

# What's hot in IT An Indian Perspective – July 2020

## Science & Technology

- **NASA Mars Rover** Perseverance takes off at 7:50 am EDT on **30 Jul 2020** and expected to launch on Mars on **18 Feb 2021**
- Five **Rafale** Jet Aircraft with mid-air refueling capability join the Indian Air Force on **29 Jul 2020**



## Products

- **Airtel** announces **Bluejeans** video conferencing product (**15 Jul 2020**)
- **Reliance Jio** attempts to make **JioChat** a WhatsApp killer (**5 Jul 2020**) and **JioMeet** a Zoom killer (**1 Jul 2020**)



## Markets

- **Cognizant** to acquire **New Signature** (US-based cloud-Advisory services built over Microsoft technologies) (**28 Jul 2020**)
- **Wipro** acquires UK-based **4C** (Salesforce implementation partner) for \$ 68 Million (**24 Jul 2020**) and Brazil-based **IVIA Servicos** (specialized services provider for financial services) for \$ 22 Million (**14 Jul 2020**)
- Online tutoring platform **Vedantu** raises \$ 100 Million (**17 Jul 2020**)
- **Google** buys 7.7% of **Reliance Jio** for \$ 4.5 Billion (**17 Jul 2020**)
- **HPE Aruba** acquires SD-WAN leader **Silver Peak** for \$ 925 Million (**17 Jul 2020**)
- **Wal-Mart** invests \$ 1.2 Billion in **FlipKart** (**16 Jul 2020**)
- RPA major **UiPath** gets Rs 1,692 Cr investment for expansion (**11 Jul 2020**)
- **Analog Devices** acquires **Maxim** for \$ 21 Billion with a focus on Automotive and 5G (**10 Jul 2020**)



## Policy

- With Cabinet approval, **National Education Policy 2020** (creation of a Committee headed by Dr K Kasturirangan set up in June 2017) becomes real on **29 Jul 2020**; has many transformational features that include
  - ❖ Increase **GER** (Gross Enrolment Ratio) from 26 to 50%
  - ❖ Increase Government **spending on education** from 1.7% of GDP to 6% of GDP
  - ❖ **National Research Foundation** to fund research with Rs 20,000 Cr / per year grant
  - ❖ RTE (Right-to-education) from **Age 3 to 18 (5+3+3+4)** in place of Age 6 to 18 (10+2)
  - ❖ Ministry of Human Resource Development name gives way to **Ministry of Education**
- **Kashmir Saffron** gets **GI tag** (**Jul 2020**)
- **European Union** announces \$ **857 Billion stimulus package** (**23 Jul 2020**)
- Government allows Tech industry to allow staff to **work from home** till **31 Dec 2020**
- **US Government** goes thru a flip-flop in **immigration policy**; talks of no Visas for students of those Universities that have planned "online only" Fall Semester, leading to lots of confusion; MIT & Harvard sue US Government (8 Jul) and finally US Government rescinds the order (**16 Jul 2020**)
- **TCS** talks of 1% of its employees working in offices during lockdown; 5% to work in offices soon; and, 25% of its staff in offices in steady state (**15 Jul**)
- **Karnataka Government** announces **investor-friendly policies** - online, self-certification processes for new businesses announced (**5 Jul**)
- **Karnataka government** announces the dissolution of **Karnataka Knowledge Commission** (created in **2008** with Dr Kasturirangan as Chairman) (**1 Jul**)

