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REVUE DE PRESSE SECTORIELLE NUMÉRIQUE

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G En bref

NUMÉRIQUE :

- L'**entreprise** Future Retail déclare une perte de 593 MUSD sur la dernière année alors que le conflit avec Amazon se poursuit.
- Plusieurs associations professionnelles s'inquiètent des mesures contenues dans le projet de loi sur la protection des données et de l'absence de débat public.
- Reliance Industries va investir 221 MUSD pour créer une co-entreprise en Inde avec l'**entreprise** américaine d'électronique Sanmina.
- La Commission indienne de la concurrence approuve l'acquisition par Amazon de Prione, le plus grand vendeur sur sa plateforme.
- Samsung Electronics investit 208 MUSD dans la construction d'une nouvelle usine de compresseurs pour réfrigérateurs au Tamil Nadu.

TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS:

- Le DoT lance le processus d'enregistrement des entreprises souhaitant fournir des services et de la connectivité M2M.
- Bharti est en discussion avec Arianespace pour le lancement des satellites de OneWeb **suite à l'arrêt** des lancements depuis la Russie en raison du conflit en Ukraine.

Revue de presse

1. NUMÉRIQUE

Future Retail, Amazon's estranged partner in India, scales down operations

TechCrunch, 28/02/2022

Future Retail, India's second largest retail chain, is scaling down its operations to reduce losses, it said, the latest casualty in its years-long battle with estranged partner Amazon.

The firm, led by Kishore Biyani, said in filings to the stock exchanges that it has been finding it **"difficult to finance the working capital needs,"** and its losses at store level are **"increasing" and of "grave concern."**

Future Retail has lost about \$593 million in the last four quarters, it said in the filings.

The admission follows a local media report that said Reliance Industries — which entered into a now-hotly contested \$3.4 billion deal to acquire several operations of Future Retail — was taking **over about 200 of Future's 1,700 stores and** absorbing as many as 30,000 workers of the smaller retail giant after brokering deals with landlords.

Reliance will rebrand those outlets as its own, Business Standard reported. Reliance Industries had no comment.

Reliance Retail operates the largest retail chain in India. Shortly after it announced that it will **acquire Future Group's retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing businesses,** things started to get complicated.

Amazon, which had invested in one of Future **Group's units three years ago, accused Future Retail** of violating its contract and approached

the Singapore arbitrator to halt the deal between the Indian firms.

At the time of the partnership with Amazon, a Future Group spokesperson said the American **giant's investment "provides an opportunity for us to learn global trends in digital-payments solutions and launch new products."**

Amazon's deal with Future Retail had given the American e-commerce giant the first right to refusal on purchase of more stakes in Future Retail, Amazon has argued.

The Indian firms, in return, said in 2020 that the **Singapore's court order wasn't valid in the South Asian market. India's watchdog Competition Commission** also approved the deal between the Indian firms.

In August last year, India's Supreme Court ruled in favor of Amazon to stall the sale of Future Retail.

"The ongoing litigation initiated by Amazon in October 2020, and which is continuing for the last one and a half years, has created serious impediments in the implementation of the Scheme, resulting in severe adverse impact on the working of the company," Future Retail told (PDF) the stock exchange.

Amazon identifies India as a key overseas market. The firm, which has invested over \$6.5 billion in its India operations, has also bought stakes in More chain of supermarkets and hypermarkets and department-store chain Shoppers Stop in the country.

Global IT bodies express concern over data protection Bill

ET Tech, 02/03/2022

Chennai: Global technology groupings have **come together to express their "strong concern"** over the recommendations of a Joint Committee of Parliament on the data protection Bill.

The recommendations “run counter to global standards” for data protection and competition, the associations – whose members include Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Google and Dell – said in a letter to Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday.

ET has reviewed the contents of the letter.

The absence of a formalized and robust public debate on these new provisions deviates from good regulatory practices, they added.

“Many of our joint member companies in India and from across the globe will be significantly impacted by the report,” they said.

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“Many of our joint member companies in India and from across the globe will be significantly impacted by the report,” they said.

“Our companies rely on this data to reach consumers, drive business efficiencies, and continue to innovate,” they said in the letter. “The Report includes new recommendations and novel concepts to the PDP Bill, which, if enacted, would create powerful disincentives for India’s innovation ecosystem and the promise of a trillion-dollar digital economy.”

