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# IT in April 2014

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## General

- Government grants Bank licenses to IDFC (Infrastructure finance company), Bandhan (micro finance company) on April 2, 2014
- *Lok Sabha* (Indian Parliament) Election starts on April 7, 2014 (results expected on May 16, 2014)
- India's factory output falls to the lowest level in 2 years in March 2014

## Technology

- **ISRO** launches IRNSS 1B, the second in the series of navigational satellites to provide GPS-alternative on April 2, 2014
- *Mangalyaan* (Indian Mars Mission) crosses 340 million km and crosses half way mark on April 9, 2014
- Microsoft **Cortana** is the latest entrant to voice-based personal assistants

## Products

- **Amazon** launches **Fire TV** (set top box) on April 4, 2014
- **Microsoft Windows XP** reaches end of life on April 7, 2014
- Indian mobile handset major **Micromax** launches Phablet**Canvas Doodle 3** on April 22, 2014
- **Microsoft** launches **Windows Phone 8.1** (with Cortana Personal Assistant), Windows 8.1 Update, **Nokia Lumia 930** (high-end Windows Phone) & **Nokia Lumia 630 /635** (low end Windows phone), and, makes **Windows free for OEM's on devices with less than 9" screen size** on April 4, 2014 (Build Conference); makes multi-party video calling over **Skype** free on April 28, 2014

## Markets

- Global Pharma major **Novartis** creates history by swapping billions of dollars worth product portfolio with **GSK Pharma** and **Eli Lilly** on April 22, 2014
- Indian Pharma major **SunPharma** buys another Indian pharmaceuticals major **Ranbaxy** (from Japanese **Daiichi**) for a whopping all shares deal of \$ 4 billion on April 7, 2014, making it the fifth largest generic drug company globally
- Romesh Wadhvani founded **Symphony Teleca** acquires Pradeep Singh founded **AditiTechnologies** on April 9, 2014
- India's Big Six IT Services major **TechMahindra** acquires **FixStream** (Big Data startup) on April 21, 2014 for \$ 10 million
- Real estate portal **CommonFloor** acquires **Flat.to**(start-up focused on students / bachelors accommodation) on April 21, 2014
- US-based Indian IT services major **Cognizant** set to buy US-headquartered "itaas" digital video solution on April 22, 2014
- Apple, Microsoft, TCS, Infosys announce good results for January – March 2014 quarter

## Indian IT Companies

- **TCS** enters Global Top 10 (replaces **CSC**) in April 2014
- **TCS Mitsubishi JV** to add \$ 600 million to TCS annual revenue next year

## Global IT Companies in India

- **Nokia Mobile** becomes **Microsoft Mobile** on April 25, 2014
- **vmWare** set to invest \$ 500 million in Bangalore in 2014

## People

- **Cognizant** president **R Chandrashekar** is **NASSCOM** Chairman from April 1, 2014; takes charge from Mindtree Founder N Krishna Kumar
- Dr **S Ramani** (former TIFR Scientist, NSCT Director, HP Labs Bangalore Head and IIIT-B Faculty member) is the first Indian inducted into Internet Society's "Internet Hall of Fame" on April 8, 2014 in Hong Kong
- Well-respected Indian industrialist **Ratan Tata** gets the highest civilian award Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire, the only Indian to be given this particular award since India's independence on April 10, 2014
- Bangalore-born American **Vijay Seshadri** wins **Pulitzer Prize 2014** on April 15, 2014
- **Justice Lodha** sworn in as the 41<sup>st</sup> **Chief Justice of India** on April 27, 2014
- India-born **Rajeev Suri** takes over as **Nokia global CEO** on April 28, 2014
- **Arvind Kejriwal** of **AAP** and **Narendra Modi** of **BJP** in "100 Most Influential List of 2014" of **TIME Magazine**
- **US Ambassador to India** Nancy Powell logs out of India in April 2014

## Telecom

- **TDSAT** rules that 3G spectrum sharing is legal, setting aside the Telecom Ministry order; quashes the Rs 1,200 crores penalty on telcos on April 29, 2014

## Infrastructure

- **GMR** lands \$ 390 million **Cebu Airport** deal from Philippines on April 5, 2014 to renovate and operate the Airport
- Mumbai gets the first double decker flyover on April 18, 2014 connecting Santa Cruz and Chembur
- **Jindal Steel** commissions **Vijayanagar cold rolling Mill** on April 25, 2014 expected to make steel available at lower cost to automotive car manufacturers in India

## Interesting Applications

- **BJP** Prime Ministerial candidate **Narendra Modi** uses 3D holographic projection to reach out; "speaks" to Bangalore citizens on April 11, 2014 remotely, with stunning quality

## Interesting Numbers

- **Telecom subscriber** base on February 28, 2014 stood at 931.95 million with 903.36 million mobile subscribers and 28.59 million wire-line subscribers (with net addition of 10.05 million mobile subscribers and net reduction of 0.13 million wire-line subscribers in February 2014) (TRAI Press Release No. 21/2014 dated April 23, 2014)
- **India's Foreign Exchange** on May 2, 2014 was at \$ 311.86 billion (RBI)
- **Indian Rupee** stood at 60.42 against USD on April 30, 2014 (RBI)
- On April 30, 2014 **BSE Sensex** and **NSE NIFTY 50** (Indian stock market indices) were at 22,417 and 6,696 respectively (Reuters)
- **Facebook** users in India cross 100 million on April 9, 2014
- Indian **Internet speed** slowest in APAC region - 20 MBPS of Korea Vs 1.5 MBPS of India (**Akamai** Report April 23, 2014)
- **MundraPort** creates history carrying 100 million tons of cargo during April 2013 to March 2014, the first ever for any Indian port
- **CEA** (Central Electricity Authority) talks of 1,023 billion units of electricity generation in India during 2013-14; **Indian solar power capacity** crosses 2,500 MW capacity on March 31, 2014 with Gujarat accounting for 750 MW
- India has a **housing shortage** of 25 million homes as of April 2014; there is a paradox of 11 million vacant homes too (Urban Development Ministry)
- **Toyota** makes 9.83 million cars and No 1 in the world, expects 10 million this year

