

## Bangladeshis paying 7 times more for internet: report

Bangladeshis are paying 6.9x more for internet than the rest of the world. Global VPN provider Surf Shark recently released a report titled the Global Internet Value Index (IVI), which is a list that ranks countries based on how much its people are overpaying for internet access. Globally Bangladesh ranks 83rd, and regionally, ranks 3rd in the list.

The index examines whether people are getting what they're paying for. Bangladesh has an index of 0.0105, which is almost 86% lower than the global average. This translates that Bangladeshis are overpaying for the internet they are getting, and only 24% of the world overpaying more than Bangladesh.

India, the biggest neighbour of Bangladesh, ranks 44th in the list and regionally ranks 1st. Other neighbours of Bangladesh did not fare well in the ranking, i.e. Nepal ranks 77th, Sri Lanka ranks 96th, and Pakistan ranks 102nd in the world.

Surfshark released its Global Internet Value index (IVI), calculated by dividing each country's internet speed by internet affordability to figure out which countries are overpaying for their internet. Israel ranked 1st in the list, while Singapore and Denmark ranked 2nd and 3rd, respectively.

## Google fires about 450 employees in India, 190 in Singapore: reports

Google has recently fired around 450 employees in its Indian offices and around 190 employees in its Singaporean office. These rounds of layoffs are followed by Google CEO Sundar Pichai's announcement last month, which stated that the tech giant has planned to fire around 12,000 employees globally. In the initial announcement, Pichai clarified that US employees had been already notified and the termination process would take longer in other countries due to local laws and practices.

As per the Indian news magazine India Today, Google has sent termination letters to about 453 employees from several departments working in the Indian offices of Google, which are mostly situated in Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Gurugram. The report adds that as of yet, there's no clarification of severance packages being offered to the fired Indian employees. According to the Indian daily Hindustan Times, the fired Indian employees received a termination mail from Sanjay Gupta, Google India's Country Head and Vice President.

Furthermore, an estimated number of 190 employees have been fired

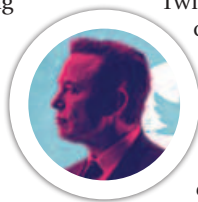


from Google's Singaporean office, states Singaporean news portals TODAY and Channel NewsAsia. As per the reports, the layoffs in Singapore began happening on February 16 night. At the time of writing, it is currently unclear exactly how many employees were fired, though insider sources report that the number is around 190.

Google's Asia-Pacific headquarters is currently situated in Mapletree Business City II, Singapore. According to an August 2022 blog post by Ben King, Managing Director at Google Singapore, the office had more than 3,000 employees.

## Twitter closes down two of three offices in India

Popular social media platform Twitter has recently closed down two of its three offices in India, according to a report by Bloomberg News. The affected offices were situated in New Delhi and Mumbai. The third and remaining Twitter office in India, situated in southern Bengaluru, is reportedly still operating. According to Bloomberg, the Bengaluru branch mostly consists of engineers working for the Elon Musk-owned company.



Late last year, soon after Elon Musk's \$44 billion acquisition, Twitter let go of more than 90% of its 200+ employees in India. Affected employees were from various departments, including engineering, communications and marketing. Right after getting control of the company, Elon Musk stated he was planning to fire about 3,700 Twitter employees, which then constituted about half of the entire workforce of Twitter.

## Indian-origin Neil Mohan is YouTube's new CEO

After 9 years of serving as the CEO of YouTube, Susan Wojcicki is now stepping down to make room for the Indian-origin Neil Mohan, who will be the new CEO of the world's largest video streaming site. She was one of Google's first employees and has spent almost 25 years working for parent company Alphabet Inc. In a blog post, Susan mentioned that she is stepping down to focus on "family, health, and personal projects I'm passionate about."

Former Chief Product Officer of YouTube Neil Mohan earned his electrical



engineering degree from Stanford. Neil was also a part of the team that launched YouTube TV, Premium, and Shorts. With

### EDITOR'S NOTE

## Survival of the fittest?

The wave of the global tech layoffs have made its way to the Bangladeshi startup scene as well. However, what do these layoffs mean for the local startups? What about the employees? Find out our take on layoffs and its consequences in today's Cover Story.

We often hear about the importance of work-life balance for a satisfactory life. However, we often overlook how work-life integration could be the solution for young professionals in this fast-paced world. This week's Next Step introduces you to work-life integration from the eyes of an HR professional.

You can also check out our first impressions on the new Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra in today's Bytes. Read on to find out more in this week's edition of Toggle.

Have a good weekend everyone.

- Tanzid Samad Choudhury  
Sub-Editor

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## Walton launches new model of TAKYON e-bike

Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited has launched a new model of its TAKYON electric bike. The eco-friendly TAKYON Leo e-bike comes in three versions which can run for 40-80 kilometres on a single charge for only 6-8 hours, claims a press handout.

Currently, a total of four versions from two models of Walton e-bikes are available in the market. With its portable charger, the e-bike can be charged from the 220-volt power line used in regular residences.

The TAKYON Leo has three versions with 12Ah, 20Ah, and 23Ah batteries. The price of the 12Ah version is Tk. 49,850 and it will run for 40 kilometres on a single charge. The 20Ah version will provide 70-kilometre mileage and it is priced at Tk. 56,850. The 23Ah version is priced at Tk. 59,850 and it will run for 80 kilometres on a single charge, according to the press release.

this move, Neil will join a growing group of elite CEOs of US-based multinational corporations who are of Indian descent, including Satya Nadella, the CEO of Microsoft, Shantanu Narayen, the CEO of Adobe, and Sundar Pichai, the CEO of Alphabet.

YouTube's brown roots go way back to the very beginning of the platform. Jawed Karim, one of the co-founders of YouTube, was a German and Bangladeshi-American software developer working in the United States. He was also the first user to upload a video to YouTube.