

Foreword

In recent years, the consumption of On-demand digital content in India has risen multi-fold on the back of increasing internet penetration, growing smart phone user base and cheap data plans.

The short-form video format, which was made hugely popular by TikTok has continued to grow despite the ban on the app in June 2020. The sudden ban on the app created a huge void in the market with users scrambling for alternatives. This opened a slew of opportunities and new entrants such as Josh, MX TakaTak and Moj entered the market. Global players like Instagram, YouTube have also introduced short-video feature in their applications as part of the overall service further crowding the space.

To differentiate their offerings and enhance user and creator experience, these applications have evolved over time with improvement of existing features and introduction of new features. The race to acquire and retain users and creators has been intense. The technology and product – both from the creator side and user side – has evolved rapidly. Ultimately, it is the technology and the product that will define the sustained winner.

The huge opportunity presented by short-form video content in India is the inspiration behind this publication intended for various

industry stakeholders. Our endeavor with this report is to understand and compare the user and creator experience on key applications short video applications in the Indian market. This report does not address the business metrics but aims to the PraxDigital toolkit to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the short video apps.

We, at PraxDigital, hope you will find the report informative and look forward to continuing the discussion with our friends across the sector. We hope that this report will elevate the dialog from the market evolution to deeper underlying success factors.



Who we are



Full stack 'Digital services' provider: Analytics + Product + Data science + UI/UX



Unique 'expertise oriented' Domain Partner led model



We are thought leaders and execution partners in



Customer experience



Data analytics



Tech architecture



Tech assessments



Cybersecurity and Data protection



Product design



Cutting-edge Tech related IP

How we help clients



Customer Experience (UX/UI)

Customer journeys, Navigation flow, Emotional contagion, User/Customer feedback



User monetization

Data mining, Usage trends, Digital journeys, Consumer profile,



Digital Marketing Excellence

Channel management, Performance marketing, Spend optimization, Conversion improvement



Data Management and Engineering use cases

Data engineering, Data integration, Visualization, Data modelling, Pricing tools, Dashboard design



Analytics as a Service (Analytics BOT)

Analytics team outsourcing, Strategic Digital transformation, Organization set up for Digital/Analytics



Digital Enablement & Implementation

Phygital/Omnichannel execution, Digital journeys, Phased transformation management, Process management



Tech Due Diligence

Technical Due Diligence, Tech architecture assessment, Digital presence assessment, Digital maturity, Cybersecurity

Objectives of the report

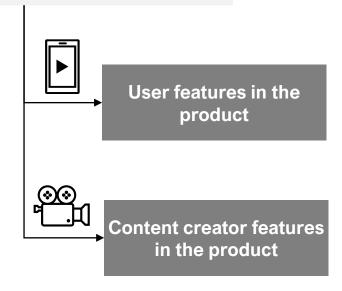


Context

- Indian short video app market has been growing at a rapid pace with consistent increase in active user and creator base
- In response to the elevated interest from the consumers, many applications have emerged in the Indian short video market
- These applications have been rapidly evolving to improve user and creator experience
- Many features (like game effects, AR filters, etc.) have been introduced to increase user engagement
- Short video applications have launched several initiatives such as mentorship programs, offline events, physical infrastructure for video creation, etc. to help develop and support content creators



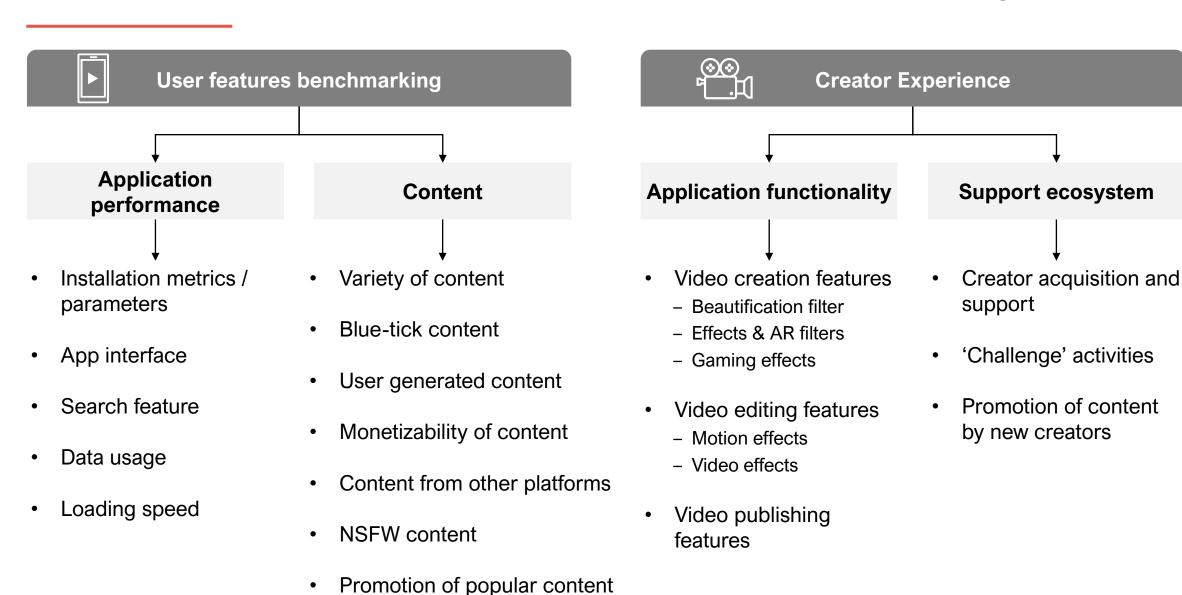
Compare the apps to evaluate the product / tech of different Short Video Apps



Objective is to assess the **quality of the products.** To keep this objective, we have **NOT** taken the feedback of users or creators.



