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TRANSMISSION MONTHLY

1. WORLDWIDE SMARTPHONE USERS WILL DOWNLOAD ABOUT 36 BILLION APPS IN 2012

According to a recent forecast by ABI Research, worldwide smartphone subscribers will download about 36 billion apps in 2012. This would mean an average smart phone user would download around 37 native apps in 2012, which is a 6% global increase against the 35 apps downloaded per smartphone subscriber on average in 2011.

2. GOOGLE'S FIBER DREAM COULD BE CSP NIGHTMARE

It seems Google is now able to deliver one gigabit per second to homes in Kansas City, that's 100 times faster than most services today, and at a profit. It appears that Google's 'secret' is that it has found ways to rollout a brand new fiber network at a much lower cost by using common sense and doing developing its own products to roll out with.

3. APPLE WANTS \$2.5B TO SETTLE SAMSUNG CASES

Just to make the handset patent disputes even more abstruse, Apple has admitted it is using a Samsung patent – but claims it is not infringing, because of the way it has implemented the technology. And it claims its rival owes it over \$2.5 billion in damages in the US alone. The argument was made on the second day of a trial in one of the main arenas for the gladiatorial Apple-Samsung battle, Australia.

4. FACEBOOK ADS HAVE A HIGHER CTR ON ANDROID DEVICES AS COMPARED TO IOS AND BLACKBERRY

Following its IPO, Facebook launched Mobile Ads to enable advertisers to serve ads on mobile devices. A recent report by Ad parlor shows that these ads are more successful in comparison to Facebook desktop ads. According to this report, Facebook Ads have a higher CTR (Click-through-rates) on Android Devices as compared to iOS and Blackberry.

5. HTC TO PULL OUT OF SOUTH KOREAN MARKET

HTC has revealed it will progressively withdraw from the South Korean market, after failing to make an impact in a market dominated by domestic brands Samsung, LG and Pantech.

6. FREE WI-FI LAUNCHED IN SHANGHAI

The Shanghai municipal government and China's three mobile operators have jointly launched free Wi-Fi services at 30 public venues across the city's financial center.

7. DECISION ON ETISALAT FOREIGN OWNERSHIP DUE SOON

Etisalat's CEO has told local media that the board will soon decide whether to allow foreign ownership of the UAE operator's shares, prompting a boost to the majority state-owned company's stock price.

8. INTERIM YAHOO CEO LEAVES AFTER MAYER APPOINTMENT

Former Yahoo interim CEO Ross Levinsohn has revealed he is leaving the company. Levinsohn was passed over in favor of new chief Marissa Mayer in the search for a new CEO.

9. GOOD TIMES MAY BE OVER FOR ANDROID

Falling Android smartphone shipments in the US during 2Q12 suggests the good times may be over for Google's platform, and also offers a good marker for trends in other developed markets.

Strategy Analytics states Google's market share in the US fell four percentage points year-on-year to 56% in 2Q12, while Apple gained ten percentage points to hit a 33% market share in the recent quarter. Neil Mawston, executive director at the firm, says the decline could be a sign that Android sales growth is about to plateau.

10. APPLE SAID TO PLAN IPHONE 5 DEBUT IN SEPT

The internet is abuzz with speculation that the iPhone 5 and the anticipated iPad mini will debut at a September 2012 event.

11. DOT CLEARED TO ACT AGAINST 3G ROAMING PACTS

India's law ministry has declared that the department of telecom (DoT) would be "well within its rights" to initiate action against operators including Bharti Airtel, Idea and Vodafone, which have entered 3G roaming pacts that the government feels are in violation of spectrum licensing terms.

12. TELECOM NZ SHUTTERS CDMA NETWORK

Telecom New Zealand has flicked the switch to shut down its antiquated CDMA network, which will allow it to focus fully on its UMTS/HSPA+ XT network. The CDMA network was shut down at midnight last night, *New Zealand Herald* reported, with voice, SMS and data services disabled. The switch-off had been on the cards for some time – Telecom NZ stopped selling CDMA handsets in late 2009, and had disabled the EVDO part of the network in November 2010. But Telecom NZ has declined to provide details regarding how many of its customers were still using the CDMA network.

13. MOBILE TRAFFIC TO HIT 107 EXABYTES BY 2017

In five years time the global volume of mobile data traffic will be eight times more than what is expected for this year. This total traffic volume from smartphones, tablets and other mobile devices will exceed 107 Exabyte's (107 billion gigabytes) in 2017, says a new forecast from ABI Research.

14. TWITTER SURPASSES HALF-BILLION USER MARK

A recent study by social media monitor SemioCast stated that, the popular micro-blogging site Twitter surpassed the half-billion user mark at the end of June. The United States of America ranks first with 141 million Twitter users, Brazil ranks second with 41 million twitter users while Japan ranks third with 35 million users.

15. IN 2012, CONSUMERS WILL SPEND \$2.1 BILLION ON MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

According to a recent forecast by Cisco Systems by 2016 there would be 10 billion mobile connected devices on earth. As compared to \$114 billion in 2011, in 2012, consumers will spend approximately \$2.1 billion on mobile technology, which includes mobile services, apps and products such as Smartphone, Tablet and more tech devices.

