



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

RBI licenses two more P2P lending start-ups

Google Launchpad to retain focus on AI startups in India

Digi and Mastercard working together on digital payments card

How Microsoft, Google use AI to fight hackers

**Today's View**

**Autonomous logistics with BigTechs**

Emerging technology trends in the logistics space are transforming the way vehicles are designed and how people interact with them. As per **Statista** survey, 42% of the respondents feel that autonomous vehicles will be the next big thing to transform logistics sector.

With advancements in vehicle connectivity, software is becoming an increasingly important component of the car. Software developed by automakers has historically been clunky and difficult for drivers and passengers to navigate. In response, BigTech companies such as **Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft, Google, and Apple (FAMGA)** are building capacity and scale to extend their mobile eco-system on mobility services, autonomous driving, vehicle connectivity, electric vehicle technology, and auto commerce.

**Google**, arguably the most active BigTech in the autonomous logistics sector, has made a name for itself through its self-driving technology development subsidiary **Waymo**. In October, the company reported its autonomous vehicles had logged 10 million miles on public roads in the US, a landmark achievement for self-driving platforms. Waymo has also partnered with automakers such as **Fiat Chrysler** and **Jaguar Land Rover** to deploy its technology into full vehicles.

While **Apple** has built a fleet of roughly 70 self-driving test vehicles in California, and partnered with **Volkswagen** to turn some VW vans into self-

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**MobiKwik losses amount to Rs 203 cr in FY18**

Digital Payments Company MobiKwik saw its consolidated total loss widen to Rs 202.98 crore in the fiscal ended March 2018, according to documents filed with the corporate affairs ministry.



Source – Money Control

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Date – 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 19

driving shuttles for Apple employees. Apple has also developed in-vehicle integration technology CarPlay, which is similar to Google's Android Auto, enabling drivers and passengers to access messages, maps, and music, in addition to third-party apps such as Spotify.

**Amazon** is also venturing into this space as self-driving vehicles can reduce the company's long-haul shipping expenses by as much as 50%, according to recent estimates. The company has also partnered with automakers such as **Audi, BMW, Ford, and Toyota** to enable Alexa in the vehicle.

**Facebook**, though relatively inactive in this space has started integrating vehicle sales into Facebook Marketplace. A number of automakers are planning to use Microsoft's VR offering Oculus at the dealership to allow buyers to test and customize different car features at the lot.

On the other hand, **Microsoft** has been capitalizing on the auto industry's lack of expertise in frontier technology such as cloud computing and AR. It has launched its Azure-based Connected Vehicle Platform to enable predictive maintenance, in-car productivity, advanced navigation, customer data collection, and driver assistance capabilities.

The era of autonomous logistics has the potential to disrupt major industries: not only auto but many other elements of mobility services, transportation, and insurance, urban planning, smart cities, etc. With the entry of Bigtechs, the transition has become accelerated. It's time for traditional players to step-up and get Auto-nomous.

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## Today's News

### RBI licenses two more P2P lending start-ups

Two more Fintech players have got the NBFC license from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as peer to peer lending platforms. One is RupeeCircle and the other is IndiaMoneyMart, both based out of Mumbai. With this licence the two entities join the list of 11 P2P lending platforms which were registered by the central bank last year. IndiaMoneyMart which was a digital lending marketplace entered the P2P lending business in 2017. The company since then has disbursed more than 560 loans and has 12000 registered borrowers. It also counts more than 1000 lenders on its platform.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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### Google Launchpad to retain focus on AI startups in India

Google Launchpad's India accelerator programme will continue to focus on AI start-ups, led by their ability to scale up quickly, its India head Paul Ravindranath said. The programme opened applications for its second class last week. Ravindranath also indicated that agriculture and healthcare technology are two strong emerging themes in India which Google Launchpad is likely to back in the future given their scalability and high impact potential.

Source – *Mint*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of **G Balakrishna** and **Manish Kulkarni**

## Digi and Mastercard working together on digital payments card

Digi, with Mastercard serving as the technology partner will offer a digital prepaid card—to be released for public use sometime in the first half of the year. The card is also developed with ManagePay (MPay).

