



## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Indians to lead in post-Covid adoption of e-payments: Study

Indian AI startups are reinventing supply chain amid lockdown

Startup Bharat: This Dehradun-based video conferencing platform is taking on Zoom, Google Meet

E-comm to gain as malls suffer: Report

## Today's View

### Fog Computing: Cloud Computing v2.0

In recent times, cloud computing has emerged as a key driving force for most of the MNCs. As per **Forbes**, it is estimated that around 80% of the tech-enabled enterprises are utilizing the capabilities of the cloud computing platforms in their business and the number is further anticipated to increase in future.

Fog computing extends the concept of cloud computing to the network edge, making it ideal for internet of things (IoT) and other applications that require real-time interactions. As per **TechMag** research, Global Fog Computing Market is set to exceed USD 700 million by 2024. Increasing penetration of cloud computing platforms is further fostering the fog computing market growth.

Interestingly, traffic light system in Chicago is equipped with smart sensors which work on fog computing. As traffic builds, data is collected from individual traffic lights. Based on traffic flow patterns, the traffic light system automatically makes adjustments to the signalling system in real time. This allows traffic delays to be kept to a minimum, ensuring citizens spend less time in their cars.

Hardware manufacturers, such as **Cisco, Dell and Intel** are working with IoT analytics and machine-learning vendors to create IoT gateways and routers that support fog computing.

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### E-commerce marketplaces see low demand for non-essentials

India's top online marketplaces including Amazon and Flipkart are finding few takers for non-essential products ranging from refrigerators to air conditioners and apparel according to industry executives monitoring the partial resumption of ecommerce activity across non-metropolitan areas of the country in the past week.

<p><b>Ecommerce could manage only 60-70% sales even after opening of safer zones</b></p> <p>Online sales of smartphones have recovered to some extent in green, orange zones</p>	<p><b>Demand for white goods in these zones extremely low</b></p> <p>Food and groceries still the only category where demand is high</p>
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Source—The Economic Times

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Looking at the potential applications of fog computing, these organisations along with **Microsoft and Princeton University**; have instituted The 'OpenFog Consortium' to develop an open reference architecture and enhance the business value of fog computing.

Similarly, connected cars require a capability to locally analyse certain data in real-time, such as surroundings, driving conditions and directions. Other data may need to be sent back to a manufacturer to help improve vehicle maintenance or track vehicle usage. Based on the data source, fog computing environment enables communications at the edge (in the car) or at its end point (the manufacturer).

On the other hand, **SPAWAR**, a division of the US Navy, is prototyping and testing a scalable, secure network to protect strategic military assets, both stationary and mobile. Thanks to fog computing, machine control applications, running on the mesh nodes take over when internet connectivity is lost.

In today's ever-connected universe of smart device, we believe that hybrid approach of cloud computing along with fog computing will lead to more efficient real-time interactions of IoT devices for better communication.

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## Today's News

### Indians to lead in post-Covid adoption of e-payments: Study

Usage of digital payments in the post-Covid period is set to be the highest among Indians at 75%, followed by China at 63% and Italy at 19%, according to an 11-country survey conducted by Capgemini on financial services consumer behaviour.

The survey also shows that among older people, Indians are more likely to make the switch to digital payments after the pandemic. Capgemini's survey was conducted among consumers in China, France, Germany, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the UK and the US in early April.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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### Apple may take a bigger bite of India's manufacturing pie

Several meetings between Apple's senior executives and top ranking government officials over the last few months have paved the way for the iPhone maker examining the possibility of shifting nearly a fifth of its production capacity from China to India and scaling up its local manufacturing revenues, through its contract manufacturers, to around \$40 billion over the next five years, say officials familiar with the matter.

If this happens, iPhone maker could become India's largest exporter, say experts. "We expect Apple to produce up to \$40 billion worth of smartphones, mostly for exports through its contract manufacturers Wistron and Foxconn, availing the benefits under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme," a senior government official told ET.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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## Why you need a 'unicorn' to successfully implement complex systems for government agencies

Modernising government systems is a monumental challenge. Entities across the world have found themselves unwittingly making headlines when the task goes wrong.

