Hindu, Business Line, and Economic Times

Voices & Views

- India will soon be 2nd largest market for robot assisted surgery. At present, the US is the largest followed by Japan, Korea and India.
- The IT industry directly employs around three million people and indirectly about 10 million.
- India is the 4th largest base for young businesses in the world with over 3,100 tech start-ups. This is set to increase to 11,500 by 2020 and create about 2,50,000 jobs - Nasscom.
- While 550 billion rupee providers operate at over 20% profit margin in larger markets such as the US and Europe, their profit margins in India fall in the single digits due to late payments and delays.
- Indian SMB market will grow 15% per annum to propel IT spending in the sector to over 18.5 billion by 2018 - Nasscom.
- DBT subscribers cross 10 crore. Has transitioned Rs. 4,250 cr since November 15, 2014, through 11.33 crore transactions. Aadhaar-based DBT to cover all schemes from next fiscal.
- Currently, 65-70% of the $90 billion Indian ESDM market relies on imports. This to be reduced to 50% by 2016 with local manufacturing.
- The global telecom outsourcing market hit $76 billion by 2016 - Analysts.
- Internet will influence & impact $ 35 billion worth FMCG sales in India over the next five years.
- Ten-fold rise in patent applications - about 1,500 patents in fiscal 2014 against 150 in 2009 - Nasscom.
- The IT industry grew from $100 million in 1992 to $146 billion last year.
- Industrial internet will usher in the next revolution - Experts.
- In 2014, India saw the launch of 1,137 mobile handset models, around 19% more than the 957 models launched in 2013.
- Though India has 5.5 million 4G capable devices, only about 85,000 subscribers are active LTE users.
- In 2001, the number of Internet users in India was 6 million against 250 million now. The current Internet economy, 2.7% of the GDP is to increase to 4-5% by 2020.
- Digital India in the next 10 years will have a $1 trillion impact on the GDP. 350-550 million Indians to join mobile internet in four years - McKinsey.
- India’s smartphone market shrank by 4% for the first time in the Q4 of 2014.
- In 2014, Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai and Chandigarh constituted 45% of all the malware detections, with the rest of the country remaining 55%.
- Budget fails to address IT industry issues - Nasscom.

ICT News Briefs in February 2015

Govt, Policy, Telecom, Compliance

- The central government’s ebiz platform - a one-stop online shop for services to investors, will fully integrate the services of all Central ministries and departments by May 31.
- Out of 54 project proposals worth investments of $3 billion, 28 project proposals of $1 billion in electronics manufacturing have been approved.
- The Centre to be ready with the National Skill Development Policy within the next six months.
- Digital India: conclave soon on the use of geographic information systems.
- Prasad, IT minister wants to replicate “White Revolution” in IT space.
- Web-based tool to track atrocities on dalits, adivasis.
- The creation of the fab ecosystem coupled with the products and systems value chain is expected to create 4.5 lakh jobs, making a potential future economic impact of $40 billion, over its project life span. - ISA.
- e-commerce needs a fair tax deal.
- Car-makers seek spectrum for hi-tech vehicles.
- TRAI cuts connect charges, lays ground for cheaper calls. Landline calls could get cheaper by about 20 paisa a minute. STD calls to become cheaper after the reduction in carriage charge.
- Software exporters seek restoration of tax incentives for SEZs in Budget.

IT Manpower, Staffing & Top Moves

- Indian Angel Network (IAN) to offer feedback on social start-up ideas. www.infaparambrata.com, online platform for recruiting film talents launched.
- IT Professionals Welfare Association (ITPWA) held a protest against lay-off through structural transformation and “workforce optimisation”.
- Paytm aims to grow its employee strength to 5,000 by end of 2015 from around 2,000 now.
- Ajuba, which has around 3,500 employees in Chennai plans to increase by 20-30% by the year-end.
- Trade unions want white paper on hiring; appraisals in IT industry.
- Mid-level IT engineers face re-skilling challenge.
- The Indian IT industry, during its growth towards a $100-billion sector, added 3 million people, but will add less than a million people for the next $100 billion in revenues.
- Foxconn’s Chennai plant which suspended all operations from 2014 December 24 is officially closed on 10th Feb 2015 affecting 1300 employees.
- Cyberabad techies to take buses for a day to cut carbon footprint. Majority of the three lakh employees use private vehicles to go to their respective work places.
- eBay lays off 350 in India.
- IT, BFSI sector to create maximum jobs in first half of 2015 - Naukri survey.

Company News: Tie-ups, Joint Ventures, New Initiatives

- The concept of installing Wi-Fi hotspots at tea centres is being pushed by MUFT Internet as a part of a project to roll out internet browsing services at 22,000 tea vendors in Mumbai for a monthly investment of Rs. 1,500 towards Wi-Fi equipment and support.
- Internet-for-all idea tops in the TiE contest for school kids.
- ESPNcricinfo, Google team up to provide real-time and relevant updates on the sport, anytime and anywhere on their mobile devices.
- Nasscom to open its third start-up warehouse in Chhattisgarh after Bangalore and Kolkata as a part of its initiative to nurture 10,000 start-ups initiative.
- Cisco to help develop Visakhatpam as a smart city.
- Ahmedabad-based einfochips, Toshiba to build modular phone Spiral-3for Google and may be priced around $50 onward.
- Alibabamar buys 25% in Paytm parent for $700 m.
- Huawei India upbeat on opportunities, opens R&D facility in Bengaluru. It spends over 10% of its revenues on R&D.
- www.cabus.in set up to offer inter-city cabs at the fare of bus travel.
- Mynta, a part of Flipkart, plans to transforms itself into a ‘mobile only’ company.
- TCS FIt4Life concept which marries wellness, team spirit and social cause into one, engages 900 students across 9 cities in its inaugural run.
- RCCom, Facebook (Internet.org) join hands for taking Internet to the masses. Offers free access to 33 specific websites, including jobs, weather and news sites.
- ICICI Bank rolls out e-wallet Pockets that will allow transactions through a mobile phone with or without a bank account.
- Nasscom Ties up with Entrepreneurship Cafe to help pick your Start-up Soulmate.
- ACT offers ‘faster Internet package’ with 100 mbps speed at Rs. 2,799 a month.
- To bond with start-ups, TCS partners with Startupbootcamp FinTech, a tech accelerator.
- e-logistics matters in agri-biz.
- Jet Airways to test use of mobile boarding passes.
- Tech Mahindra turns focus on women’s safety, unveils ‘Fightback Plus’.
- Online real estate platform CommonFloor.com launches “the world’s first virtual reality innovation in real estate for the masses” for virtual walkthroughs.
- Epson to offer managed services for corporates.
- ECL to roll out “Tek Robot”, a robotics programme in 500 schools in Tamil Nadu through Tek Wizard.