



Volume 1, Issue No3, 01st October 2012.

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TRANSMISSION MONTHLY

1. SAMSUNG FACES \$1B FINE AS APPLE WINS IN US

A US jury has found Samsung guilty of violating six of the seven patents being asserted by Apple in the vendors' legal battle in the market, ordering a near-record \$1.05 billion in damages. Three key patents cover familiar touch functions that allow Apple device users to easily scroll pages, zoom out on images or tap to enlarge text, all with fingers.

Experts expect the verdict to have strong implications for competition, handset design and pricing. Samsung has vowed to appeal. Apple's swift victory in defense of its iPad and iPhone designs with a jury verdict of patent infringement against Samsung is likely to have wide-ranging effects on other device makers that run Google's popular Android operating system — and on their customers.

It could mean higher prices for the coolest features, different choices in mobile devices, and devices that work in less familiar ways. It means Apple's rival smartphone and tablet makers, and Google, will have to scramble harder. If Samsung does not win an appeal of the verdict, it will have to remove or work around those shortcuts, which Apple says took years to develop and three months for Samsung to copy.

If the \$1.05 billion damage award survives, it will be one of the largest verdicts in patent history. Two larger verdicts were reversed, according to Stanford University law professor Mark Lemley. "It's a huge win for Apple," says Lemley. "But this is one lawsuit among 50 in the smartphone market, and Apple's real target may be the Android ecosystem." U.S. District Court Judge Lucy Koh has the power to triple the damages to more than \$3 billion, because Samsung's infringement was found to be willful.

2. APPLE, SAMSUNG PRODUCTS BANNED IN SK

Separately, both Apple and Samsung have been hit with bans on older-generation handsets and tablets in South Korea, after a panel of judges found that both companies are infringing on each other's patents.

3. INDIA COURT MAY EXTEND 2G BID DEADLINE

India's Supreme Court may consider granting the government's plea to postpone the end-August deadline for auctioning off the first lot of 2G spectrum recovered from the 2G license cancellations of earlier in the year. The Supreme Court on Friday said it would consider the government's plea of extending the spectrum auction deadline on the condition that the telecom secretary gives an undertaking that the court's judgment will be implemented. The two-judge bench of Justices GS Singhvi and KS Radhakrishnan

said it expected the government to stick to the deadlines it had mentioned in the application and will hear the matter on Monday.

4. HOME DELIVERY OF TELECOM CONNECTIONS BY MTNL

An SMS is enough now to get you an MTNL's mobile, landline and broadband connections says top official of MTNL. Coming up with the first of its kind service in the country, MTNL Executive Director A K Bhargava said. *"Under single window service, we have started providing mobile connections, landline and broadband at the doorstep of customers"*. The company has operations in Delhi and Mumbai only.

5. APPLE SEEKS BAN ON SALES OF EIGHT SAMSUNG PHONES IN U.S.

Apple Inc. (AAPL) is seeking a U.S. sales ban on eight models of Samsung Electronics Co. (005930) smartphones and the extension of a preliminary ban on a tablet computer after winning a patent trial against the South Korean company. Apple, which won more than \$1 billion Aug. 24 after a jury found Samsung infringed six of seven patents at stake in the trial, named the phones it wants barred in a filing yesterday with U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose, California. The list includes several devices in the bestselling Galaxy lineup. The effect on Samsung's sales will be negligible because its newest smartphones aren't on Apple's list of devices, which will account for less than 1.4 percent of the Korean company's profits next year, said Mark Newman, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein who used to work at Samsung. The impact would be 6.3 percent if Apple manages to broaden a ban to newer devices and block 80 percent of all Samsung phones, he said. "Samsung can live to fight another day," Newman said in a phone interview.

6. 2G AUCTION PROCESS TO BEGIN BY NOV.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Monday issued a fresh document saying it will start the 2G auction process by November this year. The Information Memorandum (IM) issued by DoT said the department would start inviting applications from interested companies from next month-end. This gives DoT three months' time to complete the auction process, as the Supreme Court on Monday extended the time for completion of auction till January 11, 2013. Earlier; the SC had set August 31 as the deadline. However, the government had requested for an extension to November-December. The IM is one of the most crucial auction documents, which gives details of the auction rules, the amount of spectrum available and the base price for each of the 22 circles.

THE TIMELINE

The IM stated prospective bidders should apply by October 19. A formal notice inviting applications will be issued by DoT by September 28. As per the IM, auction for GSM spectrum in 1800 MHz band will start on November 12, the auction of CDMA spectrum

in 800 MHz will begin two days after the completion of GSM spectrum auction. Mock auctions will be held on November 7 and 8.

RESERVE PRICE

The IM also outlined details of the reserve price per area and the amount to be deposited for per service area per block. Delhi has the highest reserve price at Rs 693 crore and Rs 900 crore for GSM and CDMA, respectively. The next most expensive circle is Mumbai at Rs 678 crore and Rs 881 crore, respectively. Assam, rest of northeast and J&K are some of the circles where the reserve price is below Rs 11 crore in GSM and CDMA. Base price for pan India spectrum is Rs 14,000 crore for 1800 MHz band and 1.3 times higher for the 800 MHz band.

NUMBER OF BLOCKS

In 1800 MHz band, a minimum of eight blocks each of 1.25MHz (10MHz) will be put up for auction in all the service areas. In addition, provision will be made for spectrum up to 3 blocks each of 1.25MHz (3.75 MHz), wherever available, after reserving spectrum for refarming against allocation in 900 MHz band for licenses expiring in 2014 to 2016.

Existing operators will be allowed to take maximum 2 blocks of 1.25MHz each in each area. New entrants will have to bid for minimum four blocks of 1.25MHz in each service area. New entrants will be allowed to bid for an additional block of 1.25MHz in each service area. In 800 MHz band, a minimum of three blocks each of 1.25MHz (3.75MHz) will be put up for auction in all service areas.

A provision will be made for spectrum of one block of 1.25MHz, wherever available, for topping up the three blocks of spectrum put up for auction, to meet the requirement of new entrants, if such an exigency arises, and to ensure that the entire quantum of spectrum of 3.75MHz in each service area is allocated in the auction.

Existing operators will be allowed to bid for 1 block of 1.25MHz in each area. New entrants will be required to bid for minimum two blocks each of 1.25MHz in each area. New entrants will also be allowed to bid for an additional block of 1.25MHz in each service area.

BLOCKS AVAILABLE IN A CIRCLE

Though in 1800 MHz band, eight blocks each of 1.25MHz (10MHz) is available in all service areas, additional spectrum beyond the eight blocks are not available in Delhi, Mumbai, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (east), Punjab and Gujarat. In the 800 MHz band, no spectrum is available in Rajasthan service area.

7. TELCOS MAY SOON FACE HEAVY FINES FOR POOR SERVICE

In what could mean fewer call drops and better telephony for India's over 900 million phone users, Indian telecoms regulator on Monday amended rules to penalize companies if they failed to meet quality of service standards for mobile and wired

telephones.

Trai will implement 'financial disincentives' of Rs 50,000 per parameter for not meeting quality norms. The penalty would rise to Rs 1 lakh on consecutive defaults. For instance, if an operator does not limit its call drop rate to less than 2% within three months of these amendments coming into place, it will be liable for a fine of Rs 50,000, which will go up to Rs 1 lakh if the call drop rate is not contained in consecutive quarters. Fixed line and mobile phone service providers would have to pay up Rs 10 lakh for not submitting a false compliance report and Rs 5,000 every day for not submitting compliance reports. The regulator has sought comments from the industry.

8. ONMOBILE SEPARATES POSITIONS OF MD AND CEO

The mobile value added service (MVAS) provider has seen quite turmoil in the past because of its then chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD), Arvind Rao indulged in related-party transactions and compromised corporate governance ethics. After Rao's resignation from the company, OnMobile did not want to take any chance. The Bangalore-based company has split the positions of CEO and MD and has decided to appoint two different persons to the respective positions.

