

# Google to invest \$1 bn in India's number two mobile operator

January 28 2022

---



The logo of Google is displayed on a carpet at the entrance hall of Google France in Paris, Nov. 18, 2019. Google will invest up to \$1 billion in partnership with India's Airtel for providing affordable access to smartphones to over a billion Indians and accelerating the cloud ecosystem for businesses, the two companies said on Friday, Jan. 28, 2022. Credit: AP Photo/Michel Euler, File

Google will invest up to \$1 billion in India's second-largest mobile

operator, Airtel, the companies said Friday, as the Android-maker looks to bolster its presence in the vast nation's booming telecoms market.

The global tech giant will buy a \$700 million stake in billionaire Sunil Mittal's Bharti Airtel, giving it 1.28 percent 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-percent 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.

© 2022 AFP

Citation: Google to invest \$1 bn in India's number two mobile operator (2022, January 28)  
retrieved 3 May 2024 from

<https://techxplore.com/news/2022-01-google-invest-billion-india-digitalization.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.