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IT Spending in India to Reach \$100 Billion in 2022

IT spending in India is forecast to total \$101.8 billion in 2022, an increase of 7% from 2021, according to the latest forecast by Gartner, Inc.

"The digital transformation trajectory that began



as a pandemic response is here to stay for the next few years," said Arup Roy, research vice president at

Gartner. "India has experienced one of the fastest recoveries despite being one of the worst hit regions in the second wave of the pandemic in early 2021. In 2022, ClOs in India will build on renewed interest in technology from the business to gain funding for new IT projects."

Indian CIOs are likely to increase their spending towards projects that drive innovation and modernizing legacy systems. Hiring a workforce that can deliver on these needs will also be a key priority. Next year, Indian CIOs are prioritizing a move away from rigid and monolithic ways of doing business to a more composable business and IT architecture where they will be able to better respond to disruptions.

In 2022, all segments of IT spending in India are expected to grow, with software emerging as the highest growing segment. Spending on software is forecast to total \$10.5 billion in 2022, up 14.4% from 2021 (see Table 1). While experiencing a slower growth rate than 2021, spending on software in 2022 is forecast be nearly double of what it was pre-pandemic.

As hybrid work adoption increases in the country, there will be an uptick in spending on devices in 2022, reaching \$44 billion, an increase of 7.5% from 2021. "The growth in devices is a combination of two components – hybrid work and pent-up demand from 2020 for device upgrades," said Roy. "Spending on devices will make up 43%

of total IT spending next year."

Gartner's IT spending forecast methodology relies heavily on rigorous analysis of sales by thousands of vendors across the entire range of IT products and services. Gartner uses primary research techniques, complemented by secondary research sources, to build a comprehensive database of market size data on which to base its forecast.

The Gartner quarterly IT spending forecast delivers a unique perspective on IT spending across the hardware, software, IT services and telecommunications segments. These reports help Gartner clients understand market opportunities and challenges. The most recent IT spending forecast research is available to Gartner clients in "Gartner Market Databook, 3Q21 Update." This quarterly IT spending forecast page includes links to the latest IT spending reports, webinars, blog posts and press releases.

	2020 Spending	2020 Growth (%)	2021 Spending	2021 Growth (%)	2022 Spending	2022 Growth (%)
Communication Services	22,999	11	24,000	4.4	24,551	2.3
Data Center Systems	2,614	-11.3	2,764	5.7	2,859	3.4
Devices	36,014	-5.8	41,040	14	44,132	7.5
IT Services	16,352	3	18,119	10.8	19,768	9.1
Software	7,852	17	9,188	17	10,507	14.4
Overall IT	85,831	1.5	95,110	10.8	101,817	7

India Wearables Market Reports another Record Quarter Shipping 23.8 million Units in 3Q21

India's wearable market grew by 93.8% year-over-year (YoY) in 3Q21 (July-Sept), shipping 23.8 million units, according to the recent data from the (IDC) India Monthly Wearable Device Tracker . Despite the logistic challenges and increase in freight costs, vendors remained aggressive in their shipments and were able to manage the



inventory for the upcoming month-long festival sales. Shipments in September surpassed 10 million, growing two-fold from the same month last year, resulting in a record quarter for wearable

devices in India.

Watches continue to be the fastest-growing category with 4.3 million shipments in 3Q21, while wristbands saw a seventh consecutive quarter of annual decline. Overall wristwear (inclusive of watches and wristbands) crossed the 5 million shipments mark in a single quarter, further reinforcing the acceptance of watches in the country. Truly Wireless (TWS) devices reached a 39.5% share of earwear in 3Q21, but the market remains dominated by over-the-ear and tethered devices.

India-based brands have captured over two-thirds of the watch market with their aggressive offerings and marketing spends on digital platforms. Noise maintained its lead for the sixth straight quarter with a 26% market share in 3Q21, followed by BoAt with a 23.1% market share. Fire-Boltt replaced Huami for the third position as its share jumped to 15.3% in 3Q21 from 5.5% from a quarter before. Realme entered the fourth position backed by its newly launched watches, and Amazfit settled at the fifth position.

Commenting on the growth in the watch segment, Anisha Dumbre, Market Analyst, Client Devices, IDC India, said, "While seasonality made 3Q21 the biggest quarter for wearables, the influx of devices at the entry-level was the key growth factor. Throughout the quarter, Indian vendors were aggressive with their launches and channel expansion. Aggressive intent to maintain their lead helped them to further reduce the average selling price of watches to \$73, putting immense pressure on a struggling wrist band category."

"So far, these new-age brands have been able to limit the incumbent smartphone brands' ability to make any dent in their growth and continue to dominate the hearable and wristwear categories," added Dumbre on the foray of smartphone companies in the wearables segment. The earwear category that includes TWS, neckbands, and wireless over-the-ear headphones, clocked 18.7 million units with an impressive 77.9% YoY growth in 3Q21. BoAt continued to lead the segment with a 48% share, recording 9 million units for the quarter. Realme replaced OnePlus for the second position, OnePlus moved to the third position, while Samsung settled at the fourth position. Ptron retained its fifth position as its shipments grew 81.9% during the quarter. A total of 7.4 million TWS devices in the earwear category were shipped, growing 70.5% YoY in 3Q21. As players continued to target entry-level price points, 86.4% of the TWS devices now fall under \$50. BoAt also led the TWS category with a 37.3% share in the 3Q21.

"The proliferation of new entrants in the mass market segment has increased competition, putting a lot of pressure on brands to differentiate in a market that is getting inundated with lookalike products," said, Jaipal Singh, Research Manager, Client Devices, IDC India.

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Rebuilding Economies

The COVID pandemic is an unprecedented event in the history of the modern world. It has left an indelible mark on economies around the globe and challenged their resilience. It has impacted geo-politics, global trade and perhaps globalisa-



tion itself.

On a positive note, the pandemic has placed sustainability back at the centre stage and expedited technological advancements. As we re-build the pandemic devasted world, we need to redesign our economic models to address the challenges and opportunities of a post pandemic era.