16. MICROSOFT TO SUPPORT LINKEDIN INTEGRATION IN NEXT VERSION OF OFFICE

Recently LinkedIn announced in its blog that Microsoft will support integration with the social network in the upcoming version of Office. The next version of office will not require an additional download to sync with LinkedIn. Once users sign-in with their LinkedIn credentials in Outlook, they see profile information like photos and LinkedIn network activity.

17. AMAZON.COM LAUNCHES SCAN-AND-MATCH DIGITAL MUSIC SERVICE

On Tuesday, Amazon.com launched a scan-and-match digital music service. This new service finds music files on user's computers create matching versions of those songs and store them in the cloud. Once in the cloud, customers can listen to the songs through the Kindle Fire and through Amazon apps on devices including the iPhone, iPod Touch.

18. AROUND 2 CRORE MOBILE INTERNET USERS HAVE SHIFTED 50% OF THEIR NEWSPAPER AND TV TIME TO THEIR MOBILE SCREENS

According to a recent Mobile Internet behavior & usage study conducted by ViziSense, around 2 Crore of the estimated 4.8 crore Mobile Internet users have shifted 50% of their newspaper and TV time to their mobile screens. Around 87% of these users are online on mobile every day and almost half of these users go online through their cellphones every 2-3 hours. Around 60% of these users have been using this medium for over a year already.

19. OTT VOIP WILL COST TELCOS \$479B OVER NEXT EIGHT YEARS

Telco voice revenues have been eroded by competition and market saturation. Ovum has forecast that overall Telco voice revenues (including fixed subscriptions) will decline at a CAGR of 2.4% between 2012 and 2020, falling from \$970.4 billion in 2012 to \$799.6 billion in 2020. The impact of OTT VoIP on fixed voice revenues has already been significant, and it is expected it will only increase in the years leading up to 2020. Mobile operators will feel this impact even more acutely than fixed Telco's. From 2012 to 2020 Ovum expects that OTT VoIP will cost the global telecom industry \$479bn in lost cumulative revenues, which represents 6.9% of cumulative total voice.

20. TELENOR SEEKS UNINOR AUCTION, ANGERS PARTNER

Norway's Telenor has escalated the row with estranged Indian partner Unitech, by seeking to auction the Uninor joint venture and migrate its Indian business to a new company.

21. BAN ON THE IMPORT OF TELECOM EQUIPMENT

An inter-ministerial panel has advocated a complete ban on the import of telecom equipment for vital networks fearing cyber trespassing and has supported the use of domestic equipment for such projects.

22. LTE PROMPTS UP TO 50% JUMP IN DATA USAGE

The proliferation of LTE networks and devices is stimulating a surge in data usage - as much as 50% in some markets - as adoption increases, new research shows. A report from Mobidata and Informa Telecoms and Media shows that adoption of LTE is encouraging smartphone owners to start using LTE networks for some high-volume applications, which they had previously restricted to Wi-Fi. Despite popular assumptions, iPhone users consume more data than Android owners in most developed countries - but Android users consume more cellular data.

23. CHINA LEADING WAY TO IPV6

When the world's top websites and internet service providers (ISPs) joined the first global-scale coordinated 24-hour trial of internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) in June 2011, it demonstrated the readiness of major IT organizations to embrace the new protocol. In June this year, during the World IPv6 Launch Day, the same top IT companies, as well as major ISPs, home networking equipment manufacturers, and governments enabled IPv6 for their products and services. Yet, it is a fact: despite the global push for the connected world to migrate to this next-gen internet addressing protocol, only 2% of internet traffic is currently conducted through it.

24. APPLE SEEKS STRICT SANCTION AGAINST SAMSUNG

Apple is asking the US judge overseeing the company's court battle with Samsung to declare its patents valid and infringed, as a sanction against Samsung publishing evidence which it had been denied from using in its arguments.

25. RIM LAUNCHES LTE PLAYBOOK NEXT WEEK

On Thursday, RIM (Research In Motion) launched a mobile version of its PlayBook tablet in Canada. David Smith, executive vice president for mobile computing, said, "We're excited to bring customers the first BlackBerry PlayBook tablet with support for 4G LTE networks. The new 4G LTE BlackBerry PlayBook offers a broad range of premium features, including a stunning seven-inch display, front and rear facing HD video cameras... it also offers premium performance on high speed cellular networks, helping customers to be more productive than ever and to make the most of their time on the go."

Featuring the latest BlackBerry PlayBook OS 2 software, the new 4G LTE BlackBerry Playbook weighs only 425g and maintains a sleek form (194x130x10). It boasts of a 7" LCD display, 1024x600 screen resolution, a Multi-touch, capacitive touch screen, WSVGA. It has a 1 GHz dual core processor, 1 GB RAM, 3 MP HD forward-facing cameras

and a 5 MP HD rear-facing camera. It also comes with 32GB of storage that users can use for photos, videos, music, documents, and more.

26. TELECOM INDUSTRY RISKS BLACKOUT TOO: COAI

In the wake of India's worst ever power blackout, COAI - the body representing the nation's GSM operators - has urged the government to address telecom regulatory policy lest the industry face the same fate as the power sector.

27. BHARTI TO DEPLOY GREEN POWER FOR TOWERS

BhartiAirtel subsidiary BhartiInfratel has teamed up with vendor OMC Power to deploy micro power plants which will use renewable energy to power the Indian operator's base stations.

