



# Disney Star

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(Redirected from [Star India](#))

*This article is about the Indian media conglomerate. For the Disney+ content hub, see [Star \(Disney+\)](#). "JioStar" redirects here. For the Disney streaming service also known as JioHotstar, see [Disney+ Hotstar](#).*

**Disney Star** (also known as **JioStar**), registered as **Star India Private Limited**, is an Indian [media conglomerate joint venture](#) owned with a share of 16.34% by [Reliance Industries](#), 46.82% by [Viacom18](#) and 36.84% by [Disney India](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup> On 14 November 2024, it merged its assets with the assets of Viacom18 to form JioStar.<sup>[3]</sup> It is the largest television and entertainment network in India, operating more than 100 TV channels and a major streaming platform called [JioHotstar](#).



## History

### Founding and early years (1990–2000)

Disney Star was founded as Star TV (Satellite Television Asian Region) in 1990 as a joint venture between [Hutchison Whampoa](#) and [Li Ka-shing](#). It launched Hollywood English-language entertainment channels for Asian audiences.<sup>[4]</sup> Its first five channels included [Star Plus](#) (then an [English-language entertainment](#) channel), [Star Chinese Channel](#), [Prime Sports](#), [MTV Asia](#) (now [Channel V](#)) and [BBC World Service Television](#) (now simply [BBC News](#)).<sup>[4]</sup>

In 1992, [Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation](#) purchased 63.6% of Star India for \$525 million, followed by the purchase of the remaining 36.4% on 1 January 1993. Star broadcasting operations were run from Rupert Murdoch's Fox Broadcasting premises.<sup>[5][6]</sup> It later launched [Star Movies](#), [Channel V](#), and

### Disney Star

	
<b>Formerly</b>	Star TV (1990–2011) Star India (2011–2022)
<b>Company type</b>	<a href="#">Joint venture</a>
<b>Traded as</b>	Star India Private Limited
<b>Industry</b>	<a href="#">Media conglomerate</a>
<b>Founded</b>	1 August 1990; 34 years ago (as Star TV)
<b>Founders</b>	<a href="#">Hutchison Whampoa</a> <a href="#">Li Ka-shing</a>
<b>Headquarters</b>	<a href="#">Mumbai</a> , <a href="#">Maharashtra</a> , <a href="#">India</a>
<b>Area served</b>	Worldwide
<b>Key people</b>	<a href="#">Nita Ambani</a> (chair) <a href="#">Uday Shankar</a> (vice-chair) <a href="#">Kiran Mani</a> (CEO)
<b>Services</b>	<a href="#">Television broadcasting</a> <a href="#">Films</a>
<b>Revenue</b>	₹260 billion (US\$3.1 billion) (FY 2024)
<b>Owner</b>	<a href="#">Li Ka-shing</a> (1990–1995) <a href="#">Star TV</a> (1995–2013) <a href="#">21st Century Fox</a> (2013–2019) <a href="#">Disney India</a> (2019–2024; 100% owned) (2024–present; joint venture) <a href="#">Viacom18</a> (2024–present; joint venture)

Star News with a limited Hindi offering, and then Star Plus for Indian viewers.<sup>[7][8][9][10]</sup>

## 2001–2017

In 2001, Star India acquired South India based Vijay TV.<sup>[11]</sup> In 2003, Star India's Star News deal with NDTV ended. In the same year, the Indian government introduced a guideline limiting foreign equity in the national news business to 26%. At that time Star India was wholly owned by Hong Kong-based company Satellite Television Asia Region Ltd. As a result, Star India entered into a joint venture with the Anandabazar Patrika group (ABP) to form a new company, Media Content and Communications Services Pvt. Ltd. (MCCS), which took control of Star News' operations. ABP held a 74% majority stake, while Star India reduced its participation with the remaining 26% to comply with the regulations set for the uplinking of news and current affairs channels by the Government of India. Star India, subsequently exited from this joint venture in 2012. After the split, the channel was renamed ABP News and operated by Anandabazar Patrika Group.<sup>[10]</sup>

