



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Facebook acquires first Blockchain startup by buying Chainspace, a smart contract platform

WhatsApp adds FaceID, TouchID support on iOS

IITs roll out courses, incubating centers to bridge Al talent gap

'India has potential to lead in emerging tech areas of Al'

Today's View

Virtual Nurses

Nurses play a vital role in the medical car delivery process. With an ongoing nurse shortage worldwide, it has become imperative to develop new methods for handling time-consuming responsibilities traditionally held by nurses. According to a study published in **British Medical Journal**, when nurses' workload exceed optimal levels, the chances of a patient safety incident increased by up to roughly 30 percent and the chances of patient mortality spiked by around 40 percent.

Enter automated patient engagement tool. A virtual nurse is a highly cost-effective and efficient solution in this direction to help reduce nurse workload. It provides useful and educational information on hundreds of illnesses, injuries and medications. Virtual nurses are often computergenerated, on-screen nurses with whom the patient can interact. These nurses are designed to be informative, social, and empathetic to provide patients with a more natural interaction that maintains the comfort they might feel when interacting with a human nurse.

For instance, **Sensely's** virtual nurse – referred to as '**Molly**' – acts as a patient monitoring tool which doctors can personalise to different treatment and recovery regimens. The company's app helps physicians stay in touch with patients, and prevent readmission to the hospital.

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Schaeffler plans local unit for EV tech solutions

Hoping to ride India's push for cleaner e-mobility via electric vehicles, German auto component major Schaeffler Group is considering setting up a local engineering unit in India to cater to the growing need from the domestic players to localize technology.



Source – The Economic Times

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FinTech & New Business Initiatives

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Likewise, **HealthLoop** enables care teams to engage all patients before and after admission through automated, daily check-ins. By sending the right information at the right time, HealthLoop identifies those patients that need help in real-time, allowing care teams to proactively intervene before costs and complications escalate.

TeleHealth Services has recently developed virtual personal health coaches **Sally** and **Walt** in iCare Navigator. iCare Navigator is an Al-powered patient engagement and education platform which can be accessed on a tablet or through a hospital TV set. The application gradually figures out when a patient would be most receptive to learning about a health condition or how best to manage care.

Boston University School of Medicine has developed virtual nurses named **Louise** and **Elizabeth** to coach patients on things such as when to take their medications. A study found that 74 percent of patients preferred receiving discharge instructions from a virtual nurse instead of a human.

Developing a nursing AI in the medical setting is tricky to establish since it involves critical aspects of ethics and morality. As nursing care and technology evolution move in tandem, we feel the large-scale application of an independent AI for a virtual caring environment is a long way to go.

Today's News

Facebook acquires first Blockchain startup by buying Chainspace, a smart contract platform

Facebook has reportedly made its first acquisition in the blockchain industry. Although the news has not yet been confirmed by the social media giant, Facebook has reportedly hired the team behind blockchain start-up Chainspace. The news is being reported online by blockchain industry news website Cheddar, which posted the story yesterday. Cheddar cited "people familiar with the matter", claiming that Facebook had hired most of the core team behind Chainspace but none of the company's technology.

Source – Bitcoin Exchange Guide

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Expectations from Digital Transactions in 2019

The Indian Financial Services space over the last couple of years has been transforming itself constantly and is on the path to significant growth. With the arrival of various next-generation technologies, the Indian Fintech sector has been embracing technology and innovation with open arms. This backed by various regulatory amendments including e-KYC, e-NACH, India Stack, and API integration has paved the way for a robust digital payment and interoperability system. It is well known that the Indian Fintech space is governed by multiple entities including the RBI, SEBI, TRAI and others, and it is these regulatory bodies that have taken the onus to advocate for increasing the digital transactions in India.

Source – BGR

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of G Balakrishna and Pankaj Tadas

US-based investors put Rs 112 crore in Ola

Domestic ride-hailing firm Ola has raised an additional Rs 112 crore from a bunch of US-based investors including Raymond S Cahnman, Chairman of Transmarket Group, philanthropist Tina & Steven Price, J3T Ventures and Lyon Assets, according to regulatory filings, sourced from business intelligence platform paper.vc.