At this critical juncture, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is launching the CII Global Economic Policy Summit, a platform to bring together thought leaders from across the world to deliberate on the way forward for the world and India. In line with the current economic challenges, the Summit proposes to focus on five key challenges:

Reviving Growth: The world has lost more than two years of growth. It is still not clear as to when (or if) the pandemic will get over, and when the global economy will be able to make up for the loss. With an estimated 120 million people having been pushed into extreme poverty by the pandemic, reviving growth is of utmost importance. The much higher pace of vaccination in the devel-

oped world and the fiscal muscle is leading to a much faster recovery in the developed world, exacerbating global inequalities. Economic progress is getting linked to technological progress more than ever before, further broadening the divide between the technologically advanced developed nations and the others.

Future of Jobs: The pandemic induced curbs on the economic activity and the economic slow-down have led to massive job losses. As per ILO estimates, the working-hour losses in 2020 were approximately four times greater than during the global financial crisis in 2009.

The fast-paced adoption of technology and automation is also changing the nature of jobs, necessitating a re-look at skill development priorities and models.

Road Ahead for Fiscal and Monetary Policies: Countries have adopted expansionary fiscal and monetary policies to support their pandemic-stricken economies. The challenge now is to turn back to normal mode, without hurting growth and macro-economic stability. The continued uncertainty around the pandemic and the interlinkages in the global economy, wherein measures taken by some of the large economies have implications for the rest of the world, make the task more complex.

Changing geo-economics & geo-politics: Rising nationalism and shifting geo-political alignments are leading to greater intertwining of economic and strategic interests. This has implications for globalisation and open trade, global investments and capital flows and technology collaborations, impacting national growth and development strategies. The slow post-global financial crisis recovery and rising inequality is leading to populist backlash against economic rationalist policies in many parts of the world.

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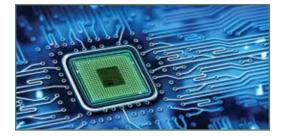
The tensions between the two economic superpowers, the US and China, regional stability issues in the Middle East and North Africa region, recent developments in Afghanistan, all have implications for the global economy. Another important aspect of geo-economics is the impact of climate change on economies around the world.

Uncaging India: India continues to be a beacon of peace and democracy. It is also the 6th largest economy. However, it is the second most populous nation and has a young population, 65% of its population is aged 35 years and below. Clearly the potential for faster growth remains very high.

An uncaged India, realising its full growth potential, will benefit not only its own population, but will also benefit global growth. The plethora of reforms being undertaken by India, its technological progress and focussed growth interventions will help tap into this potential. However, the journey is long and there is always more to learn and do

Chip Shortages Will Drive 50% of the Top 10 Automotive 0EMs to Design Their Own Chips by 2025

By 2025, chip shortages and trends such as elec-



trification and autonomy will drive 50% of the top 10 automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to design their own chips, according to Gartner, Inc. As a result, it will give them control over their product roadmap and supply chains.

"Automotive semiconductor supply chains are complex," said Gaurav Gupta, research vice president at Gartner. "In most cases, chip makers are traditionally Tier 3 or Tier 4 suppliers to automakers, which means it usually takes a while until they adapt to the changes affecting automotive

market demand. This lack of visibility in the supply chain has increased automotive OEMs desire to have greater control over their semiconductor supply."

In addition, the on-going chip shortage is primarily with mature semiconductor technology node devices that are fabricated on smaller 8-inch wafers, where capacity expansion is difficult. "The fact that the automotive industry has been conservative in qualifying older devices on larger wafer sizes has also hurt them and will likely motivate them to take chip design in-house," said Gupta.

This model of bringing chip design in-house, or popularly known as 'OEM-Foundry-Direct', isn't unique to the automotive industry and will intensify among tech companies as some changes are happening in the semiconductor market. Semiconductor chip foundries, such as TSMC and Samsung, have provided access to cutting-edge manufacturing processes, and other semiconduc-

tor vendors have given access to advanced intellectual property that makes custom chip design relatively easy.

"We also anticipate that the lessons learned from the microchip shortage will further drive automakers to become tech companies," said Gupta.

Gartner also predicts that by 2025, the average sale price of new vehicles will exceed \$50,000 in the U.S. and Germany, leading to greater repair and upfit of older vehicles. "This price acceleration will likely shrink the overall number of sales of vehicles and increase the market for parts and upgrades as people seek to keep existing vehicles on the road longer," said Mike Ramsey, research vice president at Gartner.

Gartner analysts anticipate that the market for new vehicles will remain flat or even decline in the face of rising prices. Meanwhile, automakers will push new services and even upgrades of equipment and computers to extend the lives of existing vehicles.

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Samsung Electronics Announces New Advanced Semiconductor Fab Site in Taylor, Texas

Samsung Electronics, a world leader in advanced semiconductor technology, announced that it would build a new semiconductor manufactur-



ing facility in Taylor, Texas. The estimated \$17 billion investment in the United States will help boost production of advanced logic semiconductor solutions that power next-generation innovations and technologies.

The new facility will manufacture products based on advanced process technologies for application in areas such as mobile, 5G, high-performance computing (HPC) and artificial intelligence (Al). Samsung remains committed to supporting customers globally by making advanced semiconductor fabrication more accessible and meeting surging demand for leading-edge products.

Groundbreaking will be in the first half of 2022 with the target of having the facility operational in the second half of 2024. The Taylor site will span more than 5 million square meters and is expected to serve as a key location for Samsung's global semiconductor manufacturing capacity along with its latest new production line in Pyeongtaek, South Korea.

The total expected investment of \$17 billion, including buildings, property improvements,

machinery and equipment, will mark the largest-ever investment made by Samsung in the U.S. This will also bring Samsung's total investment in the U.S. to more than \$47 billion since beginning operations in the country in 1978, where the company now has over 20,000 employees across the country.