## Indian IT Companies

- **HCL** has a smooth transition of its head; **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** is the **new Chief**; takes charge from her father and HCL Founder **Shiv Nadar** (**1 Jul 2020**)
- **TCS** to hire 40,000 freshers in India in **2020-21**; Infosys talks of 20,000; HCL talks of 10,000; however, for the first time in ten years, the **headcount of TCS, Infosys, Wipro fell** by more than 10,000 in the 1Q2020-21
- **TCS, Cognizant, Infosys, HCL and Wipro** announce quarterly results; against the backdrop of Covid-19 they have announced a "not very negative" set of numbers!
  - ❖ **TCS** had sales of Rs 38,3122 Cr (\$ 5.06 Billion) and profit of Rs 7008 Cr (\$ 925 Million)
  - ❖ **Cognizant** had turnover of \$ 4 Billion and profit of \$ 361 Million
  - ❖ **Infosys** had turnover of Rs 23,665 Cr (\$ 3.12 Billion) and profit of Rs 4,233 Cr (\$ 564 Million)
  - ❖ **HCL** had turnover of Rs 17,841 Cr (\$ 2.4 Billion) and profit of Rs 2,925Cr (\$ 386 Million)
  - ❖ **Wipro** had turnover of Rs 14,910 Cr (\$ 2 Billion) and profit of Rs 2,390 Cr (\$ 316 Million)



## MNC Companies

- **Apple, Amazon, Google & Facebook** face anti-trust hearing from US Law-makers (**29 Jul 2020**)
- **Apple iPhone11** getting assembled in Foxconn factory in **Chennai** (**Jul 2020**)
- **Zoom** starts recruiting for its **new Tech Center** in **Bengaluru** (**23 Jul 2020**)
- **Google** announces \$ 10 Billion investment in India (**10 Jul 2020**)
- **Oracle** launching its second development center in Hyderabad (**1 Jul**)
- **Microsoft** announces its decision to start a 4,000-seater facility in NOIDA; UP Chief Minister's plan to attract investment to his State seems to be working (**1 Jul**)



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

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## Special events and Milestones

- **Coronavirus Disease** (officially **Covid-19**) continues to cause havoc throughout the month of **July** and the number of cases cross 17 Million globally and the death toll crosses 668,000 (**31 Jul**)
  - Several **vaccines** enter trial phase; **Oxford University** team and Pune-based **Serum Institute** that is to make the vaccines talk of good progress; ICMR allows human trials in India and **Bharat Biotech** has "Made in India" vaccines
  - India's case fatality is down to 2% (**31 July 2020**)
  - **MP Chief Minister Chauhan** tests Covid-19 Positive (**25 Jul 2020**)
  - **Lockdown Un-lock 2** started 1 July; several cities including Bengaluru had another short lockdown (**15 to 22 Jul**); **Un-Lock 3** starting **Aug 1** announced (**29 Jul**)
  - On July 31, 2020, cases / deaths stood at
    - ❖ Global: More than 17 Million and more than 668,000
    - ❖ India : More than 1.6 Million and more than 35,000
    - ❖ USA: More than 4.3 Million and more than 150,000
  - Death count growth
    - ❖ **India 1** (**Mar 13**), crossed 100 (**6 Apr**), 500 (**19 Apr**), 1,000 (**29 Apr**), 2,000 (**10 May**), 4,000 (**25 May**), 8,000 (**11 June**), 10,000 (**16 Jun**), 15,000 (**26 Jun**), 20,000 (**6 Jul**), 25,000 (**17 Jul**), 35,747 (**31 Jul**)
    - ❖ **USA 1** (**Mar 3**), crossed 100 (**Mar 18**), 1,000 (**Mar 28**), 5,000 (**Apr 4**), 10,000 (**Apr 8**), 50,000 (**Apr 29**), 100,000 (**May 30**), 150,054 (**31 Jul**)
    - ❖ **Global 1** (**Jan 15**), crossed 100 (**Jan 28**), 1,000 (**Feb 11**), 5,000 (**Mar 13**), 10,000 (**Mar 20**), 50,000 (**Apr 3**), 100,000 (**Apr 12**), 200,000 (**Apr 28**), 500,000 (**30 Jun**), 673,038 (**31 Jul**)
- **Maruti** posts loss for the Apr to June quarter, the first time since 2003 (**31 Jul 2020**)
- **Amarnath Yatra cancelled** due to Covid-19 (**23 Jul 2020**)
- **Asia's largest solar plant** inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi (**10 Jul 2020**)
- **India China border tensions** subside a bit as both sides start withdrawal (**7 Jul**)
- **India bans 59 Chinese Apps** including **Tik Tok** (**July 1**)

