

What's hot in IT in February 2022

A Perspective from India

1. Science & Technology, Innovation & Policy

- **Union Budget 2022** announced
 - commits to Digital Currency
 - e-Passport to be real soon
 - 5G License auction to be completed
 - Start-up friendly features announced
 - No new taxes (1 February 2022)

2. Higher Education & Research

- **UGC** allows 900 colleges to offer **online degree** programs (21 February 2022)
- Prof **Santishree Pandit** is the new Vice Chancellor of **JNU** (6 February 2022)
- Prof **Jagadish Kumar**, IIT-Delhi Faculty and current JNU VC is the new **UGC Chairman** (3 February 2022)
- **Indian Institute of Science**, Bangalore commissions **supercomputer Param Pravega** with **1017 Petaflops** (10^{15} Floating Point Operations per second), the fastest in India and likely to be in the Top 20 globally (2 Feb 2022)

3. Special events and Milestones

- With **Russia** invading **Ukraine** on 24 February 2022, the world is tense by February end
- **Indian IT services industry** crosses **\$ 200 Billion** mark in 2021; accounts for **51% of the export**; **IT professionals headcount** crosses **5 million** (14 February 2022)
- **Winter Olympics** started in **Beijing** on 4 February 2022 (amidst diplomatic boycott by USA and India), and concluded on 20 February 2022 with 11.4 Million viewers
- **Bangalore** pushed to No 2 position by Delhi in terms of Start-up strength! (1 February 2022)
- On **Covid-19** front, there was overall improvement in India and elsewhere in February 2022; normal life is slowly getting restored

4. Products

- **OnePlus** launched its **5G phone Nord 2 CE 2 5G** in India (17 February 2022)

5. Markets

- Private equity firms acquired **Citrix** for \$ 16.5 Billion (1 February 2022)

6. Indian IT Companies

- **Reliance Jio** buys Pranav Mistry founded **Two Platforms** in the next generation AR / VR space (6 February 2022)

7. MNC Companies in India

- **AMD** market capitalization exceeds that of **Intel**, for the first time ever (21 February 2022)
- **Amazon** announces the shutting down of **Westland Books** in India (3 February 2022)

8 Start-up Scene

Budget 2022 has **tax exemption** for Start-ups (1 February 2022)

The Indian Unicorn story goes unabated

Likely **Indian Unicorns** of **February 2022** include

- **Polygon**
- **ElasticRun**
- **LivSpace**
- **XpressBee Logistics**
- **Uniphore**
- **Hasura**
- **Perfios**

On the mergers & acquisitions front,

- **Infostretch** acquires Digital engineering start-up **Apexon** for \$ 235 Mn (14 February 2022)

9. People

- **Rajesh Gopinathan**, CEO of **TCS** completes **five years**; **TCS** market capitalization doubles in 5 years (21 February 2022)
- **N Chandrasekaran**, earlier TCS CEO, gets **another 5-years** as **Chairman, Tata Sons** - India's largest, oldest and most respected business house (11 February 2022)
- **Manish Sharma** will be **Accenture** COO effective March 1, 2022 (3 February 2022)
- **Madhabi Puri Buch** is the new SEBI Chairperson (28 February 2022)
- Prof **Santishree Pandit** is the new Vice Chancellor of **JNU** (6 February 2022)
- Prof **Jagadish Kumar**, IIT-Delhi Faculty and current JNU VC is the new **UGC Chairman** (3 February 2022)
- Melody queen **Lata Mangeshkar** is no more (6 February 2022)

10. Telecom & Infrastructure

- Union Budget commits to **5G License auction** to be completed in 2022 (1 February 2022)

11. Interesting Apps / Applications

- PM Modi launches **100 Kisan Drones** that will focus on Agriculture related services (20 February 2022)
- RBI diktat to make **E-Wallets interoperable** in six weeks (14 February 2022)
- **E-Passport** announced (1 February 2022)
- **150,000 Post Offices** are to be connected with **Banking network** (1 February 2022)
- RBI to roll out Indian crypto currency **Digital Rupee** in 2022 (1 February 2022)

12. Interesting numbers

- GST collection in February was Rs 1.3 Lakh Crores (28 February 2022)

Professor Sowmyanarayanan Sadagopan is the former Director of IIIT-Bangalore. These are his personal views. He has been writing on "What's hot in IT" with an Indian perspective continuously from 1997; **Times of India**, **Financial Express** and **IT Magazine** carried the monthly (and yearly columns) till 2016; **IEEE India Newsletter** has been carrying the quarterly columns 2016-20. Past items are available in www.profsadagopan.com He can be reached at s.sadagopan@gmail.com