After reviewing multiple locations within the U.S. for a potential manufacturing site, the decision to invest in Taylor was based on multiple factors, including the local semiconductor ecosystem, infrastructure stability, local government support and community development opportunities. In particular, the proximity to Samsung's current manufacturing site in Austin, about 25 kilometers southwest of Taylor, allows the two locations to share the necessary infrastructure and resources.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION NEXT YEAR ON NEW 300-MM SEMICONDUCTOR WAFER FABRICATION PLANTS

Texas Instruments Incorporated (TI) (Nasdaq: TXN) announced plans to begin construction



next year on its new 300-millimeter semiconductor wafer fabrication plants (or "fabs") in Sherman, Texas. The North Texas site has the poten-

tial for up to four fabs to meet demand over time, as semiconductor growth in electronics, particularly in industrial and automotive markets, is expected to continue well into the future. Construction of the first and second fabs is set to begin in 2022.

"TI's future analog and embedded processing 300-mm fabs at the Sherman site are part of our long-term capacity planning to continue to strengthen our manufacturing and technology competitive advantage and support our customers' demand in the coming decades," said Rich Templeton, TI's chairman, president and CEO. "Our commitment to North Texas spans more than 90 years, and this decision is a testament

to our strong partnership and investment in the Sherman community."

Production from the first new fab is expected as early as 2025. With the option to include up to four fabs, total investment potential at the site could reach approximately \$30 billion and support 3,000 direct jobs over time.

The new fabs will complement TI's existing 300-mm fabs which include DMOS6 (Dallas, Texas), RFAB1 and the soon-to-be-completed RFAB2 (both in Richardson, Texas), which is expected to start production in the second half of 2022. Additionally, LFAB (Lehi, Utah), which TI recently acquired, is expected to begin production in early 2023.

GLOBALFOUNDRIES, FORD TO ADDRESS AUTO CHIP SUPPLY AND MEET GROWING DEMAND

GlobalFoundries Inc.v(GF), a global leader in feature-rich semiconductor manufacturing, and Ford Motor Company announced a strategic collaboration to advance semi-



conductor manufacturing and technology development within the United States, aiming to boost chip supplies for Ford and the U.S. automotive industry.

The companies have signed a non-binding agreement that opens the door for GF to create further semiconductor supply for Ford's current vehicle lineup and joint research and development to address the growing demand for feature-rich chips to support the automotive industry. These

could include semiconductor solutions for ADAS, battery management systems, and in-vehicle networking for an automated, connected, and electrified future. GF and Ford also will explore expanded semiconductor manufacturing opportunities to support the automotive industry.

"It's critical that we create new ways of working with suppliers to give Ford – and America – greater independence in delivering the technologies and features our customers will most value in the future," said Jim Farley, Ford president and CEO. "This agreement is just the beginning, and a key part of our plan to vertically integrate key technologies and capabilities that will differentiate Ford far into the future."

"GF is committed to building innovative alliances with the world's leading companies to enable the features in products that

are pervasive throughout people's lives," said Tom Caulfield, GF CEO. "Our agreement with Ford is a key step forward in strengthening our cooperation and partnership with automakers to spur innovation, bring new features to market faster, and ensure long-term, supply-demand balance."

The announcement is consistent with both companies' commitment to build innovative business relationships to regain supply-demand balance for chips in the auto industry as well as efforts to further accelerate technology innovation for the U.S. auto industry. The collaboration leverages both companies' strengths to better compete, innovate and serve customers.

This strategic collaboration does not involve cross-ownership between the two companies.











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Accenture, Microsoft expand Project Amplify in India

Accenture and Microsoft in India are supporting 10 startups, which focus on social impact and sustainability, by helping them to scale their emerging solutions and business models.

The joint initiative, called Project Amplify is Asia Pacific-wide and accelerates the growth of 33 startups from across the region. The initiative extends activities launched in South Asia in 2020 welcoming business ventures from Singapore, Australia, Japan, Sri Lanka, and more. The initiative has a long-term goal of accelerating Asia's potential and improving millions of lives in the region and globally, by addressing diverse societal challenges.

"Social enterprises face many challenges, includ-

ing access to technology and innovation expertise to scale their solutions," said Sanjay Podder,



managing director and Technology Sustainability Innovation lead at Accenture. "By leveraging the technology expertise and networks of both Accenture and Microsoft, we can help bridge this gap. As

these social enterprises expand their reach, we hope to see significant improvement in the status of vulnerable groups in our communities that need support in sustainability, healthcare, education and agriculture."

HFCL expands global business, appoints two industry leaders to further strengthen worldwide presence

HFCL Limited (HFCL), the leading enterprise and integrated next-gen communication product and solution provider today announced appointment of two industry veterans in its two recently incorporated wholly owned subsidiaries in USA and Netherlands to bolster its international presence and unleash non-linear growth for the Company in the global markets.

HFCL is one of the leading player in Optical Fiber and Cable Business in India with significant manufacturing capacity and deploying the largest telecom networks in the Country. It also has business presence in over 30 countries across the globe. With an aim to garner scale globally and substantially increase its international business, HFCL has onboarded Dr. Peter A Weimann as the CTO and Mr. Jochen Arms as the Vice President – Sales (DACH Europe) for the Optical Fiber & Cable (OFC)

Commenting on strengthening the global leadership team, Mahendra Nahata, Managing Director, HFCL said, "HFCL is a leading technology enterprise



in India manufacturing a range of products in optical fibre cable ("OFC"), optical fibre, cable accessories and telecom equipment, and is also one of the largest integrated telecom network provid-

ers in India. We are excited to welcome Dr. Peter Weimann and Mr. Jochen Arms as members of our global leadership team to provide further impetus to our international business. With their addition and our new investments in product development, HFCL is geared up to capitalise on the upcoming growth opportunity in the decade of digital transformation that we are seeing across industry verticals. We will move one step closer towards our mission to provide cost effective, futuristic end-to-end telecom solutions to our customers globally."

Deloitte acquires Oracle Cloud Infrastructure firm BIAS

Deloitte announced it will acquire the assets of Bias, a cloud consulting firm and Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) specialist based in the United States and India. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. BIAS has more than 350 employees across offices in the United States and India. This acquisition complements Deloitte's existing portfolio of Oracle cloud application and infrastructure capabilities and expand its customer base to emerging and enterprise businesses that require Oracle cloud migration services, according to a statement released by the company.

