



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

KPMG report on Fintech: 2018 started with a bang as Fintech investment gained momentum

IBC 2018: the promise for creating a thriving Blockchain ecosystem in India

Tech Mahindra, Telangana Govt sign pact for blockchain district

PhonePe eyes top slot in digital payments

Today's View

Making Warehouses Smarter

Warehouses are getting smarter.

A simple example could be **Coca Cola's** first warehousing facility in Singapore where an automated storage and retrieval system is built on top of the loading and unloading bays, which requires only half the space of conventional warehousing operations. It means that goods can be accessed more quickly and safely, as employees do not need to use a forklift to retrieve pallets.

Companies like **Amazon, Ocado and Alibaba** are increasingly using robots and cobots as a workforce that carries out 70% of all warehousing tasks effectively completing the next day and sometimes same day delivery cycles. They, in turn, are forcing their competitors to change the way they manage logistics and warehouses.

Further, German logistics giant **DHL** is working with networking giant **Cisco** and start-up **Conduce** to create 'smart warehouses' in Germany, the Netherlands and Poland. **Cisco's** Wi-Fi infrastructure technology and **Conduce's** operational data visualization platform would be used to monitor supply chain activities in real time, by viewing data collected from scanners and material handling equipment in its hubs, as well as from its warehouse management system. This would not only help in increasing operational efficiencies but also improve employee safety.

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Start-ups celebrate as funding boom returns

Start-ups have been raising multiple rounds of capital in quick succession at increasingly higher valuations. Investors are chasing start-ups that don't generate any revenue—at least not yet—and market share is the preferred investment metric, not unit economics.



Source – Mint

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Date – 06th Aug 18

In the latest, **Amazon** is literally taking its Warehouses to another level. Last month, Amazon filed for patenting flying warehouses for drone delivery. Amazon has already been testing delivery drones, and now with this patent, it aims to have a number of blimps (small balloon aircrafts) flying across the sky. The drones could fly from and back to the blimps to collect another package and fly off again.

The patent said that an aerial fulfilment centre could be positioned at an altitude above a metropolitan area and be designed to maintain an inventory of items that may be purchased by a user and delivered to the user by a drone that is deployed from the aerial fulfilment centre!

Ultimately faster deliveries would mean better customer service. The real opportunity for any company is matching manufacturing, distribution and logistics to customers need.

Today's News

KPMG report on Fintech: 2018 started with a bang as Fintech investment gained momentum

KPMG has published their Pulse of Fintech report highlighting global Fintech activity for the first half of 2018. According to KPMG, global investment in Fintech is going gangbusters as "Fintech market activity worldwide gained momentum during the first half of the year as the geographic diversity and reach of Fintech investment continued to expand."

Two massive Fintech deals drove some of this activity. Ant Financial raised \$14 billion this year and WorldPay was acquired by Vantiv for \$12.9 billion. But these two huge deals were backed up by a robust sector of activity.

Source – Crowdfund Insider

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IBC 2018: the promise for creating a thriving blockchain ecosystem in India

The International Blockchain Congress took place in Hyderabad on 3 August, saw participation of over 3000 attendees, and was held in partnership with the governments of Telangana and Goa and blockchain startup Nucleus Vision. NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and IT Minister of Telangana KT Rama Rao were the keynote speakers, in addition to 80 other speakers.

Blockchain, which is a digital, decentralized, public ledger meant to record any crypto-currency related transactions (the underlying technology on which Bitcoin runs) is increasingly also being thought of as relevant to many other fields. The nature of the blockchain is such that it creates a permanent record of every digital transaction and any addition to it, will be visible to everyone on the blockchain. Any change to the Blockchain affects all the blocks in the chain and these changes are visible for everyone on the Blockchain to notice.

Source – Tech2

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

Amazon's move to offer UPI-based service hits data localisation hurdle

Ecommerce major Amazon's plan to launch its own UPI payment service in the country is stuck due to concerns around the storage of data within India, said two bankers in the know of the matter.

Source – The Economic Times

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Google is in China Cloud talks with Tencent, others

Google wants to get back into China, and is laying the groundwork for a key part of the initiative: bringing its cloud business to the world's second-largest economy.

The internet giant is in talks with Tencent Holdings Ltd., Inspur Group and other Chinese companies to offer Google cloud services in the mainland, according to people familiar with the discussions. They asked not to be identified discussing private matters.

Source – Bloomberg

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OnMobile to foray into online video business

Bengaluru-based IT firm OnMobile plans to foray into the online video business under the brand name OnMo, where it looks to compete with popular web-based platforms. Video services and gaming services are the two areas where we have got quite good products.

Source – Business Standard

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Tech Mahindra, Telangana govt sign pact for blockchain district

The information technology, electronics and communication department (ITE&C) of the Telangana government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Tech Mahindra to launch India's first blockchain district in Telangana. Hyderabad will house a centre of excellence (CoE) for the blockchain district, an incubator for technology and process development with innovative infrastructure and facilities, to foster growth of blockchain start-ups and companies. Tech Mahindra, as a founding member of the blockchain district, will provide platform and technology assistance to all the incubators in the blockchain district.

Announcing this during the inauguration of the International Blockchain Technology Conference in Hyderabad, Tech Mahindra CEO & MD CP Gurnani said, "The launch of the blockchain district is a moment in history, a global talent hub which can unlock the value of blockchain technology in democratising data and solving big scale world problems.

Source – Financial Express

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South Korean Crypto Exchange Bithumb to Reopen Withdrawals, Deposits for Nine Cryptos

South Korea's leading virtual currency exchange Bithumb is set to reopen withdrawals and deposits today, according to an official announcement August 4. The world's twelfth largest cryptocurrency exchange by trade volume noted that the time for resuming withdrawals and deposits has been moved from August 4 at 11 a.m. [Korea Standard Time] to 7 p.m. [KST].

In a separate post, Bithumb stated that it is first reopening the withdrawal and deposit services for nine altcoins, adding that it has been slightly delayed in order "to provide a more stable service environment." At the end of June, hackers stole around a reported \$30 million in crypto from Bithumb, prompting the exchange to temporarily suspend all deposits and payments.

Source – Coin Telegraph

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PhonePe eyes top slot in digital payments

Last month, Bengaluru-based digital payments service company PhonePe became the single largest player on the UPI (Unified Payments Interface) with a market share of 40%. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has reported that its UPI platform witnessed 236 million total transactions in July, thus PhonePe with 94 million transactions, is now ahead of payment apps like Paytm and Tez.

Source – Deccan Herald

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Fortnite for Android will ditch Google Play Store for Epic's website

Epic Games announced today that it will not distribute its massively popular game Fortnite on Android through Google's Play Store marketplace. Instead, the company plans to directly distribute the software to players through the official Fortnite website, where Android users can download a Fortnite Installer program to install the game on compatible devices.

Source – The Verge

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IIT Bombay likely to help Whatsapp fight fake news

Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay looks keen to lend a helping hand to WhatsApp, even as the government does not seem to be convinced with the social media company's response so far on curbing fake news on the platform and has sent it a second notice.

Source – The Economic Times

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PVR renews non-exclusive agreements with BookMyShow & Paytm

PVR, India's leading multiplex chain operator, renewed non-exclusive agreements with online platforms BookMyShow and Paytm for the sale of its movie tickets all over the country for three years, deals that will bring it at least Rs 410 crore.

Source – The Economic Times

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