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# The Telegraph

## Big names at city job fair

176 words

15 April 2022

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English

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A two-day job fair organised by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the technical **education**, training and skill development of the Bengal government received good response from large and medium corporate houses with one out of two candidates receiving offers or being shortlisted for further selection.

Companies such as ITC, Tata Motors, Exide, Reliance Jio and many more turned up at APC Ray Polytechnic in Jadavpur and ITI, Tollygunge, where the fair was organised.

The total number of candidates who appeared in the fair stood at 7,054. While 1,803 candidates were selected from polytechnics and ITIs, the number of shortlisted candidates were 1,853.

Organisers say the shortlisted candidates will go through further rounds of the selection process before they are finally absorbed.

Buoyed by the response from the job fair, the government has planned to hold such events in every district of Bengal to build a bridge between the job aspirants and established companies that are looking for the right human resource for their business.

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GADGETS NEWS

**Reliance Jio's browser JioPages comes to OnePlus TVs brings new modes and more**

Manisha Singh

316 words

14 April 2022

The Times of India

TOI

English

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

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

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Home Entertainment

## OnePlus Collaborates With JioPages to Bring Web Browsing on OnePlus TV

Jasmin Jose

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NDTV

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

OnePlus has announced that it is collaborating with JioPages to offer a Web browser on the OnePlus TV. JioPages, the Web browser offered by telecom giant Reliance Jio, will provide browsing option to the OnePlus TV via a Chromium engine migration. JioPages comes equipped with new features like VPN and Secure Mode to enable access to a variety of **content** for the OnePlus TV users. The users also have the option to browse through the Top Sites of various categories and add Quicklinks on their home screen. OnePlus TV users can select from three browsing modes — Standard Mode, Private Mode, and Study Mode. JioPages debuted on Android TV during mid-March and comes with regional language support.

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

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

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

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

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

[Click here to view video](#)

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Info-tech

## **Jio Kerala to step up 4G network by 15% this fiscal**

BL Kochi Bureau

213 words

13 April 2022

BusinessLine Online

BSNLNO

English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Telecom News

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

714 words

12 April 2022

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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India

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

256 words

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English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

--IANS

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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 YR 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.

"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 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 month-on-month despite the sharp tariff hike by operators, a slowdown in consumption and higher handset costs is a positive indicator.

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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.

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Telecom News

## Mobile services are now as essential as fuel: Analysts

Kalyan Parbat

489 words

6 April 2022

The Economic Times

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English

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## Funding

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

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The Economic Times

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English

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

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

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Document ECTIM00020220331ei3v0000x

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

Payal Ganguly

Distributed by Contify.com

453 words

31 March 2022

Your Story

ATYOST

English

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

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

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

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

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

Manish Shara and Yash Desai

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

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

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

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

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

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

Document ATYOST0020220331ei3v0005w



BUSINESS

**OneCode raises Rs 100 cr led by General Catalyst**

189 words

31 March 2022

Press Trust of India

PRTRIN

English

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

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

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

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

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

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

RUJ

RUJ

Document PRTRIN0020220331ei3v00e4e



Tech & Internet

## Adani ropes in Google Cloud for IT transformation deal

362 words

30 March 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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

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

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Companies & Economy

## Adani Group Strikes Deal with GoogleCloud

Our Bureau

231 words

29 March 2022

The Economic Times - Bangalore Edition

ECTBAN

English

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Bengaluru: The Adani Group has struck a multi-year **partnership** with Google**Cloud** to migrate the Ahmedabad-based firm's business-critical applications and collaborate in its data centre business. The group aims to transfer over 250 business-critical applications such as database management software SAP HANA to Google **Cloud's infrastructure** to centralise workflows and streamline operations, it said in a statement. The strategic collaboration involves modernising the group's IT operations at scale. "The inevitability and pace of **cloud** adoption mandates that every business redefine its business model. This provides new challenges and new opportunities that will not only be transformational but will also require new forms of industry collaboration," said Gautam Adani, chairman, Adani Group. Google has been expanding its presence in India and had announced big partnerships with the likes of Reliance Jio and Airtel recently.

In June 2021, Jio entered into a partnership with Google Cloud to power its 5G services, retail and other businesses and build new services across gaming, healthcare, education. The telecom player also said it will tap into Google Cloud's innovations in AI/ML, data and analytics, and other cloudnative technologies. Google also announced an investment of up to \$1 billion in Bharti Airtel. The tie was to make smartphones more affordable, drive 4G upgrades and develop network domain 5G use cases.

Document ECTBAN0020220329ei3t0000f

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

465 words

26 March 2022

India Today Online

INTYON

English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Document INTYON0020220326ei3q000ul

Companies

## **BSNL Seeks DoT Intervention to Bag Govt-funded Connectivity Projects**

Muntazir.Abbas@timesinternet.in

395 words

26 March 2022

The Economic Times - Kolkata Edition

ECTKOL

English

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LOSING OUT TO AIRTEL, JIO...

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

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

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

The letter comes close on the heels of BSNL partnering with homegrown Tata Consultancy Services

(TCS) and state-driven Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) for the commercial rollout of fourth-generation, or 4G, services together with a 5G upgradable network.

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

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

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

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

Document ECTKOL0020220326ei3q0000d

Telecom News

**BSNL loses out state-funded initiatives to Airtel, Jio, telecom department's intervention**

Muntazir Abbas

108 words

26 March 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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

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Document ECTIM00020220325ei3p0008q

Cryptocurrency

## Glance to Bring NFT Games on Lockscreen, Buys India's Gambit Sports Firm

Radhika Parashar

500 words

25 March 2022

10:54

NDTV

NDTVIN

English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Click here to view video](#)

Document NDTVIN0020220326ei3p0000j

Nagpur

**NMC keeps 2,000km optical fibre idle, allows digging 400km for pvt network**

Anjaya Anparthi

671 words

25 March 2022

The Times of India

TOI

English

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

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

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Document TOI0000020220325ei3p000gd

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

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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



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

exchange4media Staff

Distributed by Contify.com

275 words

24 March 2022

Exchange4Media.com

ATEXME

English

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

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

The event has been co-powered by Colors Marathi.

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

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

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

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

Document ATEXME0020220324ei3o0000o

## Vedantu appoints Nikhil Rungta as chief growth officer

FE Online

265 words

22 March 2022

Financial Express Online

FIEXON

English

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

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

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

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

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

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

Document FIEXON0020220323ei3m0000j



## **Vedantu ropes in Nikhil Rungta as Chief Growth Officer**

Afaqs, News Bureau  
Distributed by Contify.com  
349 words  
22 March 2022  
afaqs!  
AFAQIN  
English  
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He will be responsible for scaling and driving growth across all business units and will directly report to Vamsi Krishna, CEO & Co-Founder.

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

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

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

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

Document AFAQIN0020220323ei3m0000d

## Vedantu ropes in Nikhil Rungta as Chief Growth Officer

exchange4media Staff

Distributed by Contify.com

318 words

22 March 2022

Exchange4Media.com

ATEXME

English

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Vedantu has announced the appointment of Nikhil Rungta as Chief Growth Officer. Rungta will be responsible for scaling and driving growth across all business units and will directly report to Vamsi Krishna, CEO & Co-Founder. His mandate will include brand, social and digital marketing, strategic partnerships, PR and YouTube.

Rungta will also play a critical role in strengthening the Vedantu brand and help in making it one of India's most preferred online **education** companies amongst students, parents, and teachers. He is a seasoned leader with strong management experience across consumer internet, technology, and SaaS organizations.

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

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

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

Document ATEXME0020220322ei3m0005o

## Vedantu appoints former Reliance, Google executive as chief growth officer

Peerzada Abrar

316 words

22 March 2022

Business Standard

BSTN

English

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Vedantu, a pioneer in Live online learning, has appointed Nikhil Rungta as chief growth officer. Nikhil will be responsible for scaling and driving growth across all business units, directly reporting to Vamsi Krishna, CEO and co-founder. His mandate will include brand, social and digital marketing, strategic partnerships, and YouTube. Rungta will also play a critical role in strengthening the Vedantu brand and help in making it one of India's most preferred online **education** companies amongst students, parents, and teachers.

Rungta is a seasoned leader with strong management experience across consumer internet, technology, and SaaS organisations. He has held leadership roles at Google, Intuit, Yahoo, Reliance Jio, Housing.com and Yatra.com.

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

In a career spanning over 20 years, Rungta has successfully scaled businesses, built marquee brands, and led high-performance teams, in both turnaround and high-growth situations. His robust experience across global companies and start-ups will help accelerate growth at Vedantu.

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

Document BSTN000020220322ei3m001rx

## **Now Disney hotstar+ free with Jio - check here**

Monitor News Desk

547 words

22 March 2022

Kashmir Monitor

HTKASM

English

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

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

Jio plans with complimentary Disney+ Hotstar are shown below.

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

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Document HTKASM0020220322ei3m000b7

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

558 words

21 March 2022

India Today Online

INTYON

English

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

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

**List of Jio plans with free Disney+ Hotstar**

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- Rs 601 prepaid plan offers free Disney+ Hotstar subscription plan for a year, unlimited calling benefits, total of 90GB data with 3GB daily data limit, 100 SMS per day and free access to Jio suite of apps. This plan comes with 28 days validity. The plan also offers an additional 6GB of 4G data.

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Document INTYON0020220322ei3I000p3

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

561 words

21 March 2022

India Today Online

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English

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

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Document INTYON0020220321ei3I00209



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

Gulveen Aulakh

555 words

21 March 2022

Mint

HNMINT

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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India Business

**FDI trebles to \$6.8bn in Jan, clocks \$45bn in April-Jan**

156 words

20 March 2022

The Times of India

TOI

English

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

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Times Business

**FDI trebles to \$6.8bn in Jan, clocks \$45bn in April-Jan**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

154 words

19 March 2022

The Times of India - Mumbai Edition

TOIMUM

English

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Government sources said that FDI inflows have been healthy this year but saw a massive increase last year due to mega deals stitched by Reliance Jio, which saw investments from the likes of Facebook and Google.

Document TOIMUM0020220319ei3j0001b

Times Business

**FDI trebles to \$6.8bn in Jan, clocks \$45bn in April-Jan**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

237 words

18 March 2022

The Times of India - Delhi Edition

TOIDEL

English

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The numbers also showed that FDI out of India increased 63% to \$13.5 billion, resulting in a sharper decline in net FDI. Net overseas direct investment is estimated to have declined 26.4% to \$31.5 billion.

Government sources said FDI inflows have been healthy this year but saw a massive increase last year due to mega deals stitched by Reliance Jio, which saw investments from the likes of Facebook and Google. On a gross basis, which includes disinvestment, FDI inflows are estimated to have declined by over 4% to \$69.7 billion. This is because, during April-January this year, repatriations or disinvestment went up nearly 13% to \$24.6 billion, RBI data showed.

