

## IT in January - February 2017



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### Highlights in general

- **ISRO** does India proud with 105 satellites launched in one go on February 15, 2017
- **US President** Donald Trump takes charge on Jan 20, 2017
- **Union Budget** presented with two innovations - February 1 instead of February 28; Railway Budget & Main budget merged
- TCS CEO N Chandrasekaran assumes charge as **Tata Sons Chairman** on February 21, 2017
- **Elections to five Indian States** – UP, Goa, Punjab, Uttaranchal and Manipur announced on January 4, 2017; five stage Elections stretch till March 8, 2017; all results on March 11, 2017

### Products

- Iconic **Apple iPhone** completes 10 years in January 2017
- **HMD Global** (the new owner of Nokia brand) announced **Nokia 6** Android phone initially for the Chinese market on January 8, 2016 in CES (Consumer Electronic Show) in Las Vegas; launches **Nokia 3, 5, 6** and the nostalgic **Nokia 3310** (that sold more than 200 million units, the largest for any individual handset) in MWC (Mobile World Congress) in Barcelona on February 26, 2017
- **Bharat QR** launched on February 20, 2017

### Markets

- **Apple** market capitalization reaches \$ 700 billion on February 13, 2017; **Apple** at No 1 and **Google** at No 2 are the most valued companies today
- **Cisco** acquires India-born IIT Delhi Alum Jyoti Bansal founded **AppDynamics** for \$ 3.6 Billion on January 24, 2017
- Voice recognition leader **Nuance communications** acquires Delhi-based **mCarbon** on February 8, 2017 for estimated \$ 36 million

### Indian IT Companies

- **TCS** sets a new record - \$ 1 Billion quarterly profit in September - December 2016 quarter; TCS CEO N Chandrasekaran takes charge as Chairman of Tata Sons (the largest private enterprise in India with more than \$ 100 Billion annual turnover and globally respected)
- **Airtel Payments Bank** starts All India operations on Jan 12, 2017

### MNC's in India

- **Ness Technologies** to add 800 coders in 2017
- Storage technology leader **NetApp** announces Rs 1,000 Cr investment in Bangalore in February 2017
- **Boeing** R & D Center in Bangalore to get further investment
- **HP** acquires **Naira** – founded by India-born Sriram Ramachandran and Prasad Palkar, who were earlier part of Aruba, now a HP company – that uses behaviour-based machine learning for cyber security analytics - on February 1, 2017
- **Truecaller** starts India Development Centre in Bangalore on February 21, 2017
- **Mercedes Benz** launches the first "Made in India" car on February 28, 2017 by launching its E Class Sedan

### Education & Research

- **Infosys Science Prize** award ceremony was held on January 7, 2017
- **Five new IIT's** (Dharwad, Palakkad, Tirupati, Bhilai, Goa) get their Directors (Professors P Seshu, PB Sunil Kumar, K N Satyanarayana, Rajat Moona, BK Mishra respectively) in January – February 2017

## People

- TCS CEO **Chandrasekaran** takes charge as Chairman of India's largest business house **Tata Sons** on February 21, 2017 creates maximum buzz
- Google CEO Sundar Pichai visits India in January 2017
- **Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella** visits Bangalore and announces exclusive deal on Azure for the Indian e-commerce major FlipKart on February 20, 2017
- **IBM India MD Vineetha Narayanan** is elevated as Chairman; **Karen Bajwa** (ex Microsoft India MD) is the new MD effective January 2017
- **Justice Kher** takes charge on January 4, 2017 as the 44<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India
- **Anant Maheshwari** is the new Microsoft India Chairman effective January 2017
- **Rajesh Gopinathan** is the new **CEO** and **NG Subramanian** is the new **COO** of TCS effective February 21, 2017
- India-born **Ajit Pai** is the new head of **FCC** (Federal Communications Commission) in USA

## Telecom

- **Airtel** removes national roaming charges on February 27, 2017 and appeals to international community to drop international roaming charges
- **Tata** and **DoCoMo** decide to settle the long pending issue with \$ 1.2 Billion out of court settlement on February 28, 2017

## Startup scene

- **PayTM** (mobile wallet company with Payment Bank license) crosses 200 million wallets and more than half a million users a day in February 2017
- **Snapdeal** announces massive job cuts on February 23, 2017
- **Stayzilla** shuts shop on February 23, 2017

## Interesting applications

- **PVR Pictures** introduces **theatre-on-demand** service

## Interesting numbers

- **PayTM** had Rs 5,000 Crores worth transactions and 200 million transactions in January 2017; with 192 million customers it is just 10 million short of SBI!
- **Delhi Airport** handles more than 50 million passengers during January - December 2016 with 15 million of them being International; together with Mumbai, the two airports carry 2/3rd of Indian Air traffic!

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*Professor Sowmyanarayanan SADAGOPAN is the Director of IIIT-Bangalore. These are his personal views. He has been writing about IT in India for more than decades, with monthly columns in Times of India (1999 – 2003), Financial Express (2004 - 2007), IT Magazine (2008 - 2011) and IEEE India Newsletter (2012 - 2015). He can be reached at [ss@iiitb.ac.in](mailto:ss@iiitb.ac.in)*

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**Dubai launches world's fastest free airport Wi-Fi:** Dubai Airports, which manages both the Dubai International and Al Maktoum International airports, has launched the world's fastest free Wi-Fi service across its terminals with speeds up to 100 Mbps. Called the 'WOW-Fi', the service provides Wi-Fi speed about ten times faster than many households have in the UAE. Free unlimited Wi-Fi at Dubai airports was launched in December 2016

**Google's new US campus to keep cafes, stores open to public:** Google's new US campus, the first built by Google from the scratch, will allow people inside the building without any approval and let them access retail stores and cafeterias made for Google employees. Scheduled to be completed in 2019, the 18-acre campus includes a two-storey building with glass walls and a canopy-like roof of solar panel tiles.

**Google's new algorithm shrinks JPEG files by 35%:** In order to make web pages load faster, Google has created a new open-source JPEG encoder that reduces the file sizes of JPEG images by 35% while maintaining picture quality. The new encoder is called 'Guetzli' which means a 'cookie' in Swiss German. Earlier, Google made several other projects to reduce image sizes on the web, including Zopfli and WebP.

**US ally uses ₹20 crore missile to shoot drone worth ₹13,000:** A US ally used a Patriot missile costing ₹20 crore to shoot down a store-bought quadcopter drone worth only ₹13,000.