



Various fintechs are also taking steps to leverage affective computing's potential. For example, Chinese fintech and e-commerce giant **Alibaba** is teaming up with **Tsinghua University** to research and develop human-computer interaction technologies like affective computing to study the ways in which computers could read human emotions and interpret mannerisms, and even simulate those human characteristics on their own.

Automobile firms are exploring this technology for building an in-car emotion sensor that can identify when a driver is drowsy or distracted and can take action in an emergency situation by alerting a friend or family member. Even infotainment companies including the **BBC, CBS and Disney** are partnering with companies like **Affectiva**, to test the effectiveness of advertisements, and how viewers react to film trailers and TV shows using affective computing technology.

Considering the wide range of potential applications of affective computing, it won't be a surprise if we get to see more such products being developed for the general public using this technology. However, the firms need to tread a cautious path considering the data security and privacy concerns to make such products engaging as well as safe to use.

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## Today's News

### How Indian Police is being trained to tackle cybercrime

Personnel from nearly 1,000 police stations in Karnataka will be trained to handle cybercrime as the state plans one cybercrime station per district by 2019.

"We are starting from zero," Praveen Sood, Director General of Police (CID), who has begun an intensive two-stage training programme on how to deal with hacking, online harassment, credit/debit card fraud, data theft et al, for ranks till the level of constable. He maintains that training personnel remains the challenge when it comes to dealing with digital crime.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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### Flipkart-Amazon combine may face close scrutiny for competition aspects

The possible coming together of online retailers Amazon and Flipkart is likely to face close scrutiny on competition issues as the combined entity will be a dominant player in the fast growing Indian e-commerce market.

While there is no formal announcement from any quarter on the possible multi-billion dollar deal, reports indicate that discussions involving Flipkart and Amazon are going on.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Manish Kulkarni

### Digital exposure to help midsize IT companies post higher growth

Midsize Indian IT services companies may post steady growth on the back of higher digital technology exposure, especially at a time when large companies are projected to have cautious forecast, said analysts.

While some of the mid-cap IT firms have registered strong growth, analysts have said they would continue to see higher revenue growth fuelled by digital deals.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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### Cyber threat to government websites

The shutdown of nearly 10 government websites for a good part of Friday led to an immediate fear of mass cyber-attack though it later turned out to be a storage system crash. Hacking is the Damocles' sword that hangs over the cyber world.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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### Wipro sells 63% stake in airport IT services joint venture

India's third largest software services firm Wipro has sold 63 per cent of its stake in Wipro Airport IT to Antariksh Softech in Rs 3.15 crore deal.

Wipro Airport IT Services Ltd is JV between Wipro and Delhi International Airport Ltd

Source – *The Economic Times*

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## Is our data safe there? Clients ask app makers

App developers are facing increasing scrutiny from clients who want to make sure that there is no breach in privacy and security for users, especially in the wake of data leaks involving social media giant Facebook, which shared info of about 87 million users to British company Cambridge Analytica, allegedly without their consent.

Efforts are being made to educate users about the reasons behind the permissions that the apps seek, saying consumer ignorance is a huge factor in rising issues surrounding violation of privacy.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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## Cryptocurrency traders use old gold in drive to draw Islamic investors

A local start-up company founded last year, OneGram, is issuing a gold-backed cryptocurrency — part of efforts to convince Muslims that investing in cryptocurrencies complies with their faith.

The global surge of interest in bitcoin, ethereum and other cryptocurrencies extends into the Gulf and Southeast Asia, the main centers of Islamic finance. That has triggered debate among Islamic scholars over whether cryptocurrencies are religiously permissible. Cryptocurrency companies are seeking to sway the debate by launching instruments based on physical assets and certified as valid by Islamic advisors.

Source – *Reuters*

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## Organisations are redesigning jobs around AI and robotics

In the past year, organisations have become laser-focused on how automation induced job shifts will impact individuals, according to Deloitte's sixth annual Human Capital Trends report, "The rise of social enterprise".

The research shows over four in 10 companies believe automation will have a major impact on jobs, and 61 per cent are actively redesigning jobs around artificial intelligence and robotics. Against this backdrop, companies and individuals realise the traditional career model is becoming defunct.

Source – *Business Standard*

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## Everstone to hire a chief digital officer

India and South-East Asia focused private equity fund Everstone Group is planning to hire a chief digital officer who would look after the strategic digital game-plan for its portfolio companies. Founded in 2006 by Kapur and Sameer Sain, Everstone Capital has close to \$4 billion of assets under management.

Source – *Mint*

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## Paytm to launch a dedicated app for investing in mutual funds

Paytm, India's largest mobile-first financial services platform, is planning to launch a dedicated app- 'Paytm Money,' which will facilitate investments in mutual funds. The new app will be launched in around six weeks.

"To begin with, Paytm Money will offer mutual funds from top 10-12 AMCs and will slowly increase the number," said Pravin Jadhav, Senior Vice President- Paytm Money.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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## How Delhi-based Roadcast is helping businesses track shipments in real-time

Managing a business efficiently is an arduous task, especially when assets and resources remain out of sight most of the time. With GPS tracking and well-integrated software, the job can be optimised and made simpler.

Source – *Business Standard*

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## Taxi operator Meru Cabs looks to turn to B2B clients

Meru Cabs is looking to sharpen focus on B2B clients, in an overhaul it hopes will help shore up its revenue in a market hogged by two heavily-funded players — Ola and Uber.

Meru Cabs, which started operations by serving B2C and B2B clients, is looking to double down on its B2B offering.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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