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# IT in March 2014

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## General

- *Lok Sabha* (Indian Parliament) Elections announced on March 5, 2014
- Supreme Court asks UIDAI (UID Authority of India) to withdraw the order making AADHAR (Universal ID) mandatory on March 25, 2014
- Russian President Putin signs the Ascension of Crimea to Russia into law on March 21, 2014
- Malaysian plane goes missing on March 8, 2014 for days adding to the mystery everyday

## Markets

- San Francisco-based global music streaming service **Rdio** (founded by Skype co-founder Janus Fris) decides to acquire Indian music start-up **Dhingana** (founded by Snehal & Swapnil Shinde) on March 13, 2014
- Indian stock market index *Sensex* crossed 22,000 for the first time on March 2014
- **Facebook** buys Virtual Reality company **Oculus** for \$ 2 billion on March 26, 2014
- **SAP** to buy Chicago-based **Fieldglass** (cloud-based vendor management software) company on March 26, 2014
- Chinese major **Alibaba** buys minority stake for \$ 215 million (on a \$ 1.1 billion valuation) in US-based start-up **Tango** (Chat App) on March 29, 2014

## Products

- **Yahoo** launches new Website in India on March 8, 2014
- **Nokia X** Android phone launched in India on March 10, 2014
- **Moto X** launch in India on March 19, 2014 at Rs 23,999
- **Apple** replaces **iPad 4 with Retina display** as replacement for iPad 2 on March 21, 2014
- **Microsoft** launches **Office for iPad** in March 27, 2014
- **Samsung** launches **Galaxy 5S** smartphone at Rs 53,000 in India on March 27, 2014

## Indian IT companies

- **Flipkart** makes history by crossing \$ 1 Billion turnover on March 6, 2014 (78 months compared to 95 months for Amazon to reach the Billion Dollar status)
- **TCS** rated No 1 employer in Europe (Top Employers Institute) for the second time in a row, signs deal with Garuda Airlines in March 2014; TCS to manage much of Thomson Reuters operations in India from April 2014
- Chennai-based **TNQ** to power science-publishing major Elsevier "Proof Central" (connecting authors and publishers)
- Indian mobile handset major **Karbonn** expects Rs 8,000 crores business 2014-15

## MNC Companies in India

- **IBM** opens a new Lab with \$ 100 million investment in Bangalore in March 2014
- **Cisco** talks of India's contribution to Cisco sales to touch 5% in 2014-15; to invest \$ 1 billion in India on cloud infrastructure in 2014-2015

- **AmEx** decides to use Bangalore-based **EzTap** (Sanjay Swami founded startup) on March 20, 2014
- Japanese telecom major **NTT** commissions its Tier 3 data center with 1,00,000 sq. ft. space (Net Magic Data Center) in Bangalore on March 26, 2014
- German chemicals major **BASF** set to start its R & D center in Thane, Mumbai in the year 2014
- **CA Tech** expands India operations in Bangalore
- **Panasonic** decides to make India regional hub in 2014
- **Starbucks** talks of fastest growth in India in its history (40 stores in 17 months - Oct 2012 to Feb 2014 - with 1,000 employees)
- **Nokia** Chennai plant dispute delays Nokia merger into Microsoft; gets another Rs 2,400 crores tax call from State Government (an earlier Tax dispute of even larger value pending with Central Government)

### Telecom

- **Airtel** launches 4G /LTE services on iPhone 5S on March 2, 2014 (at 3G prices)

### Education & Research

- **Prof. Anurag Kumar** to take over as **Director of IISc** (Indian Institute of Science) in August 2014 from Prof P Balaram
- Russian mathematician **Prof. G Sinai** is the **Abel Prize** (Mathematics Nobel) winner of 2014

### Infrastructure

- Bangalore **Namma Metro** launch of Reach 3 & 3A (Sampige Road to Peenya Industrial Estate) starts operations in March 1, 2014

### Applications

- IMT (Instant Money Transfer) linking ATM to mobile phone started by Bank of India on March 24, 2014

### People

- Infosys founder & former CEO **Nandan Nilekani** (Congress candidate) and former CFO **V Bala** (AAP candidate) take plunge into politics and contest in Parliament Elections in Bangalore on April 17, 2014
- Infosys Enterprise Head Chandrashekar Kakal to joins L&T Infotech as COO
- RBI Deputy Governor KC Chakrabarty announces his decision to quit 3 months early (April instead of June)

### Some interesting numbers

- Apple, Amazon, Google in No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 “Most Admired companies” 2014 list (Fortune)
- IRCTC sells a record 5,80,000 tickets in a single day on March 20, 2014
- Indian online retail has 1 million traders and \$ 12.6 billion sales today (IAMAI); **Amazon India** stocks 1.5 crore items and surpasses Indian e-commerce majors **Flipkart** and **Snapdeal**
- English word "ok" completes 175 years (first appeared in “Boston Morning Post”)
- **Telecom subscriber** base on January 31, 2014 stood at 922.04 million with 893.31 million mobile subscribers and 28.73 million wire-line subscribers (with net addition of 7.02 million mobile subscribers and net reduction of 0.17 million wire-line subscribers in January 2014) (TRAI Press Release No. 13/2014 dated March 12, 2014)
- **India’s Foreign Exchange** on March 31, 2014 was at \$ 303.67 billion (RBI)
- **Indian Rupee** stood at 59.88 against USD on March 31, 2014 (RBI)
- On March 31, 2014 **BSE Sensex** and **NSE NIFTY 50** (Indian stock market indices) were at 22,386 and 6,704 respectively (Reuters)

