



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Flipkart makes big changes to its board as it prepares for IPO

How can Indian investors benefit from new-age cryptocurrencies for wealth creation?

This agritech startup aims to make trading of commodities simple and transparent

India's smartphone segment set to script double-digit growth story in 2021

Today's View

Emergency Management

Unfortunately, disasters have been a growing phenomenon in the opening decades of the 21st century. Over the last few years the frequency of such global incidents are on rise. However, a slew of startups have emerged in recent years to help enhance communication during such times.

One Concern, “Resilience-as-a-Service” startup combines data science and disaster research for better decision-making, as well as RapidSOS, which connects emergency responders directly to networked devices. Machine learning technology allows them to predict what will happen in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster. In the case of earthquakes, first responders will know where to conduct rescue missions and who needs the most help. It also allows them to construct disaster relief shelters before calamities take place. The US-based startup One Concern has developed a platform to predict natural disasters that helps first responders and local authorities in emergency by using layers of complex data and drawing relationships between numerous data points to map the impact of natural disasters.

An Amsterdam-based startup, Tsar AI developed OPTOSS AI product suite by Opt/Net BV that uses geospatial Earth Observation Data provided by satellites. Tsar AI helps emergency and disaster response teams work quicker, smarter and more effectively.

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5 top FinTech lending companies for MSMEs in India

Financial technology (FinTech) has disrupted the traditional lending process and made loans more accessible to the underserved and underbanked segments. Banks are usually wary of lending to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and are more cautious amid COVID-19 times.

Small businesses generally face challenges to show collateral and are hence unable to avail credit from these financial institutions.

Source – IBS Intelligence

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24th December, 2020

It allows for automated detection and quantification of all relevant changes in all-weather conditions, regardless of cloud cover or time of day. The technology also has applications for the defense and security market, where large-scale analysis of land and sea surface are required for timely detection of important developments.

Hungarian startup, **SaveSarah** has developed a real-time incident command platform for first responders. The startup's solutions include live mission tracking, real-time first responder collaboration and drone integration for disaster response teams. SaveSarah also allows command centers to replay missions to identify bottlenecks or solve pending disputes. It is the first truly mobile incident management platform with drone integration. SaveSarah enables emergency management teams to gain situational awareness - see which areas have been searched through by ground teams and drones.

HW Design Labs, a Kochi-based startup, has developed **Eeezee Bus**, a mobile app-based location warning system, through which stranded people could identify the location of nearby rescue teams and communicate with them during floods. The app is useful in isolated areas as it works using radio signals and does not need internet connectivity.

Disaster and crisis management have become more important than ever with both the public and private sectors pitching in solutions to stay ahead of the problem. One of the objectives of startups is to make end-to-end drone software solutions which can be used by any disaster response force of the world.

Today's News

Paytm is doubling down on efforts to hire from smaller towns: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Paytm has doubled down on its efforts to hire staff from smaller towns and allow them to continue working from those locations even after the pandemic situation eases, founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma said.

"We figured out that we could now recruit from cities where we were previously not going and people don't have to move to the big cities," Sharma said during ClearTax e-Invoicing Leadership Conclave on Wednesday.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Flipkart makes big changes to its board as it prepares for IPO

E-commerce major Flipkart has made major changes to its board as the company prepares to hit the public market next year, amid a rush of IPOs in the technology sector globally.

Kalyan Krishnamurthy, Flipkart Group CEO, will join the company's board along with three new members: HDFC's Keki Mistry, Suresh Kumar, global chief technology officer at Walmart, and Leigh Hopkins who is executive VP-international strategy and development for Walmart International.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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This agritech startup aims to make trading of commodities simple and transparent

While the atmosphere in New Delhi remains charged as agitating farmers, concerned over prices, protest the new agriculture reform laws, Origo Commodities, over the last ten years, has ensured that every participant in this ecosystem gets a fair price for the produce of the land.

In the vast agricultural ecosystem – starting from the farmland to putting the food onto your plate, the two very critical elements in this entire cycle is the supply chain infrastructure and financing.