Founded in 2000, Bias helps private and public sector clients advises, implements and operates services for cloud infrastructure, database, middleware, applications, analytics and security. Bias has been an active member of the Oracle PartnerNetwork since 2005 and was recently recognized as the Oracle Global and North American partner of the year for Oracle Cloud

Infrastructure and the Oracle SaaS Applications Partner of the Year for SMB.

Partner of the Year for SMB.

Amit Chaudhary, cloud engineering offering



leader and principal,
Deloitte Consulting LLP,
said: "Leading organizations understand that
having their data, systems and applications in
the cloud is an essential
building block for busi-

ness agility and this acquisition underscores the strategic priority Deloitte places on advancing business disruption with cloud technology. Oracle Cloud infrastructure gives our clients powerful compute and networking performance while also delivering a host of infrastructure and platform cloud services. Combining the experience of the Deloitte and BIAS teams will assist clients as they build powerful foundations for the future."

Micro Focus Partnership and Technology Enables New Amazon Web Services (AWS) Mainframe Modernization Service

Micro Focus announced that Amazon Web Services (AWS) has chosen the company as a key partner enabling the new AWS Mainframe Modernization service. As a partner of the recently announced AWS Mainframe Modernization service, Micro Focus will work with the company to enable customers to move and modernize their on-premises mainframe workloads to a managed execution environment on

"This AWS Mainframe Modernization service not only shows our position as a key partner in the ecosystem, but it also illustrates our experience in developing and deploying modernized core appli-



cations into AWS," said Neil Fowler, General Manager of Application Modernization and Connectivity at Micro Focus. "Consistent with our platform agnostic position, Micro Focus supports our cus-

tomers' choice for modernizing their applications, process and infrastructure so they can get full use of the cloud for the development, building, testing and the deployment of mainframe applications. We are proud of our relationship with AWS and we are very pleased that our technology is a key part of the AWS Mainframe Modernization service as another example of our work and expertise in application modernization."

AWS Announces Two New Initiatives That Make Machine Learning More Accessible

At AWS re:Invent, Amazon Web Services, Inc. (AWS), an Amazon.com, Inc. company, announced two new initiatives designed to make machine learning more accessible for anyone interested in learning and experimenting with the technology. The AWS AI & ML Scholarship is a new education and scholarship program aimed at preparing underrepresented and underserved students globally for careers in machine learning. The program uses AWS DeepRacer and the new AWS DeepRacer Student League to teach students foundational machine learning concepts by giving them hands-on experience training machine learning models for autonomous race cars, while providing educational content centered on machine learning fundamentals. AWS is further increasing access to machine learning through Amazon Sage-Maker Studio Lab, which gives everyone access to a no-cost version of Amazon SageMaker—an AWS service that helps customers build, train, and deploy machine learning models.

"The two initiatives we are announcing today are designed to open up educational opportunities in machine learning to make it more widely acces-



sible to anyone who is interested in the technology," said Swami Sivasubramanian, Vice President of Amazon Machine Learning at AWS. "Machine learning will be one of the most transformational technologies

of this generation. If we are going to unlock the full potential of this technology to tackle some of the world's most challenging problems, we need the best minds entering the field from all backgrounds and walks of life. "

F5 strengthens R&D presence in Hyderabad

F5,Inc., the global leader in multi-cloud application security and delivery, established its state-of-the-art Product development centerat Hyderabad in 2018. Within a short span of



three years, the Indian entity is now operating from both Hyderabad and Bangalore while contributing to the overall F5 roadmap and goals. With the company's growth, F5's Product development center is expanding its operations in Hyderabad with a new floor in The

Skyview building that will seat an additional 450 employees, bringing the total seating capacity toover 900. To support the growth of the company, the F5 Product development center will be led by Rohit Arya who comes in with over 30 years of experience in the industry.

"I am excited to be a part of F5 India. Contributions to F5 Innovation have been phenomenal in the last three years which is a reflection of our great engineering talent. The Indian market offers unmatched scale, and F5 India is well-positioned to further enhance its position as market leader. I am likewise enthusiastic about the expansion of our Hyderabad office, and we are looking forward to welcoming the new team members to our state-of-the-art workspace."- Rohit Arya, India Site Leader & VP Engineering

IBM expands presence in Telangana, India

IBM announced that it has set up a new facility offering clients Business Process Operations consulting from IBM Consulting in Hyderabad, Telangana in India. The new facility will be



focused on Business Process Operations across several domains such as finance & accounts, procurement & supply chain, human resources & recruiting, and industry specific processes including risk & compliance. With this facility, IBM Consulting can help clients achieve their digital transformation goals leveraging talent and IBM's comprehensive capabilities in process re-engineering, data and technology.

Business Process Operations delivers a unified user experience and business value for organizations with use of agile methodologies, advanced process mining and intelligent workflows powered by hybrid cloud and artificial intelligence (Al). In finance organizations for instance, it provides insights for core functionalities such as working capital optimisation, spend leakage, reduced errors/exceptions, and others.

Designed with a state of the art, open and agile theme, the new facility will also have dedicated workspaces to collaborate with clients via the IBM Garage, a collaborative approach to fast-track innovation and drive meaningful, lasting transformation. The facility also serves an additional function of enabling resiliency for IBM Consulting by acting as backup site for Business Process Operations centres in Chennai and Bengaluru. The onsite team will also collaborate with IBM India Software Labs in Hyderabad to bring in Al and platform offerings to reimagine intelligent workflows in client operations.

IT firms in Hyderabad under STPI register 13pc growth in H1

The Telangana IT industry has consistently been clocking a higher than national average growth in



its exports in the last few years. In the last financial year itself, the IT industry in the State clocked exports worth Rs 1.45 lakh crore recording 13 per cent growth when compared

to the previous year.

Continuing this momentum, the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) in Hyderabad has announced that the IT units registered with them have seen 13 per cent in the first two quarters of the current financial year.