28. 2G SPECTRUM: UNION CABINET SETS RS 14,000 CRORE AS MINIMUM PRICE FOR UPCOMING AUCTION

The Union Cabinet on Friday set the minimum price for airwaves in the upcoming auctions at Rs 14,000 crore, attracting sharp criticism from mobile phone companies, which had been demanding an 80% reduction from the 18,000 crore proposed by sector regulator Trai.

This translates into a base price of Rs 2,800 crore for every MHz or unit of airwaves in the 1800 MHz band, which is used by mobile phone companies on the GSM platform. BhartiAirtel, India's largest Telco by customers and revenues warned that higher spectrum costs would lead to increase in tariffs for consumers. Idea Cellular Managing Director Himanshu Kapania said a reserve price of Rs 14,000 crore does not present a viable business case. "Forget Rs 14,000 crore. There is no business case even if the reserve price were set at Rs 1,650 crore (per MHz). Idea is losing Rs 170 crore per quarter in each of the seven circles where our licenses were quashed by the Supreme Court," he said. BhartiAirtel's India and South Asia CEO, Sanjay Kapoor, told ET that 'telcos would be left with no option but to pass on the spectrum costs to customers, leading to higher tariffs'. "This is unreasonably high and will adversely impact the health of the industry, which is already going through a bad patch. It goes against the government's objective of affordable mobile services and undo all the good work telcos have done over the last decade," he said.

Both Kapania and Kapoor did not reveal if their companies would participate in the upcoming auctions.

Telecom Minister KapilSibal said the Cabinet had also approved the recommendations of the panel of ministers on spectrum to keep the reserve price of the 800 MHz band (used by telcos on the CDMA platform) at 1.3 times that of the 1800 MHz band. This implies, the reserve price for CDMA spectrum for companies like Sistema will be Rs 18,200 crore for 5 units.

The Cabinet also decided that mobile phone companies would have to share 3-8% of their annual revenues as spectrum usage charges. Trai had recommended that this levy be fixed at 1% while the telecom department wanted it to be fixed at 3%. The Cabinet's decisions are in line with the recommendations of the panel of ministers on spectrum headed by Finance Minister P Chidambaram.

29. HUAWEI, QUALCOMM COMPLETE LTE VOICE TESTS

Huawei and Qualcomm have completed an LTE voice call to UMTS during a series of optimization tests. The tests used R9 protocol and Qualcomm's latest Snapdragon S4 processor, the MSM8960. The vendors claim that the tests, based on the flash CSFB voice solution for the R9 protocol, resulted in lower call setup latency than that of the R8 protocol, and very close to that of a native UMTS voice call. During the CSFB testing, which also included LTE TDD calls, good call setup times were seen for both UMTS and GSM, the companies claimed. LTE networks already meet the need for higher speed mobile broadband data services and the introduction of R9 CSFB is expected to further enhance users' experiences and enable high quality voice services on their LTE-based smart phones, through CSFB to GSM and UMTS. The joint CSFB testing was part of an ongoing cooperation between Huawei and Qualcomm on interoperability testing and optimization involving GSM/UMTS/LTE TDD/FDD technologies.

30. TATA COMM TARGETS LOW-LATENCY MARKET

Tata Communications (Tata) has launched a low-latency network connecting major financial capitals in Asia (Singapore, Hong Kong, and Tokyo), the UK, and the US.

While it is not the first such network, and does not claim to be the fastest in the market, the scale of the multipoint Ethernet services based on provider backbone bridging (PBB) technology offers an attractive proposition to meet the growing demand for low latency beyond the traditional applications in the financial services industry.

It will also enable Tata to offer a greater range of SLAs for both enterprise and wholesale customers, and ultimately increase the utilization of its core cable systems.

31. ROHDE & SCHWARZ LAUNCHES LTE MIMO TEST

Equipment maker Rohde & Schwarz has launched what it says is the world's first test solution for LTE uplink with MIMO technology, which may aid development of LTE-Advanced phones. The R&S FS-K103PC software already meets one of the requirements of LTE-Advanced, the next incarnation of the 3GPP LTE standard, the company said. In release 10 for LTE-Advanced, the 3GPP has specified that user equipment with MIMO technology will be able to use up to four antennas to transmit data in the uplink to the mobile radio network.

In the downlink, up to eight parallel data streams are provided. MIMO allows the capacity of the LTE network to be expanded even further. Currently, 3GPP LTE only uses MIMO in the downlink with four parallel data streams. Until now, transmission of only one data stream was possible in the uplink. Chipset developers can now use the new software option to directly test whether the LTE uplink MIMO function is correctly implemented in the device under test.

32. NFC COMING TO SINGAPORE THIS MONTH

The consortium involving Singapore's three mobile operators and their payment industry partners will launch the city state's NFC mobile payment service by the end of the month.

33. HTC POSTS THIRD STRAIGHT QUARTERLY PROFIT DROP

Taiwan's HTC has reported a third consecutive quarter of declining profit, with a 58% slump in the second quarter to TW\$7.4 billion (\$247.1 million).

34. MICROSOFT DUMPS METRO NAME FOR WIN 8 UI

A leaked Microsoft memo indicates that the company has decided to drop the Metro name for the tile-based Windows 8 interface due to a potential copyright dispute with an "important partner," believed to be German retail giant Metro AG.

