

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

SBI, other banks using AI big time to improve efficiency, cut costs

Use 16-digit virtual No. for KYC from today

India's tax dept offers instant e-PAN based on Aadhaar

GNFC, NITI Aayog join hands to research on Blockchain tech

Today's View

Getting ATMs Back in Order

With less than 200 ATMs for every million people, India has a very low ratio of ATMs compared to its population. The current number in India is around 2.3 lacs ATMs. Although with digital payments catching up, this might not be a showstopper for the Indian economy but if we draw a comparison for developed economies like Korea and Canada, this ratio is 10 times.

Not only are the number of ATMs disproportionate in India, they could be unsafe too. In 2016, there was a huge data breach on the backend where around 3.2 million debit cards belonging to major banks were compromised in India.

According to a recent **RBI** directive, all Banks in India have been asked to upgrade the **Operating System (OS)** on the ATMs and get rid of **Windows XP** and other unsupported operating systems.

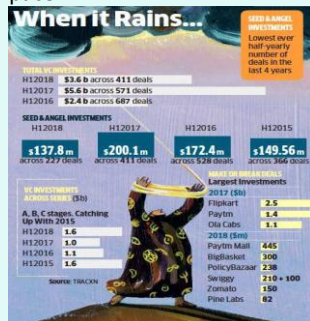
Running ATMs on Windows XP, which has been discontinued since 2014, could prove to be disastrous. The security loopholes and vulnerabilities on Windows XP make it a very easy target for fraudsters and hackers which has led RBI to step into action. The timetable shared by RBI states that banks must reach 25 per cent depreciation by September 2018, 50 per cent by December 2018 and 75 per cent by March 2019.

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Startup funding picks up pace, 411 deals in H1

The tide is turning for the startup ecosystem as venture capital investments into early and midstage deals pick up pace.



Source – The Economic Times

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Date – 02nd July 18

Apart from upgrading the unsupported OS, RBI has also asked all banks to implement anti-skimming solutions in ATMs to protect customers from phishing. ATM skimmers are add-on devices that fraudsters attach over the cash machine's card slot. These devices have the capability of 'reading' information from the card's magnetic stripe and then either store or transmit the information to the fraudster, who then clones the card using the information. Anti-skimming devices send out signals that prevent the skimmer from functioning. Just last week, a six-membered interstate ATM card cloning gang was arrested that followed a similar modus operandi.

Other security measures directed by RBI are - secure ATMs with BIOS passwords, disable USB and autorun, patch OS and software, secure terminal access and time-based administration access apart from other measures. Similarly, the white-listing solutions directed by RBI would allow only trusted applications to work on the ATMs and block any other application that looks unreliable.

With more than 75 crore transactions happening through these ATMs in the month of April 2018 itself, it is pertinent that these security measures be implemented in our ATMs at the earliest.

Today's News

SBI, other banks using AI big time to improve efficiency, cut costs

Indian banks, including state-owned SBI and Bank of Baroda, have started deploying artificial intelligence (AI) in a big way to improve efficiency, detect human behaviour and reduce operational costs.

SBI, the India's largest lender, has SBI Intelligent Assistant (SIA), a smart chat assistant, evolved from the "cutting edge technology of artificial intelligence that efficiently resolves queries of NRI customers, similar to that of a bank representative. "It provides instant solutions on everyday banking queries in the chat box on the SBI portal," the state-run lender said.

Source – The Economic Times

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Use 16-digit virtual No. for KYC from today

The Unique Identification Authority of India's (UIDAI)'s virtual ID system will kick in from Sunday, allowing you to generate a 16-digit number that can be shared with telecom companies and several other service providers in case you do not wish to disclose your Aadhaar number for completing electronic know-your-customer (eKYC) formalities.

Sunday's launch is only the first stage with the new tool, meant to protect your privacy, to be fully operational after August 31 when banks and other service providers will also have to roll out the VID facility.

