



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER APPLICATION  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

*Presents*

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**Tech Dose**



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**WELCOME TO DIGITAL AND TECHNICAL WORLD**

01

## Microsoft Shuts Industrial Metaverse Project Airsim to Focus on AI, Lays Off Team Members

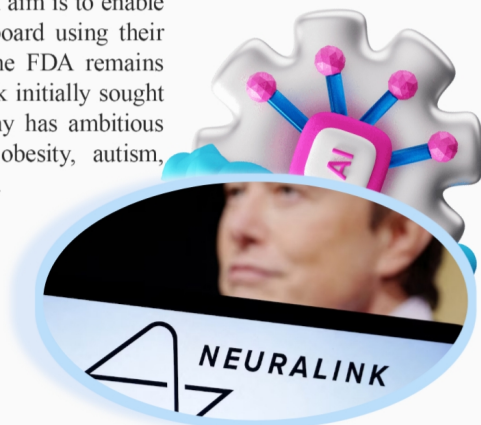
Microsoft has discontinued its Airsim project, an AI-based drone simulation software for its industrial metaverse initiative. The decision led to layoffs for the project's team members, though the exact number of affected employees remains unclear. Microsoft emphasizes its ongoing commitment to Azure as the computing platform for the industrial metaverse and other AI projects. In addition to Airsim, the company also recently withdrew support for the Bonsai project, which aimed to develop autonomous systems for industrial use using AI. Both Airsim and Bonsai were integral to Microsoft's efforts to compete with Amazon Web Services in the industrial metaverse space.



02

## Elon Musk's Neuralink Receives Approval to Start Brain Implant Human Trial for Paralysis Patients

Neuralink, Elon Musk's brain-chip startup, has received approval to recruit participants for the first human trial of its brain implant for paralysis patients. This trial is open to individuals with paralysis caused by cervical spinal cord injury or ALS. The study will involve surgically placing a brain-computer interface implant in the brain region responsible for intention to move. The initial aim is to enable participants to control a computer cursor or keyboard using their thoughts. The number of patients approved by the FDA remains undisclosed due to safety concerns, after Neuralink initially sought to implant its device in ten patients. The company has ambitious plans to address various conditions, such as obesity, autism, depression, and schizophrenia with its chip devices.



03

## Meta Proposes Monthly Fee of Up to EUR 13 for Ad-Free Access to Instagram and Facebook



Meta is exploring the possibility of offering an ad-free version of Facebook and Instagram in certain countries to comply with privacy regulations. Users in the European Union may be able to pay a monthly fee of up to EUR 13 for this ad-free access. The plan, known as "subscription no ads" (SNA), is under discussion with privacy regulators in Belgium and Ireland. However, users in the US and other regions may not have access to this option in the near future.

## Spotify Premium Adds Free Access to Audiobooks in Australia and the UK

Spotify is providing 15 hours of free audio book access to its premium users in the UK and Australia, with plans to expand this feature to the US later in the year. This move is part of Spotify's efforts to diversify its revenue streams, including podcasts and audiobooks, which put it in competition with Amazon's Audible. Spotify has ambitious goals of reaching one billion users by 2030 and achieving \$100 billion in annual revenue, with a focus on high-margin returns from its expansion into podcasts and audiobooks.



04

05

## WhatsApp Testing Pinned Messages in Group Chats; Working on Username Picker and IP Address Protection



WhatsApp is testing a new feature in its beta version, allowing users to pin group chat messages to the top for up to 30 days. This feature is currently available to select testers using WhatsApp beta for Android version 2.23.21.4. Users can pin messages by long-pressing them, making them easily accessible even as new messages arrive. WhatsApp is also working on a username picker and enhanced privacy features for calls.

06

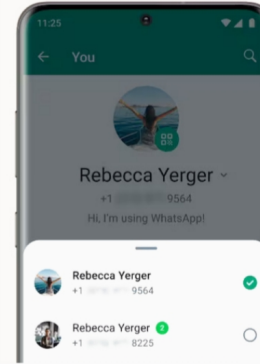
## British School Employs AI Robot As Principal Headteacher For Enhanced Decision-Making

Artificial intelligence is taking over many jobs by automating tasks that were once done by humans. This is happening in a variety of industries, including manufacturing, customer service, healthcare, and transportation. In a surprising move, a preparatory school in the United Kingdom has named an AI robot as its "principal headteacher." Cottesmore School, located in West Sussex, collaborated with an artificial intelligence developer to design Abigail Bailey, the robot, with the purpose of assisting the school's headmaster.



