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IT in October 2014

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General

- In economic news, India set to become \$ 2 trillion economy this year; Government bites the bullet - **Diesel pricing** is freed - moves to market pricing on October 19, 2014; **FDI in realty sector** opened up in October 2014; India joins 20 Asian countries to launch **Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank** on October 24, 2014; India clears ₹ 80,000 crores defence deals on October 27, 2014; Coal Reform announced on Oct 30, 2014; Crude oil prices globally slip below \$ 93 in early October, helping India (that depends heavily on imported crude) significantly in trade balance; Japan's **Softbank** invests \$ 10 billion in India in October 2014
- In political news, BJP shows **impressive victory in Haryana and Maharashtra Elections** (results announced on October 19, 2014); **Haryana, Maharashtra get new Chief Ministers** on October 27, 2014; Election Commission announces **polls in J&K and Jharkhand in November** - December with results to be announced on December 25, 2014; Prime Minister's "**Swachh Bharat**" (Clean India) Mission was launched on October 2, 2014; hopes to improve cleanliness across the country in the next five years; Prime Minister launches **model village scheme** where every MP will be funded to help create 5 model villages over the next 5 years on October 12, 2014; launches **Shrameva Jayate** program of **Labour Reform** on October 16, 2014 and EPFO UAN Scheme that allows workers to take their Provident Fund savings with them when they shift jobs; Prime Minister creates history by **celebrating Diwali with the Jawans** in Siachen border on October 23, 2014; Sardar Patel birthday celebrated across the Nation as **National Integration Day** on October 31, 2014
- **Stampede in Patna** (Gandhi Maidan) kills 33 people on October 4, 2014; **Cyclone Hudhud** causes extensive damage to coastal towns in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa on October 12, 2014; disaster management teams did a wonderful job with minimal loss of life; **Canadian Parliament shooting** accident claims a life on October 23, 2014; **Ebola** threat increases further in October 2014; **Hong King violence** continues in October 2014

Technology

- Samsung talks of a new 60 GHz technology for high speed Wi-Fi on October 12, 2014
- The much talked about Sapphire for display for smartphones fizzles out as Apple supplier GT shuts door in October 2014
- Bionic eye successful on October 13, 2014
- ISRO successfully launches 3rd navigation satellite on October 16, 2014 (major step in its 7-satellite GPS alternative)
- Japan rolls out its new passenger aircraft on October 19, 2014
- Government sets up IP think tank in October 2014
- NASA unmanned rocket that was to supply International Space Shuttle (ISS) exploded within 6 seconds of launch on October 29, 2014

Markets

- **Amazon** launches huge “sale” during October 4-6, 2014; **Flipkart** talks of “**Big Billion Day**” sale on October 6, 2014; sells ₹ 600 crores (\$100 million) within a day! There were some pricing, technology glitches and fulfillment problems too!!
- **Facebook** completes \$ 19 billion acquisition of **WhatsApp** on October 6, 2014
- **Cognizant** acquires Digital Marketing company **Cadient** for \$ 30 million on October 6, 2014
- **TrueCaller** with maximum customers in India get \$ 60 million funding in October 8, 2014
- Wipro founder **Azim Premji** buys into Chennai-based **FSS** (Financial Software & Systems) that has been running ATM switches, for ₹ 350 crores on October 12, 2014
- **Muhurt** trading on Day 1 of Samvat 2071 (Start of new Calendar for the Indian trading community on Diwali Day) saw NSE going past 8,000 on October 23, 2014
- UK-based **New Telecom** buys **Nimbuzz** (VikasSaxena founded Messenger service and VoIP Service out of India with 200 million users) for \$ 250 million on October 27, 2014
- **Softbank** invests \$ 10 billion in India with **OlaCabs** and **SnapDeal** getting funded in October 2014
- **Lenovo** completes purchase of **Motorola mobile** division from Google in October 2014

Products

- **Microsoft** announces the launch (in 2015) of next generation **Windows 10** for mobile, Tablet and PC (possibly a free update) on October 1, 2014
- **Microsoft** launches **NokiaLumia730**, 830 and 930 in India priced ₹ 15,299, ₹28,799 and ₹ 38,699 respectively on October 1, 2013 in India
- **AppleiPhone 6** and **6 Plus** launched in India on October 17, 2014; pre-booking starts on October 7, 2014; priced at same level as iPhone 5S; launches **iPad Mini 3**, **iPad Air 2** and **5K iMac**with superior resolution
- **OnePlus** from China ready to launch low cost smartphone (around \$ 200) in October 2014
- **Samsung** launches **Galaxy 4G** and **Galaxy Alpha** in India in October 2014
- **Google** launches **Android 5.0** (Lollipop) and new **Nexus Phones** and **Tablets** on October 15, 2014
- **Apple** launches new **OS X for Mac (Yosemite)** for free download from October 17, 2014
- **Apple Pay** goes on stream on October 20, 2014
- **Philips** launches Senior Citizen’s Phone priced at ₹ 3,800 on October 20, 2014
- **Apple** iOS 8.1 ready for free download on October 21, 2014
- **Google** starts “Invitation only” **Inbox** as a better alternative to Gmail on October 23, 2014 (tenth anniversary of Gmail)
- **Samsung** debuts **Nook tablet** on October 23, 2014
- **Microsoft** Devices launch **Nokia 130** for ₹ 1,649 on October 27, 2014
- **Microsoft** launches fitness device “**Microsoft Band**” for \$ 199 on October 30, 2014

