fee for accessing services and they will get higher visibility for jobs compared to other aspirants.

"We are creating multiple opportunities for consumers to engage with a host of experiences, products and services and I think which will continue to cement our relationship with our consumers. Then, obviously, bring down our churn," Vodafone Idea chief marketing officer Avneesh Khosla said while announcing the partnership.

The Vi will provide 14 days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts on the English learning platform 'enguru'. Thereafter, learners can continue on the platform at 15-25 per cent discounted price after the trial period.

Under the arrangement with Pariksha, Vi Jobs & Education will offer the aspirants of central and state government jobs, one-month free subscription to 'Pariksha'. This will also include unlimited mock tests across more than 150 exams and post free period, users can continue at a subscription fee of Rs 249 per year. PTI PRS MR

Document PRTRIN0020220406ei4600lj2

Vodafone India partners with start-ups to provide education and job-related help on Vi App

BestMediaInfo Bureau

Distributed by Contify.com

473 words

6 April 2022

Best Media Info

ATBEMI

English

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Telecom brand Vi has partnered with multiple digital start-ups to empower the youth of the country by offering **education** and job-related help on the Vi App, under the Vi Jobs and **Education** section.

Vi has partnered with start-ups including Apna, Enguru and Pariksha, to offer better opportunities and services to the youth.

While Apna is a job search platform, Enguru helps users to improve their communication skills in the English language and Pariksha will help those who wish to crack the examinations for getting government jobs.

By partnering with the start-ups, the company wants to target the close to 200 million youth in the country and empower them.

Talking about Vi Jobs and Education, Vineet Khosla, CMO, Vodafone Idea, said, "In line with Vi's brand promise 'together for tomorrow', we've been looking at the need gaps in consumers' daily lives, where we believe we can play the role of an enabler to help them get ahead in life. When we look at youth in this country their key aspiration is to get a good job and become more employable. We believe that these integrated solutions will enable Vi customers to further their efforts in gaining a competitive edge and march ahead to meet their career aspirations."

With regards to the monetisation of the offerings, Khosla said that monetisation is not their top priority right now but rather they are focusing on engaging with young consumers as well as bridging the digital divide in India. "We want to build this segment for our consumers."

The partnership

By partnering with Apna, Vi intends to enable hyperlocal jobs across 70 cities. The telecom operators' user applications will get higher priority compared to other applicants. This service will be available for all Vi customers at no cost.

Likewise, with the association of Enguru, the company will provide 14-days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts. Learners can continue with the platform at a 15-25% discounted price after the trial period ends. The users will also be entitled to free access of interactive, gamified, industry-specific self-learning modules, worth Rs 1500.

The partnership with Pariksha will enable the aspirants for central/state government jobs to get a one-month free subscription to 'Pariksha'. This also includes unlimited mock tests across 150+ exams. At the end of the free period, users can continue at a nominal subscription fee.

In the month of December 2021, Vi partnered with Hungama Music to provide music services to its users. In March 2022, the company has also announced its association with Nazara Technologies and launched Vi games to tap into the growing Indian gaming industry.

Info@BestMediaInfo.com

Document ATBEMI0020220406ei460002w

Vi partners with digital start-ups, domain experts to help youth upskill, find jobs

548 words

6 April 2022

Business Today Online

BTDYON

English

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Vodafone Idea (Vi) announced on Wednesday that it has partnered with a bunch of digital start-ups and domain experts such as job search **platform** Apna, English learning **platform** Enguru and **platform** specialising in government employment exam preparation Pariksha to help youth with employment and skilling opportunities. The offerings will not only help the youth in finding employment but will also make them more employable and help in preparation of government jobs.

The telco said that these offerings are targeted towards the large prepaid user base in India. Vi Jobs & **Education** on the Vi App will offer a one-stop solution for the youth to search for jobs, improve spoken English and excel in government exams.

Avneesh Khosla, CMO, Vodafone Idea Limited, said, "The relevance of digital skills and fluency in spoken English have become more pronounced for today's youth. Further, government employment remains a top choice for the large part of this segment, particularly for those coming from tier 2 & 3 cities. Based on these insights, we have curated the Vi Jobs & Education proposition in partnership with Apna, Enguru and Pariksha."

Here's what the company is offering:

Job searches – Vi Jobs & Education in partnership with Apna is offering free priority access to the latter's job listing. Priority access will double the visibility of applicants, hence increasing the chance of interview opportunities. This will be available at no cost.

"Access to the internet has not only opened avenues for people, but has also played a significant role in reducing the collar divide between professionals. In the coming years, we are certain to completely dismantle this divide through our inclusive platform," said Nimit Parikh, CEO and founder, Apna.

English education – Vi Jobs & Education with Enguru offers four days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts. Learners can continue with a 15-25 per cent discounted price after the trial period. Users will be entitled to free access of interactive, gamified, industry specific self-learning modules, worth Rs 1,500.

Udit Hinduja, COO, Enguru said, "Enguru's live classes allow users to practice speaking with expert teachers & students from across the country, with classes offered through the day across all levels of English. We believe our product will help Vi subscribers in their interview preparation and career growth."

Preparation for government job exams – Vi Jobs & Education in partnership with Pariksha offers the aspirants of central/state government jobs one-month free subscription to 'Pariksha', including unlimited mock tests across 150+ exams. At the end of the free period, users can continue at a nominal subscription fee of Rs 249 per year.

Vikram Shekhawat, co-founder, Pariksha said, "With this deep integrated partnership with one of the largest and most trusted telecom partners, we will be able to reach our goal faster and narrow the gap between opportunities for over 75 million govt job aspirants across Bharat. This partnership will act as the new age digital book and will create the largest impact at the bottom of the pyramid."

Also read: [Vodafone Idea approves allotment of shares to promoters to raise Rs 4,500 cr](#)

Also read: [L&T, Vi to set up private LTE network on pilot basis](#)

Document BTDYON0020220406ei46000gq



MINT, Companies

Vodafone Idea ties up with Apna, Enguru and Pariksha to provide curated job search, education services

Gulveen Aulakh

445 words

6 April 2022

Mint

HNMINT

English

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NEW DELHI, April 6 -- Vodafone Idea has tied up with Apna, Enguru and Pariksha platforms to provide its over 260 million customers access to curated job search, including government jobs, and exam preparation facilities targeted at Indian youth.

The third largest carrier is tapping into **education** and employment segments with Vi Jobs & **Education** on the Vi App to increase customer stickiness with the brand by offering the services to its large pre-paid base of customers.

"The relevance of digital skills and fluency in spoken English have become more pronounced for today's youth. Further, government employment remains a top choice for the large part of this segment, particularly for those coming from tier 2 & 3 cities," said Avneesh Khosla, chief marketing officer at Vodafone Idea Limited.

The app will integrate job search platform Apna, English learning platform Enguru, and Pariksha, a platform specialising in government employment exam preparation. A combination of learning English, improving spoken English, preparing for government exams as well as specialised job search will impress upon customers to take up the subscription service.

"These integrated solutions will enable Vi customers to further their efforts in gaining a competitive edge and march ahead to meet their career aspirations," he added.

Job-searches are expected to be top category for mobile users across the globe, and emergence of gig economy can serve up to 90 million jobs in the non-farm sector alone, according to a joint report by BCG and Michael & Susan Dell Foundation.

Vi is looking at opportunities in this space with Apna, through which it will offer priority access - at no cost - to all customers, ensuring double visibility prospects to recruiters, thus doubling the chance of interview opportunities for a quick job search solution. This service will be available for all Vi customers at no cost.

In partnership with Enguru, customers will get 14 days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts, and 15%-25% discounted price after the trial period. Users will get free access to interactive, gamified, industry specific self-learning modules, worth Rs.1500.

Vi has entered into partnership with Pariksha where aspirants of central or state government jobs will get one month free subscription to the platform with unlimited mock tests across 150+ exams. "At the end of the free period, users can continue at an annual subscription fee of Rs.249.

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Brands & Companies

Mobile Services are Now as Essential as Fuel, Say Analysts

Kalyan.Parbat@timesgroup.com

506 words

6 April 2022

The Economic Times - Kolkata Edition

ECTKOL

English

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'Mobile services are immune to price hikes as users are hooked to data'

VOLUME OF UPI MOBILE TRANSACTIONS UP 95% ON YRKolkata: 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 NovemberDecember 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 UPIbased mobile payment transactions.

"Consumers compare telecom recharges to fuel calling it an essential service that they must avail of, regardless of price hikes," Vora added.

BNP estimates that the total volume of UPI-based mobile payment transactions jumped 95% on-year to a whopping `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 monthon-month despite the sharp tariff hike by operators, a slowdown in consumption and higher handset costs is a positive indicator.

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Brands & Companies

Mobile Services are Now as Essential as Fuel: Analysts

Kalyan.Parbat@timesgroup.com

508 words

6 April 2022

The Economic Times - Delhi Edition

ECTDEL

English

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Negligible impact of price hikes effected in Nov-Dec on active mobile user bases of India's top telcos

Kolkata: 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.

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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.

Document ECTDEL0020220406ei4600015

Telecom News

Mobile services are now as essential as fuel: Analysts

Kalyan Parbat

489 words

6 April 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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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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NEWS

Hacker alleges data leak in Vi's subscriber database portal

349 words

5 April 2022

BusinessLine (The Hindu)

BSNLNE

English

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Mumbai, April 4 NEWS

Details of Vodafone Idea (Vi) users may have been accessed by threat actors after an alleged leak of its directory services portal's user ID and password on the dark web, according to **cybersecurity** researcher and ethical hacker Sunny Nehra. The database portal comprises information of all active and older inactive subscribers, including current and permanent addresses, date of birth, PAN and Aadhaar card details, Nehra said. As of January 2022, Vi had over 24.72 crore active subscribers.

Nehra, Admin, Hacks and Security, found a set of 12-15 user IDs and passwords of various portals of Vi, available for sale on private dark net forums. On testing one of them, he found that it belonged to the subscriber database portal and was probably meant for special access to the Delhi police.

BusinessLine reached out to Vi with queries on Saturday and the company denied any such breach in its portals and apps by Monday. "Vi has a tight IT security framework and we regularly conduct checks and audits to identify any potential areas of vulnerabilities to strengthen our security architecture. We have not found any such breach. Our data remains safe and secure," a Vodafone Idea spokesperson told this newspaper.

Weak password

However, Nehra claimed that the portal has been down since Sunday night.

"Vodafone Idea had allocated a generic and weak password for the site which had critical details of its subscribers. It is common for hackers to try out that password. While these user IDs and passwords will be removed from the dark net forum once it's sold, the threat remains that someone is going to have access to the portal and data of all the subscribers of the company. I was able to find details of at least three IPS officers and two important bureaucrats I knew who are using Vi numbers," Nehra added.

He also notified the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team(CERT-In) and Mathan Babu Kasilingam, Chief Information Security Officer, Vi, in separate emails.

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Info-tech

Hacker reports vulnerability and possible data leak in Vodafone Idea's subscriber database portal

Debangana Ghosh

421 words

4 April 2022

BusinessLine Online

BSNLNO

English

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"Vi has a very tight IT security framework and we regularly conduct checks and audits to identify any potential areas of vulnerabilities to further strengthen our security architecture. We have not found any such breach. Our data remains fully safe and secure," a Vodafone Idea spokesperson told BusinessLine.

Weak password

However, Nehra claimed that the portal has been down since Sunday night.

"To check the account, they will have to make the portal up again anyway. I assume they noticed something unusual on the portal and made it down at night. My mail will clarify things," he said.

"Vodafone Idea had allocated a very generic and weak password for the site which had critical details of its subscribers. It is very common for hackers to try out that password. While these user IDs and passwords will be removed from the dark net forum once it's sold, the threat remains that someone is going to have access to the portal and data of all the subscribers of the company. I was able to find details of at least three IPS officers and two important bureaucrats I knew who are using Vi numbers," Nehra added.

He also notified the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Mathan Babu Kasilingam, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Vi, in separate emails.

"Vi's CISO has taken a note of my email. He said he is analysing the systems on priority and checking what went wrong," Nehra said.

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Vodafone raises stake in Vodafone Idea

159 words

4 April 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, April 4 -- Vodafone has raised its stake in debt-ridden Vodafone Idea to 47.61 per cent through its subsidiary Prime Metals. The company earlier held 44.39 per cent stake in Vodafone Idea (VIL). Vodafone Idea's board has approved the allotment of 338.3 crore equity shares at Rs 13.30 per scrip to three promoter group entities - Euro Pacific Securities, Prime Metals and Oriana Investments - for about Rs 4,500 crore.

Vodafone Idea is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group **partnership**. It is developing world-class **infrastructure** to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings conveniently accessible through an **ecosystem** of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence.

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Document HTACCF0020220404ei44000mm



Vodafone Idea informs about disclosure

78 words

4 April 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, April 4 -- Vodafone Idea has informed that the exchange has received the disclosure under Regulation 29(2) of SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares & Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 for Oriana Investments. The above information is a part of company's filings submitted to BSE.

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Telecom News

Telcos can defer annual AGR dues by 4 years, DoT may tell SC

Anandita Singh Mankotia

373 words

4 April 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will likely inform the Supreme Court on April 7 that telcos have been given an option to defer their annual adjusted gross revenue (AGR) **payments** by four years. As per the annual compliance report the government needs to submit to the Supreme Court each year, DoT will also inform that because of the deferral in payment timelines, bank guarantees (BGs) would also be returned to the carriers, a senior government official told ET. "Telcos will also have to file this to the Supreme Court on April 7, in accordance with the Supreme Court order that had asked for an annual update on AGR dues," the official said.

The DoT will also inform the court of its decision to return all BGs to telcos, since the AGR payment against which the BGs were held has been secured. "The government has the option to convert the dues into government equity after four years," the officer explained. The DoT is informing the court about the BGs along with the update on AGR dues as close to 8,000 crore worth Vodafone Idea's BGs are set for expiry around early April and the telco has repeatedly reiterated its inability to raise more guarantees from banks. As reported by ET earlier, BGs worth about 15,000 crore belonging to Vodafone Idea (Vi) have been withheld by the government and the figure for Bharti Airtel is 7,000-8,000 crore. The BGs held back had been furnished against the spectrum payments of telcos. Vi has urged the government to urgently release its BGs as the loss-making telco is desperately trying to raise funds to invest in its 4G network to better compete with stronger rivals Reliance Jio and Airtel and stem subscriber losses. People familiar with the matter said the DoT had drafted a cabinet note for issues concerning the return of BGs, but it was withdrawn as many in government felt that it was well within the ambit of the telecom relief package to allow the return of all BGs, including those withheld against the AGR dues.

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Document ECTIM00020220404ei440001c

Startups & Tech

Airtel, TechM Tie Up to Develop 5G Use Cases

Our Bureau

199 words

1 April 2022

The Economic Times - Mumbai Edition

ECTMUM

English

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New Delhi: Bharti Airtel and software company Tech Mahindra on Thursday signed a **partnership** to co-develop and market 5G use cases in India with the objective of accelerating the country's digital economy.

The companies will offer customised enterprise-grade private networks which will be powered by Airtel's **connectivity** portfolio of 5G-ready network, fibre, software-defined wide-area network (SDWAN), and Internet of Things (IoT) while system integration services will be provided by Tech Mahindra, the two companies said in a joint statement.

Airtel and Tech Mahindra said they will initially tap into verticals such as automobiles, aviation, ports, utilities, chemicals, oil & gas, and plan to expand to other industries going forward.

Airtel's rival, Vodafone Idea (Vi), recently tied up with conglomerate Larsen & Toubro's L&T Smart World & Communications (SWC) unit to set up and test a private LTE network in Surat, Gujarat.

According to industry estimates, the potential market size of private 5G services in India is pegged at around \$570 million by 2026. The segment is estimated to grow at around 35% compounded annually over the next three years.