In 2004, Star One was launched a Hindi youth-oriented channel.<sup>[12]</sup> In 2008, Star Jalsha, a Bengali-language entertainment channel and Star Pravah, a Marathi-language entertainment channel was launched.<sup>[13][14]</sup>

In 2009, Star India acquired Kerala-based media conglomerate Asianet Communications, which served Malayalam language content.<sup>[15]</sup> In August 2009, the Star Group restructured its Asian broadcast businesses into three units – Star India, Star China Media, and Fox International Channels Asia.<sup>[15]</sup>

In the same year, Star Affiliate and CJ Group of South Korea launched CJ Alive (later known as Shop CJ), a 24-hour Indian television shopping channel that used Star Utsav for hosting the television marketing programs in six-hour slots in its initial stage of launch. Star Affiliate exited the joint venture in May 2014.<sup>[16]</sup>

News Corporation launched a film production and distribution business in India through Fox Star Studios India, an affiliate of Star India in the same year.<sup>[17]</sup>

In April 2012, Star India won the rights to Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) through 2018, replacing Nimbus Communications. Valued at ₹3,851 crore (equivalent to ₹73 billion or US\$860 million in 2023), the agreement included rights to India national cricket team home matches on television and mobile streaming, as well as domestic tournaments such as the Ranji Trophy and Irani Cup.<sup>[18]</sup>

On 6 November 2013, Star India rebranded its Star Sports channels, renaming the main Star Sports channel to Star Sports 1, Star Cricket to Hindi-language Star Sports 3, ESPN to Tamil-language Star Sports 4, and Star Cricket HD and ESPN HD to Star Sports HD1 and HD2.<sup>[19][20]</sup>

In February 2015, Star India launched its streaming service, Hotstar, a mobile and online entertainment OTT platform that features content in 9 Indian languages and broadcasts sporting events.<sup>[21][22][23]</sup> Star also acquired the broadcast businesses of Maa Television Pvt. Ltd to boost its presence in Telugu-speaking markets.<sup>[24]</sup>

	Reliance Industries (2024–present; joint venture)
Divisions	Star Studios Star Sports JioHotstar
Website	www.jiostar.com

In February 2017, Star India and global media conglomerate [TED](#) announced a new TV series, [TED Talks India – Nayi Soch](#). The programme starred [Bollywood](#) actor [Shah Rukh Khan](#) and featured newer TED talks made in Hindi language. The programme followed the signature TED format of prominent speakers voicing their opinions in an 18-minute or less monologue in front of a live audience.<sup>[25][26]</sup>

On 28 August 2017, Star India rebranded its Hindi entertainment channel [Life OK](#) to [Star Bharat](#).<sup>[27]</sup>

On 5 September 2017, Star India won the global media rights to broadcast the [Indian Premier League](#) (IPL) under a five-year deal beginning in the [2018 tournament](#), and valued at 163.475 billion. Beating previous rightsholder Sony, the contract included domestic rights for Star Sports, and digital rights for [Hotstar](#).<sup>[28]</sup>

On 14 December 2017, [The Walt Disney Company](#) announced their intent to [acquire](#) Star India's parent company [21st Century Fox](#) for [US\\$52.4 billion](#).<sup>[29][30]</sup>

## 2018–2022

In 2018, Star India renewed its BCCI rights through March 2023, in a contract valued at ₹61,384.1 crore (equivalent to ₹820 billion or US\$9.7 billion in 2023).<sup>[31]</sup>

On 13 December 2018, Disney announced [Uday Shankar](#) who serves as chairman of Star India would lead Disney's Asian operations and would become the new chairman of [Disney India](#), which became a wholly owned subsidiary of the Walt Disney Company, being re-organized under Disney India.<sup>[32]</sup> On 27 August 2018, the channel Star Life was launched in Africa in English language offering the English dubbed Indian Hindi series from the Indian star channels.<sup>[33][34]</sup>

