

14 Key developments in IT in the year 2014

1. **Modi makes it to the top:** Thanks to his tech-savvy advisers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been using social media very effectively. He made it to the No 1 position of Reader Poll of **TIME** person of the year (**TIME** Magazine, December 8, 2014)
2. **Nokia is no more:** **Nokia** dominated global market for mobile phones for nearly 20+ years; at its peak, Nokia manufactured nearly 500 million handsets a year! With Microsoft purchasing Nokia handset business in 2012 and Microsoft Devices launching Lumia 535 without **Nokia** brand in November 2014, Nokia is no more!
3. **Indians matter in IT:** With India-born Microsoft employee **Satya Nadella** taking over as the third CEO of Microsoft in February 2014, history was made; in the past ten months Microsoft stock price has steadily increased and on November 20, 2014 Microsoft became the No 2 global brand, surpassing Exxon Mobile!
4. **AADHAR gets its aadhar:** With change of government and Chairman Nandan Nilekani entering politics, there was uncertainty about the fate of AADHAR (ID for every Indian); with renewed push from Modi government for DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer), AADHAR is getting its due, as a truly transformational project.
5. **Raja (Government) goes to Praja (Citizen) thru IT:** With President of India launching **Karnataka Mobile One** on December 8, 2014 that 600+ government services are available to citizens on their mobile phone, truly transforming governance.
6. **Cities to go smart thru IT:** 100 **Smart Cities** project is a reality today; it was discussed during Prime Minister's visit to Japan, Chinese Premier's visit to India and Cisco / Google / Microsoft C.E.Os.' visit to India. With IoT (Internet of Things) getting enough attention in the year 2014, IT will transform city and municipal lives for the better in the next decade.
7. **IT makes city travel Uber cool:** **Ola Cabs** and **TaxiForSure** successfully launch Apps-based taxi hailing in several Indian cities in the year 2014. In many cases travelling public is able to hire a taxi at the cost of an auto-rickshaw. Such services will fundamentally improve access to public transport for ordinary citizens in future, notwithstanding aberrations like Uber taxi case in Delhi in November 2014.
8. **IT reaches healthcare to Indian homes:** Serial entrepreneur K Ganesh brings down information asymmetry between healthcare providers and healthcare consumers thru **Portea**, leading to more efficient delivery of healthcare services at the doorsteps of customers.
9. **IT to power the most demanding economic reform in India, viz., GST:** Finally, the Government introduces GST (Goods & Services Tax) legislation in the Parliament in December 2014 and paves the way for a sophisticated and efficient tax administration on par with other developed countries. GST will be supported by an IT backbone (GST Net) so that GST will start rolling from April 1, 2016
10. **IT start-ups make waves:** Indian e-commerce company **Flipkart** creates history; hits **run-rate of \$ 1 billion** for the year 2014-15; attracts millions of dollars investment from global investors; forces Amazon CEO to announce \$ 2 billion investment in India; has **Rs 610 crores sales in 10 hours** on October 6, 2014; becomes the **exclusive platform** of sale for iconic products like **Moto G** and **Xiaomi Mi3**; becomes the **No 1 recruiter** in IIT's, IIT's and IIM's; e-commerce enters mainstream in India in the year 2014
11. **Indian IT companies make history:** **TCS** market capitalization exceeds Rs 5 Lakh Crores in July 2014 (more than the combined vale of CSC, Fujitsu, Xerox, Unisys and CapGemini); another iconic company **Infosys** founders leave management control completely to professionals led by Vishal Sikka (ex SAP) in October 2014.

12. Indian Science reaches global headlines: With major successes in the year 2014 – Mars Orbiter Mission (MoM) (November 5, 2013 to September 24, 2014), satellite-launching-as-service for Germany, Canada & Singapore (June 2014), making the first moves for India's own GPS equivalent (October 2014) and stepping towards manned spaceships (December 18, 2014) - it has been a wonderful year for India. *Mangalyaan* becomes Best Inventions of 2014 (**TIME** Magazine); ISRO Chairman Dr Radhakrishnan is Top 10 List (**Nature**)
13. Global IT companies in headline news: The iconic company **HP** splits into two corporations – **HP Enterprise** and **HP Inc.**, with nearly \$ 56 billion turnover each on October 31, 2014; **IBM** selling off its low-end x86 server business to Lenovo in September 2014 and exiting semiconductor business in October 2014, IBM will be very different from the year 2015!

Finally, the year 2014 will be etched in gold for India (with or without IT)

14. Nobel Prize for an Indian of post-independent India: With Kailash Satyarthi (born in 1954) getting Nobel Peace Prize in October 2014, history was made in India. The last time Nobel Prize was bagged by a person born in India and worked in India was Sir CV Raman; it was way back in 1930. Hargobind Khorana (1968), Mother Teresa (1979), S Chadraseskhar (1983), Amartya Sen (1998) and Venki Ramakrishnan (2009) either did their Nobel Prize winning work outside India or not born in India.