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IT in May 2014

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General

- General Elections 2014 saw highest ever poll percentage of 66.38 during April-May 2014; it is truly an Election where Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Blog) and Electronic Communication (e-Mail, SMS, WhatsApp, 3D Holographic projection) played a decisive role. BJP gets absolute majority on May 17, 2014 with 282 seats; NDA gets 333 seats. President appoints Narendra Modi as Prime Minister of India on May 19, 2014; the new PM takes charge in May 26, 2014
- Odisha State elects Naveen Patnaik as Chief a Minister for the fourth time
- Thai Prime Minister gets ousted by Thailand Constitution Court on May 7, 2014 leading to further instability in the country followed by military coup on May 20, 2014
- Indian car brand **Ambassador** becomes history on May 31, 2014 with **Hindustan Motors** deciding to stop production from June 2014
- **Airbus 380** service starts in India with the first flight from Singapore landing in Delhi on May 30, 2014

Technology

- **Airbus**-made electric plane **E-Fan** takes flight on May 12, 2014

Markets

- New Jersey based **Kirusa** takes over Bangalore-based Messaging App company **Cooltok** on May 11, 2014
- **AT&T** decides to buy **DirecTV** for \$48.5 billion on May 18, 2014
- **Apple** buys **Beats Audio** and **Beats Electronics** in a \$ 3 billion deal on May 28, 2014

Products

- **Sony** launches **Xperia Z2** smartphone at a price of Rs 49,000 on May 8, 2014
- **Motorola** launches **Moto E** phone priced at Rs 5,999 on May 13, 2014; it was an instant success with 100,000 units ordered on Flipkart (exclusive channel) within 24 hours and bringing Flipkart site down due to excessive hits!
- **Microsoft** launches **Nokia Lumia 630/635** Low cost Windows Phone in India priced Rs 9,999 on May 12, 2014; launches **Surface Pro 3**, globally on May 20, 2014

Indian IT companies

- Coastal small town in Karnataka's Udupi based **Robosoft** subsidy **99Games Online** creates game for Disney Movie "Million Dollar Arm" on May 6, 2014 (10 days before the movie release); earlier, Robosoft game Dhoom 3 (based on Bollywood movie) had 11 million downloads
- Mohan Reddy founded 20-year old Hyderabad-based IT services company **Infotech Enterprises** becomes **Cyeint** (combining client, science and InfoTech Enterprises) in May 2014
- **TechMahindra** opens Mexico office in May 2014 and plans to create 500 jobs in the next 24 months
- **HCL Tech** wins 6-year long \$ 490 million IT outsourcing (Infra and Applications) contract from **Norway's DNB Bank** on May 7, 2014, \$ 500 million **PepsiCo** deal on May 20, 2014
- **Infosys** hives off products & platforms business into **EdgeServe** on May 12, 2014 (though Finacle continues to be part of Infosys Main); gets \$ 50 million AT&T contract on May 22, 2014

- Indian e-com major **Flipkart** takes over fashion goods e-Com player **Myntra** on May 23, 2014 in a \$ 300 million deal
- **Wipro** gets IT outsourcing contract from glass and specialty materials major **Corning** on a May 23, 2014

MNC companies in India

- SAP announces its decision to offer its software in Hindi and five Indian languages by 2015

People

- M N **Vidyashankar**, IAS (Retd.), former Additional Secretary of Government of Karnataka takes over as **IESA** (Indian Electronics and Semiconductor Association) President on May 5, 2014; with R **Chandrashekar**, IAS (Retd.), former Secretary, Telecom & IT of Government of India taking over as President, **NASSCOM** earlier in the year, the country has amazing people to drive hardware and software businesses in the country
- Vadodara, India born Dr. **Vishal Sikka**, Executive Board Member of the \$ 17 Billion IT major from Germany, **SAP**, resigns suddenly on May 5, 2014
- **IBM CEO Virginia Mary “Ginni” Rometty** visits Bangalore during May 6-7, 2014
- **Shyam Saran Negi** (97) the first ever voter of Independent India from Himachal Pradesh voted on May 7, 2014, perhaps for the last time
- **Narendra Modi** with his humble beginnings creates history on May 17, 2014 by becoming India’s 15th Prime Minister
- **Gujarat** gets its first woman Chief Minister **Anandiben Patel** on May 22, 2014
- **AAP Leader Aravind Kejriwal** gets into jail on May 20, 2014 in the defamation case
- **Infosys President BG Srinivas** quits on May 28, 2014 and joins PCCW in Hong Kong

Education & Research

- Prof **Manu Prakash** (IIT Kanpur Alum) of Stanford University creates **Foldscope** - a very low cost (\$1) microscope - to take science teaching for the masses
- IIT JEE Main entrance examination results out on May 2, 2014

Interesting applications

- Pizza gets air delivered thru **Drone** in Mumbai on May 23, 2014 by Francesco’s Pizzeria in Lower Parel to a customer in Worli, just a kilometer away

Interesting numbers

- **Telecom subscriber** base on March 31, 2014 stood at 933.00 million with 904.51 million mobile subscribers and 28.49 million wire-line subscribers (with net addition of 1.15 million mobile subscribers and net reduction of 0.11 million wire-line subscribers in March 2014) (TRAI Press Release No. 25/2014 dated May 12, 2014)
- **India’s Foreign Exchange on May 30, 2014 was at \$ 312.38 billion (RBI)**
- **Indian Rupee** stood at 59.20 against USD on May 31, 2014 (RBI)
- On May 31, 2014 **BSE Sensex** and **NSE NIFTY 50** (Indian stock market indices) were at 24,217 and 7,229 respectively (Reuters)
- **Apple’s six month revenue crosses \$ 100 billion** (\$ 103.4 billion) for the first time (Oct 2013 - March 2014), a first for any IT company
- **Gmail App on Android** is the first App to cross **one billion mark** on **Google Play Store** on May 16, 2014
- India’s low-cost carrier **GoIndigo** wins **Airbus Award** for Worldwide Operational Excellence with best on-time arrivals among 311 Airlines