All these years co-founder Mouli Raman, who captained the technological aspects within the company as the Chief Technology Officer, has already been appointed as MD. The Company is yet to finalize on CEO. Until the former CEO and MD's Arvind Rao's company's corporate governance standard was questioned, he was managing two portfolios of OnMobile.

"I am committed for the company for the long term. We are also looking for a new CEO, and between the CEO and me, we will take the company forward," Raman said it was the company's board that decided to split these positions *"in the best interests of the company"*.

9. SAMSUNG FIRST TO SHOW OFF WINDOWS 8 PHONES

Samsung Electronics has become the first handset maker to announce a smartphone, called ATIV S, using Microsoft's latest mobile software, making its surprise, hurried announcement just days before the highly anticipated launch of Nokia's version.

The brief announcement at a Berlin electronics show comes amid expectations that smartphone makers may turn increasingly to Windows devices after a US jury decided many of Samsung's Google Android-based phones infringed Apple patents. The ailing Finnish mobile firm, once the world's leading producer of phones but now struggling to reverse losses, is due to unveil its new Lumia line of smartphones using Windows Phone 8 in New York on September 5.

10. NSN SAID TO BE CLOSE TO SELLING BUSINESS-SUPPORT UNIT

Nokia Siemens Networks is in advanced talks to sell a unit that helps phone operators manage their billing systems as the network-equipment venture of Nokia Oyj (NOK1V) and Siemens AG (SIE) focuses on mobile broadband, people with knowledge of the matter said. The Business Support Systems division has attracted interest from potential buyers including Sweden's Ericsson AB, U.S.-based Amdocs Ltd (DOX) and private-equity firms, the people said, asking not to be identified as the discussions are private. The business may fetch as much as 300 million euros (\$377 million), they said. Nokia Siemens and French rival Alcatel-Lucent SA (ALU) are among telecommunications equipment providers that are slashing jobs and costs as the slowing global economy crimps spending on infrastructure for mobile networks. Nokia Siemens is in the process of eliminating some 17,000 jobs, about a quarter of its workforce, by the end of next year. Alcatel-Lucent said last month it will cut 5,000 jobs after slumping to a quarterly loss.

11. TECH MAHINDRA DIPS ON BT STAKE SALE BUZZ

Tech Mahindra has dipped 5.5% at Rs 789 on reports that its foreign promoter British Telecommunications Plc (BT) is planning to sell part of its holding in IT service provider for \$100 million (approx. Rs 556 crore). "British telecoms firm BT is selling about 5% of Tech Mahindra shares in the price band of Rs 735 to Rs 790 per share, a discount of 5 to 12%t from its Wednesday closing price of Rs 834.90," the Reuters report suggests. As of June 30, British Telecommunications Plc held 23.16% stake in Mahindra Group Company.

12. LTE PEGGED TO DRIVE DEVICE CONVERGENCE

Rapid worldwide adoption of LTE is expected to stimulate convergence of consumer electronic devices including smartphones, tablets and PCs, iSuppli predicts. The research firm forecasts that the global LTE subscriber base will surge 334% in 2012 to reach 73.3 million, and for the market to grow by a further 181% in 2013 to 205.7 million. By 2016, there will be nearly 1.2 billion LTE subscribers.

While subscribers to 3G services will outnumber 4G users for some time, LTE will dwarf its older cousin by growth rate – iSuppli said it does not expect the pace of growth for 3G to never again exceed 35% per year. The improved applications enabled by the speeds of LTE services, such as HD video streaming and multi-user online gaming, are meanwhile expected to drive handset makers to further pursue convergence.

Convergence is already a top priority for players including Microsoft (with its Windows 8 strategy) and Google, showing that vendors are increasingly pursuing a multi-screen, common UI strategy to drive consumer adoption. The trend is also becoming make-or-break for some vendors, iSuppli said, noting that an inability to achieve convergence is part of the reason for the decline of RIM and Nokia.

13. GOVT PROMISES CONTIGUOUS 5 MHZ SPECTRUMS TO WINNERS

Telecom secretary R Chandrasekhar is confident that the spectrum auction exercise will be successful and market price of airwaves will be higher than the reserve price. This comes from him a day after the Centre took the first step towards conducting the airwaves sale and announced that the auctions would begin on November 12.

He also added that government would ensure that successful bidders get contiguous spectrum, would allow new players to bid as 100% foreign entities and also issue new policy guidelines on spectrum sharing before the auctions.

The government will work out ways to ensure that if new entrants or companies whose permits were quashed were to win 5 MHz of airwaves, they will get contiguous spectrum in that region. The Government also made it clear that there is no extra cost or effort involved in moving some of the existing players in the 1,800 MHz band.

14. MOTOROLA CLOSING DOWN OPERATIONS

According to a report by BGR India, Motorola will be shutting down its operations in India as a part of its strategy to lay off 20% of its work force, and close a third of its 94 offices worldwide, Motorola will continue to sell their devices in India until stocks last and their service centers will remain functional.

The report mentions that real estate companies have confirmed that Motorola's Hyderabad R&D facility has been put up for sale. Employees who are working on projects related to products in the US will retain their jobs; Motorola's CEO Dennis Woodside said that the company will *shrink* operations in Asia and India. It looks like India comes under the unprofitable market for Motorola.

15. APPLE, GOOGLE CEOS SAID TO BE IN TALKS OVER TRUCE

Apple CEO Tim Cook and Google CEO Larry Page have been meeting in secret to try to negotiate a truce in the ongoing patent war between the allies-turned-bitter-rivals, sources claim.

16. RELIANCE COMMUNICATIONS BAGS MULTIPLE GOVERNMENT ORDERS WORTH RS 150 CRORE

Reliance Communications today said it has won multiple orders from both central and state governments amounting to about Rs 150 crore for providing IT and data connectivity services. The orders, bagged over the last few months, include long term contract with the Department of Post, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (BMC), Madhya Pradesh Border Check post Development Company Ltd along with Karnataka DISCOM and Chhattisgarh DISCOM, RCom said in a statement.

Karnataka DISCOM has signed an agreement for five years with Reliance for rolling out MPLS (an IT networking technology) service across 850 locations and wireless data

connectivity across 60,000 data acquisition points. The six-year deal with Chhattisgarh DISCOM will see the company roll out MPLS service across 250 locations. The Department of Post has selected RCom to host its computer servers over area of 3,000 square feet under its modernization program, the statement said.

17. AIRCEL HAS NEW COO.

Indian mobile carrier Aircel has appointed Dr. Kaizad Heerjee as its new COO. Before joining Aircel, Heerjee worked at Malaysian Telco, U Mobile, as its CEO. Heerjee will take the responsibilities of Gurdeep Singh, who quit the company in January and joined Reliance Communications as the CEO of wireless business division.

18. RURAL INDIA HAS 31 MILLION ACTIVE INTERNET USERS

A recent report on 'Internet in Rural India' by the IAMAI and IMRB, shows that Rural India is getting fast on the information superhighway. According to this report, Rural India has 38 million claimed internet users and 31 million active internet users. Growing at a CAGR of 73 percent, the penetration of claimed internet users in rural India has grown from 2.6 percent in 2010 to 4.6 percent in 2012. During the same period, the penetration of active internet users has grown from 2.13 percent to 3.7 percent.

As per the report, by December 2012, the number of claimed internet users in rural India is expected to reach 45 million. This growth will also be driven by the government's ambitious project to give broadband connectivity to 250,000 villages. The pilots for this project, being undertaken by Bharat Broadband are currently underway.

19. BAN ON BULK SMS LIFTED

The Centre on Thursday lifted the ban on bulk SMS and MMS that was imposed to check the spread of rumors and inflammatory content related to the ethnic violence in Assam that had led to the exodus of northeastern people from Bangalore and other cities.

The decision was taken as the social unrest that gripped various cities due to these rumors has subsided and the flow of hate content has also reduced to a large extent in the last few days, a Ministry of Home Affairs spokesperson said.

