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IT in February 2015

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General

- Railway Budget and General Budget prepared by the new BJP government has several novel features
- Government accepts Finance Commission recommendation of 62% revenue to go to States from April 1, 2015
- Supreme Court clears Spectrum sale, though halts final allotment
- Coal auctions see much action on the ground
- Delhi Elections results on February 10, 2015 throws up very interesting results; AAP wins 67 out of 70 seats with BJP winning 3 and Congress winning no seats; Arvind Kejriwal sworn in on February 14, 2015, exactly one year after he resigned as Chief Minister last year
- US Government clears Work permit for spouses on H1B Visa in February 2015

Technology

- UK researchers I University of Surrey achieve 1 Tera-bit per second speed over a distance of 100 m 25, on 5G networks on February 2015

Markets

- Apple's market capitalization touching \$ 700 billion (the first ever by any corporation) makes history on February 11, 2015
- Sensex back to 29,000 on February 14, 2015
- Micromax with 22% market share is No 1 mobile handset brand in India (as per Canalsys)
- FoodPanda acquires JustEat on February 6, 2015
- Staples decides to buy Office Depot for \$ 6.3 billion
- Google acquires Odysee on February 8, 2015
- BookMyShow buys EventifierFebruary 10, 2015
- Infosys acquires Automation company Panaya for \$ 150 million on February 16, 2015
- EXL buys RPM for Rs 460 crores in February 2015
- Ajit Prabhu and Aravind Malligeri founded Quest buys German engineering firm EDF and plans to have 1,000 engineers in Germany soon
- Apps-based taxi service Ola to get another \$ 500 million from DST
- Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan invests in Fresh World

Products

- SAP launches S/4HANA aggressively on February 5, 2015
- Microsoft shows off touch-optimized version of Office for Windows 10 on February 5, 2015
- Huawei launches Honor Series of mobile phones in India on Flipkart with much fanfare on February 5, 2015

Indian IT companies

- Flipkart talks of \$ 8 billion sales in the year 2015
- TCS bags outsourcing contract from US Southern California Edison on February 19, 2015; TCS partners Startup-boot-camp to launch Pitch Days inside TCS Campuses; TCS sticks to its hiring target of 35,000 for the year 2015-16
- ICICI launches Pockets - mobile wallet service (powered by MasterCard) on February 10, 2015
- Bangalore-based Naveen Tewari founded mobile advertising company InMobi powers 1 billion devices on February 11, 2015
- Adani talks of \$ 10.5 Dollars solar project
- L&T BEL Consortium talk of Rs 40,000 defence order
- Infosys acquires Automation company Panaya for \$ 150 million on February 16, 2015
- Ajit Prabhu and Aravind Malligeri founded Quest buys German engineering firm EDF and plans to have 1,000 engineers in Germany soon
- Apps-based taxi service Ola to get another \$ 500 million from DST

MNC companies in India

- Huawei starts new R&D campus in Bangalore on February 5, 2015; expects \$ 2 billion business in India next year
- Facebook launches Internet.org on February 10, 2015 in India that aims to reach Internet to the next 5 billion
- GE starts manufacturing in India - Chakan plant 'modular factory" goes on stream on February 14, 2015
- Lowe India development center in Bangalore launched on February 12, 2015
- Wal-Mart Labs in Bangalore expanding in February 2015

Startup scene

- Persistent Founder Anand Deshpande and Sycamore Networks Founder; Desh Deshpande planning to create entrepreneurs and jobs; Anand talks of 25,000 SMB's and 100,000 jobs; Desh talks of 100 sandboxes each creating 30 start-up with 100+ jobs - all in February 2015; Desh Deshpande plans a 300,000 square feet campus for startups in Hubli
- Bangalore-based mobile Ads start-up (founded by Navin Tewari) InMobi his 1 billion devices on February 11, 2015

- Analytics startup Manthan raises ₹ 375 Crores from Tamasek & Norwest in February 2015
- Infosys founders Kris Gopalakrishnan & S Shibulal invest in SellerworkX, Vigyanlabs; Kris also invests in Fresh World
- Mobile re-charge platform Free-Charge raised \$ 80 million on February 5, 2015
- Ratan Tata invests in CarDekho on February 8, 2015
- Indian startup Nutanix - iPhone for data center holds great promise
- TCS partners Startup-boot-camp to launch “Pitch Days” inside TCS Campuses
- Dawailo.com (online medicine distributor) starts in Varanasi in February 2015
- Mustafa Pasha founded iDFresh (Dosa batter) from IIM Alum addresses a critical Indian need; talks of becoming a Rs 1,000 crore enterprise

Education & Research

- MIT celebrated its 150th anniversary on February 20, 2015
- Agni V test fired successfully on February 1, 2015
- Union Budget on Feb 28, 2015 clears a new IIT for Karnataka
- Bennett University (Times of India) signs up with Babson College University on February 2015
- CMU wrongly issues admission letters to 800 people thanks to software bug on February 19, 2015

People

- Mysuru gets a new Maharaja on February 23, 2015
- Arvind Kejriwal becomes Chief Minister of Delhi on February 11, 2015
- PunitRenjen becomes Deloitte global CEO in February 2015

Telecom

- For issuing SIM cards government starts using AADHAR-based KYC (Know Your Customer) in February 2015

Infrastructure

- GoDaddy&Microsoft start offering cloud services for SMB at ₹ 99 per month from February 2015
- Adani’sKandla bulk terminal dedicated to the Nation on February 10, 2015

Interesting Applications

- Adobe Photoshop celebrates 25 years in February, 2015

- Indian government launches 11 services on Biz portal (part of ease of doing business initiative); DEITY showcases sample “Digital Locker App”
- Magzter launches subscription-based Magazine services (Rs 4999 per year for unlimited Magazines) on February 1, 2015
- ICICI launches Pockets - mobile wallet service (powered by MasterCard) on February 10, 2015
- Federal Bank launches v-connect - video conference to support customers on February 11, 2015
- Auto Drivers Union launches Savarimate App in Bangalore on February 17, 2015
- RBS NatWest Bank starts fingerprint-based login using Apple Pay on February 19, 2015
- Hotstar App (Star TV) talks of creating a new global record - 25 million video views - most watched sports event online ever –during India-Pakistan cricket match in February 2015

Interesting numbers

- Telecom subscriber base on January 31, 2015 stood at 979.21 million with 952.34 million mobile subscribers and 26.87 million wire-line subscribers (with net addition of 8.37 million mobile subscribers and net reduction of 0.13 million wire-line subscribers in January 2015); of the 979.21 phone subscribers 575.05 were in urban area, while 404.16 were from rural area (TRAI Press Release No. 18/2015 dated March 12, 2015)
- India’s Foreign Exchange on February 27, 2015 was at \$ 338 billion (RBI)
- Indian Rupee stood at 61.86 against USD on February 28, 2015 (RBI)
- On February 28, 2015 (with special trading on Budget day) BSE Sensex and NSE NIFTY 50 (Indian stock market indices) were at 29,361 and 8,902 respectively (Reuters)
- Micromax with 22% market share is No 1 mobile handset brand in India (as per Canalys); Intex is No 1 Smart Phone brand as per January 2015 shipment
- BSNL market share of mobile phone customers drops below 10% in February 2015
- Forex reserves touch \$ 330 billion for the first time on February 13, 2015
- 150-year old MIT has 168 acres of land, 1021 professors, 11319 students, 12.4 Billion Endowment, and 74 Nobel prizes (won by MIT faculty and Alumni)
- IT sector to create 13% less jobs in 2015-16 (NASSCOM)

