

APPARELS

- ❖ The **Kerala government** plans to set up garment production centres for 200 women artisans, who are currently undergoing a six-month intensive training in textile ornamentation under the **Kerala Artisans Development Corporation**.
- ❖ Mumbai-based textiles firm **Suditi Industries** bags the rights to make and sell official apparels of **Real Madrid**, the world's richest football club, in India.
The Economic Times, August 29, 2014 p.7 Fulltext
- ❖ **W** contemporary women's wear brand launches its monsoon 2014 collection, priced at Rs 1,099 onwards.
- ❖ Japan-headquartered, \$133-bn conglomerate **NTT Group**, introduces wearable textile electrodes that can be worn on the inside of a shirt and monitor heart rate on a real-time basis, thereby reducing the risk of heart attacks.

AUTOMOBILES

- ❖ Seeking to make a mark in the big car segment, the country's largest car maker **Maruti Suzuki India** opens bookings of its upcoming mid-sized sedan **Ciaz**, to be available in petrol and Diesel fuel options powered by a 1.4 litre and 1.3 litre engines respectively.
- ❖ **Firefox**, a premium cycle manufacturing firm launches a range of bikes known as **Flip-Flop**.
- ❖ **Maruti Suzuki India**, as part of a strategy to be present in newer segments of the passenger vehicle market, to launch within a few months an SUV to compete with **Renault's Duster**, followed by a compact SUV in 2016 to take on segment leader **Ford EcoSport**.
- ❖ Tyre maker **Ceat**, which plans to raise up to Rs 500 cr through issue of securities, plans to use majority of the fund to finance expansion of its ongoing projects in Bangladesh and Gujarat.
- ❖ German luxury carmaker **BMW** launches the updated version of its SUV **X3** priced up to Rs 49.9 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi, available only in diesel option, to also launch the **M3** sedan, **M4 Coupe** and the **M5** sedan in 2014 and also plans to expand dealer network in the country by 2015 end by taking the overall number to 50 from 37 currently.
The Economic Times, August 29, 2014 p.5 Fulltext

- ❖ **Hyundai's** recently launched **i20**, the new and improved hatchback becomes the most successful car for the company. The showrooms report to have received approximately 12,000 booking for their new premium hatchback in India, since its launch.

The Economic Times, August 29, 2014 p.5

- ❖ Japanese automaker **Isuzu Motors India** plans to launch a new seven-seater multipurpose vehicle code named **RU30**, to take on **Toyota's** popular **Innova** in about two years, extending its South East Asian rivalry with the world's largest car maker in the country.

The Economic Times, August 29, 2014 p.5 Fulltext

- ❖ **Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt Ltd** launches its rural outreach initiative called the Mobile Service Van, is unique as it combines a dealership and service outlet in a mobile format.



- ❖ **Tata Motors Ltd** and German carmaker **Volkswagen AG** are among carmakers that have agreed to invest a total of 115 bn rupees (\$1.9 bn) to expand their manufacturing capacity in the western state of Maharashtra.

The Times of India, August 28, 2014 Fulltext

- ❖ **Suzuki Motorcycle India**, a subsidiary of one of the world's leading two-wheeler manufacturers **Suzuki Motor Corporation** from Japan, launches its facelift **Access 125** scooter to boost sales in the growing scooter segment in the country, priced at 53,223 on road in Delhi.

- ❖ **MIDC** signs a MOU with four auto majors to invest Rs 11,510 cr in Maharashtra which includes **Mahindra & Mahindra** and **Tata Motors** for Rs. 4,000 cr each. **Bajaj Auto** and **Volkswagen India** to invest Rs. 2,000 cr and Rs. 1,510 cr, respectively.

- ❖ **BMW Group India** launches the new **X3** in two variants — **X3 xDrive 20d Expedition** priced at Rs. 44.90 lakh and **X3 xDrive 20d xLine** priced at Rs. 49.90 lakh (ex-showroom).

- ❖ Swedish luxury car maker **Volvo Auto India**, an arm of **Volvo Cars**, which unveiled its all new **XC90**, the SUV in Stockholm in Sweden, plans to launch in India in September, 2015.



- ❖ Domestic subsidiary of US-headquartered off-road vehicle maker **Polaris Industries** launches its 1,131-cc V-twin engine bike 2014 **Indian Scout**, priced at Rs 11.99 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).

- ❖ **TVS Motor** eyes about 18% market share in the country's two-wheeler segment over the next two years on the back of its recently launched products as well as new launches planned.

- ❖ Battery maker **Amara Raja Batteries Ltd** draws up plans to enter new geographies and tap verticals such as solar and motive power.

- ❖ Improved market sentiment has continued to boost sales of passenger vehicles. Nine of the country's leading automobile manufacturers together sold 200,174

units in August as compared to 169,809 units sold in the same month last year. **Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai and Honda** together accounted for 80% of the sales.