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

Document TOIDEL0020220318ei3i0001r

Times Business

**FDI trebles in Jan at \$6.8bn, clocks \$45bn in April-Jan**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

155 words

18 March 2022

The Times of India - Chennai Edition

TOICHE

English

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New Delhi: India's foreign direct **investment** (FDI) more than trebled in January to \$6.8 billion, helping reduce the pace of decline from last year. Latest data released by RBI on Thursday pegged FDI inflows during April-January this year at \$45 billion, compared to \$51.1 billion in the corresponding period last year, translating into a decline of a little under 12%. The numbers also showed that FDI out of India increased 63% to \$13.5 billion, resulting in a sharper decline in net FDI. Net overseas direct **investment** is estimated to have declined 26.4% to \$31.5 billion. Government sources said that FDI inflows have been healthy this year but saw a massive increase last year due to mega deals stitched by Reliance Jio, which saw investments from the likes of Facebook and Google.

Document TOICHE0020220318ei3i0001g

## 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

VARIETY

## **NIXI asks TRAI to mandate telcos to join internet exchanges**

462 words

12 March 2022

BusinessLine (The Hindu)

BSNLNE

English

(c) 2022 The Hindu Business Line

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

Companies

## Telcos, Tech Firms Spar Over Fibre for Data Centres

Kalyan.Parbat@timesgroup.com

330 words

10 March 2022

The Economic Times - Bangalore Edition

ECTBAN

English

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Submit their views to Trai on entry barriers for providing fibre **connectivity** to DCs

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

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

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

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Companies

## Telcos, Tech Players Spar over Fibre for Data Centres

Kalyan.Parbat@timesgroup.com

342 words

10 March 2022

The Economic Times - Mumbai Edition

ECTMUM

English

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

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

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ET Markets

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Kalyan.Parbat@timesgroup.com

349 words

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ECTDEL

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

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## 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.

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Document AIWFIE0020220310ei3a0000y

Telecom News

## **Telcos, tech players spar over data centre fiberization**

Kalyan Parbat

807 words

10 March 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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

It has warned that any “unwarranted interference would result in regulatory uncertainty, threaten national security and result in wastage of resources causing market distortions, litigations and economic inefficiencies in the sector”. Tech companies, on their part, have countered Jio’s views, saying any draconian entry barriers would lead to a concentration of DCs around urban markets as telcos have seldom invested in such broadband infrastructure in rural areas and small towns, and would also undermine the growth prospects of the nascent DC industry. “...advocating fibre connectivity to DCs only by licensed entities and disallowing captive use of dark fibre will be detrimental to the growth of an infant DC industry that’s heavily reliant on such infrastructure,” the Broadband India Forum (BIF) said in its Trai submission. Having “insurmountable barriers to entry” will also affect the welfare of consumers, said the BIF, which counts Amazon, Cisco, Google, Microsoft, Facebook-owner Meta, Qualcomm and Intel among its members. Trai, in its discussion paper on the regulatory framework for establishing DCs and content delivery networks (CDNs), has estimated the Indian DC market to be \$1.5 billion in 2022, and grow at a 11.4% compounded annual rate to scale the \$5-billion mark by 2025. A Nasscom study estimates the global data centre market to reach \$200 billion a year by 2025, driven by investments in hyper-scale DCs amid rising demand for cloud services. Jio has also slammed mobile value-added services providers, saying their worries around telco networks not being suited to deliver cloud services were “factually misplaced”, given that telcos were poised to roll out low-latency, high speed 5G networks. It added that licensed telcos had already made sizeable investments in networks to support enterprise customers with quality broadband services. The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), in its Trai submission, said traditional mobile phone networks “are principally designed for mobile voice services or public data services, such as IP services, and accordingly, not suitable for cloud services which require very high availability, bandwidth and low-latency for extremely high amounts of data”. The IMAI represents India’s online and mobile value-added services sectors. Bharti Airtel has also countered this, saying any challenges around delivering fibre connectivity to DCs can be easily overcome if associated “right of way (RoW) issues are resolved quickly”. Separately, India’s top two telcos, Jio and Airtel, have sparred over the need to regulate CDNs — used by global tech players to locally host data — to ensure tighter enforcement of net neutrality rules. Jio wants Trai to back its call for bringing CDNs under a regulatory framework so that “contractual pacts between Internet companies, CDNs, telcos and ISPs can be monitored for any anticompetitive practices and violation of any net neutrality principles”. The CDNs, typically, are a geographically distributed group of servers that work together to provide swift delivery of Internet content. As a result, they are popular with Internet companies and content providers who deploy them to improve customer experience and save bandwidth needs. Airtel, in its submission to Trai, said “commercial arrangements between CDNs and ISPs should continue to be governed by market forces and (that) no regulatory intervention is required”. This, it said, is since the benefits from CDNs are mutual for content providers and ISPs. It added that the real priority for Trai “should be to increase Internet penetration by incentivising TSPs/ISPs (in the form license fee waivers) as they have made substantial investments in not only increasing such penetration but also in meeting India’s security needs by ensuring bona fide use of the service and monitoring internet traffic”. Airtel said “CDNs, operated by unlicensed entities, could be brought under a simple registration framework for enforcing requirements of quality of services, security and content blocking”. In August 2017, Trai had recommended a free and open Internet and even suggested monetary penalties for violation of net neutrality rules, starting at Rs 50,000 per violation a day but capped at Rs 50 lakh. It had also mooted a multi-stakeholder body, comprising telcos, ISPs, content providers, civil society organisations and consumer representatives to detect violations. In August 2018, the telecom department backed Trai’s recommendations but said actual monitoring and enforcement of the rules would remain with it, and that the proposed stakeholder body would play only an advisory role.

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

Gagandeep Kaur

535 words

9 March 2022

Light Reading

LITEREAD

English

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

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

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

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

### Next-generation 5G stack

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

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

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

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

### Related posts:

\* [What does Jio's entry mean for India's satellite sector?](#)

\* [India's Jio invests \\$200M in mobile startup Glance](#)

\* [India's satellite sector heats up with Jio's entry](#)

\* [India's Jio invests in deep-tech startup Two Platforms](#)

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

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MINT, Companies

## **Reliance Retail, Fynd named in Fast Company's annual list**

Livemint

475 words

9 March 2022

Mint

HNMINT

English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

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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.

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Telecom News

## **HMD Global to bring 5G across all price points; says financing options key for migration: CEO Florian Seiche**

Danish Khan

535 words

6 March 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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

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

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Document ECTIM00020220305ei3600017

Electronics

## **Oppo making strides towards 5G ecosystem development**

Danish Khan

485 words

6 March 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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

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

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Briefings

**Reliance Jio's \$15-million Bet on Artificial Reality**

Nidhi Singal

81 words

6 March 2022

Business Today

BTDY

English

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Jio Platforms is investing \$15 million for a 25 per cent equity stake (on a fully diluted basis) in Pranav Mistry's Two Platforms Inc. An artificial reality firm, TWO will help Jio fast-track its adoption of tech such as AI, **metaverse** and mixed reality. "Going forward, this **partnership** would potentially result in new consumer as well as enterprise use contexts," says Prabhu Ram, Head – Industry Intelligence Group, at CMR.

Document BTDY000020220302ei360000a



## **JioNext smartphone now available at offline stores - Check Price, Specifications**

DNA Web Team

Distributed by Contify.com

225 words

5 March 2022

DNA India Online

DNADAI

English

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The Reliance Jio Next mobile was launched last year on November 4, 2021, and was considered as one of the most affordable smartphones in India with 4G accessibility. The phone is finally available at your nearest offline store for purchase. Reliance Jio created this smartphone in **partnership** with Google. A pocket-friendly phone with premium features.

Here's some information about the JioNext smartphone before you purchase the phone:

Price:

The phone was launched at a price of Rs 6,499 making it one of the cheapest 4G smartphones in India.

Availability:

The JioNext phone is available at the nearest Jio store.

Features:

- The phone comes with an HD display of 5.45 inches protected by Corning Gorilla glass screen.
- It comes with 2 GB RAM and 32 GB built-in memory and is powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon QM 215 Processor. Keep in mind, the phone memory can be expanded up to 512 GB.
- The phone offers a dual sim and runs on 'Pragati OS'
- It also has preloaded Jio and Google apps.
- The camera features comes with a 13-megapixel rear camera in the back while the front camera is 8-megapixel.
- Other features include a 3500 mAh Battery, Bluetooth, WiFi, Hot Spot, and OTG support.

Document DNADAI0020220305ei35000b8

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

Danish.Khan @timesinternet.in

203 words

5 March 2022

The Economic Times - Kolkata Edition

ECTKOL

English

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

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

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

Oppo is among the top five smartphone brands in India.

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

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

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

Document ECTKOL0020220305ei350000a

## Reliance Industries makes debut in electronics manufacturing with US firm

Kiran Rathee

378 words

4 March 2022

Financial Express

AIWFIE

English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Document AIWFIE0020220304ei3400007

Telecom News

## **RIL unit, American firm form joint venture to make telecom gear**

428 words

4 March 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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

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

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Document ECTIM00020220303ei3400039

Electronics

## **RIL arm, Sanmina float local electronics manufacturing JV**

291 words

4 March 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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

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

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Document ECTIM00020220303ei340000k

Companies

## Reliance Jio's satcom entry won't hit OneWeb, says Sunil Mittal

Danish Khan

521 words

4 March 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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

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

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Document ECTIM00020220303ei340000c

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

Yessar Rosendar, Forbes Staff

366 words

3 March 2022

Forbes.com

FBCOM

English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Document FBCOM00020220304ei33000b5



TMT

## Prozo Distribution raises \$10 mn led by Sixth Sense Ventures

Anuj Suvarna

406 words

2 March 2022

VCCircle

MMVVCC

English

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Prozo Distribution Pvt Ltd which operated supply chain, warehousing and logistics focused startup Prozo, has raised \$10 million (Rs 76 crore) led by Sixth Sense Ventures with participation from Jafco Asia and high net worth individuals (HNIs).

The Noida-based company will use fresh funds to expand the its **infrastructure**, tech capability and market coverage across the country, the statement said.

Earlier, Prozo had raised capital from Earlsfield Capital Partners LLP and other angel investors.

Founded in mid 2014 by Dr Ashvini Jakhar, a former Lieutenant commander with the Indian Navy and ex-McKinsey & Company consultant, Prozo offers Amazon-like fulfilment centres to Small and medium enterprises and direct to consumer brands. The company serves clients like Reliance Jio, WH Smith, McGraw Hill, MPL Sports, DaMENSCH, Pee Safe, 10Club, Lavie, WinMagic and Wolters Kluwer among others.

"Prozo is revolutionizing the e-commerce supply chain for brands & enterprises via its full-stack, end-to-end, multi-channel fulfilment solutions. Deeper penetration of e-commerce and proliferation of brands has led to strong tailwinds for the business that has been growing close to 40% month on month, Jakhar said.

