



Back home in India, **The Institute of Internal Auditors India (IIA)** has recognised the importance of 'Audit Data Analytics' techniques to improve fraud detection through generation of variance reports. Even regulators like **Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC)**, have realised the need for leveraging technology to create a system that would enable the regulator to comprehensively track markets across various venues and systems, providing increased transparency and better access to critical data.

This paradigm shift towards technology is a clear testament that the future of audit is undergoing digital transformation, helping the businesses of the future with better quality of audit and advisory engagements.

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## Today's News

### UPI is growing 5 to 10 pc every month; the next 6-8 months critical for customer stickiness: Vishal Anand Kanvaty, NPCI

As Chief of Innovation at National Payments Corporation India (NPCI), Vishal Anand Kanvaty has been instrumental in the growth of several products, including UPI/Rupay, NETC, AEPS, etc. With over 20 years of experience in the payments industry, Vishal's areas of interest include payments, credit cards, retail banking, and the impact of technology on banking. His recent focus has been on how payments can be transformed in India leveraging various technologies like blockchain, AI/ML, and AP's.

Passionate about digital payments, he also founded a blockchain startup and is an advocate of many digital payment initiatives. In a conversation with YourStory, Vishal spoke about the importance of technology, NPCI's partnership with The Fintech Meetup for the Fintech Yatra, and what fintech and financial services players need to do to bring in deeper digital payment penetration. Started in 2018, the Fintech Yatra covers 32,000 km (India to London), with the journey set to happen over one to five years (15 incubators and 500 startups).

Source – Your Story

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### RTGS: India's First Big Tryst With Digital Payments

Payments weren't always as easy as they are now. In fact, memories of the times when large sums of money couldn't be moved with a few clicks are still fresh in many minds. Ask VG Kannan, who retired as managing director of the State Bank of India in 2016 and went on to become the chief executive of the Indian Banks' Association till 2019. The year was 2001, a large value inter-bank transaction was to be made. SBI had sent a representative with the cheques, as was common practice then, but an accident meant that this person couldn't reach the clearing house before it closed.

The payment couldn't be cleared. To prevent the other lender from defaulting, SBI had to step in to make the payment. The payment system until the early 2000s was mostly paper-based and cheques were the dominant instrument. In the case of high-value payments, a representative from the bank branch would physically go to the clearing cell of the RBI, which would confirm the transaction with the counter-party bank, verify identities of those issuing the cheque and the ones receiving it, before approving the transaction.

Source – Bloomberg

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## Get approval on a personal loan from Fullerton India in a few clicks

ullerton India, one of India's premier lending institutions, offers hassle-free access to funds through its instant personal loans. With its completely online process and instant disbursal, customers can avail a personal loan in just a few clicks and get the funds in as little as 30 minutes without having to step outside their homes.

These personal loans are designed keeping the borrower's individual requirements and convenience in mind. Customers can avail personal loans up to Rs 25 lakhs, depending upon their eligibility.

Source – Business World

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## Now, Kochi residents can make ATM cash withdrawals at home

In the age of Covid-19, even stepping out to withdraw money from an ATM can be quite intimidating. Aimed at enabling customers to withdraw money by sitting in the comfort of their own homes, Aceware — a fintech company based in Infopark — is launching the Ace Money Micro ATM service in Kochi on Sunday.

The company has already recruited delivery executives to roll out the service, which will be first made available in the Kochi city. The plan is to expand the service to all municipalities in the state by January 2021.

Source – The New Indian Express

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## How technology can help fill the credit gap among Indian MSMEs

An analysis of the Indian business growth story would be incomplete without mentioning the backbone of its economy - the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Despite making up for the majority of the country's trade and commerce, the MSMEs are under-looked by the traditional financial system and resultantly credit-starved. The country's apex voices - the Indian government, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and the top bureaucrats have time and again spoken about the need to infuse capital enough for MSMEs to survive and thrive, but the path to encourage MSMEs is rather long and untrodden.

Embracing technology could serve to be that catalyst needed to compound the positive impact of innovation and focus on India's MSMEs. Besides streamlining processes, making day-to-day business activities cheaper and bringing structure and technology holds the key to ensuring the cycle of credit to MSMEs via investment vehicles takes a formal shape. The three main steps to filling the credit gap for the underserved sections of the society include understanding what technology can do, why it needs to be trusted, and how it can be leveraged.

Source – *Your Story*

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## Agri-tech startups reap nine-fold investment growth: Report

Startups bringing technology to India's agriculture sector has seen investments grow ninefold in the past five years, according to a new report. This is expected to accelerate even further as companies serving this market show resilience and increased demand amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The disruptions caused by the virus outbreak and India's strict lockdown hurt the status quo of 130 million farmers as well as millions of agricultural traders and small and medium enterprises.

As existing supply chains were shut down and reopened only gradually, farmers found themselves struggling to purchase inputs, access finance, and find markets for their crops. As existing supply chains were shut down and reopened only gradually, farmers found themselves struggling to purchase inputs, access finance, and find markets for their crops.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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## Sonu Sood partners with India's leading rural fintech, Spice Money

Rural fintech firm, Spice Money has joined hands with actor and philanthropist, Sonu Sood to digitally and financially empower 1 crore rural entrepreneurs. Sonu Sood and Spice Money will jointly work towards creating an entrepreneurial mindset in towns and villages. As part of the association, Sood will own equity stake in the company and has been appointed as a Non-Executive Advisory Board Member.

Spice Money will ideate collectively with Sood to design new initiatives and products that will bridge the divide between rural and urban India. Spice Money will also enable select existing programs developed by Sonu Sood during the lockdown, to be made available on the Spice Money platform. As a Non Executive Advisory board member, Sood will contribute in building the network of entrepreneurs, while encouraging financial inclusion and digital empowerment in rural India. Sood will work with Spice Money Adhikaris (entrepreneurs) to develop an appetite for digital product offerings thus, accelerating their digital journey through technology adoption.

Source – *CNBC*

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## Canara Bank launches "FX 4 U" for forex remittance via Internet Banking

Canara Bank has launched "FX 4 U" through internet banking helping users to manage and handle their forex transactions seamlessly. Currently the outward remittances module is active while the remaining modules will be activated soon.

The bank said in a statement, "With the introduction of this facility, all eligible individual customers can undertake remittance facility as per FEMA regulations. Corporate customers can make and submit the LC applications along with documents through internet banking once the LC module is activated."

Source – *The Economic Times*

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## Steps that will help India stay in the crypto race

One of the things that 2020 will be remembered for is when the cryptocurrency creed emerged from its corner and took centre stage in discussions around technology, policy and finance. Bitcoin prices have breached highs last seen in late 2017.

Multiple governments across the world are investing in developing Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), which are digital versions of national currencies. The incoming Joe Biden administration in the US has announced its intent to invite crypto experts.

Source – *Live Mint*

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