

## IT in Jan-Mar 2018



**Prof. S. Sadagopan**  
Director, IIIT-Bangalore  
[ss@iiitb.ac.in](mailto:ss@iiitb.ac.in)

### General

- January 3, 2018 announcement of **security bugs** (“Meltdown” and “Spectre”) in processor chips causes havoc in tech industry
- Cape Town in South Africa runs **out of water** in February 2018; many cities including Bangalore likely to follow suit in the next decade
- Punjab National Bank **scam** hogs the limelight much of February 2018 in Indian media
- Facebook loses \$ 35 Billion of market value in a day on March 18, 2018; its founder Mark Zuckerberg issues full page apology in leading newspapers in USA; India’s Supreme Court continues hearing on AADHAAR; UK-based consulting company “Cambridge Analytica” in the news for all the wrong reasons – all leading to lots of attention on **data protection**
- With USA and China getting into competitive protectionist measures, the world starts to have a sort of **trade war** starting March 2018

### Technology

- **ISRO** successfully launches 31 **satellites** on January 12, 2018 and hits a century of ISRO’s own satellites; unfortunately, its communication satellite launched on March 31, 2018 is still “out of reach”
- India hosts **global solar technology alliance** for the first time in Delhi on March 11, 2018 with over 150+ countries represented in the event
- **P&W engine trouble** leads to hundreds of flight cancellations in India by IndiGo and other Airlines in March 2018

### Products

- **Xiaomi Redmi 5** and **OnePlus 5T** mobile phones launched in the first quarter of 2018 in India
- The world saw multiple product launches including **NOKIA 8** and **Samsung Galaxy 9** during **Mobile World Congress** (February 26 to March 1, 2018); Samsung launches **Galaxy 9 in India** on March 6, 2018
- **Western Digital** announces 14 TB disk drive availability by July 2018 on March 13, 2018
- **Apple** launches new products focused on schools including \$ **299 iPad** in March 2018

### Markets

- **Indian stock markets** in a roller coaster; NSE’s **NIFTY** crossed 10,700 for the first time on January 15, 2018; BSE’s **Sensex** crosses 35,000 for the first time on January 17, 2018, but there was a crash soon after; **Sensex** tanks 840 points on February 2, 2018 a day after the Union Budget; the up and down journey continued for the full quarter; global stock markets were no different; **Dow Jones index** recorded the biggest single day fall since August 2011 on February 5, 2018 and again on February 8, 2018 wiping out \$ 4 Trillion globally; USA China trade war continues to spook the markets in March 2018 leading to another crash on March 23, 2018
- **HDFC Bank** market value crosses ₹ 5 Trillion in January 2018
- 70-year old iconic store chain “**Toys R Us**” becomes history in March 2018 with 800+ outlets shutting down
- In mergers & acquisitions in the quarter saw the iconic **Xerox** getting acquired by **Fuji** on January 31, 2018 after 115 years of existence; in January 2018 **BirlaSoft** and **KPIT** merge; **Quess Corporation** acquires online recruitment company **Monster**; **InMobi** acquires Los Angeles based **AerServ** for \$ 90 Million; in March 2018,

**QuestGlobal** acquires **Exilant** (founded by ex-Infosys employees in 2004) and **Wipro** acquires 30% stake in US-based Cybersecurity firm **Denim group**

- **IPO scene** in the quarter saw successful IPO by **NewGen Software** (subscribed more than 8 times) in January 2018, **Bandhan Bank** (subscribed more than 14 times) in March 18,2018 and weak show by **ICICI Securities** and **Hindustan Aeronautics** in March 2018

### Indian IT Companies

- **Salil Parekh** takes over as **Infosys CEO** on January 2, 2018
- **TCS** and **Infosys** announce good quarterly results on January 11 & 12 respectively
- **TCS** bags multi-year \$ 2 Billion **TransAmerica** order - the largest ever for TCS; TCS market cap crosses ₹ 6 Trillion on January 25, 2018
- **Ola goes to Australia** in January 2018
- **Wipro** acquires 30% stake in US-based Cybersecurity firm **Denim** group and sells Data center business to **Ensano** for \$ 405 Million; invests in US-based AI start-up **Avamo**; starts **operations** in Piano, Texas in **USA** all in the first quarter 2018
- **Infosys** starts 4th Development Center in USA in Indianapolis in March 2018
- Indian mid-size IT services firm **Zensar** acquires US-based AI Startup **Cynosure** for \$ 33 Million on March 23, 2018
- **Tejas Networks** gets ₹ 336 Cr **BharatNet** order from BSNL on March 28, 2018
- **Cognizant** gets into tax difficulty with its accounts frozen for a week in March 2018

