



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

NIIT Technologies partners with Microsoft for cloud solutions

Face recognition-based authentication system set to take-off at Indian airports

Digital wallet players backed into a corner as February 28 KYC deadline approaches

Apple, Goldman Sachs to jointly launch credit card paired with iPhone: Report

Today's View

Robotic Nurses

Brewing crisis in healthcare - not enough nurses and too many patients. As training more nurses quickly isn't a viable solution for hospitals, nursing shortage could do with creative solutions like Robotic Nurses. According to **Robotic Nurse Assistant Market Report**, the Robotic Nurse Assistant Market is projected to grow with a CAGR of 4% during 2019-2026.

Robotic nurses, also known as Care bots have been designed and programmed to use self-supporting mobile robots to perform tasks related to nursing care for hospitals, nursing facilities or even home nurses, especially for the elderly and physically disabled. Robot nurses are also used to perform some routine tasks such as collecting blood glucose and pressure levels.

At elderly homes, human-like robots have started being utilized as supplemental healthcare workers. Japan-based **Riken and Sumitomo Riko Labs** have created a nursing-care robot **Robear** capable of helping care for elderly patients. This bear can lift a patient and transfer from point A to B, and turn patients in bed. Further, Texas-based **Diligent Robotics** has created **Moxi** to relieve nurses of the stress of logistical tasks, such as gathering medical equipment and restocking supply rooms. According to Diligent Robotics, Moxi could undertake 30 per cent of the workload of nurses when they are not directly looking after patients.

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Uber Eats India likely to end up on Swiggy's plate

In what would be one of the most significant consolidation moves in the sector, Uber Eats, the food delivery arm of the global ride-hailing platform, is in final stages of negotiations to sell its India business to rival Swiggy, three people privy to the development said. The deal, which is expected to close by next month, will be Swiggy's largest acquisition till date, and Uber's first divestment of its food business globally.



Source – The Economic Times

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Date – 22nd Feb 19

Moreover, in order to assist customers or patients, **Softbank Robotics** has developed a robot **Pepper** which carries a touch screen that can be uploaded with information. Pepper's emotion recognition capabilities enable it to identify emotions in the voice and face and to respond appropriately. Likewise, Japan-based robot maker **Kokoro** has developed **Actroid-F** which is modelled after a human female and can move its eyes, eyebrows, mouth, head, and neck. This robot looks and interacts with patients as a human.

Some of the players have also created the care bots specifically for sick kids. An Australia based **Ikkiworks** has designed the **ikki** for kids to improve the therapy outcomes, beyond the direct supervision of hospital staff, outside the hospital. At the same time, ikki is designed to act as a companion for these children, distracting them from their illness and stress of treatments by playing music and telling stories.

In fact, robots can assist in automating many aspects of caregiving and can free up more time for human workers to concentrate on specialized tasks. However, it needs to be seen how society, at large, can adjust to a new way of interacting with technology

Today's News

Face recognition-based authentication system set to take-off at Indian airports

Earlier this month, passengers flying from Miami in the US to Munich in Germany on a Lufthansa flight did not need boarding passes or a passport. They boarded their flight after their faces were scanned and their identity confirmed. A partnership between Lufthansa, Miami International Airport, the US Customs and Border Protection, and aviation IT solutions provider SITA enabled the confirmation of passengers' identities using a photograph taken at the boarding gate. SITA's Smart Path technology integrates with government systems and databases to authenticate passengers during airport check-ins and border checks. SITA told that it integrated automated boarding gates with the US Customs and Border Protection and airlines' IT systems to allow necessary checks and authorise boarding using Smart Path.

Source – *Businessline*

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Digital wallet players backed into a corner as February 28 KYC deadline approaches

In what could hamper the Centre's efforts to encourage digital payments, mobile wallets in the country are likely to witness a nearly 80 per cent decline in their user base post the February 28 deadline set by the RBI to meet KYC requirements. According to industry experts, the drop in user base is inevitable despite companies trying their best to get 'full KYC' done for all their users through push notifications urging them to visit neighbourhood partner retail outlets with documents.

