IT NEXT

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF CIOs

INDIA's FUTURE CIOs

NEXT 100

2023

SPECIAL COVERAGE

July-August-September 2023
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NEXT100: The Beginning of a Journey

Congratulations to the winners. You will, of course, achieve a lot more. In fact, that is a natural expectation from you from now on.

Shyamanuja Das

I first realized the value of NEXT100 when, as a researcher, it popped up as one of the five top enterprise technology media brands in a research project for a personal technology company that was trying to enter the enterprise technology space. I, of course, knew about it, as many of my friends were working for it. But I had never realized its impact. This was in 2012, less than two years after it started. On the contrary, all other brands were at least one and a half decades old. I myself was associated with two of them earlier. In short, NEXT100 had excited the community early on.

"NEXT100 is the recognition that actually helped the world notice me. Suddenly, I was considered an important community member," a CIO told me. He won in the award's early years. That way, it's the beginning of a journey. If NEXT100 is the beginning, the ultimate is the CO&LEADER Samman, given to veteran CIOs not just for their professional achievement but also for their contribution to the community.

That NEXT100 is the right beginning is best illustrated by the journey of a NEXT100 winner. Take the case of Deepak Agarwal. A winner of the first batch of NEXT100 awards in 2010, he superannuated as Executive Director at Indian Oil. He contributed his bit by becoming a member of the jury of NEXT100. His achievements and contributions brought him the CIO&LEADER Samman. After retirement, he is still contributing to the community as a Samman jury member.

Congratulations to the winners. You will, of course, achieve a lot more. In fact, that is a natural expectation from you from now on. ■

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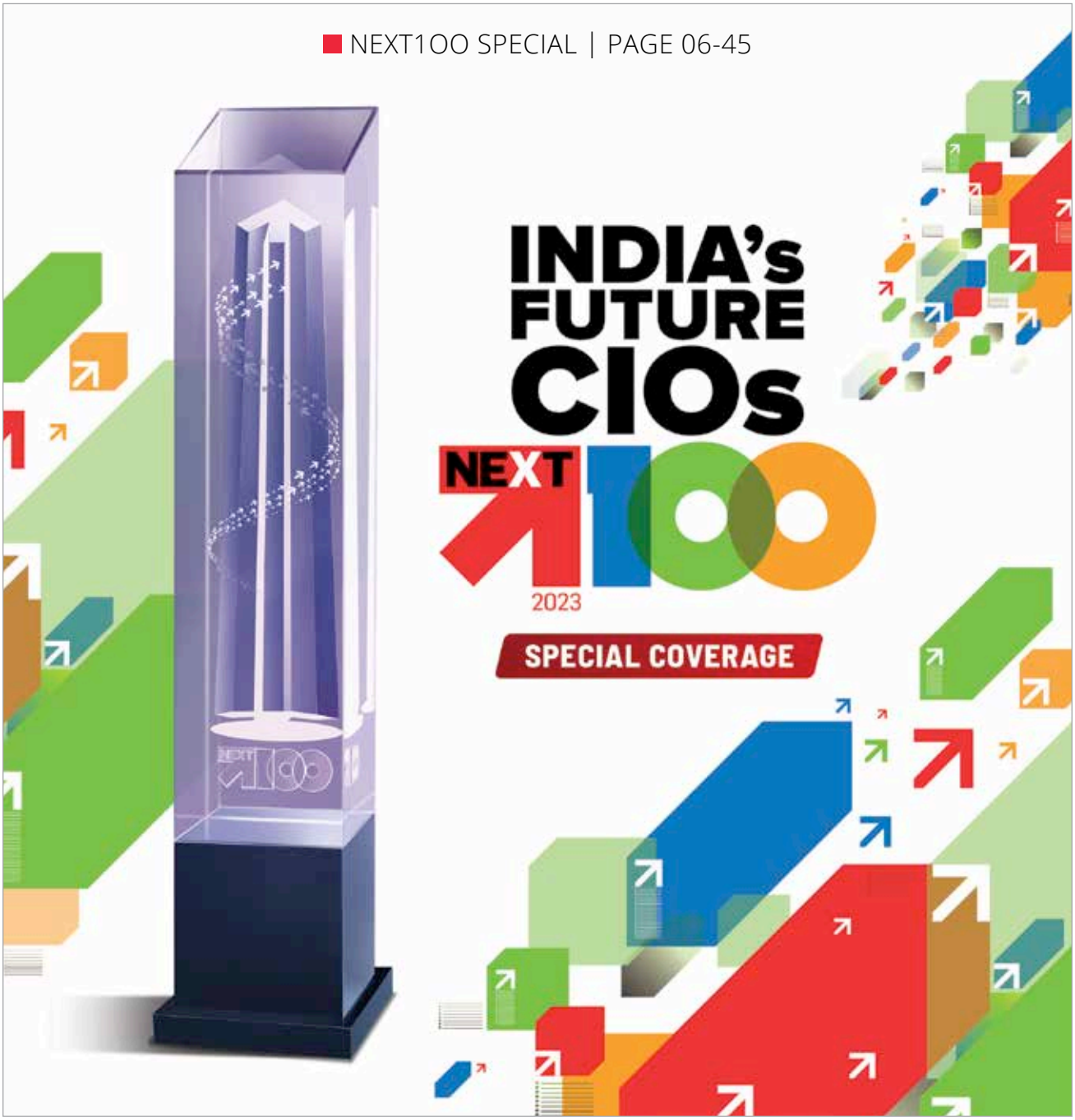

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Top 9 Measures to Future-Proof Your Data Centre Infrastructure

In the digital age, industries are evolving quickly, and the cornerstone of every organization's technological endeavours remains the data centre. As enterprises dive deeper into cloud technology, digital services, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT), there's an escalating demand for data centres to be agile, adaptive, and efficient. These demands aren't just about the present; they're about crafting a vision for the future and ensuring businesses remain ahead of the curve.

Here's a comprehensive guide on the steps CIO/CTOs can take to ensure their data centre infrastructure remains resilient and relevant in the years to come:

1 Hybrid Infrastructure

The dynamics of modern business require both third-party colocation and cloud infrastructure. A hybrid approach is not merely a trend but a necessity. It allows businesses to evolve according to their needs without mandating extensive infrastructural changes.

2 Modular Design

Just as businesses evolve, so should their data centres. A modular layout ensures that its data centre can be easily augmented or modified as a company expands, providing scalability without the need for all-encompassing redesigns.

3 Energy Efficiency

Beyond corporate responsibility and the global call for sustainable practices, energy efficiency directly correlates with reduced operational expenses. Leveraging energy-efficient hardware, alongside innovative cooling techniques, helps the planet and the bottom line. Traditional data centres frequently miss out on energy monitoring features. Tech leaders need to evaluate the energy performance of these data centres and determine which solutions offer long-term cost benefits.

4 Security Focus

In the ever-evolving landscape of cyber threats, it is imperative to prioritize security when making infrastructure decisions. To safeguard your digital assets, implementing a multi-faceted security strategy is essential. This strategy encompasses a spectrum of measures, ranging from firewalls and intrusion detection systems to encryption and routine security assessments. Furthermore, equipping your staff with proper security training and best practices is crucial for risk mitigation.

Within data centre operations, data security and resiliency hold paramount importance. To ensure the safety and integrity of your digital infrastructure, it is advisable to seek out data centres that consistently invest in state-of-the-art physical security systems and maintain stringent access controls. In the digital space, robust defenses include network firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and advanced data encryption methods. Comprehensive disaster recovery procedures should also be in place, such as redundant systems and regular data backups.

Regularly conducting vulnerability assessments and audits is a proactive approach that enables businesses to identify and address potential issues promptly. By adopting these comprehensive security measures, you can achieve the highest level of data security, which is of utmost importance in today's technology landscape.

5 Embracing Edge Computing

In our connected world, where billions of devices constantly communicate, edge computing plays a pivotal role. Processing data closer to the source drastically curtails latency and optimizes bandwidth, ensuring real-time and effective data handling.

6 Software-Defined Flexibility

Software-Defined Infrastructure (SDI) is redefining how businesses perceive their data centres. By segregating hardware from software, SDI facilitates swift adaptability to market changes without an overwhelming dependence on hardware modifications.

7 Disaster Preparedness

The unpredictable nature of disasters, be it a cyber onslaught or a natural calamity, necessitates a holistic disaster management strategy. This encompasses regular data backups, robust recovery protocols, and rehearsed response strategies to minimize downtime and data loss.

8 Skills and Training

No data centre can outperform its operators. The IT team must have the latest knowledge and expertise as the technological landscape transforms. Proactive training and skill augmentation are quintessential to harnessing the full potential of new technical solutions.

9 Staying Updated

Complacency is the antithesis of progress. It's incumbent upon CIO/CTOs to remain abreast of emerging technological paradigms and shifts that can mould the future of data centre operations, ensuring that their strategies are not just relevant but pioneering.

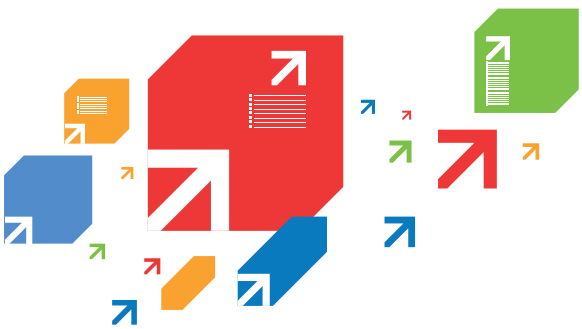
Conclusion

CapitaLand Data Centre a global industry leader, provides CIO/CTOs with a comprehensive suite of solutions to future-proof data centre infrastructure. With a track record of excellence, they offer expert guidance, cutting-edge technology, and scalable, modular designs. Their strategic locations reduce data processing latency, while a commitment to sustainability aligns with global environmental goals. Robust security measures protect critical data, and ongoing support ensures IT teams stay updated, maximizing the potential of data centre solutions.