"In the first half of the current financial year, the technology companies associated with STPI have seen 13 per cent growth and have clocked in Rs 45,000 crore in terms of exports. This growth is purely with companies associated with STPI and if

we add the growth of non-STPI companies I am sure it will be much more," STPI (Hyderabad) director Ramprasad informed while speaking at the curtain raiser of Hyderabad Software Enterprises Association's (Hysea) 29th Innovation Summit and Awards

He also added that it is usually in the second half of the financial year that a lot of IT companies witness higher growth compared to the first half. Considering this trend, he added that the overall IT exports from Telangana will once again surpass the national average

Since the formation of Telangana, the IT exports has seen a compounded average growth rate (CAGR) of 14.25 per cent, up from Rs 57,000 crore in 2014 to Rs 1.45 lakh crore in 2021. "Hyderabad will surely move away from being a low-cost talent hub to an innovation centre with almost 50 per cent of work being done at the Global In-house centres are innovation led," said Kiran Cherukuri, vice-president, Hysea.

Check Point Software Invests in Local Infrastructure to Enable India Customers

Check Point® Software Technologies Ltd., a leading provider of cyber security solutions globally, announced today the hosting of Check Point Harmony Endpoint and Mobile solutions in India as part of its continued commitment to the Indian market. Check Point's investment in local infrastructure will enable organizations in the country to keep their data safe locally and meet data sovereignty requirements, such as those in the government, banking & financial services, and pharmaceutical sectors.

"The hosting of Harmony Endpoint and Harmony Mobile locally is part of Check Point Software's



commitment to the India market," said Sundar Balasubramanian, Managing Director, India & SAARC, Check Point Software Technologies. "With working from home is the norm, organizations are faced

with the challenge of securing themselves across all vectors. At the same time, many organizations are required by regulation to meet local data residency requirements. By investing in our infrastructure and hosting Harmony Endpoint and Harmony Mobile locally, organizations in India can keep their endpoints and mobiles secure while being compliant with IT & security best practices."

LTI and IBM Inaugurate Innovation and Experience Center in Bengaluru

Larsen & Toubro Infotech Ltd., a global technology consulting and digital solutions company has opened an Innovation & Experience Centre at LTI Whitefield campus in Bengaluru (India) focusing on IBM technologies. The Center will assist enterprises



in modernizing their operations and accelerating digital transformation journeys.

This Innovation and Experience Center will showcase LTI solutions that have been co-created using IBM technologies such as IBM Cloud and Cloud Paks.

The Centre will also serve as a forum for customers to engage with LTI and IBM technical resources for in-depth technology briefings, solution demos, software, tool access and solution workshops.

Sudhir Chaturvedi, President-Sales and Executive Board Member, LTI, said: "The rapid technological advances make it necessary for customers to experience solutions before adopting them. Our new center in Bengaluru fulfils this need for the joint customers of IBM and LTI. This center will offer combined benefits of LTI's rich domain proficiency and IBM's deep technical expertise, and thereby assist clients in their transformation journey."

Through this center, IBM and LTI will collaborate and invest in creating joint solutions and develop industry viewpoints around digital transformation, hybrid cloud, data & AI, and security services. In addition, both LTI and IBM teams, will work with customers to address their requirements around driving digital transformation and managing multiple clouds.

Vi Showcases 5G for a Better Tomorrow

Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL), leading telecom



operator, demonstrated a range of 5G-based technology solutions as part of its ongoing 5G trials on Govt. allocated 5G spectrum in Pune, Maharashtra and Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

According to Ravinder Tak-

kar, MD & CEO, Vodafone Idea Limited, "With our 5G trials underway, Vi is preparing to take India on the next journey of fifth generation wireless mobile communication technology. Our 5G trials showcase a whole new world of possibilities across various domains that promise a new era

of technology advancement in India. I am confident that 5G will bring a better tomorrow that will deliver significant benefits to consumers, businesses and society, driving digital economy growth in India."

With the purpose for a better tomorrow, Vi has been conducting 5G trials and developed a wide range of use cases relevant for Enterprises and Consumers in India. Vi has partnered with industry leaders like L&T Smart World & Communication, Athonet, Indian start-ups like Vizzbee & Tweek Labs, and technology leaders – Ericsson and Nokia for trialling use cases in the two locations.

Committed to helping its customers thrive and have a better tomorrow, Vi i

Airtel conducts India's First 5G trial in the 700 MHz band in partnership with Nokia

Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, said that it has



successfully conducted India's first 5G trial in the 700 MHz band in

partnership with Nokia. Airtel has been allotted test spectrum in multiple bands by the government's Department of Telecommunications for the validation of 5G technology and use cases.

The demonstration, which was conducted on the

outskirts of Kolkata, was also the first 5G trial in Eastern India.

Leveraging the enhanced propagation characteristics of the 700 MHz band, Airtel and Nokia were able to achieve high speed wireless broadband network coverage of 40 Km between two 3GPP standard 5G sites in real life conditions. Airtel used equipment from Nokia's 5G portfolio, which included Nokia AirScale radios and standalone (SA) core.

Redmi India, Jio Partner to Conduct 5G Trials

Redmi India, a sub-brand of Xiaomi India, India's No. 1 smartphone brand, has joined hands with Reliance Jio to conduct 5G trials for their upcoming Redmi Note 11T 5G smartphone.

To verify the capability and performance of their upcoming device, the two companies conducted a 5G standalone lab trial, and tested the device through various scenarios, thereby ensuring enhanced 5G end-user experiences.

The upcoming addition to the Note series, Redmi Note 11T 5G was utilized for rigorous lab trials where it achieved stellar results by attaining a high downloading speed. The encouraging results further demonstrates the readiness and capabilities of Redmi Note 11T 5G in bringing immersive and reliable 5G mobile experience to users. With support for 7 bands including SA: n1/

n3/ n5/n8/ n28/ n40/ n78 and NSA: n1/n3/n40/n78, the device offers improved performance to the users.

Commenting on the collaboration, Muralikrish-



nan B, COO, Xiaomi India, says, "At Redmi, we have played an instrumental role in making technology accessible to the masses. We were one of the first companies in India to put a 4G smartphone into

the hands of our consumers with the launch of the Redmi Note 4, back in 2017. As the 5G era arrives, we are working relentlessly towards bringing feature-packed smartphones that can enhance the overall user experience.

