

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

1. Science & Technology, Innovation & Policy

- **Reimann hypothesis** received lots of attention with **Kumar Eswaran** from **Sreenidhi Institute of Science and Technology, Hyderabad** claimed to have solved it and several mathematicians agreeing with the claim; **Clay Mathematics Institute** however, decided not to accept the claim (July 2021)
- **Japanese researchers** (National Institute of Information & Communications Technology NIICT) demonstrate **319 TBPS speed over 3,100 Km**, a new world record for high-speed communication (19 July 2021)
- On 20th July 2021, **Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos** creates history; flew 106 Km above the Earth (known as **Karman Line**) on **New Shepard**, a space vehicle made by the space company **Blue Origin** (founded by Jeff Bezos); the crew included his brother, 82-year old lady Wally Funk and 18-year old Oliver Daemen (and no "pilot")!; incidentally, 20 July 2021 marks the 52nd year of the **NASA crew landing on Moon** in 1969
- **Virgin Atlantic's CEO Richard Branson** made history earlier by flying into Space on 11th July 2021; the flight was 11 minutes duration reaching 90 Km above Earth; it had two pilots in addition to Branson and 3 employees of Virgin Atlantic; it had India connection; Guntur, Andhra Pradesh born **Sirisha Bandla** (the second India-born woman after Kalpana Chawla) was in the flight!
- **China** starts **high-speed trains** travelling at 600+ KMPH (20 July 2021)
- The original 9,555-lines long **Python code of the first ever WWW**, written by **Sir Tim Berners Lee** gets auctioned on **NFT** (Non Fungible Token) for \$ 5.4 Million (1 July 2021)
- **Akamai** glitch affects Internet traffic; earlier in June 2021, **Fastly**, another CDN site glitch caused Internet traffic jam (23 July 2021)
- **Drone Policy** (much simplified than the earlier version) is out for suggestions on the Web (20 July 2021)

2. Higher Education

- Government announces **OBC and EWS quota** for **All India medical college seats** (30 July 2021)
- **JEE (advanced)** scheduled on 3 October 2021
- **NTA** (National Testing Agency) announces its decision to postpone the **CUCET** (Central Universities Common Admissions Test) to next year (19 July 2021)
- **UGC** talks of October 1, 2021 as a probable date for the Academic Session to start (17 July 2021)
- **NEET** Exam date decided as 12 Sep 2021
- **JEE (Mains)** exams held (July 20-25, 2021)

3. Special events and Milestones

- **Tokyo Olympics 2020** is **ON** (after so much uncertainty for over a year, till the last minute); has more players and less spectators due to Covid-19 (23 July 2021)!
 - India gets its first Silver Medal on Day 1 and the Second Bronze Medal on 31 July 2021

- **TCS headcount** crosses 500,000 and **Wipro** headcount crosses 200,000 during April - June 2021 quarter!
- Puri **Rath Yatra** takes place with no spectators (12 July 2021)
- Union Government effects a **major reshuffle of the portfolios**, induction of new faces and dropping of some Ministers; **technocrats Ashwini Vaishnaw and Rajeev Chandrashekar in IT / Telecom Ministry** (8 July 2021)
- **India** completes **four years of GST** on July 1, 2021
- Starting in 1991, **Indian economic reforms** complete **30 years** in July 2021
- **Afghanistan War** symbolically **ends**, with US withdrawing its troops (10 July 2021)
- Coronavirus Disease (officially Covid-19) updates
 - The month of **July 2021** saw the death toll in India crossing 400,000 and global death toll crossing 4 million
 - On 31 July 2021, **cases/deaths** stood at
 - **Global:** 19,65,53,009 and 42,00,412
 - **India:** 3,15,72,334 and 4,23,217
 - **USA:** 3,45,64,448 and 6,07,095
- Lot of action on **vaccine** front
 - Vaccination picks up speed; by July 31, 2021 with 460 Million vaccinations completed India had covered 26.3% of the population with at least one vaccination and 7.4% with both the vaccination by July end

4. Products

- **OnePlus Nord 2 5G** announced with a price tag of Rs 29,999 (29 July 2021)
- **Apple loss-less music** available on Android phones also (22 July 2021)

5. Markets

- The **IPO Scene** in India was hot in July 2021
 - **Tatva Chintan IPO** subscribed 190 times (22 July 2021)
 - **Zomato IPO** was over-subscribed 38 times helping the 2008-founded start-up to raise nearly Rs 10,000 Cr; it is the 3rd largest IPO (**Reliance Power** in 2008 and Coal India 2020, the earlier largest IPO's were in Government controlled old economy) and the first in the New Economy (16 July 2021)
- **In mergers/acquisitions and investments**
 - **Tatas** acquire 43% of **Tejas Networks** for Rs 1,353 Cr (29 July 2021)
 - **Byju's** acquires US-based reading platform **Epic** for \$ 500 Million (22 July 2021)
 - **Blackstone** invests \$ 250 Million in **SimpliLearn** (20 July 2021)
 - **YouTube** acquires India-based social media commerce **SimSim** (20 July 2021)
 - **Reliance** acquires major stake in **JustDial** for nearly Rs 3,500 Cr (17 July 2021)
 - **Zoom** buys **Five9** for a whopping \$ 14.5 Billion (19 July 2021)
 - **IBM to acquire BlueTab Solutions** (16 July 2021)
 - **Flipkart** gets funding of \$ 3.6 Billion taking its valuation to \$ 37.6 Billion (17 July 2021)
 - **FedEx** to invest \$ 100 Million in **Delhivery** (20 July 2021)
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IT in India

