

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

Universities, Science & Technology and Policy

- **JEE Mains 2019** held in January 2019 by National Testing Agency in online mode spread over January 9, 10, 11 & 12; results declared on January 19, 2019 (10 days ahead of time); nearly 10 Lakhs took the exam; one more attempt available for students in April 2019
- **Drone Policy 2.0** enters Draft stage and ready for comments on January 15, 2019
- **Doordarshan Science channel** launched on January 15, 2019 by DST Secretary & S&T Minister
- Micro-satellite "**KalamSat**" weighing little over 1 Kg (designed by students with guidance from NGO SpaceKidz India) was put in orbit by **ISRO** on January 24, 2019
- **PhD students' stipend** amounts increased from Rs 25,000 to Rs 31,000 by Government of India on January 31, 2019
- **AICTE** cuts 40,000 engineering seats and decides not to give permission for new engineering colleges for 2 years, on January 31, 2019
- 600 **Indian students "trapped"** in USA by fake university created by INS in January 2019

Products

- **CES 2019 (Jan 7 - 10)** had many products show-cased, but nothing spectacular

Markets

- **Byju's**, Bangalore-based learning solutions company acquires US-based learning games company **Osmo** for \$ 120 million on January 16, 2019
- Bangalore-based analytics firm **Fractal** gets \$ 200 Million capital infusion from **Apax** on January 16, 2019
- **Bain Capital** acquires majority stake in **Brillio** (Bangalore-based and Santa Clara headquartered) analytics / digital company on January 15, 2019
- **Apple** revises quarterly revenue target downward from \$ 89 Billion to \$ 84 Billion on January 2, 2019, the first ever in 15 years, and its stock price falls by 7% on the very first day of trading in 2019
- **Indian start-ups** raise \$ 38.3 Billion in 2018 (LiveMint January 3, 2019)

Indian IT Companies

- **TCS** posts good results on January 10, 2019, with the highest-ever **quarterly profit Rs 8,105 Crores**; its Brand value takes it to global No 3 (next only to Accenture & IBM) as per Brand Finance Report of January 23, 2019; makes 30,000 offers in 2018-19 season (up from 20,000+ last year)
- **Infosys** posts good quarterly results on January 11, 2019; important, considering the fact that the **new CEO Salil Parekh** just completed a year on January 2, 2019; bags Rs 4,241 Crores Income Tax order on January 16, 2019; its **Verizon** contract value goes up from \$ 750 Million to 1 Billion in January 2019
- **Wipro** quarterly (Oct – Dec) profits jump 30%; quarterly revenue crosses \$ 2 Billion

MNC IT Companies in India

- With 9,100 **patents** in 2018 (with more than 4,000 patents in AI), **IBM** continues its record of holding the No 1 position for 26 years; interestingly, 800 of them were from IBM India, the largest for IBM outside USA
- **Volkswagen** starts India Tech Centre in Pune on January 19, 2019
- **SAP India** to see 400+ **layoffs** (part of 4,400 planned layoff globally) in January 2019

People

- Computer scientist **Dr Subhash Kak**, **ISRO** scientist (who was wrongly punished accused of terrorist link) **Dr Nambi Narayan**, **Cisco** Chairman **John Chambers**, **Adobe** CEO **Santanu Narain** and L&T Chairman **AM Naik** are part of Padma awards 2019
- **Vinod Kumar Yadav** is the new **Railway Board Chairman** (effective January 1, 2019), heading the organization with nearly 1.5 Million staff
- **Intel** names Interim CEO **Bob Swan** as **permanent CEO** on January 31, 2019

Start-up Scene

- **MilkBasket** starts Bangalore operations on January 15, 2019

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- Online car trading start-up **CarDekho** raises \$ 110 Million on January 3, 2019

Interesting Application & Apps

- Finance Ministry's "**ITR Filing 2.0**" order of Rs 4,241 Crores goes to **Infosys** on January 16, 2019
- **Finance Ministry** starts an interesting **Budget Series** on **Twitter** (January 15 to February 1)

Interesting numbers

- **RIL** posts Rs 10,251 Crores profit for October – December 2018 quarter, the first private enterprise to cross Rs 10,000 quarterly profit; for the same period, **TCS** posts Rs. 8,105 Crores profit, the highest ever
- **ModiCare (Aayushman Bharat)** treats 6,85,000 patients free of cost in the first 100 days

General

- **Tata** brand reaches the global **Top 100** (the only entry from India) in January 2019
- **UK Prime Minister** loses "Brexit poll" but narrowly wins "confidence vote" in January 2019
- JLL Survey puts **Bangalore as No 1** in the list of "Most Dynamic Cities" (2019 Edition of City Momentum)
- **GST** doubled the exemption limits for MSME's (from Rs 20 Lakhs to Rs 40 Lakhs per year) on January 10, 2019
- **Kumbh Mela** in Prayagraj (erstwhile Allahabad) starts at 4 AM on January 15, 2019; 150 million visitors expected over 2 months (Jan 15 (Sankranti) to March 6 (Mahashivratri); 800 special trains, 50,000-strong security force, 220 KM of road, thousands of doctors, hundreds of tents, 4000 Wi-Fi hotspots and 1,20,000 toilets Kumbh Mela 2019 is spectacular in every respect
- **US Government shut-down** that started on December 22, 2018 continued for the longest time till January 25, 2019
- **CES 2019** (January 8 – 11, 2019) at Las Vegas show-cased many exciting products; however, most of them including LG foldable TV's were incremental, rather than breakthrough innovations
- **620 Km long human chain** from Kasrgod to Thiruvananthapuram with 3.5 Million participants create history in Kerala on January 1, 2019
- Government introduces Constitutional Amendment (103 Amendment 2019) "**quota for economically backward people**" on January 9, 2019; it is passed in both the Houses (Parliament & Rajya Sabha) and with Presidential nod on January 12, 2019 becomes a law, one of the fastest legislation in Indian Parliamentary history
- **CBI Chief Alok Varma** is reinstated and transferred; but, he decides to retire; all within days, unfortunate developments for the country

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