In October, Prozo appointed three executives to its leadership team, it appointed Sagar Hawaldar (previously Country Head, India for Airtricity, a wind energy company) as Chief Revenue Officer, Arindam Bhattacharya (Previously Head - Fashion and Luxury Vertical at Holisol Logistics) and Vinay Reddy (Previously regional Business Head for South India at TVS Logistics) both as Vice President - Business Development.

Dexter Capital Advisor was the exclusive financial advisor to Prozo in its Series-A fund raise.

Nikhil Vora, Founder and CEO of Sixth Sense Ventures said, "Prozo is solving a key problem in a very large market. By 2025, India's e-commerce market is expected to cross \$200 billion with nearly 340 million e-commerce customers. Hundreds of enterprises, thousands of D2C brands and over a million SMEs will compete to serve this humongous customer base."

Sixth Sense Ventures currently manages over \$500 million across three funds. The platform is currently investing out of its third fund, SSIO III which has completed 21 investments including Parag Milk Foods, Nobel Hygiene, Fraazo, Open Secret, Stylam Industries Limited, GoodDot, Neeman's Shoes, Rage Coffee, Design Café, Bira 91, Storia Foods and Beverages, GIVA, FREECULTR, Dogsee Chew, Wonderchef among others.

[Click here to view story.](#)

[Click here to view image.](#)

Document MMVVCC0020220302ei3200001

Corporate Financing Week  
**Industry Trend Analysis - Quick View: Bharti Airtel Taps Blockchain In Response To Intense Competition In India's Mobile Marke**

588 words

1 March 2022

Corporate Financing Week

CFWK

English

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

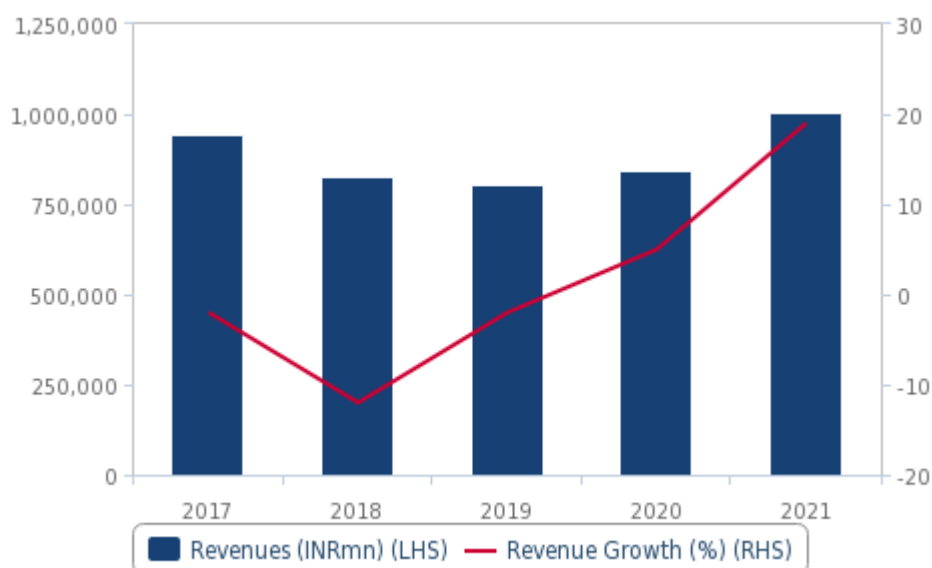
Implications: Aqilliz claims to have developed a patented hybrid blockchain **platform** that implements both machine learning and differential **privacy** to provide a blockchain service with enhanced data security. Multiple clients are able to use the blockchain and interact with customers whilst issues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

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

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

Can Blockchain Revitalise Volatile Revenues?

Bharti Airtel Revenue (INRmn), 2017-2021



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

Blockchain is particularly useful when applied to digital marketing. In February 2021, Airtel expanded its enterprise offerings by creating Airtel Ads, enabling brands to design their own consent-based digital adverts

and leveraging Airtel's 354mn-strong customer base. The operator also employs data analytics to ensure customers are receiving relevant adverts and using blockchain will augment Airtel Ads by providing automated ad campaigns based on specific sets of criteria, optimising ad spending. According to local media, Bharti Airtel's adtech business contributed nearly INR1bn (USD13.2mn) in annualised revenues during the beta release and recorded more than 8bn impressions.

Blockchain also has the potential to optimise operational costs associated with customer loyalty and rewards programmes verticals. Airtel's Airtel Thanks spearheads the operator's rewards programme product and includes several partnerships with over-the-top players like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. Blockchain enables smart contracts recorded on a distributed ledger to promote transparency and security, reducing costs linked to inaccuracies, abuse of the system and fraud.

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

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

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

Document CFWK000020220310ei3100003

# Asia Pacific Telecommunications Insight Industry Trend Analysis - Quick View: Bharti Airtel Taps Blockchain In Response To Intense Competition In India's Mobile Marke

589 words

1 March 2022

Fitch Solutions Industry Research Reports

BMIAA

English

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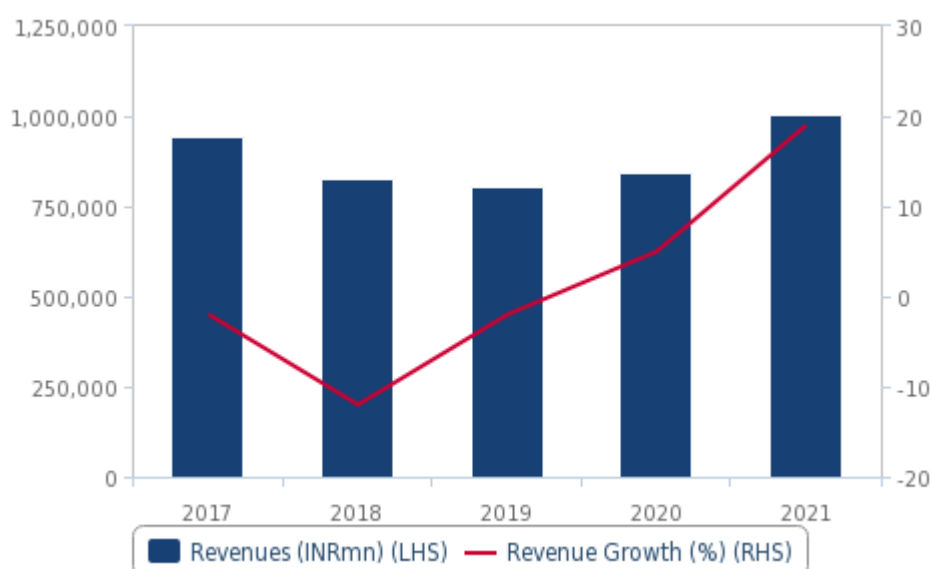
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Emerging Markets Monitor

EMDN

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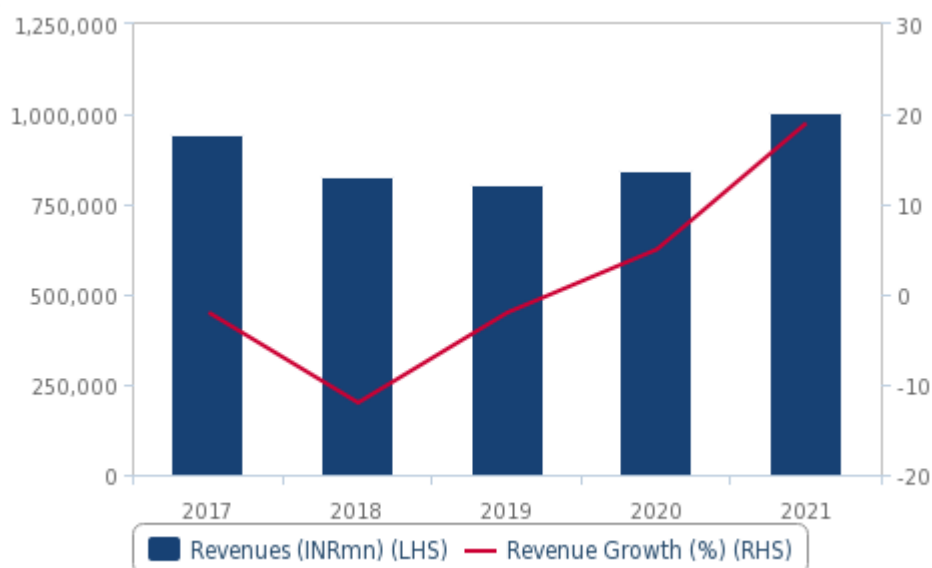
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Document EMDN000020220310ei310000c

GADGETS NEWS

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

270 words

1 March 2022

The Times of India

TOI

English

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

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

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Document TOI0000020220301ei310005u



## India - Mobile Phones - Competitive Landscape

3,230 words

28 February 2022

MarketLine Industry Profiles

DMRP

English

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

Who are the leading players?

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

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

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

What strategies do leading players follow?

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

During February 2021, Airtel and Qualcomm announced their partnership for accelerating the rollout of 5G in India. Airtel will utilize the Qualcomm 5G RAN Platforms to roll-out virtualized and Open RAN-based 5G networks. Airtel 5G services will be able to deliver multi-gigabit internet speeds wirelessly to customers and open up a wide range of smartphone innovations which will help it attract new customers. The company also became India's first telecom player to successfully test, demonstrate and orchestrate a live 5G service over a commercial network in Hyderabad city.

Indian telcos are still expanding 4G networks to achieve national coverage. As part of its strategy to offer high speed 4G across the country, Airtel moved forward on its plan to phase out its 3G services and further augmented its 4G services. 91% of the company's data consumers were 4G customers by the end of March

31, 2020. Airtel has launched 4G services in Lakshadweep Islands. With this, Airtel has become the first mobile operator to launch high-speed data services on the tropical archipelago.

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Company

Company Name: Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd

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

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

Website: [www.jio.com](http://www.jio.com)

Financial Year End: March

#### Company Overview

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

#### Company

Company Name: Bharti Airtel Limited

Bharti Airtel Limited (Bharti Airtel or 'the company') is a provider of telecommunication services. The company offers telemedia services, digital TV services, mobile services, telemedia services, digital TV services, and passive infrastructure services. It offers 2G, 3G and 4G wireless services, fixed line, high speed broadband

through DSL. Bharti Airtel offers its services to healthcare, government, media, entertainment, education, and hospitality industries. It also provides video, voice, data, network integration, data center, and managed services, as well as mobile applications and digital media solutions. It operates in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Africa. The company is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

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

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

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

Number of Employees: 18317

Website: [www.airtel.in](http://www.airtel.in)

Financial Year End: March

Ticker: BHARTIARTL

Stock Exchange: National Stock Exchange of India

#### Company Overview

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

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

#### Business Description

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Company

Company Name: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd

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

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

Number of Employees: 64536

Website: [www.bsnl.co.in](http://www.bsnl.co.in)

Financial Year End: March

## Company Overview

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

## Business Description

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Geographically, the company has business presence across India.

