

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Adopting Blockchain is at the top of govt's to-do ledger

24,940 startups recognised as on Nov 21: Piyush Goyal

Uber drivers who make airport runs get a boost in pay fight

Facebook's Oculus buys studio behind Virtual Reality game Beat Saber

Adobe appoints Nanda Kambhatla to head India research team

Today's View

Tech in Waste

Generation of waste is an inevitable by-product of civilisation. Different varieties of waste are generated from solid rubbish, organic to biological. Undisposed waste can cause pollution and harmful health effects.

Surge in population and increased globalization have contributed to rise in the overall waste volume, worldwide. In addition, industrialization in emerging economies has also led to massive waste generation. According to a report by **Allied Market Research** the global waste management market size is expected to reach \$530.0 billion by 2025 from \$330.6 billion in 2017. The growth of the global waste management market is driven by increase in adoption of proactive government measures. Several start-ups are making innovation to handle waste.

Used tyres account for over 13 million tons of global waste a year, either sitting in landfills or being illegally burned. **Syntoil** has developed an innovative method for transforming rubber waste into valuable commercial products. They process tyres and rubber waste into industrial products by recovering carbon black.

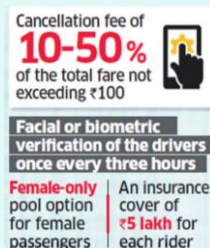
According to a study by the World Bank, 98% of the world's waste is sent to landfills, dumped into oceans or being incinerated, even though a high majority of daily consumables are recyclable. **Intuitive** is a Canadian company which seeks to achieve zero waste through their AI solution, **Oscar**. **Oscar's** AI system leverages machine learning and recognizes various items in the hands

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Ola, Uber fees may be capped at 10% of total fare

The central government plans to cap the commission earned on rides by firms such as Uber and Ola to a maximum of 10% of the total fare in its upcoming rules for taxi aggregators, people privy to the matter said.



Cancellation fee of **10-50%** of the total fare not exceeding ₹100

Facial or biometric verification of the drivers once every three hours

Female-only pool option for female passengers | An insurance cover of ₹5 lakh for each rider

Source – The Economic Times

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Date – 28th Nov 19

of users, such as a plastic cup, used paper napkins, empty snack chips bag, biodegradable spoon etc. Through advanced computer vision research and enhanced **machine learning** algorithms, **Oscar** is trained to detect biodegradable products.

Revive Eco Ltd. is a Scottish award-winning start up that creates a range of environmentally friendly products from used coffee beans. The founders saw used coffee beans being chucked in the bin on a daily basis that ended up in landfills. Wanting to do something about this waste **Revive Eco** was formed. They also extract natural chemicals from the coffee beans which form the basis for a substitute to palm oil.

Xilinat, a Mexican company, is creating a biotechnological, natural and patented process to transform agricultural waste into a sugar substitute to improve the economy, avoid the burning of waste and provide a healthy alternative that combats obesity and diabetes.

Start-ups innovating to create a safer and cleaner planet through waste management points to a safer and cleaner tomorrow. Going forward, more innovation will lead to a less polluting human footprint.

Today's News

Adopting Blockchain is at the top of govt's to-do ledger

The government is preparing a strategy for nationwide use of blockchain technology with an aim to scale up and deploy the distributed ledger solution to improve governance. "Considering the potential of blockchain technology and the need for shared infrastructure for different use cases, an approach paper on national level blockchain framework is being prepared..." the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) said in response to a question in Lok Sabha. Sanjay Dhotre, minister of state for electronics and IT said, "Blockchain technology is one of the important research areas having application potential in different domains such as governance, banking and finance, cyber security and so on."

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Facebook's Oculus buys studio behind Virtual Reality game Beat Saber

Facebook-owned Oculus on Tuesday said it is buying the studio behind hit virtual reality game Beat Saber as it looks to expand VR technology to wider audiences. Oculus, which makes Rift and Quest VR headgear, did not disclose financial terms of the deal to acquire Prague-based Beat Games. "Beat Games is joining us in our quest to bring VR to more people around the world," Oculus director of augmented and virtual reality content Mike Verdu said in a blog post.