In the ever-evolving landscape of technology, CIOs need a partner who not only understands their challenges but also has the capabilities to address them comprehensively. CapitaLand Data Centres' value proposition and USPs make them the ideal partner for CIOs looking to future-proof their data centre infrastructure. Together, IT decision-makers and CapitaLand Data Centres can forge a path to technological excellence, innovation, and long-term success. With CapitaLand by their side, CIO/CTOs can confidently navigate the digital future. ■

To learn more and initiate discussions, please contact us by email:
DCmarketing@capitaland.com

NEXT 100 2023



INDIA's FUTURE CIOs

Presenting the 14th batch of highly ambitious, energetic and talented NEXT100 Award winners

INDIA's FUTURE CIOs NEXT 100 2023

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Hindustan Zinc

Sumit Anand
Senior Program Manager
Orange Business

Anup Awasthi
Assistant Vice President - IT
Imperial Auto industries

Praveen Baheti
Vice President - IT
Biological E

Jayadevan Balakrishnan
Director - Global Delivery Excellence, IT Innovation & Technology
T-Systems International

Sushil Bangar
Head - PMO
Uno Minda

Amit Bansal
Senior Assistant Vice President
EXL

Satadal Basu
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Rustomjee

Deepak Bhardwaj
Associate Director
Evalueserve.com

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Greystar India

Ashutosh Bhatawadekar
Engagement Director | CIO Advisory
Tata Consultancy Services

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Niva Bupa Health Insurance

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Naresh Kumar & Co

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Senior Director, Head of Business Engagement & Digital Transformation Initiatives
Aragen Life Sciences

Santosh Chandrasekaran
Head - IT Applications
Amicorp Group

Bhabani Chatterjee
Engagement Leader
Capgemini

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Senior Manager - Cybersecurity
Dell Technologies

Ankur Choudhary
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Maruti Suzuki India

Vidhi Chugh
Founder & CEO
All About Scale

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Program Manager
Kimberly-Clark

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National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange

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Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

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Deputy General Manager - IT
Rich Products and Solutions

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Sterlite Digital (Hindustan Zinc & Vedanta Group)

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Beumer India

Viraj Dudhwala
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Adani Hazira Port

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Avalon Technologies

Naresh Yadav
General Manager - IT
Sunbeam Lightweighting Solutions

INDIA's FUTURE CIOs NEXT100 2023

AWARDS PROCESS

1037
IT managers registered for the NEXT100 process

251
Applicants completed the psychometric tests

439
Referee and supervisor feedback reports were received

292
Total interviews conducted by the jury

41
Senior CIOs as jury members conducted the interviews

8%
of the winners are women

76%
of the winners are less than 45 years of age

47%
of the winners are based in Greater Mumbai and Delhi NCR

85%
of the winners have between 11 to 25 years of work experience

63%
of the winners get an annual compensation exceeding INR 35 lakhs

47%
of winners have more than 15 people in their IT teams

25%
of winners cited they admire their parents the most

Bachelors Degree
- Engineering & Technology
- Computer Science
- Computer Applications
- Electronics, Commerce

Movie
- The Pursuit of Happyness

Vacation Spot
- Switzerland

Business & Management Expertise
- Project & Program Management
- Operations Management
- Vendor Management
- Budgeting & Financial Management
- Customer Support & Service Management

Hobbies & Interests
- Travel
- Music
- Cricket
- Cooking
- Reading Books
- Photography

Technical Expertise
- IT Strategy & Planning
- IT Operations Management, Technology
- Evaluation & Selection
- Application Development & Deployment
- Vendor Management

Methodology

The selection process for NEXT100 2023 commenced in March 2023 with a call for applications. The entire IT manager community was informed through a series of e-mails, print advertisements, and the social media. By June 2023, when the applications closed, there were 596 applicants who had registered for the process.

The selection of the award winners was done through a three-stage process, as in the past years. In the first stage, all award aspirants had to complete a detailed application form—and provide detailed personal and professional information, including education, technical skills, and work experience. They also had to nominate referees who could support their application for consideration for the award.

In the second stage, applicants took two psychometric tests: Personality Profile test and Emotional Quotient test. The tests were administered online by Paris-based Central Test International. Every applicant who completed all the tests received a free, personalized copy of the assessment reports for reference and self-development.

The NEXT100 jury members approved a set of criteria (including education, length and quality of work experience) to prepare a ranked shortlist of candidates for the interview stage. Every shortlisted candidate was independently interviewed by two NEXT100 jury members.

Separately, independent recommendations were obtained by the IT NEXT team for each candidate, from the nominated referees, including current supervisors.

The scores and evaluations assigned to all candidates in every stage of the selection process were input into a proprietary scoring model that assigns carefully calibrated weights to various factors. The final list of NEXT100 award recipients, listed in this book, is an outcome of this scoring model.

To ensure that the NEXT100 awards are completely fair and unbiased, no member of the IT NEXT editorial team was involved in the selection or elimination of the award winners, nor are editors and staff of IT NEXT magazine a part of the jury panel.

As in past years, the NEXT100 awards program draws on the knowledge and support of the CIO community.

Forty-one senior executives who comprise the jury of the NEXT100 awards, collectively representing many decades of experience in IT and corporate management, were involved as advisors, interviewers and selectors this year.

The jury panel debated, deliberated, and decided on the award winner selection process—and conducted detailed interviews of shortlisted applicants. The jury also approved the final list of award winners.

Psychometric Tests

All applicants for the NEXT100 awards take two psychometric evaluations—a personality test and an emotional quotient test. These tests are administered by Paris-based Central Test. The results of the tests are factored into the total evaluation of the candidate. All candidates who take the evaluations receive detailed personalized reports that can be used for self-development.

The Central Test Personality Inventory for Professionals (CTPI-R) test provides an assessment of work-related personality traits that play a crucial role in performance. According to the test designers, CTPI-R conforms to the standards of scientific validation set out by the International Test Commission, and the American Psychological Association.

The workplace competencies are defined as "clusters of knowledge, skills and attitudes that are predictive of superior performance in a given job."

According to Central Test, the competency scores in the CTPI-R are not a 'direct assessment' of competencies but an 'assessment of proximity' of the test taker to the profile of others who have demonstrated a high level of that specific competency.

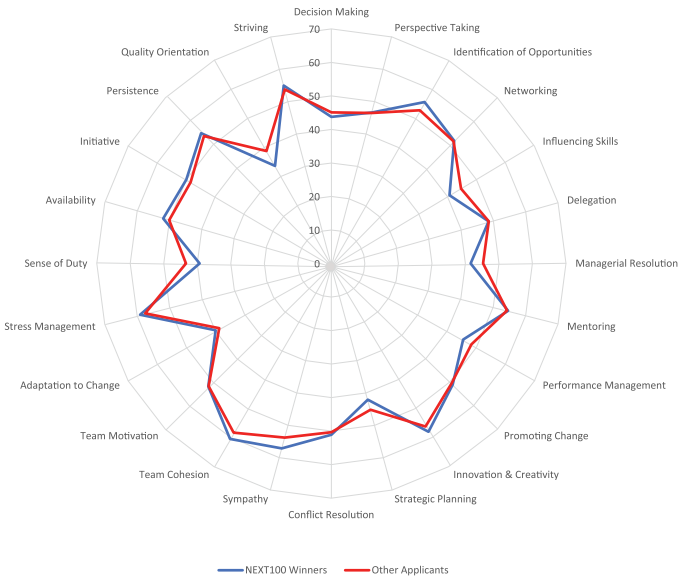
The assumption behind this method of evaluation is that people with similar profiles will be more likely to exhibit similar abilities. As the scores are derived from an assessment of proximity to an ideal profile, they give an indication of the extent to which the candidate is psychologically inclined towards high performance on a specific competency. The score on each dimension of competency also provides an indication of the extent to which the person is trainable on each competency.

The Emotional Quotient test, introduced for the first time in 2018, assesses the ability to perceive, understand and manage one's own emotions and those of others. This is an essential leadership requirement in modern times.

The test measures four dimensions – intra-personal intelligence, personal development, self-assertion, and leadership. The participants are measured across 12 parameters: Adaptability, self-knowledge, self-motivation, self-control, assertiveness, self-confidence, interpersonal skills, self-esteem, optimism, resilience, mediation & influence, empathy & lucidity.

Workplace Competencies

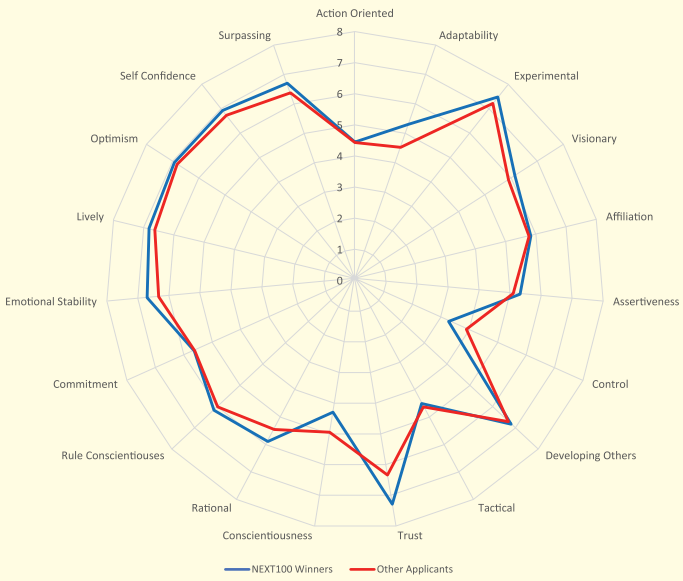
According to Central Test, the CTPI-R test has been standardized on an international group of 5,000+ working managerial professionals. The test uses a continuous scale of 0 to 100 to deduce 24 competencies that are relevant in the workplace. The conclusions are based on statistical studies and theoretical models. The overall analysis of workplace competencies reveals that there is not a significant difference between NEXT100 winners and other applicants in workplace competences. The NEXT100 winner cohort was overall low on quality orientation and sense of duty, with other applicants faring slightly better on the same competencies. However, on the team cohesion dimension the NEXT100 winner cohort exhibited a relatively superior score.



