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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Google Tez now integrated with State Bank of India

Reliance Jio prepares strong rural push to boost Jio Phone sales

Google brings health 'Symptom Search' feature to India

Uber may link leaders' pay to gender goal

With analytics, Snapchat to give ad-creators improved insights

Today's View

Olympic Tech

Trailing on our thoughts on 5G technology debuting in **Winter Olympics** at Pyeongchang County in South Korea, there is certainly a lot more originating in tech at this Mega Sports Event. This chapter of the Winter Olympics in South Korea will be etched in history for its extensive adoption of technology, exceeding anything we have seen before. The games' slogan "Passion, Connected" reflects that.

Think of an emerging technology and the Winter Olympics has checked that box. To begin with, **Intel** and South Korean communications provider **KT Corp** joined forces to offer 5G technology at the Winter Games to beam high-bandwidth data around the venue.

Next in line is virtual reality, with **Samsung** operating simulated snowboarding and cross-country skiing competition for fans, as well as a virtual reality "space mission" designed to let guests experience the feeling of lunar gravity. Before the Games, Samsung equipped two Dutch skaters with smart suits that use sensors to track and send data on body postures to their coach on a smartphone app. This enables the coach to then analyse their performance and send athletes feedback / response via vibrations on their wristbands.

The country has also aggressively promoted AI applications to capitalize on Winter Olympics. Around 85 robots have been set up across the venue to help visitors get around events through offering game details, schedules and tips. Even in the absence of proximate robot guide, foreign visitors can communicate with **GenieTalk** - the official interpretation app of the Olympics.

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India to insist on delinking MSMEs from e-commerce at BRICS meet

With China pushing for greater cooperation in e-commerce, India will focus on cooperation amongst MSME, cooperation between service suppliers, business visas and a framework for curbing non-tariff measures.

Source – BusinessLine

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Its conversation mode offers real-time translations from the world's most common languages to Korean.

While the world's largest tech and auto companies are battling to inscribe their names in the sustainable auto tech space, the Mega Event is transporting visitors in self-driven electric cars and buses, across the venues. Leveraging the opportunity, **Hyundai** is showcasing its autonomous fuel cell **Nexo SUV** for visitors to test out. As a testament, the car successfully drove itself all the way from Seoul to Pyeongchang, a journey of several hours, without any human intervention.

Most impressive of all, Drones and Unmanned crafts outfitted with high-definition and thermal-imaging cameras are monitoring the neighborhood in order to ensure safety and security. Additionally, the opening ceremonies boasted of a swanky light show performed by **Intel** drones that closely resembled over 1,200 shooting stars.

And this isn't even an exhaustive list of technologies on display! But so much so for hi-tech presentation, a nasty cybersecurity caused some consternation. This cyberattack took out internet access and telecasts, grounded broadcasters' drones, shut down the Pyeongchang 2018 website, and prevented spectators from printing out reservations to attend the ceremony, resulting in an unusually high number of vacant seats.

We are now excited to see what Japan has to offer in 2020 at the next edition of Inno- Olympics!

Today's News

Google Tez now integrated with State Bank of India

Google said it has integrated Google Tez with SBI, allowing customers of India's largest lender to transact directly from their bank accounts through the mobile payments app. SBI customers can now create a unique UPI ID to carry out the transactions.

To be sure, other state-run banks are also listed on the app and money can be sent to these bank accounts but the bank's UPI ID cannot be generated on the app.

Source – Livemint   READ MORE

Reliance Jio prepares strong rural push to boost Jio Phone sales

Reliance Jio is preparing a rural push for Jio Phone, with an assembly facility already operational in Chennai and another coming up in Tirupati. The company, which shipped the initial batch of 6 million feature phones from a vendor in China, recently started assembly operations in Chennai.

