

Mr. var var

OPPORTUNITY

ASHUTOSH SRIVASTAVA



VEROS Ventures



Ashutosh Srivastava VEROS VENTURES (SAPMENA)

A BIT ABOUT MY JOURNEY

30+ YEARS Media | Retail | Data & Tech | Consumer Experience CPG | QSR | Financial Services | Auto | Media Platform





A REGION ON THE RISE





EXPECTED GROWTH WILL GATHER MOMENTUM



A VISION FOR TRANSFORMATION TOWARD SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

27% 19% 12% 2014 2024 2030

THE CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT %

Likely half of incremental global growth

WHAT IS POWERING THIS GROWTH?

COUNTRY VISIONS AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO DIVERSIFY THE ECONOMY



SCALING PHYSICAL & DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

DPI: INCLUSIVE GROWTH, GOVERNANCE, INNOVATION,

Interoperability, accessibility, security

OPEN APIS AND PLATFORMS

DIGITAL IDENTITY SYSTEMS

E-GOVERNANCE

DIGITAL PAYMENT

ECOSYSTEMS

DIGITAL LITERACY AND INCLUSION

POTENTIAL HEADWINDS MANAGING CHALLENGES TO FUTURE GROWTH



GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS

POTENTIAL TAILWINDS

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THE CHINA FACTOR SUPPLY CHAINS, CHINA+1, RENEWABLES

THARP

SURGE IN FDI 60% OF ALL APAC IN 2024 in SE Asia

Source: DBS Bank estimates

THIS CAN ADD

Climate resilience

Renewable energy capacity growth

Physical infrastructure, SMART cities \$2-3TN MORE TO GDP E-commerce & digital trade

Employment creation, workforce skilling

Economic diversification, new revenue streams, reduced resource dependency

Robust digital public infrastructure(DPI)

BY 2030

Consumer market expansion

Inclusive, equitable development goals



FAVOURABLE DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS

40% WORLD POPULATION

HALF MILLIENNIALS & GEN Z

LOW DEPENDENCY RATIO

URBANIZING AROUND MEGACITIES

	MENA	S Asia	SE Asia	Global
Population Growth %	1.7	1.6	1.5	0.9
Urban Population %	65	35	50	57
Disposable Income growth %	2.5	3.5	4	2
Consumer Spending Growth %	3	4.5	5	2.8

FAVOURABLE DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS

468MN NEW CONSUMERS BY 2030

UPWARDLY MOBILE, ASPIRATIONAL

MOBILE FIRST, SOCIAL, E-COMMERCE SAVVY

	2024	2030		
Vulnerable Poor (<\$12)	1766	1476	-16%	
Consumer (>\$12)	1342	1810	+35%	
Lower middle (\$12-40)	1067	1374	+29%	
Middle (\$40-80)	204	313	+53%	
Upper Middle (\$80-120)	46	75	+63%	
Upper Class & Rich (\$>120)	25	47	+88%	



TRANSFORMATIVE DIGITAL ECONOMY

- + Best of **East & West** platforms
- + Highest **social media** adoption and influence
- + Ecommerce growth faster than Rest of World
- + Social commerce global leader
- + **Digital** payments thrive
- + Super app ecosystems

CREATING UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

LOCALIZED E-COMMERCE PLATFORMS

MENA: Noon and Souq regional languages, preferences, payment systems. South Asia: Flipkart (India) vernacular interfaces. Southeast Asia: Lazada, Shopee dominate, localized marketing campaigns.

CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE

Booming in SE Asia, with integrated digital payments like GrabPay

SOCIAL COMMERCE LEADERSHIP

ID Indonesia: Social commerce (TikTok, Instagram, WhatsApp) ~45% of e-commerce, support over 10mn small businesses IN India: Social platform Meesho empowers entrepreneurs, enabling DTC TH Thailand: Live streaming e-commerce, LINE live shopping features.