20. SAMSUNG MAY SUE APPLE OVER LTE TECHNOLOGY

Samsung's ongoing dispute with Apple shows no sign of abating with the company reportedly threatening to take legal action over long-term evolutionary technology (LTE). According to a report from the Korea Times, Samsung executives plan to immediately sue Apple if it releases products that use the advanced technology, more commonly referred to as 4G.

Nokia holds the greatest proportion of the world's LTE patents at 18.9 per cent but Samsung holds more than 12 per cent of the world's LTE patents, according to data from Thomson Reuters.

Apple has already released a 4G capable device, the iPad 3 but there has been speculation that Samsung could be waiting for the company to release a 4G-capable iPhone before proceeding with a legal fight. Apple's new iPhone is expected to be released within the next few weeks and is predicted to be a 4G device.

21. DOCOMO TOPS SATISFACTION CHART IN JAPAN

For the fourth consecutive year, Japanese incumbent mobile operator NTT DoCoMo topped a business customer satisfaction survey for mobile devices and PHS services.

The study, conducted by J.D. Power Asia Pacific, examined four factors to determine overall satisfaction: handset and service, troubleshooting, sales representatives, and cost.

22. SAMSUNG TO INSPECT 250 CHINA SUPPLIERS

Samsung plans to inspect conditions at 250 Chinese companies making parts for it. While the company said it found no evidence of child labor at a HEG Electronics factory despite claims by China Labor Watch – its inspectors did identify incidences of potentially unsafe practices and inadequate management.

23. SHARP SCREENS STYMIE NEW IPHONE

Sources claim Apple will face supply chain problems for its latest iPhone, because vendor Sharp hasn't started producing screens for the device. The vendor is tipped to launch the latest device this month.

24. BAIDU LAUNCHES MOBILE BROWSER

After a lengthy beta stage, Chinese search giant Baidu has launched a release version of its Baidu Mobile Browser. Android market share growing, except in US. Android's market share grew by double digits in the last three months in every region except the US - where it declined - and Android handsets with larger screens are leading sales, according to Kantar World panel Com Tech data.

25. APPLE'S US LEGAL WIN WON'T INFLUENCE INT'L COURTS

Legal experts believe that Apple's US legal victory over Samsung in the patent case is unlikely to set a precedent for courts in the rest of the world, partly because many jurisdictions don't have jury verdicts for patent cases. India's finance minister has assured that tax officials will not make a "rash decision" in demanding retroactive taxes on major transactions including Vodafone's purchase of its Indian unit.

This is a far softer position than taken by his predecessor, which introduced the retroactive tax rules

26. ERICSSON FRONT-RUNNER TO BUY NSN BSS UNIT.

Ericsson has reportedly emerged as the most likely buyer for NSN's BSS unit, while Amdocs is also interested in acquiring the subsidiary.

27. GOVERNMENTS ORDERS NO MOBILE CONNECTION FOR MORE THAN 3 MONTHS FOR FOREIGNERS

DoT has directed the service providers to use their passports with valid visa as the proof for providing the mobile connection. Ensure that SIM cards are not misused, the government of India has issued fresh guidelines for the foreign tourists. The foreigners visiting India will not get mobile connection for more than three months.

28. DOT – GUIDELINES ON RADIATION INTO EFFECT

A new law has been implemented by Department of telecommunication from September 1. DoT has finally initiated new regulatory rules to curb hazardous cell phones and tower radiation in the country.

The new guidelines say, towers with two antennas have to be at a minimum distance of 35 meter from a residential building. The Electromagnetic Frequency radiations limits have been reduced to 10 per cent of the prevalent levels. These rules will be binding to more than 4-lakh BTS installations in the country. Compliance failure by service operators would attract a penalty of Rs 5 lakh.

Construction of any other tower within one kilometer of radius is restricted for the service providers. With new framework, the Telco's will have to provide self-certification of agreement. In addition, the specific absorption rate (SAR) value, according to new rules will be 1.6 watts/kg. Earlier, the SAR value for handsets was 2 watts/kg measured over 10 grams of human tissue. The cellphone users have also been advised to use headset- Bluetooth or wired.

The government also plans to set up a testing lab for random checking of SAR values of mobile.

29. GOOGLE LAUNCHES VOICE-GUIDED NAVIGATION APP IN INDIA

On Tuesday, Google launched its voice-guided GPS navigation app in India. The Navigation feature is available for free on Android phones and tablets. It would enable travelers, whether they are driving or walking, to get directions to a place through turn-by-turn voice instructions.

30. APAC CLOUD ADOPTION LAGS BY 3 YEARS OR MORE: REPORT

Despite the cloud computing hype in America and Europe, a study by Bangkok-based Geoprise Technologies shows that the Asia Pacific region hasn't reached the peak of the technology hype curve quite yet.

"Mainstream cloud computing adoption is likely to occur within the next 5 to 10 years, and not within the next 2 to 5 years as many industry observers generally predict," said Nelson Nones, chairman and CEO of Geoprise, which offers IT services, project management and consulting.

31. HUAWEI POSTS PLEDGE NOT TO ASSIST IN SPYING

Huawei has issued a report giving undertakings to never co-operate in cyber spying, and calling for the creation of global legal and technical cyber security standards. The vendor says the report isn't a direct response to security concerns in the US and Australia, but does apply to the situations.

32. ETISALAT WON'T BID FOR INDIA 2G SPECTRUMS

The UAE's Etisalat will not participate in India's upcoming auction for the spectrum recovered from 122 revoked 2G licenses, suggesting the operator is done with the Indian telecom market following the cancellation of JV Etisalat DB's licenses.

33. TECH MAHINDRA SIGNS FIVE-YEAR DEAL WITH KPN

Indian IT outsourcer Tech Mahindra has won a five-year contract to develop and support applications for Dutch operator KPN's IT systems.

34. RCOM MAY PURSUE TOWER STAKE SALE IN 2013

India's Reliance Communications will next year consider debt-reduction options including a potential sale of a stake in its tower subsidiary. The operator was forced in July to shelve an IPO of the tower arm on the Singapore exchange due to weak demand.

35. MTNL TO INVEST RS 3 BN ON NETWORK EXPANSION

The state-owned telecom operator Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) plans to invest INR 3 billion (US\$53 million) this fiscal to upgrade its GSM network in the two operational cities of Delhi and Mumbai. "We have floated a tender to invite bidders for providing GSM equipment as the up gradation of network and increasing broadband penetration are our primary focus," says AK Garg, Chief Managing Director, and MTNL.

36. TRAI ASKS TELCOS TO FOCUS ON CONVERGED NETWORK

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has suggested operators to go for a converged network that unifies both packet and transport domains to enhance their revenues from existing and new service opportunities.

"The transport network, originally designed to carry only voice traffic, should be able to carry voice as well as video and data traffic very efficiently. Hence to enhance the revenues, service providers need a network that unifies both packet and transport domains," comments RK Arnold, Member (Technology), TRAI, while delivering the keynote address at *Light Reading India's* Next Generation Packet Transport Network event.

37. NOKIA LAUNCHES NOKIA LUMIA 920& 820 SMARTPHONE

On Wednesday, Nokia launched the next generation of devices in its Lumia series-the Lumia 920 and 820 smartphones. Nokia Lumia 920 is the company's first ever smartphone powered by Windows Phone 8 OS. Some of its key features are: a Quad-Core 1.5 Ghz Snapdragon S4 processor with 1 GB RAM and 7 GB of SkyDrive.

38. BHARTI DIRECTORS WORKING ON DETAILS TO LIST TOWER BIZ.

Bharti Enterprises today said a committee of directors is looking at the details of listing of its telecom towers unit Bharti Infratel but did not give a timeline for the initial public offer. It said, however, the draft prospectus could be filed this fiscal if the committee finalizes the modalities. "We have formed a committee of directors that is looking into all the aspects, timing and quantum and so on...but I really don't know the exact time. But it should be soon," Bharti Enterprises Deputy Group CEO and Managing Director Akhil Gupta told reporters here. He was speaking on the sidelines of a Green Energy India 2012 conference.

