



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉCONOMIE,
DES FINANCES
ET DE LA RELANCE**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Direction générale du Trésor



REVUE DE PRESSE SECTORIELLE

NUMÉRIQUE

UNE PUBLICATION DU SERVICE ÉCONOMIQUE REGIONAL

DE NEW DELHI

N° 3 – 20 Mars- 20 Avril 2021

G En bref

NUMÉRIQUE:

- Alors que la Cour suprême indienne ne s'est pas encore prononcée sur la plainte d'Amazon contre l'accord de vente Reliance-Future Group, Amazon s'attaque à Reliance au niveau local.
- L'autorité indienne de régulation de la concurrence, la CCI, lance une enquête sur la modification de la politique de confidentialité de Whatsapp.
- L'agence publique C-DAC annonce la création d'un nouveau centre dédié à la cybersécurité à Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) et deux solutions pour le développement de logiciels de supercalcul.
- Le National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), a annoncé trois nouvelles initiatives pour développer l'utilisation de l'IPv6.

TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS:

- En prévision des enchères 5G, les 3 compagnies de télécommunications indiennes demandent au Département des télécommunications (DoT) de réduire le prix de réserve de la bande 700 MHz.
- Le gouvernement indien a lancé le 15 avril un portail en ligne en version bêta pour l'acquisition de matériel de télécommunications auprès de sources "de confiance", accessible uniquement à quelques entreprises de télécommunications et fabricants.

Revue de presse

1. Numérique

From grocers to tailors, Amazon is fighting door to door to beat Mukesh Ambani's Reliance

The Print, 22/03/2021

If it wasn't for last year's extraordinary events, there would be nothing even remotely remarkable about Jayshri Hodkar's struggle to survive as a single mother of two on the earnings of her tailoring shop, a single machine in one room of a rented house.

It's one of those tens of millions of tiny businesses you see everywhere in India. Most are so nondescript it's hard to imagine that together they supply the wheels on which the \$2.7 trillion economy runs. Their value only became clear when the wheels came off.

This week last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a sudden, complete lockdown. And that's when the Mahi tailoring center in Indore, a historic city of 3 million in central India, became important to one of the world's richest men — 7,000 miles away in Seattle. With no customers coming to get blouses stitched, Hodkar came to a conclusion: Her shop couldn't battle the pandemic on her own. To pay the rent and school fees, she had to hitch a ride with Jeff Bezos's Amazon.com Inc.

The world's largest retailer is permeating the complex tapestry of the only billion-people-plus market open to it. And it's doing so by tweaking its business models to suit local preferences, practices, quirks — and Covid-19 disruptions. The "I Have Space" partnership Hodkar has signed up for allows entrepreneurs to collect Amazon packages for their area, safekeep them, and go door to door when they know there'll be someone home to receive the orders. Drop-offs at the doorstep or in the mailbox may be common in the U.S., but they aren't a workable option in India. Rather than waste money on failed deliveries, it helps Amazon to have a local as its ally. Hodkar tells me she's making as much as she did before the pandemic for a few hours the 30-year-old spends on the road on her Honda Activa two-wheeler.

The U.S. e-commerce firm is approaching zero hour in India. The Supreme Court in New Delhi will soon decide on its bid to scuttle the \$3.4 billion sale of debt-laden retailer Future Group's assets to archrival Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd. India's richest man already owns 12,000 stores. Winning control of Future's outlets might leave him with an unshakeable dominance. Footfall for Reliance Retail was still at 75% of pre-Covid levels last quarter. But by using 1 million small merchants as partners — and turning some of his own stores into fulfillment centers — Ambani, too, is mixing up online and offline to go hyper-local. With one big advantage over Bezos: his 410 million telecom customers.

In a recent survey, consulting firm Technopak predicts that the retail market would grow by \$700 billion by 2030, with most of the expansion and half of new jobs coming from a fusing of digital and physical commerce. India's 0.2% share in global online orders would rise to 8.9%. Apart from Bezos and Ambani, Walmart Inc.-owned Flipkart, and the Mumbai-based conglomerate Tata Group, which recently acquired an online grocer backed by Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., will be the main contenders for the prize.

India's promise lies in growth, for which Amazon is prepared to go as local as it must. The peril lies in excessive control. Rules for foreign investment in online retail may get yet more restrictive. New directives are reported to be in the works to discourage sellers on Amazon and Walmart-Flipkart from buying goods from the wholesale units of the U.S. firms. Separately, in what seems to have become an annual ritual, the third draft of a national e-commerce policy is doing the rounds. The document asks platforms to "ensure equal treatment of all sellers" and not adopt "algorithms which result in prioritizing select vendors."