On 4 January 2019, Star TV shut down its television operations in USA for the promotion of its digital counterpart, Hotstar.<sup>[35]</sup>

On 20 March 2019, Star India became a subsidiary of [Disney India](#) after [the US\\$71.3 billion deal](#) in the acquisition of former parent company [21st Century Fox](#) was closed. Now, Disney India owns television channels of UTV Software Communications and Star India.<sup>[36][37]</sup>

In April 2020, the Walt Disney Company merged Hotstar with [Disney+](#) in India to form [Disney+ Hotstar](#) with Hotstar operating independently and coexisting with Disney+ in Canada and US,<sup>[38]</sup> since it launched on 4 September 2017; the United Kingdom on 13 September 2018;<sup>[39]</sup> and Singapore on 4 November 2020, prior to Disney+ in the country.<sup>[40]</sup>

On 30 December 2020, Disney announced that the Star branding would be replaced with Utsav from 1 February in the Netherlands,<sup>[41]</sup> with the Utsav Gold, Utsav Plus and Utsav Bharat branding launching in the UK on 22 January 2021, Star Vijay's international feed also changed a new logo based with Utsav Network in yellow colour and rebranded as Vijay TV around the world on that same day, Utsav Network would separated to Star Gold, Plus and Bharat, the Asian feed would launch in South Korea.<sup>[42]</sup>

On 31 August 2021, Disney announced that it would phase out Hotstar in the US and move all content into [Hulu](#) and [ESPN+](#). Initially, it was announced that the service would shut down in the US by late 2022,<sup>[43]</sup>

until it got moved to an earlier date on 30 November 2021.<sup>[44]</sup>

On 18 October 2021, Disney and Star announced that they would exit from the English general entertainment industry and that they would close down [Star World](#) and [Star World Premiere](#) in India originally planned by 30 November 2021 (although the [Star Movies](#) channels, alongside [Disney International HD](#) will not be affected). The Bangla and Marathi feeds of Star Sports 1 will also close on the same day. Meanwhile, the Star Gold brand would expand with the launch of an HD simulcast of Star Gold 2 that would replace UTV HD, alongside the rebranding of UTV Movies and UTV Action as Star Gold Romance and Star Gold Thrills. Star Movies Select HD, Star Movies Hindi, and Star Movies Tamil will also launch an SD simulcast, becoming the first niche premium English movie channel in India to do so.<sup>[45]</sup> However, a delay in TRAI's new tariff order, followed by protests from digital cable operators and multi-system operators, caused the plans to be postponed till mid-March 2023.<sup>[46]</sup>

On 14 April 2022, Disney India rebranded Star India to *Disney Star*.<sup>[47]</sup> On 27 May 2022, Fox Star Studios was renamed just [Star Studios](#), as part of the removal of the "Fox" name from the studios that had been acquired from [21st Century Fox](#) by Disney.<sup>[48]</sup>

## Merger with Viacom18 (2023–present)



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In July 2023, The Walt Disney Company began exploring strategic options, including a sale or formation of a joint venture, for their businesses in India.<sup>[49]</sup> Between September and October 2023, the company held preliminary talks with [Reliance Industries](#), billionaire [Gautam Adani](#) and [Kalanithi Maran](#), owner of the [Sun Group](#), for a potential sale of its streaming and linear television assets.<sup>[50][51]</sup> In late October 2023, it was reported that Disney was nearing a cash and stock deal with Reliance Industries for the sale of its operations in India, including a controlling stake in Disney Star. The assets Reliance would acquire are reportedly valued at around \$7–8 billion and a transaction was to be announced as early as November.<sup>[52]</sup> Although Disney CEO [Bob Iger](#) refuted claims of a sale during a third-quarter earnings call, it was announced in December 2023 that Disney and Reliance had signed a non-binding term sheet for a merger. According to its terms, Reliance would hold 51% of the merged company in cash and stock, while Disney would own the remaining 49%. For purposes of the merger, a subsidiary of [Viacom18](#) was created to absorb Disney Star through a [stock swap](#),<sup>[53]</sup> pending ratification and regulatory approval.<sup>[54][55][56][57]</sup>