We have evaluated the user and creator features based on the following parameters



Methodology and sources

Cold feed monitoring



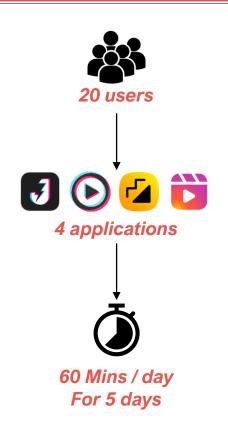
Product benchmarking



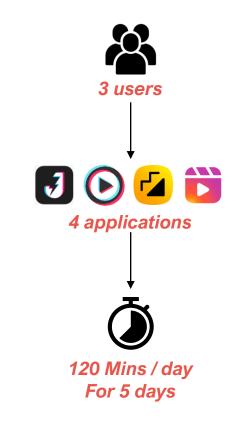
Secondary Research

- Media articles, blog / user forums
- Platform websites
- Google Play store and Apple app store
- Applications: Josh, MX
 TakaTak, Moj, Instagram

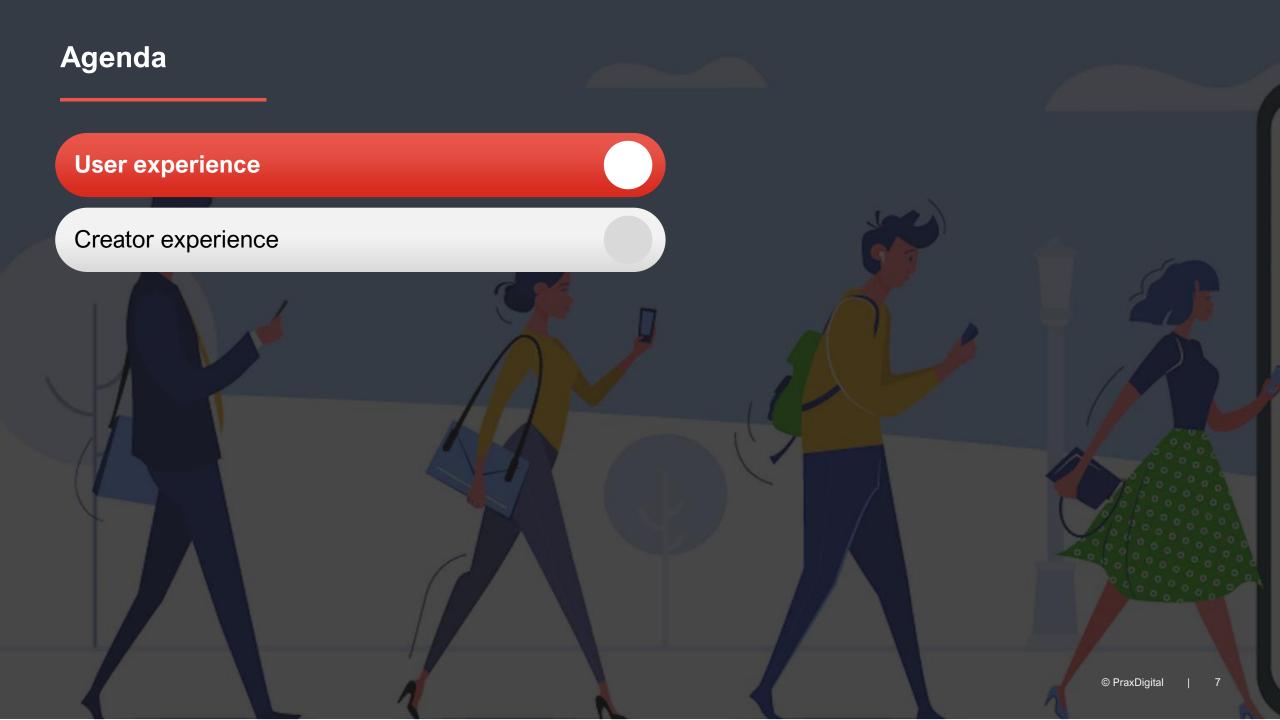
Note: Data of all apps is an estimate based on our research; No data in this report is sourced or validated with any player



Total time spent: 100 hours



Total time spent: 30 hours



User side product: Summary

	Features	3	(D)		Comments
nce	Installation metrics / parameters				App size lightest for Josh and Reels; Moj rating is highest despite heavier app size
Application performance	App interface				Josh, Moj and MX TakaTak have similar interface. Reels does not have a separate short video app which makes navigation difficult
on per	Search feature				 Instagram Reels does not have a separate search feature for short videos
licatic	Data usage				MX TakaTak has the lowest data usage per minute of video viewing while Josh and Instagram Reels have higher data usage
Арр	Buffering on low bandwidth				 Instagram Reels and Moj have relatively lower buffering time for the 1st video even at low speed bandwidth
	Variety of content - Genre / Language				 Top 3 genres constitute ~45% content for Josh and Reels. Reels has more language variety. MX TakaTak is more comedy-focused
	Blue-tick content				 Josh has the highest content from blue tick (25%) followed by MX TakaTak (16%), Reels (12%) and Moj (7%)
닏	User generated content				 Josh and Reels have higher proportion (55-60%) of user – generated content (UGC)
Content	Monetizability of content				 Reels has highest amount of original and theme content (80%) followed by Josh (66%), Moj (41%) and MX TakaTak (29%)
0	Content from other platforms				 Reels has the lowest content from other platforms (34.6%) followed by Josh (37.6%), Moj (39.4%) and MX TakaTak (39.9%)
	"Not Safe for Work" (NSFW) content				 Josh has the lowest proportion (1%) of NSFW content followed by Reels (1.4%), Moj (2.8%) and MX TakaTak (3.4%)
	Promotion of popular content essment was done from 28th Oct-21 to 1st Nov-21. Blue-tick content				MX TakaTak gives more mileage to popular creators while other apps balance the creator base shown in the cold feed

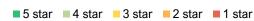
Note(s): Assessment was done from 28th Oct-21 to 1st Nov-21. Blue-tick content, content from other platforms and NSFW content based on combined inputs from Cold feed monitoring and Product benchmarking. NSFW includes vulgar and inflammatory content Source(s): Cold feed monitoring (6K+ videos), Product benchmarking, Secondary research, PraxDigital analysis

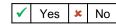
Vorst

Instagram Reels has the most Play Store downloads due to its international reach while Indian player have lighter apps and better Google Play Store ratings

		Google - Play Store					Apple - App Store				
Parameters	3	(3	(D)					
App launch date	04-Jul-2020	07-Jul-2020	29-Jun-2020	05-Aug-2020**	21-Sep-2020	18-Jul-2020	20-Jul-2020	05-Aug-2020**			
otal installs	100M+	100M+	100M+	1,000M+	-	-	-	-			
Sept'21 downloads	6M	6M	7M	31M	0.02M	0.04M	0.1M	11M			
ct'21 downloads	6M	6M	6M	37M	0.02M	0.04M	0.1M	12M			
anking chart*	# 5	# 6	#8	# 1	# 24	# 11 Enterta	ninment # 6	# 1 Phot			
egional language	12	10	16	-	12	10 ch	art 13	-			
pp size (base version)	40 MB	54 MB	85 MB	39 MB	58 MB	76 MB	134 MB	174 MB			
pp size (lite version)	16 MB	14 MB	16 MB	2 MB	NA	NA	NA	NA			
-app purchases	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	✓			
of Ratings	539K	789K	998K	126,367K	6.3K	93K	72K	78,700K			
	4.04	4.15	4.20	3.80	4.13	4.44	4.50	4.70			
atings	15% 5% 9%	14% 4% 8%	12% 3% 10%	23% 2% 8%	8% 9% 16%	9%	5 8	8%			
	65%	69%	70%	62%	60%	75%	77%	85%			

