



## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Sebi working on framework to regulate bitcoin market

Government to work with startups on tech support for agri schemes

Petroleum products to be sold on e-commerce platforms soon: Pradhan

Amazon India launches marketplace for SMEs

Aadhaar deadline extended

## Today's View

### Agribot

As we know, the world population has been growing rapidly resulting in swelling demand for food. By 2050 the world's population is expected to reach 9.1 billion compared to 7.5 billion today. To meet the needs of this rapidly growing human population, we need to grow more food than ever before – accelerating food production by close to 70%. And for this, our machinery needs to be made smarter, not bigger. In this context robotic technology holds the key to the future of farming.

Taking into account shortage of manual labour and resources, the introduction of robotic technology in Indian agriculture is inevitable. Further, the agribot would play a vital role in making agriculture an exciting, attractive and engaging high-tech profession for India's youth.

Agribots are extensively being used in developing countries to boost crop yield drastically. Self-directed tractor robots are being used for performing various farm related activities such as tilling, ploughing, etc. Further, robots are also being leveraged for purposes like spraying, ploughing, weed controlling, farm navigation, packing, sowing, etc.

A **Bosch** start-up company, **Deepfield Robotics** has developed technologies for sustainable farming. Their robots navigate plant rows, sense the plants, and send the data to the farmers to help optimise seed breeding. Netherland-based **Lely** has a fleet of over 20,000 milking robots installed around the world. The Lely Astronaut A4 box allows cows to be milked only when they choose so, instead of when the farmer requires it to be done.

Similarly, Swiss company **ecoRobotix** has developed a solar-powered weeding robot which applies machine vision, GPS and other sensors to precisely eradicate weeds.

## INTERESTING NEWS

**E-commerce start-ups launch a lobby group Indiatech.org**

India's most valued Internet companies — Flipkart and Ola — are grouping together with peers including travel portal MakeMyTrip to launch an industry body that will represent the interests of local ventures and aim to create a moat against deep-pocketed global rivals, in one of the world's most prized markets for digital commerce.

### 'Nasscom' of Etail

Key agenda includes seeking 'level playing field', fighting against 'predatory pricing' and local job creation

Investors like Tiger Global, SoftBank and Steadview have been invited to join

Group likely to kick off ops next month; will appoint a former bureaucrat as CEO

Source- The Economic Times

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Date- 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 17

Further California-based Abundant Robotics is developing robots capable of picking apples without bruising the fruit.

India, despite being enormously agriculture heavy and agriculture dependent, still is dependent on manual labours. However, with advanced technology, modernisation and mechanisation such future of agricultural activities and equipment is changing. India-based **Asimov Robotics** has developed agri robots for farm operations. While Mahindra & Mahindra recently launched its driverless tractors in Chennai – a revolutionary technology set to take farm mechanization to new heights.

We hope this combination of existing practices and advanced technology enables the world to take on certain pressing challenges around food security and improve the livelihood of people.

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## Today's News

### SBI Card enables payments using Bharat QR

SBI Card, the country's second largest credit card issuer has announced the integration of Bharat QR on its payment platform. With the introduction of this technology, SBI Card customers can make QR code based payments via the 'Scan & Pay' function in the SBI Card mobile app.

With the Bharat QR Code payment option, cardholders will be able to transact without using the physical card, both at Point of Sale and online.

Source- *The Economic Times*

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### Government to work with startups on tech support for agri schemes

The government decided to work in tandem with agri startups for technologies required for efficient implementation of its flagship programmes like soil health card, irrigation and crop insurance, among others.

In a meeting with agri-startup firms held, Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said that farmer-friendly technologies are the need of the hour and some specific technologies are required for each of its key schemes. He directed his ministry officials to work in small core-teams with start-up firms in this regard.

Source- *The Economic Times*

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### Sebi working on framework to regulate bitcoin market

India's market regulator is planning a framework to regulate the country's bitcoin market, said three persons with direct knowledge of the matter.

