



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

GST rollout: Key changes to IT systems by banks ensures no hiccup

ATMs to turn costly under GST, small banks to be hit

China, emerging markets lead the fintech charge

Aadhaar Pay sees 6-fold jump in rural transactions between October and April

Today's View

The Hackfest

Not to be confused with the dreaded Hacking, Hackathon is a positive force for innovation and agile development. It is a collaborative and crowd sourced way of generating new-age ideas for disruptive products and services. This method has proved to be a constructive means of laying the foundation of entire companies emerging out of such fests - Appetas (Acquired by Google in May 2014) and Slick Login (Acquired by Google in February 2014) are some remarkable instances. Even Facebook's largely obsessive feature, the "like" mechanism, originated from an internal hackathon conducted at Facebook.

Typically the Hack Fests are a competitive design sprint-like event where principally, programmers and coders, participate to collaborate intensively for problem areas around technology. Although the Hackday concept was coined predominantly for coders, but in the present day scenario companies far outside the purview of technology are using this fierce brainstorming and development tool to stir up new ideas. Some hackathons have even helped government entities originate new ideas around public welfare and government services.

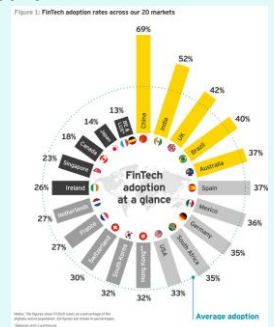
A notable instance is India's MyGov Innovation, a unique citizen-centric, innovation driven platform, conducting hackathons revolving around national development, environmental development, railways, disaster management, etc. NASA's popular efforts of public engagement, such as Innovation Pavilion, Centennial Challenges, and NASA Tournament Lab, are some more collaborative instances.

In the Banking space, several institutions in India and abroad are opening up their platforms and data for Hackathons to originate breakneck ideas to improve the business environment. Beside large new-gen private banks like ICICI Bank and Axis Bank organising hackathons to welcome innovative banking solutions, even the top public sector banks including Bank of Baroda are joining the bandwagon.

OTHER INTERESTING NEWS

Graphics: China, emerging markets lead the fintech charge

Adoption of financial technology products and services among consumers has grown globally, with users in China and other emerging markets leading the fintech charge, a new study by EY has found.



Users in China had the highest level of fintech adoption, with 69 percent of respondents regularly using fintech services.

Source- Reuters

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Date- 03rd July 17

Furthermore, Hackathon community builders such as Hackerearth are aiding non-tech organizations organize Hackday events to attract young tech prodigies for business and coding challenges.

Early last year, NPCI had launched UPI Hackathon in partnership with iSPIRT for developers to come up with innovative digital payment products. Notably, a total of 3,819 teams participated, with VSoft technology's 'Jeb' mobile payments app emerging as the winner.

Even UIDAI had conducted an Online Aadhaar Hackathon encouraging young developers to develop unique apps using UIDAI's platform.

What more? Hackathons are revolutionizing the hiring process helping build a core innovative team and providing better insight into candidates than the traditional recruitment models. Beyond the obvious benefits, it works wonders in improving brand image and brand awareness by adding a coolness quotient and hence attracting talented millennials.

We believe, events like Hackathons or Hackdays are encouraging an environment of agile development and are crucial for innovation and digitization in the present day.

Today's News

GST rollout: Key changes to IT systems by banks ensures no hiccup

Business in banks may have been smooth since the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime began two days back, but the banking and insurance activities of customers will begin to pinch as tax rates on these services have risen, said bankers.

Most large sized banks had made significant changes to their IT systems in anticipation of the nationwide rollout of GST on July 1.

Source- The Economic Times

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ATMs to turn costly under GST, small banks to be hit

Deploying automatic teller machines (ATMs) is set to get more expensive as ATMs have been put under the highest tax slab of 28% under the new Goods and Services Tax regime.

