

Dear Associates,

On this 74<sup>th</sup> **Independence Day**, let's all take a bow to this great nation and pray that it prospers with peace and harmony.

This past week, we have taken yet another leap towards [Tech>FWD](#). The virtual **Leverage Platform Hackathon**, held last week (Aug. 13 and Aug. 14), received 105 teams participating from across the India Development Centre (IDC). The teams showed exemplary acumen and finesse in solving complex business challenges. Now it's time for all of us to witness the **Grand Finale** which is to be held on **Friday, Aug. 21** and cheer for the finalists. I'm truly excited to see the cool tech solutions our associates will be showcasing on Friday. May the best team win!

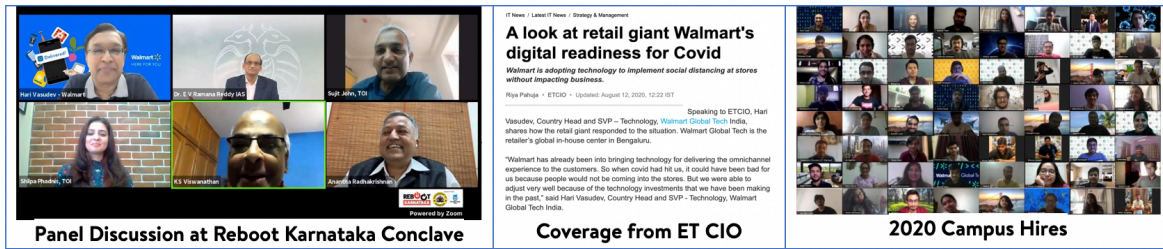
As part of **Reboot Karnataka Conclave**, industry leaders discussed the changing dynamics of the IT sector in Karnataka, the challenges that the pandemic has thrown at us and the need for a strong response through partnerships between the government bodies and industry to help bounce back. To know more, read [The Times of India](#) capture. You can also watch the panel discussion [here](#).

A story that appeared recently in the [ET CIO](#) was quite a special one putting our associates in the spotlight. The feature speaks about how years of technology investment and futuristic strategy have prepared us to take on the sudden shift in business processes and also the huge surge in our digital presence. Critical aspects such as *curbside pickup, scan and go, ship from the store* have equipped our stores and our associates in serving our customers safely what they want, where they want and how they want.

Last week, we welcomed the new batch of [2020 campus hires on-board](#). I'm thrilled to have these young, passionate minds joining us. It's always fascinating to see the creative side of the millennials and how inquisitive they are to learn new things. I wish them success and hope they will achieve great milestones in their journey with us.

On a personal note, my wife and I celebrated Independence Day over the weekend. For the first time in the history of independent India, due to the government protocols and safety measures, we witnessed a virtual flag hoisting. Never before have we witnessed a health crisis of this magnitude. However, there is a commendable effort made by both national and global agencies in containing the spread of the virus outbreak not only by staying home, but also helping people in need. We have witnessed the heroic deeds of our frontline health workers. For me, that's the true spirit of patriotism. Let's ensure we keep doing everything in our capacity for the safety of our country, our communities and our families.

## Here's a sneak-peek from last week's capture



Stay Safe! Stay Connected!

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