TRAI propose zero charges on USSD messages for mobile banking and payment services

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a draft Telecommunica-



tion Tariff (66th A m e n d m e n t) Order, 2021 on "Regulatory framework for USSD-based tariff".

TRAI had earlier issued the Telecommunication Tariff (56th Amendment) Order dated 22nd November 2013 prescribing a ceiling tariff of Rs. 1.50 per USSD session for USSD-based mobile banking service. Subsequently, in November 2016, the Authority revised USSD-

based tariff ceiling for banking and payment services through the Telecommunication Tariff (61st Amendment) Order, 2016 from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 0.50 per session.

With a view to encourage digitalization of payments and enhancing financial inclusion through digitalization, the Reserve Bank of India constituted a High-Level Committee on Deepening of Digital Payments (CDDP), which suggested further rationalization of USSD charges to enable better adoption. The recommendations made by the High-Level Committee on CDDP are supported by the Department of Financial Services (DFS).

D-Link introduces Al enabled Router for a never-before Wi-Fi experience

D-Link, a global leader in networking and connectivity technologies, makes available its allnew R15 EAGLE PRO AI AX1500 Smart Router in India. The all new R15 EAGLE PRO AI Router combines the latest Wi-Fi 6 technology with artificial intelligence to offer incredible Wi-Fi cover-



age and speed

— delivering a
continuously
optimizing
and improving network,
ideal for home
users and small
offices.

D-Link R15 Al Router is packed with cutting-edge Al features to keep everyone connected, no matter what they're doing online. This advanced series of Router from D-Link brings Al-enhanced capabilities to optimize the Wi-Fi, keeping network performance at peak all throughout, and allowing users to experience the convenience of Al powered Wi-Fi Network.

The R15 Eagle PRO AI Router is one of its kind, with a host of AI enabled features. The built-in AI Wi-Fi Optimizer continuously scans for the Wi-Fi channel with the least interference to always offer the best connection. At the same time, the Al Traffic Optimizer prioritizes the most critical internet usage for optimal online experience and stability. Al Parental Controlallows parents to be completely in charge of their children's online activity like internet Pause / start, website filtering, managing multiple profiles, internet access scheduling, bedtime scheduling etc. Thereby ensuring kids online safety is always prioritized. This Router also features the AI Mesh Optimizer, which strengthens the connection between mesh nodes to deliver seamless and reliable Wi-Fi. Now Managing Wi-Fi is easier than ever beforewith the integrated AI Assistant. As it continuously reviews the network and monitors data usage, sending recommendations and weekly reports to the EAGLE PRO AI app.

The R15 EAGLE PRO AI AX1500 Smart Router offers dual-band wireless speeds of up to 1,500 Mbps, delivering blazing-fast wireless coverage with increased range and reliability. This allows Wi-Fi to be experienced like never-before and offers a perfect solution for those who require stable Wi-Fi with minimal interference. Backed by EAGLE PRO AI Appthis router brings intelligent one-touch set-up for seamless connectivity, along with a host of AI benefits.

What's more, the R15 is compatible with Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa, allowing users to use voice control to manage their network easily and conveniently.

Going forward D-Link will expand its offering with more & more products featuring Al capabilities, thereby allowing its users to experience the best of Wireless Network.

Ather Energy to set up its second manufacturing facility Expands its manufacturing capacity to 400,000 units

Ather Energy, India's leading EV scooter brand, commissioned its second manufacturing facility in Hosur to cater to the growing demand of its electric scooters – the 450X and 450 Plus. The company plans to manufacture 400,000 units per annum, a significant jump from its current capacity of 120,000 units. Ather Energy had set up its first manufacturing facility at Hosur earlier this year.

In October, Ather Energy registered its bestever monthly sales numbers, registering 12-fold growth over last year and achieving revenue run rate of \$100 million, making it the largest

EV maker by value in this segment.



and customers are coming in expecting electric scooters to wow them. This customer expectation is why our 450 series of electric scooters – the 450X and 450 Plus is seeing massive demand as it is the best electric scooter in the country today. Our experience centres are scal-

ing up rapidly, and our retail footprint is set to grow by six times in the coming quarters. So, within just ten months of opening our current facility, we find ourselves already operating at full capacity. We are commissioning the second plant to be ready for 2022. With this capacity expansion, Ather is well on its way to becoming the country's largest EV producer by next year." Ather Energy continues to gain strength in the two-wheeler EV space. Ather Energy has been registering 20% month-on-month sales growth since November 2020, highlighting the strong demand for its electric scooters. Ather has recorded a 3X increase in walk-ins, web inquiries and Test rides from April-October 2021 and a 4X growth in vehicle booking in the period. The company has also witnessed a tremendous increase in consumer interest for its latest scooter, the 450X, the most awarded EV scooter in India by leading automotive publications.

The company started its operations at the Hosur manufacturing facility earlier this year, catering to demand from across the country. It enables 90% of the manufacturing of Ather Energy's 450X and 450 Plus to be localised, including the battery pack, which is made in-house by Ather Energy. The company has committed to invest

INR 650 crores in the next five years to enhance operational efficiency and production capacity to meet the exponential surge in demand.

Apart from the EV manufacturing, the facility will also focus on lithium-ion battery manufacturing, which is a key focus area for Ather Energy. Ather Energy is the only EV OEM in India to make its battery packs and has filed 13 patents on the design and manufacturing of the li-ion batteries.

Ather Energy plans to strengthen its retail oper-



ations by expanding to new markets. The company plans to expand to around 150 Experience Centers in 100 cities by March 2023. It has also invested heavily in the charging infrastructure to provide a holistic experience to the rider community.