Personality Profile

The CTPI-R test provides an assessment of work-related personality traits that play a crucial role in performance. The test measures work personality across 19 dimensions. These dimensions are organized into four groups: People Management, Perception Mode, Self Management and Change Management.

The test results are reported on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 implying a low level and 10 implying a high level of conformance to the behavioural characteristic. Both NEXT100 winners and other applicants exhibit a high experimental personality trait, and low tendency towards control and conscientiousness. While NEXT100 winners exhibit a little higher level of trust, on the self- management front, both groups show high level of optimism and self- confidence.

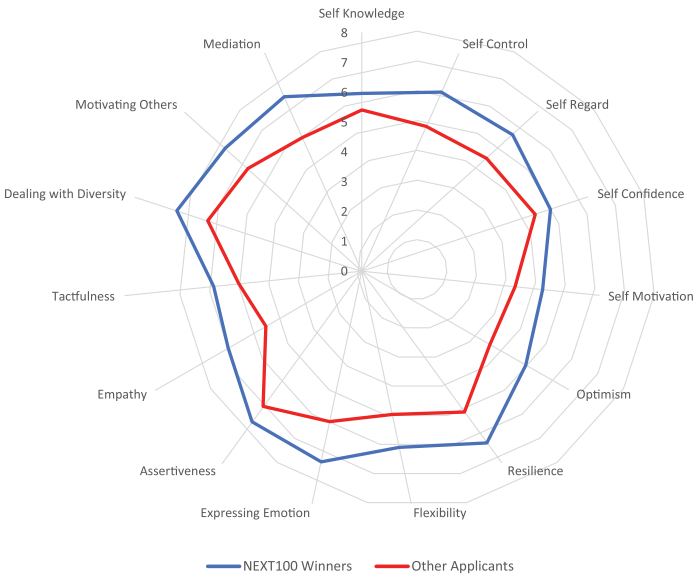


- **Sympathy** — Effectively identifying and understanding the needs of another person.
- **Perspective Taking** — Taking a step back to analyze facts and situations objectively before acting or deciding.
- **Stress Management** — Managing one's own emotions and remaining calm and productive in challenging situations.
- **Delegation** — Assigning tasks and responsibilities appropriately, according to individual abilities and needs.
- **Performance Management** — Monitoring, managing and evaluating employees' performance in order to maintain standards and targets.
- **Decision Making** — Making the best possible choice based on the information available, as well as being able to explain these decisions.
- **Conflict Resolution** — Maintaining harmony within the team by mediating conflicts.
- **Mentoring** — Taking responsibility for employees' development and progression by coaching them to help them improve.
- **Team Cohesion** — Encouraging activities that will enable united and productive teams.
- **Innovation/Creativity** — Thinking outside the box and looking at things from new perspectives.
- **Networking** — Making contacts and developing a network of influential people for potential opportunities.
- **Managerial Courage** — Speaking confidently and setting limits when the situation demands it.
- **Persistence** — Demonstrating determination and maintaining a high level of energy in the performance of duties.
- **Initiative** — Seizing opportunities and being a driving force to create or move things forward.
- **Strategic Planning** — Establishing action plans to anticipate future developments.
- **Team Motivation** — Leading a group of people towards a common objective by winning their support and pushing them to surpass themselves.
- **Promoting Change** — Communicating a new vision in an engaging and inspirational manner to encourage involvement.
- **Adaptation to Change** — Being able to adapt to change, adjusting one's behavior or attitude to an environment and people.
- **Availability** — Being committed to the organization and being willing to help others whenever possible.
- **Identification of Opportunities** — Understanding the market perfectly in order to be able to identify and seize business opportunities.
- **Influencing Skills** — Promoting ideas and convincing others, as well as, communicating in an assertive and tactical manner.
- **Sense of Duty** — Respecting and adhering to codes of conduct, remaining honest, and being reliable.
- **Striving** — Constantly seeking to excel and surpass one's goals.
- **Quality Orientation** — To be meticulous with an eye for detail to ensure the highest level of quality and service.

Emotional Skills

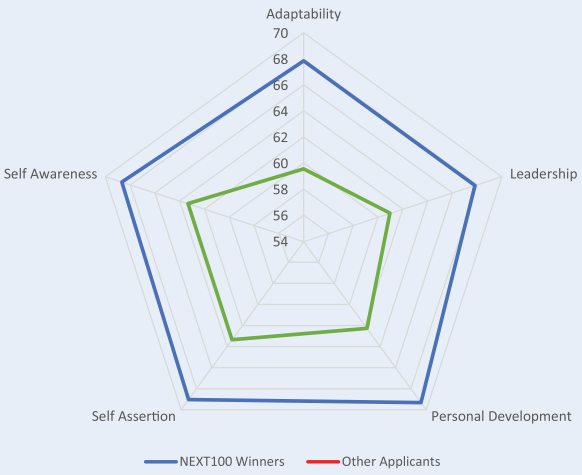
The Emotional Quotient test assesses the ability to perceive, understand and manage one's own emotions and those of others. The participants are measured across 12 parameters: Adaptability, self-knowledge, self-motivation, self-control, assertiveness, self-confidence, inter-personal skills, self-esteem, optimism, resilience, mediation & influence, empathy & lucidity.

NEXT100 winners show an overall higher level of resilience and self-regard, and there are marked differences in the levels of expressing emotion, optimism and mediation when compared to other applicants. The other applicants also score low on empathy and tactfulness.



Leadership Suitability Fit

Leadership Suitability Fit evaluates applicants on five dimensions—adaptability, leadership, personal development, self-assertion and self-awareness. While the NEXT100 winners did better than other applicants across all dimensions, there was a pronounced difference on the adaptability, leadership and personal development factors.



- **Self Knowledge** — Being self-aware means being able to identify what emotions are being felt and what sets them off; it means listening to one's own desires, needs and motivations. People who are self-aware know how to analyze their own reactions and behavior.
- **Self Motivation** — This trait determines the ability to find the resources within oneself in order to become and remain motivated. People who have this drive will adopt a positive attitude in any situation and will show perseverance and tenacity.
- **Self Esteem** — Self-esteem corresponds to how much one values oneself. By recognizing their own strengths and weaknesses, people understand what they are worth and they are not dependent on what others think; they thrive more easily.
- **Resilience** — Resilience is the ability to get back on one's feet after disappointment or failure. By learning from mistakes, people are better able to cope with failure and struggle. High resilience allows people to move forward and not be burdened with regret.
- **Self Control** — Self-control is an important asset for becoming socially accepted. This refers to the ability to control impulses and excessive reactions such as anger, exasperation, anxiety or melancholy—so that people can think and act calmly in any type of context. People who demonstrate good self-control give an impression of stability. They can cope with difficult situations such as conflict or stress without revealing their feelings and they are able to ease tension.
- **Adaptability** — Adaptability is an essential characteristic for building good social and occupational relationships and fitting in an environment. Being able to adapt means being able to let go of habits and to easily change points of reference. Adaptable people are able to share opinions and feelings, while taking specific situations and points of view into account.
- **Optimism** — Optimism is one facet of emotional intelligence and also a result of emotional intelligence: feeling good about oneself and one's relationships leads to more confidence in the future. Being optimistic means being generally happy with life, seeing the positive side of things and thinking that the best is yet to come.
- **Self Confidence** — Being self-confident is, above all, having a strong belief in oneself and in one's abilities. Self-confidence can manifest itself in personal skills allowing us to surpass our own objectives and gain autonomy. It also enables us to tackle challenges and unexpected events more serenely.
- **Empathy and Lucidity** — Empathy is about putting oneself in another person's shoes and understanding what is on his or her mind, all while staying true to oneself. Being similar to clear-sightedness, empathy helps a person understand the big picture and read between the lines, in terms of psychology (such as figuring out the unspoken goal of someone trying to sound convincing) or facts.
- **Assertiveness** — Being assertive is the ability to express oneself and make one's voice heard without being uselessly aggressive. Assertive people can find their place more easily in a group and share opinions and feelings more effectively. When a situation calls for confrontation, an assertive person will not turn away. This is why being excessively assertive can be seen as being arrogant.
- **Mediation and Influence** — This trait evaluates the ability to develop arguments, motivate others and inspires enthusiasm, thanks to a good understanding of who people are and how they react. Mediation and influence also refer to an ability to reconcile diverging points of view in situations of conflict.
- **Interpersonal Skills** — Having good interpersonal skills means being good at forming and maintaining relationships with others. Being authentic is a must! People who have good relationship skills can easily share their emotions and feelings and they feel comfortable in groups and communicate without difficulty.

NEXT100 AWARDS 2023

A Closer Look at the IT Leader of Tomorrow

The 14th edition of the NEXT100 awards, hosted by the 9.9 Group, once again highlighted the latent potential of IT Heads and senior IT managers to be future CIOs of India. A distinguished panel of experienced CIOs from India's top organizations identified 100 IT professionals as NEXT100 winners through a series of detailed evaluations.

