

SAYS DIFFERENT ELECTRIFICATION MANDATES UNFAIR**Uber Seeks Parity with Delivery Cos in Converting Bike Taxi Fleet to EVs****Our Bureau**

Bengaluru: Urban mobility firm Uber said on Friday that the timeline for converting its bike taxi fleet in Delhi-NCR to electric should be the same as that for the food and grocery delivery fleet. The US-based ride-hailing company said in a blog post that "steep and infeasible" EV mandates in the proposed aggregator policy risk killing the bike taxi sector.

According to the state's draft aggregator policy, 100% of the bike taxi fleet should be electric by the second year of the policy coming into effect and any new onboarding should be 100% electric from the day of notification.

The food delivery space has a more relaxed mandate, with only 10% of the new fleet needing to be converted to electric in six months, 25% in one year, 50% in two years, 75% in three years and 100% in four years.

Further, all aggregators shall be required to transition to an all-electric fleet by 2030.

"Different electrification mandates for ridesharing and delivery sectors not only lead to inequitable sharing of responsibility but seriously disadvantage the entire industry. Two-wheeler ridesharing apps should be seen at parity with others like delivery and services," Uber said.

The number of food and grocery delivery riders, it said, far surpasses bike taxi riders.

they are being given a more practical timeframe for electrification.

"Given the economics around EV vs petrol bikes, tech platforms need to invest heavily to keep driver earnings on EV bikes at parity with petrol bikes, irrespective of delivery or ridesharing. Thus, it is only fair that the timelines for the conversion of the fleet should be the same across sectors," it said.

Last week, the Delhi government issued a public notice asking bike taxi companies to stop services in the city immediately as there were no policies to govern the space.

But the contention around electrification started after state transport minister Kailash Gahlot said following the bike taxi ban that companies can apply for a licence under the upcoming aggregator policy.

The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), an industry body representing tech companies like Ola, Uber, Rapido, Swiggy, Zomato among others, has also argued against the strong push for electrification in the state's draft aggregator policy, ET reported on February 22. The industry body said this would impact the livelihood of gig-economy workers since the same vehicle and driver is now used across categories.

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Chip Shortage Hits FDI Inflows, FY24 Outlook Strong**Banikkar.P@timesgroup.com**

New Delhi: Elevated interest rates in key economies and a shortage of semiconductors in sectors such as automobiles and computers dragged down India's foreign direct investment (equity) inflows by 15% until December this fiscal from a year before to \$36.75 billion, senior industry ministry officials said.

However, a large number of FDI proposals are in the "pipeline", which means such inflows are going to be higher in FY24 than this fiscal, said the official. Many of these proposals pertain to sectors that are covered under production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes, such as electronics, pharmaceuticals and renewables, she said. As such, inflows into PLI sectors this fiscal continue to be good as well, she added.

Total FDI inflows, which include equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital, eased 8.4% until December to \$55.27 billion in the first three quarters of this fiscal, according to the official data.

Frequent hikes in interest rates in economies, such as the US, the EU, Singapore and Mauritius—which are also major sources of India's FDI inflows—have prompted many investors to deploy capital in home countries to address potential liquidity shortage there. This has resulted in a general decline in glo-

bal FDI inflows, said the official.

"The chip shortage, too, has affected our FDI inflows into critical sectors, including automobiles, computer hardware and software and some services segments," she added. The drop in inflows into these three segments was to the tune of \$12.7 billion in the first three quarters of FY23, which was higher than the decline of about \$6.4 billion in total FDI inflows. "This means other sectors have mostly made up for the shortfall in these sectors," said another official.

FDI (equity) inflows into automobiles plunged to \$1.28 billion until December this fiscal from \$6.99 billion a year before. Similarly, inflows into computer hardware and software dropped to \$8.07 billion from \$14.46 billion during this period. Inflows into select services, including financial and some other business services, eased to \$6.56 billion from \$7.13 billion.

Considering the external headwinds, India's performance remains strong even in FY23, said one of the officials.

Between April and December this fiscal, Singapore remained the top FDI source, accounting for inflows of \$13 billion. It was followed by Mauritius (\$4.73 billion), the US (\$4.96 billion), the UAE (\$3.10 billion), the Netherlands (\$2.16 billion), the UK (\$1.60 billion), Japan (\$1.43 billion), and Cyprus (\$1.15 billion), the data showed.

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Glance to Open Roposo in Indonesia Next Qtr**Suraksha.P@timesgroup.com**

Bengaluru: Lock screen platform Glance is planning to expand in Indonesia and launch its live platform Roposo in the next quarter. Piyush Shah, co-founder of InMobi Group and president and chief operating officer of Glance, told ET.

Once launched, Roposo will add creator-driven live content on lock screens, he said.

"This will provide creators multiple, differentiated opportunities for monetisation, wide scale reach, and unique engagement," Shah said. The Google- and Reliance Jio-backed firm also plans to offer more gaming and live game streaming by its gaming platform Nostra.

Meanwhile, Glance crossed 30 million monthly active users (MAU) in Indonesia. MAU is expected to cross 50 million in the next four to six quarters in Indonesia, Shah said.

Glance lock screen offers personalised and trending content from local and global publishers across categories like sports, entertainment, travel and lifestyle, gaming from game studios and streamers, and live content from professional creators.

More than 225 million consumers globally use Glance on their Android smartphones across markets. In Indonesia, Glance has been present for around two years.

