



## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

**Airtel will return Rs 190 cr subsidy to original a/cs**

**Indian I-T Department to slam notices to over 500K bitcoin traders**

**Xiaomi plans to explore non-phone segment**

**SAB Group, Pantel Tech tie up to launch over 20 channels, target rural markets**

**Paytm QR to help shopkeepers get payments directly into bank A/Cs**

## Today's View

### Edge Computing

Artificial intelligence and big data analytics are becoming drivers of competitive differentiation among institutions of all stripes, courtesy cloud computing. As per **Forbes**, cloud computing is projected to swell from \$67 billion in 2015 to \$162 billion in 2020 – a compounded growth of 19%. However, with concerns of centralising data on remote servers and limitations of bandwidth; organizations across industries are adopting 'Edge Computing': Cloud Computing v2.0.

Edge computing optimizes cloud computing systems by performing data processing at the 'edge' of the network or near the source of the data. This reduces the communications bandwidth required between sensors and the central unit.

The potential of cloud and edge computing is massive in emerging countries like India as well. **Microsoft** has pegged the opportunity in the 'intelligent cloud and intelligent edge' business at \$107billion for India.

Emergence of edge computing is closely linked to improved performance in **Industrial IoT**, where significant computing power is required to effectively manage vast data volumes from machines. For example, in connected vehicles, edge computing would aggregate local data from traffic signals, GPS devices, other vehicles, and proximity sensors to process this information locally in order to improve safety as well as navigation.

## INTERESTING NEWS

### Accept cyber curbs to enter China, tech giants told

Google and FB will have to accept China's censorship and tough laws if they want access to its 751 mn online users.

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- Google and Facebook are blocked in China, along with Twitter Inc and most major Western news outlets
- China's Communist Party has tightened cyber regulation in the past year
- Apple operates subject to strict censorship, having removed dozens of popular messaging and VPN apps from its China App Store
- China introduced a new national cybersecurity law that requires foreign firms to store data locally and submit to data surveillance measures

"The condition is that they have to abide by Chinese law and regulations. And also that they would not do any harm to Chinese national security and national consumers' interests." said Qi Xiaoxia, director general of the Bureau of International Cooperation

Source – Business Standard

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Date – 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 17

Even telecom firms like **AT&T** and **GE** are betting on edge computing. **AT&T** is leveraging edge computing through 5G for power latency-sensitive workloads like augmented reality and self-driving cars. On the other hand, **GE** has partnered with **Intel**, **Ericsson**, and **Honeywell** to optimize their assets and operations through edge computing.

Thanks to localized computing, edge computing possesses the potential to provide better security because data is not required to travel over a network and stays closer to where it was created.

Time to transform Cloud Computing to cutting-‘Edge’ Computing!

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## Today's News

### Airtel to NPCI: Will return Rs 190 cr subsidy to original a/cs

Bharti Airtel agreed to return the subsidy amount of Rs 190 crore (with interest) to the consumers' original bank accounts that were linked to the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) after Hindustan Petroleum Corporation wrote to the telecom operator acting the complaints of consumers complained who were not receiving the money.

In a letter to Airtel Payments Bank, HPCL said oil marketing companies and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas have received a large number of complaints from consumers on non-credit of the subsidy in the bank accounts where they were previously receiving it.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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### Indian I-T Department to slam notices to over 500K bitcoin traders

After surveying cryptocurrency exchanges, the Indian I-T Department is set to send notices to 400-500K HNIs involved in trading Bitcoins in India. As revealed by a founder of an exchange, the I-T Department officials were trying to collate information regarding people trading Bitcoin in significant numbers.

Having collated these details, the Bengaluru wing of the I-T department is planning to send notices to these traders and investors. Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are still not termed either legal or illegal.

Source – *Inc42*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of **Sadhika A.** and **Manish Kulkarni**

### Blockchain adds Bitcoin Cash to its wallet for Indian users

Crypto wallet Blockchain introduced Bitcoin Cash to its wallet. Customers that had bitcoin in their wallets will automatically see an equal amount of Bitcoin Cash reflected in their accounts. New users can start simply by trading bitcoin or ether for Bitcoin Cash using the exchange integration.