Key recommendations of concern in this regard are the inclusion of non-personal data, restrictions on cross-border data transfers, data localization obligations and mandatory hardware/IOT and AI software certifications, it added.

The recommendation to establish a domestic alternative to the international SWIFT banking system is also “unprecedented” which would have a significant detrimental impact on India’s financial sector and digital payments ecosystem.

“When these and other recommendations in this report are considered as a whole, their result, if enacted, would lead to a significant deterioration in India’s business environment, degrading the Ease of Doing business in and with India, and negatively impacting India’s domestic start-up ecosystem and global competitiveness. The ability of companies to participate in the Indian market would be dramatically impacted, thereby reducing foreign direct investment in India,” it said.

The other signatories to the letter include American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA), Asia Internet Coalition (AIC), Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA), Software Information Industry Association (SIIA), TechUK and Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA).

Reliance to invest \$221 million for electronics manufacturing with Sanmina in India

TechCrunch, 03/03/2022

Reliance Industries plans to invest up to \$221 million in U.S. electronics firm Sanmina to set up a joint venture as the Indian giant looks to expand its electronics manufacturing.

The joint venture aims to create a “world-class” electronic manufacturing hub in India, the two said. It will prioritize high technology infrastructure hardware for growth markets and across industries such as communications networking (5G, cloud infrastructure, hyperscale datacenters), medical and healthcare systems, industrial and cleantech, and defense and aerospace.

All the manufacturing 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, they said.

The joint venture will also create a **"Manufacturing Technology Center of Excellence"** to support the product development and hardware startup ecosystem in India, among other things.

Reliance Strategic Business Ventures, a wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries, will own 50.1% of the **joint venture, India's largest** company said in a filing with the stock exchange. The U.S. firm partnered with EV maker Ather Energy in 2018 to develop and manufacture key components for scooters.

"We are delighted to work with Sanmina to access the significant market opportunity for high-tech manufacturing in India," Akash Ambani, director of Reliance Jio, said in a statement.

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

Thursday's move is the latest from an Indian giant to expand its electronics manufacturing in the country as Narendra Modi's government makes a broad effort to boost domestic production. Vedanta Group last month inked a partnership with Taiwan's Foxconn to make semiconductors in the country.

India's government is offering almost \$7 billion of incentives to boost the electronics manufacturing sector.

India's antitrust watchdog approves Amazon acquiring Cloudtail- parent firm Prione

TechCrunch, 09/03/2022

The Indian antitrust watchdog on Wednesday **approved Amazon's proposed acquisition of estranged partner Catamaran Ventures' stake in Prione**, which operates one of the largest sellers on the e-commerce platform, providing the American giant with the pathway to continue to operate Cloudtail in the **world's second largest internet market.**

Amazon proposed the acquisition late last year, months after the American giant and billionaire **N.R. Narayana Murthy's Catamaran said they will be discontinuing their six-year joint venture, which operates Cloudtail.**

Cloudtail is one of the largest sellers on Amazon in India. Amazon earlier held a 49% stake in Prione, but diluted it down to 24% to comply with a local law that prohibits e-commerce firms from having a direct or indirect ownership in businesses that sell on their marketplaces.

And that's what makes the approval of Catamaran's stake sale remarkable. If Cloudtail is now fully owned by Amazon and is permitted to be operational in India, how does it not violate the local law?

Interestingly, the Competition Commission of India itself in 2020 began a probe to evaluate whether the firms were promoting select sellers (those in which they own a stake) on their e-commerce platforms and using business practices that stifle competition.

An Amazon spokesperson in India did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Samsung Electronics invests Rs 1,588 crore to set up new compressor plant for refrigerators in TN

ETTech, 15/03/2022

Chennai: Samsung Electronics on Tuesday said it has made an investment of Rs 1,588 crore in India to set up a new compressor manufacturing

facility which will be spread over 22 acres in Sriperumbudur on the outskirts of Chennai and will have a capacity to produce 8 million compressor units a year and will be expanded in the future.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin asked Samsung Electronics to set up a semiconductor manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu while addressing the media as the consumer electronics and smartphones brand signed an MoU with the government to set up the new compressor manufacturing facility.