Note(s): *Chart considered for Play Store is 'free-social apps'; for App Store is 'Social networking'; **Reels launch; Assessment was done on 1st Nov-21; Data for Instagram has been used as proxy for Reels Source(s): Secondary research, PraxDigital analysis





Josh, MX TakaTak and Moj have similar user interface and search features

Reels does not

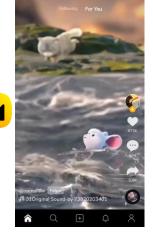
have a separate application and users have to

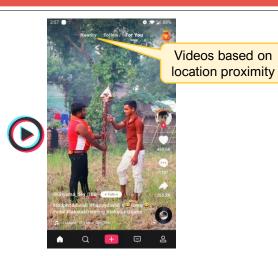
page on

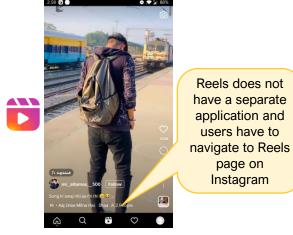
Instagram

User interface

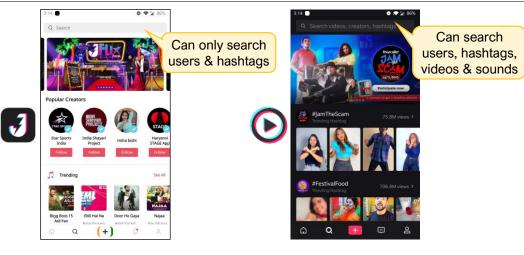


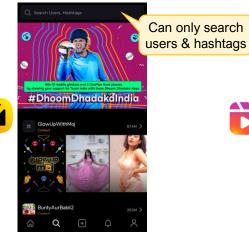


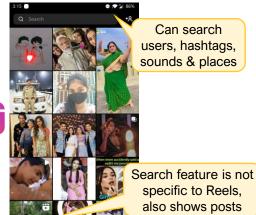


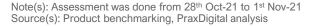


Search features





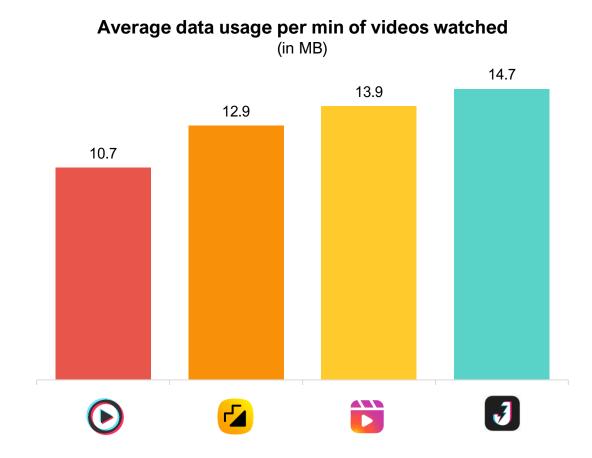


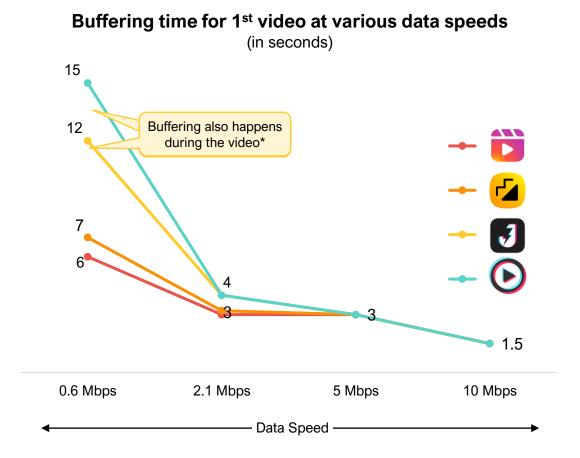


MX TakaTak has the best (lowest) data usage per minute while the buffering time is undifferentiated at 2Mbps+ bandwidth

Data usage for Josh (15 MB) is highest followed by Insta Reels (14 MB)

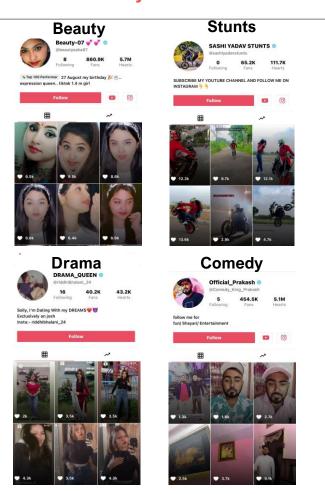
1st video buffering time of Instagram is lowest (6 sec) followed by Moj (7 sec)





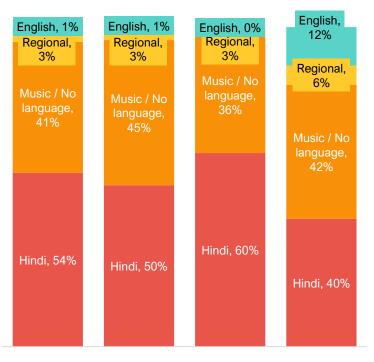
Josh and Instagram Reels have more content variety while MX TakaTak has a strong bias towards comedy

Variety of Content



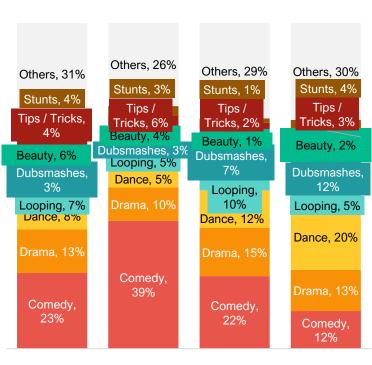
Reels leads in English content, while Moj focuses more on Hindi content

Videos mix by language (%, Oct-21)



Comedy, drama and dance are the top genres across apps

Videos mix by genre (%, Oct-21)



















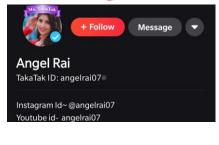
Instagram Reels does not have a separate app for short videos, so the content is pushed based on the preferences of Instagram user profile that leads to similar content being shown

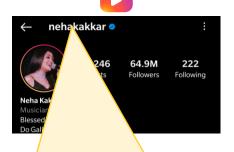
Josh publishes higher amount of content from blue tick creators followed by MX **TakaTak and Instagram Reels**