39. APPLE SAID TO PLAN MUSIC STREAMING SERVICE

Apple is reportedly in talks with record companies over introducing its own music streaming/internet radio service, similar to the popular Pandora.

40. SK TELECOM HITS 5M LTE SUBSCRIBERS

SK Telecom said its LTE subscriber number has reached 5 million. This makes it the third 4G operator in the world and the second in Asia to do so, after Verizon Wireless in the USA and Japan's NTT DoCoMo.

The company reached the milestone 46 days after hitting the 4 million mark in July 30 and a year after SK Telecom released its first LTE smartphone last September. SK Telecom said it added around 33,000 new LTE customers each day during August.

The total amount of data used by the company's LTE subscribers stands at 33.5 petabytes (or 1024 terabytes), among which 46% was used for multimedia contents - which is which is 10 percentage points higher than that of 3G customers (36%), SK Telecom said

41. INDIA CELLCOS TOLD TO MAKE IDD OPT-IN FOR PREPAID

Indian regulator Trai has directed operators to disable international call capabilities for prepaid mobile customers unless they specifically request to enable it, in response to reports that scammers are tricking users into dialing international premium numbers.

42. ALCA-LU NAMES NEW COO IN RESTRUCTURING

Alcatel-Lucent has appointed CFO Paul Tufano to the newly-created position of COO, charged with overseeing more of the vendor's turnaround efforts. The appointment forms part of the operator's reorganization and cost-cutting plan.

43. SPRINT TO ROLLOUT LTE TO 100 MORE CITIES

US operator Sprint has announced plans to cover another 100 cities with its LTE network by the end of the year. The company plans to complete its LTE rollout by end-2013.

44. UK GOVT CONVENES CELLCOS FOR 4G PEACE TALKS

The UK government has set up a meeting with the nation's warring mobile operators, seeking to negotiate truce talks that would stop the industry from filing potentially destructive legal challenges to hold up the rollout of 4G services.

45.20 MILLION INDIAN MOBILE SUBSCRIBERS DECLINE

According to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) data, telecom subscriber base in the country has registered a decline. It has happened for the first time where user's base has dipped to 944.81 million in July from 965.52 million. The TRAI reveals that the decline is driven by the wireless segment, which saw a slump of 26.1 million. Reliance Communications saw a loss of 20.48 million users.

RCom was followed by Tata Teleservices, which lost about 2.4 million customers. Uninor lost more than 1 million users, while Videocon 0.41 million. Loop Mobile and state-run MTNL lost around 0.15 million subscribers in July. RCom says removal of inactive users has caused the drop. Director General Cellular Operators Association of India, Rajan Mathews said, *"For a couple of months, the total subscriber addition numbers were reducing but this is for the first time that it has declined."*

"This depicts the uncertainty the telecom market is witnessing right now and is clearly a warning for the government. The government really needs to come up with a concrete policy," he added. He also said that the downfall has majorly been caused due to few operators STel and Etisalat going out of business. He also said that Uninor which stands

to lose all its licenses following Supreme Court's order has also lost a significant number of customers recently.

46.199 MOBILE TOWERS SHUT DOWN ACROSS 40 TOWNS IN RAJASTHAN

A court order to the telecom companies, to remove 199 mobile towers installed atop school buildings across Rajasthan has hit mobile services in 40 towns across the city. All the 199 towers having antennas of cellular companies which are installed on schools' building has already stopped radiating since 9 pm last night.

Sudipto Chowdhary CEO, Rajasthan, Bharti Airtel, *"Services of cellular companies will be affected and it will take around 30-90 days to restore the full services in affected areas."* He said overall 34 lakh mobile customers, including 25 lakh in Jaipur, will be affected by the process.

47. UK'S FIRST LTE NETWORK GOES LIVE

UK mobile joint venture Everything Everywhere has launched the nation's first 4G service. The operator aims to reach 16 cities with the network by the end of the year, and achieve 98% population coverage by 2014.

48. NSN CONFIRMS SEEKING BUYER FOR BSS UNIT

Nokia Siemens has confirmed rumors that the vendor is seeking to sell its BSS unit, and revealed it is also on the hunt for a buyer for its applications business.

49. INDIA'S TRAI PREDICTS END TO MOBILE PRICE WARS

The chairman of Indian telecom regulator Trai has predicted an end to the nation's aggressive and self-destructive mobile tariff wars within the next 3-5 years, once operators start consolidating due to poor margins and liquidity.

50. AIRTEL LAUNCHES SMARTDRIVE-A VOICE BASED TURN BY TURN NAVIGATION APP WITH REAL TIME TRAFFIC

India's top Telecom Operator Airtel has launched a navigation application – SmartDrive – that enables users to view their location on a map and plan the route from one place to another. "Smart Drive is assisted by a voice based turn by turn navigation that gives real time information updates on traffic situation on roads around.

"It also suggests the subscriber an alternate route in case of traffic congestion on the normal route. Smart Drive offers services such as search for points of interests like restaurants, theatres and shopping malls, and voice navigation. It also offers live traffic information. The service is currently available in Delhi and NCR, Mumbai and Bangalore and will be made available in Hyderabad, Chennai and Pune by December. While search and map views are being offered for free, a daily pack for navigation services costs Rs 10, its monthly pack would cost Rs 99. Live traffic services would cost Rs 3 per day while a monthly pack would be for Rs 49.

51. UPCOMING FESTIVE SEASON TO BOOST ECOMMERCE SALES BY 140 PERCENT

A joint study by Forrester and ASSOCHAM revealed that, ecommerce revenues in India would increase from \$ 1.6 billion in 2012 to \$ 8.8 billion in 2016. Over 2,000 people participated in the survey conducted at various urban centers across India.

The survey found that approximately 1.25 crore customers shopped online for items worth around Rs 5,000 crore in 2011. Further, it found that the upcoming festive season is likely to push the sales of e-commerce portals by about 140 per cent. The online shopping portals are expected to see a growth of 135-140 per cent during key festivals like Karva Chauth, Dhanteras, and Diwali. Articles like electronic items, idols of gods and goddesses, sweets, clothes and jewellery are likely to be in huge demand mainly due to discounts which range from 10-15 per cent to 80-90 per cent. Even the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) shop more online during the festive season. Around the Raksha Bandhan festival, online shopping by NRIs contributed about 40-50% of total shopping, whereas during Diwali, it increases to 85%.

52. APPLE LAUNCHES IPHONE 5

Yesterday, Apple launched the much awaited iPhone 5, at an event in San Francisco. The thinnest and lightest iPhone ever, features a stunning new 4-inch retina display; an Apple-designed A6 chip for blazing fast performance; and ultrafast wireless technology—all while delivering even better battery life.

The iPhone 5 comes with iOS6; the world's most advanced mobile operating system with over 200 new features including: the all new Maps app with Apple-designed cartography and turn-by-turn navigation; Facebook integration; Passbook organization; and even more Siri features and languages.

Philip Schiller, Apple's senior VP of Worldwide Marketing said, "iPhone 5 is the most beautiful consumer device that we've ever created. We've packed an amazing amount of innovation and advanced technology into a thin and light, jewel-like device with a stunning 4-inch Retina display, blazing fast A6 chip, ultrafast wireless, even longer battery life; and we think customers are going to love it."

It has an all-new 7.6 mm anodized aluminum body that is 18 percent thinner and 20 percent lighter than iPhone 4S. Designed with an unprecedented level of precision, iPhone 5 combines an anodized aluminum body with diamond cut chamfered edges and glass inlays for a truly incredible fit and finish. The new 4-inch Retina display on iPhone 5 delivers even more pixels than iPhone 4S, making the already incredible Retina display even better. By making the screen taller, not wider, iPhone 5 is just as easy to use with one hand so users can tap, type and scroll the same way they always have, while enjoying even more of their content including amazing apps optimized for the larger Retina display, widescreen HD video, a full five days of their Calendar and more of every web page.

