

Department of Data Science

Data Science Bytes

**Current News on Innovation &  
Technology**

[New software enables blind and low-vision users to create interactive, accessible charts](#)

By Cryptocurrency exchange Mar 25, 2024

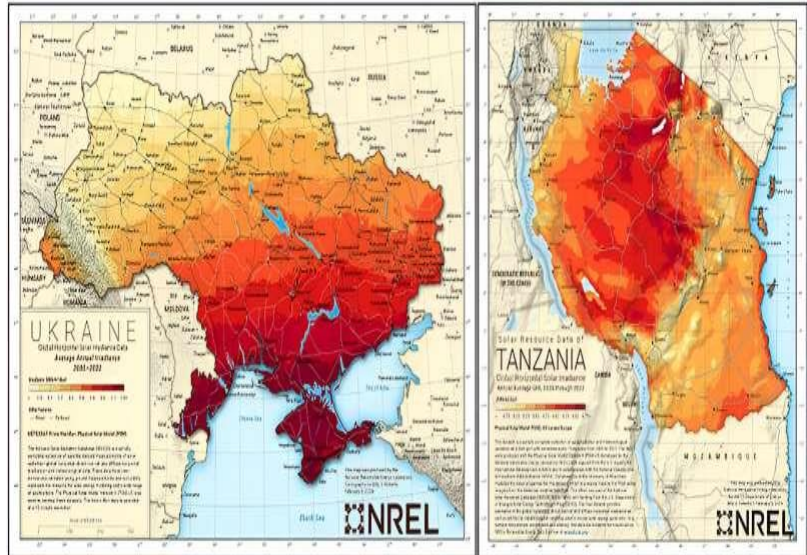
Cryptocurrency exchange Binance said on Monday it will end support for deposits and withdrawals via the Tron blockchain network for a digital stable coin that is pegged to the U.S. dollar.

Last month, Boston-based crypto firm Circle said it would no longer mint USDC tokens on Tron, a fast-growing platform widely used for transferring stable coins.



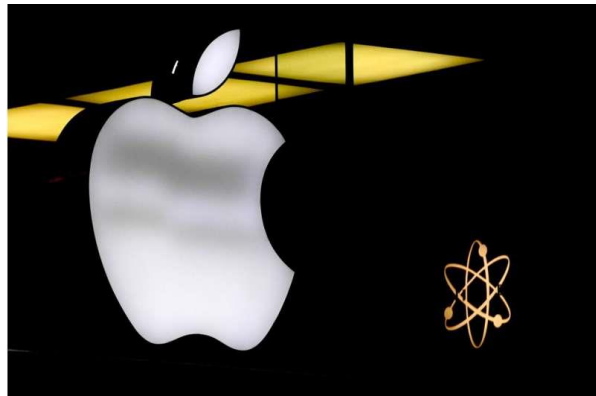
High-resolution solar data enables renewable energy expansion across two continents. by Tim Meehan, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

More than 20 years of research in solar radiation at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is now poised to advance power system planning and solar energy deployment across Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East.



Apple announces Worldwide Developers Conference dates, in-person event

Apple has announced their annual developers conference will take place June 10 through June 14. The big summer event will be live-streamed, but some select developers have been invited to attend in-person events at Apple's campus in Cupertino, California, on June 10.



## ₹1L UG tech internships ticket to full-time roles

### Undergrads Getting ₹1 Lakh Stipends From Biggies Like Google & Microsoft On The Rise

Shilpa Phadnis &  
Veena Mani

In a reflection of the growing demand for skilled engineers in the tech industry, India has seen an increase in the number of undergraduate engineering students securing internships with monthly stipends of Rs 1 lakh or more from biggies like Amazon, Google, Intuit India, Microsoft, Palo Alto and Goldman Sachs. These internships, which can last 3-6 months, are a golden ticket to full-time roles in high-demand fields like data science, cloud computing, and analytics.

At IIT Mandi, 27 students have received Rs 1-lakh-or-more stipends this year. In Bengaluru, RV College of Engineering has seen 39 students earning over Rs 1 lakh in monthly stipends compared to 8 last year.

The competition for these high-paying internships is fierce. V Samuel Rajkumar, director, career development centre at VIT, emphasised the importance of technical skills, problem-solving abilities, and a learning mindset for securing these opportunities.

Professor. Ranganath D,

RV College of Engineering's dean of placement, said that companies such as Amazon, UPPath, and Microsoft have offered stipends up to Rs 1.4 lakh for various tech roles. Similarly, Walmart, Goldman Sachs, and Palo Alto have provided Rs 1-lakh stipends.

