

“Autism spectrum disorder in the U.S.”, 62.6% of children diagnosed with ASD had a co-occurring learning disability condition, 42.6% had an attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and 16.7% had an intellectual disability.

Some ed-tech and health-tech startups are leveraging AI to help ASD students strengthen their concentration as well as their social-awareness skills. **QTrobot** is a social robot designed by AI startup **LuxAI** made specifically for autism students to learn social, communicative, and emotional skills through engagement sessions. The robot makes facial expressions and gestures, teaching students appropriate emotional responses in social settings.

Another project, **Empowered Brain**, deploys smart glasses that uses AI and augmented reality technology to teach social-emotional and cognitive skills. Autistic users receive feedback depending on different situations they can choose from. Feedback is based on whether a person is happy, surprised, or sad. AI technology opens new doors for those with ASD not just at an early age in school, but as they prepare for real-life situations they may face in adulthood.

When it comes to how AI can help students with special needs, researchers and developers have only scratched the surface. The more AI research focuses on health and education, the more it can assist kids with special needs to develop important social, behavioral and emotional skills that may have been challenging to pick up on before.

Today's News

Mobile prepaid recharge facility on BBPS by August-end: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India on Monday said the scope of the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) will be expanded by August 31 this year by adding 'mobile prepaid recharges' as a biller category, a move likely to help millions of prepaid phone subscribers in the country.

In September 2019, the scope and coverage of BBPS were expanded to include all categories of billers who raise recurring bills (except mobile prepaid recharges) as eligible participants, on a voluntary basis. Before that, the facility of payment of recurring bills through BBPS was available only in five segments - direct to home (DTH), electricity, gas, telecom and water.

"With consistent growth in different biller categories and to facilitate mobile prepaid customers with more options to recharge, it has been decided to permit 'mobile prepaid recharges' as a biller category in BBPS, on a voluntary basis," the RBI said in a circular.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Polish fintech Booste raises €12m, sets sights on UK expansion

Booste helps startups grow by providing revenue-based financing for startups across Poland, with hopes to put down roots across Europe. Poland-based fintech Booste, which provides revenue-based financing to e-commerce companies, has raised a €12m Series A funding round.

Booste helps e-commerce firms finance their growth through digital ads, marketing campaigns and inventory spend, often receiving an offer within 24 hours and the funds in two days. The fintech will use the fresh injection of capital to its own expansion plans, with hopes to launch in other countries across Europe and the UK.

Source – *ALT FI*

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Mswipe sees tremendous scope for its 'ATM Express' in Tier 2, 3 cities

The company's micro ATM service 'ATM Express' has reached Rs 25 lakh per day volumes since its introduction in three locations, Thane, Vashi and Alibaug, in March 2021.

"From zero in March, ATM Express has clocked total payment volume of Rs 25 lakh each day in June. It has a tremendous opportunity to scale in Tier 2 and 3 cities," said Manish Patel, Mswipe Founder and CEO said. ATM Express was launched by Mswipe in March 2021, just before the lockdown.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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RBI proposes to lift interest rate cap on microfinance loans, but with a caveat

MFIs can provide collateral-free loans to households at interest rates determined by their boards. But a debt-income ratio cap would limit the payment of interest and repayment of principal for all outstanding loans of a household at any point of time to 50 per cent of the household income.

The Reserve Bank on Monday proposed a uniform regulatory framework for the microfinance sector, wherein microfinance institutions (MFIs) can provide collateral-free loans to households at interest rates determined by their boards. Microfinance institutions will get the freedom to set rates and end regulatory cap on interest rates. The RBI has proposed a debt-income ratio cap so that the loans to be given in a way that the payment of interest and principal for all outstanding loans of a household at any point of time should not cross 50 per cent of the household income.

Source – *The Economic times*

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Consumers prefer mobile apps for small ticket size transactions

Groceries, petrol stations, restaurants, clothing and apparel, specialty retail, pharmacy and medical, hotels, jewellery retail, household appliances, and departmental stores were the merchant categories with the highest volume and value of transactions in Q1 for Worldline India. They together accounted for 85 per cent in terms of volume and 76 per cent in terms of value in Q1 2021 at the physical merchant touchpoints.

In the online space, e-commerce (shopping for goods and services), gaming, utility and financial services contributed to over 85 per cent of transactions in terms of volume and 41 per cent in value in Q1 2021. Mobile app-based transactions recorded 96 per cent growth in volume in Q1 2021, while its value witnessed over 104 per cent increase against the same quarter of the previous year i.e. Q1 2020.

Source – *CRN*

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Startups from 21 Countries Showcase Deep Tech Innovations at #InnoVEXVirtual

Startups are the key to technology development, and they are the driver for industry transformations and evolutions. In COMPUTEX 2021 Virtual, the event organizer, TAITRA, has dedicated a special hall for #InnoVEXVirtual. With 81 startups from 21 countries, TAITRA aims to empower these startups by bridging the network and business opportunities with them and the global technology ecosystem through the digital platform.

Since its first establishment in 2016, InnoVEX, the exhibit dedicated to startups at COMPUTEX, has successively hosted National Pavilions from France, Korea and the Netherland.

Source – *Business Wire India*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Prithwijit Ghosh

New Report: Selfie IDs Check The Digital Security Box For 76 Pct Of Millennials

As hackers are becoming more prolific with cyberattacks on digital accounts, biometric authentication technologies such as fingerprint, voice and facial recognition have grown favorable for customer identification and verification.

Not just banks, but businesses of all kinds are bolstering security and privacy protection to gain consumers' trust. Biometric verification methods are getting easier and more convenient for consumers to use as smartphones with supporting technologies become ubiquitous.

Source – *Pymnts.com*

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No time to cook? This AI startup's autonomous robot can make 200+ dishes

Nosh, a cooking robot developed by Bengaluru-based startup Euphotic Labs, can cook about 200 dishes such as Kadhai Paneer, Matar Paneer, Chicken Curry, Fish Curry, Carrot Halwa, and Potato Fry as per individual tastes.

The kitchen robotic startup has developed an app-driven autonomous cooking robot called Nosh, which can cook about 200 one-pot dishes such as Kadhai Paneer, Matar Paneer, Chicken Curry, Fish Curry, Carrot Halwa, Potato Fry, etc., as per individual taste preferences.

Source – *Your Story*

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