

What's hot in IT in October 2021 A Perspective from India

1. Science & Technology, Innovation & Policy

- **Nobel Prizes 2021** announced

- Nobel Prize in **Physiology / Medicine** goes to

- **David Julius** of University of California, San Francisco, USA and
- **Ardem Patapoutian** of Scripps Research, La Jolla, California, USA

"for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch"

(4 October 2021)

- Nobel Prize in **Physics** goes to

- **Syukuro Manabe** of Princeton University, USA,
- **Klaus Hasselmann** of Max Planck, Germany, and
- **Giorgio Parisi** of Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

"for groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of complex physical systems" (5 October 2021)

- Nobel Prize in **Chemistry** goes to

- **Benjamin List** of Max Planck, Germany and
- **David W.C. MacMillan** of Princeton University, USA

"for the development of asymmetric organo-catalysis"

(6 October 2021)

- Nobel Prize in **Literature** goes to

- **Abdulrazak Gurnah** born in Zanzibar and active in England

"for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents"

(7 October 2021)

- Nobel **Peace Prize** goes to journalists

- **Maria Ressa** of Philippines and
- **Dmitry Muratov** of Russia

"for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression"

(8 October 2021)

- Nobel Prize in **Economics** goes to
 - **David Card** of University of California, Berkeley, USA ,
 - **Joshua D. Angrist** of MIT, USA, and
 - **Guido W. Imbens** of Stanford, USA

“for empirical contributions to labour economics and methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships”

(11 October 2021)

- **German Rail Company and Siemens** demonstrate **driver-less trains** with superior efficiency; to start the service by December 2021 (11 October 2021)
- **Indian Space Association** launched by Prime Minister Modi (11 October 2021)

2. Higher Education

- Results of **NEET** exam (competitive exam for Medical admissions) held on 12 September 2021 were announced on 31 October 2021, after delays caused by Court intervention
- **JEE (Advanced)** results out; 41,862 qualify out of 1,41,699 who took the test, who in turn were qualified to take JEE (Advanced) out of the 1.5 Million who took **JEE (Main)** exam; **Kavya Chopra** of Jaipur tops the list (15 October 2021)
- **IIT-Roorkee** starts **Mehta School of Data Science / Artificial Intelligence** (10 October 2021)
- **IISc** announces its start of **Post-graduate courses in Medicine** from the year 2022 (6 October 2021)

3. Special events and Milestones

- **India vaccination creates a record** 1 Billion shots by 21 October 2021
- **Microsoft** becomes the **most valued company** with its **market capitalisation touching \$ 2.49 Trillion!** In the process it edged past Apple (29 Oct 2021)
- **Facebook** does a re-branding with its name changed to **Meta** (26 October 2021)
- **NSE** has 50 million unique accounts, demonstrating the further democratisation of trading among Indians, that started with NSE launching operations in 1994

- **India, USA, Israel and UAE** form a new Quad (26 October 2021)
- Prime Minister Modi launches Rs 100 Lakh Crores (Trillion) **Gati Shakti** project to kick-start infrastructure through inter-departmental coordination (11 October 2021)
- **OFB** (Ordnance Factories Board) managed factories grouped into seven Public Sector Corporations (11 October 2021)
- **Akasa** will be a new **Airline** in the Indian skies! **Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-promoted Airline** gets Government nod (10 October 2021)
- **Tatas** formally win **Air India** bid for Rs 18,000 Cr as per DIPAM Secretary (8 October 2021)

On Covid-19 front,

- **India vaccination creates a record** 1 Billion shots by 21 October 2021
- Covid-19 death toll nearing 5 million by end-October 2021
- **Brazil** is the second country after USA to cross 600,000 fatalities count (10 October 2021)

4. Products

- **Google Pixel 6 & Pixel 6 Pro** phones that use **Google's Tensor processor** launched (26 October 2021)
- **Apple** launched **new MacBook Pro** and **AirPod 3** with new design (18 Oct 2021)

