

**What's hot in IT
An Indian Perspective
February 2020**

Science & Technology

- **ISRO** postpones its **GIST-1 satellite launch** of March 5, 2020

Higher Education

- **QS World** Rankings 2020 announced on March 5, 2020 has 2 Indian Institutes – IITB (44), IITD (47) in Top 50 for Engineering; IIMA (), and IIMB () in Top 50 for Management
-

Policy

- Government okays **Wi-Fi in flight** on March 2, 2020; **Vistara**, the first airline likely to offer this service soon
- **US Fed** cuts Federal Funds rate by 50 points on March 2, 2020; several countries follow suit
- **Supreme Court** overrules RBI decision to stop **Crypto-currency** in India on March 2, 2020

Special events and Milestones

- **Indian Railways** with **zero fatalities in 11 months** in 116 years creates history
- **Coronavirus Disease** (officially **Covid-19**) continues to bother the global population in February 2020 with tens of thousands affected; 2 deaths in India and nearly 1,000 deaths in China. **MWC** (Mobile World Congress) is **off** for the year 2020!

Products

- **Samsung** launched its **Galaxy S20** phones in San Francisco on February 12, 2020

Markets

- **SBI Cards IPO** over-subscribed 26 times by March 5, 2020
- **Covid-19** continues to cause trouble to markets everywhere, with \$ 5 Trillion getting wiped out by February 29, 2020. India's stock market indices Sensex and NIFTY at record low of 38,297 and 11,839 respectively by February 29, 2020

Indian IT Companies

- Bangalore-based **TALLY Solutions** (accounting used by millions of accountants in dozens of countries) extends any-device based browsing of TALLY data, an important step in the evolution of the product
- **Sonata** (Bangalore-based IT Services company) **acquires** Melbourne, Australia-based **GAPBusters**, a company that specializes in UX for customer surveys, on March 5, 2020

MNC IT Companies in India

- **Capgemini** to hire 30,000 in India in 2020 (up from 12,000 announced earlier)

Telecom

- **Indians** consume more than **11 GB/month data** according to Nokia's MBIT (Mobile Broadband India Traffic Index) Report of February 27, 2020
- **AGR** mess (created by Supreme Court ruling) causes grievous wound to the telecom sector; **Vodafone-Idea** almost on the verge of shutting shop; **Airtel** springs a surprise by **paying up to Rs 18,000 Crores** by February 29, 2020!

People

- **Dr Jack Welch**, (PhD in Chemical Engineering from Univ of Illinois), 84-year old former **CEO of GE** and famous for his faith in "6-Sigma" and in "emerging markets" passed away on March 5, 2020; he inaugurated **Jack Welch Tech Center** in Bangalore in 2001 that was a game changer for MNC's operating in India
- **Dr Ajay Bhushan Pandey** (IITK CS B Tech, PhD from Univ of Minnesota, ex UIDAI Chairman, GSTN Chairman) is the country's **Finance Secretary** from March 6, 2020
- India-born **Rajiv Suri** steps down as **Nokia CEO** on March 2, 2020

Start-ups scene

- **Tri-Cog**, Bangalore-based company specializing in remote diagnostics of heart patients (ET, FE Award winning start-up) gets \$ 10.5 Million funding on March 5, 2020
- **ClearTax** buys GST Unit of **Karvy** on March 4, 2020

Interesting Apps & Applications

- Samsung R&D Institute launches **Samsung Digital Library** in 100 Government Schools in Karnataka with Samsung Tablets and curated content on February 29, 2020

Interesting numbers

- **GST** collection for February 2020 crosses Rs 1 Lakh Crores; for the fourth month in a row

Professor Sowmyanarayanan Sadagopan (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