

IT in January - March 2017

Highlights in general

- **ISRO** does India proud with 104 satellites launched in one go on February 15, 2017
- TCS CEO **N Chandrasekaran** assumes charge as **Tata Sons Chairman** on February 21, 2017
- **US President** Donald Trump takes charge on Jan 20, 2017
- **Union Budget** presented with two innovations - February 1 instead of February 28; Railway Budget & Main budget merged
- **Elections to five Indian States** – UP, Goa, Punjab, Uttaranchal and Manipur announced on January 4, 2017; five stage Elections stretch till March 8, 2017; results on March 11, 2017 were a resounding victory for the ruling party BJP
- Attack on professionals in USA of Indian origin in the last three months - Srinivas Kuchibotla in Kansas in February and Harish Patel in South Carolina in March - creates panic among Indian community in USA
- A terrorist shoot in London on March 22, 2017 kills 5 and leaves the world shocked

Products

- Iconic **Apple iPhone** completes 10 years in January 2017
- **HMD Global** (the new owner of Nokia brand) announced **Nokia 6** Android phone initially for the Chinese market on January 8, 2016 in CES (Consumer Electronic Show) in Las Vegas; launches **Nokia 3, 5, 6** and the nostalgic **Nokia 3310** (that sold more than 125 million units, the largest for any individual handset) in MWC (Mobile World Congress) in Barcelona on February 26, 2017
- **Bharat QR** launched on February 20, 2017
- **PVR** (along with HP) launches VR Lounge on March 26, 2017 in Delhi – interesting development to watch

Markets

- **Dow Jones** broke the 21,000 mark the first time on March 1, 2017 after President Trump delivers his “Address to the Nation”
- Stock market indices BSE index **Sensex** and NSE index **NIFTY** reach record levels (29,500 and 9,100 respectively) on March 15, 2017 post State Election results
- **Apple** market capitalization reaches \$ 700 billion on February 13, 2017; **Apple** at No 1 and **Google** at No 2 are the most valued companies today
- **Cisco** acquires **AppDynamics** (founded by India-born IIT Delhi Alum

Jyoti Bansal) for \$ 3.6 Billion on January 24, 2017

- Voice recognition leader **Nuance communications** acquires Delhi-based **mCarbon** on February 8, 2017 for estimated \$ 36 million
- **Snapchat** IPO creates history; more than \$ 24 Billion value on March 2, 2017, but loses steam in the next two weeks!
- **TechMahindra** acquires company **CJS** (U-based healthcare IT Services company) for \$ 110 million on March 6, 2017
- **HP** acquires flash-based storage company **Nimble Storage** (India-born Varun Mehta and Umesh Maheshwar) for \$ 1 Billion on March 7, 2017
- **Intel** buys Israel-based computer vision company focused on autonomous vehicle (driver-less car) **Mobileye** for \$ 15 Billion on Mar 13, 2017
- **Idea** and **Vodafone** India merge on Mar 19, 2017 to create the largest telecom operator in India with 400 million customers
- **Airtel** acquires **Tikona's** 4G business for Rs 1,600 crores on Mar 23, 2017

Indian IT Companies

- **TCS** sets a new record - \$ 1 Billion quarterly profit in September - December 2016 quarter; TCS CEO N Chandrasekaran takes charge as Chairman of Tata Sons (the largest private enterprise in India with more than \$ 100 Billion annual turnover and globally respected) on February 21, 2017
- **Airtel Payments Bank** starts All India operations on Jan 12, 2017
- **Cognizant** announces large-scale (6,000 to 10,000) job-cuts (unheard of Indian IT services industry in the past two decades) in March 2017 sending alarm signals among engineering college students in India

MNC's in India

- **Ness Technologies** to add 800 coders in 2017
- Storage technology leader **NetApp** announces Rs 1,000 Cr investment in Bangalore in February 2017
- **Boeing** R & D Center in Bangalore to get further investment
- **HP** acquires **Naira** – founded by India-born Sriram Ramachandran and Prasad Palkar, who were earlier part of Aruba, now a HP company – that uses behaviour-based machine learning for cyber security analytics - on February 1, 2017
- **Truecaller** starts India Development Centre in Bangalore on February 21, 2017
- **Mercedes Benz** launches the first "Made in India" car on February 28, 2017 by launching its E Class Sedan
- Singapore-based **GrabTaxi** cab-hailing App company starts R&D center in Bangalore in March 2017
- **Cisco** starts selling " Made in India" routers on March 23, 2017

Education & Research

- **Infosys Science Prize** award ceremony was held on January 7, 2017
- **Five new IIT's** (Dharwad, Palakkad, Tirupati, Bhilai, Goa) get their Directors (Professors P Seshu, PB Sunil Kumar, K N Satyanarayana, Rajat Moona, BK Mishra respectively) in **January – February 2017**
- **Indian Institute of Science**, Bangalore is the 8th among the Top 10 global small universities (Best Small Universities in the World for 2017, Times Higher Education Ranking)

People

- TCS CEO **Chandrasekaran** takes charge as Chairman of India's largest business house **Tata Sons** on February 21, 2017 creates maximum buzz
- **Google CEO Sundar Pichai** visits India in January 2017
- **Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella** visits Bangalore and announces exclusive deal on Azure for the Indian e-commerce major FlipKart on February 20, 2017
- **IBM India MD Vineetha Narayanan** is elevated as Chairman; **Karen Bajwa** (ex Microsoft India MD) is the new MD effective January 2017
- **Justice Kher** takes charge on January 4, 2017 as the **44th Chief Justice** of India
- **Anant Maheshwari** is the new **Microsoft India Chairman** effective January 2017
- **Rajesh Gopinathan** is the new **CEO** and **NG Subramanian** is the new **COO** of **TCS** effective February 21, 2017
- India-born **Ajit Pai** is the new head of **FCC** (Federal Communications Commission) in USA
- **Airbnb** CEO Brian Chesky visits India in March 2017 and talks positively about Indian market

Telecom

- **Airtel** removes national roaming charges on February 27, 2017 and appeals to international community to drop international roaming charges
- **Tata** and **DoCoMo** decide to settle the long pending issue with \$ 1.2 Billion out of court settlement on February 28, 2017
- **Idea** and **Vodafone** India merge on Mar 19, 2017 to create the largest telecom operator in India with 400 million customers

Startup scene

- India Russia to set up \$ 1 Billion fund to fund startups

- **PayTM** (mobile wallet company with Payment Bank license) crosses 200 million wallets and more than half a million users a day in February 2017
- **BankBazaar** targets 100 million customers by 2017 end
- **ClearTax** to increase headcount to 400 in March 2017
- **Snapdeal** announces massive job cuts on February 23, 2017
- **Stayzilla** shuts shop on February 23, 2017
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Interesting applications

- **PVR Pictures** introduces **theatre-on-demand** service

Interesting numbers

- **PayTM** had Rs 5,000 Crores worth transactions and 200 million transactions in January 2017; with 192 million customers it is just 10 million short of SBI!
- **Delhi Airport** handles more than 50 million passengers during January - December 2016 with 15 million of them being International; together with Mumbai, the two airports carry 2/3rd of Indian Air traffic!
- **BHIM** App (mobile payment App launched by Prime Minister in end December 2016, that transfers money directly between bank accounts easily, securely and without sharing bank account details) sees 18 Million downloads within 60 days

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