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IT in November 2014

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General

- **Mangalyaan** (India's Mars mission) on 2014 list of Top 25 inventions of 2014 as per **Time** Magazine
- Wholesale **inflation** drops to 1.77% (5-year low) on November 14, 2014; stock markets see a boom in November 2014
- **Prime Minister Modi** completes 5-Nation visit; attends SAARC meet in Nepal during November 25-27, 2014; convinces **President Obama** to accept his invitation to be the Chief a Guest during Republic Day (January 26, 2015); expands Union Cabinet with 21 new Ministers on November 9, 2014 including IIT-Bombay educated Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar
- Kerala & Goa reach 100% coverage of **bank accounts for all** by November 19, 2014
- Bangalore **IT.Biz** (India's premier event that was started in 1998) was held in Bangalore during November 12-14, 2014; for the first time the global event **CeBit** partnered with IT.biz
- Bangalore becomes **Bengaluru** on November 1, 2014
- Haryana Maharashtra get **new BJP Governments** in November 2014; Fadnavis is the new Maharashtra CM; Goa gets a new CM
- **Elections** in Jammu & Kashmir and Jharkhand start on November 25, 2014
- **World Trade Center in New York City**, that was destroyed on September 11, 2001 rebuilt at a cost of \$ 3.9 billion was inaugurated on November 3, 2014; it is 541 meters tall today
- World celebrates the 25th year of the fall of Berlin Wall on November 9, 2014
- Japan slides into recession in November 2014; new Elections announced
- Jindal steel puts off \$ 10 billion investment in Orissa (due to coal block license cancellation)
- Wagah border blast on November 2, 2014 kills 55; man-made disaster leads to nine sterilization deaths in Chhattisgarh on November 11, 2014; suicide bomber in Afghanistan kills 45 people on November 23, 2014

Technology

- **Mangalyaan** (India's Mars mission) on 2014 list of Top 25 inventions of 2014 as per **Time** Magazine
- India-born Rajesh Rao of University of Washington demonstrates brain-to-brain interface over Internet (according to November 5, 2014 PLOSOne article)

Markets

- **Sensex** (Indian stock market index) crosses **28,000** on November 5, 2014 for the first time; Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) market capitalization touched ₹ 1 Lakh Crores on November 28, 2014

- November 2014 saw **Apple** market capitalization going past **\$ 700 billion** and **Microsoft** moving to **No 2** position in market value (next only to Apple and ahead of Coca Cola and Exxon)
- **Yahoo** buys **Brightroll** for \$ 640 million on November 12, 2014
- Bangalore-based **Quest** Global acquires Trivandrum-based **NeSt Software** on November 4, 2014
- Mysore-based **Raman Fibre Science** (founded by Aroon Raman) gets acquired by US-based Hollingsworth & Vose on November 6, 2014
- **Kotak Mahindrabank** buys **ING VysyaBank** on November 20, 2014
- **Tech Mahindra** buys US-based networking company **Lightbridge Communications** for \$ 240 million on November 20, 2014
- **Future** group buys 300-year old retailer **Nilgiris** for ₹ 300 crores on November 21, 2014

Products

- **Google** launches **Inbox** (invitation only at this time) in November 2014
- **Microsoft** offers **free** mobile versions of **MS Word**, **Excel** and **PowerPoint** for **iPhone** and **iPad** on November 6, 2014; also launches **Microsoft Lumia 535** (first non-Nokia branded Lumia) globally for € 110 on November 11, 2014; its India launch was on November 26, 2014 at a price of Rs 9,199
- **Amazon** announces voice controlled speaker Amazon **Echo** on November 8, 2014
- **Alcatel** launches **OneTouch** Flash phone for ₹ 9,999 in India on November 20, 2014
- **IBM** launches business email **IBM Verse** on November 18, 2014
- **Nokia** launches Android Tablet **Lollipop** on November 18, 2014
- **Micromax** unveils Yu on November 18, 2014
- **Apple iPad Air 2** and **iPad Mini 3** go on sale in India on November 29, 2014

Indian IT companies

- **TCS** sponsors New York City marathon (world's largest marathon with TCS sponsoring for the next 8 years); it had 50,000+ participation on November 2, 2014; starts dedicated offshore centers in Japan
- **Infosys** signs \$ 200 million contract with Visa in November 2014; set to hire 2,100 in USA in year 2014
- **Tech Mahindra** buys US-based networking company **Lightbridge Communications** for \$ 240 million on November 20, 2014
- **Cognizant** buys **Odecee** (Australia & New Zealand based digital solutions company) on November 12, 2014
- **Mindtree** to open one more European Centre in 2014-15
- **Bharti Airtel** to sell 4,800 mobile towers in Nigeria for ₹ 6,463 crores
- Data center major **CtrlS** plans 2 data Centers with ₹ 626 crores investment

MNC companies in India

- **Cisco** to invest \$ 1.7 billion in India in the year 2014-15
- **Microsoft** starts high end cloud offering in India

