

What's hot in IT An Indian Perspective – April 2021

Science & Technology, Innovation & Policy

- **Turing Award**, the “Nobel Prize of Computing” with \$ 1 Million Prize money, for the **year 2020**, goes to **Columbia University Professor Alfred Aho** and **Stanford University Professor Jeffrey Ullaman** for fundamental theory and algorithms behind programming languages and their very influential textbooks that had benefited generations of CS students **(1 Apr 2021)**
- **Tvashta**, an IITM-incubated start-up builds an independent **house in 4 days using 3-D technology**; launched by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** in Chennai **(30 Apr)**
- The first **electric tractor** is being tested in Central Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute, Budni, MP Lab **(30 Apr)**
- **OneWeb** launches 36 more satellites **(26 Apr)**



Higher Education

- **UGC NET** exam postponed **(21 Apr 2021)**
- **JEE (Mains)** – the most sought after competitive exam in the country for admission to IIT's and other technical colleges in the country - planned to be offered in Feb, Mar, Apr & May with Feb & Mar editions completed – had to **postpone** the third time offering indefinitely **(18 Apr 2021)**
- **NEET Exam** (for admission to medical colleges) **postponed (16 Apr 2021)**
- **CBSE cancels 10th Class Examinations** and **postpones 12th Class Examinations** for all students across the country following CBSE pattern **(14 Apr 2021)**
- **IBM** global CEO **Arvind Krishna** is the **Chief Guest** of the 46th **IIM Bangalore Convocation (16 Apr 2021)**; earlier, Arvind Krishna was the Chief Guest of the 53rd **Convocation of IIT Kanpur (22 Oct 2020)**; Covid-19 opens up possibilities of global CEO's giving Convocation speeches of Indian Institutes!
- **OP Jindal University** starts University Administrative Service, akin to Indian Administrative Service **(13 Apr 2021)**
- **Hero** launches “Hero Vired” – EduTech solution **(13 Apr 2021)**
- **SATHAQ** (Students And Teachers Holistic Advancement Through Quality Education) – plan of action for **NEP implementation** unveiled by Government of India **(8 Apr 2021)**
- **Central Universities Admission Test** to take off from 2021 **(1 Apr 2021)**

Telecom/ Infrastructure

- 96-KM long **Delhi Meerut expressway** is commissioned after 16 years **(1 Apr 2021)**



Markets

- **Pharmany, Meesho, Cred, Groww, Gupshup and Sharechat** were the six Unicorns from India in just 4 days **(12 Apr 2021)**
- **Microsoft** buys speech processing / AI major with focus on healthcare **Nuance Communications** for \$ 19.7 Billion **(13 Apr 2021)**
- **Hitachi** buys US software company **GlobalLogic** for \$ 9.6 Billion, that has large presence in India (50% of its 20,000 workforce in India) **(1 Apr 2021)**
- **Blackstone** to acquire majority in **Mphasis** for \$ 2.8 Billion **(27 Apr)**
- **TechMahindra** acquires **DigitalOnUs** for \$ 120 Million **(21 Apr 2021)**
- **Accenture** acquires Durham, North Carolina based cloud Analytics services firm **Code Complete (7 Apr 2021)**
- **upGrad** raises \$ 120 Million from **Temasek** and \$ 60 Million from **IFC, World Bank (29 Apr)**
- **Druva** raises \$ 147 Million **(21 Apr 2021)**
- **UiPath** raises \$ 1.2 Billion on **IPO; lists on NYSE (21 Apr 2021)**
- 22 **IPO's** worth \$ 2.5 Billion in **Jan-Mar 2021!**
- **Rupee** suffers its worst loss in 20 months **(7 Apr 2021)**



People

- **NASA** helicopter flight from Mars surface has India connection; the key engineer **Balaram** is a product of **Rishi Valley School** and **IITM!**
- **Subroto Bagchi** donates **Rs 320 Cr** to fund a **Cancer hospital** in Odisha **(17 Apr 2021)**
- **Ashok Soota** launches **Rs 200 Cr fund** for **Brain Research** at **IISc / St Johns (7 Apr 2021)**
- **Rekha Menon** is **NASSCOM Chief**, the first woman **(28 Apr)**
- **Justice Ramana** is the 48th **Chief Justice of India (24 Apr 2021)**
- **Sushil Chandra** is the new **Chief Election Commissioner (12 Apr 2021)**
- **Atal Innovation Fund** gets a new Chief; **Dr Chintan Vaishnav** (PhD from MIT); **R Ramanan** completes his term **(6 Apr 2021)**
- **Wipro** appoints **Subha Tatavarti** ex Wal-Mart executive as **CTO (1 Apr)**
- **Covid-19 casualties** include Hindustani Music celebrity **Rajan Mishra (24 Apr)**, Bihar Chief Secretary **AN Singh, IAS, Attorney General Soli Sorabjee (30 Apr)**
- **Adobe** founder **Charles Geschke**, whose work at **PARC** led to **Portable Document format**, passed away **(19 Apr 2021)**;
- **Prince Philip**, aged 98, husband of **Queen Elizabeth**, the longest living monarch of Britain, passed away **(4 Apr 2021)**



Products

- **Apple** announced new **iMac**, new **iPad Pro's** powered by its **M1 Chip** powered and a new **Apple TV 4K (20 Apr 2021)**
- **Hero** launches “Hero Vired” – EduTech solution **(18 Apr 2021)**
- **Zoho** launches **Qntrl**, a no-code workflow solution targeting **SME sector (14 Apr 2021)**