Document ECTMUM0020220401ei410000d

Stock in news

Vodafone Idea board approves raising Rs 4,500 crore from 3 promoters

Amit Mudgill

182 words

1 April 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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NEW DELHI: Vodafone Idea (Vi) on Thursday said its board has approved raising of Rs 4,500 crore by allotting 3,38,34,58,645 equity shares to three promoter or promoter group entities at Rs 13.30 a piece. The telecom operator said it has allotted 1,96,66,35,338 shares to Euro Pacific Securities on a preferential basis, another 57,09,58,646 shares to Prime Metals and rest 84,58,64,661 shares to Oriana

Investment.90561629The shareholders of the company had approved the said issuance vide special resolution passed at the extra-ordinary general meeting held on March 26. In a filing to exchanges, Vodafone Idea said: "Please further note that after the above allotment of the equity shares, the paid-up equity share capital of the company stands increased to Rs. 3,21,18,84,78,850/- consisting of 32,11,88,47,885 equity shares of face value of Rs 10/- each."More to come...

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Document ECTIM00020220331ei3v0003m



5G at Network Level – Are we Ready?

763 words

31 March 2022

Voice and Data

CMVOID

English

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At this year's Voice&Data Telecom Leadership Forum, held on March 22, 2022, during a fireside chat, network architecture for 5G Rollout was discussed, excerpts below.

Ibrahim Ahmad, Consulting Editor, CyberMedia Group chatted with Jagbir Singh, CTO, Vodafone Idea on the alignment of current networks, challenges and opportunities for operators, the **partnership** needed at **ecosystem** level.

Jagbir Singh has built some of the biggest networks in the world. He has held senior leadership positions with multiple operators and brings over 32 years of experience in the industry.

His current role involves planning of network architecture, network lifecycle, engineering, deployment and operations.

Operators have invested big money in networks but are current networks compatible with 5G? Would a hybrid model of 4G and 5G work?

"Until 5G happens, we need a base coverage of 4G to support voice services," said Jagbir Singh. Co-existence of both will continue for the next five to seven years. Similarly co-existence of radio access network or RAN for dual connectivity for 4G and 5G will happen.

5G is not as backward compatible as 3G and 4G were. This dual connectivity will ensure seamless coverage for the customer. Jagbir Singh also touched upon what happens when we divide RAN it into classical RAN and Open RAN where disintegration brings new outcomes.

"Whatever equipment Vodafone has deployed in the last five years is capable of being ready for 5G with a software upgrade. For OpenRAN, we have been doing trials and it is maturing with time. It is a good architecture for machine learning, data analytics and it is a flexible architecture. Most architectures today are classical but Open RAN is evolving fast.

However, classical architecture is equally capable of 5G services. 4G can continue to co-exist with 5G. So benefits of seamless coverage will continue.

The industry is deploying cloud-based architecture with virtual machines.

"We have Cloud systems which are fully ready to update to 5G. Having this network gave us flexibility and scalability."

5G investments

Ibrahim asked, why -- not so long ago -- there was stiff opposition from operators as they had just finished investments in 3G and 4G?

Jagbir Singh explained that the industry has seen confidence with maturity of technology. All investments in infrastructure, equipment and transport is being done with a 5G-readiness in mind.

Specifications have become clearer. Pilots have been completed. This has sharpened understanding of technology. Proven technology across the globe helps to deepen this confidence. Of course, spectrum pricing is a challenge. There is also need for more fibre connectivity, robust transport networks, more base stations which all adds up to more Capex. "There is not too much upside on ARPU, so the challenge will remain," he said.

5G enables Private networks.

Jagbir Singh explained that this can happen through slicing and we would get efficiency for spectrum-usage and capex optimisation. “Even devices are going to support eight slices. With different bandwidth for different uses with 5G.

On concerns about security and latency, Jagbir said, “Public networks are more secure due to regulatory aspects and compliance than private networks. Network slicing is highly secure as well. Slicing enables dedicated resources – making SLAs better. We also need to address redundancy in private networks with high degree of efficiency, reliability and security.”

The industry also needs enough money for Capex – in light of ARPU challenges. With the Make-in-India effort and fast 5G roll-out, we can navigate these aspects.

5G Power

Jagbir shared lessons from trials in Pune and Gandhinagar by Vodafone Idea.

“Any use case is going to be part of an ecosystem – like network providers, integrators, device providers. All the use-cases will not come from vendors or operators but from the entire ecosystem. We learnt a lot too.”

Vodafone Idea implemented several projects like connected ambulances, remote medicine etc. with third-party applications. 5G provides native capability for low latency so it is best suited for AR, VR, Gaming etc.

“It will have a maturity curve. It will take some time,” he felt. It is ideal for B2B, remote education, remote healthcare, remote monitoring of infrastructure, factory automation, remote surveillance.

That said, how to make money and make these areas popular would be a challenge. But with industry collaboration and ecosystem co-operation – this would become possible.

Maturity level of technology, cloud-native investments, realistic pricing of spectrum, device availability in ecosystem, and ROI are issues that this industry and regulators need to address. But we have to begin at some point.

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Document CMVOID0020220401ei3v00004



Preferential Issue

86 words

31 March 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, March 31 -- Vodafone Idea Limited has informed the Exchange about Preferential Issue - Allotment of 3,38,34,58,645 equity shares of Rs.10/- each for cash at an issue price of Rs.13.30 per equity share, aggregating to ~ Rs. 4,500 crore to Promoter / Promoter Group on preferential basis.

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Vodafone Idea loses 3.89 lakh subscribers in January

132 words

31 March 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, March 31 -- Vodafone Idea has lost 3,89,082 customers in January 2022. Following this, the company's total customer base has decreased to 26.51 crore with market share of 23.15% in terms of wireless subscribers as on January 31, 2022.

Vodafone Idea is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group **partnership**. It is developing world-class **infrastructure** to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings conveniently accessible through an **ecosystem** of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence.

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Document HTACCF0020220331ei3v000jv



Vodafone Idea collaborates with L&T

200 words

30 March 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, March 30 -- Vodafone Idea (Vi) and L&T Smart World & Communication (SWC) have come together to establish a use case of Private LTE enterprise network in India. Both companies will carry out an accelerated Proof of Concept (PoC) at group business L&T Heavy Engineering's 'A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex', Hazira (Surat).

L&T SWC and Vi have also partnered to trial 5G Use Cases in the areas of Public Safety, Smart and Connected Health, as part of the ongoing 5G trials on Govt. allocated 5G spectrum. Both the companies have collaborated to test and validate 5G use cases built on IoT, Video AI technologies leveraging L&T's Smart City **platform**.

Vodafone Idea is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership. It is developing world-class infrastructure to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings conveniently accessible through an ecosystem of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence.

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Document HTACCF0020220330ei3u000jt



L&T partners with Vi to set-up pilot private LTE Network

177 words

30 March 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, March 30 -- Larsen & Toubro's (L&T) Smart World & Communication (SWC) and Vodafone Idea (Vi) have come together to establish a use case of Private LTE enterprise network in India. Both companies will carry out an accelerated Proof of Concept (PoC) at group business L&T Heavy Engineering's 'A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex', Hazira (Surat).

L&T SWC and Vi have also partnered to trial 5G Use Cases in the areas of Public Safety, Smart and Connected Health, as part of the ongoing 5G trials on Govt. allocated 5G spectrum. Both the companies have collaborated to test and validate 5G use cases built on IoT, Video AI technologies leveraging L&T's Smart City **platform**.

L&T is an Indian multinational engaged in technology, engineering, construction, manufacturing and financial services.

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Document HTACCF0020220330ei3u0008p

Vi, L&T SWC deploy private LTE enterprise network, trial 5G use cases in India

192 words

30 March 2022

Telecompaper Asia

TELASI

English

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L&T Smart World & Communication (SWC) and Indian operator Vodafone Idea (Vi) have deployed a use case of private LTE enterprise network in India. Both companies will carry out an accelerated proof of concept at group business L&T Heavy Engineering's 'A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex', Hazira (Surat). L&T SWC and Vi have also partnered to trial 5G use cases in the areas of public safety, smart and connected health, as part of the ongoing 5G trials on government allocated 5G spectrum.

Both companies have also collaborated to test and validate 5G use cases built on IoT, video AI technologies using L&T's Smart City **platform**. L&T Smart World offers pre-packaged digital services for private 5G starting from network designing and rollout, cyber security, and virtualized networks (ORAN).

The private LTE PoC, which is based on technology from Nokia, is expected to ensure coverage, communication, and customer experience integrating machinery, connected devices and IoT that are critical to the related high precision manufacturing processes, at L&T Heavy Engineering manufacturing facility.

Document TELASI0020220330ei3u0002u

Airtel completes acquisition of 4.7% stake in Indus Towers from Vodafone

FE Bureau

365 words

30 March 2022

Financial Express

AIWFIE

English

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Bharti Airtel on Tuesday said it has acquired 4.7% stake in Indus Towers from Vodafone Group for about Rs 2,388 crore. The transaction was executed at a price of Rs 187.88 per share.

“...the company, along with its wholly-owned subsidiary, Nettle **Infrastructure** Investments Limited, has acquired 127,105,179 equity shares (4.7%) of Indus Towers Limited @ Rs 187.88 per share from Euro Pacific Securities, an affiliate of Vodafone Group Plc,” Airtel said in a regulatory filing.

After the acquisition, Bharti Airtel's shareholding in Indus Towers has increased to over 46%, while that of Vodafone has dropped to 21%.

On February 25, Bharti Airtel had said it has signed an agreement to buy Vodafone's 4.7% stake in Indus Towers on the condition that the proceeds will be used for investment in Vodafone Idea and clearing its dues towards the mobile tower company.

Indus Towers is the country's largest tower infrastructure provider with a portfolio of over 1,84,748 telecom towers across all the 22 telecom circles. It posted a net profit of Rs 1,571 crore during the October-December quarter, which was up 16% on a year-on-year basis.

“We believe this transaction allows Airtel to secure continued strong provision of services from Indus Towers, protects and enhances Airtel's value in Indus Towers, enables it to receive rich dividends and as also paves the way for subsequent financial consolidation of Indus Towers in Airtel,” Bharti had earlier said about the deal.

It had said it remains committed to look at opportunities for monetising this vital asset at an appropriate time. In doing so, it will ensure that the tower company has been stabilised and any new strategic or financial investor/s has the ability to continue to serve the critical needs of Airtel,” it had said.

[On February 25, Bharti Airtel had said it has signed an agreement to buy Vodafone's 4.7% stake in Indus Towers on the condition that the proceeds will be used for investment in Vodafone Idea and clearing its dues towards the mobile tower company.](#)

Document AIWFIE0020220330ei3u0000w

MINT, Industry

Centre may name IDBI Cap adviser for Rs. 2022; Voda Idea Rs. 2022; deal

Gulveen Aulakh

669 words

30 March 2022

Mint

HNMINIT

English

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New delhi, March 30 -- The Centre is likely to hire IDBI Capital Markets and Securities Ltd to advise it on converting Vodafone Idea Ltd's interest from spectrum auction instalments and adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues into equity, two officials familiar with the development said.

The department of **investment** and public asset management (DIPAM) has already proposed IDBI Cap's name as transaction adviser for the conversion, one of the two officials cited above said on condition of anonymity.

"The recommendation has gone to the finance ministry; it should be done soon," the official said.

Vodafone Idea has been under severe financial stress for years and has snapped up the government's September offer to convert its dues totalling Rs.16,000 crore into equity to reduce its debt. The proposal, which was part of a larger telecom relief package, also offered a moratorium on payments of deferred spectrum fees and adjusted gross revenue for four years.

Vodafone Idea's gross debt, excluding lease liabilities but including interest, increased to Rs.1.99 trillion for the quarter ended 31 December, comprising deferred spectrum payment obligations of Rs.1.1 trillion, AGR liability of Rs.64,620 crore and debt from banks and financial institutions of Rs.23,060 crore.

Meanwhile, Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group, the promoters of Vodafone Idea, will invest Rs.4,500 crore in the loss-making company, bringing in much-needed resources to compete with larger rivals Bharti Airtel Ltd and Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. Shares will be issued on a preferential basis to Vodafone Group Plc entities Euro Pacific Securities Ltd and Prime Metals Ltd, and Aditya Birla Group entity Oriana Investments Pte. Ltd, which are part of the promoter group. Additionally, the telco will raise Rs.10,000 crore in tranches from external sources by selling equity and debt.

Vodafone Group owns 44.4% of the telco and Aditya Birla Group 27.7%, taking total promoter shareholding to 72.1%. With the fund infusion of Rs.4,500 crore, the promoter shareholding will rise to 74.9%. If the government were to convert the interest from dues into equity at this stage, it would hold about 33.3%, according to IIFL Securities, as opposed to 35.8%, as announced by Vodafone Idea management in January. Promoter shareholding will fall to 50.1%, according to a note reviewed by Mint.

The government's shareholding will fall further to 28.8% if it were to convert the interest from dues into equity after Rs.10,000 crore has been raised, according to a report from Citi Research, while promoter shareholding will reduce to 43.3%. However, the note added that the government will be the single largest shareholder in the carrier.

Queries emailed to spokespersons for the finance ministry, IDBI Capital Markets & Securities, and Vodafone Idea remained unanswered till press time.

According to the second official cited above, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, the government will move ahead with the equity conversion even as promoters of India's third-largest carrier put in additional equity and raise external funds. As and when the funds will come, the government shareholding will change, the official said. "It will be done in parallel. We're on the job, and we're aiming to complete it at the earliest," he added.

Vodafone Idea's December quarter losses widened to Rs.7,230.9 crore from Rs.7,132.3 crore in the September quarter, while revenues rose to Rs.9,717 crore from Rs.9,406 crore.

The adviser, along with the finance ministry and department of telecommunications, will ascertain the quantum of stake that the government will eventually hold in the third-largest carrier, a third official added.

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Document HNMINT0020220329ei3u003ux



L&T and Vi Join Hands to Pilot Private LTE Network To transform L&T's Heavy Engineering plant with industry 4.0

714 words

29 March 2022

Voice and Data

CMVOID

English

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Mumbai: L&T Smart World & Communication (SWC) and Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi) have come together to establish a use case of Private LTE enterprise network in India. Both companies will carry out an accelerated Proof of Concept (PoC) at group business L&T Heavy Engineering's 'A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex', Hazira (Surat).

L&T SWC and Vi have also partnered to trial 5G Use Cases in the areas of Public Safety, Smart and Connected Health, as part of the ongoing 5G trials on Govt. allocated 5G spectrum. Both the companies have collaborated to test and validate 5G use cases built on IoT, Video AI technologies leveraging L&T's Smart City **platform**.

Led by the robust foundation built on the backbone of telecom in India, the Industry 4.0 manufacturing revolution across the world, has been brought about using hi-tech IoT and connected devices.

"We believe private enterprise networks are here to stay, proliferate and help transform businesses on the Industry 4.0 growth path. We are excited about this technology and promise it holds, and along with our partners Vodafone Idea, are betting big in digitizing Indian enterprises," said Mr. J. D Patil, Whole Time Director & Senior Executive Vice President, Defence & Smart Technologies, Larsen & Toubro.

Vi Business, with its deep expertise of providing innovative and reliable telecommunications services to Enterprises, is preparing for a future ready industry through partnerships and trials with major industrial companies. These trials allow Vi and its partners to develop India specific private LTE use cases with efficient utilization of spectrum, without impacting the society and progressing towards the Government's dream of a Digital India.

"As a market leader in enterprise solutions, Vi Business remains focussed on empowering businesses to grow and reinvent in this dynamic digital ecosystem. We are excited to partner with L&T Smart World & Communication to build a complete solution for Private LTE with cutting-edge applications on future-ready 5G network infrastructure, based on technology expertise from Nokia. This collaboration will demonstrate our strength and capabilities to deliver solutions for the enterprises of tomorrow driving faster adoption of industry 4.0 in India. We are confident that this pilot will revolutionize and transform L&T's A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex manufacturing facility, unlocking new potential for future scalability," said Arvind Nevatia, Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Vodafone Idea Limited.

L&T SWC, having varied experience of seamless IT/OT integration and world-class technology solutions, will design, implement, test and validate the network as well as the satisfactory deployment of the use cases over it.

"We are conducting extensive POC for testing private LTE network for industrial applications at our L&T Heavy Engineering works at 'AM Naik Heavy Engineering Complex'. We are confident that LTE will help us in achieving the goals of improved connectivity/coverage and also the ability to move towards greater automation using IOT in various Industry 4.0 applications," said Anil V Parab, Senior Vice President, Head - Heavy Engineering and Member of the Executive Committee.

