

Ten Years That Changed The World

1995-2005

A history of the internet in India and elsewhere

1995

MARCH

Jerry Yang and David Filo incorporate Yahoo with \$2 million in funding from Sequoia Capital



Jerry Yang and David Filo

JULY

Amazon.com goes live



AUGUST

Windows 95 and tacky Internet Explorer 1.0 launched

Netscape goes for IPO; stock jumps from \$28 to \$72 on listing



VSNL launches India's first dial-up internet access service in six cities at Rs 5,000 for 250 hours and Rs

45,500 for 250 hours for institutions (launch happens symbolically on August 14, 1995, on the eve of India's Independence Day)

1996

JANUARY

Rediff.com incorporated; site opens with a part-Yahoo-part-Salon approach to the internet; still alive and kicking

MARCH

Hotmail (HoTMaiL, see?) launches its free e-mail service; liberates world from snail mail; India discovers its co-founder is Bangalore-boy Sabeer Bhatia



Sabeer Bhatia

APRIL

Grad students Larry Page and Sergey Brin launch Back Rub; years later, this becomes Google



Larry Page and Sergey Brin

MAY

The Leela hotel in Mumbai offers net access at Rs 800 per hour. VSNL claims 'conditions of access does not include subletting' and pulls the plug

OCTOBER

World Internet Day celebrated for first time on 29

DECEMBER

Alan Greenspan warns of irrational exuberance of the stock market



Alan Greenspan

India's first e-commerce site (arguably), nirulas.com, goes live

1997



OCTOBER

ICICI bank launches online banking service

DECEMBER

Microsoft buys Hotmail for \$400 million; Bhatia becomes legend in India

John Barger coins term weblog to describe his journal

1998

AUGUST

Pradeep Kar's Micromedia organises the first India Internet World. Bhatia is a popular speaker. Frenzy catches on.



Pradeep Kar

SEPTEMBER

The Starr Report (remember Monica Lewinsky?) is released online

NOVEMBER

India announces new ISP policy; VSNL's monopoly ends; shortly after, Sify becomes India's first internet service provider



Netscape sells out to AOL

DECEMBER

India's first cyber cafe Netcafe@India is born in Chennai at 101/1, Kanakas Nagar next to a well-known auditorium, Music Academy

Analyst heavy Blodget puts a target of \$400 on Amazon stock; stock peaks at \$600 later



Koramangala.com (a borough-specific site, Koramangala can well be called the birthplace of Bangalore's IT boom) launched.

1999

JANUARY

Total international bandwidth in India estimated at 82 mbps

MARCH

Melissa lays low 1 million PCs in one night

AUGUST

Ashish Dhawan and Raj Kondur return to India and start Chrysalis, a VC firm



Raj Kondur and Ashish Dhawan

OCTOBER

Sify raises \$80 million on NASDAQ

OCTOBER

Young MBA student Manish Vij launches kabadibazaar.com, a site for second-hand products

NOVEMBER

Sify buys out Rajesh Jain's IndiaWorld for \$115 million (Rs 500 crore then)



Rajesh Jain

DECEMBER

Time names Amazon's Jeff Bezos Person of the Year

2000

JANUARY

AOL announces plans to buy Time Warner for \$160 billion

FEBRUARY

NASDAQ peaks at 5,048.62

Sensex peaks at 6,000 levels (doesn't reach this level again till 2004)

MARCH

India's first free ISP CalTiger launches operations



APRIL

Indians buy 1 million PCs in a year (1999-2000) for the first time; installed base crosses 5 million

indya.com™

Indya.com launched with a Rs 4.5 crore ad on the cover page of a daily

Metallica files suit against Napster



JUNE

IT Act 2000 born

Yahoo launches India-specific web site

JULY

India's first private ISP gateway opens

Controversial P2P site Napster shut down



SEPTEMBER

MSN launches an India specific portal msn.co.in

DECEMBER

Pets.com is the first publicly held dotcom (in the US) to go belly up

2001

JANUARY

Inside.com breaks news of Dean Kamen's 'It' that will change the world; turns out to be mere scooter

FEBRUARY

India's first cyber crime; two arrested in Delhi for hacking into www.go2nextjob.com

MARCH

Indian Railway Catering opens for online ticket bookings; quickly becomes country's largest e-commerce site



MAY

FDI limit in ISPs hiked to 74 per cent (if gateways are involved) and 100 per cent (otherwise)



JULY

Webvan goes bust in the US

AUGUST

India's first cyber crime police station opens in Bangalore

SEPTEMBER

9-11

2002

FEBRUARY

BitTorrent unveiled

MARCH

BPL Mobile launches MMS service in Mumbai

2003

MAY

File sharing tool Kazaa becomes most downloaded software in history



JUNE

Air Deccan launches low-cost airline; offers e-booking; others follow suit over time



G.R. Gopinath

AUGUST

Free PC-to-PC VoIP calling service Skype launches 'Beta' version, boasts close to 50 million subscribers today

NOVEMBER

Comdex is dead



2004

FEBRUARY

Microsoft launches Office in Hindi



APRIL

India sells more than 3.4 million PCs in one year (2003-04)



Google launches GMail, a free web-based

e-mail service, with 1 gigabyte mailbox

JULY

eBay buys Baazee for \$50 million

AUGUST

Google raises \$1.7 billion from IPO

NOVEMBER

New version of Mozilla Firefox launched

A clip of two school students having oral sex makes MMS waves; CD of clip is sold on Baazee and CEO Avnish Bajaj is jailed before good sense prevails and he is released



2005

JUNE

Google launches Google Earth, a service for users to look up satellite images of the earth from their desktop



AUGUST

China becomes internet's hot new destination; Baidu.com raises \$109 million from IPO in US



Yahoo acquires a 40 per cent stake in Chinese site alibaba.com for \$1 billion



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