



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

UPI-based upstarts giving Mastercard, Visa a run for their money

NITI Aayog works on strategy to leverage blockchain technology

Microsoft joins global peers in tapping start-up ideas

Amazon to continue investing heavily in payments business

Tiger Global slowly steps up pace of India investments

Today's View

Digital Twins

In the era of Industry 4.0, Generation Z companies are using a combination of simulation, animation, 3D rendering and printing, and other technologies to test out and understand the eventual dynamics of their products with precision, getting rid of clay models and prototypes. The unique concept of creating a digital replica of physical assets, processes and systems has come to be known as "Digital Twins".

With the emergence of IoT, this concept has assumed greater significance – now being termed as one of **Gartner's Top 10 Strategic Technology Trends** for 2017. In fact, Gartner predicts half the large industrial companies by 2021 will use digital twins, becoming 10% more efficient.

Digital Twins are being extensively used to improvise IoT platforms. Using digital twins modelling, **SAP** is transforming its existing cloud platform into a comprehensive IoT platform called SAP Leonardo IoT platform. This enables SAP to offer vehicle insights for moving assets and connected cars through correlating car fleet telematics data with geo data and business information on a large scale.

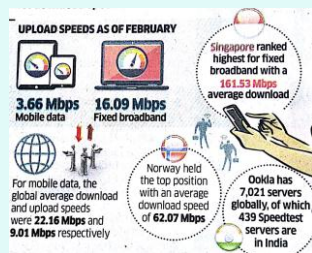
Even some HR practices have made use of this novel concept. When **General Electric's** R&D centre in Bengaluru started scouting for a way to curb its attrition, they built a digital twin model - a group of 5-10 people - to generate predictions on higher risk groups in terms of attrition. GE has also built a

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India ranks 109th in mobile broadband speed

India's rank in terms of mobile internet download speed remains same at 109.



Average download speeds have risen to 9.01 mbps in Feb from 8.80 mbps in Nov 2017.

Source – The Economic Times

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Date – 27th Mar 18

“digital wind farm” to generate 20% gains in efficiency through analysing data from each turbine, which is fed to its virtual equivalent. So far, GE has developed about 700,000 digital twins globally - 200,000 of which were built at the India Technology Centre.

The concept of digital twins can be applied to Banks as well. Banks can develop digital twins of key clients to monitor their comforts and inclinations based on their archived inputs, purchase records, and historic product usage patterns.

By incorporating Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Internet of Things, digital twinning holds the potential to position organizations at the core of Industry 4.0. Quoting SAP’s SVP here, “Digital twins are becoming a business imperative, covering the entire lifecycle of an asset or process and forming the foundation for connected products and services.”

Today’s News

UPI-based upstarts giving Mastercard, Visa a run for their money

Visa and Mastercard are losing market share to upstarts in the world’s most innovative payments market. Transactions through the UPI—which allows mobile apps run by retailers, airlines and other firms to take payment directly from bank accounts—reached almost half the value of debit and credit cards swiped at stores last month, according to RBI data.

The surge in UPI transactions has taken place since 2016 when the interface was set up domestic banks. Mastercard has built up its business in the country over three decades.

Source – Livemint

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NITI Aayog works on strategy to leverage blockchain technology

NITI Aayog is working on a national strategy for blockchain which will identify areas where the country can implement the technology and also list out means for doing so.

Aayog will discuss with all the states, central ministries and list out areas where blockchain can be implemented and also cautionary advisories on how not to go overboard with it.

Source – The Economic Times

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of G Balakrishna and Manish Kulkarni

Twitter to ban crypto ads

Twitter is to ban cryptocurrency advertising, joining Facebook and Google in a clampdown on the industry over the risk of giving publicity to potential fraud or large investor losses.

The prohibition will cover advertising of ICOs - crowdfunding used to raise cash by creating new coins - as well as token sales and crypto-wallet services.

Source – NDTV

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Xiaomi to invest Rs 6000-7000 crore in 100 Indian startups

Xiaomi will invest Rs 6,000-7,000 crore in around 100 startups in India in the next 5 years to strengthen its hardware and software ecosystem.

"Till 2017 the net investment of the company was Rs. 3,000 crore. In the next five years we will invest Rs. 6,000 crore to Rs. 7,000 crore in around 100 startups in India," Manu Kumar Jain, M.D. and vice-president of Xiaomi India, said.

Source – The Economic Times

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Uber to intensify its battle against Ola in India

Uber will intensify its battle with Ola after exiting its third global market despite pressure from investor SoftBank to focus on more lucrative regions. Dara considers India “a core market”, adding that Uber would “invest and grow in India”.

Source – The Economic Times

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Microsoft joins global peers in tapping start-up ideas

After Cisco, Facebook, Boeing, Intel, Samsung and Uber and United Technologies, it is the turn of Microsoft to tap the start-up ideas in Hyderabad. Though it is not the first time that Microsoft worked with start-ups here, the company opened its first Garage in India.

Microsoft's Garage comes a few weeks after Facebook launched its space T-Hub, exclusively for start-ups working in emerging technologies such as virtual reality and augmented reality.

Source – BusinessLine

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Amazon to continue investing heavily in payments business

Amazon which has doubled down on building out its digital payments business in the country, plans to continue investing heavily in the business and introducing more local innovations for Indian customers over the coming quarters, even as it grapples with new KYC regulations from the RBI, which have slowed down growth of new users.

Amazon Pay's new India head, Mahendra Nerurkar, conceded that the RBI regulations around mandatory KYC processes have resulted in a slowdown of new digital payments customers.

Source – Livemint

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Stage set for E-Way Bill from April 1

With less than a week left for the implementation of the much-delayed E-Way Bill across the country, tax officials and businesses seem to be well prepared this time around. "The IT system is fully geared up for the E-Way Bill. It has been thoroughly checked and can handle a much higher load," said Prakash Kumar, CEO, GST Network (GSTN), adding that it has also gone through multiple rounds of testing. The software for the E-Way Bill is being developed by the National Informatics Company and is being monitored by the GSTN.

Source – BusinessLine

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Tiger Global slowly steps up pace of India investments

Tiger Global Management is slowly increasing its pace of investments in start-ups after reaping attractive returns from share sales in Flipkart and Ola. Once the most prolific start-up investor, Tiger had almost entirely stopped investing in the past two years after its rosy investment thesis on the consumer internet business did not play out.

Instead, the New York-based firm shifted its attention to getting out of some of its riskiest investments. But in the past six months, Tiger Global has invested in six of its existing portfolio companies, the highest since it suddenly pulled the plug on start-up investments at the end of 2015.

Source – Livemint

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Financial Software ties up with Just In Time

Financial Software solutions announced partnership with Just In Time (JIT), a systems integrator, to expand its footprint in Sri Lanka.

JIT will provide regional banking know-how, system integration skills, post-sales support and overall project coordination for successful implementation of FSS products. This will enable banks and payment service providers to bring innovative payment solutions to Sri Lankan market.

Source – BusinessLine

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MindTree launches Decision Moments for marketers

MindTree launched "Decision Moments" - a data science platform which is built on the Microsoft Azure Platform and now leverages Adobe Experience Cloud to help marketers drive faster conversions. The data-driven experience delivered coupled with consumer insights, would influence and engage customers at multiple micro-moments across touchpoints.

Source – The Economic Times

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Shriram General Insurance leverages mobile app M-Nova

Shriram General Insurance is issuing more than 40K policies per month via their mobile app M – Nova. The company is offering all motor products through its mobile app.

Source – The Economic Times

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