In February 2024, Disney and Reliance reached a deal to merge their streaming and television assets, with the joint venture valued at \$8.5 billion including synergies. As part of the deal, Viacom18 would be merged into Disney Star with Disney holding a 36.84% stake in the combined entity, which would bring together assets such as linear television entertainment channels [StarPlus](#), [Colors TV](#) and the [Star Gold Network](#), sports channels [Star Sports](#) and [Sports18](#) and the streaming services [JioCinema](#) and [Disney+ Hotstar](#) with [Nita Ambani](#) serving as the chairperson of the joint venture, with [Uday Shankar](#) serving as vice chairperson

with the deal giving 16.34% to Reliance and 46.82% to Viacom18, with the deal being expected to close sometime in late 2024 or early 2025 pending regulatory approval.<sup>[53][58][59]</sup>

In March 2024, it was reported that [Paramount Global](#) was looking to sell its 13.01% stake in [Viacom18](#) to Reliance, which already owned a 73.91% share via [TV18](#).<sup>[60]</sup> Although [Bloomberg News](#) reported that the deal was unlikely to close, the deal was confirmed a week later for \$517 million, its closure subject to regulatory approval and the completion of the joint venture between Viacom18 and Disney. Paramount would, however, continue to license its content to the company.<sup>[61]</sup>

In August 2024, the [National Company Law Tribunal](#) approved a deal between Disney and Reliance Industries where JioCinema and Viacom18 would be merged into Digital18.<sup>[62]</sup> In November 2024, Disney and Reliance Industries agreed to merge Star India and Viacom18. The deal was reported to be valued at \$8.5 billion.<sup>[63]</sup>

## Owned channels



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## India

### On-air channels

Channel	Launched	Language	Category	SD/HD	Notes
StarPlus	1992	Hindi	General Entertainment	SD+HD	
Star Bharat	2017				Formerly <i>Star One</i> and <i>Life OK</i>
Star Utsav	2004			SD	
Star Utsav Movies	2016				
Star Gold	2000		Movies	SD+HD	
Star Gold 2	2020				Formerly <i>Movies OK</i> and UTV HD
Star Gold Select	2017				
Star Gold Romance	2023			SD	Formerly <i>UTV Movies</i>
Star Gold Thrills					Formerly <i>UTV Action</i>
Star Sports 1 Hindi	2017		Sports	SD+HD	Formerly <i>Star Cricket</i>



Star Sports 2 Hindi	2025				Replaced <i>Sports18 1</i>
Star Sports Khel				SD	Replaced <i>Sports18 Khel</i>
Disney International HD	2017	English	General Entertainment	HD	
Star Movies	1991		Movies	SD+HD	
Star Movies Select	2015				
Star Sports 1	1996		Sports		
Star Sports 2	2013				
Star Sports 3	2018			SD	Replaced <i>Channel V</i>
Star Sports Select 1	2016			SD+HD	
Star Sports Select 2					
Star 4K	2024			4K	
Hungama TV	2004	Hindi, Tamil, Telugu	Kids	SD	
Disney Channel		English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu		SD+HD	
Disney Junior	2012			SD	Formerly <i>Toon Disney</i> , <i>Disney XD</i> . and <i>Marvel HQ</i>
Super Hungama	2022				
National Geographic	1998	English, Hindi, Tamil, Bengali	Infotainment	SD+HD	
National Geographic Wild	2009				
Star Jalsha	2008	Bengali	General Entertainment		
Star Jalsha Movies	2012		Movies		
Star Pravah	2008	Marathi	General Entertainment		
Star Pravah Picture	2022		Movies		

