

Government clears 16 companies for product-linked incentive scheme

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Demand for analytics, data science professionals surged in August

Today's View

School amongst pandemic

As per the Unlock 5.0 guidelines, schools, colleges and other educational institutions in India can also open outside the control zone after October 15. However, the decision on whether to reopen educational institutions rests with states/union territories. In the US, NYC reopened all of its public schools for in-person classes last week, the only large district in the US to do so.

Despite the uncertainties, one thing is clear: Technology will play a stronger role in supporting education as we look to the future. Schools will need to ensure that physical spaces meet public health guidelines to prevent further outbreaks and keep students and educators safe.

From UV sanitation of the school buses to fever scanning at school entry, tailor made technology solutions will help reopening of schools safer and easier. For example, the Meadows School in Nevada USA has partnered with Remark's AI Thermal Kit solution which allows for fast, touch-free scanning of multiple students (up to 120 people per minute) as they enter through established access points on a school campus. The system instantly and discreetly alerts faculty and staff of any person with a skin temperature that suggests a higher-than-normal body temperature, allowing onsite personnel to conduct a secondary temperature check.

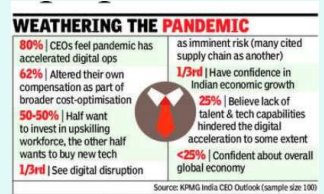
Some schools are also experimenting with continuous temperature monitoring to prevent an outbreak. Solutions such as the BioButton, developed by BioIntelliSense is a coin-sized disposable wearable that

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CEOs take pay cuts, re-evaluate purpose due to Covid-19: KPMG survey

CEOs in India are undertaking compensation cuts and have realized the importance of purpose-driven leadership after their earnings outlook was challenged by the current crisis.



Source—The Economic Times

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7th Oct 2020

that continuously monitors a user's vital signs like temperature, respiratory rate and heart rate, providing a "cleared" or "not cleared" status for each user before leaving for school every morning.

Another company called Actuate is also getting into pandemic-era school surveillance. The company normally sells artificial intelligence that mines through school security video feeds for signs of a brandished weapon, an anti-gun violence measure but is now offering AI that measures how well people are social distancing.

For social distancing within the classroom, Tools like the Ergotron TeachWell Mobile Digital Workspace acts like compact mobile workstation giving teachers the freedom to move around the classroom while maintaining social distancing protocols among the kids.

Other infrastructure changes lean in this direction as well. The LocknCharge charging kiosk, for example, offers a contactless way for students to charge and pick up their devices. Device sanitization units also present a single destination for efficient disinfecting of laptops and tablets using UV-C light. Another novel approach involves the potential use of small drones to clean classrooms and shared spaces quickly and efficiently.

To make best use of all these enabling technologies going forward, schools will need creativity, intelligence, funding and abundant preparation for a radical new normal.

Today's News

Piyush Goyal invites startups to register on public procurement portal GeM

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday invited startups to register at public procurement portal GeM and offer goods as well as services to government organisations and PSUs.

He said that about 4,000 startups have already registered at Government e-marketplace (GeM). "I invite all startups to list their products and start offering goods and services to government organisations, PSUs, state government bodies, hospitals, schools, and colleges run by the government," Goyal said at the first edition of the National Startup Awards 2020 event.

Source – The Economic Times

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Government clears 16 companies for product-linked incentive scheme

The government, on Tuesday, approved applications of 16 electronics companies including 10 mobile phone manufacturers for reward under the product-linked incentive scheme for total disbursement of Rs 40,000 crore.

The international mobile phone manufacturing companies that are approved to avail incentive for producing mobile phones with invoice value Rs 15,000 and above are Samsung, Foxconn Hon Hai, Rising Star, Wistron and Pegatron.

Source – The Economic Times

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Demand for analytics, data science professionals surged in August

Analytics and data science professionals saw a surge in demand in August, after the sector hit a low in May following the Covid-19-induced nationwide lockdown.

A total of 93,500 analytics and data science jobs were available at the end of August, according to professional learning platform Great Learning's annual analytics job report shared with ET. The figure represented an increase over the low of 82,500 seen in May, after a peak of 109,000 in February before the pandemic struck. Last year, the average number of open positions for the full year was about 90,500.