TVS Motor Company Signs MOU With Tamil Nadu Government For Investment Of Rs. 1200 Crore In Future Technologies And Electric Vehicles

TVS Motor Company, one of the largest manufacturers of two-wheelers and three-wheelers in the world, announced that they have signed



a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Tamil Nadu for investment in Future Technologies and Electric Vehicle. The MOU was signed in the presence of the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. M.K. Stalin and Padma Bhushan Shri. Venu Srinivasan, Chairman TVS Motor Company at the Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave 2021 in Coimbatore.

Under the MOU, TVS Motor Company will invest Rs. 1200 crores in Future Technologies and Electric Vehicles (EV) in the next four years. The investment will be mainly for the design, development and manufacturing of new products and capacity expansion in the EV space. This investment reflects TVS Motor Company's continued commitment towards the State's overall economic growth as a responsible corporate citizen

TVS Motor is transforming itself into a digital age company with a connected, sustainable and electric brand. The Company is committed to leading the technology development in EV and green fuel and leading the way to the electrification of the two-wheeler segment in the country. The signing of this MOU is in line with TVS Motor Company's firm belief in the potential of the State in terms of human resources, infrastructure and overall business environment. It will also have a significant beneficial effect on small and medium industries directly or indirectly associated with TVS Motor Company in Tamil Nadu.

Magenta signs MoU with the Government of Tamil Nadu to invest over Rs. 250 crores to set up an EV manufacturing plant

Magenta, a leading Indian Charge Point Operator (CPO) company, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Govern-



ment of Tamil Nadu to invest in building the EV charging infrastructure in the state. Maxson Lewis, CEO and MD, Magenta, signed the MoU in the presence of the Honourable Chief Minis-

ter of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. M.K. Stalin at the Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave 2021 held in Coimbatore. Under this agreement, Magenta will invest close to Rs. 250 crores & set up a manufacturing unit focused on the design, product development and architecture standards for EV technologies in the e-mobility space. The investment will be mainly for the R&D, manufacturing all cutting-edge technologies and a broader set of choices in the e-mobility segment. The move emphasizes Magenta's commitment to electrification and development for EV solutions.

With the new manufacturing plant plans in TN, Magenta will provide job opportunities to local communities within the region and create around 500 jobs in the next two years in Tamil Nadu. Furthermore, over 1600 employees will

be trained in EV charger manufacturing, assembly, installation and operations over the next five years. The facility aims to create a robust supply-chain ecosystem in and around the region & make Tamil Nadu EV ready.



Maxson Lewis, Managing Director, and CEO, Magenta, said, "We are glad to join hands with the Government of Tamil Nadu in strengthening their vision for building a robust EV ecosystem for India. Skilled

workforce, Strong infrastructure, coupled with a government having a progressive and investor-friendly approach, makes the state poised to become the next EV hub in the county."

LG Electronics Announces New CEO and Other Changes to Aggressively Tackle 2022 and Beyond

LG Electronics (LG) announced that William Cho, its Chief Strategy Officer, will also take on the responsibility of Chief Executive Officer effective December 1. LG's top strategist since 2019,



Mr. Cho was responsible for establishing LG's Business Incubation Center and fostering new businesses opportunities in the form of in-house ventures as well as startup partners during his six-year tenure as president of LG North America.

Having joined Goldstar in 1987 and spending four years in LG's overseas office in Germany, Mr. Cho has a storied career including roles as president of LG Canada, Australia and the United States. A graduate of Pusan University, Mr. Cho received his

master's degree in business from Yonsei University in Seoul.

Other notable changes include the appointment of Kim Byoung-hoon as Chief Technology Officer. Currently serving as the head of the Future Technology Center, Dr. Kim is being promoted to executive vice president and will simultaneously assume the roles of Chief Technology Officer as well as the new Information and Communication Technology leadership position.

Jang Ik-hwan, a 31-year veteran of LG, is being promoted from SVP to EVP and will assume the top position at the Business Solutions Company after successfully growing the IT business portfolio to make LG one of the fastest-growing brands in the notebook, laptop and monitor business. SVP Eun Seok-hyun has been tapped to lead the Vehicle component Solutions Company as its

third and newest president. Mr. Eun was previously responsible for growing the smart business division under the same company.

Going forward, the new leadership team will accelerate changes focusing even more on customer value in pursuit of growth with each business unit assuming greater responsibility. Toward this end, LG will reorganize its Customer Satisfaction Management Center into the new Customer Value Innovation Office with oversight by the CSO. The role of the CVIO will be to more effectively identify and incorporate customer feedback and pain points into the product planning, development and sales processes. In addition, the Customer Experience Innovation Department under the Home Appliances and Home Entertainment Companies will be upgraded to Customer Experience Innovation Division.

STL appoints two industry leaders to accelerate global expansion in Services & Software business



STL, an industry-leading integrator of digital networks, announced two exciting additions to its leadership team in the Services and Software businesses. STL's Services business is poised for global growth and expansion into the 5G RAN deployment space and the Software business is set to scale globally with innovation at the centre. In line

with these ambitious global plans, STL onboarded Praveen Cherian, as the CEO for Network Services Business, and Raman Venkatraman as the CEO for Software Business

Prior to joining STL, Praveen was the Executive Vice President and Head of Infrastructure Services for India and South East Asia at IBM where he was

driving Project based and Managed Services businesses. He also holds directorial positions on the board of reputed IT services and software companies. Raman comes from TCS where he was the Senior Vice President and Global Head for HiTech and Professional Services and also the global head for partnerships and alliances. He has assumed multiple leadership roles across geographies throughout his illustrious career spanning close to three decades.

Praveen and Raman will take over the responsibility from KS Rao who has played a crucial role in scaling these businesses and preparing the strategic road map for their future growth. KS will assume the role of Chief Corporate Officer at STL, leading key partner and ecosystem alliances, driving global policy advocacy and enabling group level legal framework. With these changes, STL has built a global leadership team, which will unleash non-linear growth for all its business areas and elevate the company's position in the market.

JACK DORSEY STEPS DOWN AS TWITTER CEO, BOARD UNAN-IMOUSLY APPOINTS CTO PARAG AGRAWAL AS SUCCESSOR

Twitter, Inc. announced that Jack Dorsey has decided to step down as Chief Executive Officer and that the Board of Directors has unanimously appointed Parag Agrawal as CEO and a member of the Board, effective immediately.