Source – *First Post*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Preeti Patil and Prithwijit Ghosh.

24,940 startups recognised as on Nov 21: Piyush Goyal

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said the government has recognised a total of 24,940 startups as on November 21 with the largest number being in IT services followed by healthcare.

"The Startup India Action Plan was launched on 16th January, 2016. The recognition of startups commenced after launch of the Action Plan. As on 21st November 2019, a total of 24,940 startups have been recognized by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)," he said in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Adobe appoints Nanda Kambhatla to head India research team

Software giant Adobe on Wednesday announced it has appointed Nanda Kambhatla to head the Adobe Research team in India. Based out of Bengaluru, Kambhatla will lead Adobe's research initiatives in the region, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Natural Language Processing (NLP), Machine Learning (ML), Big-Data Analytics and Insight, and Content Intelligence technologies, the company said in a statement.

"Over the years, the Adobe Research team in Bengaluru has made a significant impact on Adobe's industry-leading products and solutions, through world-class research.

Source – *Hindustan Times*

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Digital Jalebi showcases AR technological advancements at CII Technology Summit

Digital Jalebi has participated at the CII Technology Summit. The event was held in Bengaluru on 23rd and 24th November 2019. CII plays a pioneering role in introducing various concepts, in the different sectors of the economy, to promote Quality practices and establish Quality systems in these sectors.

Digital Jalebi is a new media design studio that specializes in interactive installations and software for spaces like museums, planetariums, product launches, and exhibitions. It explores the latest technology to create memorable interactive experiences for its users.

At the summit, the studio demonstrated its enormous canvas of work using the hi-tech powers of Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), Mixed Reality, projection displays, interactive displays, and other technologies.

Source – Deccan Chronicle

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Uber drivers who make airport runs get a boost in pay fight

California won a minor ruling against Uber Technologies Inc. that stands to open up a bigger front in the fight by drivers for better benefits -- especially for those who make airport runs and cross state lines. A state judge suggested that such drivers may not be subject to the company's arbitration requirement for employment disputes because they are involved in interstate commerce. He blocked Uber, for now, from proceeding with closed-door arbitration against a driver who filed a complaint with the California's labor commissioner over unpaid wages, overtime and expenses.

Uber has relied on arbitration and settlements to defeat lawsuits by drivers seeking the benefits of employees. It has also settled arbitration claims en masse.

Source – Bloomberg

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Zumutor Biologics gets \$4 million in fresh funds

Zumutor Biologics, a biotechnology startup in the immuno-oncology space, has raised \$4 million in fresh funding from the Bharat Innovation Fund and Accel Partners, bringing its total funding to \$20 million so far.

The company said the capital will be used for the process of new drug filing of its lead molecule (ZM 008) in India, and to go through the first phase of clinical trials by the end of 2020.

"Our first-in-class lead molecule, ZM 008 has made industry validated progress and is poised for IND filing with Phase 1a/1b clinical trials likely to commence end of 2020," said Kavita Iyer Rodrigues, CEO of Zumutor Biologics. The startup was one of the finalists for the Top Innovator category in The Economic Times Startup Awards, 2019 edition.

Source – The Economic Times

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UiPath appoints Manish Bharti as India President

Robotic process automation (RPA) firm UiPath has elevated Manish Bharti as the President for India region. He joined the company during its inception to lead Sales function and then served as UiPath's senior vice president of Global Accounts.

Bharti has been tasked to scale the RPA major and oversee all business and technology units within the company's India operations, the company said in a statement. Raghunath Subramanian, who was chief executive of UiPath India, has been appointed as non-executive chairman of UiPath Entities in India.

Source – The Economic Times

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Akriti Chopra is Zomato Finance Head

Zomato has named company insider Akriti Chopra as its new finance head. Chopra's appointment was approved by the Zomato board at a meeting held on November 8, according to a research note published by business intelligence platform paper.vc.

A spokesperson for Zomato told ET that Chopra had been elevated to the role in April. "Akriti has been building our finance and legal teams for more than 8 years now. Her analytical bent of mind, high level of ownership and moral authority make her a great fit for a CFO role at Zomato," said Deepinder Goyal, chief executive of Zomato, in an email.

Source – The Economic Times

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