The selection process, demographics, and preferences of these winners provide interesting insights, offering a glimpse not only into the awardees themselves but also into the dynamic and evolving landscape of IT leadership in India.

Selection Process and Participation

The awards application process garnered immense interest, with 1,037 IT managers registering this year. However, only a quarter of these (251 to be exact) moved on to the psychometric testing phase. The selection of the final award winners wasn't solely based on documentation; the aspirants had to impress a panel of 41 senior CIOs who, as jury members, undertook the daunting task of interviewing and selecting the winners.

Demographic Insights

The geographical distribution of the applicants and winners paints an interesting picture. Greater Mumbai region led the charge with 30% of applicants, followed by Delhi NCR (24%) and Bengaluru (12%). Interestingly, despite having fewer applicants than Greater Mumbai, Delhi NCR dominated the winner's circle with 30% representation, leaving Mumbai and Bengaluru with 17% each.

Work experience seems to be a key factor among the NEXT100 winners. A striking 30% have between 21 to 25 years in the industry, while another 29% have between 16 to 20 years of experience. This showcases the blend of seasoned insights and adaptability that these leaders bring to the table.

In terms of gender distribution, male representation was predominant with 92% of the winners, whereas female representation stood at 8%. While this data sheds light on the current gender dynamics in IT leadership, it's a reminder of the scope and need for enhanced diversity in the field.

Academic and Professional Highlights

The majority of the winners held Bachelor's degrees in domains like Engineering & Technology, Computer Science, Computer Applications, and Electronics. Their business and management acumen was evident in their expertise, which spanned areas such as Project & Program Management, Operations Management, Vendor Management, Budgeting & Financial Management, and Customer Support & Service Management.

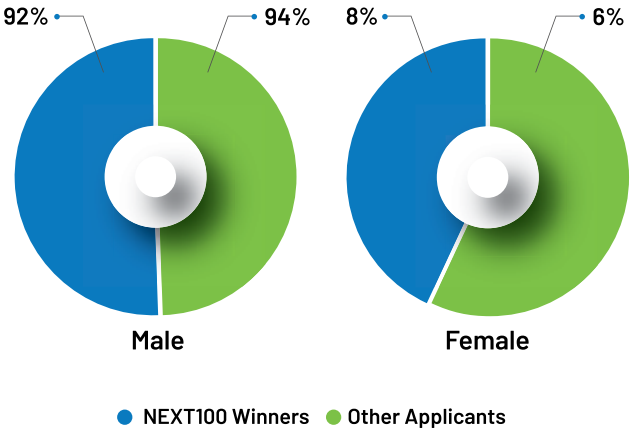
Beyond the Resume

Looking beyond their professional achievements, the personal interests of the winners provide a more holistic view of their personalities. Travel and music topped the list, followed by cooking, cricket, reading books, and photography. Their movie preference reflected their aspirational nature, with "The Pursuit of Happyness" being a favorite. When it came to unwinding, Switzerland emerged as the most admired vacation spot. A touching revelation was that 25% of the winners cited their parents as their greatest source of admiration.

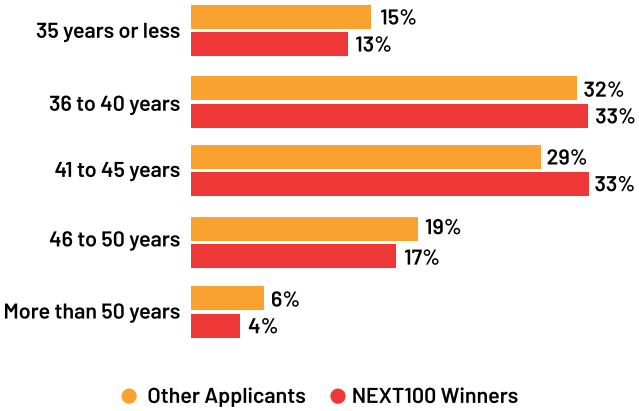
Conclusion

The NEXT100 awards, which is supported by India's CIO community, continues to celebrate IT leadership—and holds out the promise of a dynamic future for the industry. The combination of experience, expertise, and passion seen in this year's winners indicates that the future of IT in India is in capable hands. ■