AVIATION

- ❖ Low-cost carrier **IndiGo** joins the fresh round of airfare war between airlines with the announcement of flights with all-inclusive fares starting from Rs 999, a day after competitor **SpiceJet** announced an early bird sale.
- ❖ **Vistara**, a JV between the **Tata group** and **Singapore Airlines (SIA)**, to commence operations from October this year and will be the first domestic airline to offer a premium economy class.
- ❖ The country's second largest airline by market share, **SpiceJet Ltd** launches yet another limited period special fare scheme, **Early Bird**, offering customers ticket prices as low as Rs.499 on its domestic network.
- ❖ Adding on to its domestic market leadership, **IndiGo**, India's largest low-cost airline, announces 8 new daily non-stop flights connecting Bangalore, Kolkata, Kochi and Hyderabad.
[The Times of India, August 31, 2014 Fulltext](#)
- ❖ Malaysia's budget airline **AirAsia** launches a two month-long free user trial of its on board Wi-Fi service designed to provide affordable, low-cost Internet connectivity to passengers.
[The Times of India, August 31, 2014 Fulltext](#)
- ❖ **GoAir** announces 30% concession on base fare of its flights operating to and from Port Blair throughout the year for residents of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ **Jet Airways** launches a digital travel and business networking platform on its website exclusively for SMEs, primarily in the hope of regaining some corporate passenger share it has lost in recent years to low-fare carriers.
[The Economic Times, August 29, 2014 p.6 Fulltext](#)
- ❖ National carrier **Air India** will celebrate its merger with erstwhile **Indian Airlines** as 'Air India Day', offering tickets for Rs 100 for a limited period.
- ❖ **AirAsia** signs up with **Kings XI Punjab** as its back of the shirt sponsor for the **Champions League T20**.
- ❖ **AirAsia** plans to station six out of its eight aircraft in the night in the city and expects to fly as many as 40 flights to and from Bangalore by the end of December. **Air Costa**, which already connects Bangalore to eight destinations in the South, plans to add Patna, Raipur and Jodhpur to the network. **IndiGo** add another daily flight on the Bangalore-Kolkata sector. **Jet Airways** adding two daily flights each on the Bangalore-Kochi and Bangalore-Chennai routes.
- ❖ In an attempt to improve connectivity to remote areas, the Government plans to introduce a new category of 87 incentive destinations including Warangal, Vellore, Tuticorin and Hassan. Airlines will be given sops which include exemption from

landing and parking charges, route navigation facilities charges, passenger service fee, fuel throughput charges and any other charges levied by the **Airports Authority of India**.

BANKING &

- ❖ **Reliance Capital**, the non-banking financial arm of **Anil Ambani group**, to once again try its luck for a bank licence, plans to participate in the financial inclusion mission of the Narendra Modi government by setting up **Reliance Bank**.
- ❖ **Avanse Education Loans** announces its foray into lending for educational institutions, such as universities, colleges, schools, pre-schools and coaching classes, among others, for expansion.
- ❖ **State Bank of Hyderabad** wants to tap the growth potential in North India and double its retail and SME businesses in this region over the next one year.
- ❖ **IDBI Bank Ltd** bets big on the retail segment, targets 35% of the total loan book through retail engagement, up from the current 27%, in the next two years.
- ❖ **Visakhapatnam Cooperative Bank** expects a multi-state operator licence after the state bifurcation, plans to add three more branches in Telangana, mostly in Hyderabad, in the next few years. After getting the multistate licence, the bank also plans to enter Odisha and Karnataka.
- ❖ The **State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC)**, **Odisha** targets to open 400,000 bank accounts under the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**, a comprehensive scheme for financial inclusion, by August 28. **Andhra Bank** expects to open over 200,000 no-frill accounts across the country on the first day of the launching of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.
- ❖ Three of the country's largest lenders, **SBI**, **ICICI Bank** and **Punjab National Bank**, reduce interest rate for home loans above Rs 75 lakh.
- ❖ **Sundaram BNP Paribas Home Finance** launches a new scheme for funding rural houses at a concessional rate of 9.60 per annum for women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
- ❖ **Karnataka Bank** targets a business of Rs. 83,000 cr this fiscal and over Rs. 1-lakh cr by March 2016.

BEAUTY & ACCESSORIES

- ❖ Kolkata-headquartered **McNroe Consumer Products**, the maker of **Wild Stone** deos and the number two player by value market share, to launch its first no-gas variant of Wild Stone next month, pricing it at Rs 250 for a 120-ml bottle.

- ❖ Swiss company **Victorinox** launches a range of travel organisers, featuring a stash pocket and full-length zipped pocket to store tickets, ID cards, passport and currency, priced at Rs 2,170.
- ❖ **Skeyndor** launches the **Clear Balance line**, an acne solution. It claims the products normalise the skin's PH balance, and cleanse it without completely drying it out.
- ❖ A year after making a 30% investment in salon chain **B:Blunt**, owned by siblings **Adhuna Bhabani Akhtar**, wife of Bollywood actor **Farhan Akhtar**, and **Osh Bhabani**, the Rs 7,583-cr **Godrej Consumer** (GCPL) launches an exclusive range of hair care products under **B:Blunt**. The range includes shampoos, masques, gels and other styling and grooming products marks the first step of GCPL to shift from hair colour into hair care.
- ❖ Bangalore-headquartered **NYK**, a company that offers a wide range of handbags for women, priced at Rs1,800 onwards.

CEMENT

- ❖ Chennai-headquartered **Ramco group** plans to set up a cement plant in Kolimigandla mandal of Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh with an initial investment of Rs 1,500 cr.