In its first meeting on 19 September, the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi) recently formed committee on financial and regulatory technologies (CFRT) concluded that it may be crucial to regulate bitcoin transactions to ensure that India's public issue norms are not breached.

Source- *Mint*

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## Digitisation to boost India's GDP, markets: Morgan Stanley

The government thrust on digitisation could result in a threefold increase in India's gross domestic product (GDP) and equity market capitalisation in the next 10 years, said Morgan Stanley.

India's digitisation drive has raised our confidence in long-term growth estimates. We forecast GDP to reach \$ 6 trillion, equity market capitalisation to rise to \$ 6.1 trillion and the market value of financials and consumer sectors to hit \$ 1.8 trillion and \$ 2 trillion, respectively, by 2027.

Source- *Stockmarket.in*

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## Need better policies to fulfil Digital India vision: Telcos

Telecom operators on Wednesday said that while they are investing a lot on developing future technologies for better services, the sector also needs some relief from the government in terms of taxes, regulatory norms and spectrum cost.

Gopal Vittal, CEO and Managing Director, India and South Asia, Bharti Airtel said that taxation on the industry is very high, at 29-32 per cent. Spectrum costs is one of the highest with tariff being one of the lowest. All of this need to change to realise the dream and vision of Digital India.

Source- *Business Line*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Pankaj Tadas

## Petroleum products to be sold on e-commerce platforms soon: Pradhan

Soon, every petroleum product would be available on e-commerce platforms. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that we have already got permissions to do that. When I presented the idea, a lot of people were skeptical, and now it is becoming a reality.

The ministry wanted home delivery of fuel as a push to digital transactions, post demonetisation, and reduce the long queues outside fuel outlets.

Source- Business Standard

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## Aadhaar deadline extended

The Centre on Wednesday extended the deadline for obtaining Aadhaar for availing government schemes and subsidies by three months to December 31.

The extension is, however, only for those who are yet to apply for Aadhaar, an order issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said. As many as 135 schemes, including the free cooking gas (LPG) to poor women, kerosene and fertilizer subsidy, targeted public distribution system and MGNREGA will be covered by the extension.

Source- Business Standard

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## Fortinet offers essential cyber-safety tips amidst escalating cyber-attacks

Fortinet warns businesses and individuals in India to brace for escalating cyber-attacks as cyber-criminals expand their targets to home network devices and mobile devices.

Fortinet's latest Global Threat Landscape Report for Q2 2017 revealed that 90% of organizations recorded attacks targeting system and device vulnerabilities that were at least 3 years old, even though updates and patches that corrected those vulnerabilities had long been available.

Source- The Economic Times

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## Data is the oxygen for a digital economy: Mukesh Ambani

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani said that India is poised to grow from a \$2.5 trillion economy to a \$7 trillion one over the next decade to become one of the world's Top 3 economies, but to make that happen the country's telecoms and IT industry would need to play a foundational role and create the necessary digital infrastructure.

Calling data the "oxygen" of the digital economy, he said the telecom industry had the urgent task of empowering 1.3 billion Indians with the tools needed to flourish in the digital marketplace.

Source- The Economic Times

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## Amazon India launches marketplace for SMEs

Amazon.in has announced the launch of Amazon Business, a new marketplace on the platform to meet the procurement needs of small and medium businesses such as technology and service companies, manufacturers, universities, schools and offices.

Business sellers registered with Amazon can now offer small and medium businesses easy access to over 10 crore products along with GST compliant invoices. SMEs across India can also benefit from technology-led solutions built specifically for businesses, attractive pricing and a convenient shopping experience.

Source- Business Line

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## Districts to be rated on skilling, e-Payments, housing, crop cover

For the annual PM awards, four priority programmes have been identified under which the best districts will be chosen in 2018. One of them is the 'Promotion of Digital Payments' and period of consideration is April 1, 2016, to December 31, 2017.

The Centre decided to go for demonetisation last November, putting 86% of the currency out of circulation while stressing the importance of digital payments.

Source- The Economic Times

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