

What's hot in IT - A Perspective from India August 2021

1. Science & Technology, Innovation & Policy

- **ISRO** satellite launch has successful operation in Stage 1 and Stage 2, but **fails in the third stage**, leading to the **loss of the satellite** that was to be put on the orbit (11 August 2021)
- Delhi's Connaught Place gets **India's first Smog Tower** to control Air pollution (24 August 2021)
- TTD temple in Tirumala starts "**bio-degradable**" **carry bags** to carry "Laddus" that uses DRDO developed technology (23 August 2021)
- Data Protection law gets teeth; RBI rules the **credit / debit card data** can **not be stored** by e-Commerce vendors from January 2022 (23 August 2021)
- A more liberalised **Drone Policy** announced by the Government of India (27 August 2021)
- Government announces an ambitious Rs 600,000 Cr **Asset Monetisation Policy** (24 August 2021)
- Government announces **Vehicle Scrap Policy** (12 August 2021)
- In a major policy decision Finance Minister decides to scrap the "**Retro tax**" that goes back to UPA Government days of 2012 (**5 August 2021**)

2. Higher Education

- **Karnataka** is the first State to implement **NEP** (National Education Policy) (23 August 2021)
- **IISc** transfers its Open Source **Oxygen generator** technology to 24 firms (27 August 2021)
- **JNU** announces the launch of its **Medical School**; **Engineering School** and **Business School** were added in the past 2 years, taking JNU into a **holistic University** (17 August 2021) **AICTE** allows **lateral entry** for two engineering Majors (16 August 2021)
- **JEE (Mains)** results out (5 August 2021)

3. Special events and Milestones

- **Afghanistan falls** into the hands of **Taliban** on 18 August 2021; so much misery thereafter for so many in the world; Taliban sets 31 August 2021 as deadline for the global community (particularly USA) to pull out

- India starts its **UNSC Presidency** on 1 August 2021 with focus on maritime security, peacekeeping and counter terrorism
- In **Tokyo Olympics 2020 Game**, India gets 7 Medals (the highest ever); **Neeraj Chopra** gets the first Gold in Track & Field; **PV Sindhu** the first woman with two medals; first Hockey medal in 41 years! (5 August 2021); has even a better performance in Paralympics (31 August 2021)
- Coronavirus Disease (officially **Covid-19**) updates
 - On 31 August 2021, **cases/deaths** stood at
 - **Global:** 21,68,67,420 and 45,07,837
 - **India:** 3,27,68,880 and 4,38,560
 - **USA:** 3,86,66,040 and 6,32,983
 - Vaccination in India crosses 600 Million on 25 August 2021; India sets a record with 10 Million vaccinations in a single day on 27 August 2021; **Indore City** the **first** to vaccinate **100%** (15 August 2021); **Bangalore Urban District** gets 100% vaccines (30 August 2021)

4. Products

- The big launch **Independence Day launch** of **Ola Scooter S1** with a great “digital” experience is an important milestone in EV industry in India (15 August 2021)
- The foldable phone / tablet segment saw a big announcement with **Samsung** launching **Galaxy Fold 3** (\$ 1,999) and **Galaxy Fold 2** (\$ 999) (11 Aug 2021)
- **RealMe** launches its **thinnest Laptop Slim** (20 August 2021)
- **Google** launches **Pixel 5a** at \$ 499 (217 August 2021)
- **MYn** a social media App for Indian users was launched (7 August 2021)

5. Markets

- The **IPO Scene** in India in August 2021
 - **Car Trade IPO** was **subscribed** 20 times (10 August 2021)
 - **Krsnaa Diagnostics** - with a differentiated services in 1800 outlets (many in Government Primary Health Centres thru PPP arrangement - **IPO** was **subscribed** 64 times (5 August 2021)
- **In mergers/acquisitions and investments**
 - In a big ticket acquisition, Payment major **Square** buys **Australian AfterPay** for \$ 29 Billion (3 August 2021)

- **Unacademy** raises \$ 400 Million taking its valuation to \$ 3.3 Billion (3 August 2021)
- **Bharti Airtel** gets \$ 330 Million funding from **South Korea's Hanwha** (15 August 2021)
- **Sensex** crosses all-time high number 56,000 (18 Aug 2021) - a gain of 7,700 in 7 months of 2021