CONSUMER DURABLES

- ❖ **Snapdeal** launches media streaming dongle - **Teewe**, priced at Rs 1,999, will allow the customer to stream media wirelessly via a smartphone application to their televisions.
- ❖ The diversified **Jackson Group** forays into solar sector with host of products including home lighting systems, street lights, indoor water purifiers and photo voltaic modules.
The Economic Times, September 2, 2014 p.6
- ❖ **Google** plans to launch its much-awaited sub-\$100 (around Rs 6,000) smartphones in India this month, which will further intensify competition in the booming multi-billion dollar smart devices market.
- ❖ **Apple Inc** plans to turn its next **iPhone** into a mobile wallet through a partnership with major payment networks, banks and retailers.
- ❖ **Netgear**, a networking company launches **AC750**, a range of device that boosts Wi-Fi connections.
- ❖ **Videocon** unveils 4K ultra high definition TV, comes with features like 3D gaming and face recognition and 8.3 LED display.
- ❖ **ENRG** launches a range of USB drivers for android smartphones and tablets.

- ❖ US-headquartered kitchen appliance brand **Hamilton Beach** forays into the Indian market through a distribution tie-up with IT firm **HCL** and looks at up to 12% of premium appliances categories market in the next 4-5 years.
- ❖ Japan's **Panasonic** and salt-to-steel conglomerate **Tata Group** joins hands to develop a compact water purification system for India.
- ❖ **Hitech Mobiles** launches a 3G smartphone - **Hitech Amaze S- 305**, for Rs 2,999.
- ❖ Chinese handset maker **Gionee** launches an Android KitKat-powered smartphone, **GPAD G5**, in India for Rs 14,999.
- ❖ **Videocon Mobile Phones** launches the **Vstyle** series of feature phones priced in the range of Rs 1,000-3,000.
- ❖ **Philips** launches a range of irons which come with a steam generator, water tank capacity of 2,200 ml and usable on all fabrics ranging from silk, velvet, and pure linen to cotton, priced at Rs 23,495.
- ❖ As online mobile sales have started trending, the \$14.5 bn Taiwanese electronics major **Asus** aims to sell more than one million smartphones in India by 2015 after tasting success in flash sales on **Flipkart** over last one month.
- ❖ **Samsung Electronics Co Ltd** unveils what it said was the first smartwatch capable of making and receiving calls without a mobile phone nearby, in the South Korean firm's latest effort to find a new growth driver.
- ❖ **iBall***, a leading Indian computer peripherals, smart phones and tablets maker has overtaken multinational brands like **Samsung** and **Apple** in the tablet devices category. According to a top company official, the tablets brand **iBall Slide** had a market share of 17.1% in this category for the period between April and July 2014 while it was 15.5% and 11.5% for Samsung and Apple respectively.
 - ❖ **Pioneer India Electronics** introduces its range of DJ products to cater to the booming disc jockey (DJ) and Club business in India.
- ❖ **V-Guard Industries Ltd**, manufacturers of electrical appliances, is in the process of expanding its presence in the non-south market, expects 35-40% of its business to come from this market this fiscal, planning for a Rs 10-15 cr capex this year.
 - ❖ **iBall** launches an Octa Core Smartphone the **Andi Panther**.
- ❖ **Sony** launches a range of smartphone known as **XperiaTM C3**, priced at Rs 23,990.
- ❖ The digital imaging company **Canon India** eyes a 10% market share in the digital photo album print space in India in the next three years.
- ❖ **Philips** plans to manufacture around 80% of its domestic appliance range in India by 2015.
- ❖ Looking to reinvent itself to gain the lost ground in the domestic smartphone market, **BlackBerry India** to launch its two much awaited devices – **BlackBerry Passport** and **BlackBerry Classic** – before the end of 2014.

- ❖ **Flipkart**, in collaboration with **Intel**, launches five tablets under its in-house brand **Digiflip Pro**. The new range of next-gen tablets - ET 701, XT 811, XT 801, XT 911 and XT 901 - are powered by Intel Atom processors, priced between Rs 5,999 and Rs 15,999, to be available only on Flipkart.
- ❖ Following cue from **Mi3**'s success **Xiaomi** launches its second device in India - **Redmi 1s**, priced at Rs 5,999, is almost Rs 1000 cheaper than it intended to and will be sold via **Flipkart** with the flash sale strategy.
- ❖ **Karbons Mobiles**, the third-largest smartphone maker in India bets on sales of Android devices made in partnership with **Google Inc** to boost revenue growth, expects to go public by 2016.
- ❖ German auto parts maker **Bosch Group** sets up a plant in India to make white goods.
- ❖ **Mozilla Corp** plans to offer its first low-cost smartphone in India for Rs 1,999 (\$33), in a bid to build market share for its open source software in the world's fastest growing market for such devices.
- ❖ The **Indian tablet market** grew 9% quarter-on-quarter during the second quarter of the calendar year. The first quarter had seen sales decline 33% from the previous quarter. Tablet shipments stood at 0.86 million units in Q22014 against 0.78 million units in the first quarter of the calendar. The second quarter saw **Micromax** surpass **Apple** as the second-largest player in a market dominated by small players, which accounted for 45% of total sales, according to international technology research firm **IDC**.