Dorsey will remain a member of the Board until his term expires at the 2022 meeting of stockholders. Bret Taylor was named the new Chairman of the Board, succeeding Patrick Pichette who will remain

on the Board and continue to serve as chair of the Audit Committee. Agrawal has been with Twitter for more than a decade and has served as Chief Technology Officer since 2017.

"I've decided to leave Twitter because I believe the company is ready to move on from its founders. My trust in Parag as Twitter's CEO is deep. His work over the past 10 years has been transformational. I'm deeply grateful for his skill, heart, and soul. It's his time to lead," said Dorsey.

Bret Taylor, Twitter's incoming Independent Board Chair said, "On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Jack for his visionary leadership and unrelenting dedication to Twitter since its founding. Jack returned to Twitter and turned the Company around at the most critical time. The progress since then has been nothing short of incredible. Jack has given the world something invaluable and we will continue to carry it forward."

Taylor noted, "Parag understands Twitter and appreciates the Company's unique potential. He has been instrumental in tackling our most important priorities, including accelerating our development velocity, and I know he'll hit the ground running to strengthen execution and deliver results. The Board has the utmost confidence in Parag."

"I want to thank the Board for their confidence in my leadership and Jack for his continued mentorship, support, and partnership," said Agrawal. "I look forward to building on everything we have accomplished under Jack's leadership and I am incredibly energized by the opportunities ahead. By continuing to improve our execution, we will deliver tremendous value for our customers and shareholders as we reshape the future of public conversation."





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Meity, Government of Andhra Pradesh and NASSCOM launch Centre of Excellence of IoT and AI in Visakhapatnam

National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), in a joint partnership with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Government of Andhra Pradesh, inaugurated the 'Centre of Excellence on IoT and Al' at Andhra University Campus, Visakhapatnam, aimed at promoting innovation in emerging technologies of IoT, AI, robotics, etc. The centre was inaugurated by Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology and of Mekapati Goutham Reddy, Minister for Industries & Commerce, Information Technology and Skill Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh, in the presence of Ajay Prakash Sawhney, IAS, Secretary, MeitY, Government of India, PVGD Prasad Reddy, Vice Chancellor, Andhra University and G Jayalakshmi, IAS, Principal Secretary, ITE&C, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The new centre advances Prime Minister Modi's Digital India vision by providing open labs and infrastructure to create and validate solutions from design to prototype to democratise innovation. It also promotes entrepreneurship by providing an incubation facility for peer-to-peer learning and the benefit of an industrial environment. Start-ups in the state are also expected to benefit through the launch of the new centre with newer opportunities in areas of their development, mentorship, funding, and the adoption of their solutions in the industry. The COE is currently working with enterprises interested in collaborating with start-ups for newer innovative solutions.

The Centre of Excellence of IoT and AI is a step towards solving real-world challenges and creating an impact. It is designed to be a catalyst that will help the industry embrace technology and become globally competitive. The centre will focus on harnessing the power of Artificial intelligence and the Internet of things to bring unprecedented opportunities for Industry, Startups, and Academia.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship & Electronics and Information Technology said: "Technologies like IoT, technologies like AI are going to deeply

shape the future of technology landscape and the economy in general. It is absolutely essential that the Center of Excellence becomes not just academic extensions of university, but they become living, breathing growing centers of energy, dynamism, entrepreneurship, and technology development of the kind that we must deliver on in the coming months and years."



Mekapati Goutham Reddy, Minister for Industries and Commerce, Information Technology and Skill Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh said: "We're going to be creating the Andhra Pradesh govern-

ment in itself as an incubation hub. We have 9 technologies, what we have said are going to be

the sunrise technologies for world events. One is Artificial Intelligence & Machine learning, second is Robotic Process Automation, third is edge computing, which is an extension to Cloud computing, fourth is quantum computing, the fifth is virtual reality and augmented reality, sixth is blockchain, seventh is IoT, eighth is 5G and ninth is cyber security. If I can be a world-class leader in any of these nine technologies, then we're talking about a trillion-dollar economy coming to the shores of Andhra Pradesh."



Debjani Ghosh, president, NASSCOM, said: "The COE's, the Center of Excellence have become almost a melting point that beautifully connects the different ecosystems to understand the big problems that tech-

nology can solve, brainstorms the best use technology to address these challenges or problems, and jointly co-create solutions. A fantastic example was that during the pandemic, we realized that in order for us to successfully deliver remote healthcare to the last mile, to every single citizen in India, we needed solutions that would work in places that were very limited in resources like low-bandwidth, no power connectivity etc. and very quickly DBT, MeitY, NASSCOM, got together to bring together healthcare professions to bring together startups, to bring together tech industries and figure out ways that we could address this critical issue of ensuring that every Indian could have access to healthcare no matter where they were."

Acer India and Dixon Technologies join hands to manufacture laptops under the "Make in India" initiative



Acer India, the leading PC brand, and Dixon Technologies have partnered for the manufacturing of laptops at Dixon's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility situated in Noida. The manufacturing unit was inaugurated yesterday by Mr Saurabh Gaur, Jt Secretary Minis-

try of Electronics and Information Technology in the presence of Sunil Vachani, Executive Chairman, Dixon Technologies, Harish Kohli, President & Managing Director Acer India and Sudhir Goel, Chief Business Officer, Acer India. This will give a strong impetus to India's manufacturing competitiveness and leverage the production-linked incentive (PLI) by Government of India. The factory will have capacity to produce upto 500,000 laptops annually.

Acer will bring in the global know-how and processes to manufacture high-tech electronic products in laptops category which will be implemented through Dixon's facilities. Acer believes that this key initiative will help to grow the electronic manufacturing ecosystem which will help us to serve domestic and global markets from India.

The PLI for IT hardware brought by Government of India is a game-changer that will have the advantage to increase domestic value addition and significantly position India as a key export's hub. The impetus to PC manufacturing is particularly significant as it can help reduce imports which have become all the more important as their usage increase rapidly amid the Covid-19 restriction.



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