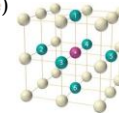


## Higher Education

- **GATE** exam will be open (**2021** onwards) to HSS students as well - economics, English literature, linguistics, sociology, psychology and philosophy - to start with (**25 Jul 2020**)
- **IIM Bangalore** gets a **new Director** in **Dr Rishikesh Krishnan** with **Dr G Raghuram** retiring (**20 Jul 2020**)
- **CBSE Class 12 & Class 10 results** declared; **Delhi Government Schools** create history - a record 98% pass! (**12/14 July 2020**)
- **IIT's** not to insist on 75% or top 20% percentile in Class 12 exam from IIT aspirants in **2020** (**8 Jul 2020**)
- **JEE Main** (Sep 1-6) & **JEE Advanced** (**Sep 27**) examination dates announced (**1 Jul 2020**)
- **IIT- Mandi** gets a new Director in **Dr Ajit Chaturvedi**; Founder Director (**2010-2020**) **Dr Timothy Gonsalves** completes his tenure on **30 June 2020**
- **AICTE** decides to make MCA Program duration to 2 years (from existing 3 years) from academic year **2020-21**
- **IITM** announces **BSc in Programming & Data Science** on **July 1, 2020**

## Interesting numbers

- **Apple market capitalization** at \$ 1.86 Trillion is **higher than Aramco** at \$ 1.76 Trillion (**31 Jul 2020**)
- **US economy shrinks** by 33% while **European economy shrinks** by 12% in the **Apr to June 2020** quarter due to Covid-19 (**31 Jul 2020**)
- **India's forex reserves** see a jump of \$ 5 Billion in July to touch \$ 523 Billion (**31 Jul 2020**)
- **Indian Rupee** at 74.90 against 1 **USD** (**31 Jul 2020**)
- **Modi followers on Twitter** cross **60 Million** (**17 Jul 2020**)
- **India** sees trade surplus in **June 2020** - the first time in eighteen years



## Telecom

- **Mobile telephony** is **25 years** old in India (**31 Jul 2020**)
- **TRAI** blocks **Airtel Premium** plans (**10 Jul**)
- **Yotta data center (Level 4)** starts operations in Navi Mumbai; the largest in Asia (**7 Jul**)
- **Reliance Jio** launches **JioMeet** (Zoom killer) and attempts to make **JioChat** WhatsApp killer (**5 Jul 2020**)
- **Intel** follows many other companies and decides to invest in **Reliance Jio** (**1 Jul**)

## People

- **IIM Bangalore** gets a **new Director** in **Dr Rishikesh Krishnan** with **Dr G Raghuram** retiring (**20 Jul 2020**)
- **IIT- Mandi** gets a new Director in **Dr Ajit Chaturvedi**; Founder Director (**2010-2020**) **Dr Timothy Gonsalves** completes his tenure on **30 June 2020**
- **Twitter** a/c of Barack Obama, Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos and several **celebrities** got **hacked** (**16 Jul 2020**)
- **Prime Minister Modi** e-meets **Google CEO Sundar Pichai** and **IBM CEO Arvind Krishna** during Indo-US Ideas Summit (**22 Jul 2020**)
- **UK High Commissioner** to India **Dominic Asquith** moves back; **Philip Barton** takes charge, has India connection (his mother was born in Shimla) (**8 Jul**)
- **University of California** appoints the first-ever Black President (**8 Jul**)
- **IITK CSE faculty member Dr Pramod Subramanian** had unnatural death (**8 Jul**)
- **Wipro CEO Delaporte** starts his term on **5 July 2020**
- **Infosys** brings 206 employees stranded in USA by a chartered flight (**4 Jul**)
- **Cognizant** India Chairman **Ramkumar Ramamurthy** steps down on **1 July 2020**



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