



**NEWS HIGHLIGHTS**

Amazon, Flipkart drawn by online jewelry segment bling

Soon loans may be granted based on data, not collateral

OYO to expand Townhouse segment vertically

In eNAM reboot, Govt introduces six new features

Amazon Prime bets big on reality shows, regional content

Uber CEO to meet PM Modi, speak at IIT Delhi

**Today's View**

**Healthy food, healthy you**

Interestingly, so far, 2018 has been a year of good health for us...at least for Fintalk! Among the biggest concerns in front of food supply chain today is food contamination and food spoilage. Evidently from **National Geographic's** data, almost a third of the food produced globally is wasted; which works out to approximately 2 billion tonnes of food that never made it to the plate.

With the health and fitness buzz getting stronger with the hour, even the end consumer has become more quizzing about the health and safety implications of the food they consume. In this globalized world, where fresh food changes more hands before plated food makes it to the stomach, with the aid of technology and real time analytics, it has been made easier than ever to monitor and safeguard the quality of food.

This sector today, more than ever, is ripe for innovation. Knowing this, many technology companies have already made it to the arena and are battling to solve unique problem statements. **Arviem** is offering IoT-based supply chain visibility solutions that help farmers track the location of their produce real-time and monitor their condition. These network-connected smart sensors help monitor the environment of produce-in-transit; in turn receiving objective information on indicators such as the temperature or humidity inside a shipping container or truck at a given point.

In India, Tech Mahindra's **FarmtoFork** is an end to end supply chain visibility solution for fresh produce, meat and frozen foods, milk and dairy products, package foods, beverages and confectionaries. Their service integrates the

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**Oyo to focus on weekend business and cut losses**

OYO expects its loss to narrow further and record a healthy improvement in operating margin this fiscal year



OYO is working on strengthening its focus on the weekend business for driving growth and improving financials.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Date – 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 18

power of telematics, sensors, and various telecommunication technologies to provide a comprehensive solution where mission critical data is captured and sent to business analytics servers.

Further, companies like **Zest Labs** are using both IoT sensor technology and Blockchain to create a fresh food management solution that concentrates on consistent food quality, reduced waste, and improved food safety. The company has created a single freshness metric that they refer to as ZIPR code based on a number of data points like the growing location of the produce, its type, processing conditions – all enabling perceptively improved decision making. In the U.S., supermarket chain **Hy-Vee** is working with Zest Labs to help customers ensure freshness of their food.

Tech giant **IBM** recently started working with **Walmart** and Chinese retailer **JD.com** to create the Blockchain Food Safety Alliance. Ten food suppliers and retailers - Dole, Driscoll's, Golden State Foods, Kroger, McCormick and Company, McLane Company, Nestlé, Tyson Foods, Unilever and Walmart have signaled their intention to collaborate for this initiative.

For as long as we know, just a set of paper certificates were required to prove freshness and quality of the produce but the use of this technology will now be able to substantiate the claim.

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## Today's News

### Amazon, Flipkart drawn by online jewelry segment bling

Amazon and Flipkart are boosting jewelry category by strengthening delivery, adding customer-friendly features and looking at exclusives in the segment. This comes despite industry experts citing very low jewelry sales online.

While Flipkart has a private fashion label Divastri, which also covers jewelry, the company is now working with major jewelry brands to develop exclusive design range for the platform based on consumer behavior and trends online. Amazon has partnered with a 110 precious jewellery brands.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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### Soon loans may be granted based on data, not collateral: Nilekani

India is moving in a direction where lenders will use data like GST based “business flows” or credit payment history, instead of collaterals, to provide loans to businesses and consumers, Nandan Nilekani said. For the first time the data available in the GST system can be the basis of credit, he said.

“When you file your return with GST you are actually filing it at invoice level. You can then ask GST to give your own data which you can then give to your lender,” Nilekani said.

