



**IEEE India Council Newsletter**

Vol. 9 No. 7

October 2014

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# IT in September 2014

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## General

- Indian Prime Minister Modi had a very successful visits to Japan and USA and hosted the Chinese Premier in India – all in September 2014; his US visit gets rock star welcome with 20,000 representatives of the 3.2 million strong Indian diaspora (from 186 organizations across 48 States and 5 Canadian provinces) attending a gala function in Times Square Garden on September 27, 2014
- Japan commits \$35 billion investment over 5 years in India during PM Modi visit to Japan in September 2014
- China allows short route to *Manas Sarovar* (soon after Chinese President visit) in September 2014
- Prime Minister launches “Make in India” and “Clean India” Campaign on September 24, 2014
- Supreme Court cancels all 204 coal block allocation on September 24, 2014, causing major hurdles for the Indian power sector
- Kashmir flood causes havoc in September 2014
- Afghanistan sees change of guard with Ashraf Ghani taking over from President Hamid Karzai on September 26, 2014
- Scotland decides (through referendum) to stay with United Kingdom on September 19, 2014

## Science & Technology

- India’s maiden Mars Mission successful with Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) on to perfect position on September 24, 2014 at 7:52 AM IST; India is the fourth country, and the first to succeed in the very first attempt on Mars Mission; MOM provided a huge moral boost to the Science & Technology community in India

## Markets

- Indian stock market index **Sensex** touches 27,000 on September 2, 2014 as Modi Government completes 100 days in office
- **Cognizant** acquires **TriZetto**, a US-based healthcare company for \$ 2.7 billion on September 15, 2014
- **Microsoft** buys mobile gaming company **Minecraft** for \$2.5 billion on September 17, 2014
- Global market research major **Nielsen** buys **Indicus Analytics** (India’s premier economic research and analytics company founded in December 2000) on September 18, 2014
- **Firstsource** (BPM major) buys **Nanobi**, an analytics product startup company (HSR Layout, Bangalore) on September 18, 2014
- **SAP** buys **Concur** (founded by Sudhir Steven Singh in 1993) – a cloud-based travel and expenses management company - for \$ 7.3 billion on September 19, 2014
- Chinese e-commerce major **Alibaba** goes for phenomenally successful IPO (\$21,8 Billion) on

September 22, 2014; its market capitalization (\$ 231 billion) exceeded that of **Amazon** (\$ 153 billion) and **eBay** (\$ 65 billion) combined on September 20, 2014

- Bangalore-based startup **BookPad** gets acquired for ₹ 50 Crores by **Yahoo** on September 21, 2014
- **IndiGo Airlines** signs \$2.6 billion financing deal with Chinese bank ICBC to buy more than 30 planes

### Products

- **Samsung** launches **Galaxy Note 4** in Berlin on September 3, 2014
- **Microsoft** launches **Nokia 730**, **Nokia 735** and **Nokia 830** phones in Berlin on September 4, 2014
- **Apple** launches **iPhone 6** and **iPhone 6 Plus** (improved iPhone versions), **Apple Watch** (a new category) and **Apple Pay** (a new online payment service) on September 9, 2014
- **Google** SVP Sundar Pichai launches **Android One** phones in India (smartphones in ₹ 6000 Price range) on September 15, 2014
- **Blackberry** launches square-screened **Blackberry Passport** mobile phone on September 24, 2014
- **Moto X** (2nd Generation) introduced in India by Motorola at price of ₹ 31,999 on Sep 24, 2014
- **Amazon** launches **Fire 7.9"** Tablets in September 28, 2014
- **Apple iPad Classic** gets a quiet burial in September 2014

### Indian IT companies

- **TCS** (India's No 1 IT Services company) women employees' headcount crosses 100,000 in September 2014
- **Infosys** (India's No 3 IT Services company) ties up with **Microsoft**, **Hitachi** and **Huawei** in September 2014; wins contract with **British Petroleum** in September 2014
- **Wipro** (India's No 4 IT Services company) wins \$35 million order from **Philip Morris** in September 2014
- **Tech Mahindra Cognizant** (India's No 5 IT Services company) bags multimillion dollar projects with **Ahlstrom** (\$ 1 Billion strong Finnish materials company) in September 2014
- **HCL Tech** (India's No 6 IT Services company) bags **Sydney Trains** order in September 2014; set to recruit 1,200 in USA in 2014 and invests \$ 9 million in North Carolina Center
- **Cognizant** (India's No 2 IT Services company) announces the acquisition of **TriZetto**, a U.S.-based healthcare company for \$ 2.7 billion on September 15, 2014
- Global market research major **Nielsen** buys **Indicus Analytics** (India's premier economic research and analytics company founded in December 2000) on September 18, 2014
- **Firstsource** (BPM major) buys **Nanobi**, an analytics product startup company (HSR Layout, Bangalore) on September 18, 2014
- Bangalore-based startup **BookPad** gets acquired for ₹ 50 Crores by **Yahoo** on September 21, 2014

### MNC companies in India

- **Goldman Sachs** to build \$ 200 million campus in Bangalore and to increase headcount to 9,000 from current 5,400

### People

- **N Chandrasekaran** re-appointed **CEO of TCS** for another five years (October 6, 2014 to October 5, 2019)