With the machines becoming more expensive, smaller banks and newly-licensed small finance banks could slow down deployment of teller machines, causing further problems for the industry.

Source- The Economic Times

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

Times Internet takes top share of digital news consumption in April: ComScore

India's leading digital media company, Times Internet, dominated news consumption across devices by capturing 51% market share of all online news content usage in April, according to media measurement and analytics company, Comscore.

The widely-followed report indicated that Times of India sites alone reached over 69 million viewers (39% of all news viewers), who spent over 7 billion minutes (51% of top 14 sites' time spent) on Times Internet properties.

Source- The Economic Times

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Former Barclay's CEO Warns Banks of 'Kodak Moment,' Pushes to Embrace Fintech

Former CEO of Barclay's, Antony Jenkins, has warned the banking community of a coming 'Kodak moment' for banks and financial institutions unless they embrace the coming fintech technology revolution.

Speaking of the revolution in fintech that has precipitated the massive growth of cryptocurrencies, Jenkins said, "Now we will see the possibility not necessarily the probability of what we call a 'Kodak moment,' where increasingly banks become irrelevant to their customers."

Source- The Cointelegraph

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SEBI to accept e-PAN card for KYC purpose

Markets regulator SEBI on Friday said electronic PAN card issued by CBDT to foreign portfolio investors will be accepted for KYC purpose. CBDT, in April, introduced a facility of providing electronic Permanent Account Number (PAN), which is sent by email to all applicants, including individual.

"It is clarified that e-PAN issued by CBDT can also be produced by FPI for KYC compliance," the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said in a circular.

Source- The Free Press

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Why ATMs will not go extinct anytime soon in India

Debates have started in some countries to make "cash" as well as ATMs extinct in 5-10 years. In India, too, some technocrats have started saying that payment cards would become virtual by 2020 and the ATM industry has no future.

In India itself, the monthly average volume is 700 million with 2,36,000 ATMs. The data for the past few years indicate that the number of ATMs, as well as the volume of ATM transactions, have been growing year after year. The banking system in many countries is modernising, and installation of ATMs is part of the process.

Source- The Economic Times

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Govt readies financial sector's cyber warrior

An expert group has proposed the setting up of an independent Computer Emergency Response Team for Finance (CERT-Fin) to be the cyber warrior of the financial sector.

CERT-Fin will be the key to ensuring a comprehensive cybersecurity framework for the financial sector, especially at a time when there has been a burst of activity in the fintech space as India makes efforts to embrace a less-cash economy.

Source- Mint

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Aadhaar Pay sees 6-fold jump in rural transactions between October and April

Aadhaar Enabled Payments Systems (AEPS), promoted by the government to drive digital payments in rural India, is showing definitive signs of adoption amongst its target audience with transactions rising more than six-fold within five months of the currency swap.

"Banks have already deployed around 1.3 lakh micro ATMs in the country, of which more than 1 lakh terminals are interoperable," said AP Hota, chief executive officer of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Source- The Economic Times

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Ebiz Buys 80% Stake in ItzCash

U.S.-based software firm **Ebiz Inc.** has acquired an 80 percent stake in India's **ItzCash Card Ltd.** for \$120 million. Ebiz will pay \$76 million of cash up front and a contingent earn out of up to \$44 million payable over three years from closing.

ItzCash, founded in 2006, operates in digital payments, remittance and corporate business. It offers prepaid cards, money transfer and wallet services to retail consumers and provides cash management services, an online payment gateway and gifting solutions to corporate houses.

Source- India West

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Axis Bank, Kolkata Metro in dialogue for open loop card

The Axis Bank's open loop based EMV contactless card launched this month for the Kochi Metro may also be introduced for the Kolkata Metro.

This will be a prepaid card and not a savings bank account linked debit card. "People with no account in Axis Bank will be able to procure such a card for Metro railway travel and make electronic payment.

Source- Financial Express

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