Source – The Economic Times

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

Now, Mobikwik takes a swipe at 'unfair' UPI

Controversies around the Unified Payments Interface just don't seem to die. After the WhatsApp payments issue, now it is the turn of domestic digital payment company Mobikwik to raise a stink around the UPI platform, calling it discriminatory. In a blog post published by chief executive Bipin Preet Singh, Mobikwik raised its voice against a government sponsored cashback scheme on the BHIM-UPI application.

Source – The Economic Times

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BankBazaar ties up with Early Salary, CASHe to offer short term loans

Online financial marketplace BankBazaar has tied up with Early Salary and CASHe to launch short-term personal loan products. These are loans for a period of less than 15 days and will be aimed primarily at young professionals.

Source – The Economic Times

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Data processing and storage tussle cloud WhatsApp Payments launch in India

Even as speculation continues around the launch of WhatsApp Payments in India, the company seems to be at loggerheads with the authorities over storage and processing of user data. The company's privacy policy specifies that users in the country should agree to their payments data being stored in the US and other countries.

Source – Business Standard

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India's tax dept offers instant e-PAN based on Aadhaar

The tax department on Friday launched the facility of e-PAN on a real-time basis, a move which is expected to reduce the interaction with the department and help taxpayers generate the permanent account number (PAN) without any hassle.

The facility is free of cost and you can log onto the income tax portal to generate the e-PAN. It is available for resident individual tax payers and not for Hindu undivided family (HUF), firms, trusts and companies, and is open for a limited period on a first-come, first-served basis for valid Aadhaar holders. You will not need to submit any documents. The e-PAN will be generated using the details available in Aadhaar. So, you need to make sure that these are details updated because the e-KYC will be done using the Aadhaar database.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Investors welcome BSE's new platform for startups

Investors in the startup ecosystem applauded the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) decision to launch a platform for new age companies. "It's a great step towards easier access to capital and bringing liquidity to early stage investments. All developed economies have similar platforms, and this will increase the depth and attractiveness of early-stage investments for entrepreneurs and investors," said Girish Shivani, Co-Founder, YourNest.

The platform which is expected to go live on July 9 will facilitate the listing of companies across sectors such as IT, ITES, biotechnology and life sciences, 3D printing, space technology and commerce, AI, big data, robotics, and others.

Source – *Moneycontrol*

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GNFC, NITI Aayog join hands to research on Blockchain tech

Niti Aayog and fertiliser major Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC) on Saturday entered into an agreement to undertake joint research and exchange and disseminate learnings to use Blockchain Technology for fertiliser subsidy management.

The two bodies signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to work together towards implementing a Proof-of-Concept (POC) application. Under the SOI, the two organisations would also undertake interaction and discussions on use of block chain technology for specific needs of fertiliser subsidy management. Insights and outcomes of the POC will enable NITI Aayog to suggest policy recommendations and actions in strengthening the subsidy mechanism, making it more transparent and immune to leakages.

Source – *BusinessLine*

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HAL-like robot to assist astronaut in space odyssey

A science fiction-inspired robot hardwired to assist astronauts will launch from Florida early Friday morning to become the first personal, artificial intelligence powered companion in space. The Crew Interactive Mobile Companion, or CIMON, is an English-speaking droid roughly the size of a basketball that will help German astronaut Alexander Gerst conduct experiments on the International Space Station.

Source – *Business Standard*

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Rural Ahoy: IBM spots a Rs 5,000-crore opportunity in agritech

Global IT major IBM is looking at technological inputs for the farm sector to be a Rs 5,000-crore opportunity in the next five years, according to a senior official. "IBM sees a Rs 5,000-crore opportunity from agritech in India over the next five years," Himanshu Goyal, India sales and alliances leader, The Weather Company, which is an IBM division, told PTI here.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Facebook had data-sharing partnership with 52 firms

Facebook entered into data-sharing partnership with 52 technology companies, including Chinese companies like Alibaba, Huawei, Lenovo and Oppo, the social networking giant said in its latest response to Energy and Commerce Committee of the US House of Representatives.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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