Star Vijay	1994	Tamil	General Entertainment		
Star Vijay Super	2016		Movies		SD
Star Vijay Takkar	2022				
Star Sports 1 Tamil	2017		Sports	SD+HD	
Star Sports 2 Tamil	2025				Replaced <i>Sports18 3</i>
Star Maa	2002	Telugu	General Entertainment		SD+HD
Star Maa Movies	2011		Movies		
Star Maa Gold	2012		Music	SD	
Star Maa Music	2008				
Star Sports 1 Telugu	2018		Sports	SD+HD	
Star Sports 2 Telugu	2025				Replaced <i>Sports18 2</i>
Star Suvarna	2007	Kannada	General Entertainment		SD
Star Suvarna Plus	2013		Movies		
Star Sports 1 Kannada	2018		Sports		
Star Sports 2 Kannada	2025			Replaced <i>Star Sports First</i>	
Star Kiran	2022	Odia	General Entertainment	SD+HD	
Asianet	1993	Malayalam			SD
Asianet Plus	2005				
Asianet Movies	2012			Movies	SD+HD

### Upcoming channels

Channel	Language	SD/HD	Launch	Notes
Star Gold Comedy	Hindi	SD	TBA	
Star Jalsha Josh	Bengali			

### Defunct channels

Channel	Launched	Defunct	Language	Category	SD/HD	Notes
Star One	2004	2011	Hindi	General Entertainment	SD	Replaced by <i>Life OK</i>
Life OK	2011	2017			SD+HD	Replaced by <i>Star Bharat</i>
Movies OK	2012	2020		Movies	SD	Replaced by <i>Star Gold 2</i>
UTV Movies	2008	2023				Replaced by <i>Star Gold Romance</i>
UTV Action	2010					Replaced by <i>Star Gold Thrills</i>
UTV HD	2018				HD	Rebranded as <i>Star Gold 2 HD</i>
Channel V	1994	2018		Music	SD	Replaced by <i>Star Sports 3</i>
Bindass	2007	2025				
Star News	1998	2012		News		Sold & rebranded as <i>ABP News</i>
Star World	1991	2023	English	General Entertainment	SD+HD	HD: discontinued SD: Replaced by <i>Star Sports 1 Tamil HD</i> <sup>[64]</sup>
FX	2010	2017				HD: <i>Star Sports First</i> <sup>[64]</sup> SD: <i>Star Sports Select 2 SD</i> <sup>[64]</sup>
Fox Crime	2010	2015			SD	Replaced by <i>Star Movies Select HD</i> <sup>[64]</sup>
Star World Premiere	2011	2023			HD	Replaced by <i>Star Movies Select SD</i> <sup>[64]</sup>
Star Movies Action	2013	2017		Movies	SD	Formerly <i>Fox Action Movies</i> replaced by <i>Star Gold Select SD</i> <sup>[64]</sup>



BabyTV	2009	2023		Kids	SD+HD	
Star Cricket	2007	2013		Sports		Replaced by <i>Star Sports 3</i> , <i>Star Sports 1 Hindi</i>
Nat Geo Music	2007	2019	Hindi English	Music	SD+HD	Replaced by <i>Nat Geo Telugu</i>
Star CJ Alive	2009	2015		Shopping	SD	Replaced by <i>Shop CJ</i>
Star Life	2024	2025	English Hindi	Lifestyle	SD+HD	Formerly <i>Fox Life</i>
Fox Life	2014	2024	English Hindi Bengali Tamil	Infotainment		Replaced by <i>Star Life</i>
Disney XD	2009	2019	English Hindi Tamil Telugu	Kids	SD	Rebranded as <i>Marvel HQ</i>
Marvel HQ	2019	2022				Rebranded as <i>Super Hungama</i>
Star Sports 1 Bangla	2019	2023	Bengali	Sports		Discontinued
Star Ananda	2005	2012		News		Sold & rebranded as <i>ABP Ananda</i>
Star Sports 1 Marathi	2019	2023	Marathi	Sports		Discontinued
Star Majha	2007	2012		News		Sold & rebranded as <i>ABP Majha</i>
Star Vijay Music	2020	2022	Tamil	Music		Replaced by <i>Star Vijay Takkar</i>
Nat Geo Tamil	2019	2020		Infotainment		
Nat Geo Telugu			Telugu			

