

That's IT in the year 2021

21 Key Developments

1. **Turing Award** (Computing Nobel Prize) goes to Prof **Alfred Aho** of Columbia and **Jeffrey Ullman** of Stanford (1 April 2021)
2. **Space** continues to be exciting
 - **NASA Rover lands on the surface of Mars** (19 February 2021); **Parker Probe** touches Sun's Corona (24 December 2021)
 - **Virgin Atlantic** CEO **Richard Branson** and **Amazon** CEO **Jeff Bezos** create history by way of **flying into space** and **safe return of civilians** (July 2021)
3. **Key technology developments** include
 - Japanese researchers demonstrating **319 TBPS** data transmission speed over **3,100 KM** (June 2021)
4. Key **global developments** include
 - **US President** signed into law **\$ 1 Trillion infrastructure fund** (15 November 2021)
 - **China's Evergrande** bubble bursts; impacts global economy in 2021
5. Key **developments** in India include
 - Indian government announced **India Semiconductor Policy** (December 2021)
 - Government talks of **\$ 1 Trillion Digital economy** in 5 years
 - **Data Protection Law** legislation by Indian Parliament (December 2021)
 - Lots of action on **Crypto**; Government talks of banning it and then regulating it; Crypto Coin DCX focusing on Crypto-currency becomes an Indian Unicorn in 2021
6. India's **HEI** (higher Education Institutions) **getting to global stage**
 - **National Education Policy** implementation starts, with Karnataka taking the lead (July 2021)
 - Slow but steadily **improvements in global rankings**; both **Times Higher Education** and **QS World Rankings**
 - **JNU, IIT-K, IIT-KGP** and **IISc** start specialised **Medical** Schools in the year 2021
 - **IITM** continues to be **No 1** in India for **NIRF Ranking** for the 5th year
7. **Electric vehicles** see lots of traction; **Ola** commissioned its **Electric Scooter factory** in Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu that can produce 10 Million Scooters; **delivered the first set** of Scooters S1 in December 2021
8. New products announced in the year include
 - **Microsoft Windows 11**
 - **Apple iPhone 13**
 - **RealMe** thinnest Laptop Slim
 - **Google Pixel 5a, Pixel 6, Pixel 6 Pro**
 - **Samsung Galaxy Fold-3, Flip-2**

9. It is the year of **India-born professionals** making their mark in the global scene

- **Kamala Harris** making it to the Office of the **Vice President, USA** (January 2021)
- Prof **Raj Reddy** get **Computer History Museum 2021 Award** (June 2021)
- **Satya Nadella** becoming **Microsoft Chairman** (June 2021)
- **Jamshedji Tata** with \$102 Billion donation **tops the Donors of the 20th Century** (June 2021)
- **Parag Agarwal** is the **CEO of Twitter** (November 2021)

10. Markets continue to be full of action

- **FaceBook, Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet** (Google parent) **market capitalisation** crossed **one Trillion Dollar mark** in the year 2021
- **Sensex** goes past **62,000** though many ups & downs throughout the year;
- Record number of **IPO's** that create history -
 - **PayTM** was the largest IPO in the Indian stock markets history, but lost some value after listing
 - Chennai-based Analytics start-up **LatentView** was over-subscribed 325 times, the largest ever in the history of Indian stock markets
 - **Nykaa** creates unique value creating history

11. Major Mergers & acquisitions in India include

- **Tatas** buying **1MG** and **BigBasket**;
- **Wipro** buys \$ 1.5 Billion **CapCo**

12. Big ticket Mergers & acquisitions include

- **Microsoft** buying **Nuance** for \$ 19.7 Billion (April 2021)
- **Zoom** buying **Five9** for \$14.5 Billion (July 2021)
- **Square** buying Australian **AfterPay** for \$ 29 Billion (August 2021)
- **Intuit** buying **Mailchimp** for \$ 12 Billion
- **Ericsson** buying **Vonage** for \$ 6.2 Billion
- **AT&T Media, Warner** and **Discovery** merging to create \$ 130 Billion entity!

13. Start-up scene is hot in India

- **Unicorns** from India - Starting with Digit in January 2021, BharatPe in February, upGrad in July... India **added 44 Unicorns** in the year!
- **SEBI** announces listing norms for start-ups
- Government of Karnataka announces market access policy for start-ups
- **FreshWorks** lists on **NASDAQ**; has stellar performance on debut

14. Interesting applications include

- **Aayushman Bharat** and Unified Health Interface (June 2021)
- Government of India putting **CoWin App source code** in **OpenSource** (June 2021)

15. People scene include

- **Olaf Scholtz** is the new German Chancellor (8 December 2021)
- **Fumio Kishida** is the new **Japanese Prime Minister** (4 October 2021)

16. Interesting numbers of the year include

- **UPI transactions** touch 5 Billion; India is No 1 in digital transactions surpassing China
- India's **Foreign Exchange reserves** touched \$ 621 Billion
- India's stock market index went past 62000
- **TCS headcount** crossed **500,000** (June 2021); TCS **market capitalisation** touched \$ 200 Billion
- **Accenture revenue** crossed **\$ 50 Billion**

17. Covid-19 continues to make the entire humanity suffer

- More than 5 Million **deaths** globally in the year with USA and India accounting for 800,000 and 450,000+ deaths respectively
- **Omicron** dampens the year-end spirit

18. Covid-19 vaccination picks up speed

- More than 9 Billion vaccinations administrated globally
- India creates history by vaccinating 1 Billion people in a record time of 9 months

19. India creates history by vaccinating one billion people in a record time of 9 months

20. Multiple glitches by **Fastly CDN, Akamai** cause Internet slowdown and **AWS glitch** impacted businesses around the world

21. USA leaving **Afghanistan**, **Israel** starting **Embassy** in **UAE**, **UAE** moving to 5-Day week with **Saturday/Sunday Weekend**, **S** are other interesting global developments of the year 2021