Indian IT companies

- **TCS, Infosys** post good results for July - September 2014 quarter
- **Flipkart** manages to sell ₹ 600 crores worth sales on their e-Com site within 10 hours on October 6, 2014 though such an effort leads to problems for consumers forcing the founders (Bansal brothers) to write an Apology letter to Lakhs of customers!
- **Flipkart** has Alexa traffic ranking of 7 in October 2014 with 26 million registered users, 14,000 strong, 20 million products, 6 million visits per day, 5 million shipments per month in 300 cities in India of 20 million products in 70 categories!
- Vinay Agarwal's **Unicel** delivers 50 million SMS every day on behalf of its clients (IBM, Flipkart and HDFC Bank) and targets ₹ 85 Crores in FY 2015
- With expected SoftBank investment of \$ 200 million **OlaCabs** is a billion dollars baby (market capitalization) and has 33,000 taxis signed up in 18 cities in India; talks of presence in 100 cities by March 2016
- Udupi-based Rohit Bhat founded **Robosoft's Camera 4 App** in Apple "featured App" in October 2014
- Goonjan Mall founded **Online Prasad** set to expand to 100 temple network in 2015, a concept unique to India
- **Indigo Air** orders 250 Airbus A 320 planes in October 2014, a record in recent aviation history
- **Flipkart** signs up 3 million square feet space at ₹ 300 crores per year in October 2014
- **HearingPlus**, a startup that sells hearing aids has 70 clinics in 3 years; manages 100% growth for 3 years
- **Wipro** plans 10,000-strong **Open Source team**
- Bangalore-based startup **iViz** got acquired by US company **Cigital** on October 30, 2014

MNC companies in India

- HP splits into two **HP Enterprise** (Software services) and **HP Inc.** (PC, Printer division) on October 6, 2014
- UK telecom major **Vodafone** wins ₹ 3,200 crores tax dispute on October 10, 2014
- **Google** puts a Doodle on **Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)** on October 29, 2014 (30 days of MoM)
- **IBM** that used to be No 2 in headcount among IT Services company is not growing in India
- **Yahoo** India cuts 300 jobs in Bangalore and moves develops back to USA in October 2014
- **Nokia** plant in *Sriperumbudur* in Chennai (iconic large plant from the global major of yesterday with capacity to produce 500,000 handsets a day) shuts down on October 31, 2014

Education & Research

- **Nobel Prize for Medicine** goes to John O'Keefe (USA) and May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser ((Norwegian) (announced on October 6, 2014)
- **Nobel Prize for Physics** goes to Japanese trio Isamu Akasaki, Hiroshi Amano and Shuji Nakamura for their invention of Blue LED announced on October 7, 2014)

- **Nobel Prize for Chemistry** goes to American and German scientists Eric Betzig of Howard Medical Institute and William Moerner of Stanford University in USA and Stefan Hell of Max Planck Germany for their invention of super microscope (announced on October 8, 2014)
- **Nobel Prize for Literature** goes to French author Patrick Modiano (announced on October 9, 2014)
- **Nobel Peace Prize** goes to Indian activist Kailash Satyarti and Pakistan child activist Mala (announced on October 10, 2014)
- **Nobel Prize in Economics** goes to French economist Jean Tirole (announced on October 12, 2014)
- **PhD students get increased stipend of ₹ 25,000**(from current ₹ 16,000)effective from October 2014
- **Ben Nelson** launches **Minerva Project** (online-based College education that follows new model) in October 2014 targeting Indian students

People

- **Amazon CEO** Jeff Bezos visits India on October 1, 2014
- **Infosys Finacle head** Haragopal quits on October 1, 2014
- **TCS former CEO** (1996 - 2009) S Ramadorai retires from Tata Sons on October 6, 2014
- **Facebook CEO** visits India and meets Prime Minister Modi on October 8, 2014
- **Infosys cofounders all log out** of Infosys on October 8, 2014 with Kris Gopalakrishnan stepping down; NR Narayana Murthy, Nandan Nilekani, Shibulal, NS Raghavan and Dinesh stepped down earlier; it was a historic milestone in the history of Indian industry where there was smooth transition from founders to professional management after 33 years history with the company's market capitalization moving from ₹ 28.5 Crores on the day of listing on 1993 to ₹ 2,00,000 crores in 2014 with annual business of \$ 8 billion in 2013-14
- Four Indians in "**Fortune October 2014 list of 40 of under 40**"
- Arvind Subramanian is the new **Chief Economic Advisor** for the Indian government (appointed on October 16, 2014)
- **President Pranab Mukherjee** visits Santa Claus official home in Arctic Circle on October 16, 2014
- **India-born Mexican scientist Sajaya Rajaram** wins **World Food Prize 2014** for contributions to record wheat production
- **Alan Eustace**, Google executive jumped from altitude of 1,35,890 feet (edge of space) and descended in 15 minutes at peak speed of 822 miles per hour on October 25, 2014, setting the world record for free fall jump; the balloon used in the feat was manufactured by TIFR Balloon facility in Hyderabad!
- Vietnam Prime Minister, SoftBank CEO and IEEE President visit India in October 2014
- India remembers **Sardar Valabhbhai Patel** on his birthday by way of celebrating it as National Integration Day on October 31, 2014

