

## IT in Oct-Dec 2017



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### General

- Government announces major economic reforms - bank recapitalisation, support to MSME and massive road projects on October 24, 2017
- India's ranking on "ease of doing business" goes up and India joins the "top 100" as per World Bank Report of October 31, 2017; Moody's upgrade India rank on November 16, 2017 (the first in 14 years)
- Multiple train accidents and NTPC plant blast in this quarter in India, US LS Vegas shoot out on October 1, 2017, terror strike in NYC on October 31, 2017 lead to loss of many precious lives
- BJP Gujarat Himachal elections in December 2017

### Products

- Google launches **Pixel 2** phones, **Pixel Book** and **Google Home** on October 4, 2017
- **Apple iPhone X** went on sale on November 3, 2017

### Markets

- India's stock indices **Sensex** (BSE) and **Nifty** (NSE) reach lifetime high values of 33,836 and 10,463 respectively on December 19, 2017; market capitalization of BSE listed companies touch ₹ 150 L Crores on December 25, 2017
- Chip maker **Marvell Tech** to acquire **Cavium** for \$ 6 Billion on November 20, 2017
- Chinese social media major **Tencent** has higher market capitalisation (\$ 500 Billion) than **Facebook** (\$ 474 Billion) on November 21, 2017!
- Co-working space pioneer **WeWork** buys start-up **MeetUp** on November 27, 2017
- Iowa-based Meredith Corporation acquires **Time Magazine** on November 26, 2017 for \$ 2.8 Billion
- **Walt Disney** acquires 21st Century Fox for \$ 52 Billion in December 14, 2017

### Science & Technology and Education & Research

- **Nobel Prize winners for 2017** announced; **Medicine** Nobel announced on October 2, 2017 goes to Jeffrey Hall (University of Maine, USA), Michael Rosbash (Brandeis University, USA) and Michael Young (Rockefeller University, USA); **Physics** Nobel announced on October 3, 2017 goes to Rainer Weiss (MIT, USA), Barry Barish and Kip Thorne (both of Caltech, USA); it had some interesting Indian connections too); **Chemistry** Nobel announced on October 4, 2017 goes to Jacques Dubochet (University of Lausanne, Switzerland), Joachim Frank (Columbia University, USA) and Richard Henderson (Cambridge, UK); **Literature** Nobel announced on October 5, 2017 goes to Japanese-born English author Kazuo Ishiguro; Nobel **Peace** Prize announced on October 6, 2017 goes to International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN); **Economics** Nobel announced on October 9, 2017 goes to Richard Thaler (University of Chicago, USA)
- **Infosys Science Prize** announced on November 14, 2017; **Engineering and Computer Science** Prize goes to **Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay** of Indian Statistical Institute, **Humanities** Prize goes to Ananya Jahanara Kabir of King's College, London, Life Sciences Prize goes to Upinder Bhalla of NCBS, Mathematical Sciences goes to Ritabrata Munshi of TIFR/ISI, Physical Sciences Prize goes to Yamuna Krishnan of University of Chicago and Social Sciences Prize goes to Lawrence Liang of Ambedkar University, Delhi

- India-born steel major **Lakshmi Mittal** donates \$ 25 Million to Harvard University to set up LM South Asia Institute on October 11, 2017
- **IIT Bombay** and **Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore** top **QS World University Rankings 2018** released in October 2017
- Parliament passes **IIM (Indian Institutes of Management) Bill** giving greater autonomy and degree granting authority to the Institutes on December 20, 2017; Presidential signs it into a Law on December 31, 2017
- Government announces the setting up of **National Testing Agency** on Nov 12, 2017

### Indian IT Companies

- **Wipro** acquires NY-based leader in UX design **Cooper** in October 2017
- **TCS** starts Olympus Centre that can accommodate 30,000 people in Mumbai on November 8, 2017
- **Mahindra** start Detroit plant on November 20, 2017
- **24[7].ai** announces its decision to hire 3,000 Internet-based customer experience professionals in November 2017
- **TCS** wins \$ 2.5 Billion Nielsen deal in December 2017

### MNC in India

- Co-working spaces pioneer **WeWork** starts India operations in Bangalore in October 2017
- **Goldman Sachs** increases hiring in India in October 2017
- **Standard Chartered** global centre in Bangalore commissioned in October 11, 2017
- **ThoughtWorks** starts 300-seat second Office in Bangalore in October 2017
- **Amazon** leases 450,000 sq. ft. space in Chennai in October 2017; invests ₹2,900 Cr more in India in November 2017; **AWS** chosen to offer public cloud services for government customers in December 2017
- **Google** launches cloud services out of India with local currency payments on November 1, 2017; starts **Google Go** - 2-wheeler option to Google Maps in India;
- **WalMart** opens its first India “dark stores” in Bhiwandi near Mumbai to serve Kirana Stores on November 1, 2017
- **Uber** starts 2nd Engineering Center at Hyderabad in November 2017
- **IBM India** revenue crosses \$ 5 Billion in 2017
- **Delta Electronics** of Taiwan announces its decision to invest \$ 200 Million in Bangalore in December 2017