A quick Google search of 'failed government technology upgrades' lists countless pages showcasing the disastrous results when taxpayer-funded systems failed to meet the requirements to protect the most vulnerable segments of the population. Why is the task so challenging? It is a multi-faceted problem that requires alignment across stakeholders with conflicting goals.

Source – *YourStory*

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### Amazon, Flipkart orders gradually scaling back to pre-lockdown level: Report

Orders on e-commerce platforms are scaling fast with people buying apparel, smartphones and grooming products among other items, according to a report. Orders in the first week of May were, however, lower than last year on account of lockdown.

In the first two phases of the lockdown, e-commerce companies like Flipkart, Amazon and Snapdeal were allowed to sell only essential items like grocery, medicines and healthcare products but from May 4, e-commerce companies have been permitted to sell all items in orange and green zones.

Source – *LiveMint*

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## Indian AI startups are reinventing supply chain amid lockdown

Domestic tech startups and SaaS companies are enabling innovative add-ons to supply chain and logistics management solutions for businesses through artificial intelligence (AI) led solutions during the lockdown. These tools are helping businesses manage demand and logistics in an environment that is seeing a shortage of manpower amid rapidly changing regulations under the covid-19 induced social distancing.

While the lockdown has imposed several restrictions on e-commerce platforms, it has also enabled brick and mortar stores to see the advantage of being accessible online and new age supply chain solution providers are tapping into this space. LogiNext which offers transportation Software as a Service (SaaS) with its end to end logistics management platform backed by AI algorithms saw higher requirements for in-built safety measures.

Source – LiveMint

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## Startup Bharat: This Dehradun-based video conferencing platform is taking on Zoom, Google Meet

As the coronavirus pandemic started affecting India, a nationwide lockdown was announced on March 24, which forced companies and businesses to ask their staff to work from home. With this, meetings and social interactions shifted to the online space, resulting in the demand for video calling platforms such as Zoom, Google Hangouts, Microsoft Team, WhatsApp, FaceTime, Google Meet, and JioMeet, etc.

Last month, Zoom.us, which has become one of the most-popular video conferencing tool post the coronavirus outbreak, faced backlash over privacy and security issues. Closer home, the Union Home Ministry also raised alarm bells, flagging video conferencing software Zoom as unsafe and vulnerable to cybercrimes.

Source – YourStory

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## Shiprocket raises \$13 million led by Tribe Capital

Logistics aggregator Shiprocket has raised \$13 million led by Tribe Capital, a Silicon Valley-based investment firm, along with Innoven Capital and existing investor Bertelsmann India Investments. Tribe Capital was founded by former executives of Chamath Palihapitiya's Social Capital. The company in a statement said that the latest capital infusion gives nearly 30 times returns in five years for Shiprocket's angel investors who exited in this round.

The angel investors include Jatin Aneja and Sideas or Superfuel run by Gaurav Kachru and Pearl Uppal. The logistics startup said it will use the funds for product development roadmap which includes hiring top talent across the data science and engineering domains, besides aiding its international expansion plans. With this round, the company has raised \$26 million so far.

Source – The Economic Times

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## E-comm to gain as malls suffer: Report

About 54% of consumers are expected to cut spends in malls largely to avoid crowds while boosting spends on channels like e-commerce, said a report from Boston Consulting Group (BCG). Up to 35% consumers said they would increase spending through e-commerce, the highest compared to other retail formats.

This is an indication of e-commerce emerging as the preferred way of shopping for consumers in a post-Covid-19 world and retail outlets in shopping malls would be the worst hit in the near term.

Source – The Economic Times

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## Techies' medical helpline gets 1 million calls in a month

A million calls across seven states in 26 languages by 4,000 doctors — resulting in over 70,000 consultations. Those are the numbers, all within a month, in what is turning out to be the largest telemedicine effort in the country to battle the Covid-19 pandemic.

By using cloud telephony platforms like Exotel, Ozonetel and Kaleyra, backed by local language skills of Reverie and software from FreshWorks, a group of volunteers from the startup ecosystem have been able to create StepOne.

Source – The Economic Times

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