



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Govt to start Rs. 34,000 cr BharatNet phase 2 project

Debit, credit cards, ATMs will be redundant in 4 years: Niti Aayog CEO

'Wide gap between digital strategy and execution at global level', finds study

E-wallets have to break free from wallets

IT firms tap start-ups for digital tech

Today's View

The Bird's Eye

After the great success of Green Revolution in India, there is talk of an Evergreen Revolution to move away from the concept of 'food security' toward 'nutrition security'. To realize this goal, there is an urgent need for scientific and technological intervention. As per the report, **Food security in a World of Natural Resource Scarcity**, agriculture technologies could increase global crop yield by upto 67%. In this context, every single step toward food security is vital as it has direct bearing on the lives of 1.2 billion people.

Availability of information on agriculture is key for taking informed decisions on food security issues. Here, satellite imagery along with other emerging technologies is playing its part. This detail-rich imagery is enabling farmers to actively manage fields and reduce crop inputs. It helps mitigate risk with localized zone management, while reducing the cost to treat insects, diseases, and weeds by eliminating them at the root.

In this context several start-ups have sprung up to resolve issues around crop growth. New Mexico based start-up **Descartes Labs** uses satellite imaging related data and a machine learning algorithm to assess the health of crops. Similarly, San Francisco based **Mavrx Inc.** through its sensor network of UAVs, aircrafts, and satellites provides complete field awareness and combines proprietary machine learning algorithms with imagery captured at fitting time and resolution. **TerrAvion**, a California-based start-up, takes hundreds of low-altitude flights to capture bird's-eye view of farms and then uploads the images to the cloud within a few hours to help producers spot early-warning signs of plant health issues and irrigation problems.

INTERESTING NEWS

Future of banking in India

A new report by BCG states that banks dominate the revenue pool which is more pronounced in the traditional segments.

FY17 (Actual)			
Term 17%	Retail 43%	Retail charges & proc fee 32%	
Savings 48%	MSME 20%	TxB 20%	
Current 34%	Agri 13%	Distribution 16%	DCM 0.15%
	Corporate 39%	Other income 34%	
Deposits ₹161	Advance ₹27%	Fee/other income ² ₹208	

FY22 (Projected)			
Term 16%	Retail 41%	Retail charges & proc fee 35%	
Savings 56%	MSME 24%	TxB 20%	
Current 27%	Agri 14%	Distribution 19%	DCM 0.3%
	Corporate 27%	Other income 32%	
Deposits ₹266	Advance ₹460	Fee/other income ² ₹308	

The revenue pool in the sector is expected to materially shift over the next few years

Source – Business Standard

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Date – 13th Nov 17

The data captured from satellite imagery is not only used for monitoring the field, but also for predicting the yield. For instance, **Vinsight**, a California based start-up, uses public satellite imagery and related data to measure the vegetation of an area and then compare that data with 10 years of weather records and harvest reports to detect patterns and identify correlations.

Even Indian agriculture has not remained untouched by emerging technology. A Bengaluru based data analytics company **Satsure** combines satellite, weather, and IoT analytics to help farmers remain financially secure. The data processed and analysed by Satsure is not only used by farmers but also by other agencies like governments, insurance and re-insurance companies, banks, pesticide & seed manufacturing companies, and commodity trading firms to make informed decisions.

In addition to introducing various schemes in the agriculture sector, the government has also adopted significant policy reforms from time to time. Even agritech start-ups are contributing enormously in shaping the future through introduction and adoption of disruptive tech in the field of farming. We believe the combination of the two is helping the government realize its dream of doubling farmers' income by 2022.

Today's News

Govt To Start Rs. 34,000 Crore BharatNet Phase 2 Project

The government will start its second and final phase of BharatNet project with an outlay of around Rs. 34,000 crore to provide high-speed broadband in all panchayats by March 2019. The government aims to connect 1.5 lakh panchayats through 10 lakh kms of additional optical fibre and give bandwidth to telecom players at nearly 75% cheaper price for broadband and wifi services in rural areas.

The telecom ministry will sign agreements with seven states -- Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand -- which will roll out the project on their own with partial funding from the central government.