6. Indian IT Companies

- **Infosys** is the **fourth Indian company** to touch **\$ 100 Billion market capitalisation**; to run **UCAS** (UK's higher education admissions Portal) for 3 more years (23 August 2021)
- **TCS** market capitalisation touches **Rs 13 Trillion** (12 August 2021)
- **HCL** signs a 5-year contract with UK's **Wacker Chemie** (16 August 2021)
- **CTS** acquires **Hunter Tech** (12 August 2021)

7. MNC Companies in India

- **PWC** to invest **Rs 1,600 Cr** and create **10,000 jobs** in India in the next 5 years (12 August 2021)
- **Mercedes Benz R&D Center India** to hire **1,000 engineers** for its Car operating system **MB.OS** Project (12 August 2021)
- **Supreme Court** ruling goes in favour of in **Amazon** and against **Future Retail** (13 August 2021)

8. Interesting Applications

- **Income Tax Department portal** continues to have **performance** issues; **Finance Minister** "summons" Infosys CEO; he promises to "fix" the issues before 15 September 2021
- **Covid-19 Certificates** just one **WhatsApp** message away (Send "Covid Certificate" to +91 90131 51515) (12 August 2021)

9. Startup scene

- Indian start-ups turning **Unicorn** is unstoppable
 - **Contract manufacturing** start-up **Zetwerk** turns Unicorn (20 August 2021)
 - **EduTech** start-up **Eruditus** becomes **Unicorn** (13 August 2021)
 - India's first **crypto-currency** start-up **Coin DCX** turns **Unicorn** (12 August 2021)
 - With **Temasek** infusing another \$ 100, **Edutech upGrad** is officially the **21st Unicorn** of the year 2021 (9 August 2021)

- **Fintech** start-up **BharatPe** raises \$ 370 Million and becomes a **Unicorn** (6 August 2021)
- Bangalore-based **SaaS** start-up **MindTickle** turns **Unicorn** (5 August 2021)
- B2B player in **supply chain** space **OfBusiness** becomes **Unicorn** (1 August 2021)
- **Airbus BizLab** partners with Bangalore-based **Hyper-Verge** (AI-based Satellite Imaging company) (20 August 2021)
- **Verse Innovation** (parent company of short video tool **Josh** and Indian language news aggregator **DailyHunt**) raises \$ **450 Million** (12 August 2021)
- Small-town **Udupi-based RoboSoft** (famous for award-winning iPhone Apps) **acquired** by Japanese **TechnoPro** for Rs 805 Cr (12 August 2021)
- API Platform company **Postman** raises \$ 225 Million to get \$ **5.6 Billion** market **value** (20 August 2021)
- Bangalore-based **Baiju's** buys out AR start-up **Whodat** (12 August 2021)
- Mumbai-based **upGrad** buys **KnowledgeHut** (2 August 2021)

9. People

- God-father of **Sudoku**, a Japanese businessman **Maki Kaji** passed away (16 July 2021)

10. Telecom & Infrastructure

- Airtel Mittal opened **OneWeb** added **38 more satellites**, taking the count to 288 (of the 648 planned by the end of 2021) to offer satellite-based **Net connectivity** to remote areas (25 August 2021); earlier, it got its license from Government of India for satellite-based Net services (5 August 2021)
- A 7.5 Km segment of **Bangalore Metro** connecting **Kengeri** to **Mysuru Road** **inaugurated** (29 August 2021)
- Supreme Court **AGR** decision keeps **Vodafone-Idea** on deathbed (August 2021)

11. Interesting Apps / Applications

- NPCI's digital payment solution **e-RUPI** launched by Prime Minister Modi (one time contact-less, cash-less and secure **voucher**) (5 Aug 2021)

12. Interesting numbers

- **55,000 Indian students** get **US Visa** (August 2021)
- **SBI** posts highest-ever quarterly profit of Rs 6,500 Cr (4 Aug 2021)
- **UPI transactions** cross **3 Billion** in July 2021 (1 August 2021)

- India's monthly **export** see 48% jump in July to \$ 35 Billion (1 August 2021)
- India's **GST** monthly **collection** back to Rs 1+ Lakh Crores in July (1 August 2021)
- India's **forex reserves** touch \$ 621 Billion (15 August 2021)

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