#### Market Definition

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scandinavia comprises Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden.

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

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

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India

**JioGames brings curated library of games to OnePlus TVs**

282 words

28 February 2022

Indo-Asian News Service

HNIANS

English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

--IANS

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Document HNIANS0020220228ei2s008et



**Jio-Facebook partnership: Step towards Universal Basic Internet**

Aashish Shetty

957 words

26 February 2022

The Sunday Guardian

SGUARD

English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

prepared by an independent third-party auditor, certified by the central government's cybersecurity firm CERT-in. WhatsApp Payment was recently launched in India. This could potentially integrate well with the Jio-Mart platform.

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

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

Iain Morris

1,187 words

25 February 2022

Light Reading

LITEREAD

English

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

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

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

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

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

### Symphony strikes the right tone

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

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

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

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

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

The analyst firm certainly has a more upbeat take on Symphony than it does on the domestic mobile unit. Its bear case is that Symphony will end up with a quarter of the market for open RAN, an umbrella term for more

interoperable and virtualized radio access networks. The emergence of such a powerful player hardly bodes well for supplier diversity, a goal of the open RAN movement, but that is another matter.

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

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

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

#### Enterprising moves

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

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

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

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

#### Related posts:

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

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

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GADGETS NEWS

**Reliance Jio launches Rs 1,499 and Rs 4,199 prepaid plans: All benefits**

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TOI

English

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Reliance Jio has launched two new recharge plans for its prepaid customers. The telco has introduced Rs 1,499 and Rs 4,199 prepaid plans with up to 365 days validity and benefits like high-speed internet data. Among other benefits, the new plans come with a free Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription worth Rs1,499. The plan users will get access to 4K **content** and can stream it on four concurrent **devices** simultaneously. Reliance Jio Rs 1,499 and Rs 4,199 plans benefits Reliance Jio Rs 1,499 prepaid plan has a validity of 84 days. It offers 2GB daily data benefits along with unlimited voice calling. Users will also get a 100 SMS message limit daily along with access to Jio apps. Jio's Rs 4,199 plan is a yearly plan. It comes with 3GB of daily data for a period of 365 days. Other benefits include unlimited voice calls and 100 SMS messages per day. It also comes with free subscription to Jio apps. Both the plans are live on the Jio website along with the MyJio app.

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

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Document TOI0000020220224ei2p0006m

Technology

## **Reliance Jio Rs 1,499, Rs 4,199 prepaid recharge plans launched with Disney+ Hotstar premium subscription: Check details**

Anshika Awasthi

517 words

24 February 2022

Financial Express Online

FIEXON

English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Document FIEXON0020220225ei2o0001t



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

290 words

24 February 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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

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

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

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Document HTACCF0020220224ei2o0002w



Telecom

## **Jio Rs. 1,499, Rs. 4,199 Prepaid Recharge Plans With Disney+ Hotstar Premium Subscription Launched**

Jagmeet Singh

550 words

23 February 2022

11:31

NDTV

NDTVIN

English

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

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

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

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

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

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

Photo Credit: Jio

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Click here to view video](#)

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## **Jio will enable NSaaS over its 5G core**

CT Bureau

Distributed by Contify.com

103 words

23 February 2022

Communications Today

ATCOMT

English

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

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

Document ATCOMT0020220224ei2n00006



India

**Jio launches two new Disney+ Hotstar bundled plans**

262 words

23 February 2022

Indo-Asian News Service

HNIANS

English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

--IANS

vc/vd

Document HNIANS0020220223ei2n008py

MINT, Technology

**Reliance Jio announces Disney+ Hotstar Premium bundled packs. Details here**

Livemint

319 words

23 February 2022

Mint

HNMINT

English

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

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

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

How to activate the plan Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription:

1. Once you recharge with Rs.1499 or Rs.4199 plan, you will receive a unique Disney+ Hotstar Premium coupon code in your MyJio account.

2. You can use this coupon code to avail 1 year Disney+ Hotstar Premium membership.

3. To activate 1 year Disney+ Hotstar Premium subscription:

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

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

C. Enter the unique coupon code provided

D. Provide confirmation and your subscription is activated

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## Reliance Jio to connect IAX Undersea Cable with Maldives

453 words

22 February 2022

Voice and Data

CMVOID

English

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

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

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

Incidentally, the IAX originates in Mumbai, circumventing the Cape Comorin, and going straight to Singapore. However, it has additional landings in India, at Chennai, at Hulhumale, in the Maldives, and in Malaysia and Thailand. On the other hand, the IEX connects Mumbai to Milan in Italy, first landing in Savona, Italy. This system also has landings in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean. For now, both the undersea cable systems are under construction; Jio estimates that IAX will go live in 2023-end, while IEX will go live in mid-2024.

These high-capacity and high-speed systems will provide more than 200Tb/s of capacity at speeds of 100Gb/s, over 16,000 kilometers. The systems employ open system technology and the latest wavelength switched RoADM/branching units. This ensures rapid upgrade deployment and the ultimate flexibility to add/drop waves across multiple locations.

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

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

[Click here to view image](#)

Document CMVOID0020220222ei2m0002t

## **Bharti, Reliance Jio strengthening submarine cable systems**

Kiran Rathee

533 words

22 February 2022

Financial Express

AIWFIE

English

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With 5G commercial services expected to be rolled out in the next fiscal, telecom operators in the country have started to prepare the **infrastructure**, including enhancing the capacity of submarine cable systems, as it will be key to support low-latency 5G networks. Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio on Monday announced investments and capacity enhancement in this area.

For instance, Bharti Airtel said that it has joined the SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea cable consortium to scale up its high-speed global network capacity to serve India's fast-growing digital economy. Similarly, Reliance Jio announced its subsea cable system IAX would connect the Maldives directly to India and Singapore. Submarine communication cables are key to carry data traffic across the world. In fact, as much as 90% of the data is carried over the submarine communication cables around the world and with subscribers consuming loads of OTT content, most of which is lying in US and other countries, enhancing cable capacity has become necessary for communication providers.

Bharti's 19,200 route km undersea cable will connect Singapore and France, and will be among the largest undersea cable systems globally. It is participating as a major investor in the SEA-ME-WE-6 and is anchoring 20% of the overall investment in the cable system, which will go live in 2025. The company has not shared investment details for the project.

Jio had announced last year that it would construct the largest international submarine cable system centered on India. Jio, along with several global partners and submarine cable supplier SubCom, is currently deploying two next generation cables to support the extraordinary growth in data demand across the region.

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

Through SEA-ME-WE-6 cable system, Airtel will add a significant amount of 100 TBps capacity to its global network. Airtel has acquired one fibre pair on the main SEA-ME-WE-6 system and will co-build four fibre pairs between Singapore-Chennai-Mumbai as part of the cable system.

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

SEA-ME-WE-6 will be fully integrated with Nxtra data centres in Mumbai and Chennai to enable businesses to access seamless integrated solutions and strengthen India's position as an emerging data center hub in the region.

Airtel's global network now spans over 365,000 route km and reaches 50 countries across five continents. Nxtra by Airtel, the data centre unit of Airtel, operates the largest network of data centres in India with 11 large and 120 edge data centres.

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

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GADGETS NEWS

**Reliance Jio to land multi-terabit IAX undersea cable system in Maldives**

285 words

22 February 2022

The Times of India

TOI

English

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Reliance Jio has announced that it will land the next generation multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in Hulhumale, Maldives. The high-capacity and high-speed IAX system will connect Hulhumale' directly with World's major internet hubs in India and Singapore. The IAX system starts from Mumbai in the west and connects directly to Singapore with additional branches including India, Thailand and Malaysia. The IAX system is expected to be ready for service by the end of 2023. In an official statement the company said, "Today's global economy is driven by low-latency broadband, connecting people, businesses, **content**, and services.

IAX will not only connect Maldives to the world's content hubs, but it will also support the explosive growth in data demand expected from the new initiatives being launched by the government of Maldives. Jio is very pleased to be working with the government of the Maldives to help realize this ambition by providing high-quality, terabit capacity supporting Web 3.0-capable internet services." On the other hand, the India-Europe-Xpress (IEX) system connects Mumbai to Milan, landing in Savona, Italy, and includes additional landings in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean. The IEX will be ready for service in mid-2024. The service provider claims that these high capacity and high-speed systems will provide more than 200Tb/s of capacity at speeds of 100Gb/s, over 16,000 kilometers. Employing open system technology and the latest wavelength switched RoADM/branching units ensures rapid upgrade deployment and the ultimate flexibility to add/drop waves across multiple locations.

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## **Reliance Industries' arm to land next generation multi-terabit IAX undersea cable system in Maldives**

212 words

21 February 2022

Accord Fintech

HTACCF

English

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India, Feb. 21 -- Reliance Industries' (RIL) telecom arm -- Reliance Jio Infocomm (Jio) is planning to land the next generation multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in Hulhumale, Maldives. The high capacity and high-speed IAX system will connect Hulhumale' directly with World's major internet hubs in India and Singapore. IAX will not only connect Maldives to the world's **content** hubs, but it will also support the explosive growth in data demand expected from the new initiatives being launched by the government of Maldives.

These high capacity and high-speed systems will provide more than 200Tb/s of capacity at speeds of 100Gb/s, over 16,000 kilometers. Employing open system technology and the latest wavelength switched RoADM/branching units ensures rapid upgrade deployment and the ultimate flexibility to add/drop waves across multiple locations.

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

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MINT, Industry

## **Reliance Jio's undersea cable system to land in Maldives**

Livemint

306 words

21 February 2022

Mint

HNMINT

English

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New Delhi, Feb. 21 -- Reliance Jio will land the next generation multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in the Maldives. Jio, country's mobile broadband digital service provider said that new subsea cable system will connect the Maldives, Hulhumale directly with world's major internet hubs in India and Singapore. Jio's IAX project to land in the Maldives in collaboration with Ocean Connect Maldives.

Reliance Jio President Mathew Oommen said that today's global economy is driven by low-latency broadband, connecting people, businesses **content**, and services.

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

What is Reliance Jio Infocomm's IAX system?

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

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

"These high capacity and high-speed systems will provide more than 200Tb/s of capacity at speeds of 100Gb/s, over 16,000 kilometers. Employing open system technology and the latest wavelength switched RoADM/branching units ensures rapid upgrade deployment and the ultimate flexibility to add/drop waves across multiple locations," the company said in a statement.

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Document HNMINT0020220221ei2l001me

**BSE: Reliance Industries Ltd. - Announcement Under Regulation 30 (LODR)-Press Release / Media Release**

101 words

21 February 2022

05:48

Dow Jones Institutional News

DJDN

English

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The following is a press release from The Stock Exchange, Mumbai:

Please find attached a media release by

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, a subsidiary of the Company, titled 'New Subsea Cable System IAX to Connect the Maldives Directly to India & Singapore'.

