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## McDonald's Franchise for South, West Consolidated with Listed Firm

**NEW DELHI**  
OUR BUREAU

Hardcastle Restaurants, the franchisee for McDonald's for west and south India, will be made a direct subsidiary of its promoter B L Jatia group's listed firm Westlife Development. The development will help it tap the market to raise funds for the American burger-and-fries chain's expansion.

"The consolidation of our companies will open up opportunities for the India market to invest in McDonald's growth," Amit Jatia, vice-chairman at Westlife Development, said.

The move will help Hardcastle join the league of its rival Indian food chain Jubilant Foodworks, a franchisee of Dominos in India, that was listed two years ago by raising over Rs 320 crore.

Currently Hardcastle Restaurants is owned by Triple A Foods, a firm majority held by the Jatia family.

Hardcastle Restaurants, which operates 148 restaurants across west and south markets, grew its restaurant footprint by 20% last year. It has been growing at a CAGR of 22.3% over the last three years.

Jatia said expansion plans included extending the brand to formats like McDelivery, kiosks and 24-hour operations, besides focus on re-vamping existing restaurants.

For 2011-12, Westlife Development recorded a consolidated net profit of Rs 31.40 crore. The zero-debt Hardcastle Restaurants reported a net profit of Rs 42.51 crore for the fiscal.

The Jatia group also plans to consolidate another group firm, Westpoint Leisureparks, under Westlife Development, the group said in a statement.