

# What's hot in IT An Indian Perspective - Jan 2019

## Universities, Science & Technology, Policy

- **JEE Mains 2019** held in January 2019 by National Testing Agency in online mode spread over **January 9, 10, 11 & 12**; results declared on **January 19, 2019** (10 days ahead of time); nearly 10 Lakhs took the exam; one more attempt available for students in **April 2019**
- **Drone Policy 2.0** enters Draft stage and ready for comments on **January 15, 2019**
- **Doordarshan Science channel** launched on **January 15, 2019** by DST Secretary & S&T Minister
- Micro-satellite "**KalamSat**" weighing little over 1 Kg (designed by students with guidance from NGO SpaceKidz India) was put in orbit by **ISRO** on **January 24, 2019**
- **PhD students' stipend** amounts increased from Rs 25,000 to Rs 31,000 by Government of India on **January 31, 2019**
- **AICTE** cuts 40,000 engineering seats and decides not to give permission for new engineering colleges for 2 years, on **January 31, 2019**
- 600 **Indian students "trapped"** in USA by fake university created by INS in **January 2019**



## Markets

- **Byju's**, Bangalore-based learning solutions company acquires US-based learning games company **Osmo** for \$ 120 million on **January 16, 2019**
- Bangalore-based analytics firm **Fractal** gets \$ 200 Million capital infusion from **Apax** on **January 16, 2019**
- **Bain Capital** acquires majority stake in **Brillio** (Bangalore-based and Santa Clara headquartered) analytics / digital company on **January 15, 2019**
- **Apple** revises quarterly revenue target downward from \$ 89 Billion to \$ 84 Billion in **January 2019**, the first ever in 15 years, and its stock price falls by 7% on the very first day in 2019
- **Indian start-ups** raise \$ 38.3 Billion in 2018 (LiveMint **January 3, 2019**)



## Indian IT Companies

- **TCS** posts good results on **January 10, 2019**, with the highest-ever **quarterly profit Rs 8,105 Crores**; its Brand value takes it to global No 3 (next only to Accenture & IBM) as per Brand Finance Report of **January 23, 2019**; makes 30,000 offers in 2018-19 season (up from 20,000+ last year)
- **Infosys** posts good quarterly results on **January 11, 2019**; important, considering the fact that the **new CEO Salil Parekh** just completed a year on **January 2, 2019**; bags Rs 4,241 Crores Income Tax order on **January 16, 2019**; its **Verizon** contract value goes up from \$ 750 Million to 1 Billion in **January 2019**
- **Wipro** quarterly (Oct - Dec) profits jump 30%; quarterly revenue crosses \$ 2 Billion



## Startup Scene

- **MilkBasket** starts Bangalore operations on **January 15, 2019**
- **Byju's**, Bangalore-based learning solutions company acquires US-based learning games company **Osmo** for \$ 120 million on **January 16, 2019**
- Bangalore-based analytics firm **Fractal** gets \$ 200 Million capital infusion from **Apax** on **January 16, 2019**
- **Bain Capital** acquires majority stake in **Brillio** (Bangalore-based and Santa Clara headquartered) analytics / digital company on **January 15, 2019**
- Online car trading start-up **CarDekho** raises \$ 110 Million on **January 3, 2019**

## Interesting Application and APPs

- Finance Ministry's "**ITR Filing 2.0**" order of Rs 4,241 Crores goes to **Infosys** on **January 16, 2019**
- **Finance Ministry** starts an interesting **Budget Series** on **Twitter (January 15 to February 1)**

## Interesting numbers

- **RIL** posts Rs 10,251 Crores profit for October - December 2018 quarter, the first private enterprise to cross Rs 10,000 quarterly profit; for the same period, **TCS** posts **Rs. 8,105 Crores** profit, the highest ever
- **ModiCare (Aayushman Bharat)** treats **6,85,000 patients** free of cost in the first 100 days

## Products

- **CES 2019 (Jan 7 - 10)** had many products show-cased, but nothing spectacular



## General

- **Tata** brand reaches the global **Top 100** (the only entry from India) in **January 2019**
- **UK Prime Minister** loses "Brexit poll" but narrowly wins "confidence vote" in **January 2019**
- **JLL Survey** puts **Bangalore as No 1** in the list of "Most Dynamic Cities" (2019 Edition of City Momentum)
- **GST** doubled the exemption limits for MSME's (from Rs 20 Lakhs to Rs 40 Lakhs per year) on **January 10, 2019**
- **Kumbh Mela** in Prayagraj (erstwhile Allahabad) starts at 4 AM on **January 15, 2019**; 150 million visitors expected over 2 months (Jan 15 (Sankranti) to March 6 (Mahashivratri)); 800 special trains, 50,000-strong security force, 220 KM of road, thousands of doctors, hundreds of tents, 4000 Wi-Fi hotspots and 1,20,000 toilets Kumbh Mela 2019 is spectacular in every respect
- **US Government shut-down** that started on **December 22, 2018** continued for the longest time till **January 25, 2019**
- **CES 2019 (January 8 - 11, 2019)** at Las Vegas show-cased many exciting products; however, most of them including LG foldable TV's were incremental, rather than breakthrough innovations
- **620 Km long human chain** from Kasrgod to Thiruvananthapuram with 3.5 Million participants create history in Kerala on **January 1, 2019**
- Government introduces Constitutional Amendment (103 Amendment 2019) "**quota for economically backward people**" on **January 9, 2019**; it is passed in both the Houses (Parliament & Rajya Sabha) and with Presidential nod on **January 12, 2019** becomes a law, one of the fastest legislation in Indian Parliamentary history
- **CBI Chief Alok Varma** is reinstated and transferred; but, he decides to retire; all within days, unfortunate developments for the country

## MNC IT Companies in India

- With 9,100 **patents** in 2018 (with more than 4,000 patents in AI), **IBM** continues its record of holding the No 1 position for 26 years; interestingly, 800 of them were from IBM India, the largest for IBM outside USA
- **Volkswagen** starts India Tech Centre in Pune on **January 19, 2019**
- **SAP India** to see 400+ **layoffs** (part of 4,400 planned layoff globally) in **January 2019**



## People

- Computer scientist **Dr Subhash Kak**, **ISRO** scientist (who was wrongly punished accused of terrorist link) **Dr Nambi Narayan**, **Cisco** Chairman **John Chambers**, **Adobe** CEO **Santanu Narain** and **L&T** Chairman **AM Naik** are part of Padma awards 2019
- **Vinod Kumar Yadav** is the new **Railway Board Chairman** (effective **January 1, 2019**), heading the organization with nearly 1.5 Million staff
- **Intel** names Interim CEO **Bob Swan** as **permanent CEO** on **January 31, 2019**



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