

India competing with world's best telecom equipment makers: Vaishnaw

SOURABH LELE & ASHUTOSH MISHRA
New Delhi, 27 October

As much as 80 per cent of the telecom equipment used in India's 5G rollout was locally manufactured and the country currently exports such products to 72 countries, Union Minister of Communications and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday.

"We are competing on equal terms (in quality) with the best manufacturers in the world. The companies are developing local intellectual property in India. Cost is a factor in many consumer items. But this is a particular sector in which your customer experience can take a big hit if your quality is not good," he said.

The minister's comments came days after the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) recommended promoting Networking and Telecom Equipment Manufacturing in India. The regulator had found that manufacturing telecom hardware in countries, such as China, leads to 12-13 per cent lower cost, despite India's production-linked incentive scheme. In 2022-23, India exported network equipment worth only around ₹173 crore. "There are so many companies that have started design and

manufacture in India, and today they have become exporters of equipment. Indian designed and manufactured telecom equipment is exported to a total of 72 countries today," Vaishnaw said at a press meet on the sidelines of India Mobile Congress. On semiconductor manufacturing, the minister said at least three players were in advanced talks with the government for building a chip plant in India. "Today, the discussions are that half of the semiconductor market will consist of 40-60 nanometers compound semiconductors. It has applications ranging from electric vehicles, mobile towers to Airplanes. We must carefully work and take lead in such rapidly growing segments."

Transition period for DDP Act

When asked about the enforcement timeline of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, enacted in August, the minister said companies should be ready to comply with the law, as they

already do with legislations like Europe's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

"We have consulted with practically every company, and they are very happy with the law. Already the draft rules are ready, the rule-making process is practically complete, and very soon we will publish the rules for a public consultation. The digital architecture which is required for the Data Protection Board is also in a very good process," Vaishnaw said. The Act provides broad principles of data protection, but the way of implementation and the exact processes will be "as may be prescribed" in the rulebook. The law has defined 26 matters on which the government can make rules to enforce the provisions of the Act. Vaishnaw clarified that all the rules would be notified together unlike previous speculations that suggested few important rules may get notified initially.

"The idea that a social media platform has no responsibility for the content (generated by users) cannot be unfettered or unlimited. Platforms will have to be responsible for what they are publishing. That stage has come"

ASHWINI VAISHNAW

Union Minister of Communications and IT



Jio throws hat in satellite internet ring

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, 27 October

Reliance Jio has announced India's first satellite-based giga fiber service to provide high-speed broadband to previously inaccessible geographies within the country. Reliance Jio Infocomm Chairman Akash Ambani showcased the JioSpaceFiber technology to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the seventh edition of the India Mobile Congress on Friday.

The move will intensify the race to provide satellite broadband services in India, with JioSpaceFiber set to compete with Bharti-backed satcom operator OneWeb.

Jio has partnered with a Luxembourg-

based satellite telecommunications network provider that supplies video and data connectivity worldwide to offer the service. With the satellite network also supporting additional capacity for mobile backhaul,

JioSpaceFiber will further enhance the availability and scale of Jio True5G in the remotest parts of the country at highly affordable prices, the company said in a release.

"Jio is partnering with SES to access the world's latest in medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite technology, the only MEO constellation capable of delivering truly unique Gigabit, fiber-like services from space," it said.

To demonstrate its power and reach, Jio said four of the remotest locations in India

have already been connected with JioSpaceFiber. These include Gir in Gujarat, Korba in Chattisgarh, Nabrangpur in Odisha and an installation of national oil company ONGC in Jorhat, Assam.

With Jio now having access to a combination of SES's O3b and new O3b mPOWER satellites, it has laid claims to be the only company that offers game-changing technology, providing scalable and affordable broadband across all of India.

"Jio has enabled millions of homes and businesses in India to experience broadband internet for the first time. With JioSpaceFiber, we expand our reach to cover the millions yet to be connected," said Akash Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, said.



EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A LIFE OF DIGNITY AND THE BENEFIT OF TECHNOLOGY SHOULD REACH EVERYONE. WE ARE WORKING RAPIDLY IN THIS DIRECTION. FOR ME, THIS IS THE BIGGEST SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT



NARENDRA MODI, PM



ANYBODY, ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, IN REMOTE PARTS OR IN DIFFICULT AREAS, WHEREVER THEY ARE LOCATED CAN BE CONNECTED (BY ONEWEB) FROM NEXT MONTH

SUNIL MITTAL, Chairman, Bharti Enterprises



IN THE COMING QUARTERS, VODAFONE IDEA WILL INITIATE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS IN ORDER TO ROLL OUT 5G NETWORKS

KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA,

Chairman, Aditya Birla Group



WE PROMISE YOU THAT THROUGH THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY, WE WILL BUILD A DIGITAL STATUE OF UNITY...JIO ALONE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO 85% OF THE OVERALL 5G CAPACITY

AKASH AMBANI, Chairman, Reliance Jio