COURIERS / LOGISTICS

- ❖ **Turkish Cargo** launches operations from Hyderabad. It will operate Airbus A330-200F freighters increasing the frequency to twice in a week by next month, connecting Hyderabad to 260 destinations in Europe, North and Latin Americas, Africa and CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries.
- ❖ **Deutsche Post DHL** sets to invest about Rs 797 cr over the next two years in India mainly to scale up for the opportunity thrown up by e-commerce industry.

EDUCATION

- ❖ **Tata Consultancy Services Ltd**, India's largest software services provider, launches a new learning programme for its trainees in Japan.
- ❖ **Educational Initiatives (EI)**, one of India's leading assessment and research companies in the education sector, and **Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP)** to have 180 students from classes VII and VIII spending three weeks at **Shiv Nadar University** studying various courses. The talent search - called **Duke TIP ASSET India Talent Search 2014**, will identify the finest scholastic talents among students.

- ❖ The **Missouri State University** inviting Indian students to a UG programme in Hospitality and Restaurant Administration.
- ❖ **TalentSprint**, the IT skill development firm, plans to expand its activity by launching the third vertical for training teachers.
- ❖ The **Kerala government** to set up **Global Academic City** in line with the **Dubai Academic City** for higher education. It mulls places like **Kariavattam campus** of Kerala University, **Knowledge city** at Thiruvananthapuram and **Calicut University** campus at Thenjippalam in Malappuram district.
- ❖ The **Indian School of Business (ISB)** plans to set up **Big Leap Club**, exclusively for owners of SMEs in and around of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. An initiative of the **Munjal Institute for Global Manufacturing (MIGM)** at ISB, the club will be formally launched at the **Big Leap Summit** - a two-day conference being organised at the ISB's Mohali campus on September 6 and 7.
- ❖ **University of Southern California** in talks with various Indian universities to offer its **Global Supply Chain Management (GSCM)** certification course. The course offers a globally-integrated master's programme on SCM aligned to its mission of NEAR (networking, education and advanced research).
- ❖ The **Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT)**, sanctioned for Dharwad, to start functioning from a temporary campus from the academic year 2015-16, if everything goes according to plan.

ENTERTAINMENT

- ❖ Ahmedabad-headquartered **Dream Games** introduces **Rama Force**, an innovative and imaginary but pure strategy-driven game for iPhone, iPad, Android mobile phones and Android-based tablets.
- ❖ **Discovery Kids** and **WWF-India** to host this year's **Wild Wisdom Quiz**—Asia's largest wildlife quiz for children. An annual event, the quiz aims to increase environmental awareness. **Forest Biodiversity** is the theme for 2014.
- ❖ **Play It Interactive**, a Canadian start-up, opens an office in Mumbai to push its mobile gaming platform in India and neighbouring countries, aims to help media companies target sports fans through its fan engagement platform to consume content generated by them and to drive time spent by users on the platform.
- ❖ Aimed at promoting government's ambitious financial inclusion scheme **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**, direct-to-home services provider **Dish TV** to offer 10% discount to subscribers paying their bill through **RuPay**-enabled cards.
- ❖ **Entertainment** is the most popular online search category in India, with videos and music representing the largest sub-categories. However, the Indian market is highly vernacular, with 93% of time spent on videos consumed in Hindi or other regional languages, according to **Google**; **A.T. Kearney** analysis.

FMCG

- ❖ **Godrej Consumer Products** chalks out global growth plans targeting 26% annual growth. As part of its rural strategy, new products like **Good knight Fast Card**, which is a paper-based mosquito repellent, priced at just Rs1. Only 28% of rural India uses household insecticides and sees a lot of growth opportunities there.
- ❖ The 10.3 bn euro **SCA Hygiene Products** of Sweden, which sells the **Libero** brand of baby diapers among other products, plans to step on the pedal in a bid to establish itself as a preferred brand for hygiene solutions in India over the long-term.

FOOD & BEVERAGES

- ❖ Tobacco-to-hotels conglomerate, **ITC**, which plans to become a pan-Indian dairy entity, is going to set up plants across six states - Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Of the dairy products the company plans to launch by the end of this year, the first is expected to be ghee, which could be followed by milk powder.
- ❖ The Siddharth Banerji-led **Kyndal India**, importer, maker and distributor of premium spirits, enters into JV with Scotland-headquartered **Edrington** to bottle **Cutty Sark** blended Scotch whisky in India, the first ever outside Scotland.
- ❖ World's largest liquor maker **Diageo** plans to extend its new vodka offering in the Smirnoff range by rolling it out in Karnataka.
- ❖ Glasgow-headquartered spirit maker **Edrington** eyes 10% of the Indian scotch market in next three years.
- ❖ **GD Foods Manufacturing Pvt Ltd's** **Tops** introduces a range of jams in several sizes.
- ❖ Dairy major **Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable** ties up with **SBI** to launch a smart card for 150 milk booths in the NCR, will be more convenient than paying with coins for every purchase at the booths.
- ❖ **Godrej Group**, the diversified conglomerate, eyes target of 10-fold revenue growth at Rs 80,000 cr by 2020 through a mix of operational efficiencies and inorganic developments.
- ❖ **Mondelez India Foods Ltd** to launch its new chocolate gifting brand **Cadbury Glow** in the country next month, targeting high-end retail outlets, hotels, airports, departmental stores in cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ludhiana, Chandigarh and Kolkata.
- ❖ **United Breweries Limited** seeks to develop the **Heineken** brand in India despite the domestic market being skewed towards strong beer, expects Heineken brand to grow by 50% as it ramps up the distribution of the mild beer.

