

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

Science & Technology, Innovation & Policy

- **Chinese** space vehicle **Zhurong** drove down the surface of the **Planet Mars** at 240AM GMT, making it the first country to land and drive a vehicle on Martian soil (**22 May 2021**)
- **Google** annual conference **I/O** showcases **Project Starline** that uses 3D holographic technology to make video conferences far more realistic (**19 May 2021**)
- **IBM** announces its **2-nanometer** chip **technology** with a promise of 45% increase in performance and 75% reduction in energy compared the fastest chips that use 7 nm technology today (**6 May 2021**)
- **Telangana** starts experiments for delivering **Covid-19 medicines** using **Drones** (**4 May 2021**)



Markets

- **Sensex** is back at **50,000** (19 May 2021); **NIFTY** is back at 15,000 (**19 May 2021**)
- Online Education biggie **upGrad** acquires college video recording specialist **Impartus** (**24 May 2021**)
- **PhonePe** to buy **Indus OS** for \$ 60 Million (**19 May 2021**)
- **Zensar** to acquire Anil Khandekar and Suresh Potluri founded US-based **M3bi** for \$ 30 Million (**12 May 2021**)

Globally,

- **Amazon** buys out **MGM Studio** for \$ 8.45 Billion (**27 May 2021**)
- **AT&T Media, Warner and Discovery** announce a **merger** leading to a \$ 130 Billion enterprise; AT&T moves out of media business with a cash of \$ 40+ Million (**19 May 2021**)
- **IBM** acquires Salesforce implementation partner **WAEG** (**19 May 2021**)



Higher Education

- **JEE (Advanced) Exam** postponed (**28 May 2021**)
- Online Education biggie **upGrad** acquires college video recording specialist **Impartus** (**24 May 2021**)
- **BITS Pilani's B School BITSoM** announces a Special Executive Education Program with **LBS (London Business School)** (**19 May 2021**)
- **NEET-PG exam** for Medical Doctors postponed by 4 months to make them available for Covid-19 work (**2 May 2021**)

Startup scene

- **Moglix** - the online marketplace for industrial goods - joins the **Unicorn** from India club (**19 May 2021**)
- IT gadgets / hardware product dealer Mumbai-based **Savex** buys Bangalore-based **Inflow**; top-line of the combined entity to cross \$ 3 Billion (**5 May 2021**)

Products

- **Google** launches **News Showcase** in India (**18 May 2021**)



People

- **Rajesh Bansal** appointed as **CEO of RBI Innovation Hub** (**27 May 2021**)
- **Raghu Raghuram** is **vmWare CEO** (**6 May 2021**)
- Covid-19 casualties include
 - ❖ **Sundarlal Bahuguna** of Chipko movement fame (**21 May 2021**)
 - ❖ **IITD Prof Dinesh Mohan**, famous for his studies on road accidents in India (**21 May 2021**)
 - ❖ Renowned Sanskrit Scholar well-versed in Digital technology **Dr Lakshmi Thathachar** (**19 May 2021**)
 - ❖ Financial Express Editor **Sunil Jain** (**14 May 2021**)
 - ❖ Bennett Coleman (Owner of Times of India) Chairperson **Indu Jain** (**11 May 2021**)



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Special events and Milestones

- Election results for five States (West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam & Puducherry) declared (**2 May 2021**)
- **Cyclone Tauktae (19 May 2021)** and **Yaas (26 May 2021)** causes lot of damage in Gujarat and West Bengal and Odisha & Jharkhand
- **Israel Palestine conflict** leads to tension in the Middle East (**10-21 May 2021**)
- Coronavirus Disease (officially Covid-19) updates
 - Supreme Court sets up Covid-19 Task Force, as the country struggles to face the hugely large onslaught of the pandemic in **May 2021**
 - Pune-based **MyLabDiscovery** develops Covid-19 home test kit **CoviSelf** that costs just Rs 250 (**20 May 2021**)
 - The month of **May 2021** was **most cruel to India**; it saw Covid-19 incidents **climbing to a high of 400,000 of daily new cases**; luckily, by month-end it was down to nearly 150,000; **daily death count** reached a peak of 4,591 on **19 May** and started slowing down to 3,000+ by end May; total India death count crosses 300,000 (**24 May 2021**)
 - On **31 May 2021**, cases/deaths stood at
 - ❖ **Global**: 17,00,51,718 and 35,40,437
 - ❖ **India**: 2,80,47,534 and 3,29,100
 - ❖ **USA**: 3,29,29,178 and 5,88,596
- Lot of action on **vaccine** front
 - ❖ The third vaccine **Sputnik V** joins the vaccine scene in India; ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) recommends 3 months gap between first & second dose for **Covishield** vaccine (**12 May 2021**)
 - ❖ India decides to vaccinate **45+ from 1 April** and **18+ from 1 May**, but supply issues and coordination issues bring down the vaccination drive; things stabilised in the last week and total vaccination stood at **43 Million (both the doses)** and **165 Million (one dose)** (**31 May 2021**)



Indian IT Companies

- **TCS CodeVita** is in **Guinness World Records**; 136,054 students from 34 countries participate (**24 May 2021**)
- **CTS** posts good results for **Jan to Apr quarter** top-line at \$ 4.4 Billion and bottom-line at \$ 505 Million (**4 May**)



MNC Companies in India

- **WhatsApp** sues Indian government (**27 May 2021**)
- **Google** launches **News Showcase** in India (**18 May 2021**)
- India-born **Raghu Raghuram** is named **vmWare global CEO** effective **1 June (6 May 2021)**



Interesting numbers

- **BigBasket** sales cross Rs 8000 Cr (\$ 1 Billion) in the year **2020-21**
- **SoftBank** posts \$ 45.8 Billion profit, **the highest ever for a Japanese company**; interestingly, it had its worst performance with a huge loss last year (**13 May 2021**)

