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Today's View

Improving Mental Health with Tech

In our previous article (link here), we have seen how innovative technology is being leveraged to fight mental illnesses. Let's delve deeper to see how various technology companies, as well as institutes, are taking help of technology to improve mental health.

The National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) states that nearly 150-million Indians suffer from some form of mental health concerns and only about 30 million seek help from families, friends or counsellors. The situation is similar the world over. As per the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, 76-85% people in low-and-middle-income countries receive no treatment for their mental health disorders.

Additionally, most treatment centres are concentrated in metros and tier-1 cities. This is where digital ventures like **YourDost** step in to bridge the gap. About 40% of the platform's 1.5-million clients are from tier-2 cities and about 95% of them have never sought help before. The start-up has also collaborated with about 50 schools and corporates to offer subsidised mental health services.

Similarly, **HealthEminds**, a Bengaluru-based start-up provides counselling and mental health support, both on the personal and professional front. The success of the platforms can be understood from the fact that enquiries on

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Cybersecurity insurance companies run into data smog
Cybersecurity insurance has crucial hurdles to overcome. Lack of actuarial data on cyberattacks, murky disclosures by corporate victims and the incredible speed at which a breach may spread globally have companies in a bind.

Source – The Economic Times

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Date – 22nd Nov 18

the platform have increased from four-five enquiries a week in 2015 to about 110 a day at present.

The ability of the digital space to provide ease of access to mental health professionals has also prompted the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans) to roll out Push-D (Practice and Use Self Help for Depression). Launched in a testing phase last year, the mobile app uses activities, audiovisuals, statistics, infographics and other materials that helped users to recognise depressive symptoms, seek treatment and get counselling over a month.

Government authorities are also taking steps to strengthen mental health eco-system. The Mental Health Care Bill passed by the Parliament empowers people suffering from mental health issues to access treatment without discrimination, recognises consent, discourages seclusion and solitary confinement and allows people take full charge of the course of their treatment. While IRDA has directed all insurance companies to make provisions to cover mental illness in policies.

We believe that the legislative push, along with tech-driven initiatives like apps will encourage people to talk without fear of being shamed or mocked, thereby creating a support-ecosystem for improving the mental health of individuals.

Today's News

IoT spending in Asia-Pacific up 12% in 2018

The average annual spend on Internet of Things (IoT) among enterprises in the Asia-Pacific region reached $4.8 million, up 12 per cent from 2017. Globally, the average annual spend on IoT increased four per cent year-over-year, showed the findings of the "Intelligent Enterprise Index" report released by Zebra Technologies, a global leader in providing solutions and services to enterprises.

Source – Business Standard   READ MORE

Half of India's ATMs may shut down by March, says report

Nearly 50 per cent of the Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) may be shut down by March 2019 due to unviability of operations, hitting hard both urban and rural population, the Confederation of ATM Industry (CATMi) warned on Wednesday. Currently, India has approximately 2,38,000 ATMs, of which around 1,13,000 ATMs including 1,00,000 off-site and more than 15,000 white label ATMs are expected to down their shutters, said a CATMi spokesperson.

Source – India Today   READ MORE

This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Pankaj Tadas and Manish Kulkarni

Top funded fintechs in Asia by country

With the existence of such a huge region with huge swaths of unbanked and uninsured populations, investors are waking up to the potential that Asia has in fintech.

According to Bain & Company, 2017 saw a sharp spike of recorded venture capital deals which quadrupled from its 2012 amount. Between now and 2019, over 60% of investors from Southeast Asia state technology will be their main focus, with fintech, in particular.

Source – Fintech Singapore

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Blockchain hackathon, Genesis Hack offers 1 cr prize

The world's biggest blockchain hackathon, Genesis Hack, was unveiled at the 10K NASSCOM Start-up Warehouse in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Genesis Hack, launched by IBC media, creators of the International Blockchain Congress, will bring together over 65,000 developers to compete for a cash prize of over 1 crore.

Prominent blockchain industry players such as Abhishek Pitti, CEO of Nucleus Vision, Amit Kanodia, CEO, Host, Abhinav Ramesh, CEO of Murmur, and a host of developers were present at the event.

Source – The Economic Times

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Ecommerce players, startups step up hiring for leadership positions

In a tepid job market for senior talent, the ecommerce and startup sector is where the action is. An uptick in the sector led by a combination of factors including an improved funding scenario, increased M&A activity, skyrocketing mobile data usage and the coming-of-age of ecommerce and transaction models have driven companies to embark on bolstering their top decks with senior talent.

Be it Amazon, Flipkart, Swiggy, Paytm, OYO, Ola or Zomato at one end or startups that have just bagged their Series A, Series B rounds of funding at the other, search firms say they are seeing a 40-100% increase in such mandates over last year.

Source – The Economic Times

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SWIFT India Partners With Fintech Firm for Blockchain Pilot

SWIFT India has partnered with fintech firm MonetaGo to pilot a distributed ledger (DLT) network designed to improve the efficiency and security of financial products.

SWIFT India is a joint venture established by SWIFT SCRL (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) and a number of major Indian and international banks, including HDFC Bank and the Bank of India. The organization provides messaging services to domestic market infrastructures, banks and corporates.

Source – Cointelegraph

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Retail Giant Carrefour Launches Blockchain Food Tracking Platform for Poultry in Spain

Retail giant Carrefour, headquartered in France and operating in more than 30 countries, is deploying a blockchain food tracking platform based on Hyperledger in its Spanish network.

The food tracking solution, initially developed by U.S. tech corporation IBM, will be used to track free-range chickens branded as "Calidad y Origen" that were raised in the northern region of Galicia without antibiotic treatment. Each package in the Spanish network will be marked by a QR code providing detailed info on the chicken's date of birth, type of nutrition, packing date, and more.

Source – Cointelegraph

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Now, China opposes global e-commerce rules

China has come somewhat closer to India's stance on developing global trade rules for electronic commerce by opposing binding provisions for cross-border data flow, preventing data localization, and protection of source code, among others.

The US, Japan, Australia and Singapore, the proponents of ambitious rules for global e-commerce, have suffered a setback at the World Trade Organization (WTO) after China issued a strong statement, opposing attempts to develop rules on sensitive issues of e-commerce.

Source – Mint

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Indian Fintech Startup ftcash Wins MIT's Inclusive Innovation Challenge

Mumbai-based startup ftcash, known for driving financial inclusion with its innovative solutions around Digital Payment and Instant Loan has won the global grand prize winner for the 2018 MIT Inclusive Innovation Challenge, a company press statement indicated.

The much-awarded Mumbai startup, incubated by PayPal emerged as a winner from more than 1,500 global registrants for its scalable solutions that leverage machine learning and analytics.

Source – Bloomberg

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