

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

**Universities**

- Sponsored **Research grants** scale new heights in IIT's; **IIT-Madras** earns more than Rs 500 Crores in 2018-19; **IIT-Delhi** and **IIT-Bombay** are not far behind
- **IIIT Council** announces in its October 16 meeting, several interesting options including inter-institutional faculty and student transfers
- **IIT-Delhi** starts a **Billion Dollar fund raising** campaign, the first such large-scale fund collection drive; FlipKart founders **Bansals** kick off the drive with **Rs 125 Crores** donation

**Science & Technology**

- Google claims quantum computing breakthrough on October 27, 2019 with its quantum computers beating the reported fastest computer
- The first-ever "**all female**" **space-walk** by Christina Koch and Jessica Meir on October 18, 2019 sets a new record
- **Nobel Prizes** for 2019 announced in October;
  - Announced on October 7, 2019, Nobel Prize in **Medicine 2019** went to **William Kaelin Jr of Harvard, USA, Sir Peter Ratcliffe of Oxford, UK and Gregg Semenza of Johns Hopkins, USA** for their contributions "how cells adapt to oxygen availability"
  - Announced on October 8, 2019, Nobel Prize in **Physics 2019** went to **James Peebles of Princeton, USA, Michael Mayor of Geneva, Switzerland, Didier Queloz of Cambridge, UK**
  - Announced on October 9, 2019, Nobel Prize in **Chemistry 2019** went to **John Goodenough of UT Austin, USA, Stanlet Whittingham of Binghamton, USA and Akira Yoshimo of Meijo, Nagoya, Japan** for their work on "Lithium-ion batteries"
  - Announced on October 10, 2019 Nobel Prize for **Literature 2018** went to for Polish author **Olga Tokarzuck** and Nobel Prize for **Literature 2019** went to **Australian author Peter Handke**; 2018 and 2019 were announced together, for the first time!
  - Announced on October 11, 2019, Nobel **Peace** prize **2019** went to **Abiy Ahmed Ali, Ethiopian Prime Minister**
  - Announced on October 14, 2019 Nobel Prize in **Economics 2019** went to **Abhijit Banerjee & Esther Duflo of MIT USA** and Michael Kramer of **Harvard, USA**
  - Nobel had interesting **India connection** – the winners include Dr Abhijit Banerjee (who grew up in Kolkata and studied in Presidency College, Kolkata and JNU)
  - Nobel Prize 2019 had one of the oldest winners – **97 year old** John Goodenough, and a **couple** (Abhijit and Esther)
- India gets delivery of its **first Rafael Aircraft** from France on October 6, 2019 (Vijayadasami Day)

**Policy**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announcing a slew of measures to address the sagging economy in September 2019 is followed by "**IT returns going faceless**" (with minimum human intervention to avoid collusion from October 8, 2019 (Vijayadasami))

**Special events and Milestones**

- **Prime Minister Modi** hosts **Chinese Prime Minister Xi Jinping** at Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu for a Summit during October 11-12, 2019
- **Reliance** quarterly **profits touch new high** of Rs 11,262 Crores for July – September 2019, the highest-ever for any private sector company in India (**Indian Oil** had the highest profit of Rs 14,512 Crores on 4Q2013). Similarly its **market capitalization** touches Rs 9 Lakh Crores, the highest ever for any Indian company (**TCS** mar-cap touched Rs 7.68 Lakh Crores in 2018)

- **Karnataka** in the **Top** State for Innovation as per NITI Aayog **National Innovation Index** launched on October 18, 2019
- **Maharashtra** and **Haryana Assembly Elections** on Oct 21, 2019; results on Oct 24, 2019. Haryana gets BJP government; Maharashtra is yet to get a new Government though BJP Shiv Sena win majority
- **PMC Bank** crisis in October causes misery to tens of thousands of its customers
- **Floods** in **Japan** leave a wave of destruction in October 2019 due to typhoon **Hagibis** on October 13, 2019
- **Brexit** confusion continues; the deadline of October 31, 2019 set by EU is revised to January 31, 2020; UK Prime Minister calls for Elections in December 2019! **Israel** continues its impasse on the choice of its Prime Minister; **Hong Kong** stir continues all of October 2019; **Japanese** royalty, **Thai** royalty see minor turbulence!

### Products

- **Xiaomi** launches **Note 8** and **Note 8 Pro** in India on October 2019
- **Nokia** launched Nokia 6.2 and Nokia 7.2 in India in October 2019
- **Google** launches **Pixel 4 phone** on October 18, 2019 (not to be sold in India)
- 1,600 **Samsung Fold Phones** sold in 3 minutes in India!
- **Microsoft** launches its **Tablet** products on October 2, 2019; announces **Surface Foldable phone**, but products to reach consumer hands only in 2020 Festival season!
- **Apple** iPhone sales see 10% rise in October 2019

### Markets

- **IRCTC IPO** on October 14, 2019 got oversubscribed 110 times! Stock price gained 29% on Day !
- **L&T Infotech** acquires **PowerUpCloud** for over Rs 100 Crores on October 16, 2019
- **Infosys** acquires Ireland-based 1,400-strong BPO **Eishtec** on October 8, 2019
- The over-hyped **WeWork** loses market cap steadily; misses IPO in October 2019
- **Amazon India** and **Flipkart Big Billion Days** Shopping Festival in September & October 2019 saw big increase in sales in an otherwise damp market condition

### Indian IT Companies

- **TCS** has second quarter (July – September) top line of Rs 38,977 Crores and bottom line of Rs 8,042 Crores; with addition of 14,097 its headcount touches 4,50,738 on October 31, 2019
- **Infosys** has second quarter (July – September) top line of Rs 22,629 Crores and bottom line of Rs 4,019 Crores
- **Wipro** has second quarter (July – September) top line of Rs 15,130 Crores and bottom line of Rs 2,561 Crores
- **Bajaj** re-launches an Electric version of its historic “**Chetak**” scooter in October 2019

### MNC IT Companies in India

- Cloud management & analytics company **Rubrik** opens its Bangalore R & D center on October 22, 2019
- **Microsoft India annual** revenue goes past \$ 1 Billion for the first time
- **Oracle** starts its first India data center in Mumbai on October 11, 2019; its second data center in Hyderabad will start soon in 2019-20
- **Johnson Controls Hitachi** Center starts operations in Kadi, Gujarat from October 2019
- **HP Inc.**, the printer major, announces its decision to cut 16% of its workforce (around 7,000), globally in October 2019

### People

## IT in India

- Bangalore-born Prashant Chandrasekar is the CEO of **StackOverflow** – the largest and most trusted open source Q&A community - from October 1, 2019
- There were several high-profile visitors to India in October; 2-day visit by **Chinese Premier**; 3-day visit by **Bangladesh Prime Minister**, and 5-day visit **Dutch King & Queen** during October 2019

### Interesting numbers

- India's stock market index **Sensex** touches 40,000 once gain (after significant losses) after 4 months on October 31, 2019
- India's **Foreign Exchange reserves** cross **\$ 440 Billion** for the first time in October 2019
- Prime Minister **Modi** has 30 Million followers on **Instagram** – the highest for any leader – on October 14, 2019
- Government announces **5% Dearness Allowance hike** effective July 1, 2019 on October 12, 2019
- **RBI** cuts **Repo rate** by 25 bps on October 4, 2019
- Mobile payment platform **UPI** volume exceeds debit card volume on October 1, 2019; touches 1 Billion mark on October 25, 2019

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