"Over the past six months, our top three categories in Indonesia — entertainment, games, and technology content — have garnered 626 million, 591 million, and 411 million video views, respectively. Whether it's news, entertainment, live gaming, or health and fitness content, consumers are finding engaging, personally relevant experiences on Glance," Shah said.

As per the Glance smart lock screen report 2023, it has a near equal ratio of active male and female consumers and balanced engagement across age groups (40% aged 35 and above and 36% between 24 and 34 years).

Consumers engage with

their lock screens throughout the day, with maximum engagement levels between 10 am and 5 pm, it said.

This year, Nostra's user base is expected to double in Indonesia, Shah said.

Additionally, Nostra aims to expand its games library to 1,000 this year from 400 games earlier, through partnerships

with gaming studios and developers worldwide. "This creates a huge opportunity for Indonesia's talent pool of game developers, to build and scale games through presence on lock screen — not just in Indonesia, but across Nostra's other markets as well," he said.

Dalip Shahri, director of market development - Glance Indonesia, said, "With the expansion of Nostra, as well as the intended launch of Roposo, we plan to have two to three partnerships with media publishers to help them harness the Glance lock screen for deeper engagement with their audiences."

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Date : February 24, 2023

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Industry-led India Semiconductor Research Centre Soon: IT MoS

Modernised research fab to be colocated with ISRC, says Rajeev Chandrasekhar at semicon roadshow

Our Bureau**On Cards**

- **ChipIN Centre** - A one-stop centre to provide semiconductor design tools, fab access, virtual prototyping and hardware lab access to fabless chip designers of the country
- **India AI datasets programme** to be launched soon



working with fab companies to create on-the-job-training type of internships for students in the semiconductor space," he said.

A report by the Semicon India Future Skills Talent Committee has recommended reskilling/upskilling courses with practical lab exercises and curriculum changes, Jaya Jagadish, count

"It has been developed in collaboration with industry experts and academics. Many colleges will have new degrees, new electives, and new certification programs in Very Large-Scale Integration (VLSI). We are actively

duating every year," she said, adding that the gap was in the skillset.

"There is a gap between academia and industry. There is a gap between what the industry needs versus what the students are acquiring in their basic education.

This requires the industry to invest in some amount of training," she said. Students may have to go to a finishing school and refine their skills for the industry, she said.

Jagadish said they looked at various sectors in the industry: system design, chip design, ATMPs, display

fabs, and foundries.

Chandrasekhar also announced the launch of the ChipIN Centre at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Bengaluru, which will act as a one-stop centre to provide semiconductor design tools, fab access, virtual prototyping and hardware lab access to fabless chip designers of the country.

He also said that the India AI datasets programme would be launched soon. It will be the world's largest datasets programme which will catalyse the intelligent compute, AI compute, device and system design ecosystem.

The Digital India RISC-V Microprocessor Programme will develop, Siliconise and create design wins for future around SHAKTI and VEGA RISC-V processors and commercial grade Indian processors this year.

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Amazon to Integrate Logistics and SaaS Network with ONDC

Flipkart's Ekart in advanced stages of integration: T Koshy

Our Bureau

Bengaluru: US ecommerce giant Amazon said on Friday it would integrate its logistics network and SmartCommerce services with government-backed Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The logistics unit of Amazon India delivers across the country, and it recently launched its Amazon Air service here as well.

As per Counterpoint Research, Realme's growth in 2022, which includes 3.2 million 5G smartphones. This year, we are targeting to sell 20 million 5G smartphones, including 7 million 5G-enabled products. We already have 25 5G-enabled devices in our portfolio, and will have new additions to it soon," Madhav Sheth, chief executive of Realme India, told ET.

Realme had slipped to fourth place last year, with a 14% fall in shipments year-on-year due to higher exposure to the sub-\$10,000 segment where demand was the most affected.

As per Counterpoint Research, Realme's growth in 2022 was hampered by inventory build-up, unfavourable market conditions in the sub-Rs 10,000 segment, and economic headwinds.

However, the brand is now focusing on mid-tier and 5G as it

launched its number series towards the end of the year with all 5G SKUs in the ₹15,000 segment. In 2022, the company reached a consumer base of 70 million in India, while it crossed 160 million globally. "India, for example, has been a key market for us since our inception, and we have consistently ranked among the top smartphone brands in the country," Sheth added.

Realme is increasing its focus on research and development (R&D) by setting up a dedicated institute — Realme Global Institute of Leap-forward Technology — in its head office, and a specialised branch in India which will work on technologies such as fast charging. The branch will be primarily responsible for collecting and organising feedback to ensure the relevance and adaptability of Realme's products in the Indian market.

This year, Realme is aiming to cover 532 cities by expanding more than 200 centres with a total of 727 centres. Also, 47 exclusive service centres will be bonded with sales points where customers can purchase Realme products.

Rival Flipkart's logistics subsidiary Ekart is also in advanced stages of integration with ONDC, T Koshy, the chief executive of the government ecommerce initiative, told ET.

"Ekart is in the level one of integration where transaction-specific deliveries are being done. The second stage is dynamic integration, which they are yet to go live with," Koshy said. Flipkart did not respond to ET's queries. "Ekart is not catering to the logistics of all network participants dynamically. For now, it is signing up with network participants one-on-one to undertake orders. It is yet to work out some modalities and hence is in advanced stages of integration," a network participant said on condition of anonymity.

Sources said ecommerce player Snapdeal's network of sellers will also be integrated with ONDC within a week.

"We are happy that Amazon has a definite roadmap to being a part of the ONDC network and is taking its first step in coming in as the logistics partner in the ONDC network, Koshy said.

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