

What's hot in IT An Indian Perspective - March 2019

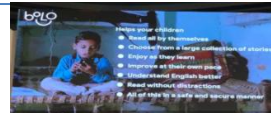
Universities, Science & Technology, Policy, Special events and Milestones

- AI pioneers **Yoshua Benigo** (Univ. of Montreal), **Geoffrey Hinton** (Univ. of Toronto) and **Yann LeCun** (New York Univ.) win **Turing Award** (the Nobel Prize in Computing) on **March 28, 2019**
- **Abel Prize 2019** goes to Norwegian woman (the first time ever for a woman) Prof. Karen Uhlenbeck of UT Austin
- **India** successfully demonstrates capability to shoot down Low Earth Orbit satellite, joining an elite club - the 4th Nation with such capability
- Google and Facebook suffer outage lasting several hours in **March 2019**
- **Election Commission** announces date of **General Elections to the 17th Parliament** on **March 10, 2019**; **April 11 to May 19** are the election days and with May 23, 2019 is the day of counting!
- **UIDAI** decision to charge Rs 20 per eKYC transaction on March 9, 2019 to upset the apple-cart of Fintech companies
- **Supreme Court** appoints **mediation council** to find a solution within 8 weeks for the vexed **Ayodhya problem** on **March 7, 2019**
- **US Senate** votes to **end local emergency** in US Southern border on **March 14, 2019**
- **WWW** turns 30 in March 2019
- **Wikipedia** turns 18 on **March 12, 2019**
- **Kirloskar Industries** turns 100 in **March 2019**
- British Parliament votes to delay **Brexit** on **March 13, 2019**; Prime Minister Theresa May suffers another loss of vote on March 29, 2019; BRExit is in deep trouble
- Mozambique storm, Plane crash, New Zealand bombing, Mumbai bridge collapse and Dharwad building collapse cause lots of human misery in **March 2019**



Products

- **Apple** launches **TV App, News and Credit Card** on **Mar 25, 2019** in an exclusive event in SFO
- **Google** launches **Google Music App** in India on **March 12, 2019**
- **Google Bolo App** launched in India on **March 6, 2019**, targeting rural children
- **Galaxy S-10** and **S10+** launched by **Samsung** in India on **March 6, 2019**



Markets

- Markets ended high by the end of the financial year 2018-19 with BSE touching 39,000 and NSE touching 11,500 by **March 31, 2019** (the last day of trading) representing 9% increase over the year
- **L & T Infotech** hostile take-over of Mindtree kept March alive
- Japanese **Murta** picks up stakes in Coimbatore-based **Versa** on **March 10, 2019**
- **Arcelor-Mittal** wins bid for **Essar Steel** on **March 9, 2019**
- **NVIDIA** acquires chip maker **Mellanox** for \$ 4.9 Billion on **March 8, 2019**



Startup Scene

- **Mirace** of South Korea invests \$ 150 Million in **BigBasket**; with their valuation BigBasket turns Unicorn!
- Blockchain start-up "**New Street Tech**" gets Rs 14 Cr funding on **March 25, 2019**
- **Ola Cabs** gets its license revoked on **March 21, 2019**; gets back its license after paying Rs 15 L fine on **Mar 25, 2019**
- **90 Start-ups** get **Angel tax exemption** on **March 20, 2019**
- **PineLabs** acquires **Quiksilver** for \$ 110 Million on **March 19, 2019**
- **Hyundai & Kia Motors** invest \$ 300 Million in **Ola Cabs** on **March 12, 2019**
- **Zoho** acquires **ePoise** on **March 8, 2019**
- **Cognizant** acquires **MeritSoft** on **March 5, 2019**

People

- IIT-KGP Alumnus and IITB faculty Dr **Subasis Chaudhury** named **IITB Director**
- **Premji's** philanthropy touches Rs 100,000 Crores in **March 2019**
- **Mukesh Ambani** enters the global Top 10 Richest list in **March 2019**
- **Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal** steps down from the Board on **March 25, 2019** after 27 years as Chairman; Bank Consortium led by SBI take 51% control
- **Ghose** is the new Lokpal!
- **Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar** passed away on **March 17, 2019**; an IIT Bombay Alum and a humane person he was Goa Chief Minister four times and Union Defence Minister
- **Subhash Garg** is the new **Finance Secretary** from **March 9, 2019**
- **Adhya** is the Chairman for **BoB** (Bank of Baroda); assumes special significance as **Vijaya Bank** and **Dena Bank** are said to merge into **BoB** on **April 1, 2018**



MNC Companies in India

- **Google Pay** expands to 200,000 merchants in India in March 2019, thanks to **PineLabs** and **Innoviti**



Interesting numbers

- **Multi-modal transport card Swagat** launched on **March 4, 2019**



Indian IT Companies

- **Infosys** buys 75% stake in **Stater** - an **ABN AMRO** subsidiary - for \$ 130 million on **March 29, 2019**
- **HCL** signs contract worth \$ 1.3 Billion with **Xerox** 2019
- **Infosys** gets **Rolls Royce** contract on March 7, 20
- **Kirloskar** turns 100 in **March 2019**



General

- Several governments around the world, including Indian Government, decide to ground Boeing 737 Max planes in **March 2019**; Boeing sees \$ 42 Billion loss of market capitalization on a single day on **March 13, 2019**
- **Ethiopian Airlines** crash leaves 171 dead (including 4 Indians) on **March 8, 2019**
- For the third year in a row, **Indore** is the **cleanest city** in India