Source – *Hindustan Times*

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### A start-up that can build apps in an hour

A Hyderabad-based start-up has built a solution, which works on AI and ML, helping start-ups, SMBs and enterprises build a mobile or web-based app in 60 mins.

Offered as low as Rs. 1,800 a month, the solution helps businesses digitize their operations. The solution quickly builds the app, which includes a user interface, work flow tools, loyalty and campaign management solutions.

Source – *BusinessLine*

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### Uber ties up with BBM messenger on ride booking

Uber said it joined forces with BBM Messenger to allow users to book rides via the messenger service. Users can quickly request an Uber ride via BBM despite variations in quality of location, network speed, or device features.

Source – *Livemint*

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## Xiaomi plans to explore non-phone segment

Xiaomi is planning to launch customized or will develop a new set of products for India in the non-phone segment, spanning home appliances before it looks at other higher-end ones. The company is ramping up its R&D wing with focus on localizing products.

In India, apart from mobile phones, Xiaomi's product bouquet includes air purifiers, power banks, V-R plays, selfie sticks, and routers and fitness bands. Manu Jain, Global VP, Xiaomi and India MD, points out it will enter into 2-3 "new categories" within 2018. "We are evaluating what products we can bring here. Whatever we introduce will be localized to suit India's needs."

Source – BusinessLine

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## SAB Group, Pantel Tech tie up to launch over 20 channels, target rural markets

SAB Group and Pantel Technologies have entered into an understanding to jointly create a bouquet of over 20 channels comprising diverse genres. They are expected to launch free-to-air channels and also an OTT platform largely for tier-2 and -3 audience.

The varied product offering is expected to strengthen the business of Reliance DTH Big TV and will give a leg up to the largest FTA (free-to-air) network in India. FTA channels have shown an upsurge with all the leading broadcasters showing keen interest in the FTA product offering.

Source – BusinessLine

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## Paytm QR to help shopkeepers get payments directly into bank A/Cs

Paytm said its QR code will now allow shopkeepers to accept customer payments directly into their bank accounts at zero percent charge. The company also plans to invest Rs 500 crore in 2018 towards training and awareness building initiatives to expand the reach and acceptance of Paytm QR in the offline merchant community.

Consumers can scan and pay at the merchant outlets using their preferred payment methods like Paytm, UPI, debit/credit cards and net banking.

Source – Moneycontrol

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## Amazon India to launch new smartphone in January

Amazon India is set to launch a smartphone in January under the brand name Tenor. The company quietly launched two models of smartphones - Tenor E and G - a couple of months before Flipkart's smartphone launch.

"We leverage customer data and feedback to understand gaps in selection, pricing and reach out to vendors or OEMs to manufacture relevant products," said Manish Tiwary, VP, Amazon India. It is called 'Crafted for Amazon'.

Source – The Economic Times

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## E-way bill adds to companies' woes on GST

Burdened with greater documentation and compliance, consumer goods companies say the issue of interstate transfer of goods has not got easier with the e-way bill. The GST Council decided to make the e-way bill compulsory for interstate movement of goods from February 1. The move is expected to act as an electronic surveillance of factory output and actual consumption of goods.

Source – Business Standard

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## Bloomberg, Twitter launch global news network TicToc

Bloomberg Media and Twitter launched a global news network TicToc with coverage focusing on general interest news worldwide. The first iteration will feature a mix of live video and reporting from Bloomberg journalists, as well as breaking news content from consumers, curated and verified by Bloomberg editors with a real-time distillation of the related conversation on Twitter.

Source – BusinessLine

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## Droom partners Mahindra, others for electric vehicles

Droom partnered with Mahindra and Hero Electric to bring e-vehicles on its platform. The e-scooters are priced between Rs 20,000-42,400 while e-cars are priced between Rs 8-13 lakh. Other partners are Okinawa and Yobykes.

Source – India Today

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