

**What's hot in IT
An Indian Perspective
August 2019**

Universities

- Government announces the starting of 75 new medical colleges over the next five years on Aug 22, 2019

Science & Technology

- ISRO successfully completed all earth-bound maneuvers of **Moon Mission; Chandrayaan II** reached Moon Orbit on August 20, 2019; all set for Rover landing on September 7, 2019
- The Director General of the renowned Research Lab **CERN** (WWW originated in CERN), Dr **Fabiola Gianotti** visits Bangalore and gives a Public Lecture on Aug 30, 2019; the marquee Research Lab has 18,000 scientists (with 400 scientists of Indian origin) and \$ 12 Billion annual funding!

Policy

- **Finance Minister** Nirmala Sitharaman announces a slew of measures to boost the economy and improve investor / market sentiment on August 23, 2019; follows it up with another announcement on August 30, 2019 announcing Public Sector Banks consolidation
 - **Punjab National Bank** with **OBC** and **United Bank**
 - **Canara Bank** and **Syndicate Bank**
 - **Union Bank** with **Andhra Bank** and **Corporation Bank**
 - **Indian Bank** with **Allahabad Bank**,

This follows the earlier consolidation exercise - **State Banks'** consolidation and **Dena Bank** and **Vijaya Bank** merger with **Bank of Baroda**. Markets react to the first announcement with Sensex gaining 839 points on August 26, 2019; the second announcement too is expected to be well-received by the markets on Sep 3, 2019
- Government of India allows **100% FDI in coal mining** and eases rules for **Single Brand retail** operations on Aug 23, 2019
- Tamil Nadu flags off its first **Electric Bus** on Aug 28, 2019
- **RBI to transfer Rs 1.76 Crores** to Government of India in the year 2019-20; unusually high in India
- Prime Minister's Independence Day announcement of August 15, 2019, talks of a **new Services Chief** to coordinate within Army, Navy & Air Force
- **Reserve Bank of India lowers Repo rate by 35 basis points** (a new record) on August 7, 2019
- Modi government passes the historic Jammu & Kashmir re-organization legislation on August 5-6, 2019 in both the Houses of the Parliament

Special events and Milestones

- **Hong Kong** stir continues all of August 2019
- US lost 20+ lives in shooting incident in El Paso, Dallas in early August 2019

Products

- **Ru-Pay** (India's own credit / debit card, on the lines of Visa / MasterCard / China Pay) launched in Bhutan on August 18, 2019 and in UAE on Aug 30, 2019
- **Google Nest** launched in India at Rs 9,999 on Aug 26, 2019
- Reliance **Jio Fiber** launched on August 18, 2019
- **Huawei** launches Harmony O/S on its phone with US Government clamping Google from selling Android to Huawei on August 8, 2019
- **Apple** launched its virtual card on Aug 6, 2019 (along with Goldman Sachs); it was announced by Apple way back in March 2019

Markets

- **MasterCard** buys Denmark-based payments **Nets** for \$ 3.15 Billion on August 7, 2019

Indian IT Companies

- **TechMahindra** acquires US-based design consultancy firm **Mad*Pow** on Aug 1, 2019

MNC IT Companies in India

- The \$ 2 Billion SaaS major **ServiceNow** decides to grow its Hyderabad operations and increase headcount from 1,200 to 2,400
- With Government allowing single brand retail with 100% FDI **Apple** decides to start selling Apple products directly on e-Com site in the next 6 months and dedicated Apple Store in the next 12-18 months
- Mobile handset maker **ViVo** to pump Rs 1,000 Cr in Indian operations
- **Automation Anywhere** to invest Rs 2150 Cr in India as per Aug 22, 2019 announcement
- Mobile phone major **OnePlus** to invest Rs 1,000 Cr in Hyderabad R & D Center and take the headcount to 1,000 (from its current 200) over the next 3 years
- **Amazon** invests Rs 1,500 Cr in **Future Group**, as part of its retail push
- **GIS** major **EdgeView** starts India R & D Center on August 18, 2019

People

- Dr **Sudhir Jain** gets a third term as the **Director of IIT-GN**, unusual in India; **Dr Murthy** is the new **Director of IIT-H**
- **PV Sindhu** creates history on Aug 25, 2019; she is the first Indian to be a **World Badminton Champion**
- Former President **Pranab Mukherjee** gets **Bharat Ratna** – the highest civilian award – on August 8, 2019
- Former Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** passed away on August 24, 2019; Foreign Minister **Sushma Swaraj** passed away suddenly on August 6, 2019
- **Bhaskar** Rao is the new **Commissioner of Bangalore Police** effective August 2019
- **D Chatterjee** is the CEO of **Mindtree** effective August 1, 2019
- **Rajiv Kumar** is the new Finance Secretary of the Government of India – a key position in Indian Government – effective August 2019
- **Café Coffee Day** founder and the iconic entrepreneur from Bangalore **VG Siddhartha** had a tragic end of his life on July 29, 2019 (confirmed on August 1, 2019)

Start-up Scene

- **ThoughtSpot**, a start-up in AI (founded by ex Nutanix founders) get \$ 248 Million funding on Aug 28, 2019 and become yet another Unicorn by market value
- **ET Start-up Awards** announced on Aug 23, 2019
- **Ola** acqui-hires **pickup.ai** on August 13, 2019

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