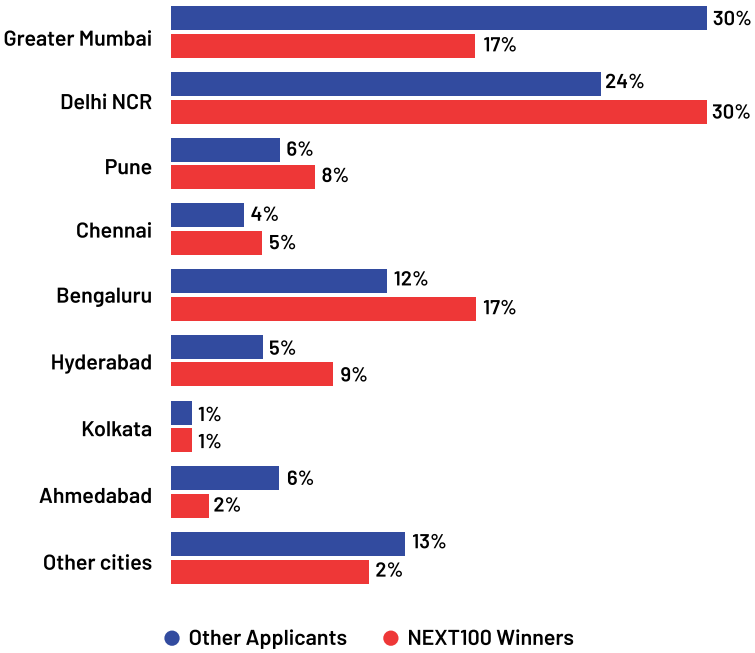
GENDER



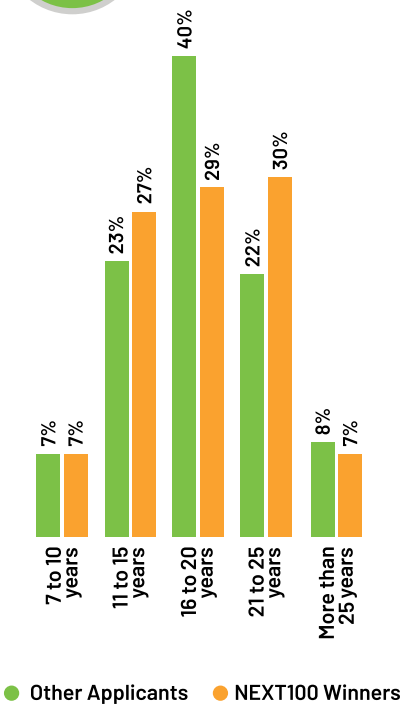
AGE



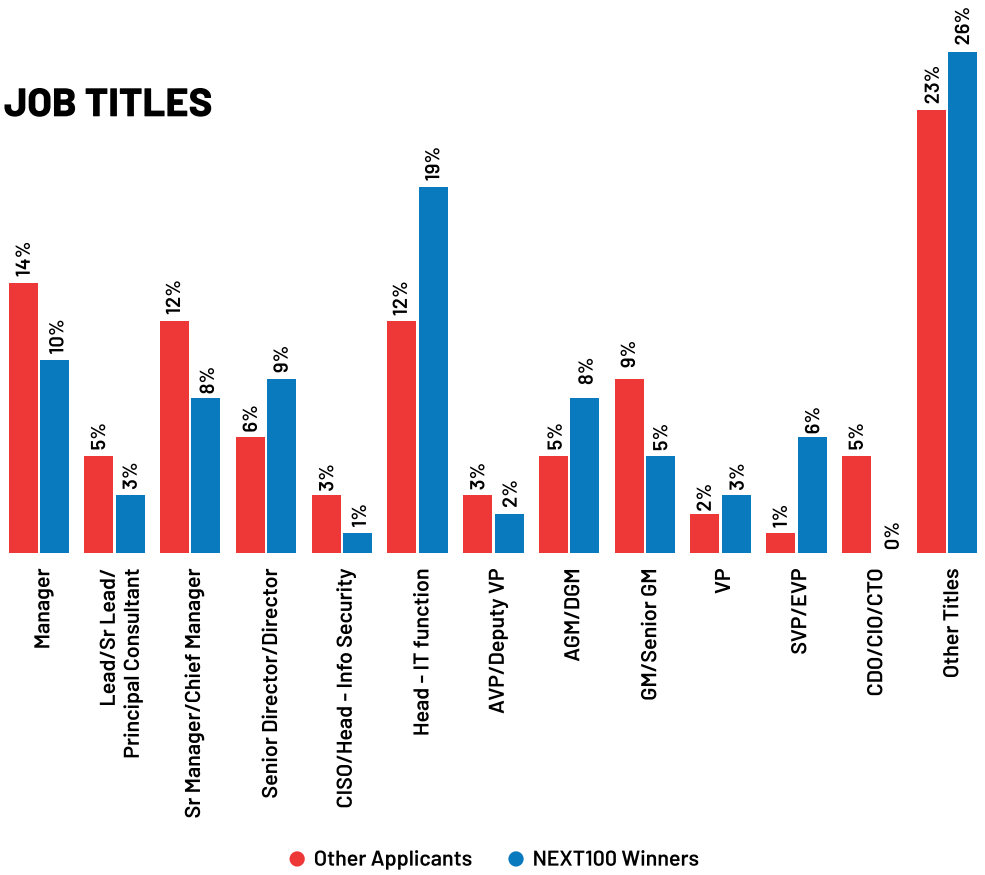
CITIES



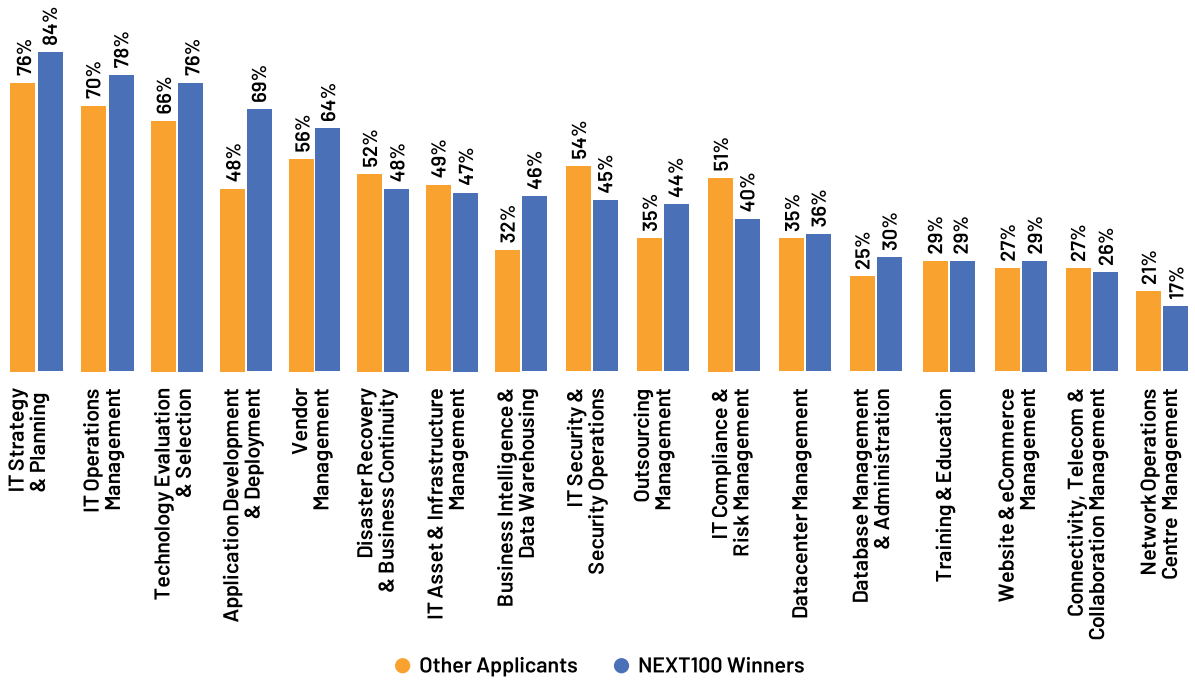
WORK EXPERIENCE



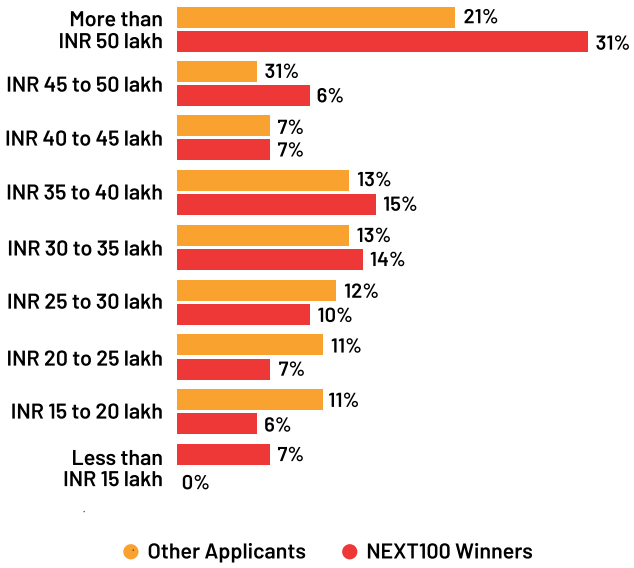
JOB TITLES



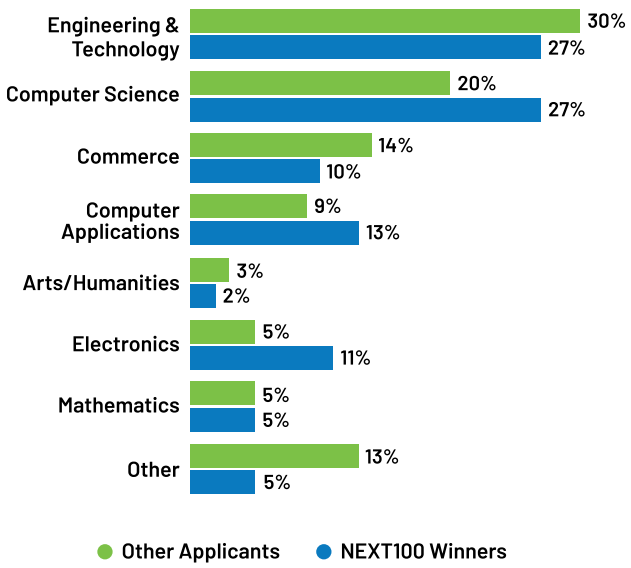
TECHNICAL EXPERTISE



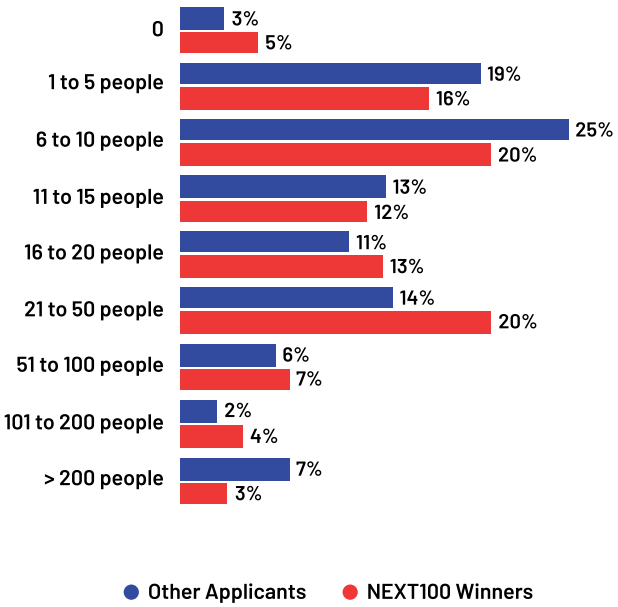
ANNUAL COMPENSATION



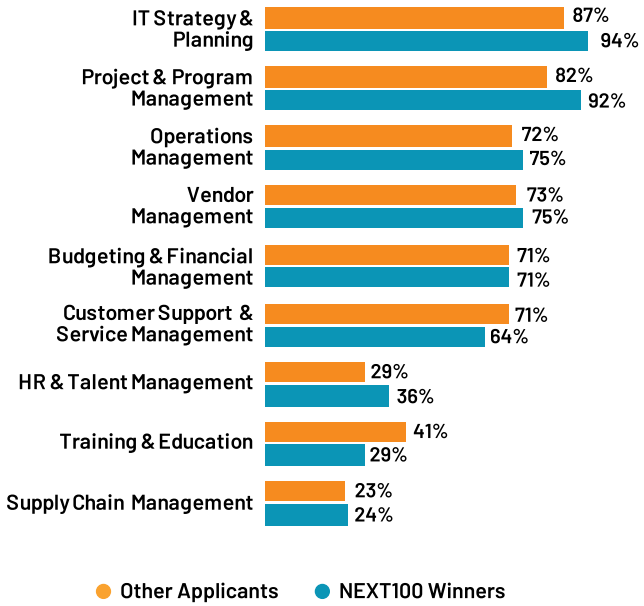
EDUCATION



TEAM SIZE



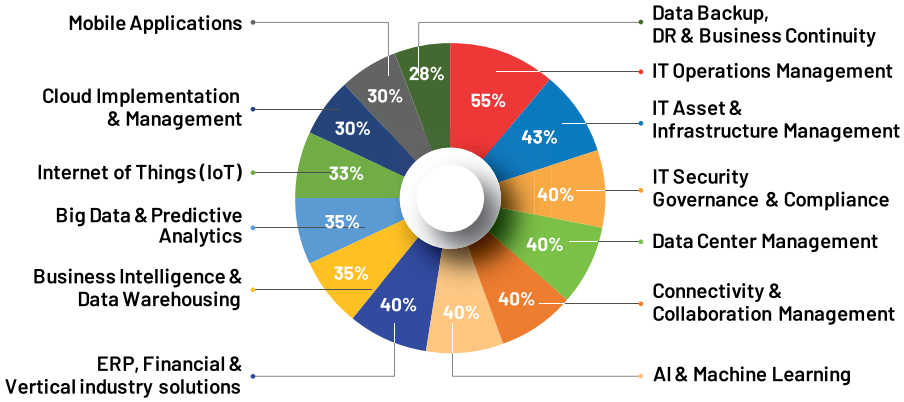
BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE



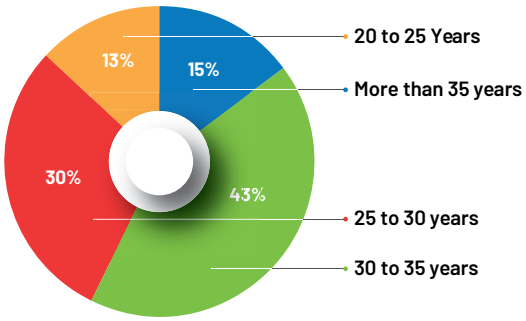
MEET THE JURY

The NEXT100 awards program draws on the expertise, contributions and support of India's CIO community. Forty-one senior executives from India's leading companies were involved in reviewing and validating the NEXT100 process, determining the selection criteria, and interviewing the aspirants.