Rs 1-lakh stipend. A majority of the students interning with these tech firms have secured full-time positions. Sood pointed out a high conversion from internships to full-time positions, with top tech firms in India offering annual compensation

#### High-Demand Fields: Data Science, Cloud

- **IIT Mandi** has seen 27 students bag Rs 1-lakh-or-more stipends this year so far
- **Bengaluru's RV College of Engineering** has seen 39 students earning over ₹1L in monthly stipends compared to 8 last year
- **About 30 students** from the **Vellore Institute of Technology** reported a ₹1-lakh stipend, with
- **MIT-World Peace University**, Pune said cloud data management
- **MIT-World Peace University**, Pune has shortlisted 10 computer science students for internships with a ₹1L stipend

"The bar is high. About 29 students have received internship stipends of Rs 1 lakh and more who will be graduating this year. Campus offers from top-tier firms are internship-driven that not only gives them role exposure, but it provides a

seamless way to working on newer technologies as these digital natives naturally lend to it," the professor said.

between Rs 40 lakh to Rs 65 lakh, and international roles reaching up to Rs 1 crore.

Naveen C, senior manager, training and placement in Bengaluru-based Reva University, said that a student interning with Visa received a Rs 90,000 stipend and later a job offer of over Rs 50 lakh per annum.

Last year, VIT's Rajkumar said a connected infrastructure and analytics company, MotorQ, offered a record annual compensation of Rs 1 crore to two VIT students, including stock awards. Emails sent to Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Palo Alto Networks, Goldman Sachs, Intuit India, UPPath, Uber and Atlassian didn't elicit a response till the time of going to press.



### CONTRAPUNTO

The basis of optimism  
is sheer terror

—OSCAR WILDE

## Too Big To Check?

Regulatory actions against Big Tech don't effectively cover areas that allow them to create an oligopoly

It's been an eventful week in the world of Big Tech regulation. EU launched sweeping investigations into the activities of three of them, Apple, Alphabet and Meta, to check if they are complying with the area's Digital Markets Act (DMA). Independently, in US, Florida has introduced a law that bans children under 14 from social media platforms.

**The problem** | Big Tech represents an inversion of the early ideas of competition. Global tech industry's appeal lay in the fact that entry barriers to competition couldn't be lower. A college dropout with a killer idea and the smarts could reduce an industry leader to an also-ran. That's now history.

**Power of concentration** | Digital economy is driven by economies of scope. That is, providing a variety of services makes a firm more competitive by giving it access to a huge trove of data. AI is nothing without extraordinarily large data sets and computing

power. So, now, folks with killer ideas are pushed into the embrace of Big Tech. Think of the grip Microsoft has on OpenAI. Big Tech now dominates three crucial areas, AI, platform economies and social media. The challenge for regulators is to find a framework that can effectively address the full range of Big Tech operations.

**DMA and gatekeeper approach** | EU's DMA is the world's most ambitious regulatory effort to rein in Big Tech. It identified a handful of companies as gatekeepers and held them to high standards. On March 25, it launched its first non-compliance investigations to check if the three companies are using market dominance to choke potential competition. DMA represents an extension of earlier regulatory efforts to curb anti-competitive practices of Big Tech. It's an area where most regulators have made progress.

**Regulatory gaps persist** | Florida's law tackles a small part of a critical problem posed by social media. It's another matter that bans of the kind planned are hard to impose. Social media is also a platform that allows firms to suck in data. It's put them in pole position to harvest early gains from application of AI in mass products.

**Getting back to the past** | Silicon Valley's outsized global influence creates resentment. But in its favour was the belief that it was a true meritocracy. That's now morphed into a conventional oligopoly. The regulatory challenge now is helping the tech industry get back to its roots.



Source: Times of India 27 March, 2024 Page No 15

Source: Times of India 27 March, 2024 Page No 16

## Google DeepMind's new language model can generate soundtracks, dialogues for videos — what it is, other details

Google's DeepMind research lab has unveiled a new AI model called V2A (Video-to-Audio) that can breathe life into silent videos by generating soundtracks and even dialogue. While the video generation technology is rapidly growing, most of the current systems can generate only create videos without sound. The new video-to-audio (V2A) technology allows synchronised audiovisual creation by combining video pixels with text prompts.

V2A can generate soundscapes that match the on-screen action when paired with video generation models like Veo. This means adding dramatic scores, realistic sound effects, or fitting dialogue that matches the characters and mood of the video

