

**NEWS HIGHLIGHTS**

Google Pay looks to gain market share through kirana stores

SAS announces \$1 Billion investment in Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Swiggy spreads 'Smiles' among its delivery partners with welfare scheme

SoftBank, Toyota in talks to invest \$1 billion in Uber's self-driving unit

**Today's View**

**Technology in Oil and Gas Industry**

Like every other industry, technology is driving change in oil and gas industry as well. The industry generates reams of data—sensor data from upstream, midstream, and downstream operations, geological and geophysical, drilling and completions data, geolocation, text files, video and more.

A new **McKinsey Global Institute (MGI)** report identifies a dozen technologies, ranging from the mobile Internet to cloud computing to advanced genomics, which could have a combined economic impact of \$550 billion to \$1 trillion a year in 2025. Efficiency and Safety are the two most pivotal aspects in the oil and gas industry. Artificial intelligence, Machine Learning, Automation etc. are driving Oil & Gas Technology Solutions to a new level.

Some analytics companies like **Drillinginfo** deliver business-critical insights to oil and gas industries through SaaS platform built on industry-leading data and energy analytics. This data delivers value across the upstream and downstream supply chain empowering exploration and production. **PetroDE** provides dynamic data integration and visualization for oil and gas professionals.

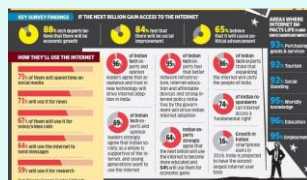
**WellDog** is an energy-focused technical services company that provides practical engineering and business solutions in a high volume, cost-effective manner to this industry. Similarly, **Wireless Seismic**, is an innovator of real-

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**Next billion will use internet to advance their social standing**

A study by Booking Holdings, 'The Next Billion Online', found that 95% of respondents in India believe that the 'Next Billion in India' will use the Internet as a tool to advance their social standing.



Source – The Economic Times

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Date – 18<sup>th</sup> Mar 19

time and cable-free seismic data acquisition systems that help to find geologic faults faster. With IIoT integration, the production data is captured in real-time through embedded sensors and the right automation of data communications systems enables companies to gather information from assets anywhere and make informed decisions.

One of the most significant industries realizing the benefits of Augmented Reality (AR) is the oil and gas sector. It has been quick to recognize the operational benefits AR can offer as well as the ROI these benefits have the possibility to stimulate. The most common applications include 'pre-made scenarios' that cover all the standard procedures in a visual way and the other is to enhance remote service capabilities. Companies like XMReality and RE'FLEKT provide AR solutions which have had a great impact on some of the world's largest corporations such as ABB, Siemens and the Haas Group.

Chevron announced a far-reaching, seven-year partnership with Microsoft in 2017 worth billions of dollars for procuring technology that can make a difference. For instance, if a Chevron oil rig goes down off the coast of Nigeria, a field worker there can wear Microsoft's augmented reality glasses so an expert in Houston can see exactly what the field worker sees on the ground and point to what needs to be fixed.

Similarly, with data-intensive opportunities available through the growth and expansion of the Internet of Things, Blockchain could be an important vessel to carry the industry's data transformation forward.

We believe that in an industry of such global reach and complexity, embracing and enacting new solutions would not be easy but such technological reforms are urgently needed.

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## Today's News

### Google Pay looks to gain market share through kirana stores

After peer-to-peer (P2P) and bill payments, Google Pay is looking to win over customers of smaller offline retailers or kirana stores. While Google had announced plans to partner with point-of-sale providers to on-board retail merchants, it is now piloting transactions based on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to be made by consumers while making offline purchases, according to two people aware of the matter.

"It will bring the convenience of card payments onto the smart phone--the only thing required here will be, instead of the card swipe, customers will have to share the mobile number at the billing counter," said a top payment executive aware of the matter. Consumers will get a 'collect' request on their Google Pay application and make the payment by inserting the UPI PIN. "There are small-scale pilots that are being run across retail stores in the country. As of now there are no banner advertisements that are being done, only early adopters can test the product," said one of the persons cited above. "The rollout will happen over the next few months."

Source – The Economic Times

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

### SoftBank, Toyota in talks to invest \$1 billion in Uber's self-driving unit

A group of investors led by SoftBank Group Corp. and Toyota Motor Corp is in talks to invest \$1 billion or more into Uber's self-driving car unit, which would value the unit at \$5 billion to \$10 billion, said two people familiar with the talks. The investment would provide a cash injection for Uber's self-driving program that is costing the money-losing startup hundreds of millions of dollars without generating revenue.