### Telecom

- **Airtel** launches low cost 4G phone on Oct 11, 2017 at ₹ 1,500 price point; Airtel to merge Tata Tele-services in a cash-free, debt-free deal signed on October 12, 2017
- **RCom** to exit 2G business
- **BharatNet** phase 2 with ₹ 34,000 Crores funding goes on stream on November 13, 2017
- CBI Court acquits all accused in the 2G scam involving illegal telecom license allotment on December 20, 2017 and causes a flutter

### People

- **Soumya Swaminathan** appointed **Director General of WHO** (World Health Organization) on October 4, 2017
- Microsoft CEO **Satya Nadella** visits India in November 2017 and launches his book **Hit Refresh**
- Infosys co-founder **Nandan Nilekani** and his wife **Rohini** join “**I give pledge**” by donating 50% of their worth to charity in the presence of Bill Gates in Bangalore in November 2017
- **Global Start-up Summit** saw US President’s daughter **Ivenka Trump** visit Hyderabad in November 2017
- **Infosys** appoints Capgemini veteran **Salil Parekh as CEO** on December 2, 2017; Salil takes over on January 2, 2018

### Start-up scene

- Chinese social media giant **Tencent** puts \$ 1 Billion in Ola in October 2017
- **Flipkart** to invest \$ 500 Million in mobile wallet **PhonePe** in Oct 2017
- **HealthifyMe** starts rolling out it’s AI nutritionist **Ria** in October 2017
- Bangalore-based niche embedded systems company **Mistral** acquired by **Axiscades** for Rs 175 Crores on November 5, 2017

- **PayTM** Payment Bank formally launched by PM on November 28, 2017
- **PayTM** and **ICICI Bank** launch “buy now pay later” instant credit for 45 days for up to ₹ 3,000 in November 2017
- **Cisco** CEO John Chambers invests in IIT Madras incubated Uniphore Software systems (specializing in Indian language based speech processing solutions) on December 1, 2017
- **Ola** acquires **FoodPanda** on December 19, 2017

### Interesting Mobile Apps

- State Bank of India (SBI) launches **yono** (You Only Need One) mobile App on November 24, 2017

### Interesting numbers

- **FlipKart** touches 100 million downloads of its App in October 2017
- **FlipKart** and Amazon India cross 100 million downloads on November 1, 2017
- **Apple** market capitalisation touches \$ 900 Billion on November 2, 2017
- **Alibaba** sales cross \$ 25 Billion in a single day on November 11, 2017
- Indian airline passengers crossed 100 Million in January - November 2017; making India the third largest globally after USA (719 Million) and China (436 Million)

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Amazon has launched a checkout-free hi-tech grocery store called 'Amazon Go' in Seattle, US. It uses ceiling-mounted cameras to identify each customer and track what items they select, eliminating the need for billing. The sensors detect when products are taken from shelves and maintain a virtual cart. The purchases are billed to customers' credit cards when they leave the store.

Facebook employee Matt King, who lost his sight, is working to verbalise online content and enable the visually impaired to 'see' and determine appropriate content on the platform. King also worked on 'screen reader' which uses audio cues or braille to 'see' content on the screen. He previously worked on 'automated alt-text' which describes audibly what is in Facebook images.

Technology giant Apple has partnered with Malala Fund to support girls' education, thereby becoming its first Laureate partner. The Fund plans to extend the funding programs to India and Latin America with Apple's help in terms of technology, curriculum and education policy research. Founded in 2013, the Malala Fund aims to empower girls by helping them access quality education.

NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden on Sunday took to Twitter to express his concerns over demands to link Aadhaar to services, saying, "Such demands must be criminalised." He further called Aadhaar "an improper gate to service". His tweet came in response to an article by former RAW head KC Verma, who slammed the need to link Aadhaar number to various services.

Scientists in Spain have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) system that can predict the likelihood of corruption in a government as well as the conditions that favour their appearance. The computer model based on neural networks claims that the probabilities of corruption increase when the same political party stays in power for more number of years.

Researchers at a German research laboratory have developed a sensor-driven electronic 'skin' that can enable users to control objects or appliances with gestures. The thin foil, which sticks to the palm of the hand, allows users to control both virtual and physical objects using magnetic fields. Its sensors can also withstand bending, folding and stretching without losing their functionality.

Belgium-based app developers have designed a chat app called Die With Me which can only be used when a user's smartphone has less than 5% battery left. The app allows users to connect to other users with low battery which it displays next to the sent texts. The app is available both on the App Store and Google Play Store.