

The 5G wireless networks are designed to operate at lightspeed. Some studies even show that 5G will be about 1000 times faster than 4G. Also, it is expected to increase download speeds up to 10GB per second against the 1GB capacity of 4G. It would post much lower latency than 4G. The technology would complement the needs of next-generation devices and applications and could be easily used to run IoT applications, immersive gaming, connected wearables, and augmented reality.

In September last year, the Indian Government set up a panel to lay down a roadmap for the rollout of 5G mobile networks in India by 2020. Even TRAI has released a consultation paper on framing regulations and standards for the rollout of 5G networks and IoT.

The Fifth Generation technology will make its worldwide debut at the **Winter Olympics** in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Besides all other use cases, the technology is being used to ward off the porcine pests that roam the mountainous region around the Games venue with fast-acting systems that shoot rays, spew gases and emit tiger roars. This is the first commercial use of 5G technology that would rollout globally by 2020 (More on Winter Olympic tech in our next write-up).

We all know that the era of connected machines is dawning upon us and 5G would simply enable it!

Today's News

KYC norms for e-wallets made mandatory from March 1

Users of prepaid payment instruments (PPI) such as mobile wallets will have to complete KYC requirements by Feb 28 as RBI has refused to extend the deadline any further. Those who do not comply with the KYC norms will not be allowed to load money into their respective wallet accounts or carry out remittance-based transactions. They will also not be allowed to transfer the cash in the wallet account to their bank accounts.

However, users will be allowed to use the balance amount in their respective wallets to pay for goods and services. Once the balance is exhausted, the user will not be able to load cash again until the KYC norms are complied with.

Source – *BusinessLine*

[READ MORE](#)

MakeMyTrip to re-list OYO hotels after two years

More than 2 years after delisting OYO Rooms' hotel inventory, MakeMyTrip said it will once again offer OYO hotel rooms, to boost sales at Oyo. A group of online travel providers including MakeMyTrip, Goibibo and Yatra jointly blocked OYO from listing its hotels on their platforms in October 2015. MakeMyTrip's move to re-list OYO comes almost 6 months after Yatra also added back OYO's hotel inventory on its platform. When OYO was delisted, the co. made less than 10% of its overall revenue from such online platforms.

Source – *Livemint*

[READ MORE](#)

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

Airtel Payments Bank reduces interest rates by 200 bps to 5.5%

Airtel Payments Bank reduced its interest rate by 200 basis points to 5.5% per annum from 7.25% per annum earlier.

This cut in interest rate could be a way of keeping rates competitive. The revised interest rate continues to be the highest in the payments bank segment.

Source – *Moneycontrol*

[READ MORE](#)

Amazon opens 15 warehouses for AmazonNow in 4 cities

Amazon has added 15 new fulfilment centers to create a specialized network for its Amazon Now hyperlocal grocery delivery business, as it looks to offer perishables which is expected to be in sync with its plans for food retail in the country.

The new centers are based in the four cities where Amazon Now is currently available—Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad — helping it take on players like BigBasket and Grofers.

Amazon's overall warehousing capacity has now increased to 56 fulfilment centers (FCs) across 13 states with a total storage space of 13.5 million cubic feet, much ahead of Flipkart's. Amazon Now alone will have 120,000 cubic feet of storage space.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

NITI Aayog CEO pitches for EVs, calls for checks on old vehicles

Pitching for use of electric vehicles, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant called for constant checks on old vehicles in the national capital and penalty for those flouting the green environment norms. He said the future lies in zero emission vehicles and urged Delhi Municipal Corporation to push for eco-friendly measures.

The challenge for now is for the transport department to ensure that vehicles are checked and those not meeting the standard are taken off the roads.

Source – *Firstpost*

[READ MORE](#)

5G can help operators add to revenues by over 30%

Ericsson unveiled at Mobile World Congress a report that lays out a roadmap for operators to unlock the revenue potential of 5G-enabled industry digitalization.

With 5G, operators can potentially grow revenues by up to 36% by addressing 10 key sectors, said the report titled "The guide to capturing the 5G industry digitalization business potential" -- a sequel to the "5G Business Potential" report by Ericsson. The "5G Business Potential report" found that operators can add a revenue of \$204 billion to \$619 billion (12 – 36%) to their forecast service revenues of \$1.7 trillion in 2026.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

Plutoexchange launches crypto-currency operations

Despite the regulatory uncertainty over crypto currency exchanges in India, Plutoexchange has begun operations. The platform – which provides electronic crypto exchange services – has begun transactions with ~900 accounts and is planning to take the number up to 50 lakh over the next one year.

The platform accepts cryptos such as Bitcoin, Litecoin, Ethereum, Dash, and Bitcoin Cash. Plutoexchange will levy a transaction fee. "We have begun transactions with some 900-odd user accounts. We are hopeful of adding 50 lakh accounts by the end of one year," said Bharat Verma, CEO, Plutoexchange. The company will also provide P2P exchange.

Source – *BusinessLine*

[READ MORE](#)

UPI-based system mulled for retail investors in IPOs

SEBI is considering introducing a UPI-based payment system for retail investors in IPOs, a move that will help do away with cheque payments and reduce the time taken between the closing of an IPO and listing of the security to just three days. SEBI and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which manages the UPI (unified payments interface) protocol, were studying the feasibility of the proposal.

Source – *Business Standard*

[READ MORE](#)

Banks board bandwagon with funds for eLenders

After large rounds of funding from global investors, India's digital lending startups are seeing a pickup in debt funding activity from a larger cross-section of banks. Prominent startups in this space say increased efficiency of their credit models, proven track records along with more accessibility among consumers are the main reasons banks and NBFCs are more eager to lend to them now.

Source – *Times of India*

[READ MORE](#)

Auxano Deals invests in ed-tech startup Avishkaar Box

Delhi-based ed-tech startup Avishkaar Box, that manufactures and sells robotics-based educational kits for school-going students, has raised Rs 5 crore in a pre-Series A round of funding from Auxano Deals. The startup will use the funds to expand its presence in India and Asia, hire talent and for product development, the statement said.

Source – *VCCircle*

[READ MORE](#)

BSNL Partners Nokia for Rollout of 4G VoLTE Services

Nokia and BSNL have signed a network modernization agreement to support BSNL's launch of 4G and Voice over LTE (VoLTE) services in western and southern regions of India, an official said. Nokia would deploy the technology in 10 telecom circles in India.

Source – *NDTV*

[READ MORE](#)

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this newsletter are personal views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Bank of Baroda. Nothing contained in this publication shall constitute or be deemed to constitute an offer to sell/ purchase or as an invitation or solicitation to do so for any securities of any entity. Bank of Baroda and/ or its Affiliates and its subsidiaries make no representation as to the accuracy; completeness or reliability of any information contained herein or otherwise provided and hereby disclaim any liability with regard to the same. Bank of Baroda Group or its officers, employees, personnel, directors may be associated in a commercial or personal capacity or may have a commercial interest including as proprietary traders in or with the securities and/ or companies or issues or matters as contained in this publication and such commercial capacity or interest whether or not differing with or conflicting with this publication, shall not make or render Bank of Baroda Group liable in any manner whatsoever & Bank of Baroda Group or any of its officers, employees, personnel, directors shall not be liable for any loss, damage, liability whatsoever for any direct or indirect loss arising from the use or access of any information that may be displayed in this publication from time to time.