35. INDIA 2G PRICE TO SPARK TARIFF HIKE: COAI

COAI, the industry body for Indian GSM operators, has stated that cabinet's ruling setting a high reserve price for the 2G spectrum reauction at will force operators to raise tariffs by around 0.30 rupees per minute. The reserve price has been set at 140 billion rupees (\$2.51 billion) for 5 MHz.

36. APPLE TO DROP YOUTUBE APP FROM IOS

Apple has revealed it will no longer include a native YouTube app in iOS, starting with the next release, in a possible sign of the growing enmity between the former partners.

37. CLOUD TO CAUSE "HORRIBLE PROBLEMS:" WOZNIAK

Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak has predicted that the growing adoption of cloud computing and storage will lead to "horrible problems" down the road, and expressed concerns about users signing away their rights to their data through cloud contracts.

38. ITU, GOOGLE OFFER FREE GLOBAL ICT STATS

The International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) data on the global ICT sector is now accessible via the Google Public Data Explorer (PDE).

The Google Public Data Explorer platform enables quick search of statistics, and helps users quickly interpret data and statistics through rich visualizations.

Users can 'mash up' data using line graphs, bar graphs, maps and bubble charts. Visualizations are dynamic, allowing users to track trends over time. In addition, charts can easily be shared with friends or even embedded on a website or a blog.

39. BHARTI AIRTEL PROFIT DIPS 37%

The net profit of BhartiAirtel fell for the tenth straight quarter, declining by 37 per cent to Rs.762.20 crore in the April-June 2012 quarter as stiff competition squeezed margins. The company's net profit stood at Rs.1,215 crore in the same period last fiscal. Though BhartiAirtel has gained subscribers from smaller rivals, including Loop and S Tel (whose licences were cancelled by the Supreme Court), lower average revenue per user (ARPU) continued to trouble the company. The ARPU in the reported quarter stood at Rs.185 against Rs.190 a month in the same period last year and Rs.189 in the January-March 2012 quarter. As on June 30, 2012, the company had 187.3 million mobile customers on its network, of which 5.1 million were 3G customers.

40. RIM BOOSTED BY SAMSUNG DEAL SPECULATION

RIM shares got a boost after a financial analyst publicly speculated that Samsung may be interested in licensing the BlackBerry 10 OS, or even taking over the struggling smartphone maker.

41. AT&T TO SHUT DOWN 2G NETWORK BY 2017

US operator AT&T will shut down its 2G GSM network by 2017. Currently around 12% of the operator's postpaid mobile customers – or 8.4 million users – still use 2G phones and

will need to be migrated to 3G or 4G networks.

42. INDIA WANTS TO DELAY 2G AUCTION UNTIL NOV

The government plans to approach the Supreme Court seeking extension of the August 31 deadline for auction of telecom spectrum as it plans to begin airwaves sale on November 12 and allocate them to winners in January, 2013. An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) decided to seek an extension of the August 31 deadline set by the Supreme Court for auctioning the spectrum vacated from February cancellation of the 122 'faulty' licences.

43.INDIA HAS OVER 965 MILLION TELECOM SUBSCRIBERS

According to recent data released by TRAI, in June 2012, the telecom subscriber base in India reached 965.52 million. While the subscriber base in Urban India is over 621 million, Rural India accounts for over 343 million subscribers. In June 2012, the share of urban subscribers declined from 64.65% to 64.40% whereas share of rural subscribers has increased to 35.60%. With this, the overall Teledensity in India reaches to 79.58 at the end of June, 2012 from 79.28 of the previous month.

The subscriber base in urban areas increased from 621.21 million in May, 2012 to 621.76 million at the end of June, 2012. During the same period, subscription in rural areas increased from 339.69 million to 343.76 million. Wireless subscription in urban areas increased from 596.98 million in May 2012 to 597.59 million at the end of June 2012. The wireless subscription in rural areas increased from 332.38 million to 336.51 million during the same period.

Requests for Mobile Number Portability rose to 54.33 million at the end of June 2012, as compared to 50.16 million in May 2012. According to the report, in June 2012, India had 695.82 million active wireless subscribers, which is 74.49% of the total subscriber base. The broadband subscriber base rose from 14.31 million in May 2012 to 14.50 million in June 2012.

44. SKT, LG UPLUS LAUNCH WORLD'S FIRST VOLTE SERVICES

SK Telecom and LG Uplus said they will launch high-definition (HD) voice service over LTE networks today, making them the world's first 4G operators to roll out VoLTE.

SK Telecom said the new service, called HD Voice and uses a high definition audio codec that can support voice on a frequency band 2.2 times wider than that of a 3G voice call. The service also promises to cut call connection time to less than 0.25 to 2.5 seconds, 2-20 times shorter than 3G voice calls that require an average of five seconds to connect a call. SK Telecom is offering the service for the same rate (1.8 won per second) as its 3G voice service and pay-per-second billing scheme. To use the new service, both people on the call need to be subscribed to SK Telecom's LTE service and have HD Voice-capable devices. SK Telecom will begin selling Samsung Galaxy S3 LTE handsets with embedded HD Voice features. Existing users of Galaxy S3 LTE will receive firmware upgrades within this month that will make their handsets compatible with HD Voice, statement. Smaller rival LG Uplus is also launching commercialized VoLTE services via the Galaxy S3 and Optimus LTE 2 smartphones, the *Korea Times* reports.

