

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Centre agrees to extend deadline for linking Aadhaar

Online public procurement saves govt Rs 525 crore

Online retail has a threat from us, we don't: Kishore Biyani

Flipkart seeks exclusive sellers to prevent poaching by Amazon

Soon, use a smart card and commute on any mode

Xiaomi topples Samsung, takes the top spot

Today's View

Let the Sun Shine

The rapid growth in renewable power is being driven by improvement in renewable technologies, dedicated policy initiatives by governments and better access to financing. In 2016 alone, international investment in renewable energy was worth \$241.6 billion (excluding large hydro). According to a recent report by **Computerworld**, renewables are now the world's fastest-growing energy source and are expected to expand by 2.6% per year through 2040.

The shift to renewable sources of energy, like solar energy, has been slow but steady with a small cluster of innovative solar energy startups having emerged and witnessed towering growth in recent years. Leveraging low-cost PV solar, battery-based energy storage, mobile payments and cloud-based information and communication technology platforms, start-ups such as **BBOX** and **D.light** are helping provide affordable, reliable, emission-free electricity to rural households across the world.

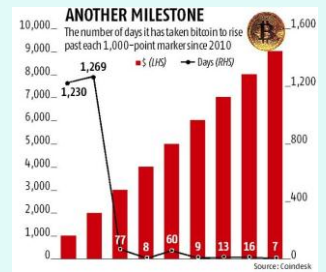
The **Pay As You Go** (PayG) model for energy access is an innovative business model being employed largely in Sub-Saharan Africa and some other parts of the world, in order to bring solar electricity and other services to people who currently have no access to it. This model requires customers to make a small initial down payment for a solar Photo Voltaic system, prepay for the energy service, and keep topping up as they use these services using their mobile phone.

In Kenya, a U.S.-based technology venture **Powerhive** operates a micro-grid network for rural homes and businesses, using smart meters linked to a cloud-based server. This integrated system enables customers to prepay for electricity using M-Pesa, a

INTERESTING NEWS

900% rise in a yr! Bitcoin surges past \$9000 in thousand-point milestone

The price of bitcoin surged past \$9,000 over the weekend for the first time, a rise of nearly 900% this year.



Bitcoin rose as high as \$9,682 in Asia, taking just seven days for to go from \$8,000 to \$9,000. That marks the fastest thousand-point rally in its short history.

Source – Business Standard

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Date – 28th Nov 17

widely used mobile phone-based money transfer service, while allowing Powerhive to remotely monitor performance, consumption and cash flows.

This move to digital payments where users shift to smart, prepaid metering systems and purchase a specified amount of power electronically not only aids the electricity-deprived sections of the society but benefits utility companies and mini-grid providers by reducing the cost of metering and credit operations.

Simpa Energy's pricing model in India is called "Progressive Purchase". This model unlike standard pay-as-you-go models, enables users to slowly pay off their dues for systems progressively with each energy payment. Once fully paid, the system unlocks permanently and delivers reliable energy free of charge. Simpa Energy has also partnered with some Banks in India to finance their solar-as-a-service offering for the customers.

Monzo, a digital, mobile-only bank based in the United Kingdom has rolled out its partnership trial with **Bulb**, an alternative energy provider that lets customers switch to renewable energy. Its customers are offered an in-line promotion that appears in the transaction feed and prompts them to try out Bulb's switching calculator. For customers that choose to switch, Monzo gets about £40-50 in affiliate commission for enabling its customers lead a more sustainable life.

It's good to see that Banks are playing a role in promoting clean energy. Like the great Arnold Schwarzenegger said - 'The future is green energy, sustainability, renewable energy.'

Today's News

Centre agrees to extend deadline for linking Aadhaar

The central government told the SC that it was willing to extend up to March 31 next year the deadline to link Aadhaar with various schemes and services, including bank accounts and phone numbers. The current deadline for linking of bank accounts and mobile phone numbers with Aadhaar are December 31, 2017 and February 6, 2018 respectively.