Uber and SoftBank declined to comment. A Toyota spokesman said the automaker "constantly reviews and considers various options for investment" but does not have anything to announce.

Source – Mint

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### India's first-time internet users are addicted to these quirky Chinese apps

Some of China's quirkiest social-media firms are signing up hundreds of millions of consumers in India, tech's biggest untapped market, looking to capture users who aren't already locked into Facebook, Twitter or other American apps.

Chinese content-sharing apps such as Bigo Inc.'s Like and Bigo Live, along with Bytedance Ltd.'s Helo and TikTok, are taking off in this country of 1.3 billion, where most people are getting online for the first time using low-cost smartphones and dirt-cheap data plans.

Source – Business Standard

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## SAS announces \$1 Billion investment in Artificial Intelligence (AI)

SAS, driving the future of analytics, is investing \$1 billion in AI over the next three years through software innovation, education, expert services and more. The commitment builds on SAS' already strong foundation in AI which includes advanced analytics, machine learning, deep learning, natural language processing (NLP) and computer vision. Educational programs and expert services will equip business leaders and data scientists for the future of AI, with the technology, skills and support they need to transform their organizations.

"At SAS, we remain dedicated to our customers and their success, and this investment is another example of that commitment," said SAS CEO Jim Goodnight. "With our innovative capabilities in AI, SAS helps businesses deter damaging fraud, fight deadly disease, better manage risk, provide exemplary service to customers and citizens, and much more."

Source – PR Newswire

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## Swiggy spreads 'Smiles' among its delivery partners with welfare scheme

Food delivery start-up Swiggy said it was providing health care and financial access for its 125,000 delivery partners spread across 100 cities for over a year. The Bengaluru-based firm said it started the programme, Swiggy Smiles, after undertaking an in-depth exercise in understanding their needs and wishes. The initiative focuses on their welfare, personal development, and motivation, and includes benefits ranging from on-call doctors to facilitating education loans at fair interest rates.

Swiggy, which raised \$1-billion funding last December, said the programme had been a success, with more than 55,000 delivery partners having availed benefits. "Delivering millions of orders each month, we believe that our delivery partners are the backbone of Swiggy," said Sachin Kotangale, vice-president, operations. "Swiggy Smiles is a concrete step in our long-term vision of creating a marketplace that will provide them with best-in-class benefits."

Source – Business Standard

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## ICICI Lombard partners with Mobikwik to offer an affordable online fraud protection policy

ICICI Lombard one of India's leading private sector non-life insurance company in India, and Mobikwik, one of India's largest digital financial services platform, announced a strategic partnership to provide cyber-insurance cover. The relationship aims to provide protection against unauthorized and fraudulent transactions online, across bank accounts, debit/credit cards and mobile wallets. Mobikwik users can avail the Commercial cyber Insurance policy underwritten by ICICI Lombard and enjoy the benefit of a stress-free and secured transaction for its users who opt for Cyber Insurance using the app. The cyber-insurance can be availed at only Rs. 99/- month and with a sum insured of Rs. 50,000/-.

Source – Equity Bulls

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## Codiant launches "Mobipayz" an online digital wallet app

Codiant a tech powerhouse in many categories, today, as part of its efforts launched a fastest, easy-to-use and secured online digital wallet app solution-- Mobipayz. Digital Wallets, heralded to be one of the best innovations in the field of technology, has emboldened the inventive spirits of the company to match the rapid pace of cards and payment industry evolving at a breakneck speed.

Mobipayz allows customers to add money quickly from their debit/credit card through multiple payment gateways like Braintree, Stripe, and Authorize.Net. Furthermore, it allows sending and receiving money through a mobile number and a special QR code given to all registered users.

Source – Open PR

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## Mobility startups attract big bucks

Around half a dozen startups in the urban mobility space — like bike taxi player Rapido, car & bike pooling venture Quick Ride, and bike rental startup Bounce — are in advanced discussions to raise growth capital from such large investors as private equity firm WestBridge Capital, South African media giant Naspers, venture firm Sequoia Capital India and Facebook co-founder Eduardo Saverin's B Capital. These companies aim to fill the void of broken public transport infrastructure by offering services like self-drive cars or scooters, bike taxis, and carpool.

Source – The Economic Times

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