



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Aadhaar: UIDAI introduces new QR code for offline verification

Amazon to take on Google with mobile browser 'Internet'

Aadhaar cannot track people: UIDAI in SC

Uber doubling down on India investments

Today's View

VR in EdTech

Our previous write-up (link [here](#)) talks about how VR is changing Healthcare. Medical students world-wide are discovering innovative ways to leverage immersive technologies and transform healthcare teaching. Take for example, the award winning **HoloAnatomy** app, through which medical students can rotate and virtually dissect a body for identifying the structures, systems, and organs.

Not only **healthcare**, Virtual reality is one of the newest Edtech trends in the market. VR gives an opportunity to the students to emerge themselves into a subject and also to travel round the world right from their classroom seats. Students are able to test their skills, record their work and interact with experts all within VR.

A recent study conducted by **BusinessWire** states that 93 percent of teachers say their students would be excited to use virtual reality and 83 percent say that virtual reality might help improve learning outcomes. This points to a universal trend as these students will soon enter universities and then the workforce, where job training scenarios will become the new classroom.

Programs such as **Google Cardboard** are making VR headsets cheap and accessible and with VR apps that allow students to visualize concepts that are confined to the pictures in a textbook, they make a good combination for transforming the education sector.

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Mobile wallets sag as KYC norms chase users away

The increasing use of cash seems to have crept back into the system, there are also indications of a sharp fall in users of mobile wallets, which played a critical role in digitising payments.

Know Your Wallet

RBI guideline has mandated full KYC for mobile wallets. The deadline was February 28

INCENTIVE FROM RBI

• Interoperability between mobile wallets
• Access to UPI

Cos say they are seeing 80-90% drop in usage

CHALLENGES: Lesser commissions for cos and lower control over consumer habits

Various sources pegged the fall in total number of people using wallets at 80% to 90%.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Date – 19th Apr 18

Some of these useful VR edtech apps include **EON Experience** which has a collection of VR lessons encapsulating everything from physics to history. Students and teachers can even create their VR lessons from preloaded content. History comes alive with the apps developed by **Unimersiv**. Students can explore ancient Greece, the Titanic or even the Egyptian Mysteries.

The **Star Chart** app is bringing the universe a little closer to us. The app has 20 million users where they can learn about constellations by aiming their phones at the night sky. There are additional features that allow students to interact with facts about planets and space discovery. Other apps on space exploration include **Titans of space** and **Apollo 11 VR**.

In case of autistic children, it is being seen that they relate very well to technologies such as virtual reality. ARVMS or augmented reality-based video modelling system is a method with storybooks teaching that employs video recording and displays to provide a visual model of the targeted behaviour or skill in these children. The recent growth in VR and AR coupled with research-based practices promises new methods of assisting students on the autism spectrum.

We believe that in the coming years, VR technology will to play a larger role in the education system as tools for better customized lessons and fill the gaps in our current education system.

Today's News

Aadhaar: UIDAI introduces new QR code for offline verification

To provide an extra layer of privacy to Aadhaar, UIDAI has introduced an updated 'QR code' that holds non-sensitive details like name, address, photo, and date of birth, and can be used for offline user verification without Aadhar.

With Aadhaar increasingly becoming the nationally-accepted ID for all kinds of work, the new QR code that now comes with photo can be used in offline mode in a way that will safeguard against any tempering of documents.

Source – BGR India

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Amazon to take on Google with mobile browser 'Internet'

Amazon has launched an Android-based mobile browser in India with limited availability in an apparent bid to take on Google in the Internet game. The new product 'Internet' is a 2MB browser that currently works only on limited Android devices.

On Android Play store, the app had only 100+ downloads at the time of writing this article, which indicates that Amazon is still testing it with limited number of users.

Source – BusinessLine

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

Uber Eats targets new cities

Uber Eats – the food delivery service from app cab player Uber – is eyeing “aggressive expansion” in India as it targets new cities.

Some of the cities that the company could explore include Guwahati, Lucknow, and Ahmedabad and so on.

Source – BusinessLine

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Ashok Leyland plans to redesign LCVs to target e-commerce sector

The Hinduja Group flagship, Ashok Leyland, plans to redesign its light commercial vehicles to serve the fast-growing Indian e-commerce industry's last-mile delivery needs, according to a senior company executive. LCVs are defined by industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers as vehicles having a maximum mass under 7.5 tonnes.

Source – Mint

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Caspian wants Rs. 600 crore to try its novel instruments funding

Caspian, which has set up four impact funds to invest in start-ups in social and environmental fields, is looking to raise Rs. 600cr of funds to invest in start-ups through novel debt instruments to help start-up founders in need of short-term funds and hesitating to part with equity.

Source – The Economic Times

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Aadhaar cannot track people: UIDAI in SC

UIDAI said that it cannot be compared to internet firms such as Google and Facebook, due to the different algorithms being used by them, and also due to the nature of the information needed by each organisation. It also clarified that its counsel did not tell the Supreme Court that Google was trying to make Aadhaar fail.

Rakesh Dwivedi, Senior Advocate had submitted that as far as Google, Facebook and Twitter are concerned, they cannot be compared with Aadhaar due to the nature of information being different and also due to difference in the nature of algorithms being used, it said.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Uber doubling down on India investments

Uber Technologies Inc. is “doubling down” on its investments in India, one of its biggest markets, after its recent exit from Southeast Asia, its COO said. India accounts for more than 10% of Uber rides globally and the U.S. Company has a more than 35% share of the taxi market there, according to Counterpoint Research, but it is yet to make money in the country.

COO Barney Harford said investments in India are made using funds from profitable markets. However, the sale in March of Uber’s business in Southeast Asia to Singapore’s Grab Holdings, in exchange for a 27.5% stake, has given Uber more firepower to compete with its Indian rival Ola.

Source – *Reuters*

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Flipkart, Amazon India fail to gain traction for in-house smartphone brands

Flipkart and Amazon India are in a state of limbo with respect to their in-house smartphone brands Billion Capture and Tenor, respectively, as they have received lukewarm response in a crowded and highly-competitive smartphone market. Flipkart launched its smartphone Billion Capture Plus in November last year while Amazon India launched three models of Tenor — written ‘10.or’ — smartphones over the last quarter of 2017 and first quarter of 2018.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Artificial Intelligence and Automation in the Workplace

A recent survey by Willis Towers Watson predicts that in just three short years the use of sophisticated technology like AI and robots will double in many workplace environments – including white-collar offices that have not experienced the robot invasion of the manufacturing industry. Several forces drive this accelerating trend toward automation.

Source – *Coloradobiz*

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BYD plans 50% localisation for eBuses in 2 years

Chinese e-vehicles giant BYD, which has won major orders in India, does not get any subsidy in its country, its Indian partner Goldstone Infratech has said, refuting Indian rivals’ claims that they face unfair competition.

The company will be able to localise half the components for electric buses being built for India, in the next two years.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Internet giant Tencent in advanced talks to invest \$100 million in Dream11

Tencent Holdings, the world’s fifth-largest internet company, is in advanced stages of negotiations to invest an estimated \$100mn in Mumbai-headquartered online fantasy sports platform Dream11, a transaction that could potentially change the landscape of a still-nascent industry.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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IFC, Transamerica lead \$22 million round in Coverfox

Glitterbug Technologies, which owns and operates online insurance aggregator Coverfox, has closed its Series-C round of funding at \$22 million (about Rs 145 crore), which has been led by International Finance Corp (IFC) and Transamerica.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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