

What's hot in IT - A Perspective from India October 2020

Science & Technology

- October is awards time; **Nobel Prizes** were announced
 - Announced on Oct 5, 2020, Nobel Prize in **Physiology or Medicine** goes to **Harvey J Alter** of NIH, **USA**, **Michael Houghton** of Univ of Alberta, **Canada** and **Charles M Rice** of Rockefeller University, **USA** *for the discovery of Hepatitis C Virus*
 - Announced on Oct 6, 2020, Nobel Prize for **Physics** goes to **Roger Penrose** of Oxford University, **UK** "for the discovery that blackhole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity" and **Reinhard Genzel** Max Planck, **Germany** and Univ of California, Berkeley, **USA**, and **Andrea Ghez**, Univ of California, Los Angeles, **USA** *for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy*
 - Announced on Oct 7, 2020, Nobel Prize for **Chemistry** goes to **Emmanuelle Charpentier**, Max Planck, **Germany** and **Jennifer A Doudna**, Univ of California, Berkeley, **USA** *for the development of a method for genome editing*
 - Announced on Oct 8, 2020 Nobel Prize for **Literature** goes to the **American poet Louise Gluck** for "*her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal*"
 - Announced on Oct 9, 2020 Nobel Prize for Peace goes to **World Food Programme** "*for its efforts to combat hunger*"
 - Announced on Oct 12, 2020 Nobel Prize for Economics goes to **Paul Milgrom** of Stanford University, **USA** and **Robert B Wilson** of Stanford University, **USA** *for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats*

USA and Germany account for ALL but one of the Nobel Prize winners of 2020

Higher Education

- **NEET** results out on 15 Oct 2020
- **Grofers** hires 60 from IITs & IIMs (12 Oct 2020)
- **JEE (Advanced)** results out on 5 Oct 2020

Policy

- **Government of India** announces **free Covid-19 vaccine** during Bihar Election campaign; similar sentiments echo in US Presidential Elections too (25 Oct 2020)
- **Prime Minister** speaks to the Nation on 17 Oct 2020 and appeals for caution during festival season (Dasara & Deepavali)
- **Cinema Halls start opening from 15 Oct 15, 2020**
- **US** changes **Visa rules**; likely to impact Indian IT professionals (7 Oct 2020)

Special events and Milestones

- **TCS** mar-cap exceeds that of **Accenture** (12 Oct 2020)
- **Atal Tunnel** – 9 Km long tunnel at 3 KM above MSL (highest in the world) - that **connects Leh** with **Shimla** is commissioned (5 Oct 2020)

- **Air India One** (India's version of Air Force One) arrives; Boeing delivers the first of the two planes (Oct 2020)
- **Quad** (US, India, Japan, Australia) **leaders meet** in Japan (7 Oct 2020)
- **Bihar Elections** Phase 1 (26 Oct), Phase 2 (3 Nov) & Phase 3 (10 Nov 2020)
- **Cyberattacks** force **Dr Reddy's Lab** to shut down some plants (23 Oct 2020)
- All 32 accused in **Babri Masjid case** acquitted; with solution to Ayodhya temple issue earlier this year, this centuries-old dispute comes to an end, hopefully (1 Oct 2020)
- **Coronavirus Disease** (officially **Covid-19**) continues to cause havoc throughout October and the global **death crossed** 1.16 Million (31 Oct); vaccines production and distribution yet to start (31 Oct 2020)
 - Covid-19 deaths in India cross 100,000 (4 Oct 2020)
 - India's positivity rate is down to 7.4% and R-value below 1.0; total case at less than on million from 1 Oct 2020 all the way to 31 Oct 2020
 - **Un-lock 5** starts (1 Oct 2020); Cinema Halls open from 15 Oct 2020
 - On 28 Oct 2020, cases/deaths stood at
 - Global: 43,766,712 and 1,163, 459
 - India: 7,990,332 and 120,010
 - USA: 8,611,256 and. 224,178
 - Death count
 - India 1st case (Mar 13), crossed 100 (6 Apr), 1,000 (29 Apr), 10,000 (16 Jun), 20,000 (6 Jul), 40,000 (6 Aug), 50,000 (17 Aug) and 100,000 (3 Oct)
 - USA 1st case (Mar 3), crossed 100 (Mar 18), 1,000 (Mar 28), 5,000 (Apr 4), 10,000 (Apr 8), 50,000 (Apr 29), 100,000 (May 30), and, 200,000 (25 Sep)
 - Global 1st case (Jan 11), crossed 100 (Jan 28), 1,000 (Feb 11), 10,000 (Mar 20), 50,000 (Apr 3), 100,000 (Apr 12), 500,000 (30 Jun), and, 1 Million (29 Sep)