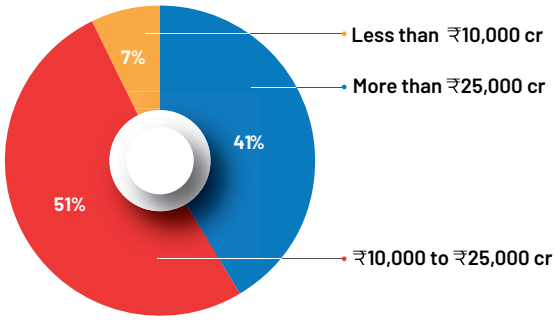
TECHONOLOGY EXPERTISE



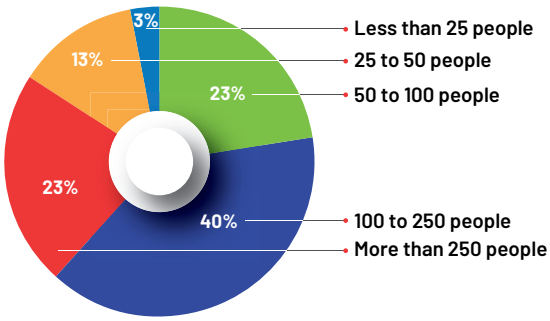
TOTAL WORK EXPERIENCE



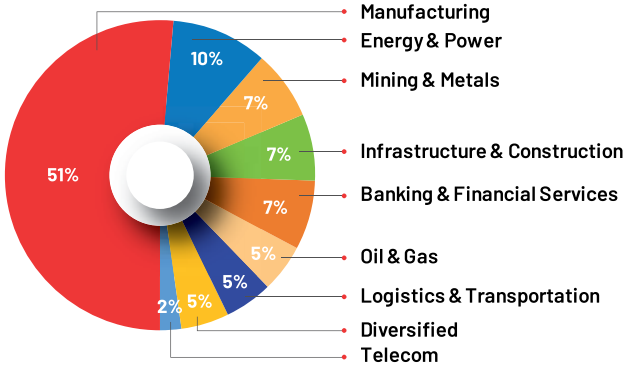
ORGANIZATION SIZE



TEAM SIZE MANAGED



INDUSTRY SECTOR



Chitti Babu Atreyapurapu
Group & Global CIO
Aurobindo Pharma

Saugata Basu
Group Chief Digital & Information Officer
Kalpataru Group

Kaustubh Dabral
Chief Information Officer
Dabur

Venkata Rao Damera
Chief Information Officer
Adani Wilmar

Indradyumna Datta
Group Chief Digital Officer
Jindal Steel & Power

Vinod Gopinathan
Chief Information Officer
Ashok Leyland

Manish Grover
Executive Director - Strategic IS & IS
Indian Oil Corporation

Pijush Kanti Gupta
Chief Technology Officer & Senior Vice President
Adani Electricity

Jayant Gupta
Executive Director - IS
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation

Rajeev Jorapur
Senior Vice President
Bajaj Auto

Vinay Khargonkar
Vice President & Head - Corporate IT
Larsen & Toubro

Vinod Khode
Senior Vice President & Group CIO
Varroc

Sanjay Kotha
Joint President & Chief Operating Officer, Adani Krishnapatnam Port, APSEZ, Adani Group

Manoranjan Kumar
Chief Information Officer
Shree Cement

R Anand Laxshmivarahan
Group Chief Digital & Information Officer
Jubilant Bhartia Group

Kapil Mahajan
Global Chief Information & Technology Officer
Allcargo Logistics

Satyavrat Mishra
Head - Corporate IT & Group CISO
Godrej Industries

Sanjay Moralwar
Senior General Manager - IT
Zydus Lifescience - Zydus Group

Rupesh Nain
Chief Information Officer - Natural Resources
Adani Enterprises

Kirti Patil
Chief Technology Officer
Kotak Life Insurance

Edsel Pereira
Executive Vice President - IT
Glenmark Pharmaceuticals

Sandip Pradhan
Chief Information Officer
Exide Industries

Rajeev Pradhan
Chief Information Officer
Wadia Group

Sanjay Prasad
Chief Information Officer
CESC Power Group

Jagdish Ramaswamy
President, Chief Digital & Information Officer
Hindalco Industries

Ajay Rambal
Head - IT
LG Electronics India

Mukesh Rathi
Chief Information & Digital Officer
Dr Reddy's Laboratories

A Shiju Rawther
Head - IT
SBI Mutual Fund

Pushkar Rege
Global Chief Information Officer
UPL

Nitin Kumar Rohilla
Chief Information Officer
Adani Power

Anish K Shah
President
Jio Platforms

Rajiv Sharaf
Head - IT
Torrent Power

Rahul Sharma
Chief Information Officer
Tata Projects

Govind Singh
Executive Director & Group CIO
Dalmia Bharat

Chandan Sinha
Chief Information Officer
Jindal Saw

Dheeraj Sinha
Group CIO & Director - Digitalization
JSW Steel

Rajeev Taneja
Chief Information Officer & Operating Officer - IT
Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India

Chetan Trivedi
Chief Information Officer (STL Digital/Vedanta Group)
Hindustan Zinc

Rajesh Uppal
Senior Executive Director - IT & HR
Maruti Suzuki India

Hemant Verma
Chief General Manager & CTO
Punjab National Bank

Vasudevan Vimalan
Chief Information Officer
EID Parry (India)

DAY 1:
FRIDAY,
4TH AUGUST,
2023

AS THE DAY PROGRESSED...

↑ **Vikas Gupta**, Publisher & Director, 9.9 Group addressing delegates

↗ **NEXT100 Winners**, networking with their peer group in a dynamic speed dating session.

↑ NEXT100 Winners at **AMD Case Study**

↑ **NEXT100 winners** presented their ideas in teams.

↑ **Ideas Cafe session:** NEXT100 winners sharing their ideas with CIOs.

↑ **R Giridhar**, Group Editor, 9.9 Group welcomes NEXT100 Winners.

↑ **Sanjeev Gupta**, Director - Global Offering Management, Kyndryl speaking on IT sustainability and the responsibiity for a greener future.

↑ **Duke Pramanick**, Head - Enterprise Sales & Business Development, Data Centre, India, CapitaLand Investment talks about future-ready datacenters.

↑ **Pramod Sharda**, CEO - India & Middle East, IceWarp explains disruptive innovations in email and collboration solutions

↑ **Dr. AS Prasad**, General Manager - Integrated Rack Solutions - Asia & India, Vertiv discuss about the future of data centres

↑ **Hardik Doshi**, Director - Sales(Conglomerates & Manufacturing)- India, VMware on simplifying cloud management

↑ **Award presentation** by **Sanjiv Mehta**, Country Manager, AMD and **Chetan Hingu**, Country Manager, Strategy and ISR, AMD

AWARD PRESENTATION

by Sanjeev Gupta, Director - Global Offering Management, Kyndryl

Aslam Ahmed

Sumit Anand

Anup Awasthi

Praveen Baheti

Jayadevan Balakrishnan

Sushil Bangar

Amit Bansal

Satadal Basu

Deepak Bhardwaj

Ranjan Bhasin

AWARD PRESENTATION

by Duke Pramanick, Head - Enterprise Sales & Business Development, Data Centre, India, CapitaLand Investment

Ashutosh Bhatawadekar

Hemant Bhatnagar

Bodhisatya Bhattacharjee

Manoj Bisht

Bhabani Chatterjee

Prashant Chauhan

Ankur Choudhary

Vidhi Chugh

Debolina Das

Nitin Desai

AWARD PRESENTATION

by Pramod Sharda, CEO - India & Middle East, IceWarp

Rudhir Deshkar

Manisha Dixit

Keshav Dubal

Deepak Durgaprasad

Amit Gaur

Stephen George

Sourav Ghosh

Raman Goel

Jidesh Gopinathan

Nitan Gulati

AWARD PRESENTATION

by Dr. AS Prasad, General Manager - Integrated Rack Solutions - Asia & India, Vertiv

Vivek Gupta

Nitin Gupta

Yogesh Mohan Gupta

Vishal Gupta

Sachin Hada

Pratyush Haridwaj

S Harikrishnan

Mohit Jain

Rishabh Jain

Navin Jayaraman

AWARD PRESENTATION

by Hardik Doshi, Director - Sales (Conglomerates & Manufacturing) - India, VMware

Vikas Kaalkhanday

Guneet Kalra

Vishal Kapoor

Udayabhaskar Karupothula

Srinivasarao Kodukula

Sridhar Krishnnan

Sandeep Kumar

Chandresh Kumar

Himanshu Kumar

Niranjan Kumar

AWARD PRESENTATION

by Sanjiv Mehta, Country Manager, AMD and Chetan Hingu, Country Manager, Strategy and ISR, AMD