Source – *Fintech News*

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## “India can become a start-up superpower by 2024 with a few improvements”

All the stars are aligned for India to become a start-up superpower in five years. However, this can happen sooner if a few key issues are addressed, asserts digital transformation expert, Somu Vadali, who spent 18 years of his 22+ years of career in the Silicon Valley and US working as a head of digital and data products with Yodlee, Acxiom, Imprivata, Healthrageous Inc. and Future Group in India.

Source – *BusinessLine*

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## Personal Data Protection Bill only after new government takes over

The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018, is now likely to be introduced in Parliament in June, after the general elections, a top official told. The Bill, which sets out how the personal data of individuals is processed by the government and private entities incorporated in India and abroad, was initially supposed to be tabled in the ongoing winter session.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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## Allsec Technologies inks pact with Bahwan CyberTek

Allsec Technologies, a Chennai-based payroll service provider, signed a partnership with the Oman-based Bahwan CyberTek (BCT), to offer platform-based solutions in Human Resource Management System, Business Expenses Management and HR Compliance. This is to help Allsec to consolidate its presence in the Middle East and African markets.

BCT, which has its centre in Chennai, is an IP-based digital transformation solutions and software services provider and a systems integrator for over 1,000 customers, including Fortune 500 companies. The partnership aims to diversify BCT's product portfolio with Allsec's "low touch" digital HRO offerings with a mix of Mobile Apps, smart analytics and digital statutory solutions, says a release from Allsec, which processes over 7 lakh pay slips each month for 400 legal entities globally.

Source – BusinessLine

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## How Microsoft, Google use AI to fight hackers

Last year, Microsoft's Azure security team detected suspicious activity in the cloud computing usage of a large retailer: one of the company's administrators, who usually logs on from New York, was trying to gain entry from Romania. And no, the admin wasn't on holiday. A hacker had broken in. Microsoft quickly alerted its customer, and the attack was foiled before the intruder got too far.

Chalk one up to a new generation of artificially intelligent software that adapts to hackers' constantly evolving tactics. Microsoft, Google, Amazon.com and various start-ups are moving away from solely using older "rules-based" technology designed to respond to specific kinds of intrusion and deploying machine-learning algorithms that crunch massive amounts of data on logs, behaviour and previous attacks to ferret out and stop hackers.

Source – Tech Central

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## While cryptocurrency ventures struggle for funding, it's advantage lending

Creditors focusing on the crypto arena say they're finding strong demand from borrowers who don't want to sell their virtual coins at depressed prices, as well as from big investors eager to borrow coins for short selling. It's putting lenders on both sides of Bitcoin's bust: Helping believers pay their bills while awaiting a rebound, and also enabling bets by people who think the drop has further to go.

BlockFi says its revenues and customer base have grown 10-fold since June, when Michael Novogratz's Galaxy Digital Ventures invested \$52.5 million. Aave, which owns online crypto-lending marketplace ETHlend, just opened an office in London, plans to enter the U.S. soon and is nearing profitability. And Salt Lending, which already employs 80 people, said it's hiring more every month as its revenue ticks higher.

Source – The Economic Times

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## Digit Insurance launches pet insurance scheme

Digit Insurance, a new age digital general insurance start-up, has launched a pet insurance product in the Indian market in partnership with Vetina, a US-based company, a top official said. "Initially, it will be a reimbursement product and over period of time we want it to go more and more on cashless," Kamesh Goyal, Founder and Chairman, Digit Insurance said.

Source – BusinessLine

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## CarDekho raises \$110 mn in Series-C funding to rev up for its next phase of growth

Auto portal CarDekho has raised \$110 Mn in Series C funding from existing investors Sequoia India, Hillhouse Capital, CapitalG (Alphabet growth investment arm), and Axis Bank. CarDekho is an online platform that enables its users to research and compare car specs and prices, helps with financing and insurance and other aspects of car buying and selling; it also enables sale and purchase of used cars.

Source – Inc42

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## After India, Musk finds fault with Singapore

Beginning his Twitter tirade in New Year, Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk has criticized Singapore, saying the government there has been "unwelcoming" to his electric car plans for the city state. Last year, he tweeted that he wants Tesla in Singapore but the government was "not supportive" of electric vehicles.

Source – The Economic Times

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