The private LTE PoC, which is based on technology from Nokia, will ensure coverage, communication, and customer experience by integrating vast machinery, connected devices, and IoT that are critical to the related high precision manufacturing processes, at L&T Heavy Engineering manufacturing facility.

"We are delighted to partner with Vi Business and L&T SWC to build one of the first private wireless networks in India. Our industry-leading private wireless solution will offer L&T's manufacturing facility the scalability, flexibility, improved productivity, operational efficiency, and the required coverage to advance its digital transformation. By deploying a state-of-the-art private wireless network, L&T's manufacturing facility will be able to automate its processes and explore new industry 4.0 use cases," said Prashant Malkani, Head of Vodafone Idea CT at Nokia.

L&T Smart World offers pre-packaged digital solutions for Private 5G starting from network designing & rollout, cyber security, and virtualized networks (ORAN). It's expertise in the Communications sector as a system integrator enables it to deliver end-to-end solutions for an enterprise transformation.

[Click here to view image](#)

Document CMVOID0020220330ei3t00002

L&T, Vi join hands to set-up pilot private LTE network

CT Bureau

Distributed by Contify.com

701 words

29 March 2022

Communications Today

ATCOMT

English

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L&T Smart World & Communication (SWC) and Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi) have come together to establish a use case of Private LTE enterprise network in India. Both companies will carry out an accelerated Proof of Concept (PoC) at group business L&T Heavy Engineering's 'A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex', Hazira (Surat).

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Document ATCOMT0020220330ei3t00002



Bharti Airtel spurts over 3.5% as it acquires Vodafone's ~4.7% equity stake in Indus Towers

India Infoline News Service

194 words

29 March 2022

Indiainfoline News Service

INFOIN

English

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[Bharti Airtel Limited](#) completes the acquisition of 127,105,179 equity shares, equalling ~4.7%, of Indus Towers Limited. The company has completed this acquisition at a price of Rs187.88 per share from Euro Pacific Securities Ltd., which is an affiliate of Vodafone Group Plc.

Bharti Airtel has made this acquisition through its wholly-owned subsidiary Nettle **Infrastructure** Investments Limited.

Bharti Airtel has informed investors of this transaction on February 25, 2022.

The total cost of this acquisition is Rs2,388 crore, the company said.

In February 2022, the Vodafone Group sold off a 2.4% stake in Indus Towers through a block deal for Rs1,442 crore. Vodafone Idea also approved raising Rs4,500 crore by issuing shares to its promoters Vodafone Inc and Aditya Birla group entities on a preferential basis.

At 11.30 AM, Bharti Airtel's stock was trading 3.68% higher at Rs760 against its previous close of Rs733.05 on NSE. It touched an intraday high and low of Rs763 and Rs737 respectively, so far.

[Click here to see image](#)

Document INFOIN0020220330ei3t0001b

Technology

L&T, Vi to build pilot private LTE network

Team TC

370 words

29 March 2022

TechCircle

MMVTCE

English

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L&T Smart World & Communication (SWC) and Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi) have joined hands to establish a use case for Private LTE enterprise network in India. As per the agreement, both the partners will carry out an accelerated 'Proof of Concept (PoC)' at group business L&T Heavy Engineering's 'A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex' at Hazira (Surat). The private LTE PoC is based on the technology developed by Nokia.

Furthermore, L&T and Vi have also teamed up to trial 5G use cases in the areas of Public Safety, Smart and Connected Health, as part of the ongoing 5G trials on the government allocated 5G spectrum. Both the companies have collaborated to test and validate 5G use cases built on IoT, Video AI technologies leveraging L&T's Smart City **platform**, as revealed by the companies in a statement.

L&T claims that because of its 'varied experience' of 'seamless IT/OT integration' and 'world-class technology' solutions, it will be able to design, implement, test and validate the network as well as the 'satisfactory deployment' of the use cases over it.

"We believe private enterprise networks are here to stay, proliferate and help transform businesses on the Industry 4.0 growth path. We are excited about this technology and promise it holds, and along with our partners Vodafone Idea, are betting big in digitising Indian enterprises," said JD Patil, Director at Larsen & Toubro.

Similarly, Vi Business claims that because of its deep expertise of providing innovative and reliable telecommunications services to enterprises, it is able to prepare for a 'future ready' industry through partnerships and trials with major industrial companies.

"We are conducting extensive POC for testing private LTE network for industrial applications at our L&T Heavy Engineering works at 'AM Naik Heavy Engineering Complex'. We are confident that LTE will help us in achieving the goals of improved connectivity/coverage and also the ability to move towards greater automation using IOT in various Industry 4.0 applications," said Anil V Parab, Senior Vice President, Head - Heavy Engineering and Member of the Executive Committee.

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Document MMVTCE0020220329ei3t00003

L&T, Vi to set-up pilot private LTE network

392 words

29 March 2022

UNI (United News of India)

UNNIND

English

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Mumbai, March 29 -- Engineering major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Tuesday said it has partnered with telecom operator Vodafone Idea to establish a use case of private LTE enterprise network in India.

L&T Smart World & Communication (SWC), the smart world and communication business of L&T Construction, along with Vi will establish a private LTE enterprise network with future ready 5G network **infrastructure**, the telecom operator said in a statement here.

Both the companies will also trial 5G use cases in the areas of public safety, smart and connected health as part of the ongoing 5G trials on government allocated 5G spectrum.

"Both the companies have collaborated to test and validate 5G use cases built on IoT, video AI technologies leveraging L&T's smart city platform," it said.

"We believe private enterprise networks are here to stay, proliferate and help transform businesses on the Industry 4.0 growth path. We are excited about this technology and promise it holds and along with our partners Vodafone Idea are betting big in digitizing Indian enterprises," said J D Patil, Senior Executive Vice President, Defence & Smart Technologies, L&T.

These trials allow Vi and its partners to develop India specific private LTE use cases with efficient utilization of spectrum, without impacting the society and progressing towards the Government's dream of a 'Digital India', the company said.

Commenting on the development, Arvind Nevatia, Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Vodafone Idea, said this partnership will enable to build a complete solution for private LTE with cutting-edge applications on future ready 5G network infrastructure, based on technology expertise from Nokia.

"This collaboration will demonstrate our strength and capabilities to deliver solutions for the enterprises of tomorrow driving faster adoption of industry 4.0 in India. We are confident that this pilot will revolutionize and transform L&T's A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex manufacturing facility, unlocking new potential for future scalability," he added.

L&T Smart World offers pre-packaged digital solutions for Private 5G starting from network designing and rollout, cyber security and virtualized networks (ORAN).

UNI PSK MR

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Info-tech

Vodafone Idea partners L&T for private network solutions

BL Mumbai Bureau

512 words

29 March 2022

BusinessLine Online

BSNLNO

English

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Vodafone Idea (Vi) has partnered with Larsen and Toubro Smart World & Communication (L&T SWC) to establish a use case for private LTE enterprise network in India. Both companies will carry out an accelerated 'proof of concept' at group business L&T Heavy Engineering's 'A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex' at Hazira in Surat, Gujarat.

L&T SWC and Vi have also partnered to trial 5G use cases in the areas of public safety, smart and connected health, as part of ongoing trials on government-allocated 5G spectrum. Both companies have collaborated to test and validate 5G use cases built on IoT (internet of things) and video AI technologies using L&T's Smart City **platform**.

"We believe private enterprise networks are here to stay, proliferate and help transform businesses on the Industry 4.0 growth path. We are excited about this technology and the promise it holds, and, along with our partners Vodafone Idea, are betting big on digitising Indian enterprises," said JD Patil, Whole Time Director and Senior Executive Vice-President, Defence and Smart Technologies, Larsen & Toubro.

According to a press note, the trials allow Vodafone Idea and its partners to develop India-specific private LTE (long-term evolution — a standard for wireless broadband communication) use cases with efficient utilisation of spectrum.

"As a market leader in enterprise solutions, Vi Business remains focussed on empowering businesses to grow and reinvent in this dynamic digital ecosystem. We are excited to partner with L&T Smart World & Communication to build a complete solution for private LTE with cutting-edge applications on future-ready 5G network infrastructure, based on technology expertise from Nokia. This collaboration will demonstrate our strength and capabilities to deliver solutions for the enterprises of tomorrow, driving faster adoption of Industry 4.0 in India. We are confident that this pilot will revolutionise and transform L&T's A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex manufacturing facility, unlocking new potential for future scalability," said Arvind Nevatia, Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Vodafone Idea Limited.

"We are conducting extensive proof of concept for testing private LTE network for industrial applications at our L&T Heavy Engineering works at 'AM Naik Heavy Engineering Complex'. We are confident that LTE will help us in achieving the goals of improved connectivity/coverage and also the ability to move towards greater automation using IoT in various Industry 4.0 applications," said Anil V Parab, Senior Vice President, Head - Heavy Engineering, and Member of the Executive Committee.

According to the press note, the private LTE proof of concept, which is based on technology from Nokia, will ensure coverage, communication, and customer experience, integrating vast machinery, connected devices and IoT that are critical to the related high-precision manufacturing processes at L&T's heavy engineering manufacturing facility.

L&T Smart World offers pre-packaged digital solutions for private 5G, starting from network designing and rollout to cyber security and virtualised networks (ORAN). As a system integrator, it offers end-to-end solutions for enterprise transformation.

Document BSNLNO0020220329ei3t0005q



Tech, Media & Telecom

Airtel Acquires Vodafone's 4.7% Stake In Indus Towers; Shares Up Over 2%

Edited by Prashun Talukdar

236 words

29 March 2022

06:21

NDTV

NDTVIN

English

Copyright. 2022. NDTV Convergence Ltd., New Delhi, India.

Telecom major Bharti Airtel on Tuesday said that it has acquired a 4.7 per cent stake in Indus Towers from U.K.'s Vodafone Group for around Rs 2,388 crore. "The company, along with its wholly-owned subsidiary, Nettle **Infrastructure** Investments Ltd, has acquired 127,105,179 equity shares (approximately 4.7 per cent) of Indus Towers Limited at Rs 187.88 per share from Euro Pacific Securities Ltd, an affiliate of Vodafone Group Plc," Airtel stated in a regulatory filing today.

Last month, [Airtel](#) had signed an agreement to buy Vodafone's stake in Indus Towers on the principal condition that proceeds will be used for **investment** in Vodafone Idea (VIL) and clearing its outstanding dues towards the mobile tower company.

Indus Towers, formerly Bharti Infratel, provides passive telecom infrastructure. It deploys, owns and manages telecom towers and communication structures for various mobile operators.

The company's portfolio of over 1,84,748 telecom towers makes it one of the largest tower infrastructure providers in the country, with a presence in all 22 telecom circles.

Indus Towers caters to all wireless telecommunication service providers in India.

Meanwhile, shares of the telecom operator surged as much as 2.13 per cent in early trade to Rs 748.95. The stock hit an intraday high of Rs 750.95.

Document NDTVIN0020220329ei3t00060



Vodafone Idea introduces Vi MiFi

229 words

28 March 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, March 28 -- Vodafone Idea (Vi) has launched Vi MiFi for its customers on Vi Family Plans and Individual Postpaid Plans. Vi MiFi is a pocket-sized 4G router that delivers reliable, high speed and secure **connectivity** for multiple **devices**, while also being ideal for individuals wanting to stay connected on the go. Vi MiFi supports superfast speeds of up to 150 Mbps and enables users to securely connect up to 10 WiFi-enabled **devices** such as mobiles, smart TVs, laptops, tablets, CCTVs, smart speakers and more.

Consumers are now, more than ever, accessing internet for varied purposes and across multiple **devices**. As these **devices** proliferate, so does the need for seamless digital **connectivity** at all times. With high speed and secure internet access, Vi MiFi is a valuable proposition for consumers; be it for "work from anywhere" or consuming **content** or attending online classes.

Vodafone Idea is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership. It is developing world-class infrastructure to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings conveniently accessible through an ecosystem of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence.

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Document HTACCF0020220328ei3s000b8



Vodafone Idea's shareholders approve Rs 14,500 crore fundraise proposal

152 words

28 March 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, March 28 -- Vodafone Idea's (VIL) shareholders have approved a proposal to raise Rs 14,500 crore. As part of its fundraising, VIL had also sought shareholders' approval to raise Rs 10,000 crore through sale of equity or through a mix of ADR, GDR and FCCBs. Shareholders approved the proposal at the extraordinary general meeting held on March 26, 2022.

Vodafone Idea is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group **partnership**. It is developing world-class **infrastructure** to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings conveniently accessible through an **ecosystem** of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence.

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Companies

Airtel to pay ₹2,388 cr for Vodafone's 4.7% in Indus Towers

367 words

27 March 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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Bharti Airtel said on Friday it would pay Vodafone Group Plc around 2,388 crore, or 187.88 a share, to buy the UK telecom major's 4.7% stake in Indus Towers. With this, Vodafone would be raising Rs3,831 crore by selling 7.1% stake in India's largest telecom tower company. The funds will then be infused in its cash-strapped Indian joint venture, Vodafone Idea (Vi), which is desperately trying to raise money to turn around its operations and better compete in the market. According to a pact between some affiliates of the Vodafone Group, including Euro Pacific Securities Ltd, and Airtel and its unit Nettle Infrastructure, the deal will be "executed at 187.88 per share basis the agreed price formula in the agreement, aggregating to 23,880.62 million, upon fulfilment of all conditions" as previously agreed," the Sunil Mittal-led carrier said in a statement. Airtel currently holds a 41.7% stake in Indus. The tower company's shares closed 4.9% lower at 203.25 on the BSE Friday.

Airtel's stock ended 0.4% higher at 709.25, while Vi lost 0.6% to end at 10.11. On February 25, Airtel said it had agreed to buy a 4.7% stake in Indus Towers from Vodafone in cash. Under the deal, the UK company must invest the proceeds in Vodafone Idea, which in turn should use the money to clear its payment arrears to the telecom tower company. On that day, Indus shares closed 4.11% higher at Rs 214.20. A few days before the February 25 announcement, Vodafone sold 2.4% in Indus via a block deal to undisclosed investors for 1,443 crore, or 226.84 a share. Back then, Airtel did not share financial terms of its stake buy but said the purchase "would be at an attractive price, representing a significant discount, typically, available for such large block transactions". It added that the carrier was also protected with a capped price which was lower than the price for the block of Indus shares sold by Vodafone.

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Document ECTIM00020220328ei3s00004

IPL 2022: Jio, Airtel, Voda plans for free DisneyPlus HotStar subscription

422 words

26 March 2022

India Today Online

INTYON

English

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Cricket is not just a game, it's an emotion in India which is why telecom companies have come up with recharge plans that not just offer you calling and data benefits but also subscription to DisneyPlus Hotstar- the streaming app- on which you can watch the ongoing IPL 2022 tournament.

Airtel, Jio and Vodafone Idea have launched recharge plans that come bundled with DisneyPlus Hotstar subscription. Before we tell you more about these recharge plans, you should know the charges of DisneyPlus Hotstar subscription separately. Formerly known as Hotstar, the streaming **platform** in **partnership** with Disney brings you original **content** from Marvel, Disney and more.

Disney Plus Hotstar offers mainly three types of plans- Disney Plus Premium plan, DisneyPlus Hotstar Mobile plan and DisneyPlus Hotstar Super plans to its subscribers. The HotstarPlus premium costs Rs 1499 a year, the Mobile plan costs Rs 499 a year and the Super Plans charge you Rs 899 for an year.

Now coming back to what the telcos offer, here is a list of plans from telcos that offer free access to DisneyPlus Hotstar.

Airtel: Airtel offers one year access to DisneyPlus Hotstar along with 3GB data for 28 days. While the plan validity is for just 28 days, the DisneyPlus Hotstar subscription is valid for one year.

