

process, starting from the risk profile, screening products, to forming an asset allocation, is fully automated. It automates the portfolio allocation by applying artificial intelligence (AI) techniques to different sources of available data. Another player, **PINTEC** has launched its robo-advisory unit **POLARIS** which is built with machine-generated models based on market data and trends, adjusted in 24X7 basis, and managed to the particular risk profile of an individual customer.

On the other hand, Beijing-based **China Everbright** has collaborated with **Ginmon**, a German-based fintech company to automate asset allocation and construction of portfolios using exchange traded funds (ETFs). Likewise, **CreditEase** has launched **Toumi RA**, a fully automated robo advisor with different risk portfolios investing in US-listed ETFs.

With a growing appetite for financial investments, we believe there is a tremendous opportunity in the robo-advisory market and in case of China, it is too good to ignore.

Today's News

Fintech lenders find favor with millennials

Speed and ease-of-doing-business seem to have driven Fintech lenders to take giant strides, surpassing banks and nonbank financiers in the small-ticket personal loans segment in top Indian cities. The Fintech lenders' share of loans below Rs. 50,000 to new customers grew to 45% in the second quarter of FY18 from 11% at the beginning of FY17, according to credit scoring agency CIBIL. The growth of new loan accounts in this ticket size fell to 12% from 63% for banks during the same period. The Fintech lenders opened 2.19 lakh loan accounts in the second quarter of FY18 — up from 20,000 in the first quarter of FY17, while customer acquisition by NBFCs rose to 2.14 lakh from 48,000 in this period, and banks registered only 59,000 new loan accounts, down from 1.17 lakh, during this period.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

Visa launches EMI platform for debit cards

Visa, the world's largest payments network, has introduced a platform that will enable any bank to offer EMI facility to their debit cardholders for online purchases on most e-commerce sites. According to Arvind Ronta, Visa's head of product for India and South Asia, as against 4.5 crore credit cards, there are 93 crore debit cards in the country. "There are over 2 crore unique credit cardholders, while it is estimated that around 22 crore debit cardholders are eligible for credit facilities. This increases the number of creditworthy individuals by a factor of 10," said Ronta. Although both banks and e-commerce sites have been offering EMI facility for debit card purchases, these are based on one-to-one tie-ups between the banks and merchants. By putting a platform in between, Visa enables any bank that signs up for the service to access all the merchants that are on board.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of **G Balakrishna** and **Hema Kumar**

Flipkart board Okays PhonePe hive off plan

Digital Payments Company PhonePe has received in-principle approval from Flipkart's board to be hived off as a separate entity, two people aware of the matter said.

This will set the stage for the Bengaluru-based PhonePe to create an independent board and raise fresh funding from external investors. It's not clear how much Walmart-owned Flipkart will divest of its 100% shareholding in PhonePe, but the payments firm is looking to raise up to \$1 billion in external capital, people close to the matter said.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

Oyo in talks to acquire China's Qianyu

Oyo Hotels & Homes is in talks to acquire Qianyu, a midsize hotel brand in China a deal that is likely to mark the SoftBank backed Company's first acquisition in the country. Oyo has been aggressively ramping up its operations in the world's second-largest economy, since entering the market in late 2017.

An Oyo spokesperson said the company had nothing further to share at this point. The developments come at a time when Oyo has referred to China as its second home market and has said that its Chinese subsidiary, Oyo Jiudian, was present in 280 cities across China, operating more than 5,000 hotels and 2,60,000 rooms, as of January this year. It runs a mix of franchised and leased properties in the country.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

Google launches global council to advice on AI and tech ethics

Alphabet's Google said, it was launching a global advisory council to consider ethical issues around artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. The council, which is slated to publish a report at the end of 2019, includes technology experts, digital ethicists, and people with public policy backgrounds, Kent Walker, Google's senior vice president for global affairs, said at a Massachusetts Institute of Technology conference.