Source – *BusinessLine*

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

## Nobody Wants to Let Google Win the War for Maps All Over Again

There could be a half dozen autonomous cars mapping the same streets. These cars from different co.s, are all building HD street maps, which may eventually serve as navigation guide for driverless vehicles.

Waymo and the other giants— including GM, Uber, and Ford— are all sending out their own fleets to create rich, detailed HD maps for use in driverless cars.

Source – *Bloomberg*

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## Venezuela raised \$735mn on launch of cryptocurrency

Investors have purchased some \$735 mn worth of Venezuela's oil-backed cryptocurrency on the first day of pre-sale. The Venezuela guaranteed that it will receive PETRO as a form of payment for national taxes, fees, contributions and public services, taking as a reference the previous day's Venezuelan oil basket price with a discount.

Source – *Reuters*

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## A.I. Is Getting Cheaper

A group of AI researchers and policymakers from prominent labs and think tanks in the U.S. and Britain described how rapidly evolving and affordable AI tech could be used for malicious purposes. They proposed preventive measures including being careful with how research is shared.

Source – *NY Times*

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## OYO to expand Townhouse segment vertically

OYO Townhouse, the mid-market segment of budget hospitality chain OYO Rooms, will not be entering any new cities for now. Under the category, the company is planning to expand its business vertically — in cities it already exists.

“Right now, the plan for OYO Townhouse is to go deeper than to go broader. We are focusing on coming up with more projects in the cities where we already have a presence rather than announcing projects in new cities,” Ritesh Agarwal, Founder and CEO, OYO. “All the Townhouses are reporting 90% occupancy rate. This shows high demand for the product. So instead of experimenting with more locations, we would rather focus on new projects in the same cities.”

Source – BusinessLine

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## In eNAM reboot, Govt introduces six new features

To engage more farmers on the eNAM platform, the government today unveiled mobile payment facility BHIM, and other features in regional languages as well. The website is now available in 8 languages while the eNAM trading facility is available in six languages.

The eNAM has been strengthened with features like MIS dashboard for better analysis, BHIM and other mobile payment facilities, enhanced features on mobile app such as gate entry and payment via mobiles, integration of farmer’s database and e-learning module.

Source – BusinessLine

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## Amazon Prime bets big on reality shows, regional content

Armed with a portfolio of original content, Amazon Prime Videos said it will continue its focus on differentiated content. The company said it is also scaling up its presence in the regional language space. Amazon Prime has also ventured into reality or unscripted shows for the Indian market.

The company’s The Remix is an unscripted show that pairs DJs and singers to compete in a music spin-off challenge. The show winner will receive a cheque of Rs.50 lakh.

Source – BusinessLine

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## Uber chief Dara Khosrowshahi to meet PM Modi, speak at IIT Delhi

On Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi’s first visit to India, he will meet PM Narendra Modi, FM Arun Jaitley and Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu, as well as some of industry titans. According to the sources, the Uber CEO is on a multi-nation tour.

He will also deliver a lecture at the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi. “He might talk about shared mobility as a concept, as well as flying cars.

Source – Business Standard

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## Rubique builds on blockchain tech

Mumbai-based digital lending marketplace Rubique has built a blockchain-based central repository for customer data which will enable its business associates as well as its lending partners to access data about the customer instantly as well as seamlessly. Further, the system will also improve data security.

Source – The Economic Times

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## FB now lets developers build richer 3D content

Facebook has rolled out support for industry-standard “gITF 2.0” file format that will enable artists and creators build richer and higher-quality 3D content and share it on the platform.

It is instantly responsive to scroll and touch, making content pop off the screen. FB recently introduced 3D posts to let people see and interact with a digital object from all sides in Facebook News Feed.

Source – Hindustan Times

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## Microsoft to support 15 Indian languages in Emails

Microsoft announced support for email in 15 Indian languages. This means people will be able to use local language email addresses for Outlook accounts. Users will also be able to send and receive emails to or from local language email addresses via Outlook client on PCs, outlook.com, and Outlook apps.

Source – NDTV

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