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

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1. <u>Science & Technology, Innovation & Policy</u>

   - **NASA** spacecraft **Parker Probe** creates history; **touches Sun's Corona** (estimated to have a temperature of about 2 Million Degrees Fahrenheit) and survived! (24 December 2021)
   - **NASA's James Webb telescope takes off** successfully (25 December 2021)

   - Rs 76,000 Cr **Semiconductor Policy** announced by the Government (20 December 2021)

2. <u>Education & Research</u>

   - India-born young mathematician **Nikhil Srivastava** of UC Berkeley wins the inaugural **Ciprian Foias Prize** of **American Mathematics Society for solving the famous "paving problem"** in operator theory (4 December 2021)

   - **Infosys Prize** winners of 2021 include
     - **Dr Neeraj Kayal** of **Microsoft Research** for his work on Computational Complexity **(Mathematical Sciences)**
     - **Dr Chandrasekhar Nair** of **Molbio Diagnostics** for his pioneering work on point-of-care testing devices (**Engineering and Computer Science)** (2 December 2021)

3. <u>Special events and Milestones</u>

   - **Unicorns** (start-ups with $ 1 Billion or more valuation) in India set a new record**; 44** of them in the year 2021 alone! India added 33 Unicorns during 2011 to 2020

   - **Farmers** call off the year-long **agitation** (12 December 2021)

   - **AWS** disruption leads to real problems for connected homes in USA; cloud impacts lives!
   - **UAE** moves to **4.5 workdays** week and switches to **Saturday & Sunday as weekly holiday**s!

On Covid-19 front,

- **Global Covid-19** incidents close to 300 million; deaths cross 5 million; **India** has more than 35 Million who tested positive and lost more than 480,000 lives (31 December 2021)
- V**accines** administered **globally** cross 9 Billion; India had vaccinated nearly 1.5 Billion; **64% of Indians** are f**ully vaccinated**; **90% of Indians** have been administered **at least one vaccine** (31 December 2021); **India** administers **10 Million jabs on a single day** (4 December 2021)

- New Covid-19 variant **Omicron** continues to causes worries all over; Prime Minister Modi announces vaccination for children in the 15-18 age group (25 December 2021)

4. Products

- India's popular accounting software **TALLY Prime** is available on AWS (28 December 2021)
- **Ola** delivers its first 100 **S1 Electric Scooters** to its customers in Bangalore (15 December 2021)
- **Netflix** offers special India price of Rs 149 per month (20 December 2021)

5. Markets

In the **IPO space**

- **MapmyIndia** had a stellar IPO; over-subscribed 153 times and gained on listing (13 December 2021)

On the mergers & acquisitions front,

- **Wipro** acquires US-based Cybersecurity firm **Edgily** for **$ 230 Million** and System Integrator **LeanSwift** for **$ 21 Million** in December 2021
- **TechMahindra** acquires Seattle-based customer experience focused **Allyis India** and **Green Investments** for $125 Million (4 December 2021)

6. Indian IT Companies

- Indian IT companies talk of **record recruitment** (400,000) amidst **record resignations** in 2021!

7. MNC Companies in India

- **Meta** (Facebook renamed) **CEO Mark Zuckerberg** speaks in the **Fuel for India,** Conference (15 December 2021)

8   Start-up Scene

The Indian Unicorn story goes unabated

- **Unicorns** (start-ups with $ 1 Billion or more valuation) in India set a new record; 44 of them in the year 2021 alone! India added 33 Unicorns during 2011 to 2020
- **Slice** and **Spinny** are the Unicorns of December 2021

On the mergers & acquisitions front,

- **Baiju's** acquires Australian **GeoGlobe** for $ 100 Million (10 December 2021)
- Online education major **upGrad** acquires Australian firm **Global Study Partners** (12 December 2021); **TalentEdge** for Rs 300 Pro (10 December 2021)

9. People

- **Parag Agarwal** (Undergraduate IIT Bombay CS 2005, PhD Stanford) takes over as **Twitter CEO** (1 December 2021)

- India-born and educated **Neeli Bendupudi** is named President of **Penn State** in USA (11 December 2021)

- India-born young mathematician **Nikhil Srivastava** of UC Berkeley wins the inaugural **Ciprian Foias Prize** of **American Mathematics Society for solving the famous "paving problem"** in operator theory (4 December 2021)
- India-born **Gita Gopinath** will be the **first woman Deputy MD** of **IMF** (4 December 2021)

- **Olaf Scholz** takes over as the next **German Chancellor** (after four terms of **Angela Meckel**) (9 December 2021)

- **Russian President Putin** visits India (6 December 2021)

- In an unfortunate accident the **first CDS of India General Rawat** passed away (9 December 2021)

10. Telecom & Infrastructure

- **13 Indian cities** (Gurugram, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jamnagar, Ahmadabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Pune and Gandhi Nagar) are to get **5G in 2022** as per Government decision (December 2021)

11.Interesting Apps / Applications

- **BitClass** online education App and **ClubHouse** social media App are the T**op Apps on Android** for 2021

12.Interesting numbers

- 58.9 Million tax payers file their return online in 2021; 4.6 Million on December 31, 2021!
- India's stock market BSE Index **Sensex** closes at 58,253 (31 December 2021)
- **UPI** logs 4.56 **Billion** transactions in December 2021
- More than **50 Million** workers register on **e-Shram portal** in the year 2021

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Professor Sowmyanarayanan Sadagopan is the former Director of IIIT-Bangalore. These are his personal views. He has been writing on "What's hot in IT" with an Indian perspective continuously from 1997; **Times of India**, **Financial Express** and **IT Magazine** carried the monthly (and yearly columns) till 2016; **IEEE India Newsletter** has been carrying the quarterly columns 2016-20. Past items are available in www.profsadagopan.com He can be reached at s.sadagopan@gmail.com