- ❖ **Tata Global Beverages Ltd** plans to expand its drinking water portfolio to 10% of its turnover, which includes its mineral water brand **Himalayan**, fortified drinking water **Tata Water Plus**, and nutrient water brand **Tata Gluco Plus**.
- ❖ **Sakthi Group Company, ABT Industries**, forays into the ready-to-cook food segment under the **ABT Foods** brand, plans to launch these products in Tamil Nadu and Kerala and would spread to other parts of the country in a phased manner.
- ❖ The **ready-to-cook market** is worth around Rs 500 cr and was growing 20% in volume and 25% in value terms. It is expected to grow at an annual growth rate of around 20-25% over the next five years.

FOOTWEAR

- ❖ Footwear and apparel firm **Woodland** eyes a 30% jump in its revenue to Rs 1,300 cr this FY as it opens more stores and identifies future growth drivers.
- ❖ Sports footwear and apparel company **Adidas Group** is pioneering a new online model in India, which would be operational by the year-end.
The Times of India, August 27, 2014 [Fulltext](#)
- ❖ Footwear maker **Liberty Group** expects to double its revenues to Rs. 1,000 cr in the next 3-4 years.

HEALTHCARE

- ❖ Wellness and slimming services firm **VLCC***, which formed a JV with the Nairobi-headquartered **Sameer group** last September, to start operations of the first of its proposed network of wellness facilities in Africa this week, beginning with the Kenyan capital.
*The Economic Times, September 1, 2014 [Fulltext](#) * (BC Client)*
- ❖ **Xiaomi's Mi Band** coming to India on Xiaomi's flash sale model could take the wearable segment to a whole new level.
- ❖ **Apollo Hospitals Enterprise** plans to add 3 more reach hospitals with a total bed capacity of 500 beds in the country at an investment of Rs 400 cr in the current financial year.
- ❖ Online pharmacy **Medybiz Pharma**, one of the country's largest prescription refill operations touching around 1 million customers across 23 states, looks to tie up with insurance cos to boost growth. Sees huge potential in day-care market, seeks tie up with those firms that also cover such expenses.
- ❖ Ahmedabad-headquartered **Zyduz Wellness**, maker of **Nutralite**, teams up with the Ganesh Mandal to focus on health and wellness, the first time brand association during **Ganesh Chaturthi** extended beyond the traditional banners and hoardings at pandals to theme-based advertising.

- ❖ Taking the telemedicine concept to its logical end, the **Apollo Hospitals** group launches **eAccess**- an advanced technology interface that enables doctors to monitor and provide critical care services to patients undergoing treatment in ICUs even in remote locations.
- ❖ The **Indian health care space** witnesses a 15% CAGR over the last 5 years and its growth has proven to be in elastic to the country's GDP growth, expect the market to double to \$160 bn by 2020 (11% CAGR), driven by an increase in healthcare spending on the back of changing demographics and rising income levels.
The Economic Times, September 2, 2014 p.7 [Fulltext](#)
- ❖ The **wearable band market** grew 684% on a worldwide basis in the first half of 2014 compared with the first half of 2013. The growth is driven by bands from Fitbit and Jawbone, which have of late started dominating the basic wearable band segment in most countries, according to research firm **Canalys**.

HOTELS

- ❖ Global fast food **French Fried Chicken** is reviving up for Rs 200 cr expansion in India, beginning with an outlet at Technopark in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ Vacation ownership and timeshare provider **KDJ HolidayScapes and Resorts** plans to invest Rs 150 cr in the next five years to develop new properties and looks to at add owned properties as well as expand through tie-ups, eyeing expansion into locations such as Coorg, Sikkim, Goa and Tamil Nadu, Kerala among others.
- ❖ Mumbai-headquartered **Indian Hotels Company**, the country's biggest hotel chain, to augment capacity by 26% in the coming years, which currently has 125 hotels, plans to add 33 new hotels across its four brands - **Taj**, **Vivanta by Taj**, **Gateway**, and **Ginger**.
- ❖ The third largest hamburger chain in the US, **Wendy's** entering the country in partnership with **Sierra Nevada**, one of whose founders is the new owner of **Barista Coffee**.
The Economic Times, August 28, 2014 p.17 [Fulltext](#)
- ❖ **Chili's Grill & Bar**, the American casual dining restaurant chain, embarks on an expansion drive in India wherein it plans to set up 10 more outlets within two years with an investment of about \$10 mn.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- ❖ Power solution provider **Jakson Group** aims to have turnover of Rs 2,500 cr by 2017 based on his fast moving solar division, also aims to produce 100 MW solar power in nexr 2-3 years.

- ❖ As part of its entry into green energy generation, lignite-based power producer **Neyveli Lignite Corporation** lines up renewable energy projects worth Rs 500 cr to set up wind and solar energy projects of 80 Mw.
- ❖ **Enrich Energy** plans to set up 60MW solar power plant in Telangana.
- ❖ **Tata Power** to incur capex of over Rs 2,200 cr till FY19 for its Mumbai operations as it enhances network and supply infrastructure, according to plan documents submitted with the state electricity regulator.