It supports ultrafast wireless standards including LTE and DC-HSDPA that will enable users to browse, download and stream content even faster. The all-new A6 chip was designed by Apple to maximize performance and power efficiency to support all the

incredible new features in iPhone 5, including the stunning new 4-inch Retina display all while delivering even better battery life.

53. FUTURE OF TELEMATICS: CONNECTED CARS IN THE CLOUD, SMART KEYS AND TELEMATICS INSURANCE

A recent SBD report available from Global Information Inc, (GII) states that the next evolution in telematics could be connected cars in the cloud, smart keys and telematics insurance.

Over 30 vehicle manufacturers have launched telematics services in the U.S, China, and Europe- a 50% growth since 2010. Additionally 9 more vehicle manufacturers are planning to launch new services over the coming year. Over 19 million drivers covered by telematics-impacted insurance policies; and over 15% of all new passenger cars in Europe being smart-key fitted.

This growing availability of connected car services will gradually lead to a surge in fitment rates for in-car connectivity. SBD forecasts that by 2015 over 30 million new cars will be fitted with some type of connectivity box.

54. INDIAN CELLCOS ORDERED TO CUT BTS RADIATION

India's Department of Telecom has ordered seven operators - including Airtel, Reliance Communications and Vodafone - to cut down on radiation emissions at a site in Mumbai, after a random check found emission levels in breach of mandated norms. "11 BTSs (Base Tower Stations) of Reliance Communications, TTML, Airtel, Vodafone, Idea Cellular, Aircel and Loop Telecom were found radiating beyond permissible limits of the new radiation norms when measurements were carried out in some houses facing nearby BTS antenna," DoT said in an official statement.

55. BHARTI SAID TO PLAN TOWER IPO FOR DECEMBER

Indian incumbent operator BhartiAirtel is preparing to launch a \$1 billion IPO for tower unit Bharti Infratel in December, sources claim, and may start pre-marketing the offer to investors from this week.

56. IPHONE 5 PRE-ORDER STOCKS SELL OUT IN HOUR

Apple ran out of pre-order stock for the iPhone 5 just one hour after it started taking orders through its site.

57. VODAFONE MAY TAKE TAX PROVISION IN INDIA

Vodafone has revealed it may decide to take a provision to cover the legal risks of fighting the \$2.2 billion tax claim by India's tax department. The operator has previously resisted setting aside any cash in the dispute.

58. HP WORKING ON SMARTPHONE ENTRY

HP CEO Meg Whitman has revealed in an interview that the company is working on entering the smartphone market. Whitman said she believes the move is inevitable because smartphones are becoming a user's first computing device in many parts of the world.

59. TECH MAHINDRA ACQUIRES 51 PERCENT STAKE IN COMVIVA TECHNOLOGIES

Tech Mahindra, the telecom software services provider has acquired 51 percent stake in mobile value added services (VAS) providers Comviva Technologies, for Rs 260 crore. After the acquisition, the new entity will be called 'Mahindra Comviva'.

Bharti Group has a majority stake in Gurgaon-based Comviva. According to the sources, the current promoters will continue to hold 20 per cent stake. It will be a win-win situation for both the companies. The acquisition of the majority stake will assist Tech Mahindra to increase its presence in areas such as payments and mobile VAS. On the other hand, Tech Mahindra's reach and access to telecom players will enable Comviva to take integrated solutions and products to a larger base.

Comviva will be able to bring its managed VAS capabilities to the table, which increases operators' revenues across VAS services by up to 20 percent, speed time to market by over 40 percent and reduce overall VAS delivery and management costs by 35 percent.

On the new acquisition, Mr. Vineet Nayyar, executive vice chairman, Tech Mahindra said, "This acquisition is a significant step forward, in our vision of being a complete and comprehensive partner to our clients and like always, we are confident of making this a successful venture for our stakeholders. In addition to the market leading capabilities, this will also add to our relationship with large operator groups across the world."

60. RIL PLANS LOW-COST TELECOM TOWERS TO GAIN COMPETITIVE EDGE

Reliance Industries is believed to be working on ultra-low-cost base stations, used to transmit signals for telecom services, costing just Rs 1 lakh each. At this price point, the cost of the proposed towers would be as low as 1/40th of the base stations deployed by some leading mobile phone service providers.

These low-cost towers are part of the strategy of country's largest private sector enterprise as it gears up for its foray into telecom space through Infotel Broadband. Sources from the industry said some leading telecom companies are using telecom towers costing as high as Rs 30-40 lakh, while some of the low-cost towers cost Rs 15-20 lakh.

Some Chinese firms, however, claim to have developed telecom towers worth Rs 5-10 lakh. Costs vary as per the volume of the order and transmission capabilities, among other factors, said experts. Sources say, "*Infotel is planning to build its network with a mix of rented mobile towers and its own BTSs (base tower station or mobile towers). The BTSs that Infotel is working on are expected to cost it Rs 1 lakh each.*"

The rentals for telecom towers also vary between Rs 30,000-50,000 per month, making the proposed base stations of RIL group a very cost-effective model. Sources who are aware of the development said, besides an estimated 100,000 towers of its own, RIL group would also consider leasing out the base stations from third parties.

Infotel is focusing on a low-cost model so that it can keep the rates of 4G telecom services lower than that of other players. The services may be launched as early as 2012-end, but there is more likelihood of launch in 2013. In earlier days, the cost of setting-up of stand-alone BTSs (mobile towers) was Rs 50-60 lakh. With advancement in technology, it has come down to Rs 30-40 lakh for a high quality tower.

Infotel Broadband had earlier floated tender for its plans to deploy base stations at around one lakh locations, after which some tower companies offered to rent out their towers. This it would have to share with other telecom companies as well. The rentals were offered in a wide range of Rs 15,000-50,000 per month, excluding various on-site costs.

Infotel is also likely to manage on its own the network, IT infrastructure and other services, which are normally outsourced by telecom operators to keep operational costs low. At present, only Bharti Airtel and state-run telecom company BSNL provide 4G services in the country out of eight firms that hold BWA spectrum.

61. TELENOR CAN FIND NEW PARTNER FOR INDIA 2G BID

An Indian district court has rejected a request from Unitech to prevent its estranged business partner - Norwegian operator Telenor - from bidding for 2G spectrum with another partner.

62. SAMSUNG TO UNVEIL GALAXY S4 IN FEBRUARY

Samsung has revealed plans to unveil the Galaxy S4, the latest in its flagship smartphone line, at next year's Mobile World Congress in February.

63. NSN CLAIMS 1.6 GBPS TD-LTE SPEED RECORD

Nokia Siemens claims to have broken TD-LTE transmission speed records, achieving a peak performance of 1.6 Gbps during testing in the US. The technology is hardly ready for commercial use, but unlike many of the other concept networks vendors design, this one might actually get built.

In its tests, NSN said it managed to download a 3 GB HD movie while simultaneously uploading 1.7 GB of data, all within 24 seconds. NSN accomplished this in part by piling a lot of spectrum onto its network – 60 MHz to be exact. In comparison, Verizon's LTE network uses 20 MHz of spectrum.

64. SAMSUNG LOSES BID TO LIFT US BAN ON GALAXY TAB

A US court has denied Samsung's request to lift the injunction on US sales of the Galaxy Tab 10.1, even though a jury cleared Samsung of patent infringement with this device.

Judge Lucy Koh has stated she lacks the jurisdiction to lift the ban as the matter is now with the appeals court.

65. SKT DEVELOPS FDD/TDD LTE HANDOVER TECH.

SK Telecom announced that it has developed a two-way handover technology that supports both FDD and TD-LTE in one device.