TRANSFORMING ACCESS AND INCLUSION

RAPID ADOPTION OF PAYMENT SYSTEMS MENA GCC INDIA BANGLADESH SEA





Lead in 15 billion UPI digital wallets transactions likes STC Pay monthly in 202

15 billion UPI bKash enables transactions rural mobile, monthly in 2024 driving financial

bkash

inclusion



Mobile wallets GrabPay, GCash, MoMo widely adopted



Mature economy with high adoption of ApplePay, GPay, BNPL

SUPER APP ECOSYSTEMS INSPIRED BY WECHAT





Ride Hailing Food delivery Payments E-Commerce

IMPACTING LIVES BEYOND SOCIAL AND COMMERCE



SMALL BUSINESSES

10 MN+ small businesses sell via TikTok, WhatsApp, Instagram, Lazada, Shopee In Indonesia



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Meesho empowers 15Mn+ women entrepreneurs with DTC



EDUCATION

Ruangguru (Indonesia): delivers digital learning to millions.



HEALTHCARE

Halodoc (Indonesia), Practo (India) connect patients & doctors virtually



TRANSPORT

Gojek, Grab, and Careem provide integrated urban transport solutions.

INTEGRATION INTO EVERYDAY LIFE

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

LEADING THE REST OF THE WORLD, WITH **UNIQUE INNOVATION**

SE Asia: Integration of video commerce as a dominant channel in e-commerce.

India: World leader in scalable DPI (UPI, Aadhaar) leading DPI implementations.

MENA: Pioneering regulatory frameworks for crypto and data privacy.

ANZ: Highly developed digital payment ecosystem with strong consumer trust in fintech solutions, setting global benchmarks





FUELING CONSUMPTION GROWTH

SAPMENA

Scale of Digital Economy \$900B GMV, 15-25% YoY growth

E-commerce Adoption

10-15%, driven by video commerce. Vernacular, regonal platforms

Digital Payments

Cashless.QR codes, e-wallets, UPI 15b transactions and rising

Al Integration

Al Infra investment, Smart Cities, fintech, Governance, E-services

Social Commerce

Indo/SE Asia lead, Mena emerging, small businesses

Consumer Behavior

Mobile first, social media driven, urban centric adoption, luxury booming. Quick commerce

Challenges

Competitions, Infrastructure gap, digital divide

THE DIGITAL ECONOMY TODAY

Metric	MENA	South Asia	Southeast Asia	ANZ
Internet Penetration (%)	~75%	~43%	~75%	~90%
Mobile Penetration (%)	~110%	~85%	~90%	~95%+
Social Media Users (Mn)	~300	~700	~450	~20
Digital Payment Transactions (2024)	\$100B+ (STC, GCC)	\$250B+/month (UPI)	\$50B+ (GrabPay, etc.)	\$30B+ (PayPal, BNPL)
Super App Users (Mn)	~40 (Careem)	~500 (Paytm, Phone Pe)	~250 (Gojek, Grab)	N/A (No super apps)



MEGACITIES, THE CATALYSTS FOR CONSUMER SPENDING AND ASPIRATIONS



Concentration of disposable income



e-commerce and digital payment systems



Efficient omnichannel marketing, seamless last mile delivery, localized targeting and products



Reduced logistics costs, efficient transportation, centralized warehousing



Vast consumer touchpoint data, Al driven insights, heat maps



Modern retail systems with emerging retail technologies



Greater adoption of premium and luxury brands and experiences



Evolving ecosystems for collaboration and innovation

FUELING DEMAND FOR PREMIUM PRODUCTS AND EXPERIENCES



MENA

Luxury Goods Growth: GCC sales up 19% in 2023, UAE and Saudi Arabia lead spending on luxury watches, perfumes, and fashion.

High-End Services: Premium travel, dining, wellness sectors **expanded by** 25% in the last two years.



South Asia

Premium Beauty Growth: India's premium beauty sector, estimated at \$1bn, growing at 14% CAGR, driven by urban millennials.

Luxury Spending: Projected to grow 3.5 times by 2030 to \$85-90bn. Fastest growing, with surge in demand for luxury homes and cars.