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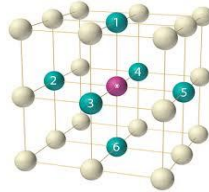
Special events and Milestones

- **US President Biden** completes 100 days in office; manages to get 200 Million vaccinated! announces **50% reduction in emissions** by 2030 (**30 Apr**)
- **Ola** plans 100,000 high-speed (50% charge in 18 Min with 75 Km range) across 400 cities in India; coupled with its plant in Tamil Nadu, near Hosur, EV scooters will disrupt the Indian 2-wheeler industry (**29 Apr**)
- **US Supreme Court** rules in favour of **Google** against **Oracle claim** of use of Java in Android violated its copyright (**5 Apr 2021**)
- **Kumbh Mela** at Haridwar takes off on **14 Apr 2021**; after Covid-19 surge the mood ebbs though
- **Elections** to State Assemblies of **Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry and West Bengal** held during 6 Apr to 29 Apr; results on **2 May**
- **LG** exits smartphones (**5 Apr 2021**)
- **Coronavirus Disease** (officially **Covid-19**) updates
 - April sees Covid-19 incidents crossing 400,000 in India on **30 April**; deaths cross 3,000 for 5 days in a row ; total India death count crosses 200,000 (**30 Apr**)
 - On 30 Apr 2021, cases/deaths stood at
 - ❖ Global: **15,01,21,139** and **27,87,593**
 - ❖ India: **1,86,72,976** and **2,08,330**
 - ❖ USA: **3,18,89,171** and **5,68,836**
 - Lot of action on vaccine front
 - ❖ India decides to vaccinate 45+ from 1 April and 18+ from **1 May**
 - ❖ **Vaccination** numbers Global (1.12 Billion) and **India** (156 Million) (**2 May 2021**)



Interesting numbers

- **Sensex** had **gained** 20,040 points during 1 Apr 202 to 31 Mar 2021 (29,468 to 49,505)
- **Covid-19 Vaccination** picks up speed in India; fastest to reach 100 Million in 85 days (USA 89 days, China 103 days); crosses 150 Million (**29 Apr 2021**)



Interesting Apps / Application

- **Spice Board of India** pilots a **Blockchain** project to guarantee traceability involving 3000 farmers across the supply chain thru UNDP project (**5 Apr 2021**)

Startup scene

- **upGrad** raises \$ 120 Million from **Temasek** and \$ 60 Million from **IFC, World Bank** (**29 Apr**)
- **ChargeBee** is the 11th **Unicorn** in **Apr 2021**!
- **Pharmeasy, Meesho, Cred, Groww, Gupshup and Sharechat** were the six Unicorns from India in just 4 days (**12 Apr 2021**)
- **Druva** raises \$ 147 Million (**21 Apr 2021**)
- **FlipKart** acquires **ClearTrip** in a distress sale (**18 Apr 2021**)
- **Pine Lab** acquires **Fave** for \$ 45 Million (**18 Apr 2021**)
- **Neha Satak** founded IISc start-up **Astrome** launches **GigaMesh**, a wireless backhaul product that promises high-speed Internet at fiber-like speed (**1 Apr 2021**)



Indian IT Companies

- **TCS** Headcount was 4,88,649 on **31 Mar 2021**; **will cross 5,00,000 soon!**
- **TCS** has a new tag-line – “**Building on Belief**” – that replaces “Experience Certainty” (**1 Apr 2021**)
- **Indian IT majors** announce results; top-line/bottom-line figures for the 4th quarter (Jan to Mar) are as follows
 - ❖ **TCS** reported Rs 43,705 Cr revenue and Rs 9,246 Cr profit (**12 Apr 2021**)
 - ❖ **Infosys** reported Rs 26,311 Cr revenue and Rs 5,076 Cr profit (**13 Apr 2021**)
 - ❖ **Wipro** reported Rs 16,245 Cr revenue and Rs 2,972 Cr profit (**14 Apr 2021**)
 - ❖ **HCL** reported Rs 19,302 Cr revenue and Rs 3,982 Cr profit (**15 Apr 2021**)
 - ❖ **Tech Mahindra** reported Rs 9,730 Cr revenue and Rs 1,081 Cr profit (**17 Apr 2021**)
- **Year long (Apr 2020 to Mar 2021)** figures are interesting too
 - ❖ **TCS** reported Rs 1,67,311 Cr revenue and Rs 32,430 Cr profit (**12 Apr 2021**)
 - ❖ **Infosys** reported Rs 1,00,472 revenue (**Crossed Rs 1 Lakh Cr the first time**) and Rs 5,197 Cr profit (**13 Apr 2021**)
 - ❖ **Wipro** reported Rs 61,940 Cr revenue and Rs 10,790 Cr profit (**14 Apr 2021**)
 - ❖ **HCL** reported Rs 76,306 Cr revenue and Rs 11,927 Cr profit (**15 Apr 2021**)



- **TechMahindra** acquires **DigitalOnUs** for \$ 120 Million (**21 Apr 2021**)
- **Wipro** acquires **Amphion** for \$ 117 Million (**5 Apr 2021**)

MNC Companies in India

- **Apple, Amazon, Facebook and Google** announce record quarterly results for Jan to Mar quarter (**30 Apr**)
- **Amazon India** launches \$ 250 Million Start-up fund (**18 Apr 2021**)
- **IBM** names its cloud subsidiary **Kyndryl**; **Martin Schroeter** is the inaugural CEO (**15 Apr 2021**)
- **Citi** exits **Indian consumer market** (**18 Apr 2021**)

