

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

Universities

- **IIT Council** announces several **sweeping changes** in its meeting held on September 28, 2019; **MTech fee** to see substantial **increase** and weak B Tech students to leave after 3 years with BSc degrees
- **IIT's** to add 4,320 seats in 2020-21; **IIIT's** to add 556 seats in the same period
- **Finance Minister** announces a policy change on September 20, 2019 that allows **CSR funding** to be used for R&D Funding in IIT's and Universities
- **SASTRA University** announces **Ramanujan Prize** for 2019 on September 20, 2019 to Dr **Adam Harper** of Warwick University, UK
- **Times Higher Education** ranking of September 14, 2019 leads to lots of confusion; 56 Indian Institutes in the Top 500 but none in Top 300 (for the first time after 2012); **IISc** that had been in the Top 300 for many years talks of "data error"; **other IIT's** join to take up "data errors" with the Agency; interestingly, **IIT-Ropar** and **IIT-Indore** take it to the Top 400!
- **IoE** (institutes of Eminence) list of September 5, 2019 gets **five new** additions – **IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Madras, BHU, Delhi University and Central University of Hyderabad** - on September 5, 2019 (Teachers Day)
- **IIT-Kanpur, BITS-Pilani and La Trobe University** of Australia agree to collaborate in the area of "Smart Cities" on September 3, 2019

Science & Technology

- **ISRO** gets **approval** from the global standard body **3GPP** for its **home-grown GPS "NavIC"** on September 24, 2019
- **India's Moon Mission Chandrayaan II** (that created global attention of the Space scientists) Rover **Vikram** managed to reach all but 2.1 KM of the 4,00,000+ KM journey to the Moon on 6th September 2019 night, but "crash lands"; luckily, the **Orbiter** successfully keeps sending Lunar images and said to be in good health with nearly one full year of life.
- Amazon's AI-based voice assistant device **Alexa** starts to **speak and understand Hindi** in September 2019

Policy

- Expenditure Finance Secretary clears the ambitious **Rs 7,500 Cr AI Mission** on September 10, 2019
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** announces a slew of measures to address the sagging economy; IT returns goes "faceless" from October 7, 2019 (Vijayadasami); Public Sector consolidation on September 12, 2019; sops for the real estate sector on September 14, 2019; finally, corporate tax reduction on September 20, 2019 that led to nearly 2,000 point increase in Sensex (the highest single day gain in a decade)

Special events and Milestones

- **Prime Minister Modi** addresses **UN General Assembly** on September 29, 2019
- **Google turns 21** on September 27, 2019
- On September 27, 2019 Election Commission announces dates for **Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly Elections**; Oct 21 Election Day and Oct 24 Election results
- **Prime Minister Modi** and **President Trump** share the stage in a historic "Howdy Modi" event on September 22, 2019 in Houston, Texas
- **India Post Bank** turns 1 on September 10, 2019

- **Brexit** in deeper trouble with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson losing majority and deadline of October 1, 2019 is dangerously close!

- **Aramco** oil refinery in Saudi Arabia hit by Drones on September 14, 2019
- **Wikipedia** has a “blackout” for several hours on September 6, 2019
- **Hong Kong** stir continues all of September 2019

Products

- **Amazon** launches new **Echo devices** on September 25, 2019
- **OnePlus** launches its **TV's** globally in September 2019; launches immediately in India, including possible “Make in India” option soon!
- **Apple** launches **iPhone 11, Apple tv+, new iPad** versions on September 10, 2019
- **Android 10** is out in September 2019
- **Jio Fiber** rollout starts on September 5, 2019
- **Samsung** launches its **5G chipset Exynos 980** on September 5, 2019

Markets

- BSE Index **Sensex** has 1,800 point increase on September 20, 2019, following Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announcement of corporate tax reduction (the highest single-day gain in a decade)
- **Amazon India** and **Flipkart** announce their **Big Billion Days** Shopping Festival starting September 29, 2019; post record sales on Day 1
- **Microsoft** buys cloud migration software company **Movere** on September 5, 2019

Indian IT Companies

- **ITI Ltd.**, announces a **cloud services** for **PSU** (Public Sector Undertakings) on September 27, 2019
- **Infosys** reaches **Top spot** (No 3) in **Forbes 2019 “World’s Best Regarded Companies”** on September 25, 2019
- **TCS** signs **\$ 700 Million contract** (over 5 years) with **General Motors** and absorbs 1,300 professionals on its payroll on September 19, 2019
- **Mindtree** starts European operations on September 16, 2019
- **Infosys** opens the **6th Tech Center in USA in Arizona** on September 14, 2019
- **Wipro** gets \$ 300 Million services contract from **ICICI Bank** on September 5, 2019
- **TechMahindra** gets \$ 1 Billion contract from **AT&T** on September 5, 2019

MNC IT Companies in India

- China’s **Thunder Software** to invest \$ 500 Million over 5 years in its Bangalore operations
- **Siemens Healthineers** starts a **medical device manufacturing facility** in Electronics City in Bangalore on September 19, 2019
- **Manhattan Associates** starts a second Tech Center in Bangalore on September 18, 2019
- **PepsiCo** sets up a Tech Center in Hyderabad on September 10, 2019 (with 3,80,000 square feet space) and plans to hire 2,500 professionals over the next 3 years
- **Airbus Industries** opens its new Bangalore Tech Center facility on September 3, 2019 and plans to house 500 professionals

People

- **Bhatnagar Prizes** announced on September 26, 2019; of the 12 recipients, **Dr Manik Varma** of Microsoft India Research gets the Award for Engineering Science
- **Prashanth Chandrasekar** (Bangalore born) is the new CEO of **Stack Overflow** (the first port of call for 50 million developers, globally)!
- **Google** announces the starting of **Google AI Research Lab in India** and named **IIIT-Bangalore Professor Manish Gupta** as the **Head** on September 19, 2019
- **Ramkumar Ramamoorthy** named **Cognizant India MD** on September 19, 2019
- **British Prime Minister** loses majority on September 3, 2019; Brexit in trouble!

Start-up Scene

- **Prime Minister Modi** hands over the awards for **India-Singapore Hackaton** winners during **IIT Madras Convocation** on September 30, 2019
- Hotel room-aggregator **Oyo** announces on September 23, 2019 its decision to **raise** another **\$ 1 Billion**
- **HCL Technologies** acquires Hubli-based semiconductor start-up **Sankalp Semiconductor** for Rs 180 Cr on September 10, 2019; **Tier 2 Cities are getting their act right!**
- Food delivery startup **Zomato** lays off 600 people on September 10, 2019
- Pune-based Clean-tech startup **75F** gets \$ 18 Million funding on September 6, 2019
- **Mahindra & Mahindra** acquires 55% stake in cab company **Meru** on September 1, 2019

Interesting numbers

- Mobile payment platform **UPI** volume exceeds debit card volume on September 1, 2019

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