



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Tamil Nadu woos investors with Fintech Centre plan, start-up policy

Facebook to set up institute for ethics in AI

Ola applies for NBFC license in diversification push

Lending firm RupeeRedee faces customer data breach

Today's View

Pizza Tech!

While 60% of restaurants fail within the first three years, the ones selling pizza seem to be resilient to this trend. Its resilience can be attributed to both, the world's insatiable appetite for the delicious pizza pies, and the adoption of technological innovations throughout the pizza supply chain.

EMarketer reports that 69% of internet users have ordered food delivery online within the past year, so convenience is table stakes for pizzerias. To streamline the customer experience, operators and managers of pizzerias, big and small, turn to new technologies to simplify the experience for them and their customers.

Silicon Valley start-up **BeeHex** has created a food printer that can make you a personalized 3-D pizza which **NASA** Astronauts can print pizzas in space. While **Amazon** has made it possible to order a pizza through its smart speakers 'Amazon Echo'.

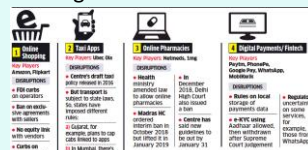
Domino's, one of the most prominent pizza-makers, have adopted technology in multiple ways, so much so that it calls itself 'as much a tech company as we are a pizza company.' Recently, it has partnered with **Ford** for testing self-driving delivery vehicles, and with **Firtey** to test out a drone delivery program in New Zealand. Interestingly, it has also launched a bike with a black box that prevents oscillations during deliveries and guarantees pizza arrives untouched to their customers.

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How regulatory challenges are affecting India's new economy disruptors

India's new economy disruptors are currently confronting old-style regulatory disruption, with rules changing. ET takes a look at how regulatory challenges are affecting six new economy activities: online shopping, taxi apps, online pharmacies, online groceries, Fintech and startup funding.



Source – The Economic Times

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Date – 21st Jan 19

Other large-scale pizza companies are also adding the 'tech-topping' to their pizzas. For example, **Pizza Hut** introduced 'mind-reading pizza menu' which suggests consumer's favourite flavour using eye-tracking technology. In order to lessen staff pressures, it has also introduced a robot waiter, Dilly Plate in South Korea.

Some start-ups are taking 'pizza-tech' to a whole new level. **Zume Pizza** uses robotics and artificial intelligence to make pizza en route. Its robots can recognize when pizzas are done, spread pizza sauce and move pizzas to racks. While some universities like **Ohio State University** have even launched pizza ATMs. It is loaded with pre-made pizzas in a neighbouring kitchen and when a pizza is ordered, it bakes in about three to four minutes. The ATM can hold about 70 pizzas at a time, making it a convenient option when the closest dining hall is closed.

We believe there is enormous potential in extending the pizza-tech to other food supply chains where technology can be leveraged for humanizing the user-experience in this sector.

Today's News

Tamil Nadu woos investors with Fintech Centre plan, start-up policy

In the run up to the Global Investors Meet to be held on January 23 and 24, Tamil Nadu has sent a strong signal to investors by making back-to-back announcements last week — first on setting up a FinTech centre in the city followed by the start-up and innovation policy to provide an enabling and innovative ecosystem in the State. This may be a late effort when compared to neighbouring Telangana but focussing on the State's strength in sectors like SaaS (Software as a Service) and Fintech could help Tamil Nadu score over other States.

Last Monday, the State government announced that the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology plans to set up a Centre of Excellence for FinTech at Software Technology Parks of India STPI-Chennai, in association with the Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu. An outlay of Rs 23 crore has been earmarked for the centre.

Source – BusinessLine

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Facebook to set up institute for ethics in AI

Facebook said that it will create an independent Institute for Ethics in Artificial Intelligence (AI) with an initial grant of \$7.5 million. In collaboration with the Technical University of Munich (TUM) in Germany, the institute will help advance the growing field of ethical research on new technology and will explore fundamental issues affecting the use and impact of AI. "The institute will conduct independent, evidence-based research to provide insight and guidance for society, industry, legislators and decision-makers across the private and public sectors," said Joaquin Quinonero Candela, Director, and Applied Machine Learning, at Facebook.