KT Corp, the country's top fixed-line operator and No. 2 mobile carrier, earlier revealed it plans to commercialize the service in October following a pilot program that kicked off in July.

45. MANAGED SERVICES LOSE THEIR SHINE FOR VENDORS

As wireless equipment prices fell and competition intensified, managed services was often upheld as the savior of the big vendors, especially as there has been a rising trend for cellcos to outsource many aspects of their operations, and even the network itself.

As a result, leader Ericsson has become, by some measurements, the world's second largest operator, in terms of the number of users on the networks it manages directly.

But there is a major shift in the financial balance of a business when it moves from equipment to services contracts, with huge up-front costs (like taking on the cellco's staff), staggered payments, shared risk and squeezed margins.

This has robbed managed services of their luster for some players, especially those without the scale of Ericsson or Huawei. Nokia Siemens presented its recent exit from an outsourcing pact with Brazilian cellco Oi as a positive, because it will cut its workforce by 3,500, rather than as a failure.

And Alcatel-Lucent, also looking to make stringent cost cuts, is reviewing as many as a quarter of its portfolio of managed services deals, according to its CFO. It currently has 68 managed services contracts in place but as many as 17 could be unprofitable and 15 are already being re-evaluated.

46. BHARTI'S 4G NETWORK RAISES SECURITY CONCERNS

The Government has received a reference from a security agency regarding BhartiAirtel's usage of equipment developed by the Chinese vendor ZTE for its 4G LTE network. Deora said that the information with regard to number of towns/cities in the country where 4G network is handled by ZTE Company is being collected from the Telecom Service Providers. The role of ZTE in managing the 4G network and adequacy of training to local personnel of BhartiAirtel may be ascertained.

"Government has mandated that license shall induct only those network elements into his telecom network, which have been got tested as per relevant contemporary Indian or International Security Standards from any international agency/labs of those standards until 31st March, 2013", he said.

He said that from 1st April, 2013 the certification shall be got done only from authorized and certified agencies/labs in India. As per licence condition, the licensee shall employ only resident, trained Indian Nationals as Chief Technical Officer, Chief Information Security Officer, Nodal Executives for handling interception and monitoring cases. The Security agency has not given any suggestion. However, it has inquired about the training given by ZTE to the local personnel to handle the 4G network.

47. NOKIA RESTRUCTURE STARTS TO RUN OUT OF TIME AS FURTHER 10,000 STAFF TO BE SACKED, ALONG WITH SENIOR EXECUTIVES

The gloomy news from Nokia never seems to stop as the company attempts to transform itself from being the largest mobile phone vendor in the world to become a competitor to Apple and Samsung in the smartphone market. Chief executive Stephen Elop — who issued the infamous “Burning Platforms” memo in February 2011 which detailed the transformation he assessed the company needed to go through — has embraced Windows Mobile, mothballed its Meego operating system and de-emphasizing Symbian.

That memo set out Nokia’s intent to move away from its dominance of the feature phone market and, while the transition was never expected to be smooth, one year on the company is still lowering its expectations and refining its strategy. That’s partly because of the lower than expected sales of its Lumia range of devices, the first to use Windows Mobile, and partly because the company’s strategy has alienated retail channels and feature phone users resulting in sales and revenue in that market declining rapidly.

In addition to announcing that a further 10,000 workers will be cut, along with senior executives, Nokia also slipped out the news that it now expects its non-IFRS operating margin in devices and services in the second quarter of 2012 to be lower than the -3% it achieved in the first quarter of the year.

48. INDIA CLAIMS CAN MONITOR BB EMAILS WITHOUT KEYS

The Indian government has claimed to have discovered a way to monitor the content of BlackBerry corporate emails without RIM having to supply the encryption keys, according to reports. The government has been pressing RIM to enable surveillance of the emails for some time.

49. INDIA SETS NEW ECO-GUIDELINES FOR TOWERS

India's Environment Ministry has issued new guidelines asking the department of telecom not to approve the installation of new mobile towers within 1km of existing ones, or towers that would obstruct the flight-path of birds, in order to mitigate the impact of EMR on birds and bees

50. INDIA TO PROCEED WITH 900 MHZ REFORM

The Indian government will proceed with a controversial plan to swap out 900 MHz spectrum licenses held by GSM operators including Bharti, Vodafone and Idea with 1800 MHz licenses in early 2013, and then reform the 900 MHz band for a planned 4G auction.

51. NOKIA SELLS 500 PATENTS FOR \$22M

In its latest non-core asset divestiture, Nokia has arranged to sell a portfolio of over 500 wireless patents to Vringo - a video ringtone company expanding into technology IP licensing - for \$22 million.

52. UNINOR ASSET AUCTION STALLED AGAIN

Norway's Telenor has hit another red light in its attempts to put the assets of Indian joint venture Uninor on the auction block, with estranged local partner Unitech succeeding in a legal bid to stall the auction process while it prepares to challenge the sale in court.

53. RCOM LIFTS Q1 PROFIT 3.2%, MISSES ESTIMATES

India's Reliance Communications has reported a 3.2% increase in fiscal first quarter profit to 1.62 billion rupees (\$29.2 million), but missed analysts expectations for the result as it grappled with intense competition.