Jio: Jio offers several plans that come bundled with DisneyPlus Hotstar subscription for one year. The Rs 601 plan offers one year subscription to DisneyPlus subscription along with 3GB data in a day, unlimited voice calls and 100SMS per day. The second plan comes at Rs 499 and offers 2GB per day, unlimited voice calls and DisneyPlus Hotstar Mobile Subscription for 1. The third plan comes at Rs 1066 and offers one year subscription to DisneyPlus subscription along with 2GB data per day, unlimited voice calls and 100 SMS per day. Jio also has Rs 3119 plan that offers total data benefit of 740GB along with DisneyPlus Hotstar subscription and unlimited voice calling. Jio, only recently, also launched Rs 555 and Rs 2999 plans that come bundled with DisneyPlus Hotstar subscription for one year.

Vodafone Idea: Voda offers two plans- Rs 601 and Rs 901 plans. The Rs 601 plan offers unlimited calling along with 100 SMS per day offering 3GB of data per day with free Disney+ Hotstar subscription for 28 days. The Rs 901 plan offers 3GB per day with same benefits and with free Disney+ Hotstar subscription, but for 70 days.

Document INTYON0020220326ei3q001e1

Telecom News

Airtel to pay ₹2,388 cr for Vodafone's 4.7% in Indus Towers

368 words

26 March 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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Bharti Airtel said on Friday it would pay Vodafone Group Plc around 2,388 crore, or 187.88 a share, to buy the UK telecom major's 4.7% stake in Indus Towers. With this, Vodafone would be raising Rs3,831 crore by selling 7.1% stake in India's largest telecom tower company. The funds will then be infused in its cash-strapped Indian joint venture, Vodafone Idea (Vi), which is desperately trying to raise money to turn around its operations and better compete in the market. According to a pact between some affiliates of the Vodafone Group, including Euro Pacific Securities Ltd, and Airtel and its unit Nettle Infrastructure, the deal will be "executed at 187.88 per share basis the agreed price formula in the agreement, aggregating to 23,880.62 million, upon fulfilment of all conditions" as previously agreed," the Sunil Mittal-led carrier said in a statement. Airtel currently holds a 41.7% stake in Indus. The tower company's shares closed 4.9% lower at 203.25 on the BSE Friday.

Airtel's stock ended 0.4% higher at 709.25, while Vi lost 0.6% to end at 10.11. On February 25, Airtel said it had agreed to buy a 4.7% stake in Indus Towers from Vodafone in cash. Under the deal, the UK company must invest the proceeds in Vodafone Idea, which in turn should use the money to clear its payment arrears to the telecom tower company. On that day, Indus shares closed 4.11% higher at Rs 214.20. A few days before the February 25 announcement, Vodafone sold 2.4% in Indus via a block deal to undisclosed investors for 1,443 crore, or 226.84 a share. Back then, Airtel did not share financial terms of its stake buy but said the purchase "would be at an attractive price, representing a significant discount, typically, available for such large block transactions". It added that the carrier was also protected with a capped price which was lower than the price for the block of Indus shares sold by Vodafone.

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Document ECTIM00020220325ei3p0008o

Business Standard

Indus Towers stock falls 5%

Deepak Korgaonkar Mumbai

263 words

26 March 2022

Business Standard

BSTN

10

English

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Shares of Indus Towers slipped 8 per cent to ~196.55 on the BSE on Friday amid heavy volume. The stock of the telecom **infrastructure** provider traded close to its 52-week low of ~194.25 apiece touched on August 5, 2021. The stock had hit a 52-week high of ~332.60 on September 28.

The Indus Towers stock ended the session 5 per cent lower at ~203 apiece, compared with a 0.4 per cent decline on the S&P BSE Sensex. The trading volume at the counter more-than-doubled with a combined 9.2 million shares changing hands.

On February 25, Bharti Airtel entered into an agreement with Vodafone to buy 4.7 per cent equity interest on the principal condition that the amount paid shall be inducted by Vodafone as fresh equity in Vodafone Idea (Vi) and simultaneously remitted to Indus Towers to clear Vi's

outstanding dues.

In a communication related to the agreement with Vodafone on the Indus Towers stake sale, Bharti Airtel said that the acquisition purchase would be at an attractive price representing a significant discount typically available for such large block transactions.

Airtel is also protected with a capped price which is lower than the price for the block of Indus shares sold by Vodafone on February 24, 2022 (~226.8). This shall be value accretive to Airtel and protect its existing significant shareholding in Indus Towers, said the statement by Airtel.

The deal worth about ~2,400 crore was done at around ~187.88 a share.

Document BSTN000020220325ei3q003f2



Airtel to acquire Vodafone's 4.7% stake in Indus Towers for Rs 2,388 cr

347 words

25 March 2022

ET Now

ECTNOW

English

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On February 25, Bharti Airtel had said it has signed an agreement to buy Vodafone's 4.7 per cent stake in Indus Towers on the condition that the proceeds will be used for **investment** in Vodafone Idea and clearing its dues towards the mobile tower company.

[airtel to acquire vodafone's 4.7% stake in indus towers for rs 2,388 cr](#)

New Delhi: Telecom company Bharti Airtel will acquire a 4.7 per cent stake in Indus Towers from Vodafone Group for about Rs 2,388 crore, according to a company filing. The transaction will be executed at a price of Rs 187.88 per share. "...pursuant to the above referred agreement dated February 25, 2022 entered inter alia into between certain affiliates of Vodafone Group Plc (including Euro Pacific Securities), the company and Nettle, the transaction shall be executed at Rs 187.88 per share basis the agreed price formula in the agreement, aggregating to Rs 23,880.62 million," Airtel said in a regulatory filing. This will be upon fulfillment of all conditions precedents as agreed by the parties under the agreement, it added. Airtel said agreement pertained to acquisition of about 4.7 per cent equity in Indus Towers by the company and/or Nettle Infrastructure Investments, a wholly-owned subsidiary, from Vodafone Group affiliate, Euro Pacific Securities. On February 25, Bharti Airtel had said it has signed an agreement to buy Vodafone's 4.7 per cent stake in Indus Towers on the condition that the proceeds will be used for investment in Vodafone Idea and clearing its dues towards the mobile tower company. Indus Towers, formerly Bharti Infratel, provides passive telecom infrastructure. It deploys, owns and manages telecom towers and communication structures for various mobile operators. The company's portfolio of over 1,84,748 telecom towers makes it one of the largest tower infrastructure providers in the country with presence in all 22 telecom circles. Indus Towers caters to all wireless telecommunication service providers in India. PTI

Document ECTNOW0020220325ei3p000ji

MINT, Companies

Bharti Airtel to acquire stake in Indus Towers at Rs.2,388 crore

Livemint

283 words

25 March 2022

Mint

HNMINT

English

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New Delhi, March 25 -- Bharti Airtel will acquire Vodafone's 4.7% stake in Indus Towers for Rs.2,388 crore as the transaction will be executed at Rs.187 per share basis, according to an exchange filing.

In February, Airtel has entered into an agreement with British telecom giant Vodafone Plc to buy 4.7% equity in telecom **infrastructure** company Indus Towers Ltd.

The acquisition of Vodafone stake in Indus Towers only if it is for infusion in Vodafone Idea and clearing tower company's dues. Before the deal, Vodafone holds about 28% in Indus Towers while that of Bharti Airtel is close to 42%.

Indus Towers, formerly Bharti Infratel Ltd, is a leading provider of passive telecom infrastructure. It deploys, owns and manages telecom towers and communication structures for various mobile operators.

The firm's portfolio of over 1,84,748 telecom towers, makes it one of the largest tower infrastructure providers in the country with presence in all 22 telecom circles. Indus Towers caters to all wireless telecommunication service providers in India.

Indus Towers posted about 16% rise in consolidated profit at Rs.1,570.8 crore in the three months ended December 2021 while revenues stood at Rs.6,927 crore during the same period.

Indus Tower merged with Bharti Infratel in November 2020. The company's total mobile tower base increased to 1,84,748 from 1,75,510 on a year-on-year basis.

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Document HNMINT0020220325ei3p00439



Telecom

Vi MiFi Portable 4G Wireless Router for Postpaid Users With 5 Hours Battery Backup Launched in India

David Delima

376 words

24 March 2022

13:37

NDTV

NDTVIN

English

Copyright. 2022. NDTV Convergence Ltd., New Delhi, India.

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

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.

[Click here to view video](#)

Document NDTVIN0020220325ei3o00007

Gadgets

Vi launches MiFi 4G router that can connect up to 10 devices

tech desk

323 words

24 March 2022

Indian Express Online

INEXON

English

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Vodafone Idea has announced the launch of Vi MiFi, a pocket-size 4G router that supports speeds of up to 150 Mbps and allows users to connect up to 10 Wi-Fi-enabled devices, on Thursday. It comes with a 2700 mAh battery that the company rates for up to 5 hours of usage on a single charge.

The device will cost Rs 2,000 including taxes and can be purchased as an add-on with a Vi family postpaid plan. It is also available with individual postpaid plans starting at Rs 399. It will be available for purchase in Vi across 60 cities across the country.

When purchased, the Vi MiFi comes with a one year warranty and the following plans will be available on it:

Plan

Montly Rental

Number of Connections

Data Quota

Data Rollover

Data PayGo

Calls

Family 699

699

2

80GB

200GB

20/ GB

Unlimited Calls

Family 999

999

3

220GB

200GB

20/ GB

Unlimited Calls

Family 1299

1299

5

300GB
200GB
20/ GB
Unlimited Calls
Entertainment 399
399
1
40GB
200GB
20/ GB
Unlimited Calls
Entertainment Plus 499
499
1
75GB
200GB
20/ GB
Unlimited Calls
Entertainment Plus 699
699
1
Unlimited
NA
20/ GB
Unlimited Calls
MBB 399
399
1
50GB
200GB
20/ GB
Std Rates
MBB 499
499
1
90GB

200GB

20/ GB

Std Rates

Reliance Jio's Jiofi router was launched at a price of Rs 1,999 along with a free Jio sim card. The JioFi router offers download speeds of up to 150 Mbps and upload speeds of up to 50 Mbps. Airtel E5573Cs-609 4G portable WiFi router is priced around Rs 2,000 and it supports both Airtel prepaid and postpaid connections.

[It comes with a 2700 mAh battery that the company rates for up to 5 hours of usage on a single charge.](#)
(Image credit: Vi)

Document INEXON0020220325ei3o0001k

MINT, Industry

Interesting facts about Vodafone-Idea's bounce-back plans

Gulveen Aulakh

1,993 words

23 March 2022

Mint

HNMINI

English

Copyright 2022. HT Media Limited. All rights reserved.

New delhi, March 23 -- The website of Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL), India's third largest telecom service provider with more than 260 million customers, looks bright and alluring.

"High-speed Internet anytime, anywhere", the home page promises anyone who visits. "Non-stop gaming"; "ad-free music with unlimited downloads"; "free sim delivery at doorstep" are some of its other offers. Yes, the site also wants a visitor to "port your number" to enjoy "exciting benefits".

VIL has put its best foot forward. Nevertheless, it still has a long way to go-there is a pressing need to reduce debt significantly and also invest in infrastructure that would excite customers in the future.

This, despite a significant lifeline from the Indian government last year. On 15 September, union minister for railways, communications, electronics and information technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Indian government was serious about sustaining healthy competition in the telecom industry (without VIL, the market would turn into a duopoly and people would be left to choose between Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel).

The government, he told scribes, also wanted to "facilitate capital investment cycle and destress the balance sheet of the telecom sector". Telcos were granted more time to pay their dues and convert interest payments into equity as part of a rescue plan.

VIL has the largest debt pile among all telecom service providers in India-a mammoth Rs.1.9 trillion as of 31 December 2021. Its board subsequently approved a plan to make the government its biggest shareholder with a 36% stake in the company. It opted to convert its dues of about Rs.16,000 crore to stock. And earlier this March, VIL's board approved equity infusion of Rs.4,500 crore into the carrier by the promoters and Rs.10,000 crore fund raised in tranches from external sources.

The fund infusion from promoters-Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group-is expected after the company's extraordinary general meeting on 26 March. Sources said that the external fund raise will commence soon after the government formally becomes a shareholder.

Nonetheless, some analysts still sense a tricky road ahead. "The announced capital raise will provide some respite but a long and arduous path still remains to be traversed if VIL has to truly make it out of the woods," Hemang Khanna, associate vice president at Kotak Institutional Equities Research said in a note to clients.

His main concern: the announced fundraise still remains minuscule in comparison to VIL's debt. "It is yet to be seen if any external strategic investors decide to participate in VIL's upcoming Rs.100 billion (Rs.10,000 crore) capital raise, given the underlying challenges that the company faces," he said.

VIL rebuffs such views. It remains confident of the fundraise and future growth prospects.

"The Rs.4,500 crore equity infusion by promoters is a start of the fund raise process. It strongly signals promoters' commitment to VIL. The board has already approved total funding of up to Rs.14,500 crore which is seen by the company and board as adequate for the company's growth requirement," a spokesperson from VIL said.

An executive from VIL who didn't want to be identified said that there is significant investor interest, and proposals are being evaluated by the company. "The plans have been arrived at keeping the company's growth and requirements. The fundraise factors in the components that are needed for the company to remain competitive," he said.

"Investors are doing their due diligence and these processes take time. It will happen in the coming months. There is no worry because there are no surprises that has cropped up (in the entire process) and the process is not taking longer than expected," he added.

The executive stressed VIL is here for the long-term. "We have been able to make payments to the bond holders on time. So, it cannot be said that we're not a long-term player. We have the business plan and the belief of being in it for the long run."

On 13 December, VIL paid holders of non-convertible debentures that matured, averting any financial default.

So, what's the business plan? We will come to it in a bit. First, let's rewind to 2016, the year that changed India's telecom battleground, leading to distress for some companies.

Merger pains

The genesis of VIL's trouble dates back to September 2016 when Mukesh Ambani, India's richest man, announced Reliance Jio. His telecom service had the lowest data tariffs in the world and free voice calls. Jio created a record in the very first month of its operations, crossing 16 million subscribers. This sort of a ramp-up was "faster than any other telecom operator or startup in the world", Reliance Industries Ltd said at that time.

All these severely impacted the financials of the other telcos. Having already faced legal trouble due to a retrospective tax law amendment dating back to 2012, the Vodafone Group decided against any further investments in India. Instead, it pooled resources. Vodafone India Ltd merged with Idea Cellular Ltd on 31 August 2018 to become VIL.

The merger saw the debt of both companies- adjusted gross revenue (AGR) liabilities, spectrum renewal payments for 2G and 3G airwaves, new spectrum acquisition costs and operational expenses-become one large mound. Net debt was as high as Rs.1.12 trillion as of September 2018, ratings company Crisil had noted.

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The debt overhang

Today, the biggest issue facing VIL remains its huge debt pile and every effort made by the company towards deleveraging looks only a small step in the larger scheme of things.

Citi Research analysts underlined the uncertainty or the ability of the company to meet its payments to the government after the four-year moratorium period ends. In September last year, India's cabinet approved a relief package for the telecom sector that included a four-year moratorium on payment of statutory dues.

"It would require far more meaningful tariff hikes, and potentially, further government relief," the analysts said in a report, adding that VIL's total spectrum and AGR liability at Rs.1.7 trillion would imply annual payments increasing from Rs.240 billion (Rs.24,000 crore) to Rs.400 billion (Rs.40,000 crore) once the moratorium ends.

The VIL executive quoted earlier said that there is a sound debt reduction plan in place. "The company has a customer base and an asset base. Part of the debt which is Rs.16,000 crore will be converted into government equity. Additionally, there will be tariff hikes, ARPU's (average revenue per user) will rise which will contribute to revenue generation and higher EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization), which can then be used to service the loans," he explained.

The tech cycle

This brings us to the crucial issue of investments in next generation technologies. VIL needs to service its loan, and also invest to stay ahead of the tech curve.

Continued investments in building 4G networks ensure high speed data availability to consumers. Now, all the carriers, including Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio, are preparing to acquire 5G airwaves-the next generation of high-speed internet that would enable machine-to-machine communications. Both technologies are capital guzzlers with billions needed to be invested into buying spectrum and creating the network infrastructure.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Union Budget speech this year, announced that spectrum auctions to roll out 5G services will be held in 2022-23. While auction prices can break the bank for telcos, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) is reportedly considering lowering the reserve price for 5G spectrum auctions by half. In 2018, Trai had recommended a reserve price of Rs.492 crore per MHz for spectrum.