Source – The Economic Times

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

This is how AI, digital tech can be blended for that perfect cup of brew

Digital technology is poised to play a major role to better the yield and quality of Indian tea this year, as the Tea Board of India is coming up with an AI-based mobile app for the sector targeted primarily at small tea growers (STGs). This app, which may be christened Chai Sahay, will be primarily used by the regulatory authority to issue advisory, disseminate information related to various schemes of the board for the sector as well as provide real-time weather updates.

Source – Business Standard

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Infibeam to sell subsidiary Infinium for Rs 60 crore

Infibeam Avenues has entered into a binding agreement to sell its subsidiary Infinium India to Ingenius E-commerce for Rs 60 crore. "The company (Infibeam Avenues) has divested its ownership with control in its wholly-owned subsidiary Infinium (India) to Ingenius E-commerce. The consideration received from the sale is Rs 60 crore," Infibeam said in its filing to the stock exchange.

Source – The Economic Times

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In the two-wheeler sharing market, electric scooters are getting hot

Two-wheelers rule India's roads. Most of us have grown up riding first a bicycle and then a motorised two-wheeler. Yet, the bike-sharing business — be it bicycles or scooters — have not seen the kind of success that the cab-hailing ones have.

Source – The Economic Times

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Ola applies for NBFC licence in diversification push

Ola has applied for a permit to launch a non-banking finance company, as it bets on financial services to diversify beyond the core ride-hailing business where growth is slowing down, people privy to the matter said. Bengaluru-based Ola is looking to deepen a short-term credit service it currently provides on a pilot basis to riders on its app, launch a credit card in partnership with a bank and sell insurance to its driver-partners as well as riders, the people said. It already offers a trip-insurance service to customers.

What Ola is looking to do is leverage its distribution platform in adjacent categories, after having stepped into food delivery with Foodpanda and a potential entry into pharma delivery. The SoftBank-backed company already operates what is called Ola Credit, which is a pay-later product, and now wants to deepen its lending offerings through an NBFC arm, the people said.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Microsoft lays AI sensors for smart farming, cutting-edge healthcare in India

China, the world's biggest agricultural producer, is leading the race when it comes to empowering farmers with Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven technologies. The aim is clear: To help the community digitally record information to cut costs and increase yields -- with just a smartphone in their hands as AI leveraged Cloud computing to make sense of the data for farmers. India has now embarked on a journey to bring AI sensors into the fields. Microsoft has begun empowering small-holder farmers in India to increase their income through higher crop yield and greater price control.

"We are working with farmers, state governments, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to create an ecosystem for AI into farming," Microsoft India president Anant Maheshwari told IANS.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Lending firm RupeeRedee faces customer data breach

New age data-driven technology companies are always prone to attack on their data storage facilities, more so if they are in the Fintech domain. Last week, an early stage lending start-up RupeeRedee discovered vulnerabilities in its data stack stored on the Amazon cloud.

A data security enthusiast who goes by the name of Gareth on micro-blogging site Twitter pointed out that RupeeRedee was 'leaking' customer details because of some vulnerability on its cloud storage facilities. What could be accessed was customer scanned copies of Aadhaar or Pan Cards which are usually submitted by applicants during KYC. After some redacted files were put out in the public domain, the company swiftly got the leak sealed with help of professionals by late Friday.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Panasonic India's B2B biz to contribute 50% to its revenue in the next 5 years

Panasonic India, which is focusing on B2B growth, sees retail as its largest segment, according to a top company executive, who said security and surveillance products are seeing high traction. The Indian arm of Japanese electronics giant Panasonic Corp. is also focusing on IoT technology-based solutions for its B2B customers, said Vijay Wadhwan, head of system and solution business at Panasonic India.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Myntra-Jabong gets new head for fashion and lifestyle

Flipkart has promoted Rishi Vasudev, its fashion department head, to give him additional responsibility of the fashion and lifestyle categories of its fashion portals Myntra and Jabong, two people familiar with the development.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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OptraScan to invest Rs 50 cr towards manufacturing unit

Health tech startup OptraScan will be investing Rs 50 crore towards a new manufacturing set up for its digital pathology solutions. OptraScan CEO Abhi Ghola told that the company had recently completed trials for the solution and now was starting to market it commercially. The company sold 150 systems globally last year out of which 35 systems are installed and functional while others are being manufactured and supplied.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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