54. GOOGLE TARGET OF INDIAN ANTITRUST PROBE

India's antitrust commissioner is investigating Google, after a consumer advocacy group accused the company of practices that breach local competition law.

55. GOOGLE TO AXE 4K MOTOROLA MOBILITY JOBS

Google has revealed it will cut 4,000 Motorola Mobility jobs, and close up to a third of the unit's 94 offices worldwide, as it seeks to restructure the recent acquisition and restore the subsidiary to profitability. The American handset-maker will be reducing its operations in Asia and India, citing restructuring. The exact impact of this decision on Indian operations can't be determined as of now.

56. RCOM DATA INITIATIVE

The telecom major Reliance Communications intends to enhance its market share in the mobile data market to 24 percent from the present 20 percent. The Telco will also deploy multiple input multiple output (MiMo) technology in select circles to provide mobile bandwidth of up to 42 Mbps.

57. UNINOR'S FUTURE

The telecom operator Uninor has to find a new partner and form a new company before the commencement of 2G auctions. The company also plans to increase its share to 76 percent in the new joint-venture.

58. LOOP MOBILE MULLS 3G OFFERINGS

Mumbai-based telecom operator, Loop Mobile is planning to enter the 3G arena and claims to be in an advanced stage of discussion with operators having 3G operations for the same.

59. SUBEX SUFFERS LOSS

Revenue assurance expert Subex Ltd. suffered badly from a "tough" business climate, especially in Europe, during its fiscal first quarter ending June 30, reporting a net loss and a sharp dip in revenues. The company reported sales of INR 819.75 million (US\$14.8 million), down 24 percent from a year ago, and a net loss (after tax) of INR 50.9 million (\$0.92 million). In the corresponding quarter a year ago, the company reported a net profit (after tax) of INR 132.1 million (\$2.4 million).

60. IMPORT RESTRICTIONS BACK ON AGENDA IN INDIA

An expert panel advising India's Department of Telecom has recommended that mobile operators be required to source 80% of "security sensitive" equipment – including SIM cards, routers and leased-line equipment – from domestic vendors by 2020

61. CISCO BEATS STREET WITH QUARTERLY PROFIT

Cisco beat analysts' expectations with a 56% increase in fiscal fourth quarter profit to \$1.9 billion, from 4% higher revenue of \$11.7 billion.

62. APPLE SAID TO PLAN IPHONE 5 LAUNCHES ON SEPT 21

Sources claim that Apple plans to start taking iPhone 5 pre-orders on the same day as the device's expected announcement on September 12, commence US sales on September 21, and begin rolling out to international markets in the first week of October.

63. ORACLE PAYS \$2M TO SETTLE INDIA BRIBES CASE

Oracle will pay \$2 million to settle an investigation by the US SEC over allegations the company violated US anti-bribery laws with unauthorized payments to Indian vendors totaling around \$2.2 million.

64. 3G DATA SERVICES GREW BY 78 PC IN H1 2012

Third generation (3G) data services usage grew by 78 per cent in the country in the first half of this calendar year, a report by Nokia Siemens Networks (NSN) said today. "Category B circles witnessed the strongest demand for 3G services with a growth rate of more than 87 per cent between December 2011 and June 2012," NSN MBit Index report said.

65. APPLE SAID TO TRIM RETAIL STORE FAT

Apple has reportedly been laying off some retail store employees and cutting hours for others, due to a push by new SVP of retail John Browett to make its sales operations leaner and more efficient – despite the stores' strong records of profitability.

66. BHARTIAIRTEL-RCOM SPAT GETS WORSE

The spat between BhartiAirtel and Reliance Communications (RCom) over routing toll-free calls has reached new heights as the former has begun blocking toll-free calls coming from RCom's clients. In retaliation, RCom has dragged Airtel to the Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal.

67. OPERATORS FEAR STALLING 3G GROWTH: NSN

Despite taking the positive step of slashing 3G tariffs in a hope to increase their market shares, the operators are reluctant to expand their 3G networks fearing poor returns, says a top Nokia Siemens Networks executive. "2G has been relatively successful in driving the use of mobile broadband in India, but we are now witnessing that 3G is pushing the uptake of mobile broadband, especially in the Category B circles. The key challenge, however, is that operators are not confident if expanding their 3G networks will help them to get the returns on 3G subscribers," says Sandeep Girotra, Head - India region, NSN while unveiling a report.

68. DOT EMPOWERED TO END 3G ROAMING PACTS

The Law Ministry has said that DoT is authorized to ask operators to put a stop on their roaming pacts and can take further action as per the law as per its wishes. Earlier in July,

the TDSAT gave a split verdict on the validity of mobile phone operators offering 3G services beyond their license areas through roaming pacts.

69. BSNL AP EXPANSION

The state-run telecom operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) will invest INR 6 billion (US\$107.6 million) in its Andhra Pradesh circle to enhance the mobile network and will get the equipment for expansion from the Chinese vendor ZTE Corp.

70. TECH MAHINDRA EYES 4G LTE SPACE IN INDIA

The Pune headquartered networking technology solutions provider Tech Mahindra Ltd. is intending to tap the potential of the Indian 4G LTE market and is already working with an operator for its 4G LTE roll out. "We are working with an operator in India which we cannot name as of now for the roll out of its 4G LTE services and believe that the service in India can add significantly to the company's growth," RajuWadalkar, Senior Vice President, Network Technology Solutions and Services at Tech Mahindra told *Light Reading India*.