Whatever the price, can VIL ensure greater network investments in the future?

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The big plan

To stay in the game, VIL will be working on a combination of equity conversion, tariff hikes, transition of 2G customers to 4G (which will increase ARPU), and enhance digital services-stuff such as music, gaming and content.

While VIL's ARPU in the December quarter rose to Rs.115 from Rs.109 in the September quarter, analysts said this need to rise to Rs.250 over the next three to four years for it to sustain the leverage-the most critical factor for its long-term viability. Airtel's ARPU was at Rs.163 in the December quarter while Jio's came in at Rs.151.6.

"Not just VIL, all industry players are talking about the need to increase ARPU to about Rs.200 in the short-term and to Rs.250-300 over the longer-term. This would come from a combination of future price increases, more 4G customers and through enhanced digital services," a VIL spokesperson said.

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Meanwhile, VIL is trying out new monetization avenues. Last week, it launched Vi Games, a dedicated games store in its mobile app, in partnership with gaming firm Nazara Technologies. The store offers free and paid games on a subscription model, ranging between Rs.26 for three days and Rs.56 for a month.

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These signals hold out hope of a turnaround in 2022.

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Q3FY22



Source: Citi Research

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MINT, Industry
Inside Vodafone-Idea's bounce-back plan

Gulveen Aulakh

1,991 words

23 March 2022

Mint

HNMINI

English

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New delhi, March 23 -- The website of Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL), India's third largest telecom service provider with more than 260 million customers, looks bright and alluring.

"High-speed Internet anytime, anywhere", the home page promises anyone who visits. "Non-stop **gaming**"; "ad-free music with unlimited downloads"; "free sim delivery at doorstep" are some of its other offers. Yes, the site also wants a visitor to "port your number" to enjoy "exciting benefits".

VIL has put its best foot forward. Nevertheless, it still has a long way to go-there is a pressing need to reduce debt significantly and also invest in infrastructure that would excite customers in the future.

This, despite a significant lifeline from the Indian government last year. On 15 September, union minister for railways, communications, electronics and information technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Indian government was serious about sustaining healthy competition in the telecom industry (without VIL, the market would turn into a duopoly and people would be left to choose between Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel).

The government, he told scribes, also wanted to "facilitate capital investment cycle and destress the balance sheet of the telecom sector". Telcos were granted more time to pay their dues and convert interest payments into equity as part of a rescue plan.

VIL has the largest debt pile among all telecom service providers in India-a mammoth Rs.1.9 trillion as of 31 December 2021. Its board subsequently approved a plan to make the government its biggest shareholder with a 36% stake in the company. It opted to convert its dues of about Rs.16,000 crore to stock. And earlier this March, VIL's board approved equity infusion of Rs.4,500 crore into the carrier by the promoters and Rs.10,000 crore fund raised in tranches from external sources.

The fund infusion from promoters-Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group-is expected after the company's extraordinary general meeting on 26 March. Sources said that the external fund raise will commence soon after the government formally becomes a shareholder.

Nonetheless, some analysts still sense a tricky road ahead. "The announced capital raise will provide some respite but a long and arduous path still remains to be traversed if VIL has to truly make it out of the woods," Hemang Khanna, associate vice president at Kotak Institutional Equities Research said in a note to clients.

His main concern: the announced fundraise still remains minuscule in comparison to VIL's debt. "It is yet to be seen if any external strategic investors decide to participate in VIL's upcoming Rs.100 billion (Rs.10,000 crore) capital raise, given the underlying challenges that the company faces," he said.

VIL rebuffs such views. It remains confident of the fundraise and future growth prospects.

"The Rs.4,500 crore equity infusion by promoters is a start of the fund raise process. It strongly signals promoters' commitment to VIL. The board has already approved total funding of up to Rs.14,500 crore which is seen by the company and board as adequate for the company's growth requirement," a spokesperson from VIL said.

An executive from VIL who didn't want to be identified said that there is significant investor interest, and proposals are being evaluated by the company. "The plans have been arrived at keeping the company's growth and requirements. The fundraise factors in the components that are needed for the company to remain competitive," he said.

"Investors are doing their due diligence and these processes take time. It will happen in the coming months. There is no worry because there are no surprises that has cropped up (in the entire process) and the process is not taking longer than expected," he added.

The executive stressed VIL is here for the long-term. "We have been able to make payments to the bond holders on time. So, it cannot be said that we're not a long-term player. We have the business plan and the belief of being in it for the long run."

On 13 December, VIL paid holders of non-convertible debentures that matured, averting any financial default.

So, what's the business plan? We will come to it in a bit. First, let's rewind to 2016, the year that changed India's telecom battleground, leading to distress for some companies.

Merger pains

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Source: Citi Research

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MINT, Industry
Telecom industry to propose new micro definition of AGR

Gulveen Aulakh

555 words

21 March 2022

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HNMINI

English

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New Delhi, March 21 -- The telecom industry will propose to the government that revenue from **payments** banks, rental income, and e-commerce operations be excluded from calculations of adjusted gross revenue (AGR).

The changes will be applied prospectively.

Telecom operators are required to pay a certain percentage of their AGR as an annual licence fee to the government, making the definition of what constitutes AGR critical for their profitability.

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), which represents telecom service providers, is holding consultations with all the operators, including Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, Bharti Airtel Ltd, and Vodafone Idea Ltd, to arrive at a definition.

"A macro definition is in place, but a micro definition of AGR is in the works to identify the non-telecom revenue, which will go into the more granular details," S.P. Kochhar, director general of COAI said in an interview. The discussions involve preparing a clear segregation of components which will be part of the elements that make up telecom revenue.

"The idea is to reduce as many disputes as possible, so a negative and positive list is being prepared which will specify that components like revenue from payments bank, rental income and e-commerce platforms, will be excluded from AGR. This in turn will reduce levies and liabilities for the telcos and open up newer fields for business," he added.

The industry intends to share its recommendations with the telecom department by the month-end.

The changes will be incorporated into the notification that amended the AGR definition from 1 October, eliminating the need for the government to issue a separate amendment to the unified license agreement, which binds telecom operators to a revenue sharing arrangement with the government.

Licence fees and spectrum usage charges (SUC) are paid on the basis of AGR. A lower AGR will mean reduced levies and improved profitability of telcos. SUC, however, has been abolished on future purchases of airwaves from auctions. The October notification that changed the definition of AGR introduced the concept of applicable gross revenue (ApGR), excluding all non-telecom revenue from gross revenue earned by the telecom firms.

The notification specified that gains from forex fluctuations, insurance claims, capital gains on account of sale of fixed assets and securities, receipts from Universal Service Obligation Fund, bad debts recovered, excess provisions written back, revenue from activities under the information and broadcasting licence and revenue from operations other than telecom activities will now be excluded from gross revenue to arrive at the ApGR.

Differences over the definition of AGR led to a decade-long legal battle between the government and the telecom companies.

In 2019, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the government, permitting it to include all non-telecom revenue in calculating AGR.

While the telcos are bound by the apex court's order to make payments for outstanding AGR-related dues amounting to more than Rs.1.9 trillion over the next several years, the amended definition as part of the rescue package for the industry applies prospectively.

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Stock in news

Stocks in the news: RIL, Wipro, Voda Idea, BoB and Persistent Systems

522 words

16 March 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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Nifty futures on the Singapore Exchange traded 97.5 points, or 0.58 per cent lower at 16,785.50, signaling that Dalal Street was headed for a negative start on Tuesday. Here are a dozen stocks which may buzz the most in today's trade: Reliance Industries: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's conglomerate announced acquisition of assets of cobalt-free lithium battery technology company Lithium Werks for \$61 million, as it builds technology and material wherewithal for setting up an end-to-end battery manufacturing. Wipro: The IT services major has bagged a contract from Speira which has operations in Germany and Norway. Over the next five years, Wipro will work to strengthen the technology **infrastructure** and **cybersecurity** requirements of Speira. Vodafone Idea: Eyeing growth in average revenue per user, debt-ridden telecom operator made a foray in the online **gaming** segment in **partnership** with Nazara Technologies.

It sees gaming as a highly monetizable segment with a significant growth potential. Bank of Baroda: The state run lender and BNP Paribas Asset Management said they have entered into a strategic partnership by combining the strengths of their respective asset management businesses to form 'Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund'. Suresh Soni has been appointed as the CEO of the merged entity. Persistent Systems: The IT company said it will acquire New Jersey-based cloud technology firm MediaAgility for \$71.71 million (Rs 548 crore) in an all-cash deal. The company will make an upfront payment of \$53.25 million to shareholders of MediaAgility. Anupam Rasayan India: The specialty chemical player said Afzal Malkani has resigned from the post of Chief Financial Officer of the company due to personal reasons. The company has appointed Amit Khurana as the Chief Financial Officer, with effect from March 15. Power Mech Projects: The infrastructure-construction firm has bagged orders worth Rs 2,120 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission programme. The company has won the new orders under the Phase-III of the Jal Jeevan Mission covering 2,120 villages in Pratapgarh, Fatehpur and Meerut districts of Uttar Pradesh. RITES: The railway company has declared a third interim dividend of Rs 7.50 per share. The record date for the same has been fixed as March 25 for the payment of dividend. Marsons: The board of energy solutions players has approved the purchase of advanced thermoelectric technology to generate cheap sustainable power from waste heat and to reduce global CO2 emissions. The technology will be acquired from US-based company Micro Power Global Limited in lieu of equity shares to be allotted on a preferential basis. Jaypee Infratech: The markets regulator Sebi imposed Rs 7 lakh fine on infra player for disclosure lapses. The company did not make disclosures with regard to series of non-convertible debt (NCD) securities issued and listed by it. Avantel: The telecom gear manufacturing company has received a supply order of loco devices for implementation of RTIS phase - 2 (Real Time Train Information system). The order is valued at Rs 125.68 crore.

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Top stocks in focus: Reliance Industries, Anupam Rasayan, Rites, Wipro, Vodafone Idea

India Infoline News Service

288 words

15 March 2022

Indiainfoline News Service

INFOIN

English

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Reliance Industries: Subsidiary Reliance New Energy has acquired assets of Lithium Werks BV. The company acquired Lithium's assets for \$61 million including **funding** for future growth. The assets include the entire patent portfolio of Lithium Werks, manufacturing facility in China, key business contracts and hiring of existing employees as a going concern.

Anupam Rasayan India Anupam Rasayan India: The firm said Afzal Malkani has resigned from the post of Chief Financial Officer of the company due to personal reasons. The company has appointed Amit Khurana as the Chief Financial Officer, with effect from March 15.

ITES: The company has declared a third interim dividend of Rs7.50 per share. The record date has been fixed as March 25 for the payment of dividend.

Wipro: The IT services company has bagged a contract from Speira which has operations in Germany and Norway. Over the next five years, Wipro will work to strengthen the technology infrastructure and cybersecurity requirements of Speira.

Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) made a foray into the online gaming segment in partnership with Nazara Technologies.

Avantel: The company has received a supply order of loco devices for implementation of RTIS phase - 2 (Real Time Train Information system). The order is valued at Rs125.68 crore.

Marsons: The board has approved the purchase of advanced thermoelectric technology to generate cheap sustainable power from waste heat and to reduce global CO2 emissions). The technology will be acquired from US-based company Micro Power Global Limited in lieu of equity shares to be allotted on a preferential basis. The board has also approved the plans for venturing into EPC for setting up electric vehicle charging stations.

[Click here to see image](#)

Document INFOIN0020220316ei3f00025



Vodafone Idea ties up with Nazaria Tech; makes debut in e-sports

India Infoline News Service

195 words

15 March 2022

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English

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[Vodafone Idea Ltd.](#) informed the investors that the telecom operator made a foray into the online **gaming** segment in collaboration with Nazaria Technologies.

VIL believes that **gaming** is a highly monetizable segment with significant growth potential.

VIL stated that Gaming aligns perfectly with the company's strategic focus of driving a higher engagement quotient with a transition in consumers' shifting from offline to online world. This will upgrade the average revenue per user for the company and therefore monetization.

Vodafone Idea has reported an ARPU of Rs115 in December 2021 quarter. The company is looking to strategically build the gaming ecosystem through this partnership.

The e-sports platform will be launched in the next couple of weeks followed by social gaming in the next 3-4 months.

These games will be offered by the company on both a free and paid basis in the range of Rs25-26 per month.

Vodafone Idea Ltd is currently trading at Rs10.37 up by Rs0.15 or 1.47% from its previous closing of Rs10.22 on the BSE.

[Click here to see image](#)

Document INFOIN0020220316ei3f00015



Vi partners Nazara for gaming service; esports also in ambit

SportzPower Team

Distributed by Contify.com

385 words

15 March 2022

SportzPower

ATSPZW

English

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MUMBAI: Telecom service provider Vodafone Idea Limited has partnered with Nazara Technologies to launched Vi Games on the Vi App. As part of the partnership, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of gaming content including popular game titles from various franchises in India on its gaming platform – Vi Games.

There is 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. Avneesh Khosla, chief marketing officer, Vodafone Idea, said. “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 with the aim of establishing Vi as a preferred destination for both, casual as well as serious gamers. Our partnership with Nazara Technologies will elevate the gaming experience that we offer to our consumers through a wide bouquet of exclusive games available on the Vi app for our users,” he added.

Vi Games on the Vi App offers over 1,400 gaming titles across 10 popular genres such as – action, adventure, arcade, casual, education, fun, puzzle, racing, sports and strategy. Vi Games will be available into three categories- Free Games, Gold Games, and Platinum Games on the Vi app. Free Games will be supported by ads and will offer nearly 250 games available on the app. Meanwhile, Gold Games Pass will offer 30 games for just Rs 50 for postpaid and Rs 56 for prepaid, with a validity of 30 days. Post-paid users with Rs. 499 and above plans will be offered 5 free gold games every month. The super-premium pack- The Platinum Games will be available on pay per download basis through a Platinum Pass priced at Rs 25 for postpaid and Rs 26 for prepaid.

According to Nitish Mittersain, founder and Group MD, Nazara Technologies Limited, gaming is not only the future of entertainment in India but is already a key mode of entertainment for hundreds of millions of Indians playing games on their mobile phones every day.

The Vi Games proposition will initially have casual gaming content and gradually be developed to host social gaming and even esports in the future.

Document ATSPZW0020220316ei3f00004



Vodafone Idea gains on launching new proposition for gaming in association with Nazara Technologies

344 words

15 March 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, March 15 -- Vodafone Idea is currently trading at Rs. 10.32, up by 0.10 points or 0.98% from its previous closing of Rs. 10.22 on the BSE.

The scrip opened at Rs. 10.21 and has touched a high and low of Rs. 10.34 and Rs. 10.18 respectively. So far 14909360 shares were traded on the counter.

The BSE group 'A' stock of face value Rs. 10 has touched a 52 week high of Rs. 16.79 on 10-Dec-2021 and a 52 week low of Rs. 4.55 on 05-Aug-2021.

Last one week high and low of the scrip stood at Rs. 10.60 and Rs. 9.98 respectively. The current market cap of the company is Rs. 29367.57 crore.

The promoters holding in the company stood at 72.05%, while Institutions and Non-Institutions held 5.57% and 22.38% respectively.

Vodafone Idea has launched a new proposition for gaming enthusiasts in India - Vi Games on the Vi App - in partnership with Nazara Technologies, an India based diversified gaming and sports media company. Through this deep-integrated association, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of gaming content including popular game titles from various franchises in India on its gaming platform - Vi Games.

Vi Games on the Vi App offers an immersive gaming experience with 1200+ android and HTML5 based mobile games across 10 popular genres like - Action, Adventure, Arcade, Casual, Education, Fun, Puzzle, Racing, Sports and Strategy.

Vodafone Idea is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership. It is developing world-class infrastructure to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings conveniently accessible through an ecosystem of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence.

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Companies: Pursuit of Profit

Vodafone Idea Bets on Gaming to Get Back in the Game

162 words

15 March 2022

The Economic Times - Delhi Edition

ECTDEL

English

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New Delhi: Vodafone Idea (Vi) will give its subscribers access to a bouquet of over 1,200 games as it looks for ways to arrest a fall in subscriber base, attract new users, drive data consumption, and push up average revenue per user (Arpu).