Blue Tick content



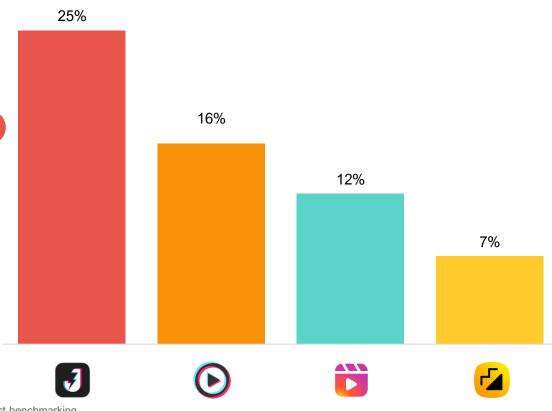






- Blue Ticks are provided to official account of the creator
- It helps the user to differentiate authentic creators from other accounts with similar name
- These creators have higher # followers and post more frequently than other accounts

Content by blue tick creators (%, Oct-21)



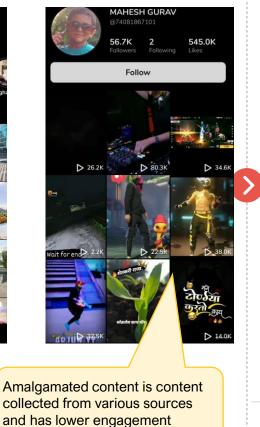
Instagram Reels and Josh have higher user generated compared to Moj and MX TakaTak

User generated content (Real identity of profiles)

User Generated Content

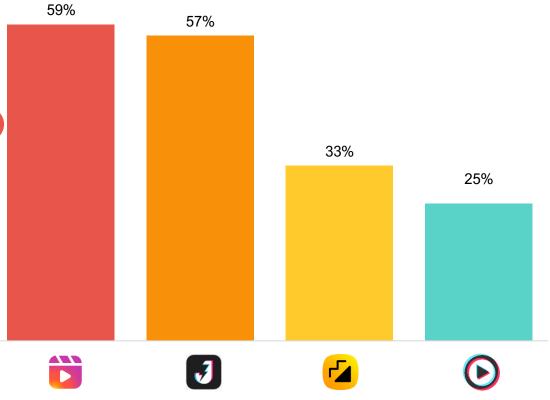


Amalgamated Content



(%, Oct-21)

User generated content (Real Identity of profiles)

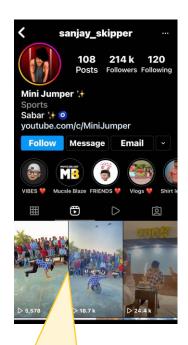


User generated content has

higher engagement as the

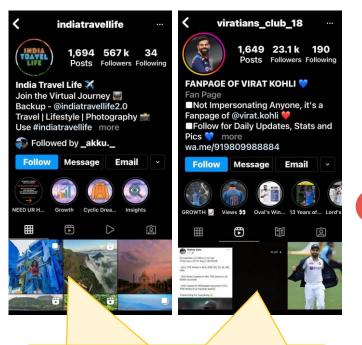
Instagram Reels has higher monetizable content followed by Josh

Original Content (Content by UGC creators)



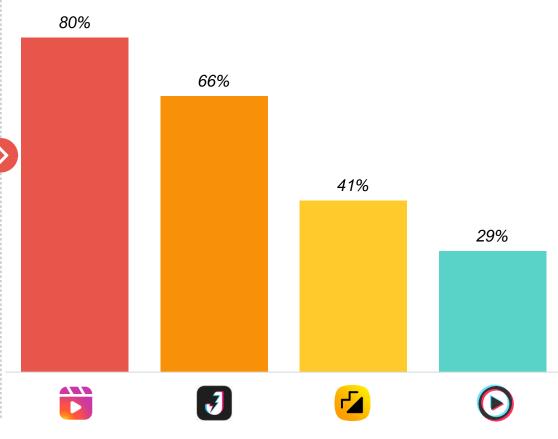
In original content, users are able to identify the creator and tend to follow their favourite creators which helps in monetizability

Theme Content

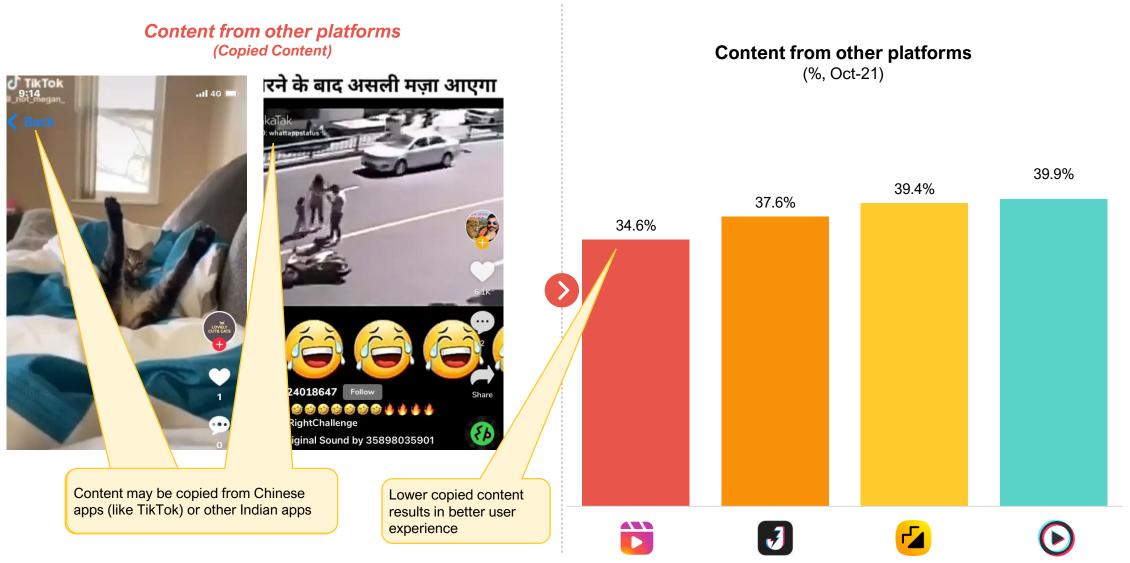


Apart from original content, creators posting content related to an identifiable theme (food vlogs, travel videos, tips & tricks, sports fan pages, etc.) attract interested users which can be monetized by offering related products / services

Monetizability of Content (Percentage of Original and Theme Content) (%, Oct-21)