## International

Channel	Launched	Language	Category	SD/HD	Notes
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Utsav Plus	2021	Hindi	General Entertainment	SD+HD	UK and EU only
Utsav Bharat			Movies		
Utsav Gold			General Entertainment	English	HD
Star Select	2023	SD+HD			Africa only
Star Life	2018	SD		Middle East and South-East Asia only	
Vijay TV	2021			Tamil	Middle East only
Asianet Middle East	2010			Malayalam	

## Viacom18 Channels

### On-air channels

Channel	Launched	Language	Category	SD/HD	Notes
Colors TV	2008	Hindi	General Entertainment	SD+HD	
Colors Rishtey	2014			SD	Previously Rishtey
MTV	1996		Youth	SD+HD	Formerly <i>MTV HD+</i>
Colors Cineplex	2016		Movies		Formerly <i>Rishtey Cineplex (original)</i>
Colors Cineplex Bollywood	2021			SD	
Colors Cineplex Superhits	2022				Previously <i>Rishtey Cineplex (relaunch)</i>
Colors Infinity	2015	English	General Entertainment	SD+HD	
Nickelodeon	1999	Hindi Tamil Telugu Malayalam	Kids	SD	
Nickelodeon Sonic	2011	Bengali Marathi Gujarati Kannada			
Nick Jr.	2012	Hindi			
Nickelodeon HD+	2015	English		HD	

History TV18	2011	Hindi English Tamil Telugu Marathi	Information	SD+HD	Joint Venture with <a href="#">A&amp;E Networks</a>
Colors Bangla	2000	Bengali	General Entertainment		Previously known as <i>ETV Bangla</i>
Colors Bangla Cinema	2019		Movies	SD	
Colors Gujarati	2002	Gujarati	General Entertainment		Previously known as <i>ETV Gujarati</i>
Colors Gujarati Cinema	2019		Movies		
Colors Marathi	2000	Marathi	General Entertainment	SD+HD	Previously known as <i>ETV Marathi</i>
Colors Tamil	2018	Tamil			
Colors Kannada	2000	Kannada			
Colors Super	2016			SD	
Colors Kannada Cinema	2018		Movies		

Defunct channels

Channel	Launched	Defunct	Language	Category	SD/HD	Notes
FYI TV18	2016	2020	Hindi English	Lifestyle	SD+HD	
MTV Beats		2025	Hindi	Music		Formerly <i>MTV Indies</i>
Sports18 Khel	2022			Sports	SD	Replaced by <i>Star Sports Khel</i>
Colors Odia	2002		Odia	General Entertainment		Previously known as <i>ETV Odia</i>
VH1	2005		English	Music	SD+HD	

Comedy Central	2012			General Entertainment		
Sports18 1	2022					Replaced by <i>Star Sports 2 Hindi</i>
Sports18 2						Replaced by <i>Star Sports 2 Telugu</i>
Sports18 3	2023			Sports	SD	Replaced by <i>Star Sports 2 Tamil</i>

## See also

- Paramount International Networks
- Paramount Networks EMEA
- Viacom18
- Network18 Group

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## External links

- Official website

<span>V</span> · <span>T</span> · <span>E</span>	<div>Disney Star</div> <div><span>[show]</span></div>
<span>V</span> · <span>T</span> · <span>E</span>	<div>Disney+ Hotstar</div> <div><span>[hide]</span></div>
<div>Programming</div>	<div>Original programming (Disney+) · Original films (Disney+)</div>
<div>Content hubs</div>	<div>Disney · Pixar · Marvel · Star Wars · National Geographic · Star</div>
<div>Sister services</div>	<div>Disney+ · ESPN+ · Hulu · Star+</div>
<div>See also</div>	<div>Disney Star · JioCinema · Disney Media and Entertainment Distribution · Walt Disney Direct-to-Consumer &amp; International · The Walt Disney Company</div>
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