



IEEE
India Info



IEEE India Council Newsletter

Vol. 10 No. 1

January 2015

IT in December 2014

Prof. S. Sadagopan Director, IIIT-Bangalore s.sadagopan@gmail.com



General

- ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) successfully tested out GSLV MK III with a **crew module** that will be used in **future unmanned spaceships** on December 18, 2014
- Wholesale **Inflation** drops down to 0% in December 2014
- With support from 175 countries United Nations declared June 21st as International **Yoga Day** (initiated by Prime Minister Modi during his visit to UN in September 2014) on December 11, 2014
- Government confers the highest Civilian Award **Bharat Ratna** on former Prime Minister **Atal Behari Vajpayee** and Benares Hindu University Founder Late **Madan Mohan Malaviya** on December 25, 2014
- BJP gets clear majority in **Jharkhand** and second position in **Jammu & Kashmir Elections** in December 2014; Raghubar Das becomes **Jharkhand Chief Minister** on December 28, 2014; Shiv Sena joins BJP government in Maharashtra in December 2014
- Government introduces **GST Bill** in Parliament on December 19, 2014; it takes Ordinance route to **Coal allocation, FDI in Insurance and Land acquisition Bills** in December 2014
- **Kailash Satyarthi** from India receives **Nobel Peace Prize** on December 10, 2014
- **Huffington PostIndia Edition** goes live on December 8, 2014 (in partnership with Times of India)
- After Nokia, EMS major **Foxconn** is close to shutting operations in Chennai in December 2014
- Pakistan militants strike on December 15, 2014 and kills many innocent children; Sydney hostage on December 15, 2014 kills one; Assam incident on December 21, 2014 leads to loss of 65 lives; Bangalore blast on December 28, 2013 kills 3; AirAsia plane disappears on December 28, 2014 killing over 200 passengers onboard

Technology

- India's communication satellite **GSAT 16** was launched successfully on December 5, 2014 by **ISRO**
- **US NASA** test fired the new space vehicle **Orion** (after Shuttle) getting closer to manned flight to Mars on December 5, 2014
- **ISRO** tests out unmanned spaceship on December 18, 2014 with a mock set up, marking the first step in India's endeavor of manned space flights

Markets

- Indian stock markets **BSE&NSE gain 30% in year 2014**, the best growth in 5 years

- FII (Foreign Institutional Investors) inflow cross \$ 42 billion in the year 2014
- Global **oil price** (Brent crude) goes **below \$ 58** on December 28, 2014 (the lowest since 2009)
- **Flipkart** raises \$ 700 million in December 2014; its market value touches \$ 11 billion on December 20, 2014
- Public sector steel major **SAIL** (Steel Authority of India) **IPO** in December was a success
- **Intel** buys Montreal, Canada based password manager software **Password Box** on December 1, 2014
- **NewsCorp** buys Indian start-up Mumbai-based **BigDecisions** on December 19, 2014
- **Amazon** picks up 15% stakes in Indian start-up specializing in gift cards **QwikSilver** for \$ 10 million on December 23, 2014

Products

- **HTC** launches Nexus 9 (8.9" Tablet) exclusively on Amazon on December 10, 2014 at Rs 28,900
- **Google Chromecast** gets launched in India for Rs 2,999 on Snapdeal on December 10, 2014
- **TrueCaller** lunches **True Dialer** App for Android & Windows

Indian IT companies

- **Salem Steel** starts selling steel utensils over **Flipkart** e-commerce platform in December 2014
- **TaxiForSure** (Taxi aggregator using Apps) trains taxi drivers in India in December 2014
- Indian start-up Mumbai-based **BigDecisions** acquired by media Mogul **News Corp** on December 19, 2014

MNC companies in India

- **Adobe, SanDisk, 24/7Customer** lap up 1 million square feet of office space in Bangalore in December 2014
- **Amazon** to hire 14,000 to man logistics in 2015; it picks up 15% stakes in Indian start-up specializing in gift cards **QwikSilver** for \$ 10 million on December 23, 2014
- **Google** launches Hindi Ad service in India in December 2014
- **Microsoft** launches e-commerce store on Amazon in India on December 15, 2014
- **NewsCorp** buys Indian start-up **BigDecisions** on December 20, 2014
- **TrueCaller** to set up R&D office in India
- **BASF** to invest Rs 360 Crores in Navi Mumbai Innovation campus in 2015
- **Ericsson** bags \$ 1 billion contract for Reliance in December 2014
- **Ness Tech** to up India headcount by 1,000 in 2015

Education & Research

- **Indian Institute of Science & IIT Bombay** in Times Higher Education Top 40 global rank
- **ToI** (Times of India group) building **Bennett University** in NOIDA (Delhi)
- **XPrize** comes to India in December 2014