The group is meant to provide recommendations for Google and other companies and researchers working in areas such as facial recognition software, a form of automation that has prompted concerns about racial bias and other limitations. "We want to have the most informed and thoughtful conversations we can," Walker said on stage at the MIT Technology Review event in San Francisco. "We want to sit down with the council and see what agenda they want to set." Google already has its own internal AI principles, which, among other provisions, bars the California-based tech firm from using AI to develop weapons.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

Micro-delivery start-up Milkbasket acquires Veggie India

Grocery and milk delivery start-up Milkbasket has acquired Noida-based grocery delivery platform Veggie India for an undisclosed amount in a bid to strengthen its foothold in the Delhi NCR region and expand its household base to more than 100,000. As per the deal, all Veggie India employees, including the founders, Jainendra Upadhyay and Shailendra Upadhyay will join Milkbasket. The acquisition expands Milkbasket's customer base to 75,000, the company said in a statement. Veggie India, operated by Ocado Garden Fresh was founded last year primarily servicing Noida and Ghaziabad. "The acquisition is in line with our growth plans for 2019 and adds further strength and distribution capabilities to the existing business." said Anant Goel, CEO of Milkbasket.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

Shopmatic acquires 51% stake in Octopus

E-commerce enabler Shopmatic Pte. Ltd has picked up a controlling stake in retail point-of-sale (PoS) device provider Octopus, a top company executive said. Shopmatic chief executive Anurag Avula said in an interview that the company has picked up a 51% in the Singapore-based company. Octopus offers cloud-based retail management software, and omni-channel sales and customer engagement solutions, to small and medium enterprises.

It focuses on physical stores, from small boutiques to large retail chains. Shopmatic helps SMEs and individual sellers to sell products online by creating a digital store, and offering payment gateway and logistics solutions, among others. With the merger deal, Shopmatic plans to offer PoS services to its existing customers across verticals such as retail, food and beverage and other e-commerce-focused sectors in the Asia-Pacific region.

Source – *Mint*

[READ MORE](#)

Amazon Pay makes an offline push with 'scan and pay' service

Amazon Pay, the online payments service owned by the world's biggest online retailer, is planning to introduce "scan and pay" service at neighborhood stores, said three people familiar with the matter, requesting anonymity.

Amazon has already introduced the payments service in department store chain Shoppers Stop, in which the online retailer owns a 5% stake, and will soon set up the necessary infrastructure at grocery chain More. "Since it (Amazon) has a stake in these two chains, it is starting offline payments with these stores," said one of three people cited above.

Source – *Mint*

[READ MORE](#)

McDonald's buys Dynamic Yield to boost its online marketing efforts

McDonald's Corp said that it would buy Israel's Dynamic Yield, whose technology helps marketers personalize customer interactions, to boost its online marketing efforts. McDonald's will pay more than \$300 million, a person familiar with the matter said.

McDonald's said it would use Dynamic Yield's technology to change its digital Drive Thru menu displays to show food based on the time of day, weather, current restaurant traffic and trending menu items.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this newsletter are personal views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Bank of Baroda. Nothing contained in this publication shall constitute or be deemed to constitute an offer to sell/ purchase or as an invitation or solicitation to do so for any securities of any entity. Bank of Baroda and/ or its Affiliates and its subsidiaries make no representation as to the accuracy; completeness or reliability of any information contained herein or otherwise provided and hereby disclaim any liability with regard to the same. Bank of Baroda Group or its officers, employees, personnel, directors may be associated in a commercial or personal capacity or may have a commercial interest including as proprietary traders in or with the securities and/ or companies or issues or matters as contained in this publication and such commercial capacity or interest whether or not differing with or conflicting with this publication, shall not make or render Bank of Baroda Group liable in any manner whatsoever & Bank of Baroda Group or any of its officers, employees, personnel, directors shall not be liable for any loss, damage, liability whatsoever for any direct or indirect loss arising from the use or access of any information that may be displayed in this publication from time to time.