



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Paytm launches investment arm, to invest \$10 million

Startups with up to Rs 10 crore investment to get tax concession

Power Ministry offers to supply E-cars to central government departments

Govt to take cues from rivals to popularise BHIM

Today's View

Asset-backed Crypto-currency

Not a long time back, cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin were a rage among investors. As per **CoinMarketCap** research, the number of cryptocurrencies available over the internet as of April 2018 is over 1500 and growing. However, these currencies have a major drawback: they have no intrinsic value as they are not backed by any physical assets.

With the innovation of asset-backed cryptocurrency, the value of such currencies is now backed by physical assets like real estate, gold and even diamonds. The value of these currencies represents the value of an underlying asset (for example, 1 coin equals 1 gram of gold). If the cryptocurrency becomes more popular, then, its price can potentially become greater than the value of gold. However, if the cryptocurrency doesn't take off then the value remains same as the value of the gram of gold. This feature makes it attractive for potential investors as it provides a built-in stop-loss for the investment in virtual currencies.

Among various asset-backed cryptocurrencies, gold-backed cryptocurrencies are the most popular ones. As per **Goldscope** research, currently, there are more than 30 gold-backed cryptocurrencies available for participation or have an ICO on the market.

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India becomes world's fastest-growing market for apps

India has become the world's fastest-growing market for mobile applications on both the Apple iOS and Google's Android Play Store, with a sharp spike in revenue in the first quarter of 2018.



Source – The Economic Times

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Date – 13th Apr 18

Interestingly, some of the gold-backed cryptocurrencies are finding favour in **Islamic banking** as well. As per **Sharia** principles, in addition to banning interest payments, products of financial engineering and objects of speculation without any intrinsic value are not acceptable. Hence, cryptocurrency firms are launching instruments based on physical assets and certified as valid by Islamic advisors.

For example, **OneGram**, is issuing a gold-backed cryptocurrency - backed by at least a gram of physical gold stored in a vault. They have also obtained a ruling that its cryptocurrency conforms to Islamic principles from Dubai-based **Al Maali Consulting**. Several vaults have come up in order to provide storage services for underlying gold. For example, **Vaultoro** provides gold vaulting service which allows you to buy and sell gold with bitcoin and other altcoins. The gold stored in the vault is even fully insured in Swiss vaults. The investors prefer Vaultoro to park their crypto gains in gold instead of cashing out into a fiat currency.

Apart from OneGram, multiple other firms have come up with cryptocurrencies backed by gold and even other assets like diamonds or even real estate. More on this in our next article. Stay tuned!

Today's News

Paytm launches investment arm, to invest \$10 million

Paytm, run by One97 Communications Ltd, has set up a new entity called Paytm Money Ltd that will offer investment and wealth management products and will invest close to \$10 million upfront in the new entity.

Paytm Money is the fourth product from One97's stable after Paytm Mall, Paytm Payments Bank and Paytm wallet; it will be available as a separate mobile application to users, said Vijay Shekhar Sharma, founder of One97 Communications.

Source – Mint

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Startups with up to Rs 10 crore investment to get tax concession

Giving major relief to budding entrepreneurs, the government on Thursday allowed startups to avail tax concession only if total investment including funding from angel investors does not exceed Rs 10 crore.

As per a notification by the commerce and industry ministry, an angel investor picking up stakes in a startup should have a minimum net worth of Rs 2 crore or should have an average returned income of over Rs 25 lakh in the preceding three financial years.

Source – Economic Times

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Manish Kulkarni & Vikas Madaan

Nintendo Teams Up With VC Fund to Find New Tech for Switch

Nintendo Co. is teaming up with San Francisco-based Scrum Ventures to scout startups working on new ways to play or use the Japanese company's hit gaming console, the Switch.

Source – Bloomberg

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Accenture unveils 'Intelligent Enterprise Platform'

Accenture on Thursday launched an "Intelligent Enterprise Platform" to help enterprises reinvent themselves in their intelligent avatar.

The Accenture platform helps companies make right investments, navigate complexity and realise value quickly.

Source – Business Standard

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Instagram to allow users to download their data

Facebook Inc's Instagram will soon allow its users to download a copy of all the content they have uploaded on the photo-sharing platform, a spokesman said on Wednesday.

The disclosure comes amid global concerns about the privacy of users' information on social media platforms and the amount of user data that companies keep.

Source – Reuters

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EU privacy watchdogs to look into harvesting of data from social media

European Union privacy watchdogs will look deeper into the harvesting of personal data from social networks for economic or political purposes following the scandal engulfing Facebook Inc. after data from nearly 87 million users was improperly accessed.

"A multi-billion dollar social media platform saying it is sorry simply is not enough," Andrea Jelinek, chair of the group of EU data protection authorities, said in a statement on Thursday

Source – *Economic Times*

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Power Ministry offers to supply E-cars to central government departments

The power ministry has offered to supply electric cars to central government departments, which can either lease or purchase them — a move that can raise demand for such vehicles by about 5 lakh. The proposed move will be a big boost for automobile majors such as Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra, which have already bagged orders to supply e-vehicles. Foreign firms such as Nissan and China's BYD are also potential gainers.

Source – *Tech Headlines*

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Govt to take cues from rivals to popularise BHIM

The government is taking a leaf out of payment apps such as Google Tez and PhonePe to offer cashbacks to users and popularise the Bharat Interface for Mobile (BHIM) payments app in the country.

The move will kick-off on April 14, the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar, when the government will commit as much as Rs 900 crore in cashbacks and incentives to merchants to increase adoption of the app, that runs on the Unified Payment Interface (UPI).

Source – *Economic Times*

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Tavaga launches algo trading app for retail segment

Mumbai-based Tavaga, a robo advisory firm, is looking to disrupt the wealth advisory industry by tapping into the category of retail investors who do not have access to professional wealth and fund managers.

Using advanced algorithms for asset allocation, Tavaga's free application gives retail investors access to the same technology, processes, advice and investment products used by professional investment funds at a much lower cost.

Source – *Business Line*

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Vodafone and SAP tie-up to explore Industrial IoT in India

Vodafone and SAP have tied-up to explore Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) in India where the companies would develop communication solutions for enterprises that will leverage both SAP Leonardo and Vodafone's IoT Managed Connectivity Platform.

For this, the companies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together.

Source – *Economic Times*

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Reliance Jio integrates Sodexo on JioMoney

Reliance Jio and Sodexo have partnered where the companies will be leveraging complementary strengths and offerings to create a digital ecosystem. As part of the partnership, JioMoney has enabled integration of Sodexo Meal Cards with a user's JioMoney account to allow mobile-based payments via Sodexo Meal Card.

Source – *Economic Times*

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Uber launches new safety features for U.S. riders

Uber Technologies Inc said on Thursday it unveiled new safety features including an emergency button that will connect U.S. riders directly to 911

Source – *Economic Times*

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