

What's hot in IT An Indian Perspective - January 2020

Science & Technology

ISRO launches its G-30 communications satellite from French Guiana on **January 17, 2020**; the first satellite launch for the year **2020**



Policy

Supreme Court in its order on **January 10, 2020** holds **Net access as basic right**; asks Government to restore Net access in Kashmir

Products

Microsoft withdraws support for **Windows 7** on **January 14, 2020**

Special events and Milestones

- **Brexit** finally is real; at 11 PM on **January 31, 2020** **United Kingdom** pulled out of **European Union!**
- **NSE** (National Stock Exchange) becomes the **world's largest derivative exchange** on **January 22, 2020**
- **Supreme Court** stays **NCLT** order of reinstating **Mistry** as **Chairman of Tata Sons** on **January 10, 2020**
- **CES 2020** (January 7-10, 2020) had many TV's, Phones, Laptops, Home devices - nothing spectacular though! (unlike the Samsung Fold phone of CES 2019!)
- **Delhi Elections** announced on **January 6, 2020**; Polling on February 8, 2020 and results on **February 11, 2010**
- Chinese **Coronavirus** becomes a global problem; India brings back the first set of Indians from Wuhan in an Air India plane; the first reported case reported in India on **January 30, 2020**
- **Shooting of Ukraine International flight 752 plane** by **Iranian missile** near Tehran Airport on **January 8, 2020** leads to further tension after **US killing Iranian leader Qasem Soleimani** on **January 3, 2020**
- **Fire in Australia** fire continues to cause extensive damage; the fire that started in July 2019 has covered nearly 18 Million acres (an area larger than Denmark & Belgium combined), as per BBC

Interesting Apps & Applications

- **RBI** (Reserve Bank of India) allows **video-based KYC** for Banks on **January 10, 2020**; would save considerable costs as the customer / agent need not physically travel
- **HDFC** launches **myApps** (white-labelled Apps suite that can be configured with individual organization logo for **Temples, Schools, Apartments complexes** and **Clubs**) to help thousands of SME's on **January 9, 2020**

Higher Education

- **IIT-Gandhinagar** Director **Prof Sudhir Jain**, **IIT-Kanpur** Professor **H C Verma**, **IIT-Madras** Professor **Pradeep Thalappil**, **IIT-Delhi** Professor **SK Guha**, **NIMHANS** Director **Prof BN Gangadhar**, **NLSU** Founder Professor **Madhava Menon**, **University of Calicut** Professor **K S Manilal**, **ICMR** Professor **Raman Gangakhedkar**, **ICEGB** Researcher **Naveen Khanna**, are **Padma Award winners** on **January 25, 2020**
- **Results of the JEE 2020** examinations conducted on **January 7-9, 2020** were announced on **January 17, 2020**. In all, **8,69,010** candidates took the exam in 6 shifts across 570 examination centers across the country. **Nine of them** - 2 from Andhra Pradesh, 2 from Telangana, 2 from Rajasthan, and 1 each from Delhi, Gujarat & Haryana - got an **NTA score of 100!**
- **Unfortunate violence** in **JNU** (Jawaharlal Nehru University) on **January 5, 2020** rocked the country for days!

Indian IT Companies



- Indian IT majors **TCS, Infosys, Wipro** announce **third quarter results** in **January 2020**
- **TCS**
 - quarterly turnover Rs 39,854 Crores
 - quarterly profit Rs 8,118 Crores
 - headcount on **December 31, 2019** 4,46,675
- **Infosys**
 - quarterly turnover Rs 23,092 Crores
 - quarterly profit Rs 5,064 Crores
 - headcount on **December 31, 2019** 2,43,454
- **Wipro**
 - quarterly turnover Rs 15,741 Crores
 - quarterly profit Rs 2,463 Crores
 - headcount on **December 31, 2019** 1,71,425
- **Jio-Mart** (e-com Division of Reliance) gets soft launch on **January 1, 2020**; commercial launch slated for **January 26, 2020**

Start-ups scene

- **Zomato** buys out **Uber Eats** for \$ 350 Million on **January 22, 2020**
- With **Tiger Global** investing \$ 200 Million **Byju's** value goes to \$ 8 Billion!

Interesting numbers

WhatsApp messages sent out on **December 31, 2019** was the highest in its 10-year history; more than 100 Billion messages were sent; **20 Billion from India alone!** India's **Foreign Exchange reserves** cross \$ **467 Billion** for the first time in **January 31, 2020**

Markets

After **Apple, Amazon** and **Microsoft**, **Google** (technically its parent **Alphabet**) enters the elite club of \$ **1 Trillion market capitalization** on **January 15, 2020**



MNC Companies in India

- **Siemens** buys Delhi-based **C & S Electric** for \$ 300 Million on **January 24, 2020**
- **Samsung** to invest Rs 3,500 Crores (\$ 500 Million) in its **NOIDA display devices plant** in **January 2020**
- **IBM India** got 900 US Patents; the second largest after USA among the 9,262 US patents obtained by IBM globally in the **year 2019** (IBM continued its record of "largest US Patents" for 18th year)



People

- **IIT Kanpur Alum, IBM veteran Dr Arvind Krishna** named the next **IBM Global CEO** on **January 30, 2020**; to take charge from the outgoing CEO on **April 6, 2020**
- **Wipro CEO Abidali Neemuchwala** announces his decision to step down as **Wipro CEO** on **January 30, 2020**
- **TVS Motors** Chairman **Venu Srinivasan** and **TALLY** founder **Bharat Goenka** conferred **Padma Award** on **January 25, 2020**
- **Tata Sons** Chairman **N Chandrasekaran** (ex TCS CEO) is yet another **Linkedin influencer** in **January 2020**
- **Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos** visits India on **January 15, 2020**; talks of \$ 1 Billion investment, 1 Million jobs and \$ 10 Billion exports from India thru Amazon by year 2025
- **Bipin Rawat** takes over as India's first **CDS** (Chief of Defence Staff) on **January 1, 2020** after handing over charge to **Manoj Naravane** who is the new is the new **Army Chief** Unfortunately,
- **Harvard Professor** who pioneered "disruptive innovation" Professor **Clayton Christensen** passed away at the age of 67 on **January 23, 2020**



Telecom

- **UK** decides to give part of the 5G contract to **Huawei** on **January 29, 2020**
- **Telco's** woes see no end; Supreme Court refuses to stay **AGR** on **January 20, 2020**
- **Airtel Wi-Fi** calling feature available across the country from **January 10, 2020**
- **Mobile user base fall** continues in **January 2020**; with **Telco's** raising tariff by 40%, most dual SIM users are surrendering one of their connection

Professor **Sowmyanarayanan Sadagopan** is the **Director** of **IIIT-Bangalore**. These are his personal views. He can be reached at ss@iiitb.ac.in. 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.