World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS Forum), 2018

The 2018 edition of the WSIS Forum took place in Geneva from 19-23rd March. This multi-stakeholder forum discussed the infrastructural, economic and social (human rights) dimensions of developments in AI and Big Data.

Preparing for Jobs of the Future

G7 ministers of Employment and Innovation convened in Montreal, Canada, from 27 to the 28th of March to discuss how new technologies are changing industrial dynamics, the nature of work, and gender equality. Ministers across agreed to invest in digital literacy, promote social safety nets, and support non-standard forms of work, among other discussions on the transformative role of artificial intelligence.

To quit or not to quit Facebook

The revelations regarding Cambridge Analytica's questionable use of personal data from Facebook users revealed the societal problem with Facebook's business model but may not altogether warrant abandon, as this article argues here, which can be supplemented by a discussion on the ethics of big data and social media, here.

A whistleblower, Christopher Wylie, revealed how Cambridge Analytica, a data analytics company harvested millions of Facebook profiles of U.S. voters to create a program aimed at predicting and influencing voter behavior in the 2016 US elections. Latest updates on the issue and the timeline of events can be found here and here.

For Facebook users, this may warrant an immediate discussion on whether or not to quit Facebook, but the issue point to larger ethical challenges that Big Data and social media platforms pose to democratic choices, privacy and surveillance.

Microsoft to launch digital payments services in 'Kaizala', its enterprise social network app

'Kaizala', Microsoft's mobile app designed for large group communications and work management, which caters to 1 million users, will launch its own digital payments services. Kaizala, launched in 2017, is already synced with Microsoft's Office 365 and has been adopted by YES Bank, Apollo Telemedicine, among others.

India

Mobile Internet penetration in rural India is just 18%

A report published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) titled Mobile Internet in India 2017, finds that mobile Internet penetration is at a low 18% whereas the same for urban India stands at 59%. The report suggested that the expected upgrade to 5G may lead to better quality of services and may increase these figures.

'Atal Tinkering Labs' to promote emerging technology and innovation for school children

The Modi Government proposed the 'Atal Tinkering Labs' (ATL) across 30,000 schools in the country to promote emerging technologies such as AI, Blockchain, IoT to school children. More on the Government's rationale and plans for promoting the initiative can be read here.

Visa and Mastercard are losing market shares to UPI transactions

Transactions through Unified Payments Interface, or UPI, which allows retailers to take payments directly from bank accounts through retailer apps, has reached almost half the value of debit and credit cards swiped. Further details on India's changing digital payments landscape can be read here.

Indians are increasingly realizing nothing said online is Private

A study by McAfee titled "New Security Priorities in An Increasingly Connected World" finds that a growing number of Indians are reflecting concerns about privacy than before. The study sampled 606 adults in India between ages 18-55 to gauge

Indian Netizen's priorities while engaging with a connected world. More results of the study can be found here

Tech innovation clusters that enterprises should watch out for
Technological innovations are so wide raging that it is difficult for enterprises to discern what is of interest to them. This article identifies the major trends in innovations in technologies that enterprises should watch out for. Key trends in innovations the article finds, are based on Artificial Intelligence, blockchain and Internet of Things (IoT)

Kerala gears up for a digital future
The Kerala government hosted a global digital summit titled '#future', in Kochi, to facilitate conversations between government officials and industry leaders to enable the state's digital transformation. The chief minister, at the occasion, unveiled a unified mobile app that aims to ease citizen's access to government service utilities.