



## ZEE-STAR ICC TV RIGHTS DISPUTE



Star India is seeking \$940 million in damages from Zee Entertainment for the termination of their sub-licensing agreement for ICC TV rights. This case is under arbitration in London, with Zee refuting Star's claims. Concurrently, Disney-owned Star is renegotiating its \$3 billion ICC media rights deal for 2024-27 due to advertising revenue losses from recent tournaments.

## ZEE-SONY MERGER HURDLES



Zee's request to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to withdraw its sanctioned merger with Sony's Culver Max Entertainment signals ongoing complications. Despite a comprehensive non-cash settlement between the parties, all related arbitration claims have been withdrawn, putting the merger's future in doubt.

## HATHWAY STAKE SALE



Hathway sold its 51% equity stake in Hathway Prime to Manmohan Singh Bajwa, effectively removing it as a subsidiary. This sale forms part of broader restructuring efforts within Hathway.

## SUN TV'S GROWTH

Sun TV Network's revenues saw a notable boost, especially from cricket franchise earnings, which grew by 138%. Subscription revenues also rose by 5%, reflecting the network's dominance in southern India.

## WALT DISNEY INVESTS RS 2839 CRORES IN STAR INDIA



In the first quarter of FY2025, the Information and Broadcasting (I&B) sector in India saw a 31% drop in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), with total investments amounting to Rs 3,374 crore, down from Rs 4,893 crore in the same period of the previous year. This decline has been attributed to factors such as global economic uncertainties, regulatory challenges, and shifts in the media landscape.

Despite the overall downturn, Walt Disney made a significant investment of Rs 2,839 crore in Star India to reinforce its position in the

Indian market. Other smaller players, like IVY Entertainment Holdings, also contributed with Rs 219 crore in investments across channels like B4U Multiplex, B4U Kadak, and B4U Movies. Interestingly, this comes as Walt Disney's Star India unit is in the process of merging with Viacom18, creating a new entity valued at \$8.5 billion.

This slump in Q1 FY2025 is particularly notable because the I&B sector had experienced an 87% increase in FDI in FY2024, reaching Rs 7,012 crore, up from Rs 3,745 crore in FY2023. The unexpected drop in FDI, contrasted with last year's growth, underscores the volatility in foreign investment within the sector.

## DTH OPERATORS MEGA CONTRIBUTION TO GOVT

DTH operators in India paid a total of Rs 692 crore to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) as licensing fees in the fiscal year 2023-24. This amount was calculated based on 8% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), despite the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommending a reduction of this fee to 3%. TRAI's suggestion, made in August 2023, aimed to lessen the financial burden on DTH operators by lowering the licensing fee rate to 3% of AGR, which excludes certain income sources and GST paid to the government. However, the ministry continued to enforce the 8% fee, generating substantial revenue.

