

Department of Data Science
Weekly Data Science Bytes

**Science and technology can make India a 'Vishwaguru': Nitin
Gadkari**



- Science and technology alone can make India a global leader, Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday, delivering the fifth memorial lecture in honour of former President and Bharat Ratna APJ Abdul Kalam at the India Islamic Cultural Centre
- Extending innovation and application to rural areas could play a transformational role in improving the lives of farmers and villagers, which in turn would reduce distress migration to cities, the Union minister said, adding that the application of artificial intelligence and drip irrigation can make agriculture sustainable for most parts of the country

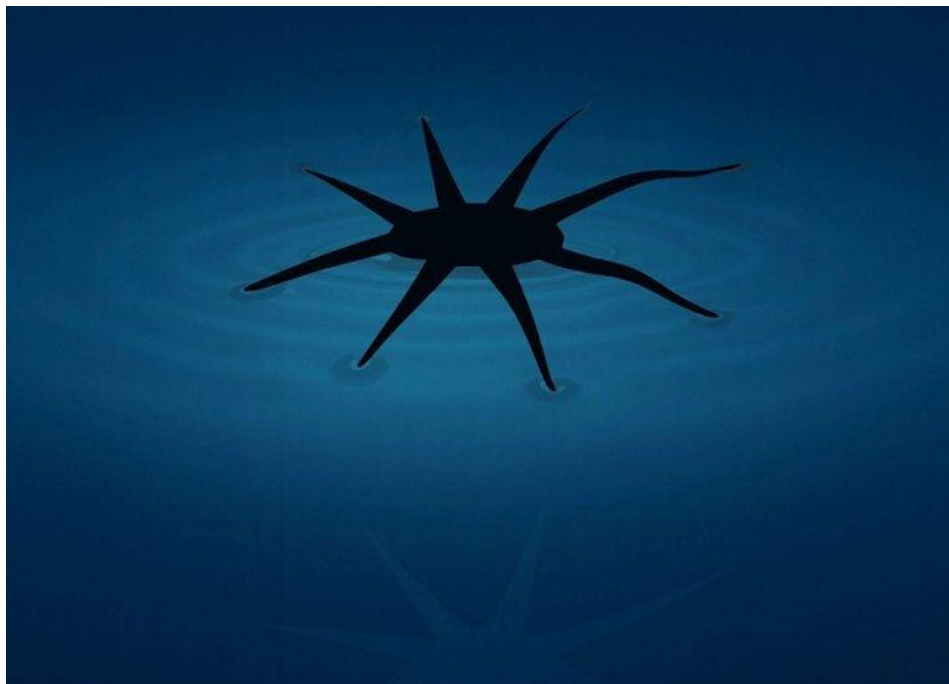
Zuckerberg hailed AI 'superintelligence'. Then his smart glasses failed on stage



- Such was the case last week, as [Mark Zuckerberg](#) attempted to demonstrate his company's new AI-enabled smart glasses. "I don't know what to tell you guys," Zuckerberg told a crowd of [Meta](#) enthusiasts as he tried, and failed, for roughly the fourth time to hold a video call with his colleague via the glasses.
- It was a limp follow-up to an ambitious opening to the event at Meta Connect 2025, a developers conference in Menlo Park, [California](#), where the company is headquartered. The keynote was to feature the Ray-Ban Meta Display, the latest version of what is essentially a face-mounted iPhone – ideal for the consumer who lacks the energy to pull a device from their pocket and idolizes both Buddy Holly and the Terminator. Despite that undeniable appeal, the show was a technical mess – perhaps the perfect homage to the latest pointless iteration of digital hardware.

Engineers Create Soft Robots That Can Literally Walk on Water

- Picture a miniature robot, no larger than a leaf, gliding effortlessly across the surface of a pond, much like a water strider. In the future, machines of this scale could be deployed to monitor pollution, gather water samples, or explore flooded zones too hazardous for people.
- At the [University of Virginia's School of Engineering and Applied Science](#), mechanical and aerospace engineering professor Baoxing Xu is working on a way to make such devices a reality. His team's latest study, published in Science Advances, unveils HydroSpread, a fabrication method unlike any before it. The approach enables researchers to create soft, buoyant machines directly on water, a breakthrough with applications that could range from medical care to consumer electronics to environmental monitoring.



Google's ex-CEO Eric Schmidt raises 'China alarm', tells American technology companies: Remember

- Former CEO Eric Schmidt has not been in strong favour of 'work-from-home' for technology companies. In a recent podcast, Schmidt, who was top boss at Google for over ten years in the early 2000s, has once again warned American tech giants on flexible remote working.
- This time the alarm also has 'China warning'. Weighing again on remote work debate, Schmidt said that he believes it is hindering US tech companies' ability to compete with China's demanding work culture. In an interview published on the All-In podcast, Schmidt argued that the "996" work schedule -- 9 am to 9 pm, six days a week -- is a key competitive advantage for Chinese companies.



Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/technology/tech-news/googles-ex-ceo-eric-schmidt-raises-china-alarm-tells-american-technology-companies-remember-were-/articleshow/124193006.cms>

AI hologram of Spider-Man creator Stan Lee debuts at L.A. Comic Con

- A holographic A.I. version of comic creator Stan Lee debuted at L.A Comic Con
- The hologram was trained on Stan Lee's myriad appearances on red carpets and at fan conventions
- The hologram has sparked controversy among some fans



PriceWeber, an advertising and marketing agency, has created an activation for ROW 94, Bentley's Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. Now through to the end of October, people passing through the airport will see the hologram that shares the story of ROW 94 and directs them to signed bottles and limited offerings available at the airport's spirits retailers.

“But the brand also faced a unique marketing challenge: how can Dierks connect with bourbon drinkers outside the concert experience or meet and greets? By using hologram technology, we were able to deliver a more personal and memorable interaction than traditional PoS ever could. And when bourbon fanatics land in Louisville, it's Dierks and ROW 94 that welcome them to Bourbon Country, making an invaluable first impression for the brand.

Source: <https://retailtechinnovationhub.com/home/2025/9/28/row-94-whiskey-airport-hologram-experience-launches-featuring-country-singer-dierks-bentley>