



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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Today's View

Sweat Powered Watches

You have probably heard of solar powered smart watches but what about a sweat powered watch? When people talk about renewable power, sweat isn't exactly something that springs to mind, but it sounds like that this natural process is actually capable of powering fitness trackers and maybe even smart watches too. It sounds pretty crazy but scientists have figured out a way sweat could be used to replace traditional batteries.

The research was done at the University of Glasgow where scientists created a battery cell that has a new type of flexible super capacitor that can be used to replace electrolytes typically found in batteries.

The tech works by collecting the sweat a person naturally produces. This is done by "coating polyester cellulose cloth in a thin layer of a special polymer". The absorbency of the material attracts perspiration. The ions in the sweat react with the polymer which results in a reaction that generates electricity. Researchers say the battery can be charged with only 20 micro litres of sweat. It's also very sturdy and can survive several thousand flexes and bends it might encounter – ideal for a wearable strapped to your wrist.

So not only would sweat be a non-invasive way to check on your body's health, it would likely be a highly accurate way too, in the realm of blood in some areas – which is far more appealing than something like heart rate, which has a comparatively limited scope.

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NPCI caps market share for UPI apps at 30% of overall payment volumes

In order to ensure parity in India's digital payments ecosystem and prevent market dominance by any single player, the National Payments Corporation of India has issued detailed guidelines capping permissible volume that any Unified Payments Interface (UPI) app can process at 30% of the overall market.

The move is among the first by a regulatory agency in India to likely prevent Big Tech firms from market monopolisation in the fast-growing digital payments sector, experts said.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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26th March 2021

The University of Pennsylvania has combined those ideas with graphene, a material considered to be "the best sensor material in existence", to create the **SweatSmart by GraphWear**. Graphene would essentially allow the sweat sensor to be four times more accurate than current sensors.

Then there are companies like LVL and Halo Wearables, who are aiming a little lower with their sweat-based trackers. The company has spent the past six years working on the Halo Edge, a device that analyses your sweat to indicate hydration levels.

In the same neighbourhood is **Kenzen**, a company which produces the **Kenzen patch**, which continually tracks biosensors in your sweat and sends you real-time alerts about your health.

The tech seems promising although it is still in the research phase. But the team is planning to take forward the research on integrating sweat power into wearable devices. After all, they are the perfect option for such technology as you typically wear them while exercising. However, the best hope perhaps lies with LVL and Halo Wearables. There's a chance that bigger companies like Samsung, Apple and Fitbit will explore sweat-based wearables, but that doesn't seem to be on the horizon just yet. So it might be down to the start-ups to make the first breakthrough and hope the major wearable tech heavyweights follow.

Today's News

How digital lending platforms can help in improving credit lending system in tier-2 cities?

With phones becoming smarter and data getting cheaper, the Indian subcontinent has whole-heartedly welcomed the era of digitization. The presence of dynamic apps and platforms has brought convenience and ease to millions. The transition from brick and mortar to online systems began with Tier 1 cities being the path makers.

However, a recent report by EY suggests that apart from the eight classified metros, there is a new set of 42 cities in Tier 2 and 3 categories, which are emerging as aspirational and consumerist. EY has called these areas India's "new wave" consumer hubs.

Source – CNBC TV18

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BharatPe launches 'Distributor to Retailer Finance' to empower SMEs

BharatPe has rolled-out its innovative lending product- Distributor to Retailer (D2R) Finance which will focus specifically on empowering Small and Medium Enterprises. The product is designed to provide instant liquidity to distributors, wholesalers, traders and dealers across industry verticals.

With this new lending product, the company will offer collateral-free loans of upto Rs. 50 lakhs for a period of 7 days to 30 days. BharatPe also shared that it has already facilitated D2R loans of Rs. 50 crores in the first month of launch and aims to facilitate disbursements of Rs. 2500 crores via this new product in the next fiscal year (FY22).

Source – The Economic Times

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How AI is empowering digital lending platforms

The financial sector has been witnessing revolutionary growth due to the evolution of digitisation. Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning-powered systems are becoming an essential part of all financial institutions' decision-making process.

