

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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Today's View

Bitcoin – From fiat to digital

As far as history goes, mankind has used some sort of token of value for exchange of goods and services. Back in 9000 BC, man used the famed barter system for exchange, eventually innovating to goods cast from bronze, and finally developing rounded coins. Our age has seen some modern forms of currency, from bank notes, plastic money, digital transfers, to wearable contactless payments.

Central banks around the world have regulated centralized forms of currency since 1668. In the 1990s, tireless efforts were made to introduce digital money to the world. Fortunately for Satoshi Nakamoto (the pseudonymous entity behind bitcoin), all these attempts at introducing centralized digital currencies failed.

On the other end, decentralized virtual currencies have been gaining momentum since bitcoin was introduced in 2009. The bitcoin, using a cryptographic hash function SHA-256, controls the creation of units and secures transactions – functions we have known only Central Banks to perform. Bitcoin is created and stored digitally and is not printed or regulated by any Central Bank around the world; instead, it is produced by the collective effort of people, computers, and softwares.

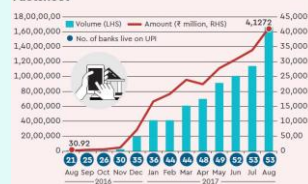
The bitcoin transaction network is managed on the Blockchain technology, which has come to be seen as an enormous store of value for applications across multiple domains. As the name suggests, the Blockchain technology stores blocks created by way of mining, stacked one after another in the form of a chain. The technology employs a form of decentralized process to verify, create, and append these blocks, recording and facilitating bitcoin transactions. This process of verification and creation of blocks, better known as bitcoin mining, requires miners across the network to solve cryptographic hash puzzles. On attaining consensus across the miner network, a new block is created and appended every 10 minutes. These blocks contain all transaction-related information, which once appended is economically unviable to omit or remove. The beauty of the technology lies in its top 3 characteristics – transparent shared ledger, immutable, and secure.

OTHER INTERESTING NEWS

Dedicated app, adoption by big e-commerce firms drive massive growth in UPI volume

Driven by the launch of a dedicated app and adoption by some of the largest e-commerce players in the country, usage of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has jumped 178 times in volume terms in its first year since launch, according to data released by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which operates the channel.

Factsheet



Source- Financial Express

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Date- 14th Sep 17

The bitcoin architecture today is the most efficient distributed ledger platform or format and is the basis for the most successful Blockchain systems coded universally.

Bitcoin has been a buzzword since the world started acknowledging it is a currency. While we all know or have heard about Bitcoin as a cryptocurrency, we wonder where the 866 cryptocurrencies cumulatively valued at a hefty \$133 billion came into existence. Watch out this space to find out how...

Meanwhile JPMorgan's CEO, Jamie Dimon, just called bitcoin a "fraud".

Today's News

Centre forms policy group to study artificial intelligence: Nasscom

Amid a raging global debate on the consequences of artificial intelligence (AI), India has formed a "policy group" to study the new technologies and recommend a framework for its adoption, IT industry body Nasscom said today.

"We all are currently working out on a policy framework on AI," its vice president K S Viswanathan said over AI or the intelligence exhibited by machines. The group will focus on aspects like skilling the workforce, privacy, security and fixing responsibility if anything goes wrong.

Source- *The Economic Times*

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RBI awaiting govt notification for coming out with P2P lending norms: Official

The Reserve Bank is waiting for a gazette notification from the government on getting the peer-to-peer lenders under its regulatory ambit before coming out with guidelines on the sector, a senior official said today.

"Following up on the consultation paper we did last year, we are shortly going to come up with guidelines on peer to peer lending," RBI's executive director Sudarshan Sen said at an industry event here.

Source- *The Economic Times*

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Aadhaar law will pass constitutional test: Arun Jaitley

The Aadhaar Act has enough safeguards to ensure data protection and will pass any constitutional test, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said on Wednesday.