SKT introduced the technology at an operating committee meeting held this September in Italy. The carrier said it developed the technology with Ericsson and Semiconductor. Since mobile operators are applying different LTE modes and a growing number of operators are using both FDD LTE and TD-LTE, bidirectional LTE FDD/TDD handover technology is being focused on as a core LTE technology.

66. LG ELECTRONICS LAUNCHES ITS NEW FLAGSHIP SMARTPHONE OPTIMUS G

South Korean electronics giant, LG Electronics has launched its new flagship smartphone called Optimus G. The new smartphone would hit domestic stores next week before sales begin in Japan in October and other countries including US in November.

It is the first handset built around Qualcomm's 1.5GHz quad-core Snapdragon S4 Pro, that helps run applications about 40 percent faster than existing quad-core processors. It features LTE, a 4.7-inch 1280x768 True HD IPS PLUS display, 2GB of RAM, 32GB of built-in storage, a 13-megapixel auto focus camera, a sealed 2100mAh battery, NFC and runs on Ice Cream Sandwich.

67. TRAI REVISES PORT CHARGES FOR TELEPHONE NETWORKS

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India revised port charges. According to new amendment the ceiling rates would be Rs 10,000 a year for fixed line telephone calls and at Rs 4,000 for mobile services. This should help operators to reduce the telecom tariffs.

At present, operators pay over Rs 39,000 to each other. Port is an essential part for the establishment of the interconnection between two networks. Port may be defined as a place of termination on a switch/exchange to provide Point of Interconnection (POI) for ingress and egress of traffic between the two interconnecting networks.

The Port charges are payable by the interconnection seeker to the interconnection provider for terminating interconnection links on the network interface of the interconnection provider.

The port charges were initially determined by TRAI in 1999 and modified by issuing 'The Telecommunication Interconnection (Port Charges) Regulation 2001' in December 2001. These charges were subsequently revised in February, 2007. To further review port charges, TRAI issued a consultation paper on 09.05.2012. The revised Port Charges will come into effect from 1st October, 2012.

68. EXISTING ACCESS SERVICE LICENSEES TO BE TREATED AS NEW ENTRANT : 2G AUCTION

In queries related to spectrum auction Department of Telecommunication said on that all existing Access Service licensees shall be treated as 'New Entrant' for the bidding in those frequency bands in which they do not hold spectrum at present in that particular service area. The auction for the airwaves frequencies in 1800 MHz and 800 MHz band for wireless telecom services is scheduled to be held in November.

In India, telecom operators currently use 900 MHz and 1800 MHz band frequencies for providing GSM technology based 2G services and 800 MHz band for CDMA technology based wireless telecom services.

DoT said, "*However, they shall be treated as 'Existing licensee' for the frequency band in which they hold the spectrum. For the limited purpose of this provision, 900 MHz and 1800 MHz will be treated as same band.*"

69. IDEA APPROACHES SUPREME COURT: 2G AUCTION

According to reports, Telecom operator Idea Cellular approached the Supreme Court against the government's decisions to restrict the sale of airwaves in the upcoming auctions.

Idea has alleged that the government was creating an artificial scarcity of the airwaves and a difficult environment for phone companies and consumers. Idea said in its petition, "*The respondent (the government) has to fully, faithfully and transparently implement the directions given by the court which entails putting entire quantum of freed-up spectrum to auction, instead of a truncated or reduced spectrum.*"

The Aditya Birla Group Company has sought direction from the apex court to the government to sell all airwaves vacated by the 122 licenses quashed earlier this year. The apex court in its February 2 verdict had cancelled all the 122 licenses allotted during the tenure of former telecom minister A Raja. The court had also directed the government auction the spectrum licenses.

70. TELCOS ORDERED TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW VAS NORMS

TRAI has ordered telecom operators to take permission from subscribers in writing or by SMS before activating any value added service. The regulator has given a deadline of a month to the operators to follow this norm.

71.4G MOBILITY SOME TIME AWAY: ERICSSON

The Ericsson AB India head believes that the mobility aspect of the recently launched 4G will take a little more time to pick up. "Given the way the spectrum has been given to the operators in the 2.3-GHz band, it might take some time before the mobility aspect of it picks up. The ecosystem around the globe is around the 700-MHz band. This

band is relatively isolated," Fredrik Jejdling, Head - Region India, Ericsson told *Light Reading India* in a recent interaction.

Further elaborating on the initial role of the 4G spectrum, Jejdling says, "Initially it [the 2.3-GHz spectrum] will be utilized in a different way and over time, the ecosystem will evolve. Initially it might be deployed as a last-mile access technology and the mobility will take some time to pick up. Mobility can happen on 3G and Wi-Fi."

72. TOWER RELOCATION WILL BE A HUGE COST: COAI

The new radiation norms set by the government to bring down the radiation limit by one-tenth and to relocate towers at least 35 meters away from residential buildings will have huge financial implications for the operators, according to Rajan Mathews, Director General and Cellular Operators Association of India . "The relocation of a single tower will cost about INR 2.5 million. Moreover, it will be a daunting task in extremely congested cities like Mumbai," says Mathews. "We have not received any assistance from the government and the entire implementation of these norms will be borne by the operators which again is too much of a burden. However, we are committed to ensure a safer environment for our consumers," added Mathews.

73. TDSAT ADMITS COAI PLEA AGAINST TRAI DIRECTIVE ON ISD FACILITY

Telecom tribunal TDSAT has admitted GSM players' lobby group COAI's plea against TRAI's directive to telecom operators that they must de-activate the ISD facility in pre-paid numbers and restore it only after getting consent from the subscriber.

In its petition COAI called the directive as irrational, unreasonable, arbitrary, illegal, and without application of mind. A TDSAT bench headed by its Chairman Justice S B Sinha has admitted the plea. The matter would now come on October 8 for next hearing.

The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) also asked Trai not to take any coercive action against operators.

74. TRAI TO FINE OPERATORS FOR INFRINGING MNP RULES

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India said it will levy financial disincentives on telecom operators for contravention of mobile number portability (MNP) regulations ranging from Rs.5,000 to Rs.10, 000.

The TRAI said in its fourth amendment to the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability regulations 2009, "*In order to ensure compliance of MNP regulations by access providers, the authority has decided to amend the regulations to incorporate the provisions for levying financial disincentives where contravention is established in rejection of porting requests and also in the timelines specified in the regulations.*"

These regulations will come into effect after 60 days so that service providers streamline their current processes in conformity with the MNP regulations. According to TRAI while almost 60 million customers have opted for MNP so far across the

country, the authority has also received a number of complaints wherein the subscribers have reported that their porting requests have been rejected by the donor operators on frivolous grounds.

75. APPLE UNDER FIRE OVER MAPS APP

A day after the new system was released as part of its new iOS6 mobile operating system, users from countries including the United States, Britain, China, France and Japan have protested that the new maps misplace some landmarks and leave others off altogether.

Many disappointed fans headed to online forums to vent their frustration, which could take the shine off the eagerly awaited release of the iPhone 5 today. "In the UK many town names are wrong, with some missing; roads are all the same color; satellite image resolution is not as good as it was previously," user Shilts9 wrote on Apple's support forum. "Awful in Australia, too," wrote Shane Keher. "Apple's version is bad on so many levels it's hard to imagine a workable version for at least a year or two."

76. VODAFONE INDIA SEEKS COMPROMISE IN TAX DISPUTE

Vodafone India has hinted it may be willing to pay the 80 billion rupee (\$1.47 billion) tax bill the government is demanding from its 2007 acquisition of what was then Hutchison Essar - if the government forgoes the additional 120 billion rupee interest and penalty also being sought.

77. RELIANCE COMMUNICATIONS HIKES CALLING RATES BY 25%, RIVALS MAY FOLLOW SUIT

Reliance Communications, the country's second-largest mobile operator by subscribers, will raise calling rates by 25% from Friday to improve its operating margins, possibly setting the stage for all leading mobile phone companies to go in for a second round of tariff hikes in the last 12 months. This will be the biggest tariff hike effected by the Anil Ambani company and will be the second bold step undertaken by the debt-ridden Telco after it disconnected subscribers who had not used their phones for two months.