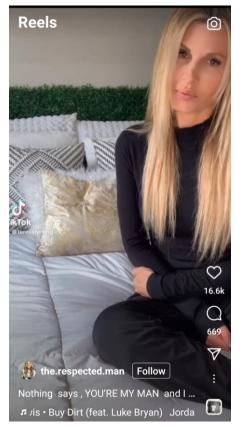
Instagram Reels has the lowest amount of content from other platforms followed by Josh (1/2)

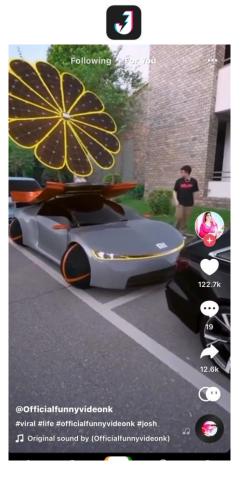


Instagram Reels has the lowest amount of content from other platforms followed by Josh (2/2)

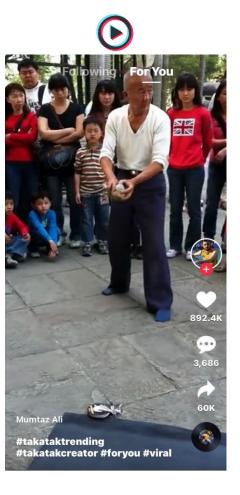
Examples of copied content across platforms







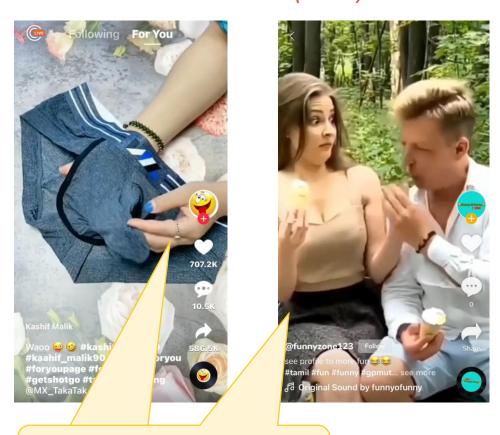




User experience > Content > NSFW content

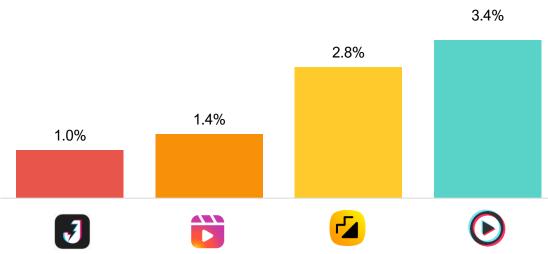
Josh has the lowest amount of NSFW content followed by Instagram Reels

"Not Safe for Work" (NSFW) Content



"Not Safe for Work" content includes vulgar or inflammatory content

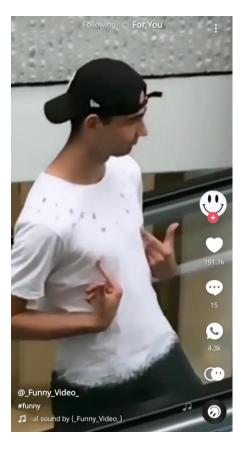
"Not Safe for Work" (NSFW) Content (%, Oct-21)

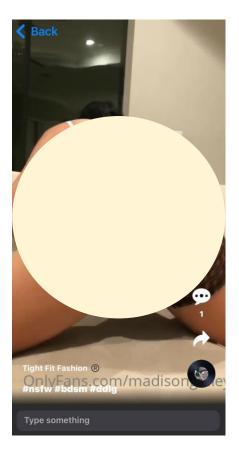


Short Video apps will have to invest in content moderation tools and processes

Examples of NSFW content across some platforms









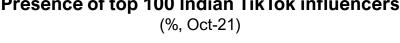


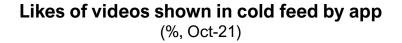
Josh, Moj and Instagram Reels have a balanced feed while MX Takatak shows more popular content

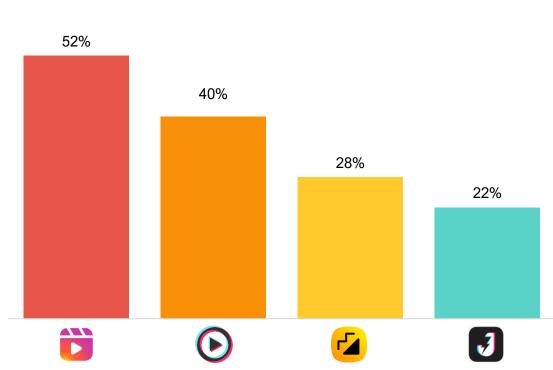
Instagram Reels has onboarded highest proportion (52%) of **Top 100 Indian TikTok influencers**

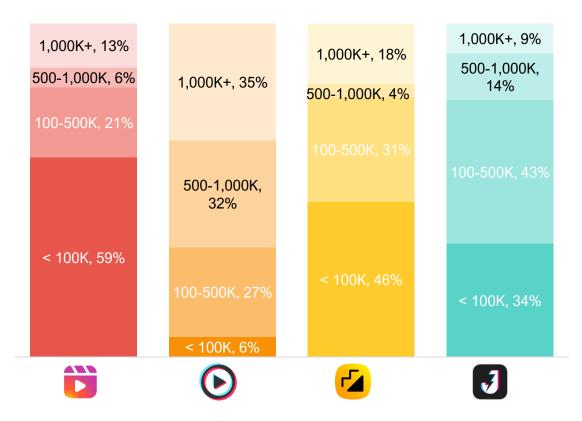
MX TakaTak gives more mileage to larger creators while other apps are balanced