"We have a very aggressive roadmap, and lots of action is lined up on the **gaming** front in the next three-four months," Avneesh Khosla, chief marketing officer of Vim said at a virtual press briefing on Monday. The loss-making telco has launched Vi Games on its app in **partnership** with Nazara Technologies Ltd, a diversified **gaming** and sports media company.

"Through this deep-integrated

association, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of gaming content including popular game titles from various franchises in India on its gaming platform Vi Games," the company said in a joint statement.

-Our Bureau

Document ECTDEL0020220315ei3f0001e

Vodafone Idea ties up with Nazara Tech for online gaming foray

Kiran Rathee

524 words

15 March 2022

Financial Express

AIWFIE

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.

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. \(File\)](#)

Document AIWFIE0020220315ei3f00009

NEWS

Voda Idea ties up with Nazara Tech for gaming portal

106 words

15 March 2022

BusinessLine (The Hindu)

BSNLNE

English

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Mumbai, March 14 NEWS

Vodafone Idea has launched a gaming portal Vi Games on Vi App in partnership with Nazara Technologies Limited, a diversified gaming and sports media company.

Vi Games offers 1,200+ android and HTML5-based mobile games across 10 popular genres such as action, adventure, arcade, casual, education, fun, puzzle, racing, sports and strategy.

“Through this deep-integrated association, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of gaming content, including popular game titles from various franchises in India, on its gaming platform - Vi Games,” said a press note.

Document BSNLNE0020220315ei3f00019

GADGETS NEWS

Vi Games offers over 1200 titles from 10 different genres: Availability, pricing and more

286 words

15 March 2022

The Times of India

TOI

English

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Vodafone Idea (VI) has announced its **gaming** service in **partnership** with Nazara Technologies Limited. The service will be available as Vi Games on the Vi app and as a part of the service, the Vi users can access a wide range of mobile games on their device from various franchises in India. The service includes over 1200 Android and HTML 5 titles across 10 popular genres such as Action, Adventure, Arcade, Casual, **Education**, Fun, Puzzle, Racing, Sports and Strategy. Vi Games: Subscription cost and more Vodafone Idea will be offering the **gaming content** in three categories depending upon the subscription plan the user will choose. This includes Platinum Games, Gold Games and Free Games. Platinum Games will offer users the option to 'pay per download' via a Platinum Pass that costs Rs 25 for postpaid users and Rs 25 for prepaid customers.

On the other hand, the Gold Games will cover the majority of content on the Vi Games library and to access them users will need to purchase the Gold Pass priced at Rs 50 for postpaid and Rs 56 for prepaid customers. The Gold Pass will include around 30 games and will come with a validity of 30 days. In addition to this, Vi Games will also offer an extensive catalogue of free games. The service currently includes 250+ titles for free and can be accessed by any Vi customer via the Vi app. As per an official statement, the Vi Games will initially include casual titles and content and will later move to host social gaming and even eSports tournaments in future.

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Document TOI0000020220314ei3f0005u

Telecom News

Vodafone Idea launches gaming service to increase ARPUs

460 words

15 March 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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Vodafone Idea, India's third-largest telecom operator has launched its gaming service, Vi Games, in partnership with Nazara, as it aims to monetise its mobile subscriber base and increase average revenue per user (ARPUs). "Through this deep-integrated association, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of gaming content including popular game titles from various franchises in India on its gaming platform - Vi Games," the telco said in an official statement. Vi Games has categorized gaming content as — Platinum Games, Gold Games, and Free Games, which will be accessible from the standalone Vi App. 'Gold Games' will form the largest base of the content library. Vi users can access these games through a 'Gold Pass' offering 30 games for Rs 50 for postpaid and Rs 56 for prepaid, with a validity of 30 days. Post-paid users with Rs. 499 and above plans will be offered 5 free gold games every month, Vi said.

The 'Platinum Games' will be available on pay per download basis through a 'Platinum Pass' priced at Rs 25 for postpaid and Rs 26 for prepaid users. "Vi Games will also host 250+ free games on the platform for all Vi customers," the telco added. The offering follows Vodafone Idea's foray into music streaming in partnership with Hungama Music. Vi Games on the Vi App will offer more than 1,200 android and HTML5 based mobile games across 10 genres, including Action, Adventure, Arcade, Casual, Education, Fun, Puzzle, Racing, Sports and Strategy. "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," said Avneesh Khosla, Chief Marketing Officer, Vodafone Idea. "Our partnership with Nazara Technologies will elevate the gaming experience that we offer to our consumers through a wide bouquet of exclusive games available on the Vi app for our users." Vi will also bring casual games, social gaming, cloud gaming, eSports, and streaming services to its gaming proposition as the telco aims to become a powerhouse in every segment of gaming, the Vi CMO said during a media briefing. "Nazara is delighted to work with Vi to bring our entire portfolio of gaming content, esports and interactive entertainment to their larger user base," said Nitish Mittersain, Founder & Group MD, Nazara Technologies Limited. Gaming is one of the biggest segments amongst the entertainment category, estimated to cross 500 million users within 2022 in India, as per a FICCI-EY report. A report 'Digital Reset: Touching a billion Indians' by Deloitte and CII indicates that the national average time spent by Indian consumers on online gaming is over 4 hours.

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Vodafone Idea in **partnership** with Nazara Technologies

India Infoline News Service

566 words

14 March 2022

Indiainfoline News Service

INFOIN

English

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Leading telecom service provider, Vodafone Idea Limited today launched a new proposition for **gaming** enthusiasts in India - Vi Games on the Vi App - in **partnership** with Nazara Technologies Limited, an India based diversified **gaming** and sports media company. Through this deep-integrated association, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of **gaming content** including popular game titles from various franchises in India on its **gaming platform** - Vi Games.

Vi Games on the Vi App offers an immersive **gaming** experience with 1200+ android and HTML5 based mobile games across 10 popular genres like - Action, Adventure, Arcade, Casual, **Education**, Fun, Puzzle, Racing, Sports and Strategy.

Gaming is one of the biggest segment amongst the entertainment category, estimated to cross 500 Mn users within 2022 in India, as per a FICCI-EY report. It is the most popular choice for fun and relaxation by Indian consumers and is expected to garner even higher share in the time and money spent by users over next few years.

A report 'Digital Reset: Touching a billion Indians' by Deloitte and CII indicated that the national average time spent by Indian consumers on online gaming is over 4 hours.

Inviting Vi customers to enjoy seamless gaming through Vi Games, Avneesh Khosla, Chief Marketing Officer, Vodafone Idea, said "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. Deeper penetration of smartphones and 4G availability has led to meteoric growth and adoption of gaming content making it a popular choice for fun and entertainment. 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 with the aim of establishing Vi as a preferred destination for both, casual as well as serious gamers. Our partnership with Nazara Technologies will elevate the gaming experience that we offer to our consumers through a wide bouquet of exclusive games available on the Vi app for our users."

The Vi Games proposition will initially have casual gaming content and gradually be developed to host social gaming and even eSports in the future.

"Gaming is not only the future of entertainment in India but already a key mode of entertainment for hundreds of millions of Indians playing games on their mobile phones every day. Nazara is delighted to work with Vi to bring our entire portfolio of gaming content, esports and interactive entertainment to their larger user base" said Nitish Mittersain, Founder & Group MD, Nazara Technologies Limited.

Vi Games has gaming content into 3 categories - Platinum Games, Gold Games and Free Games, on the Vi App.

4. Gold Games will form the largest base of the content library. Vi users can access these games through a Gold Pass offering 30 games for just Rs 50 for postpaid and Rs 56 for prepaid, with a validity of 30 days.

Post-paid users with Rs. 499 and above plans will be offered 5 free gold games every month.

5. The Platinum Games will be available on pay per download basis through a Platinum Pass priced at Rs. 25 for postpaid and Rs. 26 for prepaid

6. Vi Games will also host 250+ free games on the platform for all Vi customers.

[Click here to see image](#)

Document INFOIN0020220316ei3e0002t

Vodafone Idea partners with Nazara Technologies to launch Vi Games

BrandWagon Online

420 words

14 March 2022

Financial Express Online

FIEXON

English

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Telecom service provider Vodafone Idea Limited has partnered with Nazara Technologies to launch Vi Games on the Vi App. As part of the **partnership**, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of **gaming content** including popular game titles from various franchises in India on its **gaming platform** – Vi Games.

There is 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**. Avneesh Khosla, chief marketing officer, Vodafone Idea, said. "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** with the aim of establishing Vi as a preferred destination for both, casual as well as serious gamers. Our **partnership** with Nazara Technologies will elevate the **gaming** experience that we offer to our consumers through a wide bouquet of exclusive games available on the Vi app for our users," he added.

Vi Games on the Vi App offers over 1,400 gaming titles across 10 popular genres such as – action, adventure, arcade, casual, education, fun, puzzle, racing, sports and strategy. Vi Games will be available into three categories- Free Games, Gold Games, and Platinum Games on the Vi app. Free Games will be supported by ads and will offer nearly 250 games available on the app. Meanwhile, Gold Games Pass will offer 30 games for just Rs 50 for postpaid and Rs 56 for prepaid, with a validity of 30 days. Post-paid users with Rs. 499 and above plans will be offered 5 free gold games every month. The super-premium pack- The Platinum Games will be available on pay per download basis through a Platinum Pass priced at Rs 25 for postpaid and Rs 26 for prepaid.

According to Nitish Mittersain, founder and Group MD, Nazara Technologies Limited Vi Games, gaming is not only the future of entertainment in India but is already a key mode of entertainment for hundreds of millions of Indians playing games on their mobile phones every day.

The Vi Games proposition will initially have casual gaming content and gradually be developed to host social gaming and even Esports in the future.

Read Also: Capri Global partners with Gujarat Titans for IPL 2022

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[The Vi Games proposition will initially have casual gaming content and gradually be developed to host social gaming and even Esports in the future.](#)

Document FIEXON0020220315ei3e0002t



VIL Tags Nazara Technologies – Game On, Customers!

466 words

14 March 2022

Voice and Data

CMVOID

English

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Leading telecom service provider, Vodafone Idea Limited today launched a new proposition for **gaming** enthusiasts in India - Vi Games on the Vi App - in **partnership** with Nazara Technologies Limited (BSE: 543280) (NSE: NAZARA), an India based diversified **gaming** and sports media company. Through this deep-integrated association, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of **gaming content** including popular game titles from various franchises in India on its **gaming platform** - Vi Games.

Vi Games on the Vi App offers an immersive **gaming** experience with 1200+ android and HTML5 based mobile games across 10 popular genres like - Action, Adventure, Arcade, Casual, **Education**, Fun, Puzzle, Racing, Sports and Strategy.

Gaming is one of the biggest segments amongst the entertainment category, estimated to cross 500 Mn users within 2022 in India, as per a FICCI-EY report. It is the most popular choice for fun and relaxation by Indian consumers and is expected to garner an even higher share in the time and money spent by users over the next few years.

A report 'Digital Reset: Touching a billion Indians' by Deloitte and CII indicated that the national average time spent by Indian consumers on online gaming is over 4 hours.

Inviting Vi customers to enjoy seamless gaming through Vi Games, Avneesh Khosla, Chief Marketing Officer, Vodafone Idea, said "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. Deeper penetration of smartphones and 4G availability has led to meteoric growth and adoption of gaming content making it a popular choice for fun and entertainment. 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 with the aim of establishing Vi as a preferred destination for both, casual as well as serious gamers. Our partnership with Nazara Technologies will elevate the gaming experience that we offer to our consumers through a wide bouquet of exclusive games available on the Vi app for our users."

The Vi Games proposition will initially have casual gaming content and gradually be developed to host social gaming and even eSports in the future.

"Gaming is not only the future of entertainment in India but already a key mode of entertainment for hundreds of millions of Indians playing games on their mobile phones every day. Nazara is delighted to work with Vi to bring our entire portfolio of gaming content, esports, and interactive entertainment to their larger user base" said Nitish Mittersain, Founder & Group MD, Nazara Technologies Limited

Vi Games has gaming content into 3 categories - Platinum Games, Gold Games and Free Games, on the Vi App.

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Document CMVOID0020220315ei3e00001

Vi partners with Nazara Technologies to bring gaming for its customers

exchange4media Staff

Distributed by Contify.com

566 words

14 March 2022

Exchange4Media.com

ATEXME

English

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Telecom service provider Vodafone Idea Limited today launched a new proposition for gaming enthusiasts in India-Vi Games on the Vi App in partnership with Nazara Technologies Limited, India-based diversified gaming and sports media company. Through this deep-integrated association, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of gaming content including popular game titles from various franchises in India on its gaming platform-Vi Games.

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Vi Games has gaming content into 3 categories - Platinum Games, Gold Games and Free Games, on the Vi App.

1. Gold Games will form the largest base of the content library. Vi users can access these games through a Gold Pass offering 30 games for just Rs 50 for postpaid and Rs 56 for prepaid, with a validity of 30 days. Post-paid users with Rs. 499 and above plans will be offered 5 free gold games every month.
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3. Vi Games will also host 250+ free games on the platform for all Vi

Document ATEXME0020220315ei3e0000c

Vi, Nazara Technologies announce Vi Games to increase ARPU

CT Bureau

Distributed by Contify.com

563 words

14 March 2022

Communications Today

ATCOMT

English

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Document ATCOMT0020220315ei3e00001

Vi brings gaming for its customers in association with Nazara Technologies

AnimationXpress Team
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562 words

14 March 2022

AnimationXpress

ATANIX

English

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Vodafone Idea Limited launched a new proposition for gaming enthusiasts in India – Vi Games on the Vi App – in partnership with Nazara Technologies, an India based diversified gaming and sports media company. Through this deep-integrated association, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of gaming content including popular game titles from various franchises in India on its gaming platform – Vi Games.

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"Gaming is not only the future of entertainment in India but already a key mode of entertainment for hundreds of millions of Indians playing games on their mobile phones every day. Nazara is delighted to work with Vi to bring our entire portfolio of gaming content, esports and interactive entertainment to their larger user base" said Nazara Technologies Limited founder and group MD Nitish Mittersain.

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Document ATANIX0020220315ei3e00008



Vi launches Vi Games in partnership with Nazara Technologies

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578 words
14 March 2022
afaqs!
AFAQIN
English
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Vi Games Offers 1200+ Android & HTML5 based mobile games across 10 genres, on Vi app.

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Document AFAQIN0020220315ei3e0000c

We see gaming as major focus area of our digital content strategy: Vi's Avneesh Khosla

BestMediaInfo Bureau

Distributed by Contify.com

636 words

14 March 2022

Best Media Info

ATBEMI

English

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The telecom major has partnered with Nazara Technologies to bring gaming experience with over 1200 android and HTML5 based mobile games across 10 popular genres on its platform

Vodafone Idea has launched a new proposition for gaming enthusiasts in India - Vi Games on the Vi App - in partnership with Nazara Technologies, the diversified gaming and sports media company. Through this association, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of gaming content including popular game titles from various franchises in India on its gaming platform - Vi Games.

The brand will offer an immersive gaming experience with 1200+ android and HTML5 based mobile games across 10 popular genres like - Action, Adventure, Arcade, Casual, Education, Fun, Puzzle, Racing, Sports and Strategy.

According to a report by FICCI-EY report, gaming is one of the biggest segments amongst the entertainment category, estimated to cross 500 million users within 2022 in India. A report prepared by IAMAI in collaboration with OnePlus and RedSeer has estimated that the Indian gaming market is poised to reach \$6-7 billion in value by 2025.

A report 'Digital Reset: Touching a billion Indians' by Deloitte and CII indicated that the national average time spent by Indian consumers on online gaming is over four hours.

Avneesh Khosla, Chief Marketing Officer, Vi, said, "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. Deeper penetration of smartphones and 4G availability has led to meteoric growth and adoption of gaming content making it a popular choice for fun and entertainment. 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 with the aim of establishing Vi as a preferred destination for both, casual as well as serious gamers. Our partnership with Nazara Technologies will elevate the gaming experience that we offer to our consumers through a wide bouquet of exclusive games available on the Vi app for our users."