<https://www.bseindia.com/xml-data/corpfiling/AttachLive/1e8da915-dbbc-47cd-bfa4-97c6b04fbd8c.pdf>

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(END) Dow Jones Newswires

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## JioBook Found Listed, New Renders Out: JioBook India Launch When?

Vishal Aaditya Kundu  
Distributed by Contify.com  
565 words  
18 February 2022  
Trak.in  
ATTRAK  
English  
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JioBook price in India? The upcoming Jio laptop has received **hardware** approval ahead of launch. Tipster Mukul Sharma spotted the listing revealing the upcoming laptop in India will be powered by Windows 10 OS out of the box. It was seen with product ID: 400830078, but no other specifications are out. The listing has Emdoor Digital Technology Co LTD listed, so Reliance Jio will probably be purchasing the product rebrand under its name.

The earlier reports leaked that the upcoming Jio laptop could release around Diwali, but it was postponed.

After years of speculation, the JioBook laptop a few months back was leaked with full features and other details. The key specs were revealed by XDA alongside the design.

JioBook launch in India could happen by March running on Qualcomm Snapdragon 665 chipset and Android OS. The Jio laptop will have its own JioOS UI powering the system.

The rumour mill hints at JioBook laptop price starting at Rs 19,999. Jio laptop price may differ for different models and storage options.

The Jio laptop will support 4G LTE connectivity with a 720p HD display.

Jio has partnered with China-based Bluebank Communication Technology to bring the affordable JioBook laptop to India.

Jio would like to replicate the success of JioPhone with the JioBook laptop. The low-cost Jio Phone helped millions of users to move 2G from feature phone to 4G. The Jio laptop news broke out first in 2018 when Qualcomm had said it was in talks with Reliance Jio to launch affordable laptops in India with cellular connectivity. Now in 2022 we may finally see JioBook launching in India.

Also there have been reports about JioBook price in India, said to start at as low as Rs 20,000.

JioBook Specifications: Jio Laptop Specs, Jio Laptop Features

Leaked JioBook specifications includes Snapdragon 665 SoC, Android OS UI called JioOS, 4G LTE support with Snapdragon X12) and a 720p HD display. JioBook in India will release in partnership with China-based Bluebank Communication Technology, a third-party developer. Bluebank also worked on KaiOS, the popular OS used on JioPhone. JioBook could be in the Engineering Validation Test stage.

JioBook is tipped to come with 2GB LPDDR4X RAM and 32GB eMMC storage and another model with 4GB RAM and 64GB eMMC 5.1 storage.

The laptop will probably come with a mini HDMI connector for video output, dual-band Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, a three-axis accelerometer and a Qualcomm audio chip. It will have Jio applications pre-installed as JioMeet, JioPages, JioStore, JioCinema, JioSaavn and more. It's still unclear whether Jio laptop will be called JioBook or something else, but rest assured, it's coming.

JioBook Launch Date, JioBook Laptop Price In India: Jio Laptop Launch?

It was earlier reported that JioBook launch may happen around mid-November, but fresh reports hint at a March timeline. JioBook launch date in India could get postponed once again as the company didn't announce anything as of yet. The rumour mill hints at JioBook laptop price starting at Rs 19,999. Jio laptop price may differ for different models and storage options. JioBook official launch date will be announced soon.

Jio laptop price in India is going to remain in the affordable budget category, probably below it.



Technology

**Metaverse to push data usage by 20 times in next 10 years; Jio, Airtel to gain, says report**

PTI

453 words

18 February 2022

Financial Express Online

FIEXON

English

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The transition of digital **ecosystem** to **metaverse**, where a person will feel immersed in a virtual world, will push data usage by 20 times across the globe by 2032 and telecom operators Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio are suitably placed to benefit from the surge in India, a Credit Suisse report has said. The report said **metaverse** has enormous potential to further expand screen time and drive more bandwidth consumption.

"Internet traffic is already 80 per cent video and has been growing at a 30 per cent CAGR (compound annual growth rate). Our team projects that even modest **metaverse** usage could drive a further 37 per cent CAGR in the next decade to 20x current data usage," the report said on Thursday. Augmented reality and **virtual reality** technologies are expected to see a boom as these are the technologies that are required for accessing the **metaverse**.

According to the report, while 5G will support the metaverse ecosystem, the emergence of 6G will enhance metaverse use cases. It said the gaming segment is one of the segments where early use cases of metaverse are expected. The report mentioned that gaming is at an early stage in India and mobile gaming is being driven by mobile phones due to the emergence of affordable smartphones and 4G data services.

"Mobile internet remains the key medium for Indian users to go online, given relatively low fixed broadband penetration. The share of mobile gaming in online games is expected to increase in future," the report said. The report added that India is one of the leading countries in the world in terms of number of hours spent on mobile per day but it has low penetration of fixed broadband compared to global peers, which will be key to realise the full potential of metaverse.

"While it is too early to determine the impact of metaverse on Indian telcos' revenues, we believe Bharti Airtel (with 17 per cent of revenues from fixed line) and Jio are well placed to benefit from surge in data usage driven by metaverse in the latter half of this decade," the report said. The report projects fixed broadband penetration in India to increase to nine per cent in the current fiscal 22E from 6.8 per cent in FY20.

"We expect the penetration to increase further to 12.6 per cent by FY25E driven by continued demand for data and telcos' push to improve utilisation rate of their fibre infrastructure," the report said.

[Visitors are pictured in front of an immersive art installation titled "Machine Hallucinations — Space: Metaverse" by media artist Refik Anadol. \(Photo source: Reuters\)](#)

Document FIEXON0020220219ei2i0003m

**Metaverse** in India: 20 , -

FE Online

33 words

18 February 2022

Financial Express Online

FIEXON

English

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**Metaverse** in India: (**Metaverse**) 2032 20 . (Bharti Airtel) (Reliance Jio) . .

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Banking Sector Outlook: ,

. 2020 6.8 2022 9 . 2025 12.6 . 17 .

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[.\(Image- Pixabay\)](#)

Document FIEXON0020220219ei2i0002e

## Jio, Airtel will gain from global data usage increase over decade

CT Bureau

Distributed by Contify.com

438 words

18 February 2022

Communications Today

ATCOMT

English

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The transition of digital **ecosystem** to **metaverse**, will increase global data usage by 20 times by 2032 and telecom companies such as Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio are poised for "suitable benefits" from this surge, as per a Credit Suisse report released on February 17

"Internet traffic is already 80 per cent video and has been growing at a 30 per cent CAGR (compound annual growth rate). Our team projects that even modest **metaverse** usage could drive a further 37 per cent CAGR in the next decade to 20x current data usage," the report said.

Metaverse enables individuals to immerse in a virtual world through augmented reality and virtual reality. AR and VR are also expected to boom and metaverse has "enormous potential to further expand screen time and drive more bandwidth consumption", the report added.

According to the report, while 5G will support the metaverse ecosystem, the emergence of 6G will enhance metaverse use cases.

It said the gaming segment is one of the segments where early use cases of metaverse are expected.

The report mentioned that gaming is at an early stage in India and mobile gaming is being driven by mobile phones due to the emergence of affordable smartphones and 4G data services.

"Mobile internet remains the key medium for Indian users to go online, given relatively low fixed broadband penetration. The share of mobile gaming in online games is expected to increase in future," the report said.

The report added that India is one of the leading countries in the world in terms of number of hours spent on mobile per day but it has low penetration of fixed broadband compared to global peers, which will be key to realise the full potential of metaverse.

"While it is too early to determine the impact of metaverse on Indian telcos' revenues, we believe Bharti Airtel (with 17 per cent of revenues from fixed line) and Jio are well placed to benefit from surge in data usage driven by metaverse in the latter half of this decade," the report said.

The report says fixed broadband penetration in India will increase to nine percent in the current fiscal from 6.8 percent in FY20, and rise to 12.6 percent by FY25 driven by continued demand for data and telcos' push to improve use of their fibre infrastructure.

"We expect the penetration to increase further to 12.6 per cent by FY25E driven by continued demand for data and telcos' push to improve utilisation rate of their fibre infrastructure," the report said.

Document ATCOMT0020220219ei2i00005

## Metaverse to push data usage by 20X in next 10 years; Jio, Airtel to gain: Report

Trisha Medhi

Distributed by Contify.com

457 words

18 February 2022

Your Story

ATYOST

English

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Augmented reality and **virtual reality** technologies are expected to see a boom as these are the technologies that are required for accessing the **metaverse**.

The transition of the digital **ecosystem** to the **metaverse**, where a person will feel immersed in a virtual world, will push data usage by 20 times across the globe by 2032 and telecom operators Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio are suitably placed to benefit from the surge in India, a Credit Suisse report has said.

The report said metaverse has enormous potential to further expand screen time and drive more bandwidth consumption.

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The report added that India is one of the leading countries in the world in terms of the number of hours spent on mobile per day but it has low penetration of fixed broadband compared to global peers, which will be key to realise the full potential of the metaverse.

"While it is too early to determine the impact of metaverse on Indian telcos' revenues, we believe Bharti Airtel (with 17 percent of revenues from a fixed-line) and Jio are well placed to benefit from a surge in data usage driven by metaverse in the latter half of this decade," the report said.

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"We expect the penetration to increase further to 12.6 percent by FY25E driven by continued demand for data and telcos' push to improve the utilisation rate of their fibre infrastructure," the report said.

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BUSINESS

**Metaverse to push data usage by 20 times in next 10 years; Jio, Airtel to gain: Report**

442 words

18 February 2022

Press Trust of India

PRTRIN

English

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(Eds: Recasting overnight story)

New Delhi, Feb 18 (PTI) The transition of digital **ecosystem** to **metaverse**, where a person will feel immersed in a virtual world, will push data usage by 20 times across the globe by 2032 and telecom operators Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio are suitably placed to benefit from the surge in India, a Credit Suisse report has said.

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DRR

Document PRTRIN0020220218ei2i002jr



## **Jio, Mzaalo to offer digital entertainment content on JioPhone devices**

CT Bureau

Distributed by Contify.com

208 words

17 February 2022

Communications Today

ATCOMT

English

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Jio, Mzaalo to offer digital entertainment content on JioPhone devices

Reliance Jio, Thursday, signed a strategic partnership with Mzaalo, a gamified video and entertainment ecosystem, to deliver digital entertainment content on the affordable JioPhone devices.

Through this partnership, Mzaalo's premium content catalogue and rewards ecosystem will be available on Jio's low-cost phones, and freely accessible for millions of rural Indians, most of whom are first-time internet users.

"We are thrilled to partner with Jio to offer our premium content and rewards ecosystem across 150 million JioPhone users in Hindi and 9 Indian languages. The collaboration with Jio enables us to expand our digital footprint and democratise digital entertainment for the Indian hinterland," Vikram Tanna, COO, Mzaalo said in a statement.

