



vehicle information and municipal traffic data to understand road conditions in real time. When an area at high risk for an incident is identified, **Waycare** alerts traffic agencies when and where to take preventive action.

Artificial intelligence coupled with cloud computing and Internet of Things (IoT) technology can be a powerful measure to achieve public safety. US-based oil company **Royal Dutch Shell** has partnered with Microsoft to try an artificial intelligence technology that'll help save lives by detecting certain behaviors. Moreover, in order to enhance operational efficiency, responsiveness, and safety on duty **Motorola' body-worn camera solutions** provide frontline teams with an intuitive user interface solution that combines voice communications and voice recording as well as video and still image capture.

AI is empowering public safety agencies to sense, predict and act more decisively. We believe these new technologies will get seamlessly integrated into the future of public safety and ensure better public safety outcomes.

## Today's News

### Initiatives by India's government to boost Fintech

The Fintech space in India has seen an exponential growth over a few years. The growth has been powered by the Government of India with introduction of innovation-supported start-up landscape, friendly government regulations and policies, and a large market base. The traditional banks and NBFC for the first time are facing a tough competition from Fintech players. The NASSCOM revealed that 400 Fintech firms are currently operating in India, and the number is expanding every quarter. It has been motivated by foreign investment in start-ups in Fintech world, along with preference for software market, which itself could touch a mark of \$2.4 billion by 2020, double the current growth rate.

Source – *Fintech Futures*

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### Start-up by ex-Googlers uses AI to make people happier at work

Aiming to make employees feel happier at work, a start-up led by three ex-Googlers, is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to “push” individual employees into small actions that improve staffers’ satisfaction and foster better teamwork, The New York Times has reported. Humu is based in Google’s hometown and builds on some of the so-called people-analytics programmes pioneered by the Internet giant, which has studied things like the traits that define great managers and how to foster better teamwork. “Then it uses emails and text messages to ‘nudge’ individual employees into small actions that advance the larger goal,” the report added. The start-up also aims to bring data-driven insights to other companies by conducting surveys using AI to identify behavioural changes that are capable of making the biggest impact on elevating a workforce’s happiness.

Source – *Hindustan Times*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of **G Balakrishna and Pankaj Tadas**

### Indian Govt. proposes IT Act changes to allow apps, sites to be taken down

The government plans to amend the IT law to increase penalty on apps and websites that are unable to control fake news and child pornography. Amendments will include an extreme provision of taking down apps and websites in violation.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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### Blue Prism looks to hire more top talent for India

Blue Prism, a London-listed robotic process automation company, is planning to hire more top talent for India, as it looks to grab a larger share of the growing software market in the country. Last month, the company hired former Microsoft India executive Peter Gartenburg to head its India operations.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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### Twitter accounts still vulnerable, say experts

Despite claims of a fix by Twitter, researchers at a Britain-based security firm who earlier hijacked accounts of several celebrities and journalists to expose a vulnerability have said that the loophole still persists at the popular social media platform. Insinia Security last week said it successfully hijacked the accounts of a number of celebrities, including Eamonn Holmes, Louis Theroux, Simon Calder and Saira Khan among others.

Source – *Sify Finance*

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## Here's why P2P lending platforms are facing an uphill task attracting investors

The latest entrants into the digital lending sector, peer-to-peer lending platforms, are facing an uphill task attracting investors with regulatory restrictions limiting their growth potential. While multiple P2P lending start-ups which have recently got licensed by the central bank have shown promising growth, industry insiders say that they are not being able to expand business quickly because of capital constraints.

"Venture capital (VC) interest in this sector has been somewhat subdued as potential investors are waiting for the lending limits to be removed," said Surendra Jana, chief executive officer, OMLP2P. "Without investor support growth will be a bit slow for the overall sector, though demand is very high."

Source – *The Economic Times*

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## UPI transactions rise 25%, cross Rs 1 trillion mark in December

Transactions via the unified payments interface (UPI), the country's flagship payments platform, crossed a value of Rs 1 trillion in December, according to the data released by the National Payments Corporation of India. The value of UPI transactions in December stood at Rs 1.02 trillion, against Rs 82,232 crore in November — a rise of 25 per cent. The volume of UPI transactions for December stood at 620 million, a growth of 18 per cent over the previous month. The UPI transaction volume for November stood at 525 million. Mobile wallet transactions for the month of October stood at 368.45 million, with a value of Rs 18,786 crore. This was a rise of 25 per cent and 13.5 per cent, respectively, over the previous month.

Source – *Business Standard*

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## Payments banks see second straight year of losses

Payments banks, launched to make the country more financially inclusive, seems to be giving the regulators and investors a cause for concern as they continue with their second straight year of losses with little signs of turning the corner. The consolidated balance sheets for the operational payments banks showed net losses of Rs 516.5 crore for the fiscal year 2018, almost double that of the fiscal year 2017 when they lost Rs 242.2 crore, according to RBI's trends and progress report.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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## What 2019 holds for venture capital deals in India

Deep Tech start-ups—businesses driven by artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML) and the Internet of Things—saw record funding. The biggest was robotics start-up GreyOrange's \$140 million led by Peter Thiel's Mithril Capital. Investors believe the rising interest in niche technology segments is driven by a growing talent pool.

Source – *Mint*

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## YES Bank launches 'YES SCALE' 2018 cohort with top Agri-tech and Clean-tech Start-ups

Traditionally an agrarian economy, India has made rapid strides to become one of the world's major technological and manufacturing powers. This journey has brought with it a set of unique challenges and opportunities. With an unprecedented adoption of smartphones and rapid spread of internet connectivity, there is currently a massive potential for increasing agricultural efficiency and per-capita income of farmers with the use technology solutions like AI, blockchain and robotics.

Source – *Inc42*

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## Google Duo may soon get group calling, low light mode: Report

Google is working towards bringing group calling feature as well as a new low light mode on its popular video chat mobile app Duo. Group calling has been one of the most requested Duo features since launch, something that competing apps like Apple's FaceTime, Skype, Facebook Messenger, and WhatsApp already offer.

Source – *NDTV*

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## Amazon Alexa builds a massive developer ecosystem in India

Amazon's popular voice assistant Alexa ended 2018 with 40,000 developers in India and 20,000-plus skills as the US retail giant raced to capture the smart speaker market in the country.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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