

## Premji, an IT Giant and a Pioneer Donor

As Azim Premji turned 70 on Friday, ET chronicles the life and times of India's foremost philanthropist and IT business tycoon

**Azim Premji is born** in what was then Bombay, in an undivided India. The same year, his father Mohamed Hasham Premji incorporated Western Indian Vegetable Products

**Mohammed Ali Jinnah** invited Premji's father to move to Pakistan. He turned down the request. Otherwise, Azim Premji's life could have taken a different path

**1945** Premji's company pioneers the use of single-use consumer packaging technology for oil to expand into rural markets

**1947** Premji is informed of his father's death. With one term left for his degree, he drops out to run the family business

**1947** Premji is admitted to Stanford. He begins an engineering course

**1963** Enters the fledgling IT industry

**1966** Formally changes name to Wipro Products

**1971** The company diversifies into soaps and baby care products, and hydraulic and pneumatic cylinders

**1975** Premji begins taking correspondence classes to complete the credits he needed to earn his engineering degree from Stanford. He graduates from Stanford, 30 years after having to drop out

**1977** Establishes software products and exports subsidiary, Wipro Systems

**1981** It changes its name to Wipro

**1982** Given the Padma Bhushan for outstanding work in trade and commerce

**1983** He founds the Azim Premji Foundation, a nonprofit organization that is trying to make quality universal education available in India

**1995** Listed on the NYSE. The company had been listed on Indian stock exchanges in 1945

**2000** Premji becomes the first Indian to sign the Giving Pledge. As of July this year, he has given away 39% of his stake in Wipro to fund his philanthropy

**2001** Given the Padma Vibhushan

**2011** Given the Padma Vibhushan

**2013**