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,

(19 May 2021)

- >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

Higher Education

> JEE (Advanced) Exam postponed (28 May 2021)

- ➤Online Education biggie upGrad acquires college video recording specialist Impartus (24 May 2021) ➤BITS Pliani'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 Mumbaibased Savex buys Bangalore-based Inflow; topline 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)

Professor Sowmyanarayanan Sadagopan is the Director of IIIT-Bangalore. These are his personal views. He has been writing on "What's hot in IT" with an Indian perspective continuously from 1997; Times of India, Financial Express and IT Magazine carried the monthly (and yearly columns) till 2016; IEEE India Newsletter has been carrying the quarterly columns since 2016. Past items are available in www.profsadagopan.com He can be reached at s.sadagopan@gmail.com

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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/death**s 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)



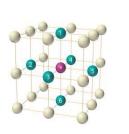
MNC Companies in India

- ➤ 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)



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