09

## WhatsApp Introduces Multiple Accounts on Android: Here's How to Enable the Feature



Add Multiple Accounts on WhatsApp

WhatsApp is introducing a feature for Android users that allows them to have two active accounts simultaneously without logging out. To set up a second account, users need a second phone number and can do so in the app's settings. This change enables users to switch between work and personal accounts seamlessly and adjust privacy and notification settings separately for each account. Messages on both accounts remain end-to-end encrypted. This feature eliminates the need to carry two phones for separate accounts and enhances convenience.

## Ferrari Goes Pro-Crypto, Decides to Accept Bitcoin, ETH, USDC Payments for Its Cars

07

# Ferrari



Ferrari will now accept payments in Bitcoin, Ether, and USD Coin for its luxury cars in the US, responding to market demands and engaging with a younger, crypto-interested audience. The company plans to extend this payment option to Europe in the near future. BitPay will serve as Ferrari's payment gateway, converting crypto payments into fiat currency for US dealers and monitoring transactions for illicit activities.

## ChatGPT Integration in Cars Is a Reality Thanks to DS Automobiles

10

DS Automobiles, owned by Stellantis, has become the first auto company to integrate the ChatGPT AI chatbot into its vehicles. Initially, this feature will be offered to the first 20,000 registered users in a pilot phase lasting six months. To access the AI chatbot, users must have DS 3, DS 4, DS 7, or DS 9 vehicles equipped with an active DS IRIS system and can engage with it by saying "OK IRIS" via a dedicated button on the steering wheel. This integration is available at no extra cost for the initial 20,000 users who purchase qualifying vehicles between October 19 and February 29. It's limited to European regions, including France, Germany, the UK, Spain, and Italy, with support for the national languages of these countries.



08

## Elon Musk's X to Test \$1 Annual Subscription Fee for Liking, Reposting and Quoting Posts

The social media platform formerly known as Twitter, now X, is testing a \$1 annual subscription called "Not A Bot." It covers basic features like likes, reposts, quoting, and bookmarking posts on the web version. The goal is to combat bots and spammers. New users who don't subscribe will have limited functionality, but existing users are not affected. This test is being rolled out in New Zealand and the Philippines, and the subscription fee varies by country. X CEO Linda Yaccarino had previously discussed plans for different subscription tiers based on ad exposure. Elon Musk, who acquired the company, has indicated removing the block feature while retaining the mute function.



11

## Crypto Rug-Pulls Affect Thousands of Users in Himachal Pradesh, Over Rs 200 Crore Lost



Fraudsters in Himachal Pradesh minted a series of a crypto coins -two of which were KRO and DGT - to cheat thousands of investors of more than Rs 200 crore over a period of five years, beginning in 2018 — the year that crypto reached fever pitch. The persons alleged to be part of a gang lured people promising them high returns in a short span of time in crypto investments and created a network of investors.

# 12 India Sees Sharp Drop in Tech Funding in Q3 2023

Reliance Industries is introducing swappable and multipurpose battery technology for electric vehicles (EVs) that can also power household appliances. The company is investing heavily in clean energy projects as part of a \$10 billion initiative, aiming for net-zero carbon emissions by 2035. These batteries can be exchanged at Reliance's swap stations or recharged using rooftop solar panels. While not manufacturing EVs, Reliance plans to partner with EV makers, aligning with the Indian government's efforts to promote cleaner transportation through swappable battery technology.



# 13 India-Led G20 Adopt Roadmap on Crypto Assets Suggested by IMF, FSB Joint Synthesis Paper



At a recent meeting in Marrakesh, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors adopted a global roadmap for regulating cryptocurrencies. This roadmap emphasizes coordination, regulations, and mitigation strategies with a focus on the impact on Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs). The goal is to ensure that crypto assets do not disrupt the stability of existing financial systems. The G20 members are calling for coordinated implementation of the roadmap, global cooperation, data sharing, and support for FATF standards on crypto assets.

# 14 ISRO Successfully Launches Gaganyaan Test Flight Abort Mission

ISRO Chairman S Somanath confirmed the success of the 'TV-DI' in the Gaganyaan Mission, following a second launch attempt due to an initial engine ignition issue. The mission aimed to demonstrate the crew escape system for the Gaganyaan program, which performed effectively. The crew module separated safely from the vehicle and touched down at sea, achieving its objectives.