INSURANCE

- ❖ Private life insurer **HDFC Life** launches its new health insurance product **Health Assure Plan**, aims at providing a comprehensive health cover. The plan offers reimbursement of medical expenses incurred in a hospital and is available in two variants, Gold Plan and Silver Plan.

INTERIORS

- ❖ **Herman Miller** introduces **Wireframe** sofas, a range of sofa sets with an external structure of steel wire that holds its sofa and contoured cushions in place.
- ❖ **Nilkamal**, which manufactures moulded plastic products, eyes at 12 to 15% turnover growth in FY'15 with better margins.

IPOs / FUNDS

- ❖ Crop protection chemical company **Sharda Cropchem** plans to enter the capital market with its Initial Public Offering of 22,555,124 equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each.
- ❖ Anil Ambani-led **Reliance Capital** and Japanese financial services major **Nissay** joins hands to launch two mutual fund products for the Japanese retail investors.
- ❖ **Monte Carlo Fashions** plans to launch a public issue of 54.33 lakh equity shares, including an offer for sale by promoters group and PE firm **Samara Capital**.

IT/ITES

- ❖ Software, services and consultancy firm **IBM India** opens a client centre in Delhi, which will address business challenges through cloud computing, analytics, mobile and social technologies.
- ❖ **BlackBerry** to successfully roll out its newest offering, **BlackBerry Enterprise Service 12**, which could help the company crack the government sector, among others.
- ❖ Nasdaq-listed software company, **Progress Software Corporation**, launches its **Pacific Incubator** programme in India to support application development projects for startups using its **Progress Pacific** platform.
- ❖ Hyderabad-headquartered **NeoSilica**, a provider of technology solutions for smart cities and smart grids, is keen to expand its footprint in the renewable energy performance management solutions.
- ❖ A technology start-up **Corporate360**, from Kerala, with presence in five countries, looks to expand its operations in India and is targeting to become \$10 mn company by 2017, offers low cost Data-as-a-Service (DaaS) applications to help companies gather valuable business intelligence, analyse trends and social sentiments to fine-tune and implement marketing campaigns.
- ❖ Enterprise software major **VMware** announces a slew of products for the data centre market that will help the company take on rivals including **Microsoft** and **IBM**.

[The Times of India, August 29, 2014 Fulltext](#)

- ❖ **ValueLabs**, a mid-size technology solutions provider, to focus on emerging opportunities in cloud, big data analytics and mobility solutions to fuel its growth plans.
- ❖ **Theatro**, an early mover in the voice controlled wearable communications devices for hourly workers in the retail, hospitality and manufacturing market segments, raised \$5 mn investment from **Khosla Ventures** in a Series A round, funds to be used to aggressively expand its sales and marketing efforts as well as broaden and accelerate product innovation.
- ❖ **Facebook** rolls out a new tool to attract advertisers to enable advertisers to reach people based on the type of network connection they usually use when accessing the Internet – 2G, 3G or 4G, ties up with **Vodafone India** for this.
- ❖ **Indian banking and securities companies** to spend Rs 47,000 cr on IT products and services in 2014, an increase of more than 10% over 2013, according to IT advisory firm **Gartner**.

[The Times of India, August 31, 2014 Fulltext](#)

JEWELLERY

- ❖ **Mirari**, a jewellery brand comes up with ~~with~~ its linear dangler collection, earrings embellished with metal and carved gemstones.
- ❖ **Popley & Sons** introduces a range of jewellery, which is inspired by animal themes.
- ❖ **Zaamor**, an e-commerce jewellery portal launches a range of diamond jewellery collection known as Tourmaline.

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

- ❖ **Ruchi Soya Industries** acquires the oil refining business of its group company **Ruchi Infrastructure** for Rs 44 cr.
- ❖ US-headquartered **Prudential Financial Inc**, which manages \$1.3 trillion globally, to sell a 50% stake in its Indian asset-management company **Pramerica Mutual Fund** for an undisclosed sum to **Dewan Housing Finance Co.**
The Economic Times, September 1, 2014 p.7 [Fulltext](#)
- ❖ **Essar Telecom Kenya Ltd** sells its telecom business to **Safaricom** and **Airtel** for about Rs 720 cr.
- ❖ **Adani Enterprises** inks a pact to buy out **Linc Energy**'s rights to future royalties from the Indian group's **Carmichael** coal project for \$155 mn.
- ❖ Online education services firm **Educomp Solutions*** subsidiary sells a majority stake in **Gateforum Educational Services** to private equity fund **ASK Pravi Pvt Equity Opportunities fund**.
- ❖ Plumbing products maker **Astral Poly Technik Ltd** acquires 80% stake in **Seal It Services Ltd**, a UK-headquartered manufacturer of adhesives and sealants for Rs 44 cr.

PHARMACEUTICAL

- ❖ **Cipla**, the Indian generics maker is seeking a bigger slice of the US market with cheaper medicines for asthma and HIV, targets US with **GlaxoSmithKline**'s asthma treatment **Advair**, plans to submit an application to the USFDA this year for an aerosol version.
- ❖ Drugmaker **Cipla** enters the respiratory segment in Germany and Sweden with the launch of **Serroflo**, a combination product to manage asthma.
- ❖ Ahmedabad-headquartered pharma major **Zydus Cadila** gets USFDA nod to market the anti-hypertension tablets **Telmisartan**.

