

# Google to invest US\$1 billion in Airtel

Google will invest up to \$1 billion in India's second-largest mobile operator, Airtel, the companies said on 28 January.

The global tech giant will buy a \$700 million stake in billionaire Sunil Mittal's Bharti Airtel, giving it 1.28 per cent ownership, the firms said in a joint statement.

Up to \$300 million more will be invested in "mutually agreeable" commercial projects over the next five years, including exploring opportunities to "bring down the barriers of owning a smartphone" in the price-conscious market.

"We are proud to partner on a shared vision for expanding connectivity and ensuring equitable access to the internet for more Indians," Sundar Pichai, the Indian-born chief executive of Google parent Alphabet said in a statement.

Google already holds a 7.7-per cent stake in Indian market leader



Reliance Jio, owned by Asia's richest man, Mukesh Ambani, following a \$4.5-billion investment in 2020. The two companies collaborated on a 4G-enabled, low-cost smartphone that launched in November last year.

Jio has been locked in fierce competition with Airtel and British telecoms giant Vodafone's local unit Vi since it kicked off a price war in 2016 by offering dirt-cheap internet and free calls.

## Facebook parent Meta announces massive AI supercomputer



Facebook parent Meta Platforms Inc said on Monday that its research team has built a new artificial intelligence supercomputer that it thinks will be the fastest in the world when completed in mid-2022.

Meta said in a blog post that its new AI Research SuperCluster (RSC) would help the company build better AI models that can learn from trillions of examples, work across hundreds of languages, and analyze text, images and video together to determine if the content was harmful.

"This research will not only help keep people safe on our services today but also in the future, as we build for the metaverse," the company said in a blog post. The social media company changed its name in October to Meta to reflect its focus on the metaverse, which it thinks will be the successor to the mobile internet.

The metaverse, a broad term that has generated a lot of Silicon Valley buzz in recent months, refers to the idea of shared virtual environments which people can access through different devices and where they can work, play and socialise.

"The experiences we're building for the metaverse require enormous compute power (quintillions of operations/second!) and RSC will enable new AI models that can learn from trillions of examples, understand hundreds of languages, and more," Meta Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg wrote in a Facebook post on Monday.

Meta said it believed the RSC was currently among the fastest AI supercomputers running. A Meta spokesperson said the company had partnered with teams from Nvidia Corp, Pure Storage Inc and Penguin Computing Inc to build the supercomputer.

## Walton launches laptops with 11th Gen Intel processors

Walton Digi-Tech Industries has recently launched three new laptops which use Intel's 11th Generation processors.

The Tamarind MX11 series laptops are equipped with Core i3, Core i5 and Core i7 processors, 8GB RAM, high-speed SSDs, and the original Windows 11 operating system.

According to Walton Digi-Tech DMD Liakat Ali, these new models of laptops, with multitasking facilities and advanced features, will give users a more dynamic experience during their regular tasks including, games and entertainment.

The Core i3 processor laptop has been priced at Tk. 57,500, Core i5 at Tk. 71,500 and Core i7 at Tk. 84,500.

The devices have 8GB DDR4 3200MHz RAM, which can be expanded up to 32GB. They also have 512GB NVMe SSDs that can be expanded up to 1TB.

Core i3 model laptop has Intel's Ultra HD graphics while Core i5 and Core i7 have Intel's Iris Xe graphics.

The laptops have a four-cell smart lithium-ion battery that is capable of providing up to eight hours of power backup with a 65W fast charging adapter.

Other features include a 1MP HD camera for clear video calls, high-definition audio, a built-in array microphone, two 1.5W speakers and a dual fan.



### EDITOR'S NOTE

## Ain't no rest for the overworked

We live in a hustle culture. The daily grind takes precedence over almost everything else in our lives, be it family, friends, food or fun. While the incentive to be financially successful is always a key driving factor, it is important to keep in mind that overworking has tremendously adverse consequences. Posture problems and eye deterioration are obvious risk factors, but mental fatigue also contributes to regular 9 to 5 workers being slowly but surely drained of their strength and will every day.

Let's learn to take a break. Let's focus on what's important: our health. For this week, we focus on just that, with our Cover Story detailing some handy tips you can utilise to stay healthy during an active desk job. If you're planning to go on a long walk, don't forget to check out Bytes for our top picks for power banks to keep your devices recharged. If you're into open-wheeled racing, our feature on go-kart racing in Shift should surely excite you.

It's fine and dandy to hustle and bustle, but let's not lose ourselves in the process.

Stay safe everyone. Have a great weekend.

**Shams Rashid Tonmoy**  
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