Source – NDTV

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Debit, credit cards, ATMs will be redundant in 4 years: Niti Aayog CEO

Niti Aayog CEO said debit cards, credit cards, and ATMs will be redundant in next 3-4 years and people will use their mobile phones for financial transactions. India, a country where 72% population is below 32 years of age, it will have an advantage over other regions.

More financial transactions will be done on mobile phones and this trend is already rising spirally, he said.

Source – Times of India

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Sadhika Agarwal and Pankaj Tadas

Reliance Jio, Airtel, Vodafone, Idea take first dive into BharatNet

Leading telecom carriers have committed to take their wireless services using BharatNet's infrastructure to thousands of villages.

Reliance Jio has lead the pack with an initial payment of Rs 13 crore for for taking connectivity to 30,000 villages in rural areas.

Source – The Economic Times

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Uber approves SoftBank multibillion-dollar investment offer

Uber approved SoftBank's offer to buy a multibillion-dollar stake. The agreement lets SoftBank and other firms invest up to \$1 billion in Uber and proceed with a tender offer in coming weeks.

"We've entered into an agreement with a consortium led by SoftBank and Dragoneer on a potential investment," Uber said in a statement.

Source – Livemint

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To reach out to SMBs, Microsoft boards a bus

In a bid to reach out, handhold and showcase its products, Microsoft has come with a unique platform to reach out to SMBs in the country. Microsoft has refurbished a bus to travel across the country with SMB products and solutions.

Source – The Economic Times

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'Wide gap between digital strategy and execution at global level', finds study

HCL released the findings of an independent-research study of senior business and technology decision-makers regarding digital transformation at large global enterprises. The survey highlights a wide gap between strategy and execution with organizations' digital transformation initiatives.

The survey found that while the majority 70% of organizations surveyed have a formalized digital transformation strategy in place, just a fraction 10% have thought through all aspects up to full deployment planning.

Source – HCLTech

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E-wallets have to break free from wallets

Paytm has over the last 4-5 years expanded into e-commerce, ticketing, and distribution of financial products. As a payments bank, its focus is also on building a banking customer base and to sell other financial products.

Fintech companies have now started to look at other opportunities. They have spread their wings into 5 segments: payment gateway, lending, mutual fund distribution, selling insurance products and bill payments.

Source – Livemint

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IT firms tap start-ups for digital tech

IT firms such as Wipro, Infosys and HCL are stepping up their acquisition and investment in start-ups to bridge digital technology gap. Automation, cloud, cyber security, IoT and data management are the most sought-after areas for these firms to invest and acquire.

These companies are concentrating on taking solutions developed by start-ups to businesses in the US and other regions. These companies have seen a major shift in demand from clients for offering services through cloud and use of automation to cut costs.

Source – Business Standard

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After Jio, telecom rivals also set to dial ecommerce freebies for growth

Mobile-phone subscribers should have even better days ahead. Besides plunging data plans and almost free voice services, users could expect more freebies, with telcos partnering e-commerce companies to gain and retain customers as part of strategic moves that benefit both parties.

Carriers have already allied with handset-makers to get more consumers to use smart-phones and data.

Source – The Economic Times

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Alibaba's Singles' Day Goes Global With Record \$25 Billion in Sales

Alibaba's Singles' Day generated a record \$25.3 billion in sales, as the e-commerce giant worked with more traditional retailers to market discounted lobster, iPhones and refrigerators to shoppers from at least 225 countries and regions.

Source – Bloomberg

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Lyft Set to Claim Third of U.S. Market in 2017, Document Shows

Lyft has gained significant ground on its rival Uber and is expected to grab more market share in the U.S.

A major investor is projecting Lyft will have boosted its share of U.S. ride-hailing business some 61% by the end of the year, climbing to about a third of the market.

Source – Bloomberg

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A case for robot tax

Bill Gates' recently observed levying a robot tax as a response to the automation boom. The returns of automation needs to be socially shared for the disruption it will unleash.

Gates' point is that this tax could finance jobs. A tax may check senseless automation.

Source – BusinessLine

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