AI and ML-based products are significantly changing the digital lending landscape where startups and companies are leveraging AI to build better lending solutions while working alongside banks, NBFCs and other financial institutions. Below, we look at the leading fintech startups that utilise AI and machine learning to accelerate the credit economy.

Source – Nyoooz

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Payments Corporation comes out with SOP to monitor volume cap for TPAPs

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella entity for digital payments in India, has come out with guidelines on capping the volume of transactions that third party application providers (TPAPs) can process on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at 30 per cent so that players in this space do not monopolise the market, which is the case right now.

Source – Business Standard

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DotPe secures \$27.5 million funding from PayU, Info Edge Ventures and Google

Gurgaon-based offline-to-online commerce platform, DotPe, has secured USD 27.5 million in Series A funding. The round was led by its early investor, PayU and Info Edge Ventures has doubled down on its seed investment in the company made last year and more than doubled its shareholding. Google joins as a new investor.

The fresh funding will be deployed towards accelerating product development, market expansion and scaling technology to meet the fast-growing market demand. Shailaz Nag, Co-founder, DotPe said, "This new partnership will empower businesses (big or small) to be more discoverable, expand business avenues and conduct commerce like never before. Pandemic or not, we are here to reimagine the way offline businesses work and bring the digital revolution to the doorstep of every entrepreneur".

Source – The Economic Times

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P2P lender LenDenClub goes live on Google Pay

LenDenClub, a peer-to-peer lending platform has integrated with Google Pay. GPay users will now be able to lend and borrow through LenDenClub. Currently the P2P lender offers loans across 19,000 pin codes across the country. Users who wish to borrow can visit 'InstaMoney' spot on Gpay and avail loans ranging anywhere between Rs 5,000 to Rs 12,500 within minutes. Similarly any user willing to lend can visit 'LenDenClub' spot on GPay and invest as low as Rs 500.

It said the investment option is yet to go live and the Spot feature is available only on Android while the iOS version will be live in coming months. Bhavin Patel, Co-founder & CEO, LenDenClub, said, "LenDenClub is extremely excited to be live on Google Pay. It goes along with our vision of delivering financial products through technology. Being the first P2P player to integrate with GPay, offers us access to over 60-70 million active GPay users monthly on both the demand and supply side of our business."

Source – The Economic Times

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Fintechs to have greater presence in charting india's digital path

In India, digital payments are on the rise, digital lending will make inroads and FinTechs will gain market share – and, per the central bank, it all bears watching, with an eye on data privacy and security. To that end, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has signaled that FinTechs will have a growing presence within traditional and non-traditional sectors of the financial services markets within the country.

As reported by MoneyControl.com, Das said at the Times Network India Economic Conclave 2021 on Thursday (March 25) that "FinTech is expected to challenge the financial sector with innovations and its exponential growth. Harnessing FinTech for customer services will effectively control costs and expand the banking and nonbanking businesses."

Source – pymnts

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UP tops in digital payments in country

Lucknow, The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has set a record in the number of digital transactions. The record increase has been registered during the period that includes even the Corona lockdown.

According to the government spokesman, banks are playing a significant role in encouraging the digital transactions to give wings to the Digital India campaign. The transactions through banks have crossed the figure of Rs 286 crore till December 2020, in the financial year 2020-21, which was Rs 151 crore more than during the same period in 2019-20, recording an increase of 112 percent.

Source – The Economic Times

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WhatsApp Pay: Why Facebook - owned messaging service hasn't exploded yet in its biggest market India

In April 2020, Facebook had picked up a 9.99 per cent stake in Jio Platforms at \$5.7 billion. During a company event in December 2020, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg had revealed that WhatsApp has 15 million business app users from India.

It took a good over a two-and-a-half-year period for Facebook-owned WhatsApp to roll out its much talked about payments service in November 2020 from around February 2018 when the messaging giant had started testing the feature.

Source – Financial Express

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