

view, share, buy, and sell pieces of art. In addition, one can visit gallery exhibitions in 3D, send a message to a gallery or other collectors directly, and read great content.

Similarly, **Singularart** is a Parisian start-up offering a platform for online sales of works of art, as well as a place to discover art from selected artists around the world and open up to new artistic horizons. Beyond that, they also provide a tool for artists to independently manage the sale of their works.

With the display of art at numerous museums and galleries getting all the information at one place can be handy. Easing this accessibility is a Dutch start up **Tiqets**. Their mobile-first booking platform not only enables people to book tickets for museums and attractions across the world seamlessly but also lets venues reach a global audience and improve their customer experience using mobile technology.

In the next part of this series, we will look at how evolving technologies are making the art industry achieve efficiency and attain the higher skills to capture and mesmerize audience with visual delights. Stay tuned!

Today's News

RBI plans app for identification of currency notes by visually-challenged

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will come out with a mobile application to help visually-challenged in identifying currency notes as cash still remains a dominant mode of transaction. At present, banknotes in denominations of Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 50, Rs 100, Rs 200, Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 are in circulation, besides Rs 1 notes issued by the Centre. The RBI said identification of banknote denomination is key to successful completion of cash-based transactions by visually impaired persons. Intaglio printing-based identification marks for helping the visually challenged in identification of banknotes denomination are present in notes of Rs 100 and above.

Source – *BusinessLine*

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Suzuki's next electric vehicle in India could be based on Ertiga

Suzuki Motor Corp. plans to tap the popular multipurpose vehicle Ertiga to build its second electric vehicle for India, said two people directly aware of the development, as global automakers accelerate efforts to sell more eco-friendly vehicles in a country that is home to some of the world's most polluted cities.

The electric Ertiga may differ in length from the current petrol and diesel versions of the vehicle, the people cited above said on condition of anonymity. It might also sport a new brand name, they said, adding that the plans were still being finalized.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of G Balakrishna and Prithwiji Ghosh

MakeMyTrip partners with ASI to boost bookings for heritage monuments

MakeMyTrip announced on Monday that it has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for online bookings for 116 historical monuments and sites across India.

The agreement entails listing and offering online booking gateways to world heritage and well-known monuments under ASI including the Taj Mahal, Red fort, Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb, Khajuraho Temple, Charminar, Golconda Fort among others.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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AI, Analytics are key drivers of digital transformation

Data, they say, is the new oil. However, it wouldn't be an overstatement to say that data is the soil on which newer business models are germinating, diverse revenue streams cropping up and competitive advantage being reaped.

Data and its related information assets that once played a support function in facilitating business growth are now taking center-stage in creating business value. Consequently, access, availability and analysis of data is of strategic importance. This was the singular resounding message at the Intel Data-Centric Innovation Summit 2019 held in Mumbai on 25-26 June 2019.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Argo's tie-up with Ford, VW leaves room for Asian automaker

Argo AI, the self-driving start-up that just sealed a \$2.6 billion investment from the world's biggest carmaker, says there's room in its partnership with Volkswagen AG and Ford Motor Co. for another manufacturer to fill a void in its global footprint in Asia. Argo, founded by veterans of Uber Technologies Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Waymo autonomous-driving unit, will count Ford and VW as its two biggest investors. Ford in 2016 pledged \$1 billion in funding, while its German rival joined in with the deal announced on Friday.

The automakers will have equal stakes in Argo and together will own a substantial majority of the start-up. Argo is open to partnering with another automaker, Chief Executive Officer Bryan Salesky said. He said Argo's \$7.25 billion valuation will attract outside investors, similar to the investment SoftBank Group made in General Motors Co.'s Cruise.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Consumer finance focus can bring SoftBank to Piramal

A potential investment by Japanese multinational conglomerate SoftBank into the financial services arm of the Piramal Group will likely depend on the Indian company's willingness to aggressively move into the consumer finance segment away from its current wholesale focus, two people in the know of the matter said. Billionaire industrialist Ajay Piramal has held talks with at least four private equity funds, including SoftBank, for an investment in Piramal Capital and Housing Finance (PCHFL), said three people close to the development.

SoftBank's final decision to back the Mumbai-based group will hinge on splitting its retail and wholesale books and adding a technology layer to the business, people familiar with the detailed discussions between the two parties said, on the condition of anonymity.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Indian real estate firms fast adopting AI technology: Report

The real estate companies in India and China are fast adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology in the development of applications that comprise machine vision for easy analysis and surveying of buildings and structures. Asia Pacific that contributes nearly 40% in the global construction market, is estimated to be the fastest growing "AI-in-construction" market by 2024, Zion Market Research said.

The growth in Asia-Pacific "is owing to the extensive adoption of the AI-based platforms, such as machine learning and deep learning, code frameworks, and pre-built algorithms by the real estate companies in emerging economies, such as China and India". Additionally, the development of creating information modelling is software that gives information on a construction project, warranty details regarding material used, and commissioning data.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Need to strengthen rural ecosystem to support agriculture start-ups: Anurag Singh Thakur

More rural startups should be strengthened with a view to create jobs and provide additional income support to agrarian sector, said minister of state for finance Anurag Singh Thakur. "There are a large number of agriculture-based startups today. We need to strengthen rural startup ecosystem to encourage setting up of more rural startups by rural youth," he said adding that this will help promote alternate income generation in rural areas.

Unemployment is a major challenge faced by rural youth due to lack of skill and education, he said adding that various government agencies are promoting and engaging capacity building of startups, incubators, especially in agriculture and allied activities.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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China's Ping An to invest in education start-up iTutorGroup

Ping An Insurance Group Co of China said, it would invest in online education company iTutorGroup, in a move to expand its "smart education" business.

iTutorGroup will work with Ping An to promote the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology in education and the development of the online education industry, Ping An said in a statement on its social media platform.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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