- **IIT Delhi Director** Prof RK **Shevgaonkar** quits suddenly on December 27, 2014, two years ahead of his retirement

People

- **ISRO Chairman Dr. K Radhakrishnan** in *Nature's "Top Ten List 2014"*; retires on December 31, 2014
- Prime Minister **Modi** wins Reader Poll for **TIME Person of the Year 2014** (as per TIME Magazine December 8, 2014)
- Government confers the highest Civilian Award **Bharat Ratna** on Former Prime Minister **Atal Behari Vajpayee** and Benares Hindu University Founder **Madan Mohan Malaviya** on December 25, 2014
- **Amit Ranjan** (Co-Founder of **SlideShare** that was sold to **LinkedIn**) tipped to head technology for Modi Government in December 2014
- **Microsoft** CEO **Satya Nadella** meets PM Modi in December 26, 2014
- **Russian President Putin** and Ms. **Tulsi Gabbard**, the first Hindu Member of the US Congress (who represents the second congressional district in Hawaii) visited India in December 2014
- **Shinzo Abe** is back as **Japanese Prime Minister** after his record victory in the Elections on December 14, 2014
- **Anoorud Jugnauth** becomes **Mauritius Prime Minister** after landslide victory on December 14, 2014
- Vice Admiral Vivek Murthy was confirmed as the 19th **US Surgeon General** on December 15, 2014
- Indian American **Richard Rahul Verma** sworn in is the **US Ambassador to India** on December 20, 2014
- **Justice V R Krishna Iyer** passed away on December 4, 2014; **Satyam** founder Ramalinga **Raju** gets 6-month imprisonment on December 8, 2014

Infrastructure

- **State of Meghalaya** on put on Indian Railway map on December 1, 2014 with the first train from Guwahati getting flagged off by Prime Minister Modi
- **Mumbai Metro** moves 50 million passengers in 5 months of operation in 2014
- **Kudankulam nuclear power plant** started commercial production of 1,000 MW on December 31, 2014
- Tata Singapore Airlines joint venture **Vistara** gets final permission to fly on December 15, 2014; announces its decision to start operations on January 9, 2015 on December 22, 2014
- **E-Auction for coal block** allocation starts on December 25, 2014
- **WelSpun** (World's Top 3 towel manufacturer) mill with 1,70,000 spindles goes on stream in Gujarat in December 5, 2014
- **SpiceJet** shuts down practically in December; December 31, 2014 marks the demise of **Kingfisher Airlines**

Interesting Applications

- President of India inaugurated **MobileOneApp** that offers 600+Karnataka Government services over mobile phones, on December 5, 2014
- **You Tube offline** video watching service was launched in India on December 10, 2014
- **Uber** and other Radio taxi services suffer on account of temporary ban on Uber after a rape accident involving Uber driver in Delhi
- **OlaCabs** launches App for autorickshaw in India in December 2014
- **Taxiforsure** launches car pooling service
- **Disney Learning** launches its first App **ImagicademyApp** for kids on December 10, 2014
- **AADHAR** links 100 million bank accounts by December 15, 2014
- **DCB** and **iKaaz** offer “tap & pay” solutions in the Indian market in December 2014

Interesting numbers

- **Telecom subscriber** base on November 30, 2014 stood at 964.20 million with 937.06 million mobile subscribers and 27.14 million wire-line subscribers (with net addition of 1.71 million mobile subscribers and net reduction of 0.14 million wire-line subscribers in November 2014) of the 964.20 phone subscribers 568.72 were in urban area, while 395.48 were from rural area (TRAI Press Release No. 04/2015 dated January 7, 2015)
- **India's Foreign Exchange** on December 30, 2014 was at \$ 320 billion (RBI)
- **Indian Rupee** stood at 63.03 against USD on December 31, 2014 (RBI)
- On December 31, 2014 **BSE Sensex** and **NSE NIFTY 50** (Indian stock market indices) were at 27,499 and 8,283 respectively (Reuters)
- \square plunges to record low on December 29, 2014 (\square 63.67 for \$ 1)
- Wholesale inflation drops to 0% (5-year low) in December 2014
- FII (Foreign Institutional Investors) inflow in 2014 cross \$ 42 billion
- Oil price hits four year low of \$ 60 on December 31, 2014 a new record
- Chinese train covers 13,000 Km - longest ever - in December 2014
- Factory output in October 2014 plunges to 3-year low of 4.2%
- On December 15, 2014 Flipkart is worth (in terms of market value) half of Wipro
- BJP has 1058 MLA's while Congress has 949 as of December 2014
- Mumbai Metro moves 50 million passengers in 5 months of operation in 2014
- Jan Dhan Yojana reaches 10 Crores new bank accounts on December 29, 2014 (ahead of January 26, 2015 target)