His comments come in the backdrop of the Supreme Court examining legal challenges against making Aadhaar mandatory for government services and a number of other schemes, and also questions being raised about the Aadhaar law's validity as a money Bill.

Source- *Business Standard*

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YES BANK's Innovation Program for Fintechs, Invites Applications for Its 2nd Cohort

YES BANK, India's fifth largest private sector bank, is calling for applications from Fintech Startups across the world for the second Cohort of YES FINTECH – YES BANK's Innovation Program for Fintech Start-ups. YES FINTECH has created a network of 20+ global startup ecosystems.

The Innovation Programme will assist fintech start-ups with product-market-fit guidance, wide access to global audience and accelerated joint go to-market within 15 weeks.

Source- *BW Disrupt*

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Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu promises \$15.6 mn startup fund for the state

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has said that the government would allot \$15.6 mn (INR 100 Cr) to create a separate startup fund for budding entrepreneurs.

Talking about the move the CM said, "Technology and Internet of Things are a deadly combination. Being a tech-savvy government, we want to encourage our youth in all possible manners to become entrepreneurs."

Source- *Inc42*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Pankaj Tadas and Sadhika Agrawal

All 1.55 lakh post offices to offer payments bank service

India Post Payments Bank is gearing up to provide its financial services through all of 1.55 lakh post offices and 3 lakh employees by the end of 2018 — which will create India's second-largest payments bank in terms of reach.

The new model of banking allows mobile firms, supermarket chains and others to cater to banking requirements of individuals and small businesses. It will be set up as a differentiated bank and will confine its activities to acceptance of demand deposits, remittance services, Internet banking and other specified services.

Source- Business Line

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Enterprises shifting to Cloud faster than expected: Gartner

In a fast moving trend, 36 per cent of enterprises will by 2020 use the Cloud to support more than half of their transactional systems of record, market research firm Gartner said on Wednesday.

Organisations of all sizes are moving to Cloud solutions such as core financial applications and for transactional systems of record. According to the report, smaller and midsize organisations are adopting Cloud more rapidly than larger organisations.

Source- The Economic Times

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RBI is not comfortable with bitcoins, says Sudarshan Sen

The Reserve Bank is uncomfortable with “non-fiat” cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, its executive director Sudarshan Sen said on Wednesday. Right now, we have a group of people who are looking at fiat cryptocurrencies. Something that is an alternative to the Indian rupee, so to speak. We are looking at that closely.

The fiat cryptocurrency was a digital currency which would be issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in place of the physical one at present

Source- The Hindu

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India set to be a digital superpower; how cashless payments will pave the way

According to NITI Aayog, the volume of all digital transactions increased by about 23 times with 63,80,000 digital transactions for a value of Rs 2,425 crore in March 2017, compared to 2,80,000 digital transactions worth Rs 101 crore till November 2016.

This growth symbolises that collaboration of the government and fintech start-up sector can help India move at light-speed in realising its digital ambitions.

Source- Financial Express

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Amazon bets big on fashion, sets up imaging studio BLINK in India

Amazon India announced the formal launch of its fashion imaging studio, BLINK, in Gurgaon on Wednesday, as the domestic arm of the US online retail giant looks to cash in on the high-margin fashion category ahead of its anticipated festive sales later this month.

BLINK, a 44,000 square feet digital imaging studio, will allow Amazon's fashion brand partners to produce and shoot over 2,50,000 images, offer video-editing facilities, creative space, including editorial content. The Gurgaon-based fashion studio is the third such launch by Amazon globally, after New York and London.

Source- The Economic Times

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Flipkart introduces ‘anti-theft’ packaging

E-commerce major Flipkart on Tuesday said it has developed India's first “anti-theft” packaging to secure goods from in-transit theft and tampering.

“Designed specifically for high-net products like mobiles, tablets, and watches, this unique and exclusive pilferage protection box, which is currently awaiting patent grant, incorporates special security features in shipment,” Flipkart said in a statement.

Source- Mint

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