Markets

- **TCS** market capitalization exceeds that of **Accenture** (12 Oct 2020)
- **Wipro** acquires California-based VLSI design company **Eximius** for \$ 80 Million (12 Oct 2020)
- **Persistent** to acquire California-based **Capiot** for \$ 6 Million (12 Oct 2020)
- **Infosys** to acquire **Blue Acorn iCi** , US-based Adobe partner in Digital experience space for \$ 125 Million (7 Oct 2020)
- **Moshin & Zuber Issa** (India-born brothers) buy UK super market chain **Asda** for \$ 8.8 Billion from **Wal-Mart** (3 Oct 2020)
- India's stock market index **Sensex** falls 1000 points on 15 Oct 2020

Products

- **Apple** launched its 5G smartphone **iPhone 12** (13 Oct 2020)
- **Google** launched its **Google Pixel 5** phone in India (8 Oct 2020)

Indian IT Companies

- Top 4 Indian IT companies post good quarterly results (July to September 2020)
 - **TCS** with top line of Rs. 40,135 Cr and bottom line of Rs 7,475 Cr (7 Oct 2020)
 - **Infosys** with top line of Rs 24,570 Cr and bottom line of Rs 4,845 Cr (14 Oct 2020)
 - **HCL Tech** with top line of Rs 18,594 Cr and bottom line of Rs 3,142 Cr (15 Oct 2020)

- **Wipro** with top line of Rs.15,114 Cr and bottom line of Rs 2,465 Cr (12 Oct 2020)
- **Wipro** bags **Fortum** (UK's third largest energy company) order for application management for 5 years (20 Oct 2020)
- **Mindtree** profit soars by 88% in Q3; top-line of Rs 1,926 Cr and bottom line of Rs 254 Cr (15 Oct 2020)
- **Persistent** to acquire California-based **Capiot** for \$ 6 Million (12 Oct 2020)
- **Tata Motors** (along with GN Auto) starts e-Mobility Software Engineering Center in Bangalore (12 Oct 2020)
- **TCS** mar-cap exceeds that of **Accenture** (12 Oct 2020)
- **Infosys** to acquire **Blue Acon iCi** (7 Oct 2020)
- **PayTM** launches its own **App Store** in India
- **Infosys** wins contract for managing IT & Analytics for **French Open** (3 Oct 2020)

MNC Companies in India

- **Siemens Healthineers** to invest Rs 1,300 Cr in Bangalore Center (20 Oct 2020)
- **Salesforce** talks of 5,00,000+ direct jobs in India (12 Oct 2020)
- **IBM** to **split into two** companies – one focusing on cloud and another on Infra (10 Oct 2020)
- **Uber** launches **Rides** in India (11 Oct 2020)
- **Apple** leases 2,00,000 sq. ft. space in Bangalore (Oct 2020)

Telecom

- **Vodafone-Idea** is **Vi** from 7 Sep 2020 onwards; planning to raise Rs 25,000 Crores

Startup scene

- Bangalore-based **Razorpay** is the seventh start-up in 2020 to reach **Unicorn** status (12 Oct 2020)
- FMCG major **HUL** and **SBI Yono** partner to create a new-age App ecosystem in India (1 Oct 2020)
- Geetha Manjunath founded **Nirmai** solution to be used in **Apollo hospitals** for **breast cancer screening** (non-invasive) (Oct 2020)

People

- IIMA Alum **Prof Srikant Datar** is named **Harvard Business School Dean**; he will take charge on 1 Jan 2021 from Nitin Nohria, another India-born Professor (8 Oct 2020)
- **Dinesh Kumar Khara** is the new **SBI Chairman** (7 Oct 2020)
- **Sashidhar Jagadishan** is the **new CEO** of **HDFC Bank**; **Aditya Puri** retires after 26 years of very distinguished service (26 Oct 2020)
- **Lee Kun Hee** who built **Samsung** into a global powerhouse died at the age of 78 (25 Oct 2020)
- **Union Minister** Ram Vilas Paswan **is no more** (10 Oct 2020)
- US President and First Lady test positive; RBI Governor tests positive (Oct 2020)

Interesting Applications / Apps

- Prime Minister **Modi** launches **SWAMITVA** card (rural digital land record) (11 Oct 2020)

Interesting numbers

- E-commerce is big; **Big Billion Days** of **Flip-Kart** (17 Oct 2020 to 27 Oct 2020) and **Great Indian Festival** of **Amazon** (16 Oct to 21 Oct) see transactions of Rs 1.5 Cr/ min, with Rs 29,000 Cr in the first week
- **Smart phone shipments** go past **50 Million** in July to September 2020
- Top 4 IT forms (**TCS, Infosys, HCL Tech & Wipro**) hired 17,000 in Jul – September 2020
- **Foreign exchange reserves** touch a new high of \$ 555 Billion (16 Oct 2020)
- With 41 Million transactions a day **India is a leader in online payments**, surpassing China and South Korea with 38 Million and 12 Million transactions (7 Oct 2020)
- **GST** collection crosses Rs 95,00 Cr in Sep 2020

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