Source – *BusinessLine*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of **G Balakrishna and Pankaj Tadas**

Oyo Rooms may join the food fight with FreshMenu stake

Oyo Rooms (Oravel Stays Pvt. Ltd), India's third most valuable startup, is in advanced talks to buy a significant stake in cloud-kitchen startup FreshMenu, according to two people directly familiar with the matter. If the negotiations are successful, Oyo will add the online food delivery business to its portfolio, complementing its budget hotels business. Discussions with FreshMenu come just months after Oyo raised close to \$1 billion, boosting the hospitality chain's valuation to nearly \$5 billion.

"Oyo is building a food team, which will help FreshMenu expand to more cities under the brand name of Oyo," said one of the two people cited above, requesting anonymity. "The idea could be more about adding the element of food to further build the hospitality business rather than getting into food delivery entirely."

Source – *Mint*

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Grofers narrows loss to Rs 258 crore as sales double in FY-18

Online grocer Grofers has narrowed its losses marginally to Rs 258 crore in FY18, helped by sales that doubled during the year indicating growing preference for online grocery-shopping in India. A year ago, it had net loss of Rs 268 crore. Revenue of operations rose 58% to Rs 53 crore during year to March 2018, compared to Rs 34 crore, data sourced from research platform Veratech showed.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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NIIT Technologies partners with Microsoft for cloud solutions

NIIT Technologies on Thursday announced a global collaboration with Microsoft, to jointly market its cloud-enabled solutions with the technology giant. In collaboration with Microsoft, NIIT Technologies will focus on the comprehensive cloud needs of enterprises from infrastructure to business applications. Building on the current collaboration, NIIT Technologies and Microsoft have concluded a strategic Cloud Solution Provider agreement that enables NIIT to directly manage the entire lifecycle for its enterprise customers, including commercials & support and deliver integrated end-to-end solutions as a managed service on Azure.

Source – BusinessLine

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Blockchain startups face skill shortage, opt for freelancers and in-house training

Blockchain start-ups are facing a shortfall of skilled professionals as corporates are tapping the same talent pool with better packages, prompting some small firms to turn to experienced freelancers abroad. While India has 1,500-2,000 blockchain professionals, only 200-400 are actually skilled in the core architecture, experts said. “With around 1,000 job openings, if only 400 are employable, the mismatch in supply and demand is clear,” said Akshay Aggarwal who runs a community of blockchain enthusiasts. According to him, building applications can be an easy task for a developer, but building it from the core is a challenge.

Source – The Economic Times

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Using consumer behaviour, Alibaba’s ‘uni-marketing’ helps companies market brands better

The Chinese multinational, Alibaba group has developed a unique uni-marketing model for its e-commerce platform. It has created a database for consumer behaviour which will help companies and brands to market their products better. Through this database, companies can analyse consumer behaviour and market their products faster, better and in a more diversified way, said Chris Tung, Chief Marketing Officer, Alibaba.

Source – BusinessLine

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Apple, Goldman Sachs to jointly launch credit card paired with iPhone: Report

Goldman Sachs Group has teamed up with Apple to issue credit cards that will be paired with iPhones and will help users manage their money, the Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday, citing people familiar with the matter. It said the card, which will be linked with Apple's Wallet app, will allow users to set spending goals, track rewards, and manage balances. The new cards will be rolled out to employees for testing in next few weeks and will be launched later this year. The deal will benefit both the companies tap into new income sources.

Source – The Economic Times

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Govt harnessing Big Data, AI for policy push, says Nandan Nilekani

Contrary to popular perception, not just companies, even the government is harnessing big data and machine learning to push policies, according to non-executive chairman of Infosys Technologies Nandan Nilekani. “Companies are accumulating data thanks to smartphone usage. Tomorrow, as every device and car has a sensor, data applications is going to be even bigger than what it is today. On the other hand, the rise of machine learning and artificial intelligence are enabling companies to use this data to make all kinds of predictions and judgements,” Nilekani said.

Source – Business Standard

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Spotdraft raises \$1.5M funding led by Binny Bansal-backed 021 Capital

Gurugram-based Spotdraft, which applies AI to extract intelligence from legal documents, has raised \$1.5 million in pre-Series A funding led by Binny Bansal-backed 021 Capital, along with participation from Freshworks co-founder Girish Mathrubootham and Google executive Peeyush Ranjan among others. Spotdraft will utilize the funding to grow its footprint in global markets, targeting both large as well as small and medium enterprises who are looking to cut their legal expenses. The firm uses AI to sweep through legal documents, identify clauses, and see if they adhere with local laws and flag potential mistakes along with remedies that can be applied.

Source – The Economic Times

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