

India Emerges as the Most Favourable Destination Even in a Pandemic

Recent Investments (April-July, 2020)

1. **Company** –Google
Investment Amount –10 billion dollars¹.
2. **Company** –Walmart
Investment Amount –1.2 billion dollars².
3. **Company** –Foxconn (Apple Inc. Supplier)
Investment Amount –1 billion dollars³.
4. **Company** –Facebook
Investment Amount – The world’s largest social media company invests 5.7 billion dollars in India’s Reliance Jio Platforms⁴. It is Facebook’s biggest single investment in another company.
5. **Company** –Qualcomm Ventures
Investment Amount –97 million dollars⁵.
6. **Company** –Thomson
Investment Amount –142.8 million dollars⁶.
7. **Company** –We Work Global
Investment Amount –100 million dollars⁷.
8. **Company** –Hitachi
Investment Amount –15.9 million dollars⁸.
9. **Company** –Kia Motors
Investment Amount –54 million dollars⁹.

¹ <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/google-10-billion-usd-investment-in-india-explained-6505026/#:~:text=Tech%2Dgiant%20Google%20Monday%20announced,accelerate%20digitisation%E2%80%9D%20i%20the%20country.>

² <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/walmart-leads-1-2-bn-investment-in-flipkart-at-near-25-billion-valuation-11594726660007.html>

³ <https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/companies/article/foxconn-to-invest-1-billion-in-india-amid-apples-gradual-production-shift-from-china/619706#:~:text=Foxconn%20aims%20to%20invest%20in,%241%20billion%20in%20the%20country.>

⁴ <https://techcrunch.com/2020/04/21/facebook-reliance-jio/>

⁵ <https://techcrunch.com/2020/07/12/qualcomm-to-invest-97-million-in-indias-reliance-jio-platforms/>

⁶ <https://retail.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/consumer-durables-and-information-technology/consumer-electronics/thomson-to-invest-rs-1000-cr-in-indian-market-over-next-5-years/76466223#:~:text=New%20Delhi%20%3A%20Television%20brand%20Thomson,company%20said%20in%20a%20statement.>

⁷ <https://m.economictimes.com/small-biz/startups/newsbuzz/wework-global-to-invest-100-million-in-wework-india/articleshow/76218667.cms>

⁸ [https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/07/13/business/corporate-business/hitachi-trains-india/#:~:text=NEW%20DELHI%20%E2%80%93%20Hitachi%20Ltd.,billion%20rupees%20\(%2415.9%20million\)](https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/07/13/business/corporate-business/hitachi-trains-india/#:~:text=NEW%20DELHI%20%E2%80%93%20Hitachi%20Ltd.,billion%20rupees%20(%2415.9%20million))

10. **Company** –Saudi Arabia’s PIF
Investment Amount –1.6 billion dollars¹⁰ .
11. **Company** –Hyundai Mobis
Investment –Hyundai Mobis expands its technical centre in India to strengthen software development of future vehicles. Through this expansion, the company aims to strengthen its R&D activities in India, particularly software development for autonomous vehicles¹¹ .
12. **Company** – SGS
Investment – SGS is Amazon’s trusted partner in quality packaging and is one of the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. The company opens its first accreditation testing lab in India along with labs in other parts of the world which are Cestas in Bordeaux, France and Appleton in the US¹² .
13. **Company** –Axtria
Investment –Axtria, a global leader in cloud software and data analytics for the life sciences commercial business, further expands its presence in India and opens its first delivery centre in south India. The big data analytics and cloud software giant is creating new employment opportunities to meet increasing market demand in India¹³ .
14. **Company** –f5
Investment – f5, a company providing solutions to App based platforms, opens its first centre in India. After successful launches in Sydney, Australia, and Hong Kong, it opens its first centre in India¹⁴ .
15. **Company** –Tsuzuki
Investment – Tsuzuki one of the leading Japanese electronics company, opens a brand-new plant at Reliance's Model Economic Township in Jhajjar, Haryana, India¹⁵ .
16. **Company** – Samsung
Investment –The South Korean giant now has started manufacturing their entire range of 18 smartwatches in India. The company which has its largest smartphone manufacturing facility in Noida, has also launched a new 4G-enabled smartwatch that will be manufactured locally¹⁶ .