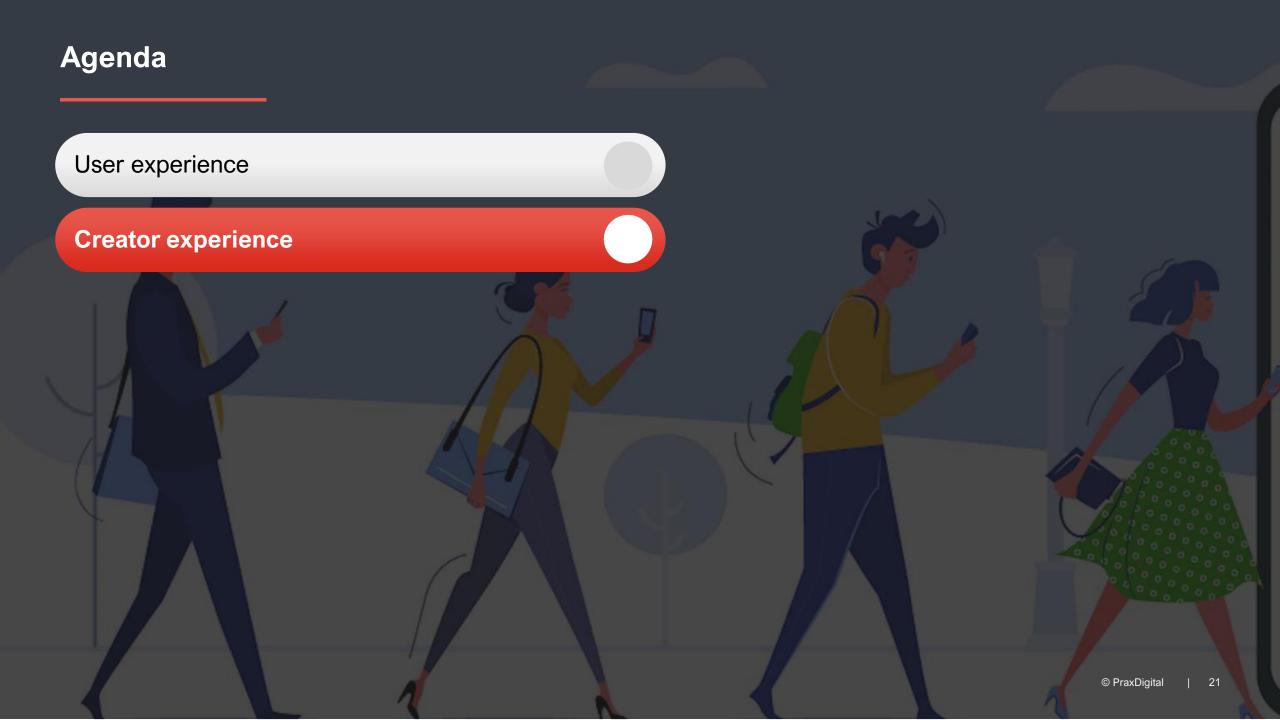
Presence of top 100 Indian TikTok influencers (%, Oct-21)











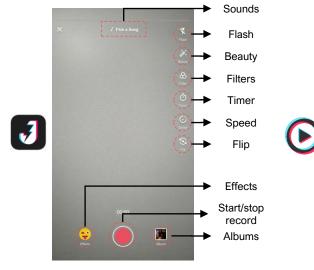
Creator features: Summary

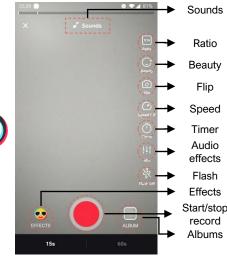
	Features	3	(D)		Comments
	Video creation features				Instagram Reels is the only platform that allows use of front screen flash while recording
	Beautification filter				 Only Josh allows applying beautification effects on specific face elements; MX TakaTak offers maximum customizable options (24)
Application functionality	Effects & AR filters				 MX TakaTak has maximum options for effects (250+) followed by Josh (180+); only Josh and Instagram Reels allows Animojis
functic	Gaming effects				While Instagram Reels has most # games, no separate category reduces comfort; Josh with separate category has limited games
ation	Video editing features				Only Josh has the functionality for applying transitions and animations post video recording
Applic	Motion effects				While Josh and MX TakaTak does not allow fast motion while Moj does allow looping of videos post recording
	Video effects				 Josh has the maximum # video effects and allows applying filters to part of the video which is not available in other applications
	Video posting / publishing				Only Moj allows restricting sharing of videos; Instagram Reels does not allow permission to make duets or restrict comments
oport em	Creator acquisition and support				 Josh and MX TakaTak have better mechanism for Creator support including content creation infrastructure
Creator support ecosystem	Challenge activity				Josh has the most the number of challenges and the challenge activity is prominently shown in the app
Crea	Promotion of content by new creators				Instagram Reels promotes content from new creators while MX TakaTak has more content from established creators

Best

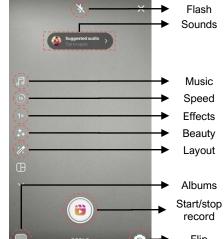
Instagram Reels offers front flash for video creation which is not available in other applications

	Feature	Description	3	(
	Record	Record button to start / stop video	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Album	Upload pre-saved video on phone	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
	Flip post cut	Flip between front and back camera between cuts	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Flip during cut	Flip between front and back camera within a single cut	x	✓	✓	✓
	Back flash	Back camera flash for low light video	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓
	Front flash	Front flash for low light recording	×	×	×	✓
Ę	Ratio	Ratio of video recording (9:16, etc.)	x	\checkmark	×	x
Video creation	Sound library	Original sound track for the video	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
CIE	Local sound	Use local audio track from phone	x	\checkmark	\checkmark	x
idec	Beautification	Beautify face elements in the video	\checkmark	\checkmark	×	\checkmark
>	Effects & AR filters	Video effects and AR based filters	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
	Animoji	Face gestures & expression	\checkmark	×	×	\checkmark
	Filters	Filters with colour tints & patterns	\checkmark	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark
	Game effects	Interactive AR based game effects	\checkmark	x	\checkmark	\checkmark
	Speed	Slow, fast, time-lapse, etc.	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
	Timer	Countdown, auto-record video	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓	\checkmark
	Video length	Minimum video length (seconds)	5	2	5	0.1
	Video length	Maximum video length (seconds)	60	60	60	60







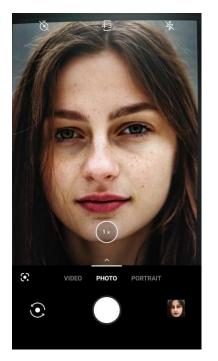






Josh is the only player that offers functionality for applying beautification on specific face elements

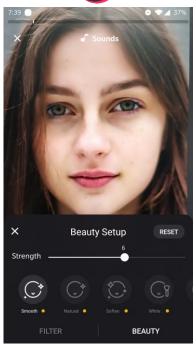
Original



















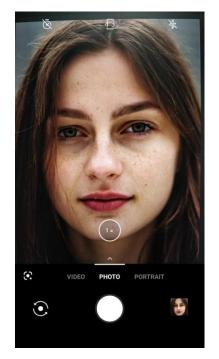
Beautification



Beautification option	✓	Beauty mode	✓	Beauty mode	x	Beautification option NA; Only filter available	✓	Beauty scale
Specific face element editing	\checkmark	Skin and face elements	×	NA	x	NA	×	NA
Customizable scale	✓	15 customizable options	✓	24 customizable options	x	NA	✓	Only single scale

MX TakaTak offers maximum options for AR filters and effects followed by Josh and Instagram Reels; MX TakaTak and Moj do not offer Animoji