# 15 Amazon Seeks Regulatory Approval to Launch Project Kuiper Satellite Internet Services in India

Amazon is preparing to introduce its satellite-based broadband service, Project Kuiper, in India. The company is in the process of obtaining necessary licenses from Indian government agencies to provide broadband access using a constellation of 3,236 low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites. The service aims to deliver fast and affordable internet, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Amazon has applied for regulatory approval from IN-SPaCe and will need a GMPCS license from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). The company plans to launch half of the satellites by 2026. More details, including pricing and system requirements, are expected by the end of 2024.



## Unknown Facts

There are 4000 luxury cars sunken in the Atlantic Ocean in 2022.

Reading from a screen slows your reading time.

The first computer virus was named 'Creper.'

The word "robot" originated from a Czech word that means "forced labor."



# News of the Month

## Indian Mobile Congress 2023 : PM Modi inaugurate Asia biggest three days telecom Event

The 7th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023, which started Friday, has attracted many participants and visitors who are eager to witness the future of digital transformation. A mega event, the IMC showcases trends and innovations in the telecom, media, and technology sectors.



**Here are key highlights and announcements from India Mobile Congress 2023.**

### **1. Triggering Innovation –**

100 5G labs across India IMC 2023 was the arena in which Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the setting up of 100 5G labs across India, with the aim of encouraging students, professors, startups and MSMEs to work on 5G technology.

### **2. Futuristic Solutions from Telecom Operators -**

At IMC 2023, telecom operator Airtel demonstrated the capabilities of Airtel 5G Plus in optimizing traffic systems, enabling real-time road monitoring, and enhancing road safety by early accident detection and traffic congestion prevention. It also emphasized the role of Airtel IoT and Airtel 5G network in new connected ecosystems, particularly in supporting OEMs with real-time analytics for safer driving

### **3. Global Innovations Made a Mark-**

At IMC 2023, semiconductor company Qualcomm associated with Ericsson and Airtel to successfully demonstrate Reduced Capability (RedCap) device capabilities, which are expected to boost mid-tier 5G use cases going ahead. The technology was displayed using Qualcomm Snapdragon X35 5G Modem-RF System, in tandem with Ericsson's RedCap software, while leveraging Airtel's 5G TDD network. Further, MediaTek, another leading global fabless semiconductor company, showcased the MediaTek Dimensity Auto Cockpit Solution designed for automobiles.

### **4. Government Organisations Mark Their Presence-**

The preeminent event brought to fore the presence of government and public sector units like RailTel, PowerGrid, Ministry of Heavy Industries, and Ministry of Railways, among others. These organizations highlighted the application of technology and telecom across various use cases, with Power Grid, a Maharatna public sector enterprise, depicting its expertise in transmission, renewable integration and telecommunications.

### **5. Educational Institutes as the Forefront of Transformation**

IMC also witnessed robust participation from many premier educational institutes such as IIT Delhi, IIT Roorkee, IIT Jodhpur, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, BITS Pilani, NIT Tiruchirapalli, VIT and regional universities. Accordingly, the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, a central university under Ministry of Railways, highlighted its capabilities in the transportation and logistics sectors, in addition to depicting its academic program in AI and data science



### What is E-waste?

Electronic waste (e-waste), is all types of old, end-of-life or discarded electrical and electronic equipments i.e televisions, computers, mobile phones and any type of home appliance, from air conditioners to children's toys.



### What are the harms?

With the increase in E-waste Kidney, Liver and Heart diseases are increasing and E-waste does contains hazardous materials, predominantly lead and mercury, and is produced by businesses, governments, and industries.



### E-waste in the world

**5.74 Crore**

metric tons of E-waste was found.

2021

20 Lakh metric tonne is increasing every year.

**34.7 Crore**

metric tons of E-waste unrecycled.