Source – The Economic Times

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How Big Tech companies gain and maintain dominance

Democrats from a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee issued a report detailing tactics it said four of the biggest technology companies used to gain dominant positioning in online search, social networking shopping and other businesses.

Amazon sells its own products as well as goods from independent merchants on a single platform. The Congressional report alleged that Amazon has "monopoly power" over many of these merchants, which "do not have a viable alternative to Amazon for reaching online consumers."

Source – The Economic Times

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ADIA picks up 1.2% stake in Reliance Retail for Rs 5,512 crore

Reliance Industries on Tuesday announced that a wholly-owned subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) will invest Rs 5,512.50 crore in its retail arm, Reliance Retail Ventures.

ADIA's investment will translate into a 1.20% equity stake in Reliance Retail on a fully diluted basis. This investment values Reliance Retail at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.285 lakh crore. With this investment, the company has raised Rs 37,710 crore from leading global investors including Silver Lake, KKR, General Atlantic, Mubadala, GIC, TPG and ADIA in less than four weeks.

Source – The Economic Times

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Limited data sharing in Jio deal: Facebook to CCI

Facebook assured the Competition Commission of India (CCI) that its investment in Jio Platforms will only involve exchange of "limited data" related to facilitating ecommerce transactions, according to the regulator's order made public on Tuesday. CCI, however, warned both sides that anti-competitive conduct resulting from data sharing in the future could be taken up by the regulator.

CCI had approved the acquisition of a 9.99% stake in Reliance Industries Ltd-owned Jio Platforms by Facebook entity Jaadhu for ₹43,574 crore in June. The Facebook unit told CCI that neither company will acquire each other's data, according to the order, dated June 24.

Source – The Economic Times

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SAIF Partners raising new \$400 million India fund

SAIF Partners has plans to raise \$400 million for its new India-dedicated fund, according to a filing with US securities market regulator SEC. SAIF has been an early backer of unicorns (startups valued at over \$1 billion), like mobile payments major Paytm and online food delivery platform Swiggy.

The new fund is about 15% larger than its previous three funds, which have consistently been \$350 million, as the firm continues to actively back startups despite the Covid-19 pandemic. "For SAIF Partners, fund-raising typically does not take long given their track record. They will look to close the fund by end of the year," said one of the sources briefed on the matter. A SAIF spokesperson declined to comment when contacted by TOI.

Source – The Economic Times

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Credit Wise Capital raises \$6 million funding

Credit Wise Capital (CWC), a technology-enabled consumer finance firm, on Tuesday said it has raised \$6 million (about Rs 44 crore) in seed funding from marquee angel investors.

The participants included M J Shah Group Chairman Mayank Shah, serial investor Ajay Goel, Anuj Golecha (founder of Venture Catalysts), Gaurav Gandhi (director at EssGee group), Anup Agarwal (director of Shanti Group) and Gaurav Singhvi, a statement said. The company intends to use these funds to grow its dealer network, increase geographical expansion, improve collection technology and underwriting models, it added.

Source – The Economic Times

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Chargebee raises Rs 403 crore in funding led by Insight Partners

Chargebee has raised Rs 403 crore (\$55 million) in its Series F funding round, led by Insight Partners. The current round, the biggest so far by the subscription billing startup, comes at a time when brick and mortar companies are adopting subscription models in their businesses, following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Existing investors Tiger Global and Steadview Capital also participated in the funding round, bringing the total funding raised by the Chennai-based company so far to Rs 771 crore (\$105 million).

Source – The Economic Times

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Edtech startup Winuall bags Rs 14.7 crore in funding

Education technology startup Winuall has raised Rs 14.7 crore (\$2 million) in funding from Prime Venture Partners, Beenext and LivSpace founder Ramakant Sharma, among other angel investors. The company provides technology infrastructure to offline coaching institutes on a subscription model to bring them online, enabling them to offer study material, conduct assessments and live classes.

The investment comes amid the Covid-19 pandemic that has caused a massive surge in signups on edtech platforms. The shift to online learning has also come at the expense of offline coaching centres as studying from home became the norm.

Source – The Economic Times

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