- **Ricoh India** gets ₹ 1,370 Crores order from Department of Posts on November 27, 2014 to connect up 1.29 Lakhs rural Post offices in the country
- Chinese e-commerce major **Alibaba** talks of more investments in India
- **Dell** to expand manufacturing in India
- **Visa** to open Tech Center in Bangalore
- **Amazon** to open fulfillment center in Gujarat
- **E-bay** plans major expansion in India next year
- China's **Xiaomi** set to make phones in India
- **China Union Pay** starts India office; plans partnerships with NPCI's **RuPay** on November 8, 2014
- Alibaba-backed **Quixey** set to buy Bangalore based mobile application start-up **Dextra**
- **Uber** starts service that is even cheaper than auto on November 19, 2014
- Brazil's **Tripda** (ride sharing App) starts India operations on November 23, 2014

Education & Research

- **Mangalyaan** (India's Mars mission) on 2014 list of Top 25 inventions Time Magazine
- **Infosys Science Prizes** announced on Nov 13, 2014
- **ACM Fellows** list announced in November 2014
- **GRE Applications** from India increase by 60% in 2014

People

- 13-year old whiz-kid Shubham Banerjee develops **Braille printer** and gets venture funding on November 6, 2014
- Infosys co-founders Kris Gopalakrishnan and Shibulal launch business incubator **AxilorVentures** on November 18, 2014
- Guinness land speed record holder **Andy Green** visits India and gives IET Talk at Infosys on November 13, 2014
- South Carolina Governor **Nikki Haley** and marketing Guru **Philip Kotler** visit India in November 2014

Infrastructure

- **Schindler Electric** commissions state of the art **manufacturing plant to make elevators** at Chakan, Pune on November 4, 2014
- **Reliance Power** commissions **world's largest solar project** (100 MW built at a cost of ₹ 2100 Crores) in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on November 11, 2014

Interesting Applications

- India to offer online services for 200 permits and target 50th position for doing business globally (from current 142nd position)
- Government initiates e-Life certificate - JeevanPraman - so that millions of pensioners need not have to give a physical life certificate every November; this innovative application using

AADHAR goes live on November 15, 2014

- Airtel launches "One Touch Internet" for first time users in multiple languages on November 6, 2014
- Visa on Arrival through Electronic Travel Authorization for citizens of 43 countries launched on November 27, 2014
- 50 districts chosen for digitizing land records
- Taxi Apps making taxi fares affordable forces auto rickshaws to reduce fare in November 2014! Technology helping common man!
- Housing.com launches "online only" Tata ValueHousing property thru interactive app

Interesting numbers

- **Telecom subscriber** base on October 31, 2014 stood at 962.63 million with 935.35 million mobile subscribers and 27.28 million wire-line subscribers (with net addition of 5.14 million mobile subscribers and net reduction of 0.12 million wire-line subscribers in October 2014) (TRAI Press Release No. 80/2014 dated December 5, 2014)
- **India's Foreign Exchange** on November 30, 2014 was at \$ 315.9 billion (RBI)
- **Indian Rupee** stood at 62.03 against USD on November 31, 2014 (RBI)
- On November 30, 2014 **BSE Sensex** and **NSE NIFTY 50** (Indian stock market indices) were at 28,694 and 8,588 respectively (Reuters)
- Oil price hits four year low of \$ 82 on November 5, 2014 and below \$ 75 per barrel on November 27, 2014, a new record
- Wholesale inflation drops to 1.77% (5-year low) on November 14, 2014
- 20 years of mobile in India sees tariff drop from ₹ 16.80 to ₹ 0.60; customer base near zero to 962 million; handset price starting from ₹ 45,000 to ₹ 850; revenue from near zero to ₹ 2.3 Lakh Crores!
- Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) market capitalization touched ₹ 1 Lakh Crores on November 28, 2014
- Buoyed by early success India upgrades new bank account target (Jan Dhan Yojana) to 100 million from 70 million
- Prime Minister Modi has 25 million fans in Facebook and 8 million followers on Twitter
- Flipkart to hire 12,000 Amazon to hire 13,500 this year!
- Facebook messenger user base touches 500 million in November 2014
- Indian user count of WhatsApp crosses 70 million in November 2014
- Hero sells 1 million two wheelers in 37 days on November 3, 2014
- Apple iPhone shipments cross 1 million in India during October 2013 - September 2014
- Alibaba sales on 11/11/2014 cross \$ 8 billion!
- Rohit Sharma gets double century highest ODI cricket match score in November 2014
- Indian Net population to cross 300 million by December 2014
- Badrinath temple that closed Darsan on November 21, 2014; the number of pilgrims dropped from 12 Lakhs last year to 1.8 Lakhs this year due to land slides in year 2013
- **Indigo Airlines** inducts its 100th plane on November 3, 2014 (8th year of operation)