Source – Hindustan Times

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Online public procurement saves govt Rs 525 crore

Nearly a year and a half after going live, the government's online portal, aimed at turning the public procurement process digital, has managed to save the exchequer an estimated Rs 525 crore. Till November, the portal, which is still in pilot mode has seen more than Rs 2,100 crore worth of products and services being purchased through it, and has an average saving rate of 25% across purchase categories.

Source – Business Standard

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Sadhika Agarwal and Aparna Anand

Amazon India Partners With Kickstarter And Seed Accelerator HAX

Amazon India announced a collaboration with global crowdfunding platform Kickstarter and China-headquartered hardware accelerator HAX. The partnership is geared towards creating a conducive environment for early-stage product startups in the country.

Source – Inc42

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Facebook accelerates its start-up programme in India

Facebook has announced an exclusive six-month accelerator programme and a School of Innovation for engineering students.

It is being launched in association with T-Hub. The 10 teams will undergo a 20-week programme.

Source – BusinessLine

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For many Indian merchants selling on Amazon.com is more lucrative than on Amazon India

Amazon has been recruiting Indian vendors to sell directly on the American site. Over 27,000 Indian sellers have signed up since Amazon began the outreach. The result is lower prices for consumers, and expanding product lineup and hefty fees for Amazon.

Source – The Economic Times

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Online retail has a threat from us, we don't: Kishore Biyani

Kishore Biyani said the online retail sector in India has a threat from physical retail models like Big Bazaar and Easyday, owing to low business share and high cost of business of the former. He said although the next trend is digitization, physical and digital are not different as the layering of technology over physical is the need of the hour.

"Online retail has a threat from us and it's time people realized that they are not a threat to us, as they don't even have 1% business share and the cost of doing business is also too high," Biyani told.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Flipkart seeks exclusive sellers to prevent poaching by Amazon

Flipkart wants exclusive sellers to prevent poaching by rival Amazon. Flipkart indicated it was planning a pilot programme in the next couple of months to to zero in on a set of sellers for exclusive deals.

This could include a membership-based service where select sellers receive better deals and pay lower commissions. "Such an arrangement will ensure sellers stay loyal to Flipkart," said a source close to the company.

Source – *Business Standard*

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Soon, use a smart card and commute on any mode

L&T Hyderabad Metro Rail has announced the introduction of a smart card, which can serve as a single interface for various other modes of transport, including bus, cabs and an app Tsavari, which provides quick interface for metro services.

The smart card has the capability to integrate 16 different services. Other services will gradually be integrated. KT Rama Rao, Telangana Industries and IT Minister said that buses, electric vehicles, through partnerships will be introduced in a phased manner for transport to metro stations.

Source – *BusinessLine*

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Xiaomi topples Samsung, takes the top spot

Xiaomi has replaced Samsung at the top position in India's urban market. The company has managed to garner a higher market share in the top 50 cities during the September quarter. Samsung, which had been dominating the space for over four years, lost out to Xiaomi as it held 24.1% of the urban market, compared with Xiaomi's 26.5%.

Xiaomi posted an astounding 120% rise in sales during the September quarter. Samsung, on the other hand, posted 15% quarterly growth.

Source – *Business Standard*

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Facebook using artificial intelligence to detect suicide risk

Facebook is turning to AI to detect if someone might be contemplating suicide. The new feature is intended to detect such posts before anyone reports them.

The service will scan posts and live video with a technique called "pattern recognition."

Source – *NY Post*

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Nuvepro gets Rs. 2.6 cr funding

Nuvepro, a managed cloud environment solutions provider, has raised Rs. 2.6 crore in seed funding led by 1Crowd and its investor community. It will use the money for R&D and to expand. 1Crowd is an angel investment platform focused on early stage ventures.

Source – *BusinessLine*

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Trust no one: Reviews and ratings mean little to India's online shoppers

Indian consumers are increasingly distrustful of product reviews. And one of the reasons they are losing their credibility is the flood of disinformation and tampering of feedback by websites and sellers. A survey of over 19,000 people showed 56% saying they don't trust written reviews, while a substantial 65% don't trust product ratings.

Source – *Quartz*

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