- ❖ Pharma major **Venus*** enters into a collaborative agreement with Israel-headquartered generic drug maker **Teva** for selling an anti-cancer drug in the Canadian market.
- ❖ **Strides Arcolab** receives **USFDA** approval for **Buspiron Hydrochloride** tablets USP, 5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg and 30 mg, used for treatment of anxiety disorders and the short-term relief of the symptoms of anxiety.

REAL ESTATE

- ❖ **Brigade Group**, a Bangalore-headquartered property developer, and **GIC**, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, through its affiliate company, enters into a MoU to jointly invest up to Rs 1,500 cr in residential developments.
- ❖ The **Delhi Development Authority (DDA)** launches its much-awaited Housing Scheme-2014 offering over 25,000 flats across various categories.
- ❖ India's largest realty firm **DLF** draw plans to targets 8% growth in the rental business this fiscal to Rs 2,100 cr.
- ❖ **Tata Value Homes Ltd**, the affordable housing arm of global conglomerate **Tata Sons**, plans to construct 10,000 apartments in the next three years.
- ❖ **Koncept Ambience** unveils villas, row houses at Kompally, the built-up area will vary between 2,300 sq ft and 3,300 sq ft, prices can go up to Rs 1.2 cr, depending on area specifications.
- ❖ **Mahagun Group** launches its new residential tower called **Villaments** at Mantra II, the company's residential project in Sector 10, Greater Noida (west), to offer three BHK and four BHK duplex apartments, with sizes ranging between 2,600 sq ft and 2,950 sq ft, respectively, prices start at Rs 70.85 lakh.
- ❖ **Private equity investment in real estate sector** jumped over two-fold to Rs 4,100 cr in the first six months of 2014 and is likely to cross Rs 12,000 cr by end of the year. The PE investment in the sector was Rs 6,450 cr in 2013, according to a report by property consultant **Cushman & Wakefield**.

RECRUITMENT

- ❖ Country's third largest software services firm **Wipro** plans to double its headcount to 140 people over the next 18 months in Muscat to meet increasing business requirements in the Gulf region.
- ❖ **Godrej Group** to increase its 15,000-strong workforce by 20% in the next three years ensuring that it is mostly younger people who are inducted into the system.
- ❖ **SAP Labs India** announces a recruitment drive as part of its global **Autism at Work** initiative which focuses on individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The Times of India, August 31, 2014 [Fulltext](#)

- ❖ By the end of 2015, global hotel chain **Hyatt** to add around 1,500 employees at four of its upcoming properties across the country. **Tata Group**-controlled **Ginger Hotels**, which will open nine hotels this year as opposed to four in 2013, to recruit 10-12 core management teams (each with 10 people) this year. Mid-market chain **Keys Hotels** to recruit around 500 people for its six upcoming hotels in the next seven months. **Hilton Hotels** to add more than 1,500 team members to its workforce in India as it expands its portfolio in the country to 18 hotels by the end of 2015.

The Economic Times, August 29, 2014 p.6 [Fulltext](#)

- ❖ IT services major **Tech Mahindra** announces the national launch of **Saral Rozgar Cards** with seeking to create a common pool of jobs and job providers.



- ❖ US-headquartered sports shoes and apparel supplier and manufacturer **Nike** makes a proposal to the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion under the commerce and industry ministry to set up fully-owned stores in India.
- ❖ **Jabong.com** to launch instant refunds for cash-on-delivery (COD) returns; will begin services in Delhi by giving COD customers' instant cash at their doorstep even as the delivery guys pick up return packets.
The Economic Times, September 2, 2014 p.1 [Fulltext](#)
- ❖ Delhi-headquartered **Omnipresent Retail India Pvt Ltd**, which run online retail portal **edabba.com**, that sells a range of products including electronics, personal accessories, fashion and jewelry mostly in smaller towns and cities in states such as Uttarakhand, Bihar and Rajasthan, secured funding of Rs 4.5 cr from Singapore-headquartered investor **CCube Angles**. The funds will be used to expand in existing markets and tap other states like Karnataka and Maharashtra.
The Economic Times, September 2, 2014 p.5
- ❖ **Dell India** has 250 exclusive Dell stores and plans to take the number to 400 by the end of the year.
 - ❖ **NHC Foods Ltd** enters into JV with **Bigbasket.com** for online retail grocery segment, plans to double topline this year to Rs 300 cr.
 - ❖ **Reebok India** starts its first fitness studio in Mumbai, as it seeks to reposition itself as a fitness brand.
- ❖ **Shoppers Stop** and **Arvind** are focusing on strong online sales, which they perceive as an opportunity to cater to tech-savvy millennials. Along with expanding their format stores, Shoppers Stop targets 10% revenue from online sales in the next three-four years; Arvind eyes Rs 1,000 cr from e-retail in same period.
- ❖ **Reebok India** launches its first revolutionary **Fit Hub** concept store located at Ahmedabad, the brand also plans to roll out a total of 7 stores in Gujarat by the end of 2014 in cities like Vadodara, Surat and Rajkot among others.