In addition to this partnership, Mzaalo has also been chosen to join the Jio Developers Build for Bharat Growth Pad Program. As a member, Mzaalo and its community will receive special program benefits like first market access program, year-round technical support from Jio, an exclusive community of leaders for mentorship within Jio's rich leadership ecosystem, JioAds credits, tools and services, training on Jio Developer Tools, and more.

Document ATCOMT0020220219ei2h00009





BUSINESS

**Metaverse to push data usage by 20X in 10 years; Jio, Airtel to gain: Report**

435 words

17 February 2022

Press Trust of India

PRTRIN

English

Copyright 2022. The Press Trust of India Limited.

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI) The transition of digital **ecosystem** to **metaverse**, where a person will feel immersed in a virtual world, will push data usage by 20 times across the globe by 2032 and telecom operators Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio are suitably placed to benefit from the surge in India, Credit Suisse said in a report on Thursday.

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Document PRTRIN0020220217ei2h00jod

India

**Mzaalo joins Reliance Jio to deliver digital entertainment to masses**

241 words

17 February 2022

Indo-Asian News Service

HNIANS

English

Copyright 2022. Indo-Asian News Service

New Delhi, Feb 17 (IANS) Mzaalo, a gamified video and entertainment **ecosystem** on Thursday announced that it has formed a strategic **partnership** with Jio to deliver digital entertainment to underserved audiences throughout rural India.

Through this **partnership**, Mzaalo's premium **content** catalogue and rewards **ecosystem** will be available on Jio's low-cost phones, and freely accessible for millions of rural Indians, most of whom are first-time internet users.

"We are thrilled to partner with Jio to offer our premium content and rewards ecosystem across 150 million JioPhone users in Hindi and 9 Indian languages. The collaboration with Jio enables us to expand our digital footprint and democratise digital entertainment for the Indian hinterland," Vikram Tanna, COO, Mzaalo said in a statement.

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Mzaalo is available for download on JioStore for JioPhone device's app store. Users can consume premium content and get rewarded while watching content and purchase their favorite merchandise through a secure and trusted video streaming platform.

--IANS

wh/svn/

Document HNIANS0020220217ei2h0063h



## **Jio Platforms to invest \$200 million in Google-backed consumer internet company Glance**

India Blooms News Service

Distributed by Contify.com

320 words

17 February 2022

India Blooms News Service

ATIBNS

English

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Jio Platforms (JPL), the digital unit of Reliance Industries (RIL), has agreed to invest \$200 million (about Rs 1,500 crore) for a roughly 17 percent stake in Glance, a Google-backed consumer internet company, which allows users to consume personalized **content** even with a locked smartphone screen.

The move is aimed at loading JioPhone Next, a 4G smartphone co-developed by RIL and Google, with top notch features. The phone is critical for the Indian telecom market leader, as Reliance Jio Infocomm targets 500 million subscribers, from 421 million at the end of December. The Series D funding round, according to a person familiar with the development, will value the Singapore-headquartered internet company at around \$1.8 billion post money, Economic Times reported. Glance will be integrated into the revolutionary Pragati OS, which has been co-developed by Jio Platforms and Google, to bring live content on lock screen for millions of Jio users, RIL said in a statement on Monday. The new investment will make Glance the 14th technology company where JPL has acquired stakes. The last one being a 25 percent stake in Silicon Valley-based deep-tech startup, Two Platforms. Glance has grown at a phenomenal pace over the past two years and has given users a truly unique solution by unlocking the power of the lock screen, Akash Ambani, director, Jio Platforms, said in the statement. With the help of this investment, Glance expects to launch in several key markets globally as well as extend the experience to millions of Jio users. After this deal, Glance can be set as the default lock screen on Jio handsets. Previously, Glance has had partnerships with other handset makers including Xiaomi and Oppo. In the past, Glance has had collaborations with other handset makers, including Xiaomi and Oppo.

Document ATIBNS0020220217ei2h00009

Companies

## **Vi appoints SBI cap to negotiate loan recast of up to ₹23kcr**

Anandita Singh Mankotia and Saloni Shukla

378 words

17 February 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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Vodafone Idea has appointed SBI Capital Markets to negotiate the restructuring of loans worth

20,000-23,000 crore that the loss-making telco is due to repay within the next four years. The cash-strapped company has also sought an additional half billion dollars as loans for capex requirements critical to expand its 4G network and arrest subscriber losses to rivals Reliance Jio Infocomm and Bharti Airtel, two people familiar with the matter said. "SBI Capital Markets was appointed last week and is going to lead the negotiations with the consortium of banks and also to discuss raising another half billion dollars for its capex," said one of them. A banker aware of the operator's plans said that Vodafone Idea is in the process of submitting a comprehensive restructuring plan that includes the recast of loans, standstill on interest **payments**, longer payment tenures and lower interest rates. "We are not averse to the proposal as it's a standard account and some handholding will go a long way

in reviving the operator," the banker said. The move is part of Vodafone Idea's overall capital-raising plans as the company tries to resurrect finances and operations, leveraging the relief package announced by the government in September. The discussions are taking place as the company's March-end deadline to raise equity capital for operations approaches. The telco has held talks to sell a minority stake to global private equity investors, including Apollo Global Management and Carlyle to raise up to \$1 billion, ET reported earlier. At the same time, it is also considering the sale of overseas convertible bonds to raise \$750 million to \$1 billion ( 5,550-7,400 crore) at the earliest. "This (bond issue) was supposed to happen around first week of February but has been pushed ahead by a few weeks," said the person cited above. Vodafone Idea and its lenders are looking to recast outstanding loans under the Reserve Bank of India's June 2019 restructuring framework. Under this, banks can allow renegotiation of loan dues to improve the company's liquidity if the promoter brings in equity.

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Document ECTIM00020220216ei2h0000i



## Hogarth Names Mehta To New Post: Global Executive Creative Director

191 words

16 February 2022

15:00

MediaPost.com

MPC

English

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Mehta has been named global executive creative director, a new post, at Hogarth, WPP's creative **content** production company.

He will report to Richard Glasson, Hogarth's Global CEO.

Prior to his appointment, Mehta worked at Media.monks, which merged with 4 Mile Analytics last month, and S4 Capital, its parent. He was responsible for creative across Asia-Pacific. Before that, he worked at Reliance Jio and also held agency roles at Innocean USA, Razorfish, Tribal DDB and R/GA, working with various clients, including Apple, Nike and Reebok.

Mehta says he is "extremely excited about the future of Hogarth. It's time to think, make and scale emotional ideas so our partners can shine."

Presently based in in London, he will transfer to the New York office later this year.

Glasson called Mehta "a digital-first creative leader who will bring innovative thinking and constructively disruptive ideas to our clients."

Founded a decade ago, Hogarth's roster includes Coca-Cola, Vodafone and Nestle. In October 2021, WPP media agency GroupM teamed with Hogarth to build a specialized addressable content practice.

Document MPC0000020220216ei2g0005o



## Reliance Jio and SES JV to offer satellite-based broadband service

India Blooms News Service

Distributed by Contify.com

491 words

16 February 2022

India Blooms News Service

ATIBNS

English

Copyright © 2022 India Blooms, distributed by Contify.com

Mumbai: Reliance Industries-owned Jio Platforms Ltd and SES have announced a joint venture – Jio Space Technology Limited – to deliver satellite-based broadband services. SES is a satellite-based **content connectivity** solutions provider.

Under the joint venture, JPL and SES will own a 51 percent and 49 percent equity stake in the joint venture, respectively. The joint venture will use multi-orbit space networks that are a combination of geostationary (GEO) and medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite constellations capable of delivering multi-gigabit links and capacity to enterprises, mobile backhaul, and retail customers across the length and breadth of India and neighbouring regions. The joint venture will be the vehicle for providing SESs satellite data and connectivity services in India, except for certain international aeronautical and maritime customers who may be served by SES. In a press statement, the company said it will have availability of up to 100 Gbps capacity from SES and will leverage Jios premiere position and sales reach in India to unlock this market opportunity. As part of the investment plan, the joint venture will develop extensive gateway infrastructure in India to provide services within the country. Jio, as an anchor customer of the joint venture, has entered into a multi-year the capacity purchase agreement, based on certain milestones along with gateways and equipment purchase with a total contract value of circa the US \$100 million. The joint venture will leverage SES-12, SESs high-throughput GEO satellite serving India, and O3b mPOWER, SESs next-generation MEO constellation, to extends and complement Jios terrestrial network, increasing access to digital services and applications, it further added. Jio will offer managed services and gateway infrastructure operations services to the joint venture. This joint venture will be a catalyst for connecting the unconnected areas within India and the region to the full range of digital services, offering access to remote health, government services, and distance learning opportunities, the company said. Akash Ambani, Director of Jio, said, While we continue to expand our fibre-based connectivity and FTTH business and invest in 5G, this new joint venture with SES will further accelerate the growth of multigigabit broadband. With additional coverage and capacity offered by satellite communications services, Jio will be able to connect the remotest towns and villages, enterprises, government establishments, and consumers to the new Digital India. We are excited about this new journey combining our massive reach and customer base with SESs innovative leadership and expertise in the satellite industry. Steve Collar, CEO of SES, said, This joint venture with JPL is a great example of how SES can complement even the most extensive terrestrial networks to deliver high-quality connectivity, and positively affect the lives of hundreds of millions of people. We look forward to this joint venture whereby we can play a role in promoting digital inclusion in India.

Document ATIBNS0020220216ei2g000e4

# MEDIANAMA

## Jio invests \$200 million in InMobi's Glance as it looks to expand its e-commerce footprint

Mitaksh

1,143 words

16 February 2022

MediaNama

HTMEDN

English

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Reliance Jio has announced that it will be making an **investment** of \$200 million in InMobi's Glance, an AI-powered lock-screen **platform**, according to a [press release](#) by the company. The deal is subject to regulatory approvals. Glance's lock screen will also be integrated with JioPhone Next smartphones, as a result of a **partnership** with Reliance Retail.

The Glance app will be installed on "hundreds of millions" of Jio phones this year, InMobi Group founder and Chief Executive Officer Naveen Tewari told [Reuters](#). The company claims that its lock-screen **platform** is present on more than 400 million **devices** across markets in Asia.

The funds will be used to expand its influencer-led live commerce catalogue. Piyush Shah, Co-founder of InMobi Group and President & COO of Glance, said that Glance intends to scale the platform globally and enter international markets like the USA, Brazil, Mexico, and Russia.

Jio has been on an investment spree of late, picking up stakes in key vertical markets such as content, devices, e-commerce, and gaming.

Reliance looks to boost its e-commerce offerings

It is likely that the Reliance's portfolio will be aided by the influencer-led live commerce model which reaches Glance's millions of users.