The importance of an open, well-contested marketplace can't be disputed. But it would be unfair to force e-commerce operators to give all sellers the same treatment, regardless of "size, scale, quality and what they bring to the table," as Krishnan Ganesh, an early backer of Big Basket, the online grocery recently bought by the Tata Group, told BloombergQuint.

Besides, a foreigner versus local lens may not be appropriate to judge monopolistic behavior. India's antitrust regulator wants to investigate both Amazon and Flipkart-Walmart. But pure e-commerce is a sliver of the \$1 trillion retail market. In the emerging online-plus-offline landscape of Retail 4.0, local competitors won't exactly be minnows. Plus, they'll be free of the policy fetters that keep global players in check.

The ideal policy would encourage smaller physical retailers to digitize, giving them a chance to adapt. Not every corner shop needs its own website. But they can all benefit from accessing credit and tapping more brands directly, something that 1.7 million retailers in 900 Indian cities are already doing on an indigenous app called Udaan, built by a five-year-old company that's among the country's fastest-growing unicorns, as startups valued over \$1 billion are commonly known.

The rivalry between Bezos and Ambani won't end with a verdict in the Future Group case, where the founder took money from Amazon but decided to sell out to Reliance. (Future Retail Ltd. shares fell by their 10% limit on Friday after the Delhi High Court said that a Singapore arbitration tribunal's interim order to stay the deal was enforceable in India.) The next frontier will be payments, where the two have forged competing groups to bid for the right to operate nationwide digital networks. These will run parallel to the current not-for-profit interface that handled \$59 billion in transactions in January, double from a year earlier. Once again, explosive growth will make for a keen contest. Visa Inc. is partnering Amazon. Reliance has teamed up with Facebook Inc. and Google's parent Alphabet Inc., which are also backing its Jio telecom venture. The Tata Group has gone in with Mastercard Inc.

That license (it could be one or two) would tell a great deal about which of the hopefuls for India's retail crown would be able to penetrate deeper — not just into consumer wallets, but the lives and livelihoods of the smallest of grocers, tailors, and provision stores in the remotest corner of India. That's where the winning edge lies.

Trade regulator terms WhatsApp's conduct on privacy policy 'exploitative & exclusionary'

Press Trust of India, 24/03/2021

New Delhi: Fair trade regulator CCI on Wednesday directed its investigation arm to conduct a probe into WhatsApp's updated privacy policy and terms of service on prima facie finding that the firm has contravened competition law provisions through its "exploitative and exclusionary conduct" in the garb of the policy update.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) directed its investigation arm, the director general (DG), to complete the investigation and submit a report within 60 days.

The order against WhatsApp LLC and parent Facebook Inc came after the Commission took suo moto cognisance of the matter on considering media reports and the potential impact of the policy and terms for WhatsApp users and the market.

The fair trade regulator noted that WhatsApp has updated its privacy policy and terms of service for users.

It also noted that users will have to mandatorily accept the new terms and policy in their entirety, including the terms with respect to sharing of their data across all the information categories with other Facebook companies.

"The Commission is of prima facie opinion that the 'take-it-or-leave-it' nature of privacy policy and terms of service of WhatsApp and the information sharing stipulations mentioned therein, merit a detailed investigation in view of the market position and market power enjoyed by WhatsApp," it said.

As per WhatsApp's submissions, the 2021 update does not expand its ability to share data with Facebook and the update intends to provide users with further transparency about how WhatsApp collects, uses and shares data. However, CCI said the veracity of such claims would also be examined during the investigation by the DG.

The Commission further said that users, as owners of their personalised data, are entitled to be informed about the extent, scope and precise purpose of sharing of such

information by WhatsApp with other Facebook companies.

“However, it appears from the Privacy Policy as well as Terms of Service (including the FAQs published by WhatsApp), that many of the information categories described therein are too broad, vague and unintelligible,” it said.

Such opacity, vagueness, open-endedness and incomplete disclosures hide the actual data cost that a user incurs for availing WhatsApp services, it added.

Besides, the regulator said it is also not clear from the policy whether the historical data of users would also be shared with Facebook companies and whether data would be shared in respect of those WhatsApp users who are not present on other apps of Facebook.

There appears to be no justifiable reason as to why users should not have any control or say over such cross-product processing of their data by way of voluntary consent, and not as a precondition for availing WhatsApp’s services, it said.