- **Kris Gopalakrishnan**(Infosys Co-Founder) joins **IAN** (Indian Angel Network) on September 24, 2014
- **Oracle** founder **Larry Ellison** decides to step down as CEO on September 19, 2014 after 37 years
- **Amazon** CEO **Jeff Bezos** visits India in September 2014, invests \$ 2 billion, drives in the Indian lorry, talks of 11,500 merchants selling 17 million products already on Amazon India
- **Google** EVP **Sundar Pichai** launches **Android One** globally from India on September 15, 2014
- **Microsoft** Founder **Bill Gates** visits India and pledges support for Kashmir rehabilitation
- **Chinese Premier Xi** visits India during September 16-18, 2014
- **Australian PM** visits India in September 2014
- **Richard Verma** (born to Indian migrant) named **US Ambassador** to India on September 18, 2014
- **General Motors** CEO **Mary Barra** visits India in September 2014
- **Justice HL Duttu** becomes India's **16<sup>th</sup>Chief Justice of India** on September 26, 2014

### Education & Research

- **Nalanda university** opens after eight centuries on September 1, 2014
- Prime Minister **Modi** creates history by speaking to millions of high-school students on **Teachers Day** (September 5, 2014)
- **Bhatnagar Awards** for 2014 announced on September 26, 2014; Dr. **Roop Mallik** of **TIFR**, Bombay (Biological Sciences), Dr.**K R Prasad** of **Indian Institute of Science** and Dr.**Souvik Maiti** of **Institute of Genomics**, Delhi (Chemical Sciences), Dr. **S N Tripathi** of **IIT Kanpur** (Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences), Dr. **Venkata Mohan** of **IICT**, Hyderabad and Dr. **Soumen Chakrabarti** of **IIT Bombay** (Engineering Sciences), Dr. **K K Verma** of **Indian Institute of Science**, Bangalore (Mathematical Sciences), Dr. **Anurag Agarwal** of **Institute of Genomics**, Delhi (Medical Sciences) and Dr. **Pratap Raychaudhuri** of **TIFR**, Bombay and Dr. **Sadiquali Abbas Rangwala** of **Raman Research Institute**, Bangalore (Physical Sciences) are the winners

### Telecom

- **Vodafone** launches **3G Mobile Wi-Fi**(Rs. 5,500) in India on September 3, 2014

### Infrastructure

- Vijayawada will be the new Andhra Pradesh capital as per September decision

### Interesting applications

- **Jan Dhan Yojana** (mega “inclusive banking” initiative) started on August 29, 2014 gets 15 million new accounts on Day 1; 40 million by September 15, 2014
- **Employees Provident Fund Organization** (EPFO) launches UAN Services in September 19, 2014, to provide seamless online access to millions of employees for their account (across employers)
- **Five new schemes** get **AADHAR- UID (Universal ID) authentication** - push by Government of India on September 20, 2014
- Income tax department launches a new user friendly web site [www.Incometaxindia.gov.in](http://www.Incometaxindia.gov.in) on September 21, 2014
- **All India Radio** (AIR) launches SMS based News service in Hindi, Marathi, Sanskrit, Dogri and Nepali on September 23, 2014

- **Google Maps** launches navigation instructions in Hindi from September 2014
- **Indian Railways** introduces SMS-based “wake up” call service
- [www.Schoolreportcards.in](http://www.Schoolreportcards.in) is the App that provides instant information about 1.5 million schools in India, thanks to NUEPA (National University of Educational Planning and Administration)
- **Ola Cabs App** Wallet introduced in September 2014
- Mysore city sees **Taxi Apps** making a difference to the huge tourist population during *Dasara* season

### **Interesting numbers**

- **Telecom subscriber** base on July 31, 2014 stood at 946.40 million with 918.72 million mobile subscribers and 27.68 million wire-line subscribers (with net addition of 3.80 million mobile subscribers and net reduction of 0.35 million wire-line subscribers in July 2014) (TRAI Press Release No. 61/2014 dated September 10, 2014)
- **India’s Foreign Exchange** on September 26, 2014 was at \$ 314.2 billion (RBI)
- **Indian Rupee** stood at 61.76 against USD on September 30, 2014 (RBI)
- On September 30, 2014 **BSE Sensex** and **NSE NIFTY 50** (Indian stock market indices) were at 26,665 and 7,954 respectively (Reuters)
- **Apple** sells more than **10 million new phones** (iPhone 6 and 6 Plus) during the launch weekend (September 19-21, 2014)
- **Firefox** powered low cost smart phone priced at amazingly low ₹ 1,999 Cloud FX by **Intex** sells 15,000 in 3 days (Aug 30, 2014)
- **TCS** market capitalization reaches ₹ **5 Lakh Crores** again on September 3, 2014
- **India** consumes **301 million smartphones** during April - June 2014 (IDC)
- On September 9, 2014 **Indian stock markets** hit new peak; **M-cap reaches \$ 1.6 trillion!**
- **BigBasket** crosses 1 million orders and 25 million items in September 2014



### *Words of Wisdom*

*The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser men so full of doubts.*

*- Bertrand Russell*

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*The deepest secret is that life is not a process of discovery, but a process of creation. You are not discovering yourself, but creating yourself anew. Seek therefore, not to find out Who You Are, but seek to determine Who You Want to Be.*

*- Neale Donald Walsch*