Reliance Retail is also in discussion with InMobi's Roposo, its live commerce platform, for a social commerce deal, according to a [PTI](#) report. Roposo was conceived as a way to fill the void left by TikTok in the short-video space but [pivoted](#) to live commerce shortly. Roposo has 30 million monthly active users, as per [LiveMint](#).

"We are partnering with Reliance Retail to provide the e-commerce back-end for a new generation front — a commerce experience of influencer-led entertainment and commerce," Navin Tewari was quoted as saying.

He added that Walmart and TikTok entered into a similar deal to promote sales on social media platforms instead of taking the traditional advertisement route but it could not pick up. "It actually became a great way to do commerce. That is what we are replicating here. It will take 3-6 months. We are talking about integrating the back-end system," Tewari explained to PTI.

What do we know about JioPhone Next?

Google's investment of Rs. 33,737 crores in Jio Platforms (US\$4.5 billion), was announced by Reliance Industries Managing Director Mukesh Ambani during the company's online [Annual General Meeting](#) last year. It was the second biggest external investment received by Jio after [Facebook](#) invested Rs. 43,647 crore (US\$5.7 billion) in the company.

The JioPhone Next smartphone was built in partnership with Google and runs an optimised version of Android—Pragati OS. The company claimed that the smartphone's affordability will convince millions of 2G mobile users to buy JioPhone Next as the upgrade costs are high at current smartphone prices. The handset is priced at Rs 6,499.

The JioPhone Next smartphone has "received extremely encouraging response from retailers and customers" in both urban and rural areas, Reliance Retail told [Economic Times](#). The company has not released details about the sales performance of its handset.

However, many analysts have pointed out that the company is unlikely to make a [huge dent](#) in the Android smartphones market given the prohibitive pricing of the handset. The move to integrate Glance can be viewed as an attempt to add value proposition for prospective buyers as Reliance seeks to drive up the buzz around JioPhone Next.

## Lowdown on Jio's investments

Here are some of its major investments in the last couple of years:

\* Dunzo: The company raised [\\$240 million](#) in a funding round led by Reliance Retail, which invested \$200 million for a 25.8 per cent stake in the quick commerce startup, as per a [press release](#). This makes the oil-to-telecom conglomerate the biggest shareholder in the startup and values Dunzo at \$775 million, up from about \$300 million.

\* Just Dial: A [preferential allotment](#) of 2,11,77,636 equity shares at Rs. 1,022.25 per share was approved by Justdial's board to Reliance Retail, according to a Bombay Stock Exchange filing last year. RRVL's stake in Justdial now stands at 40.98 percent making RRVL a promoter, the regulatory filing added.

\* Zivame: Reliance Brands bought out the stake held by Ronnie Screwvala's Unilazer Ventures in lingerie e-tailer Zivame. The company may have paid up to \$160 million for acquiring the firm, as per [Economic Times](#).

\* Milkbasket: A hyperlocal delivery startup, was sold to Reliance for around \$40 million, in the shadow of shareholders disagreement, Economic Times reported. The company's board had rejected the proposal after which co-founder Anant Goel resigned, the business daily added.

\* Urban Ladder: Reliance Retail has invested more than Rs. 182 crores in online furniture retailer Urban Ladder in return for a 96 percent stake in the company.

\* NetMeds: Reliance Retail also has a stake in NetMeds, an online pharmacy portal, to the tune of 60 percent. The majority equity stake in Netmeds'; parent Vitalic was acquired at a cost of Rs 620 crore. Netmeds.com is an e-pharmacy portal competing with the likes of PharmEasy, Tata 1mg, among others.

Apart from this acquisition spree, the company has also joined hands with Google and Facebook to leverage their expertise. Google bought a 7.73 percent stake whereas Facebook got a 9.9 percent stake. The deal with Facebook was significant as Reliance Retail and WhatsApp agreed to a commercial partnership to push JioMart on WhatsApp, [MediaNama](#) reported previously.

What does this investment mean for Glance's valuation?

The investment was part of Glance's Series D round of funding. The company had only recently raised \$145 million in a fund raising round led by Google in December 2021, [Entrackr](#) reported. The company is likely to be valued at around \$2 billion after this investment; it was valued at over [\\$1 billion](#) in December, as per Entrackr.

InMobi is the largest stakeholder in Glance with 63.3 percent stake followed by Mithril Capital Management which owns 22.6% per cent, Entrackr added. Alphabet (formerly Google Capital) has a 12.7 percent holding in the company. It is not yet clear as to what will be Jio's holding after this investment in the platform.

Also Read:

\* [Reliance Jio partners with SES to offer high-speed broadband internet from space](#)

\* [SEBI approves Reliance Retail-Future Group deal, with caveats](#)

\* [Reliance Earnings: Jio completes 5G coverage planning for 1,000 cities, retail arm records all-time high revenue](#)

Have something to add? Subscribe to MediaNama [here](#) and post your comment.

The post [Jio invests \\$200 million in InMobi's Glance as it looks to expand its e-commerce footprint](#) appeared first on [MediaNama](#).

Document HTMEDN0020220216ei2g00003



Info-tech

## **USO fund levy is excessive, anti-consumer: Reliance Jio**

Ayushi Kar

390 words

16 February 2022

BusinessLine Online

BSNLNO

English

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Reliance Jio has asked the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to stop collecting from telecom operators contributions to the Universal Service Obligations (USO) fund until the existing corpus is utilised.

Jio said the fund has a corpus of ₹ 58,000 crore, therefore operators need not contribute more. Telcos annually pay 8 per cent of their adjusted gross revenue as licence fee levy. Of this, 5 per cent reportedly goes to the USO fund, which the government set up to help take mobile and internet **connectivity** to rural areas. The fund's implementation, however, is marred by failed projects and faulty bidding processes. For instance, the ambitious optical fibre project BharatNet has been delayed due to procedural issues and lack of coordination among departments.

Jio has asked TRAI to reduce the licence fee to 1 per cent to cover licensing and regulatory costs.

"Fund levy is the biggest contributor to licence fee levy and, in current scenario of over ₹ 58,000 crore unutilised USO fund, continuing with this levy is excessive and anti-consumer. This part of the USO levy should be done away with till the available USO fund is not utilised and the licence fee should be limited only to cover the licensing and regulatory cost, which will be less than 1 per cent of the revenue," Reliance Jio said.

Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), which represents telecom operators, echoed Jio's views: "(TRAI must)..... prioritise utilisation of the current funds available in USO fund, that is, ₹ 590.82 billion [ ₹ 59,082 crore], for enhancing the mobile connectivity to the uncovered villages and for the fiberisation of the gram panchayats under the BharatNet Project."

"The Indian telecom sector is a heavily taxed sector amongst the Asian countries. The contribution to the USO Fund by telecom service providers is equivalent to 5 per cent of AGR [adjusted gross revenue] paid on quarterly basis. Considering the investments that are required to be put in by the TSPs as capex for acquiring 5G spectrum and for rolling out 5G services in the country, we believe that this is a high time that the contribution made by the TSPs towards the USOF are abolished or should be brought down to 1 per cent," COAI noted.

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## 5G auction: Telecom operators put forth differing views in comments to Trai

Kiran Rathee

448 words

16 February 2022

Financial Express

AIWFIE

English

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As the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) gears up to give its recommendations for the upcoming 5G auction by March-end, there is a clear divide among telecom operators on certain points. The operators on Tuesday submitted their written comments to Trai on some queries raised during the open house discussion on February 8. Though all the operators are unanimous on their demand to cut the reserve price, the divide is clear on some other points.

For instance, Reliance Jio wants all the available spectrum to be auctioned, while Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have proposed that 526-617 MHz not be auctioned in the upcoming sale as there is no **ecosystem** as of now. The band, however, should be reserved for mobile services.

On the bundling of the E band spectrum (71-76 GHz and 81-86 GHz) with access airwaves, Jio again has a view different from that of Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea. While the former supports standalone auction of E band, the latter want it to be bundled with access spectrum. Further, on the issue of millimetre wave band, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea are on the same page whereas Bharti Airtel is siding with satellite players. While RJio and Vi reiterated that all the spectrum should be auctioned, Bharti sided with satellite players in reserving 27.5 GHz to 28.5 GHz for satellite services.

Interestingly, Jio's partner in its satellite joint venture, SES, wants that 27.5 GHz to 28.5 GHz should not be auctioned for 5G. SES has submitted that 27.5 GHz-28.5 GHz and 3600 MHz-3670 MHz bands are being used to provide satellite services in India. "...both of these band segments should be excluded from India's 5G auctions as unnecessarily jeopardising productive satellite services in order to satisfy uncertain 5G spectrum demand," SES said in its comment on the upcoming auction.

Further, some broadcasters want that 3600 MHz-3670 MHz be excluded from the sale as the band is currently being used by some channels owned by Zee Network and Network 18.

Jio, however, is supporting the demand of internet service providers to be eligible for the upcoming auction.

Trai is expected to come out with its recommendations by the end of March, after which the department of telecommunications (DoT) will commence the process to auction the airwaves. DoT hopes to complete the auction by May-June so that services can be launched by August.

[Jio, however, is supporting the demand of internet service providers to be eligible for the upcoming auction.](#)

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India Business

**Jio inks sat JV to take on Musk, Tata, Mittal companies**

Pankaj Doval

245 words

16 February 2022

The Times of India

TOI

English

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NEW DELHI: Broadband through satellite is emerging as a major business area for telecom companies from India and abroad with a high-pitched battle on the cards between Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio Platforms, Sunil Mittal-backed Bharti OneWeb, Tata's Nelco and Elon Musk's StarLink. Ambani's Jio Platforms, which is understood to have applied for a satellite services licence with the government through a newly formed subsidiary, announced a joint venture with Luxembourg based SES, a global satellitebased **content connectivity** solutions provider, to deliver "scalable and affordable" broadband services by leveraging satellite technology. The new company, Jio Space Technology, will be 51% held by Jio Platforms, while SES will own the rest. "With additional coverage and capacity offered by satellite communications services, Jio will be able to connect the remotest towns and villages, enterprises, government establishments, and consumers to the new Digital India," Akash Ambani, director of Jio,

said. While Bharti's OneWeb hopes to start its satellite-based broadband services in India this year, Elon Musk's StarLink is working on its regulatory needs and licencing requirements after being heavily reprimanded by the government for on-boarding customers without adequate clearances. Tata's Nelco has also been expanding in the satellite-based broadband business, and has plans to make further investments as it looks to onboard enterprise customers and enter new categories.