Original





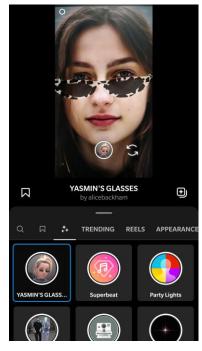
















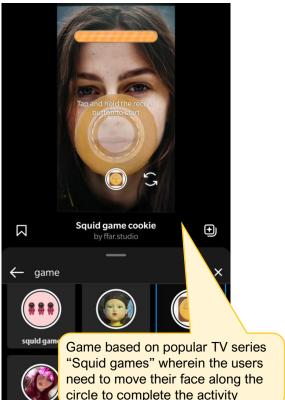


Video effects	√	180+ video effects	✓	250+ video effects	✓	90+ video effects	✓	140+ video effects
AR filters	✓	Interactive AR filters	✓	Interactive AR filters	✓	Interactive AR filters	✓	Interactive AR filters
Animoji	√	Gestures & expressions	×	NA	×	NA	✓	Gestures & expression

Josh, Moj and Instagram Reels have introduced AR based game effects to help creators improve user engagement

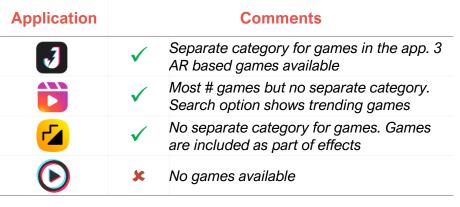
- Josh, Instagram Reels and Moj have introduced interactive AR based games
- These games are based on trending topics and typically include an activity to be performed by the users (viewers) which helps to increase their engagement time























While Instagram has a large repository of games, the application does not have a separate category for games and the user needs to use the Search option to find relevant games

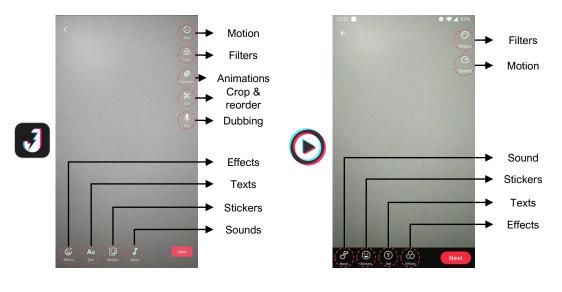


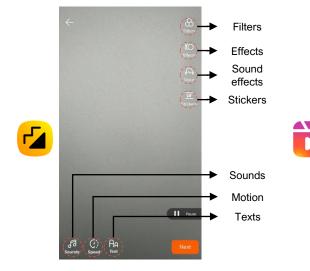
Yes

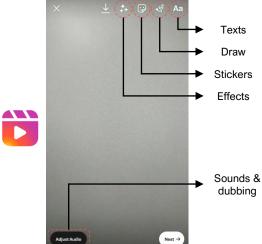
Leadina

Josh offers functionality for applying transitions and animations post video recording which is not available in other applications

						4
	Feature	Description	3	D		
	Motion / speed	Changing the speed of a part of video	√	✓	√	×
	Filters on video	Apply filters to the complete video	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Filters on cuts	Apply filters to a part of the video	✓	×	æ	×
	Video effects	Apply effects to a part of the video	✓	✓	✓	✓
ation)	Transitions	Transitions between cuts	✓	æ	æ	×
st cre	Animations	Animations on and between cuts	✓	×	x	×
od) ɓu	Crop & reorder	Crop or reorder a cut of the video	✓	×	æ	×
Video editing (post creation)	Sounds	Sound track library / local sounds	✓	✓	✓	✓
Video	Dubbing	Dubbing the audio / voiceover	✓	×	×	✓
	Sound effects	Sound effects / filters for the audio	×	×	✓	×
	Texts	Customizable texts for the video	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Draw	Draw with fingers in the video	×	×	×	✓
	Stickers	Complete library of stickers / GIFs / emojis / locations etc.	✓	✓	✓	✓





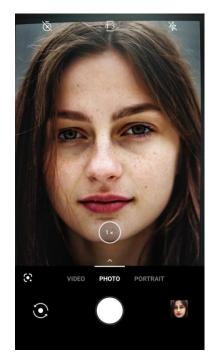


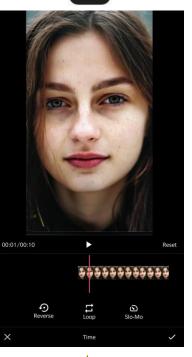




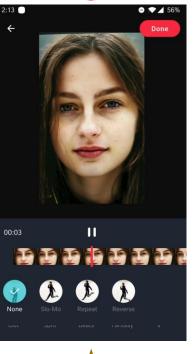
All apps offer similar functionalities for editing motion / speed of the video except Instagram Reels which does not allow editing video motion post recording

Original

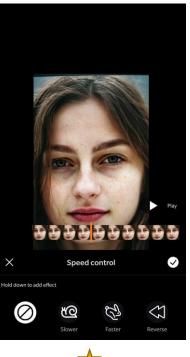
















Video motion



Slow-motion	✓	Part of the video	
Fast-motion	×	NA	
Reverse	\checkmark	Complete video	
Loop / repeat	\checkmark	Part of the video	



✓	Part of the video	√	Part of the video
×	NA	√	Part of the video
✓	Complete video	√	Complete video
✓	Part of the video	*	NA

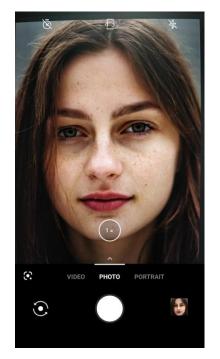
A
7.5

Part of the video	x
Part of the video	x
Complete video	×
NA	x

No option to change motion post recording of the video

Josh offers the maximum options for video effects and filters post video recording

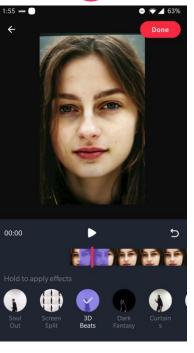
Original



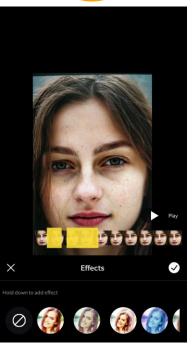
3















Video effects



Video effects	✓	50+ video effects	✓	10+ video effects	✓	5 video effects	✓	15+ video effects
Filters (color tints)	✓	60+ video filters	✓	15+ video filters	✓	25+ video filters	✓	10+ video filters
Part of the video	✓	Can apply to parts of video	×	Only effects; not filters	sc	Only effects; not filters	×	NA