Source – Livemint   READ MORE

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

Airtel, Google partner to offer Android Go-powered smartphones in India

Airtel and Google have partnered to launch low-cost 4G smartphones powered by Android Oreo in India. The entry-level 4G smartphones under Airtel's 'Mera Pehla Smartphone' program will be shipped with Android Oreo (Go edition) starting March this year. Notably, mobile manufacturers Lava and Micromax, will make the first set of 4G handsets powered by Android Go.

Source – NDTV

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Google not obligated to vet websites

Google is not obligated to ensure websites are free from defamatory content before displaying links to search results, Germany's highest court ruled.

The case, coming from "right to be forgotten" debate, had been brought by 2 individuals seeking Google to prevent its search engine from displaying links to websites on which they were verbally attacked.

Source – Reuters

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FB can't avoid privacy suit over biometric face prints

A federal judge in San Francisco ruled that Facebook must face claims that it violated the privacy of millions of users by gathering and storing biometric data without their consent.

Source – Bloomberg

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Google brings health 'Symptom Search' feature to India

As more and more people seek Google's advice first when it comes to health symptoms before visiting a doctor, Google India rolled out its feature called "Symptom Search" in India that lets users find quality health information on their smartphones.

In collaboration with doctors from Apollo Hospitals, Google will add tailor-made info about commonly-searched symptoms in its Search. When a user searches for symptoms like "cough and pain", the app will show a list of related conditions.

Source – Business Standard

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Uber may link leaders' pay to gender goal

Uber may link the compensation of its senior leaders with its target of increasing the number of women in its workforce as it attempts to prove it is changing its infamous company culture.

After taking over, Dara Khosrowshahi, now CEO of Uber, has been trying to take the edge off of Uber's ultra-aggressive company culture. He listed a new set of cultural norms for the company, replacing the much-criticized 14 values that guided the behavior of Uber executives and prompted them to sometimes break rules and norms in pursuit of growth.

Source – Livemint

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With analytics, Snapchat to give ad-creators improved insights

Snapchat is aiming to help brands target ads and get better data on their advertising campaigns. With more than 187 million daily active users globally watching over 10 billion videos per day on its platform, the firm has brought in analytics for content creators to help build their presence.

Snapchat's new analytic tools are designed to make the platform more appealing to brands, and will offer consumers performance-tracking as well as more detailed audience breakdowns. Statistics will include view counts and engagement time, as well as audience data such as age, gender and location.

Source – BusinessLine

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Tencent leads in Gaana's $115 million funding round

Tencent is leading a $115-million round of funding into music streaming service Gaana, continuing its pace of investments in India after backing domestic giants Flipkart and Ola.

Tencent is the majority shareholder in Tencent Music Entertainment, China's largest music streaming business, and also operates JOOX, a leading music streaming platform in Southeast Asia. It also holds a stake in Sweden's Spotify, the world's leading music streaming service. Gaana will use the funds on tech, particularly focusing on AI to personalize music experiences for consumers.

Source – The Economic Times

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MedPlus founder launches platform BatchTag.com

Madhukar Gangadi, CEO of MedPlus, has launched an online platform to sell a range of products at factory prices. BatchTag.com will bring together a virtual group of potential buyers and push the orders to original equipment manufacturers.

On the pricing front, BatchTag is promising at least 25-30% savings compared with those sold by competitors.

Source – BusinessLine

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Now link Aadhaar with PF account via Umang app

EPFO launched the facility of linking Aadhaar with universal account number, through Umang mobile app.

The facility on e-KYC portal has added a new feature to link UAN with Aadhaar online using biometric credentials. It also launched e-nomination facility.

Source – Livemint

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Bengaluru-based hospitality AI platform Trilyo gets Rs 1.62 crore

Bengaluru-based AI platform for hospitality industry, Trilyo, raised $250,000 in funding from Startup Buddy, Pulse Venture Capital and others. Trilyo, a B2B hospitality industry SaaS company that offers AI-driven voice chat-based solutions will utilize the capital primarily to scale operations in India and South-East Asia.

Source – BusinessLine

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