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India

## **Vi appoints SBI cap to negotiate loan recast of up to ₹23kcr**

Anandita Singh Mankotia and Saloni Shukla

378 words

16 February 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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Vodafone Idea has appointed SBI Capital Markets to negotiate the restructuring of loans worth

20,000-23,000 crore that the loss-making telco is due to repay within the next four years. The cash-strapped company has also sought an additional half billion dollars as loans for capex requirements critical to expand its 4G network and arrest subscriber losses to rivals Reliance Jio Infocomm and Bharti Airtel, two people familiar with the matter said. "SBI Capital Markets was appointed last week and is going to lead the negotiations with the consortium of banks and also to discuss raising another half billion dollars for its capex," said one of them. A banker aware of the operator's plans said that Vodafone Idea is in the process of submitting a comprehensive restructuring plan that includes the recast of loans, standstill on interest **payments**, longer payment tenures and lower interest rates. "We are not averse to the proposal as it's a standard account and some handholding will go a long way

in reviving the operator," the banker said. The move is part of Vodafone Idea's overall capital-raising plans as the company tries to resurrect finances and operations, leveraging the relief package announced by the government in September. The discussions are taking place as the company's March-end deadline to raise equity capital for operations approaches. The telco has held talks to sell a minority stake to global private equity investors, including Apollo Global Management and Carlyle to raise up to \$1 billion, ET reported earlier. At the same time, it is also considering the sale of overseas convertible bonds to raise \$750 million to \$1 billion (5,550-7,400 crore) at the earliest. "This (bond issue) was supposed to happen around first week of February but has been pushed ahead by a few weeks," said the person cited above. Vodafone Idea and its lenders are looking to recast outstanding loans under the Reserve Bank of India's June 2019 restructuring framework. Under this, banks can allow renegotiation of loan dues to improve the company's liquidity if the promoter brings in equity.

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Companies

## Jio Platforms agrees to invest \$200 million in internet company Glance for 17% stake

714 words

16 February 2022

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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Jio Platforms (JPL), the digital unit of Reliance Industries (RIL), has agreed to invest \$200 million (about Rs 1,500 crore) for a roughly 17% stake in Google-backed consumer internet company Glance, which allows users to consume personalized **content** even with a locked smartphone screen. The move, analysts said, is aimed at strengthening the JioPhone Next, a 4G smartphone that RIL has co-developed with Google and is critical for the Indian telecom market leader, Reliance Jio Infocomm's quest to reach 500 million subscribers, from 421 million at the end of December. JPL is the parent entity of Reliance Jio Infocomm (Jio). The Series D **funding** round, according to a person familiar with the development, will value the Singapore-headquartered internet company at around \$1.8 billion post money. Following the closure of the deal, JPL will hold around 17% stake in Glance. "Glance will be integrated into the revolutionary Pragati OS, which has been co-developed by Jio Platforms and Google, to bring

live content on lock screen for millions of Jio users," RIL said in a statement on Monday. JPL did not respond to ET's queries on Glance's valuations and the RIL unit's stake. The latest planned investment will make Glance the 14th technology company to come under JPL's belt, the last one being a 25% stake in Silicon Valley-based deep-tech startup, Two Platforms. The latest deal is also expected to lead to further strategic collaborations between Glance, Reliance Retail and Jio across devices, commerce, content and gaming ecosystem, the statement said. "Glance has grown at a phenomenal pace over the past two years and has given users a truly unique solution by unlocking the power of the lock screen," Akash Ambani, director, Jio Platforms, said in the statement. "With the help of this investment, Glance expects to launch in several key markets globally as well as extend the experience to millions of Jio users..." After this deal, Glance can be set as the default lock screen on Jio handsets. Previously, Glance has had partnerships with other handset makers including Xiaomi and Oppo. Jio will also integrate content from gaming as well as other features on the Glance lock screen over time, one of the sources said. "Jio Platforms will make a fairly sizeable investment in a niche tech company, but since Glance's lock-screen platform will be integrated into the JioPhone Next to transform mobile internet experience, the objective seems clearly to boost the value proposition of the budget smartphone at its current price point and drive 2G to 4G conversions, something that hasn't happened since the device's launch last November," a sector analyst at a leading global brokerage said. Jio and Google launched an 'affordable 4G smartphone' powered by the latter's Pragati operating system in November last year. Priced at Rs 6,499, the device was, however, dubbed expensive by price-sensitive 2G customers whom Jio plans to lure to 4G, analysts said. Glance said that it will use the funds to double down on growth in Asia as well as launch in key global markets including the United States, Brazil, Mexico and Russia, according to the statement. Founded in 2019, Glance's lock screen platform is on 400 million devices and the company aims to become the world's largest live content and commerce ecosystem on the lock screen. "Glance has made it possible for users to experience the best of the internet without searching, downloading any apps or even unlocking their phones," it said, explaining that pioneering personalized, AI-driven content, live entertainment commerce and gaming on the lock screen was its distinguishing factor. An unconsolidated subsidiary of ad-tech company InMobi, Glance is also backed by Peter Thiel's Mithril Capital. "Jio's investment into Glance brings a deep synergy of vision and philosophy," Naveen Tewari, founder of InMobi Group, said in the statement. Morgan Stanley acted as the exclusive financial advisor and Khaitan & Co acted as the legal counsel to Glance. White & Case and K Law acted as the legal counsels and Ernst & Young provided accounting and tax due diligence services to Jio Platforms.

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## Reliance Jio partners with SES to offer high-speed broadband internet from space

Mitaksh

672 words

15 February 2022

MediaNama

HTMEDN

English

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Reliance Jio and SES, a global satellite-based **content connectivity** solutions provider based in Luxembourg, have formed a joint venture to provide broadband services in India through satellite technology, according to a [press release](#) on February 14. The equity stake in the joint venture, Jio Space Technology Limited, will be in the ratio of 51 (Jio): 49 (SES), the release added.

Jio Space will be using satellite technology such as multi-orbit space networks to provide broadband services. The company also informed that the network will consist of geostationary (GEO) and medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite constellations.

Jio has also entered into a multi-year capacity purchase agreement, based on certain milestones, along with gateways and equipment purchase, for \$100 million as an anchor customer in the JV. The entry of Reliance Jio shows that the broadband-from-space sector is shaping up to be the next battleground for telcos.

What do we know about the joint venture?

Jio, in its press release, said that the joint venture will deliver multi-gigabit links (up to 100 Gbps) and cloud capacity to enterprises, [mobile backhaul](#), and retail customers across India and neighbouring regions. As part of the investment plan, the joint venture will develop extensive gateway infrastructure in India to provide services within the country.

The joint venture will be the entity through which SES's satellite data and connectivity services will be provided in India. An exception will be made for certain international aeronautical and maritime customers. Jio will offer managed services and gateway infrastructure operations services to the joint venture.

"The joint venture will leverage SES-12, SES's high-throughput GEO satellite serving India, and O3b mPOWER, SES's next-generation MEO constellation, to extend and complement Jio's terrestrial network, increasing access to digital services and applications," read the statement.

Jio seeks licence for satellite communication services

Reliance Jio Infocomm recently incorporated a satellite unit, Jio Satellite Communications Ltd, which applied for a global mobile personal communication by satellite services (GMPCS) licence with the Department of Telecommunications, [Economic Times](#) reported.

It became the second telecom company after Bharti Airtel to foray into the satcom space. The formal entry will pit the company against players like OneWeb backed by Airtel, Starlink offered by SpaceX, Amazon's Project Kuiper, and Tata-Telesat.

Who are Reliance Jio's competitors?

OneWeb: [OneWeb](#), backed by Sunil Mittal's Bharti Enterprises, has already applied for a GMPCS licence. The company applied for two permits, a National Long Distance (NLD) licence and a Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) licence. Bharti Chairman Sunil Mittal claimed that the company will be service-ready by 2022, in a press conference. It is yet to get the permit.

Starlink: The company, backed by Elon Musk, has been mired in troubles and the launch of the company remains uncertain. Starlink's India head [Sanjay Bhargava](#) resigned as its Country Director and Chairman. Bhargava did not provide a specific explanation for his resignation but cited "personal reasons" as the cause in his LinkedIn post. The company informed that it has been directed by the DoT to refund pre-orders until it receives a licence.

Tata-Telesat: [Tata-owned Nelco](#) has, in partnership with Canadian firm Telesat, applied for an experimental licence and spectrum for conducting trials of their broadband-from-space offering. The duo is looking to launch the global 'Lightspeed' satellite internet services by 2024.

Project Kuiper floated by Jeff Bezos is also looking to enter India as part of its global space internet initiative.

Also Read:

\* [TRAI calls for feedback on 5G spectrum allocation as telcos and satellite services remain divided](#)

\* [To facilitate satellite connectivity, Telangana proposes incentives in new space tech policy](#)

\* [SpaceX sets up shop to roll out satellite broadband division Starlink in India](#)

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The post [Reliance Jio partners with SES to offer high-speed broadband internet from space](#) appeared first on [MediaNama](#).

Document HTMEDN0020220216ei2f00008

**K Law, White & Case, Khaitan act on JioPlatform's \$200 million investment in Glance**

Bar & Bench

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179 words

15 February 2022

Bar & Bench

ATBARB

English

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Jio Platforms agrees to invest \$200 million in internet company Glance for 17% stake

Glance, a leading AI-driven lock-screen platform has raised US\$200 million (about Rs 1,500 crore) from Jio Platforms Limited (Jio).

In addition to Jio Platforms, Glance is also backed by technology giant Google and Silicon Valley-based venture fund Mithril Capital.

KLaw and White & Case advised Reliance Jio Platforms on the deal.

Khaitan & Co advised Glance.

The transaction is subject to the satisfaction of customary closing conditions and regulatory approvals.

The proposed investment by Jio is aimed at accelerating Glance's launch in several key international markets outside of Asia such as the USA, Brazil, Mexico and Russia

A business partnership agreement is also entered into between Glance and Reliance Retail to transform the internet experience for millions of Jio users. The deal is expected to lead to further strategic collaborations between Glance, Reliance Retail and Jio across devices, commerce, content and gaming ecosystems.

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## Oppo and Jio collaborate on successful 5G trial runs on the Oppo Reno 7 Pro

Deeksha Devadiga

280 words

15 February 2022

Digit

HTDIGI

English

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India, Feb. 15 -- Oppo announced the results of a 5G standalone and non-standalone network trial in collaboration with Indian telecom network operator Reliance Jio. They mentioned in the statement that they recently conducted a successful trial run.

Oppo further said the trials were conducted on the newly launched Oppo Reno 7 Pro Smartphones. The ultra-fast and low-latency 5G trial was done in a demo setup. The outcome of the trial was lag-free 4K video streams and super fast downloads and uploads as per the statement released by the company. The site **infrastructure** and network provider, Jio carried out these trials by utilizing the allocated mid-band trial spectrum which is in the range of 3.3GHz to 3.6GHz frequency range.

Oppo Reno tested on 5G in India

Tasleem Arif, Vice President, India R&D Head, OPPO India, in the company's statement said 5G technology is altering the way the world communicates today and trials like these will only further solidify their efforts in the industry and provide the best value proposition for their consumers.

5G will soon be provided in India by many network providers and there are already smartphones with 5G support that have been rolled out in the market. The government of India will be opening the auctions for the 5G spectrum by later this year. It will open a wider commercial rollout by 2023.

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