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**Sub: Why I oppose Trai proposal of differential pricing to access data on internet and Free Basics.**

I oppose TRAI proposal of differential pricing for data access on internet and Free Basics of Facebook. My explanation follows:

1. Suppose a poor man from Dharavi, Mumbai and Mr. Mukesh Ambani, the richest man of India go to a super market for shopping. Both buy a Glucose biscuit packet costing Rs. 10=00. Will the man from Dharavi pay Rs. 5=00 and Mr. Ambani Rs. 5000=00 for the same biscuit packet? No. Both will pay the same amount!
2. Suppose a poor man from Dharavi and Mr. Anil Ambani of Reliance Communications go to a super market for shopping. Both want to buy biscuits. Can the manager of the super market deny man from Dharavi to sell any brand of biscuit except Rs 10=00 Glucose biscuit and allow Mr. Ambani to buy any brand? No, as long as both are willing to pay. What about affordability? The solution does not lie in giving biscuit free to the man from Dharavi. You increase competition and production of biscuits so that price comes down to affordable level. That is the basic principle of capitalism. Better goods at cheaper price as competition and production increases. That Is what exactly happened in India`s mobile technology.
3. Is anything available free in this world? Everything cost. Directly or indirectly. Somebody is paying for this free. Look at the massive advertisement campaign launched by Facebook at huge cost for Free Basics. Who will pay? At what cost? India will pay at the cost of loss of independence of free internet. Every citizen of India should be able to access internet freely without any restriction or censorship. Nobody has right to decide for me even if it is given free to me. The same applies to other countries of the world.

4. If a parrot is caged in a golden cage and given feed every day, will the parrot be happy? After few months, the parrot will forget to fly even if released from the cage! Free Basics of Facebook is like that golden cage. India and her citizens will lose independence and control first over internet and then slowly in other fields. India will be slave to multinationals like Facebook. Helping poor is only a mask to fool gullible people. That is why Facebook changed the original name Internet.org to Free Basics!
5. Government of India (GOI) should make Aadhar card universal and link it to a bank account. Almost one billion Aadhar cards are issued so far. Let GOI provide nominal amount to every citizen of India to access internet directly into their bank account. Multinational companies like Google, Twitter, Pfizer, Facebook, Maruti, Tata and others can donate money directly to GOI without any precondition. Absolutely no restriction or condition on donation. Let the account of this money be monitored in open on internet for anybody to check. That will prevent misuse. Citizens of India should have full freedom to use internet of their choice. GOI also should not put any restriction or condition for use of internet. With technology advancement it is possible.

GOI should also encourage competition and mass scale production of computers, chips, laptops and mobiles in India. Make in India would get a strong boost. The same fund could be utilized for this. The same applies to 4G internet. The cost of instrument and internet would come down drastically. The cost to GOI to supply free internet will also come down. With universal access to internet, Digital India would be a reality.

The model could be replicated in other countries of the world. The world would be much better place to live in, a digital world. This idea belongs to Mr. Nandan Nilekani and Mr. Viral Shah and I whole heartedly support it.

I would enlarge this vision and think of Citizen of Planet Earth, without restriction and boundaries of different countries like India and USA. He or she will travel from one pole of earth to other without any restriction and goes to Mars as citizen of planet Earth, and not citizen of India. And in future from one galaxy to another. This vision is possible only when every human being on Earth has access to free internet.

6. India is doing her best to gain her rightful place on the world stage and succeeding slowly in the attempts. What is helping India in this? Access to

free internet and open democracy. Did you listen to Mr. Obama`s election speech for Presidency? How many times did he utter the word Bangalore? Why did America levy such a high visa fees on techies from India? Why did the President of USA, Mr. Obama invite Mr. Narendra Modi to America, a man who was denied visa for years together? The invitation was to the Prime Minister of India and not to Mr. Narendra Modi. Because India is emerging and leading in the world. This is only possible with the help of access to free internet and innovation. Once you surrender this freedom to multinationals like Facebook under the guise of Free Basics and helping poor, India will lose the edge. Innovation and creativity will die. India`s fate and future will be decided by multinationals like Facebook and not Indians.

7. Any country or human being who forgets the past will pay in the future. People have short memory. Do we remember the East India Company? What happened under the guise of doing business and peaceful existence? India lost her independence and became slave of Britain for years! The history is repeating itself. British people used different means to capture India. Facebook is using massive advertisement campaign (weapon of present time) and Free Basics at huge cost for what? To help poor? No. The altruist motive on show is a mask. The ultimate motive of any multinational is to capture market and make people slave to their products. Free Basics is one such product. Other multinationals will soon join the race once Facebook is permitted. The path will lead to India`s downfall.
8. Internet is the ultimate tool of any country in future. A country`s development, progress and economic status will be decided by internet- how much it is free and independent. You impose restriction /conditions on use of internet and you are blocking your own progress. Do you want freedom or slavery? I want freedom. I support free internet. I support net neutrality. I wholeheartedly support the campaign of “save the internet”. I say no to Free Basics of Facebook. I say no to differential pricing to access data on internet.

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