This resulted in a 21-million decline in its subscriber base. RCOM's revised call rates will initially affect new customers and will be extended to its existing users when the validity of their current tariff plans expires. The company said it has revised its base price from 1.2 paise per second to 1.5 paise and this has initially been implemented in four states and be rolled out across the rest of the county within a month.

The company said its move comes in the wake of its new strategy to track average margin per user rather than average monthly revenue per user.

78. COAI AND AUSPI MOVE TDSAT AGAINST TRAI'S VAS DIRECTIVE

GSM and CDMA lobby group, Cellular Association of India (COAI) and Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI) moved the sectoral tribunal Telecom

Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) against TRAI's directive on Value Added Services (VAS) calling it unfair. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its July 4, 2011 directive had said, that telecom operators must get written confirmation from their customers regarding activation of any value added services by the subscribers.

In its petition, AUSPI has said, that TRAI's directions are "*encroaching and infringing*" its right to carry on business and trade and it is against the innovative and consumer friendly ideas. They also said "*TRAI's directive on VAS was unreasonable, unwarranted and without application of mind.*"

According to operators, these directions are beyond the quality of service norms and license condition and it is "*actually in conflict in with the statutory duty and functions of TRAI*"

79. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA REJECTS FDI IN ECOMMERCE, PUTS BRAKES ON AMAZON & OTHER ECOMMERCE COMPANIES ENTERING INDIA

The Indian Government which allowed Foreign Direct Investment up to 51% in multi brand retail trading last week has decided not to allow companies with foreign direct investment (FDI) to sell their products through the Internet in India. This decision puts curtains on Amazon and other foreign ecommerce companies entering India. The Government has also prevented foreign retail companies that enter India from selling online.

The provisions are part of the notification by the industry department on the FDI policies for retail. The notification says, "Retail trading, in any form, by means of ecommerce and would not be permissible, for companies with FDI, engaged in the activity of multi-brand retail trading."

Besides, this provision also applies to investments by foreign venture capital and private equity funds in such ventures. Ecommerce firms used to raise funds from foreign Private Equity and Venture Capitalist firms showing that the money was raised to power the backend logistics of the business venture and the ecommerce. As the FDI norms are eased, startups can have a single corporate entity for which they can directly bid for funds. This is likely to continue the same way as of now.

80. THE NEW WINDOWS PHONE 8X AND 8S BY HTC

These smartphones are the first in a family of signature models built with the new Windows Phone 8 operating system. Both models are available in multiple colors and boast iconic design, studio-quality sound with Beats Audio™, and incredible camera capabilities.

81. TELECOM DEPARTMENT MAY ASK AIRTEL, VODAFONE & IDEA TO STOP 3G ROAMING PACTS

The telecom department may issue two separate sets of notices to incumbent GSM operators - BhartiAirtel, Vodafone and Idea Cellular- asking these operators to hang up

on their 3G roaming pacts, and also pay back the 'unjust enrichment' these companies earned from these pacts. The DoT is looking at separate notices after studying the response of the law ministry which said the government was 'well within its rights to claim the amounts earned by companies by providing 3G services for which they did not have any authorization, permission or license from the DoT'. "It will be based on the doctrine of unjust enrichment and this would be distinct from the termination of licenses," the Additional Solicitor General had said in a July 14 note to the telecom department.

Bharti, Vodafone and Idea won 3G airwaves in 13, 9 and 11 circles, respectively, and their roaming pacts ensured that customers could access high-speed data services on a pan-India basis. In December 2011, the government had issued a directive asking these companies to terminate these agreements within 24 hours, a move that was challenged by the mobile phone companies. In June this year, the telecom tribunal delivered a split verdict on a petition challenging the government's order banning such agreements, following which the government had sought the law ministry's opinion on the issue.

82. NO ROAMING CHARGES LIKELY FROM NEXT YEAR

The communications ministry will do away with roaming charges paid by mobile users when travelling within India from 2013, telecom secretary R Chandrasekhar told ET, even as he added that it would not be possible to specify the exact month of execution. The finance ministry asked the telecom department to submit the road map for implementation of the 'one nation-free roaming' that was announced by communications minister Kapil Sibal earlier this year. In May, the Union Cabinet had approved the National Telecom Policy - 2012 that aimed at doing away with roaming charges and introducing a pan-India mobile permit (unified license) that would enable mobile phone firms to offer all communication services.

"Our first priority is the upcoming spectrum auctions. At the same time, we are working on the Unified License (UL) and we want to finalize this by December. Once the UL regime is rolled out post December, concepts like 'One nation-free roaming' that is part of it will be introduced. This will happen sometime next year (2013). At this stage it will be impossible to specify the exact timeframe," Chandrasekhar said. This consumer-centric move, which is bound to bring down the mobile bills of frequent travellers, will dent revenues of India's beleaguered telecom companies since roaming charges account for about 10% of the sector's annual sales.

83. IPHONE 5 ON TRACK TO BREAK RECORDS

Analysts predict Apple may have sold ten million iPhone 5s over the weekend, which would make the smartphone the fastest selling consumer electronics device in history.

84. DOT MAY SEIZE REVENUES FROM 3G ROAM DEALS

India's Department of Telecom not only plans to fine operators engaged in 3G roaming pacts which allegedly breach licensing conditions the maximum 500 million rupees (\$9.3 million) per telecom circle, but is also seeking legal advice over whether it can seize the revenues gained from the deals.

85. APPLE SEEKING EXTRA \$707M FROM SAMSUNG

Apple has petitioned a US court for a permanent ban on US sales of Samsung products deemed to have breached its patents, and an extra \$707 million in damages on top of the over \$1 billion awarded by the jury last month.

86. TOMTOM WORKS TO FIX IOS6 MAPS

Staff at Dutch mapping firm TomTom say the firm is working with Apple to address problems with the navigation feature on iOS6, following a storm of complaints about the function.

87. CHINA CLOSE TO 200M 3G SUBS

China is on the verge of reaching 200 million 3G subscribers, three years after the allocation of the country's first 3G license, data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology shows.

88. LTE USERS SURPASS WIMAX IN SK, JAPAN, US

LTE subscribers in the key early adopter markets of South Korea, Japan and the US now outnumber Wimax customers in the nations, new research shows. ABI Research estimates that in South Korea, LTE users surpassed Wimax subs in the fourth quarter of last year, while for Japan this took until 2Q12. "Japan, South Korea, and the United States used to have strong mobile Wimax proponents, so while the momentum and future of Wimax and LTE are clear, it is somewhat surprising to see how long the subscriber crossover has actually taken," ABI research director Phil Solis said.

He predicted that even the subgroup of LTE subscribers on TD-LTE networks will outnumber Wimax customers by mid-2014, "at which point Wimax subscribers will begin their permanent, slow decline."

89. QUALCOMM GETS BEHIND TD-LTE

Qualcomm is betting on growing support for China's homegrown TD-LTE 4G standard, by including the technology in its latest breed of Snapdragon smartphone processors. The CDMA pioneer yesterday launched a China-specific version of its newest Snapdragon S4 mobile processor, which can handle UMTS, TD-SCDMA and CDMA in addition to the 4G technology. Qualcomm is targeting the silicon at mid-tier

smartphones for the Chinese market; however it is likely to pick up business outside the country due to growing international support for the standard.

90. WINDOWS 8 APPFEST AT BANGALORE CREATES A WORLD RECORD

With more than 2500 registered developers and 18-hour non-stop coding session, Microsoft's App Fest at Bangalore has created a Guinness World Record for the maximum number of developers coding for a single event at a common location. Windows App Fest, Microsoft's 18 hour nonstop marathon coding festival was held at Karnataka Trade Promotion Organization (KTPO).

