



HCL does a Nano

HCL Infossystems plans to increase its share in India's bulging laptop market with its latest model, MiLeap X. Priced at Rs 13,990, this is the cheapest model in the world, the company claims.

The Indian market, which is dominated by Hewlett-Packard, Lenovo, Acer Inc, sold 980,000 units in third quarter, almost

double from an year ago, according to IT research firm IDC.

IDBI's insurance debut

IDBI Fortis Life Insurance Co., the life insurance company co-promoted by IDBI Bank, will launch two insurance products by the end of this month. The bank will also look at mutual funds and private equity funds, for which talks are

already on. IDBI has 48 per cent stake in IDBI Fortis Life Insurance Co., while the other two partners, Federal Bank and Netherlands' Fortis Insurance International, hold 26 per cent each.

Star India enters a new platform
Star India and DEN Digital Entertainment Networks



have formed a joint venture to create a platform for distributing television channels in India via all fixed networks including cable, DTH and IPTV. The 50:50 joint venture will be headquartered in Mumbai.

It will be an exclusive distributor for Star India for all channels distributed domestically by Star India. It will also seek to expand its bouquet offerings by including other third party channels for distribution.

GEECL's public issue

The first Indian company to be listed on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange, Great

Eastern Energy Corporation (GEECL), is planning a public issue by end-2008. GEECL is a Y.K. Modi group promoted oil and gas exploration company.

Merrill Lynch redeems losses

Merrill Lynch & Co., the US bank battered by sub-prime mortgages losses, raised \$6.6 billion by selling preferred shares to a group, including the Korean Investment Corp., Kuwaiti Investment Authority and Japan's Mizuho Financial Group Inc.

Merrill is raising money after \$8.4 billion of writedowns on US mortgage investments led to the biggest loss in its 93-year history in the third quarter.

DEALTRACKER

BW-THOMSON FINANCIAL M&A TRACKER

January In the first two weeks of 2008, the Asian M&A market saw 138 deals worth \$4.52 billion as on 14 January 2008. Singapore emerged as the largest market in the region with 9 deals worth \$1.99 billion.

Top India deals				
TARGET	TARGET NATION	ACQUIRER	ACQUIRER NATION	DEAL SIZE (\$M)
Indiabulls Re Co., Indiabulls Properties	India	Indiabulls Pty Invest Trust	Singapore	223.11
InterGlobe Technology Quotient	India	Investor group	UK	140.00
Planet M	India	Videocon Industries	India	51.00
Brightest Circle Jewellery	India	Gitanjali Gems	India	NA
Parekh Distributors	India	Investor group	India	NA
Alved Pharma & Foods	India	ICICI Venture Funds Mgmt Co.	India	NA
Neokolor 6bR-neodelight.com	Germany	7Seas Technologies	India	NA
Jaipur Stock Exchange	India	Mefcom Capital Markets	India	NA
G.R. Grafica Ricerca Design	Italy	Mahindra & Mahindra	India	NA
Unicom Seeds	India	Advanta India	India	NA

Figures for 1-12 January 2008

Top 10 Asia markets



Figures for 1-14 January 2008