

**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 applecart 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

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** on March 1, 2019
- **Infosys** gets **Rolls Royce** contract on March 7, 2019
- **Kirloskar** turns **100** in March 2019

MNC IT Companies in India

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

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
- **Adhiya** 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

Start-up 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 **Quikcilver** 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

Interesting applications

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

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