



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

3 factors Modi is counting on for a jump in World Bank's rankings

GST filing may be tweaked to simplify it

India widens lead in app downloads driven by Jio launch

Cybersecurity jobs now at a premium as India goes digital

NCLT all set to go digital from November

Today's View

A Car Vending Machine

Vending machines and unattended kiosks have been favorites to grab a quick snack or a candybar. From the old-generation tethered and clunky looking metal boxes to the new age, intelligent machines, the unassuming vending machine has come a long way.

With digital payments around the corner, vending machines have received a makeover. **Vending**, a vending machine supplier offers merchants a range of technologies. Their equipment supports NFC technology and accepts Google Wallet, Apple Pay & PayPal Mobile as well as Visa PayWave & MasterCard PayPass, credit and debit magnetic stripe cards and smart cards. The firm also offers a vending management software which helps merchants monitor and manage sales, profit margins, inventory, etc.

With devices like smart refrigerators and washing machines making a wave, the average vending machine has not been left behind. **Intel's** intelligent vending machines leveraging touch-screen controls, video, audio, gesture-based interaction, and cashless payment options provide a unique shopping experience.

As the trend rapidly catches on, the smart vending machine industry is expected to reach \$11.8 billion by 2025 according to U.S.-based Grand View Research.

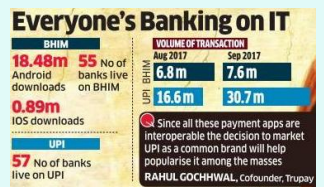
Viatouch Interactive Media recently introduced its pilot in this domain with VICKI, an acronym for **Viatouch Intelishelf Cognitive Kinetic Interactions**. This machine allows users to log in through social media, fingerprint, or iris scan. It can provide information about products, display ads and make product recommendations based on a person's purchasing history.

INTERESTING NEWS

Bank-led UPI apps to now come under the umbrella of BHIM

Indian banks will bring their digital payment solutions under BHIM. This could boost adoption of the UPI platform.

Banks will now display BHIM as a prefix to their own UPI apps.



This will help promote UPI as the single means of payment for digital transactions.

Source – ET Tech

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Date – 31st Oct 17

In London, there already exist smart vending machines that would prepare a slice of pizza to any specification in just three minutes.

Apart from the food industry, there are other industries exploring vending machines to provide varied customer experiences to prospective clients. **Alibaba's Tmall**, the B2C platform, has drawn an ambitious plan to sell cars via vending machines! Credit-approved buyers will use their smartphone to browse cars in a multi-storeyed warehouse; they select their specifications and a new set of wheels is delivered on the ground level.

Carvana, an online used car marketplace has recently installed its first car vending machine in Florida. The facility is eight storeys tall, can store 30 vehicles and allows users to pick up their purchased vehicle using an oversized coin.

With the rise of these smart vending machines, there is an obvious concern of job loss like with any other form of automation; it being controversy's favorite child in the world of technology.

Today's News

3 factors Modi is counting on for a jump in World Bank's rankings

India expects a double-digit jump in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' rankings to be released. The government hopes the string of reforms it has initiated would reflect in the ranking.

The government pins its hopes of improvement on 3 parameters—'starting a business', 'dealing with construction permits' and 'resolving insolvency'.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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GST filing may be tweaked to simplify it

The form will be customized as per the varying requirements of the taxpayer. This is expected to significantly simplify the filing process which has been criticized for being complex and mired with glitches.

Instead of having a standard form for everyone, users can be asked a few questions upon signing in and then the best suited form can be displayed as per their transactions and nature of business. The form in the system can be dynamically generated and only the relevant portions applicable to a particular dealer will be displayed.

So far, 45 lakh people have filed GSTR 3B for the month of Sept, while 56 lakh and 52 lakh have filed their returns for Jul and Aug, respectively.

Source – *ET Rise*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Sadhika Agarwal and Aparna Anand

Payworld aims to disburse Rs 250 cr loan in 1 year

Payworld said it is planning to disburse loans worth Rs 250 cr in 1 year to SMEs in partnership with NBFCs and other platforms.

They partnered with NBFCs and other platforms like Capital Float, Happy Loan and ePaylater for providing loan to micro and small retailers.

Source – *Outlook India*

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Electronic payments, m-wallets volumes seeing a decline: HDFC

With easing of the liquidity crunch, transaction volumes for overall retail electronic payments has seen a marginal dip in the past few months, suggesting a slow reversal in the usage of digital platforms.

The volume of retail electronic transactions peaked to 1.3 bn in Dec 2016 (after demonetization) and has consistently been below the 1.3 bn level since then.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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WhatsApp opens chat with e-tailers

From flight tickets to delivery updates by e-commerce companies would soon land in your WhatsApp inbox. The service is now turning toward businesses to monetize the platform. WhatsApp is tapping the India market with over 200 mn active users.

Source – *Business Standard*

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India widens lead in app downloads driven by Jio launch

Most of the growth in global mobile app downloads in the third quarter of 2017 was accounted for by India, says app analytics firm App Annie. India surpassed the rest of the markets in absolute download growth by a wide margin.

Download numbers have risen sharply since the launch of Reliance Jio in Sept last year, which brought down mobile internet access costs dramatically. Global mobile app downloads - in Apple Store and Google Play Store - grew 8% to 26 billion in Q3, compared to a year ago.

Source – ET Tech

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Cybersecurity jobs now at a premium as India goes digital

India Inc., facing a scarcity of cybersecurity professionals, especially at the leadership level, has increased salaries offered for such roles by 25-35% over the past year.

Hacking and cyber-attacks are compelling firms to hire talent at a premium, with compensation packages for top roles at upwards of Rs. 2 crore. In addition, demonetization and the government's push for Digital India have pushed demand for cybersecurity talent.

Source – The Economic Times

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NCLT all set to go digital from November

The National Company Law Tribunal is all set to join the country's digital move. Starting November, applicants at the dedicated bankruptcy courts can pay fees online.

Also, the government is working on a digital platform that will soon enable e-filing of cases, adding to operational ease amid a rising number of cases, said one of the people. Besides Delhi, there are nine NCLT courts.

Source – ET Tech

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EdGE Networks raises \$4.5M funding led by Kalaari Capital

Bengaluru-based HR tech solutions Company EdGE Networks secured \$4.5 million in Series-A funding led by Kalaari Capital with Ventureast as co-investor. It has developed tech-driven HR solutions for talent acquisition and workforce management by harnessing AI, data science, analytics, and ML. The company's customers include like Wipro, HCL, and Virtusa among others.

The company said it plans to use the funds raised to strengthen its core product offerings for workforce optimization and talent acquisition as well as for geographical expansion.

Source – ET Tech

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Aadhaar linkage order burdens AMCs

AMCs are feeling the burden of the Association of Mutual Funds in India's (AMFI's) decision to make the Aadhaar identification mandatory for investment.

An AMFI board member said that no AMC was in favor of this as this puts the onus on them to link Aadhaar.

Source – Business Standard

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Amazon teaches Alexa to speak Hinglish. Apple's Siri is next

The U.S. e-commerce company is beginning to ship Echo speakers in India this week. Now, post a local makeover, Alexa uses a blend of Hindi and English and speaks with an unmistakably Indian accent.

Even Apple and Google are targeting this nation on similar lines.

Source – The Economic Times

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Microsoft joins IIT Kharagpur to create 'deeper' search engine

Microsoft said it is working with professors from IIT-K toward developing a system that can form the basis for a deeper, more meaningful search engine.

It could assist users looking for subjective information and trusted opinions.

Source – ET Tech

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