

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

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

- **IISc** researchers claim **super-conductivity at room temperature** on May 27, 2019
- Engineering college seats approved by **AICTE drop** from 28.71 Lakhs in 2017-18 to 27.12 Lakhs in 2018-19; for 2019-20 it will drop further to 24.92 Lakhs!
- **SpaceX launched** its first set of **60 satellites** (of the 12,000 planned over 6 years) on May 23, 2019 to provide Internet connectivity
- **ISRO** successfully launches **RISAT-2B** Radar Imaging satellite on May 22, 2019
- After its first successful test flight on May 4, 2019 in Munich, **Lilium** starts 5-seater Air taxi with 300 KM range electric plane on May 16, 2019, a revolution in passenger flight
- **US President** imposes **\$ 200 Billion duty** on **Chinese** imports on May 9, 2019; China retaliates and hikes duty on most US goods from June 1, 2019; **technology war** hots up on May 20, 2019 with **Google** restricting Android access to **Huawei**; **Intel**, **QUALCOMM** getting forced to restrict supply / sourcing of components to / from China
- **Indian Parliamentary Elections** saw Narendra Modi led NDA coming to power on May 23, 2019 with a thumping majority
- **Shoot-out in USA** kills dozen people on May 31, 2019; fire in Surat Coaching Center kills dozen people on May 30, 2019; Super **cyclone Fani** causes extensive damage to life and property in **Odisha** on **May 3** and **West Bengal & Bangaldesh** on **May 4, 2019**; thankfully, there was minimum loss of lives thanks to extensive planning and coordination by the State governments and Central government

**Products**

- **Greaves Cotton** launches electric scooter **Ampere Zeal** for Indian markets on May 28, 2019; it is priced at Rs 66,950 (after Rs 18,000 subsidy from Government under FAME II Policy)
- **Apple** launches **iPod** (priced at \$ 199) after four years on May 28, 2019
- **OnePlus** launches **7 Pro** in Bangalore on May 20, 2019
- **NOKIA** launches **Nokia 4.2** in India priced @ Rs 10,000 on May 10, 2019
- **Google** announces **Pixel 3** phone on May 10, 2019 (part of multiple announcements during **Google I/O**)

**Markets**

- India's stock market index **Sensex** touches 39,593 on Exit Polls predicting NDA victory on May 20, 2019 and went past 40,000 on NDA victory on May 23, 2019; Rupee gained nearly a Rupee on May 20, 2019
- **HPE** acquires **Cray** (the only company focused exclusively on super computers, founded by super computer pioneer Seymour Cray) on May 18, 2019
- **Uber IPO** is finally through in May 6, 2019; priced at \$ 45 Uber raises \$ 8.1 Billion, but loses value on the very first day of trading! In fact, created history by way of losing the maximum on Day 1 among all IPO's post 1975!

## Indian IT Companies

- **Mindtree** starts delivery center in Atlanta in USA in May 2019
- **TCS** is **No 1** most-valued Indian company bypassing Reliance on May 5, 2019
- With 2018-19 turnover of \$ 8.6 Billion **HCL** is **No. 3** Indian IT Services company (next to TCS and Infosys) bypassing Wipro with 2018-19 turnover of \$ 8.1 Billion

## MNC IT Companies in India

- **Goldman Sachs** starts a new delivery center in Bangalore with 1.25 Million square feet space to host 7,300 people at a cost of \$ 250 Million on May 30, 2019 (it will be the third center globally for GS)
- Swiss Bank **UBS** hired 1,900 people in India in 2018-19 as per its May 2019 Report
- **Texas Instruments** (TI) gets approval from Government for an additional R & D facility in Bangalore in May 2019; the near Rs 1,000 Crore facility near International Airport will house 2,000 engineers. TI was the first MNC to bet on India with a facility in Bangalore set up way back in 1985!
- **MasterCard** to invest \$ 1 Billion over the next years in India as per May 6, 2019 announcement
- AI driven Analytics firm based of Silicon Valley **ThoughtSpot** to invest \$ 25 Million in Bangalore R & D center as per May announcement
- Fintech start-up **Samco** commissions its Rs 20 Crore R&D Center in Chennai in May 2019

## People

- **Narendra Modi** takes oath as **India's Prime Minister** for a second time on May 30, 2019
- **UK Prime Minister** Theresa May announces her decision to **step down** in June on May 24, 2019
- **US Billionaire pays off students loan for 400 students** on May 20, 2019
- **Wal-Mart International CEO** Judith McKenna visits FlipKart Bangalore supply chain centre during May 2-3, 2019
- **Japanese new Emperor Naruhito** is sworn in on May 1, 2019 (Emperor Akihito abdicated his power on April 30, 2019)
- **Yogi Deveshwar** who transformed **ITC** from a cigarette company into an FMCG biggie over 25 years, passed away on May 11, 2019

## Start-up Scene

- **FlipKart** set to acquire **Namdharis** in May 2019

## Interesting applications

- RBI (Reserve Bank of India) extends the window of operations for **RTGS** by another 90 minutes (430 PM to 6 pm) from June 1, 2019 by facilitating online payments over longer period

### **Interesting numbers**

- **Reliance Industries** with annual 2018-19 turnover of Rs 6.23 Lakhs Crores is bigger than **Indian Oil** with Rs 6.17 Crores, the first time ever!
- **GST** collection for May is stagnant at Rs 1 Lakh Crores

### **General**

- Narendra Modi led NDA coming to power with 300+ seats on May 23, 2019 creates history; the first Prime Minister after Nehru & Indira Gandhi to get a second term as Prime Minister. Congress Party (Grand Old Party of India) continues to suffer with miniscule size of 52 seats!

---

Professor Sowmyanarayanan Sadagopan ([ss@iiitb.ac.in](mailto:ss@iiitb.ac.in)) is the Director of IIIT-Bangalore. These are his personal views. He has been writing on "What's hot in IT" from an Indian perspective continuously from 1997; Times of India, Financial Express and IT Magazine carried the monthly (and yearly columns) till 2016; IEEE India has been carrying the quarterly columns since 2017