Mayank Maini

Ajay Malgaonkar

Kamalkumar Mehta

Kapil Mehta

Rahul Mergu

Gaurav Mishra

Sayan Mondal

Gagandeep Pahwa

Monika Parvanda

Raj Kumar Patra

AWARD PRESENTATION

by Vikas Gupta, Publisher & Director, 9.9 Group

Ullas Pinge

Rajesh Puneyani

Gaurav Rai

Archit Rajesh

Geetika Rajpal

Nitin Ramchaware

Chetan Rana

Rajappa Rathinasabapathi

Sivananda Reddy

Sameer Relan

AWARD PRESENTATION

by Jatinder Singh, Executive Editor, IT NEXT

Reema Sahasrabuddhe

Datchanamoorthy Segar

Neha Shah

Nayan Shah

Akash Shastri

Prateek Shirod

Shantanu Singh

Sukhdev Singh

Devesh Singh

Bal Singh

AWARD PRESENTATION

by Sachin Mhashilkar, Executive Diretor, IT NEXT

A N Srinivasan

Niraj Srivastava

Vikas Srivastava

Keyur Thakkar

Chenchuramaiah Thandra

Nikesh Tripathi

Rupesh Vaish

Nilesh Velankar

Shankar Venkatesan

NEXT100 JURY FECILIATION

by R Giridhar, Group Editor, 9.9 Group

Chitti Babu Atreyapurapu

Kaustubh Dabral

Vinod Gopinathan

Manish Grover

Vinod Khode

Rupesh Nain

Sandip Pradhan

Rajeev Pradhan

Sanjay Prasad

Pushkar Rege

NEXT100 JURY FECILIATION

by R Giridhar, Group Editor, 9.9 Group

Rahul Sharma

Chetan Trivedi

Rajesh Uppal

THANK YOU JURY

↑ NEXT100 Jury 2023

←**Vote of Thanks** to Partners by Sachin Mhashilkar, Executive Director, IT Next

↗**Post award celebrations**, with delegates grooving to a performance by Antriksh

DAY2:
SATURDAY,
5TH AUGUST,
2023

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

↑ **Welcome Note: Jatinder Singh,** Executive Editor, IT NEXT

↑ **Q&A** with **Dr. Pramod Varma,** CTO - EkStep Foundation & Former Chief Architect of Aadhaar & India Stack on **"The Future of Infrastructure"**

↑ **Deepak Agarwal**, former Executive Director of Information Systems at Indian Oil Corporation, a recipient of the NEXT100 2010 Award and the CIO&L Jury member, delivered a keynote address on the **Evolution of a CIO**

Congratulations

TO ALL NEXT100 WINNERS 2023

• **Aslam Ahmed**, Head - IT Operations, Hindustan Zinc • **Sumit Anand**, Senior Program Manager, Orange Business • **Anup Awasthi**, Assistant Vice President - IT, Imperial Auto industries • **Praveen Baheti**, Vice President - IT, Biological E • **Jayadevan Balakrishnan**, Director - Global Delivery Excellence, IT Innovation & Technology, T-Systems International • **Sushil Bangar**, Head - PMO, Uno Minda • **Amit Bansal**, Senior Assistant Vice President, EXL • **Satadal Basu**, Head - Business Automation Rustomjee • **Deepak Bhardwaj**, Associate Director, Evalueserve.com • **Ranjan Bhasin**, Greystar Services India, Greystar India • **Ashutosh Bhatawadekar**, Engagement Director | CIO Advisory, Tata Consultancy Services • **Hemant Bhatnagar**, Deputy Vice President - IT, Niva Bupa Health Insurance • **Bodhisatya Bhattacharjee**, General Manager - Systems, Naresh Kumar & Co • **Manoj Bisht**, Senior Director, Head of Business Engagement & Digital Transformation Initiatives, Aragen Life Sciences • **Santosh Chandrasekaran**, Head - IT Applications, Amicorp Group • **Bhabani Chatterjee**, Engagement Leader, Capgemini • **Prashant Chauhan**, Senior Manager - Cybersecurity, Dell Technologies • **Ankur Choudhary**, Assistant General Manager, Maruti Suzuki India • **Vidhi Chugh**, Founder & CEO, All About Scale • **Debolina Das**, Program Manager, Kimberly-Clark • **Nitin Desai**, Senior Vice President, National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange • **Rudhir Deshkar**, Senior Manager - Infrastructure & Operations, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited • **Abhijit Dhada**, Deputy General Manager - IT, Rich Products and Solutions • **Manisha Dixit**, Lead - Group Infrastructure & Security, Sterlite Digital (Hindustan Zinc & Vedanta Group) • **Keshav Dubal**, Head - IT, Beumer India • **Viraj Dudhwala**, Head - IT, Adani Hazira Port • **Deepak Durgaprasad**, Senior General Manager - ERP & IT, Puravankara • **Amit Gaur**, Senior IT Network Manager, Netcracker Technologies Solutions India • **Stephen George**, Vice President, HSBC Software Development India • **Sourav Ghosh**, Senior Industry Principal, Infosys • **Raman Goel**, Enterprise Architect, IBM India • **Jidesh** Gopinathan, Head - IT, The Arya Vaidya Pharmacy (Coimbatore) • **Nitan Gulati**, Associate Vice President, Evalueserve.com • **Sumit Gulati**, Deputy General Manager, Panasonic Life Solution India • **Vivek Gupta**, Head - Business Intelligence & Process Excellence, Marico • **Nitin Gupta**, Senior Vice President, OneAssist Consumer Solutions • **Yogesh Mohan Gupta**, Technical Product Management Manager, Nike India • **Vishal Gupta**, Vice President, National Securities Depository Limited • **Sachin Hada**, Deputy General Manager & Head - IT Birla Century • **Pratyush Haridwaj**, Product Manager, Ivy Comptech • **S Harikrishnan**, Chief Manager, Karur Vysya Bank • **Shivakumar Hatti**, Senior General Manager Schneider Electric • **Ritesh Jadhav**, Head - Cloud & Platform Engineering, Link Group • **Mohit Jain**, Associate Director, Ramco Systems • **Rishabh Jain**, Deputy General Manager, JK Lakshmi Cement • **Navin Jayaraman**, AVP & Head - Strategic Programs, Societe Generale Global Solutions Center • **Santanu Joshi**, Platform Security Architect, Rockwell Automation • **Vikas Kaalkhanday**, Associate General Manager, HCL Technologies • **Guneet Kalra**, Deputy General Manager - IT, L&T • **Vishal Kapoor**, Director - Program Management & Operations, Aristocrat Technologies India • **Udayabhaskar Karupothula**, Deputy General Manager, Aurobindo Pharma • **Srinivasarao Kodukula**, Assistant General Manager, Aquarelle India • **Sridhar Krishnan**, Senior General Manager, Reliance Industries Limited • **Sandeep Kumar**, General Manager - IT, JK Lakshmi Cement • **Chandresh Kumar**, General Manager - IT, Ashoka University • **Himanshu Kumar**, Vice President, Compunnel India • **Niranjan Kumar**, Deputy Manager - IT, Energy Efficiency Services • **Krishna Prasad Lakshman**, Senior Manager, Tata Communications Transformation Services • **Mayank Maini**, Senior Application Analyst - Mahindra Digital Engine, Mahindra & Mahindra • **Ajay Malgaonkar**, Senior Vice President, Prolifics Corporation • **Kamalkumar Mehta**, Head - IT, Gujarat Ambuja Exports • **Kapil Mehta**, Senior Director - IT, Visionet Systems • **Rahul Mergu**, Vice President - IT, MarketsandMarkets Research • **Gaurav Mishra**, Director - IT, Digiplug Technologies • **Sayan Mondal**, Deputy Vice President, Indiafirst Life Insurance Company • **Gagandeep Pahwa**, Product Manager - Cloud & Application Security, Salesforce.com India • **Monika Parvanda**, Senior Manager, Aristocrat Technologies India • **Raj Kumar Patra**, Global Product Head - Quality & EHS, Reckitt • **Ullas Pinge**, Senior Manager, Genpact • **Rajesh Puneyani**, Interim Site Leader, Kenvue India • **Gaurav Rai**, Associate Vice President, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. 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THE IT LEADERS OF TOMORROW

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WINNER SPEAK

"I feel privileged and honored to win this prestigious NEXT100 award, which has added great value to my life personally and professionally. Be it my office colleagues, management family, or friends, everyone is feeling pride and showering their praises and blessings for this achievement.

I would like to thank ITNext and 9.9 Group for honoring me with the NEXT100 2023 Award and identifying me as one of India's future CIOs."

BHABANI CHATTERJEE
Engagement Leader, Capgemini

"Securing the Next100 award would be a pivotal milestone, profoundly impacting my professional and personal spheres. Professionally, it would validate years of unwavering commitment and hard work, significantly enhancing my industry visibility and unlocking exciting avenues for collaboration and advancement. This accolade would fortify my credibility, empowering me to effect meaningful change within my field. On a personal note, the award would instill an overwhelming sense of pride and motivation, serving as a driving force to continually surpass boundaries and set new benchmarks. Its inspirational effect could also catalyze others to pursue their ambitions, fostering positive growth in my personal and professional circles. Undoubtedly, this achievement would shape my future endeavors, nurturing success and personal fulfillment in equal measure."

VIRAJ DUDHWALA
Head - IT, Adani Hazira Port

"It's been a wonderful journey winning the NEXT 100 2023 award, starting by going through the Psychometric tests and knowing about our personality and behavior skills as a leader, which shows a true reflection of knowing yourself and providing an opportunity to improve.

After that, you go through the selection process of two separate interviews with prominent senior leaders from the Industry. Passing these interviews will help you feel more confident about playing the CIO role soon.

On the big day of receiving the award, it was such an experience meeting industry veterans and leaders, learning from their experiences, getting to know more people, and making new friends, all in all it was a great journey throughout.

The entire process took approximately 5-6 months end to end, and it has been a really well-coordinated, managed, and thoughtful journey. All thanks to the organizers and team for making this event a huge success. Wish them many more successful events like this in the future."

RAMAN GOEL
Enterprise Architect, IBM India

"NEXT100 award is the acknowledgment of the experience and job well done. This award gave me validation and a boost to my confidence. I have changed as a professional dealing with people and processes.