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2. The Platinum Games will be available on pay per download basis through a Platinum Pass priced at Rs 25 for postpaid and Rs 26 for prepaid.
3. Vi Games will also host 250+ free games on the platform for all Vi customers.

Nitish Mittersain, Founder and Group MD, Nazara Technologies, said, "Gaming is not only the future of entertainment in India but already a key mode of entertainment for hundreds of millions of Indians playing games on their mobile phones every day. Nazara is delighted to work with Vi to bring our entire portfolio of gaming content, esports and interactive entertainment to their larger user base."

Vi's Khosla said that the brand will be partnering with more gaming companies apart from Nazara Technologies to bring fresh experiences for their customers. Vi Games will initially have casual gaming content and gradually be developed to host social gaming and even eSports in the future.

Khosla further said that as of now this service is only available for VI users, however, in future, there will be a possibility for other telecom users to access its gaming service.

Info@BestMediaInfo.com

Document ATBEMI0020220314ei3e00034



BUSINESS

VIL makes foray in e-sports, ties up with Nazara Tech

194 words

14 March 2022

Press Trust of India

PRTRIN

English

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New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI) Eyeing growth in average revenue per user, debt-ridden telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) on Monday made a foray in the online **gaming** segment in **partnership** with Nazara Technologies.

VIL sees **gaming** as a highly monetizable segment with a significant growth potential.

"Gaming is perfectly aligned with our strategic focus of driving higher engagement quotient with our consumers transitioning from offline to online world, and for sure upgrading ARPU (average revenue per user) and therefore monetisation," VIL chief marketing officer Avneesh Khosla said while announcing the company's foray into the gaming segment.

VIL had reported an ARPU of Rs 115 in December 2021 quarter.

Khosla said the company will strategically build the gaming ecosystem through this partnership.

He said the company plans to launch e-sports in the next couple of weeks followed by social gaming in next 3-4 months.

VIL games will be available for its subscribers on both free and paid basis. The paid plans of the company are in the range of Rs 25- 56 per month. PTI PRS ANU

ANU

Document PRTRIN0020220314ei3e00ct5

Vodafone Idea launches Vi Games in partnership with Nazara Technologies

indiantelevision.com Team

Distributed by Contify.com

605 words

14 March 2022

Indiantelevision.com

ATINTV

English

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Mumbai: Vodafone Idea on Monday announced its foray into mobile **gaming** with the launch of Vi Games in **partnership** with Nazara Technologies. This will be the first phase of the company's entry into the **gaming** space with subsequent expansion into esports, social **gaming**, streaming, and **cloud gaming**.

Vi Games will be a destination within the Vi App and will offer more than 1200+ mobile games across ten genres to Vi customers in HTML5 and Android format. Vi Games has a massive catalogue of titles to choose from out of which 80 per cent are exclusively available on Vi App. While 27 per cent of the portfolio has free games, at an additional fee, prepaid and postpaid customers can access premium and super-premium games.

Nazara Technologies have come on board as a technology partner and will support Vi Games by bringing its experience, competency and diversity of titles in mobile gaming. The company operates in 75 countries and has partnered with 50 telecom operators.

Casual gaming is a Rs 6,000 crore market in India growing at 40 per cent CAGR in the last two years. It is expected to grow by an additional 30 per cent in the coming two years to touch Rs 17,000 crore in value. The majority of gaming consumption in India happens via mobile devices which accounts for 95 per cent of consumption. There are about 400 million casual games in India which is expected to cross 650 million users by 2025. Globally, gaming accounts for 70 per cent of mobile consumer spending.

"We are seeing a significant uptake of gaming consumption in India with more than 95 per cent of gaming enthusiasts using the mobile device to enjoy a wide variety of content," said Vodafone Idea chief marketing officer Avneesh Khosla. "Deeper penetration of smartphones and 4G availability has led to meteoric growth and adoption of gaming content making it a popular choice for fun and entertainment."

"While GenZ was driving the first wave of adoption in gaming, recent growth is far more encompassing," said Khosla. "Women account for 43 per cent of gamers in India and 50 per cent of women gamers are above the age of 34. Gaming attracts a diverse mix of cohorts regardless of age, gender and geography."

"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 with the aim of establishing Vi as a preferred destination for both, casual as well as serious gamers," he added.

"Gaming is not only the future of entertainment in India but already a key mode of entertainment for hundreds of millions of Indians playing games on their mobile phones every day," said Nazara Technologies founder and group MD Nitish Mittersain. "Nazara is delighted to work with Vi to bring our entire portfolio of gaming content, esports and interactive entertainment to their larger user base."

The average Indian mobile user consumes an average of 16 Gb of data per month which is 60 per cent higher than the industry average at 9 Gb. Indians now spend one-third of their waking hours on mobile devices and at least three fourth Indians have played one mobile game.

"In the last two decades, we have seen a dramatic change in the macro factors like penetration of mobile devices and cheap data that have helped make India a global giant in gaming," noted Mittersain. "Today gaming is reaching across demographics and there is a lot of opportunity to collaborate."

Document ATINTV0020220314ei3e0005I

Vodafone Idea releases Vi Games with Nazara Technologies

216 words

14 March 2022

Telecompaper Asia

TELASI

English

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Vodafone Idea launched a new proposition for **gaming** enthusiasts in India, Vi Games on the Vi App, in **partnership** with Nazara Technologies, an India-based diversified **gaming** and sports media company. Vi customers will get access to a wide range of **gaming content** including popular titles from various franchises in India on the Vi Games **platform**. Vi Games on the Vi App offers over 1,200 Android and HTML5-based mobile games in the ten genres action, adventure, arcade, casual, **education**, fun, puzzle, racing, sports and strategy.

The Vi Games proposition will initially have casual gaming content and gradually be created to host social gaming and even eSports in the future. Gold Games will form the largest base of the content library. Vi users can play these through a Gold Pass offering 30 games for INR 50 for postpaid and INR 56 for prepaid users, with a validity of 30 days. Post-paid users with INR 499 and dearer plans will be offered five free Gold games every month. Platinum Games will be available on a pay-per-download basis through a Platinum Pass priced at INR 25 for postpaid and INR 26 for prepaid users.

Vi Games will also host 250+ free games on the platform for all Vi customers.

Document TELASI0020220314ei3e000b6

INFO-TECH

Vodafone Idea partners Nazara for gaming portal

BL Mumbai Bureau

539 words

14 March 2022

BusinessLine Online

BSNLNO

English

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Vodafone Idea today launched a gaming portal Vi Games on the Vi App - in partnership with Nazara Technologies Limited, an India-based diversified gaming and sports media company.

Vi Games on the Vi App offers 1,200+ android and HTML5-based mobile games across 10 popular genres such as Action, Adventure, Arcade, Casual, Education, Fun, Puzzle, Racing, Sports and Strategy.

"Through this deep-integrated association, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of gaming content, including popular game titles from various franchises in India, on its gaming platform - Vi Games," said the press note.

Gaming is estimated to cross 500 million users within 2022 in India, as per a FICCI-EY report. According to the press statement, it is the most popular choice of Indian consumers for fun and relaxation and is expected to garner even higher share in the time and money spent by users over the next few years.

A report, 'Digital Reset: Touching a billion Indians', by Deloitte and CII indicated that the national average time spent by Indian consumers on online gaming is over 4 hours.

Avneesh Khosla, Chief Marketing Officer, Vodafone Idea, said "We are seeing a significant uptake of gaming consumption in India with more than 95 per cent of gaming enthusiasts using the mobile device to enjoy a wide variety of content. Deeper penetration of smartphones and 4G availability has led to meteoric growth and adoption of gaming content, making it a popular choice for fun and entertainment. 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 with the aim of establishing Vi as a preferred destination for both casual as well as serious gamers. Our partnership with Nazara Technologies will elevate the gaming experience that we offer to our consumers through a wide bouquet of exclusive games available on the Vi app for our users."

The Vi Games proposition will initially have casual gaming content and gradually be developed to host social gaming and even eSports in the future.

Gaming content in 3 categories

"Gaming is not only the future of entertainment in India but already a key mode of entertainment for hundreds of millions of Indians playing games on their mobile phones every day. Nazara is delighted to work with Vi to bring our entire portfolio of gaming content, esports and interactive entertainment to their larger user base" said Nitish Mittersain, Founder & Group MD, Nazara Technologies Limited

Vi Games is offering gaming content into 3 categories - Platinum Games, Gold Games, and Free Games, on the Vi App. Gold Games will form the largest base of the content library. Vi users can access these games through a Gold Pass offering 30 games for ₹50 for postpaid and ₹56 for prepaid, with a validity of 30 days. Post-paid users with ₹499 and above plans will be offered 5 free gold games every month. Platinum Games will be available on pay per download basis through a Platinum Pass priced at ₹25 for postpaid and ₹26 for prepaid. Vi Games will also host 250+ free games on the platform for all Vi customers.

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Vodafone Idea launches new proposition for gaming in association with Nazara Technologies

192 words

14 March 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, March 14 -- Vodafone Idea has launched a new proposition for **gaming** enthusiasts in India - Vi Games on the Vi App - in **partnership** with Nazara Technologies, an India based diversified **gaming** and sports media company. Through this deep-integrated association, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of **gaming content** including popular game titles from various franchises in India on its **gaming platform** - Vi Games.

Vi Games on the Vi App offers an immersive **gaming** experience with 1200+ android and HTML5 based mobile games across 10 popular genres like - Action, Adventure, Arcade, Casual, **Education**, Fun, Puzzle, Racing, Sports and Strategy.

Vodafone Idea is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership. It is developing world-class infrastructure to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings conveniently accessible through an ecosystem of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence.

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Document HTACCF0020220314ei3e000n9

Vi forays into gaming industry

223 words

14 March 2022

UNI (United News of India)

UNNIND

English

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Mumbai, March 14 -- Telecom operator Vodafone Idea on Monday said it has partnered with Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed Nazara Technologies, a diversified gaming and sports media company, to make a foray into the gaming industry.

Through this partnership, Vi will get access to a wide range of gaming content including popular game titles from various franchises in India on its gaming platform - Vi Games.

"This partnership is our first leap and foray into the world of gaming. We will be rolling out a range of propositions that we are building with Nazara Technologies," Vodafone Idea Chief Marketing Officer Avneesh Khosla told reporters here.

The company did not disclose any financial details.

Gaming is one of the biggest segments amongst the entertainment category, estimated to cross 500 million users within 2022 in India, as per a FICCI-EY report.

Commenting on the partnership, Nazara Technologies Founder and Group MD Nitish Mittersain said: "Gaming is not only the future of entertainment in India but already a key mode of entertainment for hundreds of millions of Indians playing games on their mobile phones every day."

UNI PSK MR

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Telecom

Vodafone Idea Enters Mobile Gaming Market With Vi Games Service

Jagmeet Singh

580 words

14 March 2022

09:03

NDTV

NDTVIN

English

Copyright. 2022. NDTV Convergence Ltd., New Delhi, India.

Vodafone Idea on Monday launched its **gaming** service that is available in **partnership** with mobile **gaming** company Nazara Technologies. Called Vi Games, the service is claimed to offer more than 1,200 Android and HTML5 based mobile games across 10 genres directly through the Vi app. **Gaming** titles on Vi Games are available to both prepaid and postpaid subscribers. While some games are available under a subscription model, Vodafone Idea is also offering over 250 free games on the **platform** for all its customers.

Vi Games brings mobile games based on genres, namely Action, Adventure, Arcade, Casual, **Education**, Fun, Puzzle, Racing, Sports, and Strategy. There are also games based on Disney cartoons and movies, such as Big Hero 6 Bot Fight, Castle of Illusion, Ducktales Remastered, and Disney Kickoff, among others.

[Vodafone Idea](#) is offering gaming content in three distinct categories: Platinum Games, Gold Games, and Free Games.

Gold Games are available through a Gold Pass that brings 30 gaming titles at Rs. 50 for postpaid users and Rs. 56 for prepaid users — for a validity of 30 days. Platinum Games, on the other hand, will be available on pay per download basis through a Platinum Pass at Rs. 25 for postpaid and Rs. 26 for prepaid users. However, Free Games are available as free-to-download titles through the Vi app.

Gradually, Vodafone Idea is planning to grow the Vi Games proposition with social gaming and e-sports. The prime aim of the new service appears to enhance the average revenue per user (ARPU) and stay relevant in the competition against [Airtel](#) and [Jio](#).

“We are seeing a significant uptake of gaming consumption in India with more than 95 percent of gaming enthusiasts using the mobile device to enjoy a wide variety of content,” said Avneesh Khosla, Chief Marketing Officer, Vodafone Idea, in a press statement. “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 with the aim of establishing Vi as a preferred destination for both, casual as well as serious gamers.”

At present, Vi Games does not seem to bring any popular titles to play for mobile gamers. The operator, though, claimed that it offers a wide range of gaming content from various franchises in India.

Gaming is indeed getting bigger in the country, with an estimation to cross [over 500 million users](#) in 2022 alone, as per a report by FICCI-EY. A separate report by market consulting firm Niko Partners [forecast](#) that India's PC and mobile gaming revenue is projected to reach nearly \$1.5 billion (roughly Rs. 11,500) in 2025.

Vodafone Idea is currently [facing losses and struggling to add new subscribers](#) for the last some months. The telco, however, seems to be trying to improve its position and attract new customers by using content.

Last year, Vodafone Idea [integrated the Vi Movies and TV app](#) within the Vi app to start offering music and videos through its primary app. The operator also [partnered with Hungama Music](#) in December to offer free access to songs, music, and videos to both prepaid and postpaid users. What should you know about MWC 2022? 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](#)

Document NDTVIN0020220314ei3e0008h

Vi partners with Nazara Technologies to bring over 1,200 games on its app

573 words

14 March 2022

Business Today Online

BTDYON

English

Copyright 2022. Living Media India Limited

Telecom major Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi), on Monday, announced the launch of 'Vi Games' on the Vi App, in **partnership** with the homegrown **gaming** and sports media company Nazara Technologies Limited, for **gaming** enthusiasts in India.

According to a FICCI-EY report, **gaming** is among one of the biggest segments in the entertainment category and is estimated to cross 500 million users within 2022 in the country. The **gaming** segment is also the most popular choice for fun and relaxation by Indian consumers and is expected to garner even higher share and money spent by users over the next few years.

The telecom provider, in a statement, said, "Through this deep-integrated association, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of gaming content including popular game titles from various franchises in India on its gaming platform - Vi Games."

Avneesh Khosla, Chief Marketing Officer, Vodafone Idea, while inviting Vi consumers to Vi Games, said, "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 with the aim of establishing Vi as a preferred destination for both, casual as well as serious gamers."

In India, the average time spent by consumers on online gaming is over 4 hours, indicated a report titled 'Digital Reset: Touching a billion Indians' by Deloitte and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

"Our partnership with Nazara Technologies will elevate the gaming experience that we offer to our consumers through a wide bouquet of exclusive games available on the Vi app for our users," Khosla further added.

Nitish Mittersain, Founder & Group MD, Nazara Technologies, said, "Gaming is not only the future of entertainment in India but already a key mode of entertainment for hundreds of millions of Indians playing games on their mobile phones every day. Nazara is delighted to work with Vi to bring our entire portfolio of gaming content, esports and interactive entertainment to their larger user base."

Vodafone Idea Limited, Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership firm, also revealed that the newly launched service Vi Games on the Vi App will offer a gaming experience with more than 1200 android and HTML5 based mobile games across genres like Action, Adventure, Arcade, Casual, Education, Fun, Puzzle, Racing, Sports and Strategy.

Initially, the Vi Games proposition will have casual gaming content and gradually be developed to host social gaming and eSports in the future.

Vi Games' gaming content can be divided into 3 categories -

Platinum Games: This category would be available on pay per download basis through a Platinum Pass priced at Rs 25 and Rs 26 for postpaid and prepaid users, respectively. Gold Games: This tier will have the largest base of content library and can be accessed through a Gold Pass, which will offer 30 games for a validity of 30 days, for Rs 50 for postpaid and Rs 56 for prepaid users. Free Games: Post-paid users with plans worth Rs 499 or more will be offered 5 free gold games every month. In addition to this, the company will also host over 250 free games on the platform for all its customers.