Users have not been provided with appropriate granular choice, neither upfront nor in the fine print, to object to or opt-out of specific data sharing terms, which prima facie appear to be unfair and unreasonable for WhatsApp users. On a careful and thoughtful consideration of the matter, the conduct of WhatsApp in sharing of users’ personalised data with other Facebook companies, in a manner that is neither fully transparent nor based on voluntary and specific user consent, appears prima facie “unfair to users”, CCI said.

“The Commission is of the considered opinion that WhatsApp has prima facie contravened the provisions of Section 4 of the Act through its exploitative and exclusionary conduct, as detailed in this order, in the garb of policy update,” the regulator added, while directing the DG to conduct a detailed investigation into the matter.

C-DAC announces new cyber security centre, software solutions to aid development for supercomputing

Livemint, 13/04/2021

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), today, announced three new technology solutions that are meant to tackle cybersecurity and supercomputing needs in India. The three technologies include a new cyber security facility that will be offered as a service to other organizations, and two software solutions that will help developers adapt code for newer hardware. The announcements were made as part of C-DAC’s 34th foundation day today.

The cyber security centre — Cyber Security Operation Centre (CSoC) — is a 6000 square feet centre in Thiruvananthapuram, that the government claims will offer “end-to-end security solutions” and managed security services. It will include a centralized security monitoring system that will aim to respond to all cybersecurity incidents and provide advanced threat detection for organizations that use its services.

The other two solutions are meant to simplify software development for High Performance Computing (HPC) in the country. This includes the Parallel Development Environment (ParaDE) and the Automatic Parallelizing Compiler (CAPC), which make it easier to write programs for supercomputing.

ParaDE is an Integrated Development Environment (IDE), which helps create parallel applications for supercomputing. Parallel applications are meant specifically for supercomputing systems, which are composed of several computer processors that can function at the same time. These applications are written so that they can perform the same calculations but with different data sets, on different processors.

CPAC, on the other hand, is a way to convert applications with sequential programming code (written in the C programming language) into parallel programming applications. This effectively enhances the effectiveness of such software and is likely meant for the development of system and assembly level programs.

Lastly, C-DAC also earmarked funds for the development of an app-based system called Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System (MANAS), which will be a “comprehensive, scalable” national wellbeing platform to “augment mental wellbeing” of Indian citizens. The

government says the platform is meant to “reach the unreached” through digital initiatives, though it’s unclear right now, as to what kind of services this solution will provide.

NIXI announces 3 new initiatives to make India’s Internet future ready

Livemint, 15/04/2021

The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), today, announced three new initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the IPv6 protocol in India. IPv6 is the most recent version of the Internet Protocol communications system, which provides identification and location information for devices and networks connecting to the Internet. The protocol is considered especially important with the impending move to 5G, which will massively increase the total number of devices connecting to the Internet. The Department of Telecom (DoT) had, in February last year, mandated all government organizations to transition to IPv6 by March 2020.

The NIXI’s new initiatives include an expert panel (IP Guru) that will “extend support” to Indian organizations looking to make the move to IPv6 systems. It will also help in identifying and hiring agencies that provide the technical support required for these transitions. The panel consists of members from the Department of Telecom (DoT), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the industry. It will be offering its services free of cost.

NIXI is also creating an education platform for IPv6, called NIXI Academy. This will include an IPv6 training portal to provide mass training about the technology. The beginner training materials offered initially will be available for free, but advanced courses may be offered in future, which will be chargeable.

Thirdly, a NISI IP-Index was introduced, which will showcase the adoption rate for IPv6 in India and compare it against other economies in the world. India is already number one in IPv6 adoption worldwide, according to a September 2020 report from global cloud services provider Akamai. The new portal will include details about IPv6 adoption, traffic and more in the next few weeks.

Organizations and governments around the world have wanted to retire the old IPv4 protocol for many years now. The old protocol, which was based on a 32-bit system, could only accommodate 4.3 billion devices, which isn’t enough for the burgeoning number of devices that connect to the Internet today. IPv6 is more secure, efficient and mobile friendly, making it the right system to use for the 5G future. “The idea is that IPv6 addresses will be adopted as the identifiers for both external and internal devices in organizations,” said tech policy analyst Prasanto K. Roy.

Further, IPv6 is also expected to offer better traceability and interaction between networks and devices in future. This is important, given the growth of the Internet of Things (IoT), that’s expected once 5G networks start rolling in. For instance, in connected cars, multiple different parts of the vehicles connect to a network, meaning they may all need their own IP addresses. Essentially, while this system doesn’t impact the Internet speed or bandwidth directly, it is essential to ensure all devices and connect to the Internet and interact with each other.