Infrastructure

- India helps Sri Lanka rebuild **Colombo Jaffna Rail link**, 339 KM long link, with \$ 800 million credit and 4,000 people working for four years and executed through IRCON (Indian Railway Subsidiary); the link was opened on October 13, 2014 (closed in 1990)
- The **world's largest terry towel plant** by **Trident** Group in Budni, Madhya Pradesh inaugurated by Chief Minister Shivraj SinghChouhan on October 7, 2014
- **Saint-Gobain** inaugurates one of the largest float glass complex with 1000 tons per day capacity at Bhiwadi, Rajasthan on October 27, 2014
- **L & T Bags** □ 2,979 crore order for building “Statue of Unity” in Gujarat on October 27, 2014
- **Sun Edison** bags 150 MW solar power plant order from Government of Karnataka in October 2014

Telecom

- **Skype** to discontinue calls to phone lines in India from November

Interesting Applications

- NPCI (National Payment Corporation of India) launches **NUUP** (National Unified USSD Platform) for mobile payments across India (it works on any mobile phone including feature phones) in October 2014
- Bangalore **Namma Metro** announces top up through mobile in October 2014
- **IRCTC** App on Android launched on October 12, 2014
- **AADHAR** to become eKYC, paving the way for widespread use (as per October 16, 2014 (Home ministry decision))
- **Apple Pay** (contact less credit / debit card payment system that uses NFC (Near Field Communication)) goes on stream on October 20, 2014
- **Corporation Bank** launches e-Mandate service in October 2014
- Government of India to announce **eVisa** by October end
- Amazon, Flipkart and Jet Airways tie up with **RuPay card** on October 23, 2014
- **State Bank** launches mPassbook on October 23, 2014
- **Electronic Toll collection FASTag** starts on Delhi Mumbai corridor on October 31, 2014

Interesting numbers

- **Telecom subscriber** base on August 31, 2014 stood at 951.84 million with 924.32 million mobile subscribers and 27.52 million wire-line subscribers (with net addition of 5.60 million mobile subscribers and net reduction of 0.16 million wire-line subscribers in August 2014) (TRAI Press Release No. 66/2014 dated October 14, 2014)
- **India's Foreign Exchange** on October 31, 2014 was at \$ 315.9 billion (RBI)
- **Indian Rupee** stood at 61.44 against USD on October 31, 2014 (RBI)
- On October 31, 2014 **BSE Sensex** and **NSE NIFTY 50** (Indian stock market indices) were at 27,894 and 8,300 respectively (Reuters)

- World has **more mobile phones than people** (7.19 billion as the tipping point) in October 2014
- The **Top 3 global brands** today are **Apple** (\$ 118 billion), **Google** (\$ 107 billion) and **Coca Cola** (\$ 81 billion) as per Interbrand, UK
- **Apple India** revenue jumps from ₹450 Crores in 2010 to ₹ **4500 crores in 2014**; **Google Ad revenue** in India set to cross **\$ 1 billion** in 2014!
- With \$ 511 million profit (33% increase) and \$ 2,201 million revenues for June - September quarter **Infosys** pleasantly surprises the market when Vishal Sikka announced the results for the first time in October 10, 2014
- **TCS** to hire 35,000 in 2014-15, **Infosys** to hire 15,000 in 2014-15
- India improves its position from 63 to 55 in the global hunger index
- **Petrol is ₹ 1 cheaper** from October 13, 2014 thanks to falling crude oil prices globally (\$83 on October 16, 2014)
- Indian government launches **3,000 MW Solar power** norms on October 16, 2014
- **TTD** feeds 5,00,000 devotees in Tirumala during Garuda Seva on October 1, 2014 with free food!
- **India** has over **6,00,000 taxis in Top 10** cities with 35,000 Radio Cabs and 30,000 with taxi aggregators (Apps based services like Uber, Ola and TaxiForSure)



Words of Wisdom

*Still round the corner there may wait,
a new road or a secret gate.*

- J. R. R. Tolkien

*Happiness is not the absence of problems,
it's the ability to deal with them.*

- Steve Maraboli

*Try to make at least one person happy every day. If you
cannot do a kind deed, speak a kind word. If you cannot
speak a kind word, think a kind thought.*

- Lawrence G. Lovasik

*Great things are not accomplished by
those who yield to trends and fads and popular opinion.*

- Jack Kerouac