What's hot in IT
An Indian Perspective
January 2020

Science & Technology

- **ISRO** launches its **G-30 communications satellite** from French Guiana on January 17, 2020; the first satellite launch for the year 2020

Higher Education

- **IIT-Gandhinagar** Director **Prof Sudhir Jain**, **IIT-Kanpur** Professor **H C Verma**, **IIT-Madras** Professor **Pradeep Thalappil**, **IIT-Delhi** Professor **SK Guha**, **NIMHANS** Director **Prof BN Gangadhar**, **NLSU** Founder Professor **Madhava Menon**, **University of Calicut** Professor K S Manilal, **ICMR** Professor Raman Gangakhedkar, **ICEGB** Researcher **Naveen Khanna**, are **Padma Award winners** on January 25, 2020
- **Results** of the **JEE 2020** examinations conducted on January 7-9, 2020 were announced on January 17, 2020. In all, **8,69,010** candidates took the exam in 6 shifts across 570 examination centers across the country. **Nine of them** – 2 from Andhra Pradesh, 2 from Telangana, 2 from Rajasthan, and 1 each from Delhi, Gujarat & Haryana – got an **NTA score of 100!**
- Unfortunate **violence** in **JNU** (Jawaharlal Nehru University) on January 5, 2020 rocked the country for days!

Policy

- **Supreme Court** in its order on January 10, 2020 holds **Net access as basic right**; asks Government to restore Net access in Kashmir

Special events and Milestones

- **Brexit** finally is real**;** at 11 PM on January 31, 2020 **United Kingdom** pulled out of **European Union!**
- **NSE** (National Stock Exchange) becomes the **world's largest derivative exchange** on January 22, 2020
- **Supreme Court** stays NCLT order of reinstating **Mistry as Chairman of Tata Sons** on January 10, 2020
- **CES 2020** (January 7-10, 2020) had many TV's, Phones, Laptops, Home devices – nothing spectacular though! (unlike the Samsung Fold phone of CES 2019)!
- **Delhi Elections** announced on January 6, 2020; Polling on February 8, 2020 and results on February 11, 2010
- Chinese **Coronavirus** becomes a global problem; India brings back the first set of Indians from Wuhan in an Air India plane; the first reported case reported in India on January 30, 2020
- **Shooting of** Ukraine International flight 752 **plane** by **Iranian missile** near Tehran Airport on January 8, 2020 leads to further tension after **US killing Iranian leader Qasem Soleimani** on January 3, 2020
- **Fire in Australia** fire continues to cause extensive damage; the fire that started in July 2019 has covered nearly 18 Million acres (an area larger than Denmark & Belgium combined), as per BBC

Products

- **Microsoft** withdraws support for **Windows 7** on January 14, 2020

IT in India

Markets

- After **Apple**, **Amazon** and **Microsoft**, **Google** (technically its parent **Alphabet**) enters the elite club of **$ 1 Trillion market capitalization** on January 15, 2020

Indian IT Companies

- Indian IT majors **TCS, Infosys, Wipro** announce **third quarter results** in January 2020
- **TCS**
  - quarterly **turnover**   Rs 39,854 Crores
  - quarterly **profit**   Rs 8,118 Crores
  - **headcount** on December 31, 2019   **4,46,675**
- **Infosys**
  - quarterly **turnover**   Rs 23,092 Crores
  - quarterly **profit**   Rs 5,064 Crores
  - **headcount** on December 31, 2019   **2,43,454**
- **Wipro**
  - quarterly **turnover**   Rs 15,741 Crores
  - quarterly **profit**   Rs 2,463 Crores
  - **headcount** on December 31, 2019   **1,71,425**
- **Jio-Mart** (e-com Division of Reliance) gets soft launch on January 1, 2020; commercial launch slated for January 26, 2020

MNC IT Companies in India

- **Siemens** buys Delhi-based **C & S Electric** for $ 300 Million on January 24, 2020
- **Samsung** to invest Rs 3,500 Crores ($ 500 Million) in its NOIDA display devices plant in January 2020
- **IBM India** got 900 US Patents; the second largest after USA among the 9,262 US patents obtained by IBM globally in the year 2019 (IBM continued its record of "largest US Patents" for 18th year)

Telecom

- **UK** decides to give part of the 5G contract to Huawei on January 29, 2020
- **Telco's** woes see no end; Supreme Court refuses to stay AGR on January 20, 2020
- **Airtel Wi-Fi** calling feature available across the country from January 10, 2020
- **Mobile user base fall** continues in January 2020; with Telco's raising tariff by 40%, most dual SIM users are surrendering one of their connection

People

- **IIT Kanpur Alum**, IBM veteran **Dr Arvind Krishna** named the next **IBM Global CEO** on January 30, 2020; to take charge from the outgoing CEO on April 6, 2020
- **Wipro CEO Abidali Neemuchwala** announces his decision to step down as Wipro CEO on January 30, 2020
- **TVS Motors** Chairman **Venu Srinivasan and TALLY** founder **Bharat Goenka** conferred **Padma Award** on January 25, 2020
- Tata Sons Chairman **N Chandrasekaran** (ex TCS CEO) is yet another **Linkedin influencer** in January 2020
- **Amazon CEO** Jeff Bezos visits India on January 15, 2020; talks of $ 1 Billion investment, 1 Million jobs and $ 10 Billion exports from India thru Amazon by year 2025
- **Bipin Rawat** takes over as India's first **CDS** (Chief of Defence Staff) on January 1, 2020 after handing over charge to **Manoj Naravane** who is the new is the new **Army Chief**

Unfortunately,

- Harvard Professor who pioneered "disruptive innovation" Professor **Clayton Christensen passed away** at the age of 67 on January 23, 2020

Start-ups scene

- **Zomato** buys out **Uber Eats** for $ 350 Million on January 22, 2020
- With **Tiger Global** investing $ 200 Million **Byju's** value goes to $ 8 Billion!

Interesting Apps & Applications

- **RBI** (Reserve Bank of India) allows **video-based KYC** for Banks on January 10, 2020; would save considerable costs as the customer / agent need not physically travel
- **HDFC** launches **myApps** (white-labelled Apps suite that can be configured with individual organization logo for **Temples**, **Schools**, **Apartments complexes** and **Clubs**) to help thousands of SME's on January 9, 2020

Interesting numbers

- **WhatsApp** messages sent out on December 31, 2019 was the highest in its 10-year history; more than 100 Billion messages were sent; **20 Billion from India alone**!
- India's **Foreign Exchange reserves** cross **$ 467 Billion** for the first time in January 31, 2020

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