Source – *Your Story*

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India's smartphone segment set to script double-digit growth story in 2021

When the pandemic forced people to stay indoors, smartphones became their window to the world, helping them stay connected with friends, Work From Home (WFH) and even learn new recipes.

And 2021 promises to bring back double-digit growth for the smartphone industry as people embrace hybrid work models, binge on web series, and continue the pursuit for the perfect selfie on their six-inch screens.

Source – *Your Story*

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Snapdeal clocks Rs 846.4 crore revenue in FY20

E-commerce marketplace Snapdeal on Thursday said its consolidated revenue from operations has grown marginally to Rs 846.4 crore in FY20. The company had registered Rs 839.4 crore revenue from operations in FY19, the firm said in a statement. The total revenue dipped marginally from Rs 925.3 crore in FY19 to Rs 916 crore in FY20 on account of reduction in finance and other income, it added.

"In FY20, Snapdeal continued its investments in market expansion activities that have helped grow the market beyond only brands, urban centres and a primarily English-speaking audience. One-time investments booked by Snapdeal in FY20 on account of such initiatives are factored into the FY20 loss of Rs 274 crore from about Rs 186 crore in FY19," it said. Snapdeal noted that it has invested in video, vernacular and other strategic projects, aimed at growing the online market among new users.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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EdSanta Education Rolls Out AI-Powered E-Learning Platform

Edtech startup EdSanta Education has launched an artificial intelligence-powered, e-learning platform that can map a user's career path as well as provide curated learning content. 'Elite for Workplace' aims to future proof the existing workforce while 'Elite for Campus' aims to empower students with a strategic and effective career, according to a statement on Tuesday.

"The pandemic emphasised the skill gaps in the existing workforce... Our Smart AI engine guides users to a personalised upskilling and reskilling path," Rohan Krishna, chief executive officer at EdSanta Education, said in the statement. EdSanta caters to users in India, Middle East and other Asian countries.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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How can Indian investors benefit from new-age cryptocurrencies for wealth creation?

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns have put lives, business, and the economy on the whole into a tailspin. India's GDP is expected to have contracted by nearly 11 per cent this year. Unemployment, a challenge in a country where over 90 per cent of jobs in the informal sector, has seen a sharp uptick. During this time, both the government and conventional financial institutions have made valiant efforts to stabilize the economy and secure the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of at-risk Indians. The extension of food and financial security schemes has gone some ways towards addressing the needs of those most severely affected.

Moreover, the stimulus package has enabled the country's financial institutions to hold the line. Despite these efforts, there are still immense gaps in implementation and reach, meaning that millions of Indians are left out from relief and lending opportunities. Financial institutions, in particular, have registered a steep contraction in lending over the past year. RBI data, for instance, indicates that lending to MSMEs — the businesses that need liquidity now the most — has contracted by 7.6 per cent this year.

Source – *Financial Express*

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Paytm's FY20 loss narrows to Rs 2,942.3 Cr; revenue rises 1.3 pc

One97 Communications Ltd, which operates Paytm, saw its losses narrow to Rs 2,942.36 crore in the financial year ended March 2020, according to regulatory documents. The company had registered a consolidated loss of Rs 4,217.2 crore for the financial year ended March 2019, according to Registrar of Companies filing shared by market intelligence firm Tofler.

Paytm, which competes with players like Flipkart's PhonePe and Google Pay, clocked a 1.3 percent rise in the consolidated total revenue at Rs 3,628.85 crore for the fiscal ended March 2020 as against Rs 3,579.67 crore for the financial year ended March 2019.

Source – *Your Story*

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MasterG raises funds from Acumen's angel programme

Master G and Daughters Pvt Ltd, a startup that provides providing training to women in the apparel industry, has raised an undisclosed amount of funding from non-profit impact investor Acumen Fund's angel programme.

The company will use the funds to develop digital platforms, audio-visual resources and scaling its training to reach more underserved youth in the country. Founded by Gayatri Jolly, MasterG is an all-women design and skill development venture for the global apparel industry.

Source – *Money Control*

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