- **Samsung, Xiaomi and Apple** are the **Top 3** in Smartphones in India; interesting to see **Xiaomi** in its 7th year moving past Apple (22 July 2021)
- **Sensex** touches all-time high number 53,159 (15 July 2021)

6. Indian IT Companies

- **Wipro** plans \$ 1 Billion in Cloud offerings thru its “**FullStride**” services (22 July 2021)
- **InMobi** has 140 Million users in India (1 July 2021)
- Indian IT Companies post good results for April – June 2021 quarter
 - o **TCS** has revenues of Rs 45,411 Crores and profit of Rs 9,008 Cr;
 - o **Infosys** has revenues of Rs 27,896 Crores and profit of Rs 5,195 Cr;
 - o **CTS** has revenues of \$ 4.6 Billion and profit of \$ 512 Million;
 - o **Wipro** has revenues of Rs 18,250 Crores and profit of Rs 3,520 Cr;
 - o **Mahindra** has revenues of Rs 10,198 Crores and profit of Rs 1,353 Cr;
- **TCS** crosses the milestone of 500,000+ employees; Wipro crosses the milestone of 200,000+ employees and a run rate of \$ 10 Billion for the year 2021-22
- Indian IT companies announce their plan to **hire a large number of freshers** in the year 2021-22
 - o **TCS** to hire 40,000
 - o **Infosys** to hire 35,000
 - o Wipro to hire 30,000
 - o **Tech Mahindra** to hire 30,00
 - o **HCL Tech** to hire 15,000
- **TCS** invests \$ 300 Million in Arizona in USA

7. MNC Companies in India

- **Amazon Prime Days** see lot of traction (26-27 July 2021)
- **Global Logic** (founded by four Indians) acquired by Hitachi has 11,000 of its 20,000 employees in India
- **Zoom** revenue zooms from \$ 60 Million in 2019 to \$ 956 Million in 2021!
- **Google** launches its Second Cloud Region in India at NCR, Delhi (incidentally the 26th globally); CEO **Alphabet** (Google parent) **Sundar Pichai** and **Google Cloud** CEO **Thomas Kurien** participated! (15 July 2021)

8. Startup scene

- Auto platform **Droom** and Fintech start-up **NIUM** get Unicorn status in July 2021
- **Byjus** buys **Great Learning** for \$ 500 Million (27 July 2021)
- **HealthifyMe** raised \$ 75 Million (22 July 2021)
- **Swiggy** raises \$ 1.3 Billion (22 July 2021)
- **Vedantu** takes major stakes in **Pedagogy** (22 July 2021)
- AI-based driver / fleet safety start-up **Netradyne** gets \$ 150 Million funding (22 July 2021)
- **PratiLipi** raises \$ 48 Million (17 July 2021)

9. People

- **US Secretary of State** visits India (27-28 July 2021)
- NPS Bangalore student **Pranjal Srivastava** wins a Gold Medal in **Math Olympiad** (27 July 2021)
- After 42 years of distinguished service **HCL Founder Shiv Nadar steps down** (20 July 2021)
- **Amazon's** new **CEO Andy Jassy** takes charge from Founder **Jeff Bezos** (5 July 2021)
- **Cisco India** has a new Chief in **Daisy Chitlapilli** (16 July 2021)
- **NID** Co-founder **Gira Sarabhai** passed away (16 July 2021)
- **P K Warriar**, the founder of **Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala**, died at a ripe age of 100; the organization he single-handedly created has 26 branches and 1000+ authorized dealers across the world and a turnover of more than 400+ Cr! (11 July 2021)

10. Telecom

- Supreme Court decision on **AGR** keeps the Indian telecom industry in deep stress; **Vodafone Idea** near bankruptcy (26 July 2021)

11. Interesting Apps / Applications

- **Indian Railways** decide to use GPS-enabled clocks / watches for all key personnel to avoid possible accidents due to time mis-matches (30 July 2021)
- **BIAL (Bangalore International Airport)** signs a 10-year agreement with **IBM / Kyndryl** on digital transformation exercise (21 July 2021)
- **BHIM UPI** launched in **Bhutan** (18 July 2021)
- Four million pages of **Parliament Proceedings** (going all the way to 1854) go online (10 July 2021)

12. Interesting numbers

- **Puri** is the **first Indian City** to have "**Drink Water from the Tap**" (30 July 2021)
- **Bangalore** in the **Top 10 Destination Cities** globally for **International students** (30 July 2021)
- **Hyundai Chennai plant** rolls out its **10 Millionth car** (1 July 2021)
- Govt of India releases **Rs 75,000 Cr of GST** dues to State Governments (22 July 2021)
- **Ola Electric** Scooters advanced **booking** (with Rs 499) gets 100,000 potential buyers within 24 hours (20 July 2021)
- India's forex reserves touch \$ 613 Billion (23 July 2021)

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