⁹ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/kia-motors-india-to-invest-409-cr-in-expansion-project/article31699040.ece#:~:text=The%20KIA%20Motors%20India%20will,Mee%20Suchana'%20programme%20on%20Thursday.>

¹⁰ <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/jio-pif-deal-all-you-need-to-know-about-saudi-arabias-pif-the-latest-investor-in-jio-platforms-5423231.html>

¹¹ <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/hyundai-mobis-expands-its-technical-center-in-hyderabad-india-to-strengthen-software-development-of-future-vehicles-301039782.html>

¹² <https://www.sgs.com/en/news/2020/05/sgs-expands-network-of-ista-labs-and-adds-ista-6-amazon-certification-testing>

¹³ <https://insights.axtria.com/press-release-axtria-expands-to-south-india-with-a-new-bengaluru-delivery-center>

¹⁴ <https://www.f5.com/company/news/press-releases/f5-expands-silverline-managed-services-offerings-in-india-with-new-point-of-presence-to-improve-application-security-for-customers>

¹⁵ <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/tsuzuki-to-set-up-plant-at-reliance-s-model-economic-township-in-jhajjar-11594546228950.html>

¹⁶ <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/hardware/samsung-starts-manufacturing-smartwatches-in-india/articleshow/76872729.cms#:~:text=With%20Galaxy%20Watch%20Active%204G,Singh%20said%20in%20a%20statement.>

Google to Invest \$10 Billion in India

Eric Bellman

5-7 minutes

[Alphabet](#) Inc.'s Google is tightening its ties to India with a \$10 billion fund to profit from the country's digital evolution and prove it shouldn't be shut out by protectionist policies.

India may be one of the last [great untapped digital markets](#) because roughly about half of its 1.3 billion people have yet to get online. It is expected to see the largest increase of new people on the internet in the coming years. Policy makers in New Delhi have been trying to use that opportunity to attract more investment while at the same time support and protect local startups.

Alphabet had been one of the first American tech companies to see the potential for great growth in the South Asian nation, but it hadn't been the one with high profile events and acquisitions promising multibillion dollars investments. The new fund—dubbed the Google for India Digitization Fund—will help policy makers see the benefits of welcoming Google.

As the latest in a line of tech titans to target India, Google said Monday that it has launched the fund to invest the money over the next five to seven years through equity investments and partnerships, as well as in infrastructure.

“This is a reflection of our confidence in the future of India and its digital economy,” said Sundar Pichai, chief executive of Google and Alphabet, said Monday at Google’s annual event showcasing its business in India, which was held online.

He said the investment would focus on four areas: affordable access in local Indian languages, new products and services aimed at Indians, helping businesses get online, and using technology to promote social issues including health and education.

Google, which has had operations in India since 2004, is increasing its commitment to the country as other big America names, including [Facebook Inc.](#), [Amazon.com Inc.](#) and [Walmart Inc.](#), have made [multibillion-dollar investment plans](#) in the country.

“India’s moment has arrived,” India’s Minister of Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad, said at the Google online event. “I am very happy that Google is recognizing the great power of India’s digital empowerment, India’s digital innovation and the

need to create further opportunity.”

Google saw the opportunity in India and the many developing markets in the world—where people have been getting online in growing numbers through their phones—earlier than most.

It has been designing products and modifying its services to better accommodate what it calls [the “next billion users.”](#) These new users are more likely to use inexpensive smartphones with little memory space and be connected to slow cellular networks.

It has created versions of its apps which use less data, let people who are only online occasionally download YouTube videos to watch later and help those less familiar with keypads and English search for content using voice and multiple Indian languages. To accommodate the country’s millions of motorcycle and scooter drivers, it added a Google maps function to calculate how long trips will take on a two-wheeler.

One of its most successful services launched in India has been its [digital payment app, Google Pay.](#) It was designed for the less affluent Indian consumer and has been downloaded more than 180 million times and used to transfer billions of dollars.

While India is stuck in the middle of one of the world’s worst coronavirus outbreaks—with [more than 800,000 people](#) infected only the U.S. and

Brazil have been harder hit—and its economy is shrinking for the first time in decades, Google isn't the only tech titan turning to the country in tough times.