The company recently posted a rise of 22.4 percent in its net profit reaching INR 3.3 billion (\$53.9 million) for the first quarter ended June 30, 2012, compared to the corresponding period a year ago. Wadalkar believes that security would be the key concern for 4G services and the company would be extensively focusing on that. "Since 4G is all about Internet Protocol [IP], the security concern mounts for operators. We run a large security operations centre in United Kingdom to help our partners cater to their enterprise customers. And once a full-fledged rollout of 4G LTE service takes place in India it will be one of our major focus here," adds Wadalkar.

On the VAS front the networking firm claims to be focusing on niche areas including mobile financial inclusion and Location Based Services (LBS) and is working on service delivery platform which enables telecom operators to bring in third party developers along with enhancing their delivery of MVAS offerings.

71. CURTAINS DOWN ON 3G ROAMING? DOT TO ISSUE NOTICES TO TELCOS

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is all set to send notices to telecom service providers including BhartiAirtel, Vodafone and Idea Cellular asking them to stop providing 3G services in those circles or service areas where they do not have spectrum. The law ministry has opined that the DoT can direct the three telecom service providers to stop services. "These companies are providing 3G services illegally in those service areas where they do not have spectrum," said a DoT official. "We will soon send them notices to stop the services."

The private operators and the DoT are engaged in a legal battle over 3G roaming agreements between the three operators. Under these agreements, the companies are providing services in those areas where they do not have licences.

72. APPLE HISTORY'S MOST VALUABLE COMPANY AT \$623B

Apple has set a new record as history's most valuable company, with its current \$623 billion valuation edging past Microsoft's \$621 billion peak during the tech boom of 1999.

73. IEEE LOOKS TO TERABIT ETHERNET AGE

The IEEE has formed a new working group tasked with boosting wired Ethernet speeds to 1Tbps by 2015 and 20Tbps by 2020, in response to the ongoing surge in network capacity demands.

74. INCUMBENT TELECOM FIRMS LIKE BHARTIAIRTEL, VODAFONE MAY SKIP 2G SPECTRUM AUCTION.

Brokerage firms, analysts and industry experts have warned that the upcoming 2G airwaves auction may fail to yield the desired results, with some even stating that auctions may be a failure, as incumbent and new mobile phone companies are unlikely to bid for spectrum in the top seven circles that make up 80% of the Rs 14,000-crore base price.

"Incumbents like BhartiAirtel and Vodafone have enough spectrums and hence would not require to bid in the auctions. If they bid, the auction-determined price would be used against them when their licences come up for renewal, and therefore they may not bid to avoid a double cash outgo," said UBS analyst Suresh Mahadevan. UBS in a note to its clients said that it would be in the 'best interest of all stakeholders to not bid for the top seven service areas, as doing so would result in economic as well as accounting losses,' while adding that it did not make 'logical sense' for Telenor and Sistema to bid at these high prices since they're already making significant losses from current operations.

The top seven circles - Delhi, Mumbai, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat - make up for about 80% of the nationwide reserve price of Rs 14,000 crore set by the government. Reserve price of Delhi and Mumbai together is about 40% of the total cash outgo for a pan-India licence. This means that a mobile phone company looking to begin operations in the top seven telecom zones in the country would have to shell out at least Rs 11,000 crore.

Nomura, Morgan Stanley and Angel Broking have already forecasted that the auction will be uneventful simply because of the high reserve price. Prashant Singhal, partner at Ernst and Young, said he did not foresee much action in the upcoming auction compared to aggressive bidding in the 3G auction of 2010.

75. BSNL TO HIVE OFF TELECOM BUSINESS, TO ISSUE TENDER FOR CONSULTANT

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) is considering hiving off its telecom tower infrastructure into a separate company and will float a tender this week for appointment of a consultant to suggest the business roadmap. The plan to hive off BSNL tower business into a separate entity is in line with recommendation made by Sam Pitroda Committee for revamping business of the PSU whose profit started declining from Rs 10,183 crore in 2004-05 before showing a loss in 2009-10.

"We are exploring opportunity to bring our tower business under separate company for optimum utilization. In this regard, BSNL will issue expression of interest this week to appoint consultant that will suggest us the roadmap," BSNL Chairman and Managing Director R K Upadhyay said. He added that company has around 70,000 towers and it will explore various business models that can realise value of its infrastructure.

The Pitroda Committee has suggested to form separate "subsidiary company for tower related infrastructure to aggressively market to other public and private sector customers and unlock whole/substantial potential value through strategic stake sale, mergers and acquisition or separate IPO (Initial Public Offer)."

76. BHARTIAIRTEL HIKES BROADBAND RENTAL CHARGES BY 10%; CALLS IT 'MARGINAL'

BhartiAirtel, the country's largest telecom services provider, has hiked its tariff for broadband services citing regulatory changes and increased input costs. While Airtel is saying the hike is 'marginal' several subscribers have alleged that the increase is about 10% or between Rs50 to Rs150 per month. The Indian government has started levying a 4% license fee on gross annual revenues of an internet service provider (ISP) from 1 July 2012. This may go up to 8% from next year. However, the Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI) has challenged the move in the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

There is no information available on the company's site, if it is offering the broadband services under a separate license as an ISP or under its Universal Access Services license.

