

Dear Associates,

This week we hosted our virtual townhall for IDC. Thank you for joining us. The way of working in the future, particularly in tech, will be fundamentally different than it was before; it will be one in which working virtually will be the new normal, at least for most of the work we lead. Our Guiding Principles for [Tech FWD](#) will shape our decisions as we reimagine Global Tech's way of working and the role of physical workspaces. We have formed a workstream and this team is currently assessing how to shape our policies and programs to benefit our associates. More to come on that soon.



As we discussed in the townhall, our mission is to Power Walmart to Lead the Next Retail Disruption. The role of technology is to innovate with speed to create business value by focusing on the customer always. In this endeavour, we need to prioritise setting common guiding principles, nail the fundamentals, erase our existing tech debt and establish new & better ways of working. Our strategy for FY22 is to bend the cost curve within Global Tech and to build & deploy technology that will bend the cost curve for the rest of the enterprise. We need to focus maniacally on speed, quality and simplicity. The IDC leadership team and I hope to share more on our FY22 strategy and plans with all of you in the coming weeks.

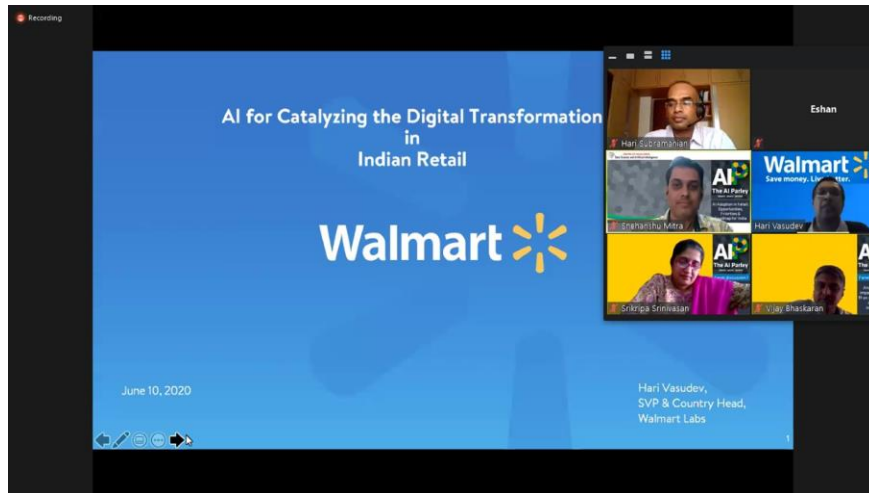
As you know, we had introduced the '**Weekly Tech Bytes session**' last week! This is one platform where we can share the scope and scale of our tech stack, our product roadmaps, our global data initiative, our design innovations and our people initiatives. Every week in these sessions, cross disciplinary teams are bringing forward innovations that we are leading in different domains to build reusable technology and to define the next retail frontier. This is indeed a great opportunity for all of us to learn, collaborate and ideate more on how we are paving the way forward to the *Future of Retail*!

In case, you miss out on any of these sessions, you can click below (you do need to be on VPN) and watch the recorded sessions.



The second edition of NASSCOM's CoE, DSAI AI Parley this week, gave me a chance to share how we, at Walmart, have been utilizing AI to innovate for our customers and how our ML platform (Element) has given us the flexibility to develop and deploy models faster. It was an enlightening session where we exchanged ideas and reiterated the power of AI that can help us deal with the shifts in customer behavior and purchase preferences in a post-COVID environment.

Here's a link to view the NASSCOM session:



This week, I also got an opportunity to witness the passion and great work from our product interns from IIM Kozhikode and IIM Indore, who put up a fantastic project showcase after their two-month stint at Walmart! I was amazed by their sheer dedication and passion as well as by the quality of their presentations. It was great to hear about their work at Walmart. Each of them deserves a huge shout out and I certainly hope to welcome them as Walmart associates soon.

A snapshot of our interns' product showcase session:



The current COVID situation, more than ever, highlights the need for each and every one of us to focus on helping those in need. Our associates can now volunteer online! Our volunteers from the CSR team organised the first virtual session for the girls from [Baalemane](#), one of the NGOs we support. Shashank S Kumar from the Infosec team, volunteered to take a session capturing diverse nuances of ‘Online security’ and how one can leverage digital platforms with caution and mindfulness. I am sure this is a highly relevant topic for the girls from Baalemane to stay safe online. The [SMILE team](#) also got bigger, as we added almost 150+ ‘newbies’ to our team this week! If you would like to volunteer to host virtual sessions, [log in here](#) to know more.

Finally, do remember to attend the exciting ‘Inclusive Leadership and Allies Panel’ discussion on **June 17th, 5:30 PM**. Moderated by Sudeep Ralhan, we have a terrific list of internal and external speakers in what promises to be a very informative panel discussion.

As always, stay safe and stay connected!

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