Compressors produced at the plant will be used in refrigerators that Samsung manufactures in India and also be exported, the top leadership of the company said while adding that the plant would provide employment to around 600 people in the State.

"I call upon Samsung to diversify and increase their manufacturing capacity in the State," the Chief Minister said. "This investment will also create new job opportunities and increase the **State's economy and manufacturing capacity.**"

He said he was happy that the company's investment in this year has increased to Rs 1,800 crore.

Ken Kang, president and CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia, said the new investment of Rs **1,588 crore was a testimony to the company's** commitment to the people of Tamil Nadu who had been their long-standing partners since 2007.

"This new compressor manufacturing facility will help us cater to the growing demand for **Samsung's innovative digital appliances across** the country and also drive **exports,"** he said.

The company signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Tamil Nadu for the new plant. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin as well as the Minister for Industries, Thangam Thennarasu and the Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, S

Krishnan, Tamil Nadu Industrial Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau Managing Director, Pooja Kulkarni, State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Managing Director, T Anand and well as Samsung Chennai Factory Managing Director, ByongJin Kong were present at the MoU signing ceremony held in Chennai.

2. Télécommunications

DoT commences registration for M2M service, connectivity providers

ET Telecom, 09/03/2022

NEW DELHI: The Department of Telecommunications Tuesday commenced the registration for machine to machine (M2M) service and connectivity providers on the SaralSanchar portal, according to an official note. The Department of Telecom has mandated all M2M companies to register for providing service.

"To obtain registration/licence, as may be applicable, the entities may visit the SaralSanchar portal. The guidelines, user manual and FAQs are available on the portal," the official memorandum said.

DoT had recently issued guidelines for UL/UL VNO (M2M) licenses and registration of M2MSP service providers and WPAN/WLAN connectivity providers.

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The guidelines envisage that entities that are offering or providing M2M services based on SIM/LAN (local area network) shall register as M2MSP, while entities that use WPAN/WLAN technologies for providing M2M connectivity, operating in unlicensed spectrum, shall register as WPAN/WLAN connectivity providers.

On the other hand, the licensees shall be the entities who own the underlying network to provide connectivity and related services for M2M service providers. The licensee can also provide M2M services exclusively through LPWAN or equivalent technologies using unlicensed/licensed spectrum.

The memorandum said that the government has identified that M2M and the internet of things is one of the "fastest growing emerging technologies" across the globe, providing enormous beneficial opportunities for society, industry and consumers. It said that the M2M and IoT are being used to create smart infrastructure in various verticals, such as power, automotive, safety and surveillance, remote health management, agriculture, smart homes, smart cities etc.

"This registration shall help in addressing concerns like connectivity with telecom service providers, KYC, traceability and encryption for service providers," the official memorandum said.

In talks with Arianespace on how to complete contracted launches: OneWeb

PTI, 10/03/2022

Bharti-backed OneWeb has said it is in discussion with Arianespace on how its contracted launches will be completed, days after the satellite communications firm decided to suspend all launches from Russia-operated Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. OneWeb- where Bharti Group is the largest shareholder- has further cited ISRO's considerable launch experience along with a Letter of Intent inked in October 2021, and said it will be looking at all available options to bring OneWeb connectivity across the globe.

OneWeb, the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications company, is owned in part by the UK government.

In response to an email query by PTI on how the suspension of all launches from Baikonur will impact the company's overall plans, OneWeb in a statement said: "We are in discussion with Arianespace (France-headquartered satellite-launch company) concerning how they will complete our contracted launches".

"Clearly, ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) has considerable launch experience and we have signed a Letter of Intent with them on October 2021. We will be looking at all available options to bring OneWeb connectivity across the globe," it added.

Amid the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict, the board of OneWeb on March 3 voted to suspend all launches from Baikonur after Moscow's space agency Roscosmos asked for guarantees that the satellites and the technology would not be used for military purposes.

It also demanded that the UK should sell its partial holding in OneWeb, a ultimatum that was flatly rejected by the British government.

As per reports, the Soyuz carrier rocket intended to orbit 36 OneWeb satellites was subsequently removed from the launch pad of the Baikonur spaceport that is run by Russian Aerospace Forces and Russia's space agency Roscosmos.

Last month, OneWeb had announced the successful deployment of 34 satellites by Arianespace from the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou, French Guiana, taking its total in-orbit to 428 satellites.

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