For the Mumbai circle, Airtel offers broadband rentals from Rs899 to Rs2099 for speeds from 2Mbps to 4Mbps and data limits of 6GB to 150GB per month.

As of June 2012, total broadband subscriber base in India increased 17.7% to 14.5 million. There are 155 ISPs providing broadband services in the country. In terms of market share, as of June end, state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam (BSNL) lead the pack with 9.24 million subscribers, followed by BhartiAirtel at 1.37 million, state-run Mahanagar Telecom Nigam (MTNL) at 1.06 million, You Broadband at 0.63 million and Hathway at 0.36 million subscribers.

77.INDIA LEANS ON TWITTER TO CENSOR HATE SPEECH

The Indian government has threatened to take legal action against Twitter for not complying with demands to censor objectionable and inflammatory content posted to the micro blogging site, in the wake of a social media campaign of racially-motivated threats in the north-east.

78. TECHNICAL PROBLEMS TO STOP BULK SMS

Telecom operators Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI) have written to the department of telecommunications, in which they said to stop bulk SMSes and images from post-paid connections are facing technical problems.

Amid the exodus of people from northeastern states caused by the rapid spread of unsuitable SMSes and MMSes, the government had restricted the number of SMS and MMS to five per subscriber for 15 days.

Reports suggest, while pre-paid mobile users, who account for over 90% of the 930 million mobile subscriber base, are unable to send more than five messages in a day, post-paid users do not seem to be facing any problem

According to COAI Director General Rajan S. Mathews, this is because of the lack of technology which can track post-paid users on a real-time basis.

AUSPI said in a letter *“Keeping in view the security requirement, our member service providers have made all efforts to comply with the instructions but have been facing some technical challenges”*.

79. TATA MCGRAW-HILL EDUCATION PARTNERS WITH VRITI TO LAUNCH ‘SMART COURSES’ ON TABLET DEVICES

Leading global publisher Tata McGraw-Hill Education has partnered with Vriti, a Smart Education Platform company to launch free, online ‘Smart Courses’ for Engineering and Management on tablet devices. These pre-bundled courses will be available on India’s most popular e-learning tablet, the Micromax Funbook. Smart Courses combine high-quality education content from Tata McGraw-Hill on the platform.

80. NTT COM BOOSTS ASIA-OCEANIA BACKBONE TO 500G

NTT Com has expanded the data transmission capacity of its Global IP Network link between Asia and Oceania to 500 Gbps. NTT Com’s global IP backbones, which provide IP network services to Japan, Asia, Europe, Oceania and other markets worldwide, are connected to fixed and mobile telecom companies, ISPs, data center operators and content providers.

The company’s largest cable network, which offers 620 Gbps between Japan and the US, uses a dual-stack (IPv4 and IPv6) configuration as one of NTT Com’s core IPv6 networks.

The growing use of smartphones, tablet devices and broadband access has led to sharp increases in music/video downloading, blogging, social networking and cloud computing worldwide, NTT Com said.

NTT Com has increased its data-transmission capacity between Asia and Oceania by nearly tenfold since 2007.

The company said the new capacity is equivalent to approximately 29,762 channels of digital terrestrial television or 428 years’ worth of content in a daily newspaper.

81. SINGTEL TO LAUNCH 4G TABLETS NEXT WEEK

SingTel will next week launch its first dedicated 4G services for tablets, the company has revealed. SingTel said it will become Singapore's first mobile operator to debut LTE tablets once the services launch on August 28. The first tablets to be offered will be the Samsung Galaxy Tab 8.9 LTE and the ASUS Transformer Pad TF300TL.

82. ZTE Q2 PROFIT SLUMPS 85%

China's ZTE has reported an 85% slump in Q2 net profit to an estimated 94 million yuan (\$14.7 million) - the steepest quarterly decline for the company since 2006.

83. IMIMOBILE POWERS ‘LONDON OFFICIAL CITY GUIDE’ APP FOR THE CAPITAL’S SUMMER VISITORS

On Tuesday, IMI Mobile announced that it is powering the London Official City Guide app, for London & Partners, the official promotional organization for London. The app

not only offers a practical guide for both Londoners and visitors, it also provides valuable assistance to users during the summer and beyond.

Available for iPhone, iPad and Android devices, the app is now available from Apple iTunes and Google Play and has so far been downloaded tens of thousands of times. Users have given it a rating of 4+ stars on the App Store and an average of 4.8 stars on Google Play.

84. QUALCOMM TO SUPPLY CHIPS FOR LG 4G PHONE

Chipmaker Qualcomm will provide its Snapdragon S4 quad-core processors for LG Electronics' upcoming LTE smartphone.

85. SONY MOBILE MOVING HQ TO JAPAN, CUTTING JOBS

Sony is moving its mobile division's headquarters from Sweden to Tokyo, and will cut 1,000 jobs - or around 15% of its mobile division's workforce – concurrent with the relocation.

86. GOVT RAISES SMS LIMIT TO 20 SMS PER DAY PER SIM

The Govt of India has revised SMS Bans, and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) sends new revised directives to all mobile service providers over SMS Ban limit. According to the notification, the service providers had been asked to increase the limit from the 5 SMS to 20 SMS per day per SIM, with immediate effect.

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