



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended to June 30

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Startups should help solve society's teething problems

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Today's View

The Digital Sportsmen

The line separating digital and physical is blurring. And digital natives are carrying their digital-first habits and behaviors with them everywhere they go. With this, even the landscape of sports is changing. Where on one hand, viewership of traditional sports leagues is not growing, it grew historically, for eSports – the new frontier.

Competitive video gaming, or eSports as it's popularly known, is expanding rapidly. According to Reuters, there are over 250 million competitive gamers around the world – way ahead of total competitors in all the Olympic sports combined.

At first glance, one might find the e-sports phenomenon a little 'out of the league'. Why would thousands of people watch someone else play live video games and pay for it? A logical explanation for this is the emergence of a key theme – a meeting space that bridges the gap between physical events and the digital realm. For digital natives, the line between spectating and participating has blurred by the nature of how young people consume and interact with content.

Platforms like **Twitch** are focusing on live streaming of video games, which includes broadcasts of eSport competitions. Amazon identified this potential early on, making a smart acquisition by scooping up the company for \$970 million in 2014 – now a leading live video streaming platform with over 15

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Indian social media users more prone to data breach

India's Facebook and social media users at a greater risk of user data breach and of giving information about themselves on social platforms.



Source – The Economic Times

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Date – 28th Mar 18

million daily active users. Valve's video game Defense of the Ancients 2 (Dota 2), one of the most watched video games at the event 'The International', had over 92 million online viewers, with the majority based in China. While collectively over 509 million hours of play was watched, 465 million hours came from viewers there.

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In China, besides becoming a source of entertainment and massive business, eSports has become a source of national pride. In December last year, more than 40,000 fans assembled at Beijing's Bird's Nest Olympic stadium to watch the finale of world championships for **League of Legends** — one of the most-played video games on this planet. eSports is also set to be included as a medal sport for the first time at the **2022 Asian Games** in Hangzhou, China.

According to statistics company **SuperData**, the eSports craze itself has brought in \$1.5 billion in revenue in 2017 and made space for professional careers in e-Sports. About 500 eSport professionals around the world have earned over \$150,000 through prizes individually.

Being inherently digital in nature, technologies like virtual reality and live chats are lending the much needed zing to eSports. With the **International Olympics Committee** (IOC) taking steps to recognize eSports and Paris 2024 considering it to be a medal event at the game, eSports might go mainstream soon.

Today's News

PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended to June 30

CBDT extended the deadline of PAN linking with Aadhaar till June 30. Earlier, the CBDT had fixed March 31 as the deadline to link the documents while filing the Income Tax Returns. The government told the SC that it might extend the deadline as some more time would be needed to conclude the prolonged hearing of the Aadhaar case.

Source – *Business Today*

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No Aadhaar data breach from our end, UIDAI tells SC

There has not been "a single breach of biometric data from our end," Ajay Bhushan Pandey, CEO of the UIDAI told to SC. "Aadhaar is privacy by design and biometric is not shared with anybody except for purposes of national security." He added.

Source – *Livemint*

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

BillDesk eyes sale at up to \$2 billion valuation

BillDesk has held talks to explore a sale, as its private equity investors are seeking an exit amid increasing interest in the payments market.

BillDesk has held sale talks with three payment giants—PayU, American Express and PayPal. The company seeking a valuation of \$1.5-2 billion but the potential buyers have been unwilling to meet its asking price.

Source – *Livemint*

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Waymo Jaguar tie-up with 20000 car self-driving fleet

Waymo and Jaguar Land Rover have inked a deal that will add tens of thousands of all-electric I-Pace SUVs to the Alphabet unit's growing lineup of self-driving taxis.

The I-Pace, which made its global debut earlier this month, is not as much of a people-mover as Waymo's Chrysler Pacifica minivans, but it will serve as a more high-end ride for those willing to pay a premium for their driverless transportation.

Source – *The Verge*

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India to be ready with 5G roadmap by June

India wants to take a lead position in adopting 5G technology and will prepare the road map for it by June, Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan said.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Startups should help solve society's teething problems

Indian startups should focus on building "business models" for the society, which can solve teething problems like making water available for every household or bringing healthcare to the rural masses, Union minister for commerce, industry and civil aviation Suresh Prabhu said.

Prabhu spoke on the power of ideas to transform lives of people and why it is important to convert ideas into business models to make them work and survive.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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SBI Card to leverage Artificial Intelligence, chatbots

SBI credit card issuer will soon leverage new age technologies like Artificial Intelligence and chatbots to enrich customer experience for its nearly 5.9 million users. "We are going to come out with major interventions on the technology front. We might bring chatbots, AI to see that customers benefit immensely," Hardayal Prasad, Managing Director & CEO, SBI Card, said.

In his interview after assuming charge of SBI Card in Feb this year, Prasad said SBI Card is not worried about the rapid strides made by digital payment products such as e-wallets and UPI in the Indian market.

Source – *BusinessLine*

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Digital transformation for digital governance

Microsoft conducted a session on the topic of "Digital Transformation for Digital Governance," in Patna. The initiative was to acknowledge the efforts put by various state governments in the country and highlight their achievements in bringing the benefits of digital technologies to their citizens.

The session covered topics ranging from mobility to cloud to automation and using Internet of Things to make cities smarter.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Google Street View' proposal rejected by Government

A proposal to roll out Google Street View, an application through which one can explore cities, tourist spots, hills and rivers using 360-degree panoramic and street-level imagery, has been rejected by the government.

Union minister Hansraj Gangaram Ahir said Google had submitted a proposal on the Google Street View for the government's permission in July 2015 which allows users to explore places around the world through 360-degree panoramic street level imagery and view public area.

Source – *Livemint*

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Huawei opens innovation lab in IIT-Bangalore

Huawei Technologies India, the R&D centre of Huawei, has opened a software defined network innovation lab in IIT Bangalore.

The innovation lab has been funded by Huawei, as a part of its ICT industry ecosystem development initiative under its Corporate Social Responsibility programme, and will focus on research activities in software defined networks.

Source – *BusinessLine*

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Google Wins Shopify as Cloud Customer

Google signed a deal with Shopify to help host the e-commerce company's online stores on the Alphabet unit's cloud service. The deal brings a new, fast-growing customer into Google's fold as cloud chief Diane Greene tries to catch Microsoft and Amazon in the lucrative business of internet-based computing.

Source – *DataCenterKnowledge*

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Foxconn unit to buy Belkin for US\$866m

FIT Hon Teng Ltd, part of the contract manufacturing giant Foxconn Tech Group, agreed to buy Belkin in the latest move by billionaire Terry Gou to expand in branded goods. FIT will pay US\$866 million in cash for Belkin, a maker of Wi-Fi routers, mobile device chargers and keyboards etc.

Source – *The Business Times*

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