2023

Maximum recycling is done by Estonia, Norway and Iceland

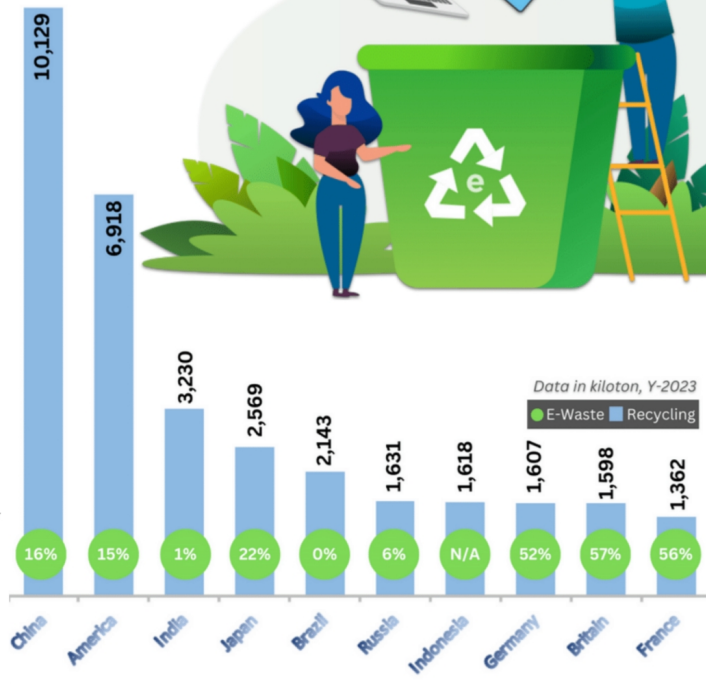
**\$4988 Crore**

was the E-waste in recycling market

2020

# Earth Sinking under E-waste

Electronic waste (E-waste) or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) represent a major environmental challenge in the world today. It represents discarded appliances with a battery or a plug. Rapid advances in technology, economic growth, urbanisation processes, increasing demand for consumer electronic equipment and a downward trend in prices are a few factors responsible for the unparalleled growth of E-waste worldwide during the last two decades.

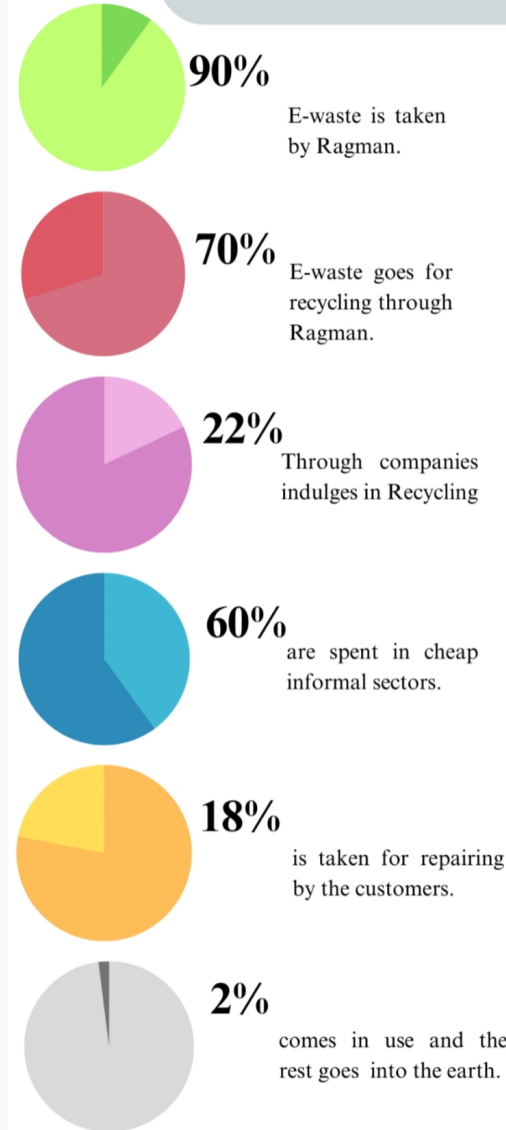


# E-waste in India

A survey by Accenture and Indian Cellular and Electronic Association (ICEA) came out last week on how serious the problem of e-waste has become in India. It revealed that in Indian homes more than 20 crore smartphones, Laptops and other gadgets are lying idle.



States collecting E-waste



ICEA has given some suggestions in its report which will help in disposal of garbage and increase employment opportunities.

- Product development as a service.
- Strong spare parts and supply chain should be made, to increase sales after service.
- Eco-design essentials should be prioritized.
- Market development of recycled materials and establishment of renewal standards,
- Insurance/Warranty should be mandatory.
- Promotion of high capacity waste recycling facilities.
- By gathering in targeted places Solution areas should be formed.
- Find out the mechanism for formal consumer withdrawal.