Source - The Economic Times

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In FY18, Oyo India ops revenue jumps three fold

Oyo Hotels and Homes has reported a more than three-fold jump in revenue for its India operations for the year ended March 2018, with the Softbank-backed hospitality chain also managing to rein in losses for the 12-month period. The firm has also projected a revenue of almost Rs 1,500 crore for the current fiscal which, if met, will again be a three-fold jump over the previous financial year.

Source - The Economic Times

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Vivriti Capital to set up AIF for corporate debt

Chennai-based online corporate lending platform Vivriti Capital plans to create an alternate assets platform that will set up and manage long-term alternative investment funds. The new platform will be a wholly-owned subsidiary that will invest in corporate debt, structured finance transactions as well as quasi-equity structures.

Source - BusinessLine

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WhatsApp adds FaceID, TouchID support on iOS

The world's most popular messaging app, WhatsApp has released a new update for iPhone users that will add an additional layer of security. The latest update lets users open WhatsApp using FaceID or TouchID. The new update with the build number 2.19.20 brings biometric authentication to iPhones which was under testing for a long time. After the update, users can unlock the app using FaceID which is available on iPhone X and later whereas on iPhones launched after iPhone 5s till iPhone 8 can be unlocked using TouchID.

To setup, the biometric authentication feature on your iPhone, go to Settings, tap on Account. Further, tap on Privacy and then go to Screen Lock. Once you go onto the Screen Lock screen, the app would show the available authentication method - either Face ID or Touch ID - that you can enable to lock your WhatsApp. Users can also select the time after which they want the authentication feature to get activated. They can choose between immediately, 15 minutes or an hour.

Source - Money Control

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IITs roll out courses, incubating centers to bridge AI talent gap

Sensing the urgent need of corporates for solutions based on artificial intelligence (AI) coupled with the government's push on AI, the country's premium engineering schools are busy upping their game on this new technology. From rolling out certificate, bachelor's and master's courses to creating a talent pool and incubating AI-based start-ups, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are trying to bridge the talent gap in this space.

"There has been a lot of demand for candidates with the knowhow on AI," said Sumohana Channappayya, dean at IIT Hyderabad. "Almost every technology company from any sector, say IT or petroleum, wants candidates with strong training in AI and ML (machine learning)." The institute will start a B-Tech program me in AI in August. It already offers M-Tech programmes in data science, AI and machine learning, and a minor programme for undergraduate students in AI and humanity.

Source - The Economic Times

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'India has potential to lead in emerging tech areas of Al'

From being a back-end services provider for global corporations over the past two to three decades, India has the potential to transform itself and lead by innovations in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and Internet of Things. During an interactive session on 'Emerging technologies, jobs and management,' hosted at Vigana Jyothi Institute of Management here, speakers highlighted how the country's youth have the potential to play a key role in the next wave of innovation. On Google and Facebook, he said that everyone who works there (in the two companies) is not a 'technology guy', and a number of solutions these companies have come up with have been developed by non-technology innovators.

Source – BusinessLine

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Rolls Royce sets sights on Indian start-ups to drive innovation in AI, analytics

Rolls Royce is set to provide mentoring and technical support to start-ups in Bangalore. The engineering company has stated in a press release that it will reach out to startups specializing in the areas of advanced analytics, Al and quantum computing among others.

The company has chosen Bengaluru as its base camp for launching the program in India. This is because of the growing number of tech companies in the city, according to the press release.

Source - Money Control

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IHS Markit: Al and machine learning hold promise for digital transformations

Service providers have only recently started helping to enable the digital transformations their of enterprise customers, but AI and ML hold the most immediate promise for those transformations. Research by IHS Markit's Michael Howard, senior research director of carrier networks, found that artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) will likely have the most impact on cloud services offered to customers and carrier network operations and management.

Despite the optimism, it's early days for AI, ML and blockchain. IHS Markit's survey of 25 telecom operators found that 68% of them had started to investigate AI and ML for their businesses, while 56% had begun lab testing of those types of solutions.

Source - Fierce Telecom

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