

What's hot in IT in January 2022

A Perspective from India

1. Science & Technology, Innovation & Policy

- **Republic Day** celebrations concluded with a Laser show during **Beating Retreat**, powered by **India-made 1,000-Drones** coordinated by **BotLab Dynamics**, a Start-up incubated at **IIT-Delhi** (29 January 2022)
- **India to merge** India-specific **5Gi** with **global 5G** Standard as specified by 3GPP (28 January 2022)
- **Intel** decides to invest up to \$ 100 Billion in the **Ohio plant in USA** over the next couple of years (28 January 2022)
- **Global 5G** rollout hits Aviation industry. **Hundreds of flights cancelled in USA** in January 2022

2. Education & Research

- **Supreme Court** clears **NEET Counselling** for UG & PG medical college admissions counselling (15 January 2022)
- IITD, IITM, IIT Mandi and IIT Indore get new Directors (10 January 2022)
 - **Prof V Kamakoti** is the new Director **IIT Madras**
 - **Prof Rangan Banerjee** is the new Director **IIT Delhi**
 - **Prof SS Joshi** is the Director new **IIT Indore**
 - **Prof Behera** is the Director new **IIT Mandi**

3. Special events and Milestones

- **Bangalore** in in the global **Top 5 Innovation Hubs** (11 January 2022)
- **India Semiconductor Mission** announced (3 January 2022)
- **Apple** market capitalization touches **\$ 3 Trillion** in early January 2022

On Covid-19 front,

- **India has 70% fully vaccinated, 23% partially and 7% unvaccinated** after 1 year of vaccination (16th January 2021 to 15th January 2022)

4. Products

- **Zeroing In** is a Podcast with focus on Science (January 2022)

5. Markets

- **Microsoft** makes one of the largest acquisitions in the Tech Sector space; Candy Crush famous **Activision** acquired for \$ 69 Billion (18 January 2022)
- **TechMahindra** acquires European IT Services company in the Insurance space **C2C** for Euro 310 Million (18 January 2022)
- **HCL** to buy Hungarian firm in the Data Engineering space **Star Schema** for \$ 42.5 Million (14 January 2022)
- **Zynga** (famous for its **FarmVille** game) to be acquired by **GTA** for a whopping \$ 12.7 Billion (11 January 2022)
- **IBM** acquires environment / green energy focused Analytics company **Envizi** (11 January 2022)

6. Indian IT Companies

- **TCS** is the **world's second largest IT Services company** in market value, next only to **Accenture** and valued higher than the iconic IT Services company **IBM** (28 January 2022)
- Indian IT companies post good results for October - December 2021 quarter

Company	Topline	Bottomline
TCS	Rs 48,885 Cr	Rs 9,769 Cr
Infosys	Rs 31,867 Cr	Rs 5,809 Cr
HCL	Rs 22,331 Cr	Rs 3,442 Cr
Wip2)ro	Rs 20,314 Cr	Rs 2,969 Cr
- **BEL**, the public sector Defence PSU to supply \$ 73 Million worth IoT devices to the US-based Hyperion (29 January 2022)

7. MNC Companies in India

- **Google** decides to invest Rs 7,000 Cr (\$ 1 Billion) in India's telecom major **Airtel** (29 January 2022)
- **SAP** buys minority stakes in Pune-based contracts management firm **Icertis** (28 January 2022)

8. Start-up Scene

- Prime Minister **Modi** declares 16th January as "**Start-up Day**"; meets 150 start-ups on 15th January 2022
- **India EduTech Consortium** is formed with a "code of conduct" for self-regulation for the growing EduTech Industry in India (10 January 2022)

The Indian Unicorn story goes unabated

- Gurugram based, Varun & Alagh founded toxin-free baby care products 2016 startup **MamaEarth** is the **first Unicorn** of the year **2022**
- New York-based Analytics & AI startup founded in 2000 by five IIMA Alumni **Fractal** is the **second unicorn** of the year; both born in the very first week of January 2022
- **LeadSchool**, a provider of EduTech to Schools is the **3rd Unicorn** of 2022
- **Darwin Box**, HR start-up from Hyderabad is the **4th Unicorn** from India for January 2022

9. People

- Tata Chairman (ex **TCS CEO**) **N Chandrasekaran**, Microsoft Chairman Satya Nadella and **Alphabet** (Google parent company) **Chairman Sundar Pichai** get **Padma Bhushan** Award from Indian Government (25th January 2022)
- **Anantha Nageswaran** is the next **Chief Economic Adviser** to the Government of India (29 January 2022)
- Dr **Soumitra Dutta** is the **Dean of the Business School** in **Oxford** University (16 January 2022)
- Dr S **Somanath** is the new **ISRO Chairman** (12 January 2022)
- The 500 Unicorns during 1997-2004 had 1,078 founders with 56% US-born and 44% non US-born; the highest among non US-born founders were from India; 90 of them!

10. Telecom & Infrastructure

- Government of India to hold 36% quite in **Vodafone India** (11 January 2022)

11. Interesting Apps / Applications

- **Passport Seva Phase 2** contract (9.5 years long) goes to **TCS (4 January 2022)**

12. Interesting numbers

- **GST** collection in January creates a new record of Rs 1.39 Lakh Crores (31 January 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