In April, Facebook announced a \$5.7 billion tie-up with an Indian mobile leader in hopes of tapping into the country's vast potential, particularly in e-commerce.

Amazon is investing \$5 billion to expand its India operations. Walmart bought [India's biggest homegrown e-commerce firm](#), Flipkart, for \$16 billion in 2018.

The global brands are laying out massive investment plans even as New Delhi has increasingly been announcing restrictions and requirements on how foreign companies can operate in India and store data.

Some Indian politicians and local tech entrepreneurs would like to see India do more to protect its market from foreign companies like China does so that some local champions could emerge.

Last month, in one of New Delhi's most aggressive moves, it [banned the use of 59 Chinese apps](#), citing cybersecurity concerns. The move was seen as payback for a bloody hand-to-hand battle between the troops of the two countries [at their disputed border](#) high in the Himalayas. At least 20 Indian

troops died.

Beijing-based Bytedance Ltd.'s short video sharing app TikTok, which had been downloaded more than 660 million times in India, was on the list.

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Google plans to invest \$10bn in India

Benjamin Parkin in New Delhi and Tim Bradshaw in London yesterday

4-5 minutes

Google has said it plans to invest \$10bn in India in the coming years, including in infrastructure and equity investments, as Silicon Valley companies jostle for a position in one of the world's fastest-growing internet markets.

Sundar Pichai, chief executive at Google and its parent company Alphabet, announced the scheme after speaking with India's prime minister Narendra Modi on Monday. Mr Modi described the conversation as "extremely fruitful", discussing new working practices during the coronavirus pandemic as well as security and safety online.

"This is a reflection of our confidence in the future of India and its digital

economy,” Mr Pichai said at an online event.

The promise, which did not include specific details and was said to apply to the next “five to seven years”, marks the latest attempt by a big US internet company to woo the leadership of a country that has threatened to put roadblocks in the way of Silicon Valley’s preferred ways of doing business.

India has insisted that government surveillance should take precedence over the kind of encryption that is becoming standard in US internet services, and has sought to limit the local power of the Big Tech oligopoly.

Jeff Bezos, Amazon’s chief executive, travelled to the country earlier this year to promise \$1bn in investment, and to support \$10bn of Indian export sales over the next five years, as his company faces a local antitrust investigation.

Google’s pledge also comes three months after rival Facebook [invested \\$5.7bn](#) in Jio Platforms, the fast-growing Indian telecoms company that has launched a series of digital services.

Jio, part of Mukesh Ambani’s oil-to-retail conglomerate Reliance Industries,

has also sold stakes to 11 other foreign investors including the investment arms of US chipmakers Intel and Qualcomm, as well as Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, KKR and Silver Lake.

Google has also explored investments with Jio and [rival telecoms operator](#) Vodafone Idea in recent months, the Financial Times has reported previously. Apple has also stepped up its iPhone manufacturing in the country through its supplier Foxconn.

Google described its vague spending promise as an "India Digitization Fund", and said it would cover affordable internet access, new product development tailored to Indian market needs and accelerating digital transformation, as well as healthcare, education and agriculture.

India, with its 1.3bn population, represents one of the biggest opportunities for tech companies globally after hundreds of millions of Indians started using smartphones and accessing the internet in recent years. Google Pay, the company's digital payments service, has grown rapidly since launching in the

country in 2017.

The increased interest in India from Google and other US-based investors comes as tension on the Indian-Chinese border closes avenues for investors from China, the south Asian country's other large source of foreign capital.

Chinese internet giants such as Tencent and Alibaba, along with Chinese venture capital companies, have become among the largest investors in Indian tech.

But India in April changed its foreign investment rules to require [government approval](#) for all would-be Chinese investors.

A sharp escalation in tensions following a deadly clash on the Himalayan border last month prompted the authorities to ban [59 Chinese apps](#) including ByteDance-owned TikTok.

Access to India, now the world's second-largest mobile market, is particularly important for Google as it is shut out of China and faces the prospect of greater difficulty in operating in Hong Kong following the passage of the new security

law there last month.

“Google is rising to the occasion by trying to invest a fairly substantial amount in India’s digital transformation,” said Ravi Shankar Prasad, India’s electronics and information technology minister. “I’m very happy that Google is recognising India’s digital innovation and the need to create further opportunity.”