91. INDIAN DEVELOPERS CAN NOW SELL PAID APPS ON GOOGLE PLAY

Google Play, the Apps market for Android mobile operating system, has added India to the list of countries from which developers can register as Google Checkout merchants. This means that, Indian Developers will now be able to sell paid applications via the Google Play Store. Till now, developers in India could publish only free applications.

92. GODREJ LAUNCHES E-COMMERCE STORE WITH INDIATIMES

Godrej Appliances has partnered with Times Internet's online shopping portal Shopping.Indiatimes.com, to launch its first online store <http://godrej.indiatimes.com/>. Currently, Godrej Appliances sells its products through various multi-brand online portals. With the launch of this e-commerce store, consumers will now be able to shop online for appliances like microwaves, refrigerators, air-conditioners and washing machines.

93. ROAMING ABOLITION TO COST TELCOS INR 135B

In what could be music to the ears of mobile phone subscribers, Telecom Minister Kapil Sibal today said they would not have to pay roaming charges from next year. The move, however, might not go down well with service providers, who will face a hit of up to Rs 13,500 crore in revenues. At present, GSM operators such as BhartiAirtel, Vodafone and Idea Cellular earn 10-12 per cent of their revenues from the national roaming services, which amount to Rs 10,000-Rs 13,500 crore.

No roaming charge means, from 2013, mobile phone subscribers can use their number seamlessly across the country, without having to pay extra charges while travelling. The policy has already been cleared by the Cabinet as part of the new telecom policy.

94. FREE ROAMING TO ENHANCE MOU: EXPERTS

The abolition of roaming charges will actually lead to increase in Minutes of Usage and the operators should not use this as an excuse to hike tariffs, believe experts. "The operator's revenue will not decline to a great extent as it will increase the minutes of usage (MOU) of a consumer who will continue to receive and make calls while on

roaming. It is a good excuse for operators to cite a hike in tariffs," says independent analyst Rahul Gupta.

He further adds that the decision of making incoming calls free actually shot up the operator's earnings."The operators did not shout when the incoming calls were made free as it leads to an increased usage of cellular services thereby increasing their revenues," adds Gupta.

95. RIL DECIDES OSS/BSS VENDORS

The only owner of the pan-India Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has decided the OSS/BSS vendors, according to Times. According to the report, the company has decided in favor of Amdocs Ltd. (NYSE: DOX) for service management, resource management and order management. The same report says that Hewlett-Packard Co. (NYSE: HPQ) would be deploying quality management and service management and SAP AG (NYSE/Frankfurt: SAP) would be deploying customer relationship management tool.

Reliance was recently in news for finalizing Samsung Corp. for ordering equipment for Radio Access Network (RAN) for Delhi and Mumbai to begin with. The company has also awarded a deal to Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd. (HFCL) to lay optical fiber cable in a few cities. (See Rumor: RIL Strikes LTE Rollout Deal and Samsung Gets The Coveted RIL's LTE Deal.

The company is also on a hiring spree and has recently recruited Chief Technology Officer and Chief Information Officers beside others. (See Reliance Infotel Gets a New CIO and Reliance Infotel Gets New CTO.) The company seems to be gearing up for the launch of 4G services sometime in the coming year

96. TEMA GETS A NEW PRESIDENT

Telecom Equipment Manufacturing Association Of India (TEMA)-the official mouthpiece of Indian manufacturing industry, has appointed Rahul Sharma- Head – System Integration Business of Sterlite Technologies Ltd. as its new President for the year 2012-13. According to the copy of letter sent by TEMA, the extended tenure of Ashok Aggarwal, the existing Director General of the association, comes to an end from June 13, 2012.

97. RIL LIKELY TO BID FOR TELECOM SPECTRUM

Reliance Industries is likely to bid for mobile telephone spectrum in the upcoming auction to complement its wireless broadband services with voice call facility.

The oil-to-textile group headed by billionaire Mukesh Ambani is making a re-entry into the telecommunication business and is being talked as the most aggressive bidder in the November auction of telecom spectrum.

Sitting on a cash-pile of Rs 70,732 crore at the end of the June quarter, RIL was the most notable participant at the pre-bid conference organized by the Department of Telecom (DoT) in the run-up to the auction. RIL is most likely to put a direct bid, a source privy to the development said. If for some reasons it is unable to make a bid by itself, the company may fund purchase of spectrum by another company and then acquire it.

A company spokesperson declined to comment on speculation about the issue. The company had in 2010 re-entered the telecom space after it acquired Infotel Broadband which had won pan-India spectrum for offering high-speed internet broadband. The pan-India spectrum that RIL holds through Infotel Broadband does not have permission to provide voice calling facility.

Any spectrum that does not allow voice calls is not a big revenue earner and so RIL as the next logical step would want to acquire spectrum which it can bundle its high speed mobile broadband service, the source said. The government plans to begin auction of spectrum vacated from cancellation of 122 telecom licenses by the Supreme Court, from November 12.

The source said representatives of RIL subsidiary Infotel Broadband have been attended meetings organized by Department of Telecommunications on proposed spectrum auction.

98. THE PRICE GAME OF PRE-PAID AND POST-PAID RELIANCE CUSTOMERS

If pre-paid was raised just a week back, its opposite for the post-paid reliance customers. Anil Ambani promoted Reliance Communication BSE2.45% (RCOM) has decided to play the price game for the post-paid customers, which will introduce tariffs that are 40 per cent lower than those offered by GSM operators.

RCOM's chief executive Gurdeep Singh said, "We want to be disruptive in the post-paid space which is dominated by the three incumbent GSM operators due to historical reasons. These operators have not brought any innovations or reduced tariffs for their post-paid customers over the last decade. These are high-end users and corporates and we know they are open for to a value proposition. Pricing disruption will be one way to target these subscribers."

In the case of RCOM, post-paid users constitute about 4 per cent of its GSM customers and bring about 18 per cent of its revenues from this technology platform. The telco wants to double its post-paid base over the next 12 months. India's post-paid market is estimated to worth over Rs 20,000 crore annually. India's telecom sector has been ravaged by savage price wars over the last three years, destroying profitability of the sector and leading to stagnation of revenues, but this has been largely restricted to the pre-paid segment.

At present, post-paid customers account for a mere 5 per cent of the 950 million mobile connections in India, but these customers contribute up to 20 per cent of the

total revenues of the sector. On an average, these customers stay with an operator for three to four years when compared to six to eight months for the pre-paid category

RCOM will soon introduce unlimited voice calls for 899 for its post-paid customers while this option will be available along with 3 GB of data for Rs 1,499. The company's existing post-paid customers will also be given the option to migrate to these new tariffs. Company executives claim the new call rates would reduce bills of high-end post-paid users by up to 60 per cent.

Last week, RCOM had carried out its biggest ever tariff hike when it began revising its base price from 1.2 paise per second to 1.5 paise, its second bold step after the debt-ridden Telco disconnected customers who had not used their phones for two months, resulting in its subscriber base declining by 21 million.

99. BHARTI AIRTEL RESTRUCTURES BOARD AHEAD OF ITS TOWER ARM IPO

Telecom firm Bharti Airtel BSE 1.36 % and its subsidiary Bharti Infratel today restructured their board making Rakesh Bharti Mittal the Chairman of the tower arm, ahead of its planned IPO.

"The changes have been effected in view of the proposed IPO of Bharti Infratel, which is a leading provider of passive telecom infrastructure in India," BhartiAirtel said in a statement. Following the restructuring, Bharti Airtel's will now have separate representation for Bharti and SingTel on the two boards. The new appointees on the board of BhartiAirtel are Manish Kejriwal and Obiageli Katryn Ezekwesili, while Sunil Mittal would continue as Chairman and Managing Director.

100. GOOGLE PLAY STORE CROSSES 25 BILLION APP DOWNLOADS

Google announced on its official Android Blog that its Google Play Store has crossed 25 billion app downloads. It also stated that, Google Play Store now has a total of 675,000 apps and games. To celebrate this milestone; Google is offering content available on Google Play at special prices.

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