I have received an overwhelming response from my peers and friends via various channels. On LinkedIn itself, I received 100+ comments and 250+ acknowledgments from the industry fraternity."

STEPHEN GEORGE
Vice President, HSBC Software Development India

"Winning the award holds immense significance for me in both my professional as well as personal life. Professionally, it enhances my reputation and credibility within the field, indicating that both experts and peers recognize and value my work. Secondly, the award's prestige captures the attention of potential employers, clients, and collaborators, opening up new and exciting work opportunities and potential partnerships that were previously less accessible. Furthermore, as an award recipient, participation in events, ceremonies, and conferences becomes more frequent, providing a valuable chance to connect with fellow industry professionals. This networking potential not only fosters meaningful connections but also facilitates possible collaborations, all while keeping me informed about industry trends. On a personal level, winning this award provides a deep sense of accomplishment and motivation, thereby not only encouraging me to push my boundaries but also inspiring others to pursue excellence as well. This positive impact extends beyond my immediate circle, nurturing a culture of continuous growth and ambition.

Following the receipt of the esteemed award, I have been deeply touched by the considerable positive feedback and reactions that have poured in from my colleagues and peers. Their congratulatory messages have been both heartening and affirming, further fortifying my dedication to advancing the boundaries within my field. This recognition has further sparked meaningful discussions and teamwork, inspiring us to strive for even greater achievements together."

KAPIL MEHTA
Senior Director - IT, Visionet Systems

A Glimpse Into The Future Of AI

AI Scientist Prof. Toby Walsh highlights that AI is on the verge of becoming a trusted conversational companion, whether in the workplace or personal space

By Nisha Sharma

Imagine a future where your gadgets understand you like a close friend. Professor Toby Walsh, Chief Scientist at the University of New South Wales AI Institute, predicts that this is the path AI is heading. In a candid conversation with CIO&Leader at their Annual Conference, he shared how AI is not merely a tool but the driving force that will elevate our technology into something extraordinary. It's not just about cutting-edge tech; it's poised to boost the economy by a remarkable 15-20%!

One of the significant challenges for generative AI is its struggle to replicate the human touch or empathy. This essence truly differentiates human-to-human interactions from machine-to-human engagements. While this challenge remains, it is also seen as an untapped potential.

Prof. Walsh, who is known for his work in areas such as automated reasoning, AI ethics, multi-agent systems, and AI for social good, envisions a future where AI models will have cognitive empathy, offering rich, continuous learning interactions similar to human experiences.

This transformation will not only enhance conversational intelligence but also enable AI and Generative AI to comprehend us similarly to a human friend, not only solving complex problems but understanding us at a personal level.

Making tech accessible to all

Professor Walsh emphasized that AI is well on its way to becoming our primary mode of interaction with technology, giving it an almost 'personality.' Drawing a parallel between this AI democratization and the rapid rise of instant conversational search technologies like ChatGPT, he emphasized how they enable individuals and organizations to shape the direction of tech.

Looking beyond today's AI models, the author of 2062: The World that AI Made likened this revolution to the era when personal computers and innovative apps like VisiCalc emerged. He encouraged the industry to think beyond the obvious and explore new, amazing applications for AI that we've yet to uncover.

Data makes all the difference

Amidst this AI evolution, data emerged as the lifeblood of AI. It's what makes AI models successful. Large news organizations like Bloomberg and Reuters thrive on it, leveraging data to develop incredibly specialized AI models, showcasing the critical role of data in driving AI technologies.

Drawing parallels with the democratization of AI, Toby cited the rapid dissemination of technologies like ChatGPT, enabling billions to influence the technology's trajectory through their creativity and innovation.

A balancing act for a better tomorrow

While AI holds immense potential, Professor Walsh cautioned against overestimating its current capabilities. He highlighted the need for continuous research to ensure AI truly understands and reasons like a human. Responsible AI use and addressing biases in AI models are critical challenges that we must address for a brighter AI-powered future.

Professor Walsh urged the industry to collectively steer AI towards a brighter future that benefits us all. He stressed the importance of embracing the evolving AI landscape with wisdom, foresight, and a strong ethical compass. Enterprise and their leaders are worried about keeping their data safe when they use AI tools like Bard and ChatGPT. They need to plan and test really well to use AI the right way. The potential of AI is undoubtedly promising, provided we leverage this technological revolution in the right direction.

To overcome these challenges, business and technology leaders must construct an AI roadmap to understand how this technology will help their unique business goals. ■

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM OUR EXCLUSIVE INTERACTION

India's AI dominance: Data-driven potential

India stands poised at the AI frontier. With its unparalleled population offering a treasure trove of data, the nation could spearhead AI's next revolution. But it's not just about quantity; it's about quality. Renowned universities, coupled with AI-savvy leadership, set the stage for India's AI ascendancy.

Predictable vs. Unforeseen impacts

AI's trajectory is rife with contradictions. On one hand, we see the obvious: the dawn of self-driving cars heralds a driverless future.

Yet, the ripples are unpredictable. Could autonomous vehicles redefine urban living or render parking lots obsolete? And with AI tools like Chat GPT scaling to a billion users in record time, the pace of change is both exhilarating and daunting.

Ethics in AI

AI is a tool, and like any tool, it can build or destroy. The onus is on us: Will we champion in technology or lose our way?

Machines vs. Man: The future of work

The AI workforce debate is heating up. While machines boast precision, humans offer emotion, creativity, and adaptability. Consider the coffee conundrum: Machines might brew the perfect cup, but would they remember how you like it or share a morning joke? It seems, at least for now, the human touch remains irreplaceable

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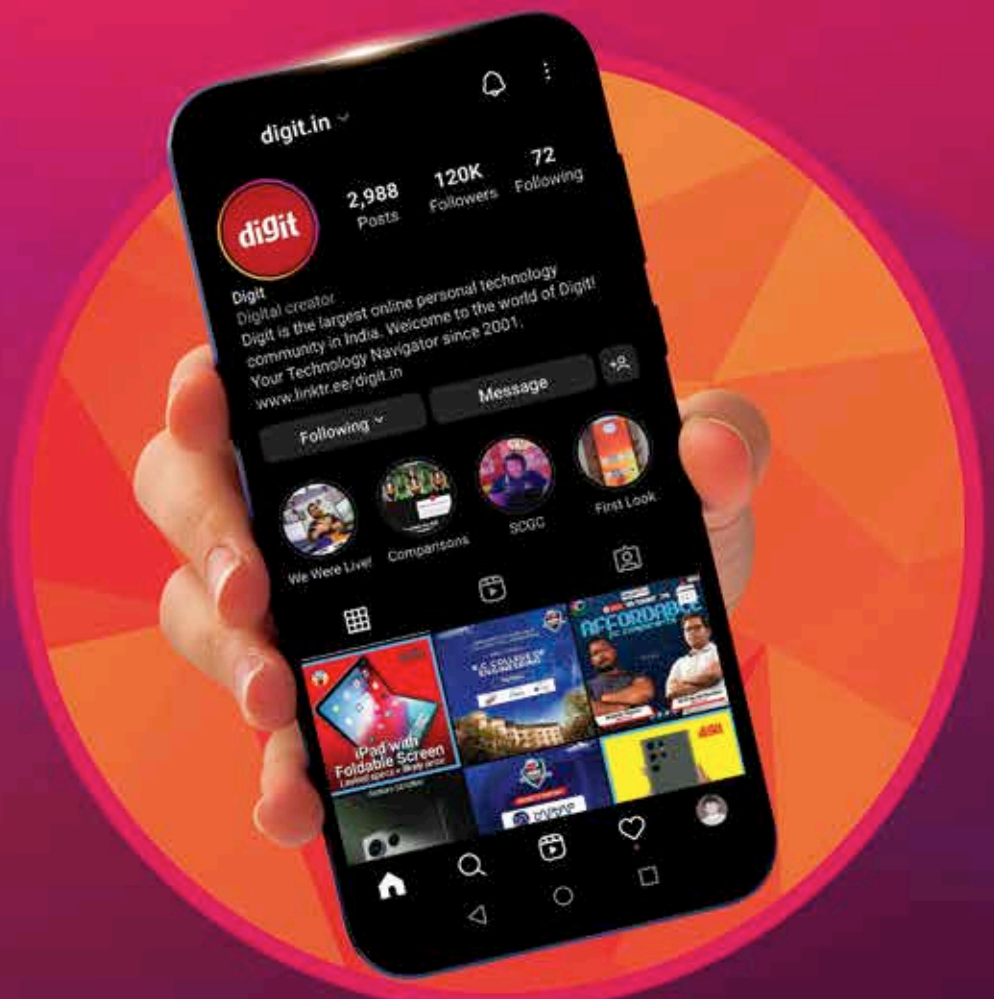

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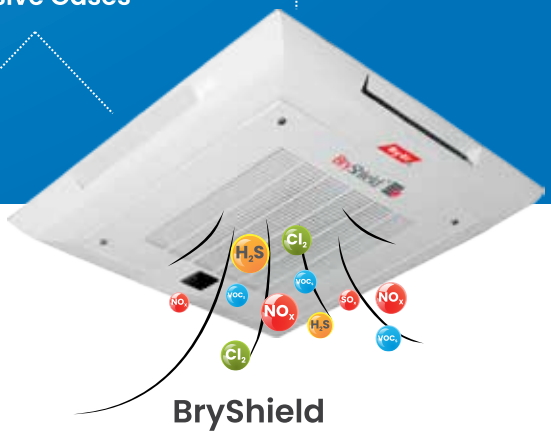

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