Southeast Asia

Luxury Consumption: 20% YoY growth in luxury goods sales, with Thailand and Singapore leading.

Premium Skincare: Regional preference for **K-beauty and J-beauty** highlights aspirations for high-quality products.



ANZ

Sustainability-Focused Premium Products: Clean beauty and eco-friendly goods dominate, reflecting a shift towards responsible consumption.

GROWING MATURITY AND SOPHISTICATION





EVOLVING NEW MODELS MOBILE SOCIAL E-COMMERCE



GEN Z AND MILLENNIALS LEAD BEAUTY TREND CONSUMPTION

Account for 40% of TikTok's global audience.

Spend over 3 hours daily on social media, watching videos and transacting online.

FOLLOW TRENDS AND FAVOR 'INSTAGRAMABLE' PACKAGING

Prefer brands with compelling stories that signal status. Highly influenced by peerdriven recommendations. Brand fickle, demanding instant deliveries.

SEARCH BEGINS ON MOBILE ACROSS DIVERSE SOURCES

40-60% shop on marketplaces (e.g., Shopee, Lazada, Nykaa).

30-40% transact through social media (e.g., TikTok, Instagram, YouTube) or retailer websites.

IMPACT ON E-COMMERCE GROWTH

Prefer brands with compelling stories that signal status. Highly influenced by peerdriven recommendations. Brand fickle, demanding instant deliveries.

CONTENT



CATERING TO EVERY SEGMENT

COMMUNITY



INFLUENCER MODEL SCALING

BEAUTY INFLUENCERS' CONTENT OUTSIZED

COMMERCE



AFFILIATE MODELS AND STORES

CONTENT, CREATORS AND COMMERCE COME TOGETHER FOR BEAUTY BRANDS

MORE PLATFORMS BECOMING RELEVANT FOR DISCOVERY

- Snapchat AR filters for beauty aware,
 Snapchat Star to connect brands with creators (200mn MAUs in India)
- Pinterest mood boards as a virtual discovery and experimentation hub

PLATFORMS INCORPORATING SOCIAL COMMERCE AND BUILDING AN ECOSYSTEM

TikTok shops and **TikTok Shop** partners Instagram shops and the **Meta** ecosystem **Live streaming** on Lazada and Shopee, Line and Zalo **Affiliate** programmes (e.g. NAP from Nykaa engaging users through creator communities) Agency/tech partners/content **studios** to produce video content on scale, and analyse performance

in near real time

THE NEW MARKETING ECOSYSTEM LEVELS PLAYING FIELD FOR NEWBIES

PROLIFERATION OF NEW BRANDS AS COST OF ENTRY DROPS : **THE NEW PLAYBOOK**



Launch on E-commerce /Social commerce (TikTok shops)

Use Creator network to produces content on massive scale



Scale quickly and expand to **omnichannel presence**



Use TSPs and other partners **to optimize**



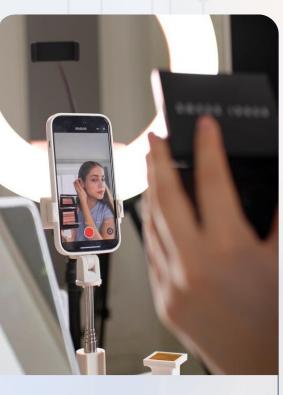
Expand channels and unify brand communication across all platforms



Invest in retail and enhance **integrated shopping experiences**

GROWING USE OF AI / TECH FROM MARKETERS









REAL STORE EXPERIENCE WITH MOBILE VIRTUAL TRY ONS

PERSONALIZATION OF USER JOURNEYS

CONTENT CREATION

AI POWERED SEARCH FOR PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATIONS, USING SKIN ANALYSIS TOOLS



SYNERGIES FOR MARKETERS

BIG GROWTH AHEAD, DESPITE VOLATILITY

UNIFIED STRATEGIES, WITH LOCALIZED NUANCES, ADAPTED TO REGIONAL INNOVATIONS

MORE EFFICIENT MARKETING ORGANIZATION AND A STRONGER TALENT MAGNET