2. Télécommunications

Telcos may seek review of reserve price for 700Mhz spectrum

ET Telecom, 19/04/2021

Kolkata: India’s Big 3 telcos will shortly write to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to push the sector regulator to reset the reserve price of airwaves in the coveted but pricey 700 Mhz band by bringing it on par with those of other sub-Ghz bands such as 800 Mhz and 900 Mhz for the upcoming 5G spectrum sale.

“Operators will soon write to telecom secretary Anshu Prakash that since the characteristics of all sub-Ghz bands such as 700 Mhz, 800 Mhz and 900 Mhz are the same, their reserve prices should be of the same order,” a senior industry executive told ET.

Telcos, he said, are also likely to seek the inclusion of 600 Mhz spectrum in the list of sub-Ghz bands that may be potentially offered in the next auction. They are likely to underline that without an immediate reset of 700 Mhz

spectrum pricing in line with other sub-Ghz bands, there won't be any takers for these airwaves for a third time.

The telcos are likely to route their letter via the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), which represents Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea.

In the recently concluded airwave auctions, the government mopped up only Rs 77,814 crore, selling 37% of the over 2,300 units of spectrum across seven bands on sale.

The expensive 700 MHz spectrum found no takers in the recently concluded March 2021 auction, and earlier in the October 2016 sale.

The DoT has said that the unsold 700 Mhz spectrum may be offered in the upcoming auction along with those in the 3.3-3.6 Ghz bands earmarked for 5G services. The government, though, is yet to schedule the next sale.

The big telcos are also likely to underline the glaring disparity in the reserve price set by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) for the 5G airwaves in the 3.3-3.6 Ghz bands compared with their market-discovered rates in 5G auctions in other countries.

For instance, they are likely to cite a recent parliamentary panel report on India's 5G preparedness that had noted that Trai's suggested base price of Rs 492 crore per unit for 5G spectrum in the 3.3-3.6 Ghz bands is 70 times higher than the auction discovered price of these airwaves in Austria.

Likewise, they are likely to point out that Trai's recommended minimum rate for these next-gen airwaves is as much as 35, 14, 7 and 3 times higher in absolute terms than the auction discovered rates in Spain, Australia, UK and Italy respectively, another industry executive said.

The operators are also likely to underline that the reserve price of 5G spectrum for the next sale should be reasonable and in line with global trends, regardless of efforts to dissuade non-serious bidders.

At press time, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea did not respond to ET's queries.

Queries to COAI also remained unanswered.

Airtel's leadership has previously maintained that it made no economic case for telcos to bid for exorbitant 700 Mhz spectrum based on its current high base price. It had added that 700 Mhz along with the 3.5 Ghz band had the potential to accelerate India's progress to the top league of digitally enabled nations, which is why the reserve pricing of these bands need to be addressed on a priority basis.

India launches beta online portal for "trusted" telecom gear sources: Report

ET Telecom, 19/04/2021

NEW DELHI: The government has launched an online portal for telecom service providers (TSPs) and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to procure gear from "trusted sources" as identified by India's highest cybersecurity office, Mint reported on Monday citing an official source aware of the development.

The beta portal, though, was expected to launch on April 15. It is currently accessible to only a few TSPs and OEMs, the publication added, without naming the companies.

"We had a target of 15 April to launch the beta version of the portal. We have successfully launched it. It is not open to all stakeholders at present. With this, we will hopefully be able to launch the portal on the scheduled date of 15 June," the official was quoted as saying by the publication.

ET reported on March 31 that the National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCSC) will launch the beta portal on April 15 and will notify the categories of gear for which the security code related to trusted sources is applicable.

The online portal will also enable prospective gear makers to track the progress of approval of their applications.

The Department of Telecom last month asked telecom operators--Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea to designate respective nodal officers to coordinate with the designated authority, NCSC, for the trusted sources directive, and share information on a designated portal regarding the company, the products they intend to connect to their network portal to ensure they fall into the 'trusted sources' category.

In addition to gear makers, India will also scrutinize chipmakers such as Intel Inc., Qualcomm Technologies, MediaTek, among others for inclusion in the list of trusted sources.

La direction générale du Trésor est présente dans plus de 100 pays à travers ses Services économiques.
Pour en savoir plus sur ses missions et ses implantations : www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/tresor-international



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉCONOMIE,
DES FINANCES
ET DE LA RELANCE**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Responsable de la publication :

Rédacteurs :

Pour s'abonner :

Crédits photo :

Service économique de New Delhi

Feli VISCO

[Contacter le SER de New Delhi](#)

©DG Trésor