Document BTDYON0020220314ei3e0005I

VARIETY

NIXI asks TRAI to mandate telcos to join internet exchanges

462 words

12 March 2022

BusinessLine (The Hindu)

BSNLNE

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.

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 ExtremelX 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.

Document BSNLNE0020220312ei3c00011

Info-tech

NIXI asks TRAI to mandate telcos to join any internet exchange

Ayushi Kar

634 words

11 March 2022

BusinessLine Online

BSNLNO

English

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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.

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.

Document BSNLNO0020220311ei3b000jn

Vodafone Idea in talks for Nokia to replace Huawei equipment on parts of its network - report

175 words

11 March 2022

Telecompaper Asia

TELASI

English

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Vodafone Idea may have Nokia replace Huawei 4G radio equipment from parts of its network in India, Reuters reported, with sources saying this could be one of the largest swap deals for the Finnish company. Nokia has replaced equipment for BT, Orange Belgium and Proximus. Deployment in India could start next month.

If the deal goes through, Nokia will deploy 12,000 5G-ready radio sites and 4,000 small cells on Vodafone Idea's network in Delhi, the sources said. The equipment will allow Vodafone Idea to manage 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G networks from the same **platform**

Both Huawei and Nokia declined to comment on the report.

Though India has not banned Huawei, the country has not named Chinese companies, including Huawei, among the list of approved suppliers for carrying out 5G trials. India is expected to auction 5G spectrum later this year.

Huawei supplies telecom equipment to both Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, which also has Ericsson among its suppliers.

Document TELASI0020220311ei3b0008d

Corporate

DSP Arbitrage Fund - Direct Plan: change in investment factsheets for February 2022

178 words

10 March 2022

Dion News Service

RTNSIN

English

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DSP Arbitrage Fund - Direct Plan has announced change in investment factsheets and fund flash for the month ended February 28, 2022.

As on Feb 28, 2022, the total size of the Fund was Rs 1,684.49 crores, compared with Rs 1,799.05 crores in the last month. The Fund's NAV per unit was Rs 12.45 for Growth, while 52-Week High and Low ranges were Rs 12.46 and Rs 11.94 respectively.

The Equity - Hybrid fund with Growth plan was launched on Jan 15, 2018 and managed by Fund Managers Kedar Karnik, Aayush Ganeriwala.

The top five companies based on a percentage of total holdings were Adani Enterprises Limited (75.97 Cr.), Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (69.16 Cr.), Vodafone Idea Limited (58.76 Cr.), Reliance Industries Limited (56.57 Cr.) and Bajaj Finance Limited (50.85 Cr.).

DSP Arbitrage Fund - Direct Plan is promoted by DSP Mutual Fund and managed by DSP Investment Managers Pvt. Ltd..

Document RTNSIN0020220310ei3a0005v

Corporate

DSP Arbitrage Fund: change in investment factsheets for February 2022

172 words

10 March 2022

Dion News Service

RTNSIN

English

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As on Feb 28, 2022, the total size of the Fund was Rs 1,684.49 crores, compared with Rs 1,799.05 crores in the last month. The Fund's NAV per unit was Rs 12.15 for Growth, while 52-Week High and Low ranges were Rs 12.16 and Rs 11.71 respectively.

The Equity - Hybrid fund with Growth plan was launched on Jan 15, 2018 and managed by Fund Managers Kedar Karnik, Aayush Ganeriwala.

The top five companies based on a percentage of total holdings were Adani Enterprises Limited (75.97 Cr.), Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (69.16 Cr.), Vodafone Idea Limited (58.76 Cr.), Reliance Industries Limited (56.57 Cr.) and Bajaj Finance Limited (50.85 Cr.).

DSP Arbitrage Fund is promoted by DSP Mutual Fund and managed by DSP Investment Managers Pvt. Ltd..

Document RTNSIN0020220310ei3a0005u

Telcos to opt for hybrid model for 5G network rollout

Kiran Rathee

641 words

10 March 2022

Financial Express

AIWFIE

English

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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.

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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7 March 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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Today's Paper

Net neutrality debate resurfaces as telcos clash with big tech firms

428 words

7 March 2022

BusinessLine (The Hindu)

BSNLNE

English

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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).

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.

Document BSNLNE0020220307ei3700012

Info-tech

Net neutrality debate resurface as telcos clash with big tech on regulating content data networks

Ayushi Kar

598 words

6 March 2022

BusinessLine Online

BSNLNO

English

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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.

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.

Document BSNLNO0020220306ei36000dx

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Vodafone Idea informs about press release

77 words

5 March 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, March 5 -- Vodafone Idea has informed that enclosed copies of the newspaper advertisement published today with respect to completion of dispatch of notice of Extraordinary General Meeting. The above information is a part of company's filings submitted to BSE.

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Document HTACCF0020220305ei35000jh



Vodafone to infuse Rs 3,375 crore in Vodafone Idea

138 words

5 March 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, March 5 -- Promoter Vodafone is planning to infuse up to Rs 3,375 crore into debt-ridden Vodafone Idea as part of the company's proposed raising of funds worth Rs 14,200 crore. Besides Vodafone, Aditya Birla Group plans to pump in up to Rs 1,125 crore. Vodafone Idea is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group **partnership**. It is developing world-class **infrastructure** to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings conveniently accessible through an **ecosystem** of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence.

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Front Page

Vi may Get to Spend Only 25% of `4.5kcr on Capex Future Moves High Court Against Ruling

Kalyan.Parbat@timesgroup.com

530 words

5 March 2022

The Economic Times - Bangalore Edition

ECTBAN

English

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PROMOTER INFUSION TO BOOST EXTERNAL **FUNDING** PLAN

Analysts believe current **funding** by promoters will have a negligible impact on telco's leverage ratio **BID TO SELL STAKE IN INSURANCE ARM TO JV PARTNER**

ET ANALYSIS **Kolkata:** Vodafone Idea (Vi) might be able to use only around a quarter of the `4,500-crore fresh funds infusion by its promoters - Vodafone UK and India's Aditya Birla Group - for financing its capital expenditure, although promoter commitments should give other investors sufficient confidence to participate in the telco's proposed `10,000-crore external fund-raising.

Analysts believe, however, that capital infusion by the promoters will have a negligible impact on the telco's leverage ratio. To be sure, they are of the opinion that Vi needs a much bigger dose of equity financing to be able to invest at least `20,000 crore on its network in the next couple of years to improve competitiveness, arrest subscriber losses, and drive growth in average revenue per user (ARPU).

"The equity infusion is inadequate (as) effectively, only 25% of the `4,500 crore infusion from promoters, representing ABG's share of `1,125 crore, would be available unencumbered to Vi as almost the entire infusion from Vodafone Plc (`3,375 crore) will be used to clear Vi's existing overdue balance with Indus Towers," Credit Suisse said in a note. Future Enterprises has approached high court to challenge a lower court ruling temporarily restraining it from selling its stake in Future Generali India Insurance to its JV partner Generali. Maulik Vyas & Saloni Shukla report. The Vi board on Thursday cleared a plan to raise `4,500 crore from its promoters via a preferential allotment and an additional `10,000 crore from external investors as the cash-strapped telco tries to revive operations and take on Jio and Airtel. The telco will seek shareholder approval for raising up to `14,500 crore as well as increasing its authorised share capital to `75,000 crore at an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) on March 26.

Shares of Vi climbed 6% during the opening trade Friday morning, but erased gains to close nearly 7% lower at `10.33 apiece on the BSE. The broader market gauge lost 1.4%.

Brokerage IIFL estimates the latest infusion by promoters - `3,375 crore by Vodafone and `1,125 crore by ABG - will alter the stakes of the UK major and the Indian conglomerate to 47.6% and 27.4%, respectively, from 44.39% and 27.66%, respectively.

IIFL Securities added the sum left for Vi to invest in its network from the latest equity infusion would be only Rs 1,000-2,000 crore.

"Considering Vi's current net debt of `1.97 lakh crore (30.5x leverage ratio),

the deleveraging would be miniscule, and the ability to raise the annualised capex rate from the current `4,000 crore would be limited," IIFL Securities said.

It said Vi needs significantly higher equity infusion and ARPU improvement to boost competitiveness.

FOR FULL REPORT, GO TO www.economictimes.com

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Vi may Get to Use Only 25% of `4.5kcr For Capex

Kalyan.Parbat@timesgroup.com

228 words

5 March 2022

The Economic Times - Kolkata Edition

ECTKOL

English

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Politics

Stock Falls Nearly 7%

Kalyan.Parbat@timesgroup.com

491 words

5 March 2022

The Economic Times - Delhi Edition

ECTDEL

English

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It said Vi needs significantly higher equity infusion and ARPU improvement to boost competitiveness, adding that the loss-making telco must invest Rs 20,000 crore on its network in two years to support 200 million 4G subscribers.

For full report visit: www.economictimes.com

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Front Page

Vi may Get to Spend Only 25% of ₹4.5kcr on Capex

Kalyan.Parbat@timesgroup.com

499 words

5 March 2022

The Economic Times - Delhi Edition

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English

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For full report visit: www.economictimes.com

Document ECTDEL0020220305ei3500007

Vodafone Idea plans to raise Rs 14,500 crore

607 words

5 March 2022

The Telegraph

ABPTEL

English

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The board of Vodafone Idea (Vi) on Thursday approved a fund raising programme of Rs 14,500 crore of which Rs 4,500 crore will come from its promoters as the telco turned its attention towards strengthening operations after receiving a bailout from the Centre last year.

This much awaited fund raising will enable the carrier to beef up its **infrastructure** even as it has been consistently witnessing subscriber migration amid losses and a pile of debt.

In a regulatory filing to the stock exchanges post market hours, the joint venture between the Aditya Birla group and Vodafone group plc said that it will issue up to 3,38,34,58,645 equity shares at price of Rs 13.30 per share which is at a 10 per cent premium to the floor price of Rs 12.08 as per SEBI (ICDR) Regulations, for an aggregate consideration of up to Rs 4,500 crore to two Vodafone group entities-Euro Pacific Securities Ltd and Prime Metals Ltd, and Oriana Investments Pte. Ltd (Aditya Birla Group firm) on a preferential basis.

The company added that it will also issue "equity shares or securities convertible into equity shares, global Depository Receipts, American Depository Receipts, foreign currency convertible bonds, convertible debentures, warrants, composite issue of non-convertible debentures and warrants entitling the warrant holder to apply for equity shares or a combination thereof up to an aggregate amount of Rs 10,000 crore by way of private placement, qualified institutional placement or through any other permissible mode in one or more tranches". Vi will hold an extraordinary general meeting on March 26 to seek shareholders nod for the proposal. Ahead of the announcement, shares of the company rallied by 6.13 per cent to close at Rs 11.08 in the BSE.

The company had posted a consolidated loss of Rs 7231 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2021 as against a loss of Rs 7132 crore on a sequential basis, on revenues of Rs 9715 crore as compared to Rs 9402 crore in the same period.

Its total gross debt as of December 31, 2021 stood at Rs 1,98,980 crore, that included deferred spectrum payment obligations and adjusted gross revenues (AGR) liability due to the Government. It also comprised debt from banks and financial institutions of Rs 23,060 crore. On the other hand, its cash & cash equivalents stood at Rs 1,500 crore, leading to a net debt of Rs 197480 crore.

However, in January, the carrier had decided to exercise the option of converting the interest on spectrum instalments and AGR dues into equity following which the Centre will hold around 35.8 per cent of in the company.

Last year, the Central Government had announced a mega rescue package for the telecom sector, including a four-year moratorium on dues arising from a Supreme Court verdict on AGR liabilities and the payment of spectrum instalments. The second major part of the package was the option to convert the interest component on the dues into equity, and operators were given time till January 12, 2022 to make the decision.

While the cash infusion will come as a relief to the company, observers said that its problems are still far from over as it will have to focus on trimming debt, retain the 4G subscriber base and also raise the average revenue per user (ARPU) through tariff hikes to stay afloat in the long-run. Its ARPU had improved in the period ended December 31, 2021 to Rs 115 from Rs 109 in the July-September period.

Document ABPTEL0020220304ei350007a

India Business

Voda Idea to raise Rs 14,500cr before 5G sale

Pankaj Doval

293 words

5 March 2022

The Times of India

TOI

English

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NEW DELHI: Months after handing out the majority ownership to the government in lieu of statutory interest **payments**, beleaguered Vodafone Idea announced a fund-raise running up to Rs 14,500 crore, possibly to finance network and business expansion. The mop-up, approved by the company's board, includes fund infusion by its private promoters — British telecom company Vodafone Plc and India's Aditya Birla Group — who would chip in with a total of Rs 4,500 crore as they purchase 338.3 crore equity shares (of face value of Rs 10 each) at an issue price of Rs 13.30 per share. Vodafone Idea shares closed the day on Thursday at Rs 11.05, up nearly 6% even though the BSE sensex was down by 366 points. The fresh promoter shares will be issued to Euro Pacific Securities and Prime Metals (Vodafone Group entities), and Oriana Investments (Aditya Birla Group entity) on a preferential basis.

For the remaining Rs 10,000 crore, the board approved issuance of equity shares or securities convertible into equity shares, among other instruments. The fund-raise comes amid plans to improve financial strength, especially as it carries a debt of Rs 1.97 lakh crore. While the company was the biggest beneficiary of the government bailout announced in September, it desperately needs fresh fund infusion to strengthen its network, while preparing for 5G auctions. In the third quarter, the company had reported widening of its consolidated loss to Rs 7,231 crore. Against this, it had posted a loss Rs 4,532 crore in year-ago period. Voda Idea to raise Rs 14,500cr before 5G sale.

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Stock in news

Why Vodafone Idea stock fell despite promoters' fund infusion plan

Amit Mudgill

507 words

5 March 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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NEW DELHI: Vodafone Idea's (VI) board approval to allot preferential shares to promoters at a premium was positive but analysts noted that most of this Rs 4,500 crore-fundraising would go towards covering the telco's payables towards Indus Towers, leaving limited funds to invest in networks. Edelweiss said the long-awaited fund infusion is definitely a positive for Vodafone Idea but this is only a small part of the estimated Rs 15,000 crore capital raise. "Vodafone group's capital infusion will come with a caveat that it will be used for repayment of Indus Towers (Indus) dues, which, to an extent, reduces ability to invest in the network. We believe that for long term **sustainability** of the company significant capital infusion and tariff hike more than doubling the ARPU are essential," the brokerage said. The stock fell 7.67 per cent to hit a low of Rs 10.23 in Friday's trade.

Vodafone group entities will infuse Rs 3,375 crore from the proceeds of its stake sale in Indus Towers and the Aditya Birla Group entity will infuse the remaining Rs 1,125 crore. The equity issue will lead to a 12 per cent dilution on the current equity base. Vodafone Idea intends to further raise capital of up to Rs 10,000 crore through equity/debt instruments in one or more tranches. The capital raise will be subject to shareholder approval, the Board has convened an EGM on March 26 to approve the capital raise. IIFL said the equity infusion would have negligible impact on Vodafone's leverage ratio but would marginally improve the prospects of raising equity from external investors. That said, the brokerage believes that Vodafone's future fund-raising efforts could still see challenges amid tough macro conditions. "The announced fund raise still remains miniscule in comparison to Vodafone's debt. It still needs to continue to raise significant capital to repay existing dues as its total net debt as of 9MFY22 stood at Rs 1.97 lakh crore. It is yet to be seen if any external strategic investors decide to participate in VIL's upcoming Rs 10,000 crore capital raise given the underlying challenges that the company faces," Kotak Institutional Equities said. Motilal Oswal said Vodafone Idea had NCD repayments of Rs 6,400 crore due between December 2021 and February 2022, which has mostly been met. Its next repayment, the brokerage said, is due only in September. "The company has an annualised Ebitda of Rs 6,500 crore at Q3FY22 end, which is sufficient to undergo maintenance capex. However, the same remains 25 per cent lower than that for Bharti/RJio, despite their higher scale/capacity. Further arrest of market share loss, which continued until Q3FY22, remains key," it said while suggesting a target of Rs 9.8 on the stock. Edelweiss sees the stock at Rs 7. IIFL pegs the stock at Rs 10.

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