Title Tag people

hashtags

Cover picture

Language

Allow duet

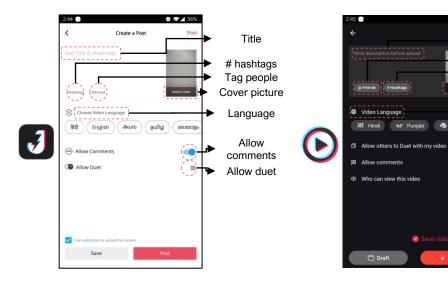
Allow

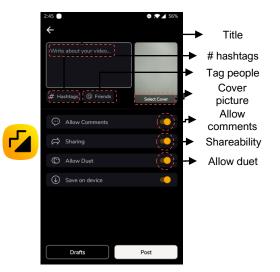
comments

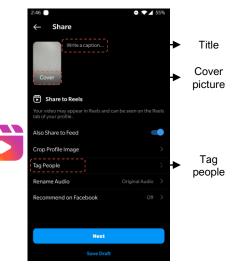
Viewership

Moj is the only application with a functionality to restrict video sharing

	Feature	Description	3	(
	Title / caption	Title of the video / caption	√	√	√	√
	# hashtags	Trending / relevant hashtag	✓	√	✓	✓
	Tag people	Tag your friend in the video	✓	✓	✓	✓
diting)	Language	Select language of the video	✓	✓	✓	x
Video posting (post editing	Cover picture	Cover picture / thumbnail of video	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Comments	Restrict comments on the video	✓	✓	✓	×
	Allow duet	Permission to allow people to make duet with the video	✓	√	✓	×
	Video draft	Option to save video in draft	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Viewership	Restrict viewership of the video	✓	×	✓	✓
	Shareability	Restrict sharing of videos	×	×	✓	×











Josh and MX TakaTak have better support mechanism for creator acquisition

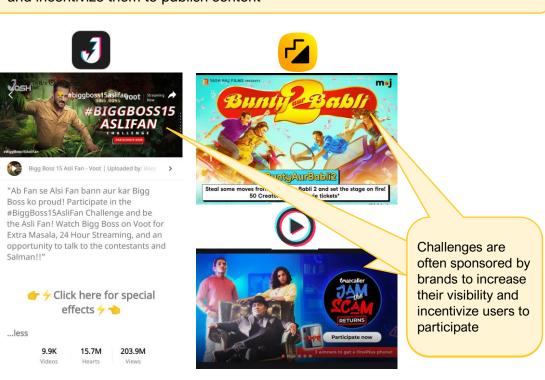
Online contests 17 challenges live in Oct-8 challenges in Oct-21 9 challenges in Oct-21 No sponsored challenges. and challenges Step 1: Content World Famous (Talent Moi SuperstarHunt, Moi generation & Offline events Hunt), 4 Creathorns x x Talks identification of and 8 Agents of Josh content creators Partnered with Big Boss, T-Partnered with Universal **Collaborations** Music Group, T-Series, Partnered with IPL teams Series, SVF Music Sony, SVF, Divo Music, etc. Partners, etc. Josh All Stars' training Moj Talks to enable Creator education program Training / Creator fellowship training academy - 6-week popular creators to share incl. self-paced e-learning program with live sessions mentorship program for personalized knowledge and groom course, live classes with and personalized support programs grooming of creators young creators experts, info on trends Planning to invest INR 75B Step 2: **Fund for content** INR 1B fund to support (along with Facebook) in x x Mentorship programs for content content creators creators and creators by 2022 guidance Infrastructure for Josh Studios setup MY Home setup x x content creation **Enabled various** Getting brands onboard to Getting brands onboard to Collaborated with Flipkart **Brand** Step 3: monetization avenues for sponsor challenges and to enable live commerce sponsor challenges and creators such as badges, endorsements and Monetizati share revenue with content share revenue with content videos and incentivize affiliations, in-stream video advertisements on creators creators creators ads*. branded content. etc.

Note(s): *Instagram in-stream video ads are currently not launched in India; US\$ 1 = INR 75 Source(s): Product benchmarking, Secondary research, PraxDigital analysis



Josh has the highest # active challenges followed by Moj and MX TakaTak

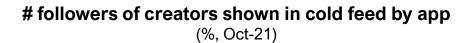
 Josh, MX TakaTak and Moj host challenges on their platforms to attract creators and incentivize them to publish content

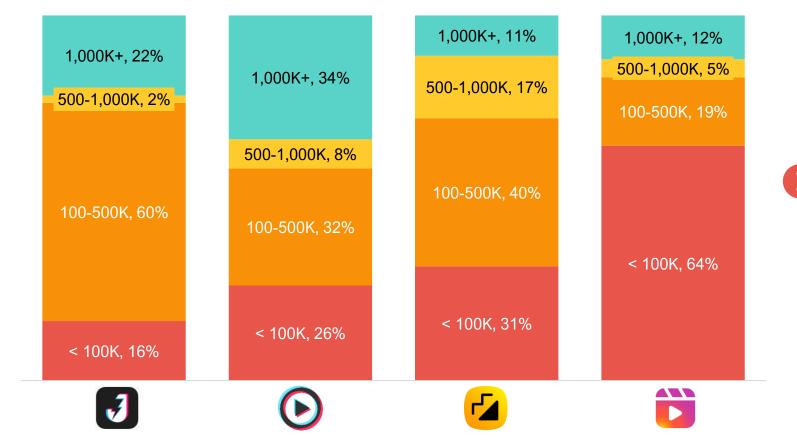


Challenges	3	(
# active challenges	17 (Oct-21)	8 (Oct-21)	9 (Oct-21)	NA
Total video views for top 5 challenges	~2B	~2.7B	~7.3B	NA Elagobia oballon
Total likes for top 5 challenges	~150M	NA	NA	Flagship challen "SpinMeOnMoj with 4B views
Amount of unrelated content				NA
Transparency of challenge metrics				NA
Overall				NA

- Instagram Reels does not have any platform sponsored challenges which incentivize users like other platforms
- While Josh prominently displays views and likes for each challenge, it is hard to differentiate hashtags from challenges for Moj and MX TakaTak
- ~55% of the views for Moj come from their flagship challenge, i.e., "SpinMeOnMoj"

Instagram Reels promotes content from new creators while MX TakaTak focuses more on content from large creators





Insights

- In cold feed, the proportion of content shown in the application for smaller creators (< 100K followers) is highest for Instagram Reels followed by Moj, MX TakaTak and Josh
- Josh has a significantly higher proportion of content for creators with a following in the range of 100-500K (60%)
- ~1/3rd of the content shown on MX
 TakaTak is from large creators, i.e., creators with a following >1000K



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