5. Markets

- **Sensex** crossed 62,000 and lost 2000 points to end below 59,000 in October 2021
- The IPO Scene
 - Beauty & fashion e-commerce platform **Nykaa IPO** is subscribed more than **80 times** (31 October 2021)
- In mergers/acquisitions and investments
 - **InMobi** to acquire UK-based consumer analytics firm **Appsumer** (12 October 2021)

6. Indian IT Companies

- **FlipKart** (a Wal-Mart Company) held its **Big Billion Days** sale during 3-10 October 2021; according to the company it was a massive success; the number of visitors to the site was 660 Million, with 52% from Tier 3 towns!
- **Four** of the **top Indian** IT companies (TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL) **added 100,000** to their headcount in just six months (April to September 2021)
- **TCS** partnership with **SBI** that started in 2001, to continue for five more years (5 October 2021)
- Quarterly results (July - September 2021) announced
 - o **TCS** - Revenue of Rs 47,339 Cr and profit of Rs 9,624 Cr (8 October 2021)
 - o **Infosys** - Revenue of Rs 29,602 Cr and profit of Rs 5,421 Cr (11 October 2021)
 - o **Wipro** - Revenue of Rs 19,761 Cr and profit of Rs 2,831 Cr (11 October 2021)
 - o **HCL** - Revenue of Rs 20,655 Cr and profit of Rs 3,259 Cr (14 October 2021)

7. MNC Companies in India

- IBM Global Business Services become **IBM Consulting**; earlier, IBM hived off its infrastructure business into a new company **Kyndryl** (16 October 2021)
- **Bridgei2i**, a Bangalore-based analytics firm acquired by **Accenture** (12 October 2021)

8. Start-up Scene

- Start-up **Chalo** that digitises bus commute across Indian cities acquired **Shuttl** a bus aggregator for office travel (26 October 2021)
- Digital Insurance start-up **Akko** becomes a **Unicorn** (26 October 2021)
- **GenRobotics** launches Bandicoot, a robotic arm that cleans sanitary pipes for the global market (10 October 2021)
- **Sheela** is the conversational AI App from **QurHealth** (October 2021)
- Indian start-ups turning **Unicorn** is unstoppable
 - o **Lucious** is **29th** Unicorn of 2021
 - o **CoinSwitch** is the **30th** Unicorn (and second in Crypto-currency)
 - o **Rebel Food** (that owns the brand Behrouz Biryani) is the **31st** Unicorn
 - o **MobiKwik** is the 33rd Unicorn!

9. People

- **Wipro** Founder **Azim Premji** donates **Rs 9,713Cr** in 2020-21, nearly, Rs 27 Crores a day!
- **KV Kamath** of ICICI fame is the **first Chairman** of the newly established development Bank **NABFID** (26 Oct 2021)
- **CEA Krishnamurthy Subramanian** to complete his 3-year term and get back to academics by 31 December 2021 (25 October 2021)
- **Fumio Kishida** is the new **Japanese Prime Minister** (2 October 2021)

10. Telecom & Infrastructure

- Government amends **AGR definition** to remove non-core income; this should help the ailing Indian telecom industry (26 October 2021)

11. Interesting Apps / Applications

- **e-Shram portal** of the Labour Ministry that attempts to organise the unorganized workers has **40 million** registration (18 October 2021)
- **RBI** extends the limit of **IMPS** transaction from Rs 2 Lakhs to Rs 5 Lakhs (8 October 2021)
- **Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram** suffer outage for six hours (4 October 2021)
- **WhatsApp** introduces ₹ Symbol integrating payments tightly into WhatsApp (1 October 2021)

12. Interesting numbers

- **UPI** logs **4.21 Billion** transactions (compared to 3.65 Billion in September) in October 2021
- **Sensex** crossed 62,000 (a new landmark) and lost 2000 points to end below 59,000 in October 2021
- India's **GST** monthly **collection** at Rs 1.3 Lakh Crores in October (31 October 2021)
- India's **forex reserves** touch \$ 640 Billion (29 October 2021)

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