### MNC Companies in India

- **Google** fined by Competition Commission of India in February 2018 for unfair advertisement placement in search queries
- **Amazon** pumps more money into **Amazon Pay** in India in March 2018
- **Wistron** to invest ₹ 680 Cr in Bangalore Factory
- **Informatica** announces its plans to hire 350 in Bangalore

### People

- Dr. Sivan takes over as ISRO Chairman on January 10, 2018
- High-profile visitors to India in the quarter include **Israel Prime Minister** in January 2018, **IBM global CEO**, **Uber CEO**, **Iranian President** and **Canadian President** in February 2018 and **French President** in March 2018
- **IIT Bombay Alumnus Parag Agarwal** becomes Twitter CTO in March 2018
- **Chinese Premier Xi** set to rule China for life as per Parliament decision of March 10, 2018
- Renowned Scientist **Stephen Hawking** passed away on March 14, 2018

### Interesting start-up activities

- **InMobi** buys **AerServ** for ₹ 58 Cr on January 10, 2018
- Pune-based Travel Assistant App **Mezi** acquired by **American Express** on January 30, 2018
- EduTech start-up **Byju's** started by Byju Raveendran turn Unicorn in March 2018
- Hackathons are a craze! 2-Day **National hackathon** at Nagpur in March 2018 saw 40 winners out of 10,000+ students representing 1,296 teams from 28 nodal centers across India; even **Vatican** had a hackathon **vHacks** in March 2018

### Education & Research

- Computer Architecture pioneers Professors John L Hennessy and David A Patterson get **Turing Award** for 2018
- **UGC** announces **graded autonomy**; 60 Universities get autonomy in the first place (25 Universities under Category 1, 27 Universities under Category 2 and 8 Autonomous Colleges)
- With President giving assent to the **IIM Bill**, the Institutes get powers to award degrees on January 1, 2018; **IIMB** takes the lead in conferring MBA on March 28, 2018
- **Krea University** in Sri City - a new generation Liberal Arts university - with Mr. R Seshasayee (ex CII President and Ashok Leyland Chairman) as Chairman to start functioning from 2019

## Interesting Applications

- **WhatsApp payment** beta starts in February 2018 with one million customers in India

## Interesting mobile apps

- With Congress accusing **Narendra Modi App** of stealing data and BJP accusing **Congress App** of doing the same and Congress deciding to withdraw the App later, **mobile Apps** hog limelight

## Interesting numbers

- Indians sent 20 Billion WhatsApp messages (globally 75 Billion) on New Year day 2018
- Apple sold more watches (8 Million in October to December 2017) than the entire Swiss watch industry!
- **India's mobile phone subscribers** and **wireline subscribers** as of January 31, 2018 stood at 1152 Million and 24 Million as per TRAI Press Release 35/2018 release of March 23, 2018
- **India's foreign exchange reserves** March 31, 2018 stood at \$ 424 Billion (a record) (RBI)
- **Indian Rupee Vs USD** was at 65.07 on March 31, 2018 (RBI)

---

Professor Sowmyanarayanan Sadagopan is the Director of IIIT-Bangalore. These are his personal views. He can be reached at [ss@iiitb.ac.in](mailto:ss@iiitb.ac.in)

---

## Six Cs of Clean Tech

The Clean Tech Revolution: The Next Big Growth and Investment Opportunity is a 2007 book by Ron Pernick and Clint Wilder,

Pernick and Wilder identify six major forces, which they call the six C's, that are pushing clean technology into the mainstream and driving rapid growth and expansion: costs, capital, competition, China, consumers, and climate.

- **Costs.** "Perhaps the most powerful force driving today's clean-tech growth is simple economics. As a general trend, clean-energy costs are falling as the costs of fossil fuel energy are going up. The future of clean tech is going to be, in many ways, about scaling up manufacturing and driving down costs."
- **Capital.** "An unprecedented influx of capital is changing the clean tech landscape, with billions of dollars, euros, yen, and yuan pouring in from a myriad of public and private sector sources."
- **Competition.** "Governments are competing aggressively in the high stakes race to dominate in the clean-tech sector and build the jobs of the future."
- **China.** "Clean tech is being driven by the inexorable demands being placed on the earth not only by mature economies but also by the explosive demand for resources in China, India, and other developing nations. Their expanding energy needs are driving major growth in clean-energy, transportation, building, and water-delivery technologies."
- **Consumers.** "Savvy consumers are demanding cleaner products and services that use resources efficiently, reduce costs, and embrace quality over quantity."
- **Climate.** "The debate around climate\_change has gone from question mark to peer-reviewed certainty, and smart businesses are taking heed."

The six C's are a simple list of factors, not necessarily a useful framework for understanding, or profiting from, the clean technology industry.