- ❖ **Snapdeal.com** ties up with **Tata Sons'** affordable housing arm — **Tata Value Homes** — to sell apartments on its e-commerce platform.
- ❖ E-Commerce major **Amazon India** announces an exclusive tie-up with **Diamond Toons** to release some unpublished works of **Pran Kumar Sharma**, or Pran, creator of the iconic cartoon character, **Chacha Chaudhury**.
- ❖ The **online retail** is about \$3.2 bn and is expected to reach \$9 bn by 2016, according to industry reports.

SPORTS

- ❖ Bollywood actor and producer **Abhishek Bachchan** has become the only actor to have interests in two sports leagues in India. After investing in a kabaddi team for **Mashal Sports' Pro Kabaddi League**, Bachchan is now part of the consortium that owns the Chennai franchise in the **Hero Indian Super League (ISL)** along with **Play on Skills**, which has a technical collaboration with Italian football club **Inter Milan**.
- ❖ The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** awards the title sponsorship rights for matches in the 2014-15 season to mobile handset brand **Micromax** for Rs 2.2 cr per match.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- ❖ Telecom operator **Systema Shyam Teleservices**, which provides services under the **MTS** brand, to offer free movies to customers as it looks to ramp up revenues from affordable and customised data services.
- ❖ Canadian handset maker **BlackBerry** partners with GSM operator **Idea Cellular** to offer 1GB data plan to its customers. Under the offer, Idea users with BlackBerry OS 7 devices can avail themselves of 1GB 2G plan at Rs. 83 a month, with an annual rental of Rs. 999.
- ❖ Gurgaon-headquartered **Indus Towers**, the world's biggest telecom tower company, plans to build 5,000 new towers in the country in two years to aggressively increase business in rapidly growing data-hungry market.
- ❖ **Vodafone** launches a set of new tariff plans for post-paid retail and enterprise customers. Called **Vodafone Red**, the plan bundles voice and data services for a fixed monthly rental.
- ❖ **Reliance Communication** launches a new mobile service that can help customers to access banking services across 29 nationalized banks in the country.

- ❖ Indian mobile messaging service provider **Hike** raises \$65 mn fresh funding, led by New York-headquartered investment firm **Tiger Global**, funds will be used to spend on its product and expand its team.
- ❖ **Reliance Jio Infocomm** (RJIL) signs a deal with state-owned telecom firm **BSNL** for leasing around 4,000 mobile towers.

TOYS

- ❖ **Mitashi** launches a range of consoles for children - **Sky Tab 2**, that comes with billboard music educational and entertainment content.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

- ❖ **mGaadi** a call auto-rickshaw service of **India Drivers Network**, a for-profit enterprise plans to enhance the use of technology in its operations, targets 20,000 drivers in the network in Bangalore by the year-end, also plans to foray into another city within a year.
- ❖ The cruise, **MV Rajmahal** launched by the Guwahati-based **Assam Bengal Navigation Company**, one of the first luxury river cruises from Patna to Varanasi on the Ganga River, traversing a distance of over 420 km.
- ❖ With an eye on the growing usage of mobile applications, **IRCTC** launches a new application to book tickets for **BlackBerry** smartphone users.
- ❖ The **Kerala Tourism** department signs MoU with **GoAir** to offer exclusive discounted fares to visitors to the state. The MoU comes under a new **Destination Promotion** campaign that looks to capitalise on the increasing propensity for travel in the domestic market.
- ❖ Former South African cricketer **Gary Kirsten** enters the tourism space with the launch of **Gary Kirsten Travel & Tours**, in collaboration with **Cape Africa Tours**, South Africa, eyes rising demand from India for travelling to South Africa and is likely to market the tourism venture in India during **Indian Premier League 2015**.
- ❖ The **Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation** (MTDC) appoints Travel Company **Cox & Kings** as its outsourced partner to operate the luxury train **Deccan Odyssey** from October 2014.
- ❖ The **Indian taxi market** is valued to be between Rs 34,000 cr and Rs 54,000 cr and several companies like **TaxiForSure**, **EasyCabs**, **Meru** and **Olacabs** have raised further capital to cater to this massive and growing market.

WATCHES

- ❖ **Timex** introduces **Expedition Vibe Shock Collection**, which has 50 mm case with a mineral glass lens and dual-mode alarm setting that's offers both vibrating and audible alarms.
- ❖ **Swatch Group** is happy to go it alone with a launch next year of watches with smart features to compete with so-called wearable gadgets from the big tech companies, a market potentially worth \$93 bn.
 - ❖ **Salvatore Ferragamo** unveils a range of timepieces, **Idillio**, for women.
- ❖ **Swiss Military** launches a world travel alarm clock that, it claims, lets you see the time in 18 cities by rotating the dial. The device also comes with a perpetual calendar, digital thermometer, alarm clock, countdown timer, three white LED torches, five different language settings and a nylon strap, priced at Rs. 1,290.
- ❖ **Guess Watches** launches a range of timepieces, **Guess Logo Crazy**, for women, priced at Rs 14,900.
- ❖ **Versace** unveils a range of timepieces for men, the collection is inspired from the vintage strap buckle.
- ❖ The retail value of **wearable Internet-connected devices** at \$93.1 bn by 2018, versus \$4.1 bn in 2014, with smartwatches accounting for about two thirds of the market's value in 2018, according to **Generator Research**.