

Students are also taking blockchain education into their own hands. Blockchain at Berkeley is a student-led non-profit organization that offers blockchain-related education, consulting, and research to local businesses.

Similarly, **Central New Mexico Community College** has begun issuing student-owned digital credentials on a blockchain platform that the college plans to make available to other educational institutions in the state.

Apart from educational institutes, multiple organisations are also developing blockchain-based products for the ed-tech sector. More on this in our next article.

Today's News

Digital payments cos are looking at offline by means of QR codes

Digital payments companies are increasingly looking at offline payments and trying to capture a larger share of this market by means of QR (Quick Response) codes. While Paytm, PhonePe and Google Pay offer QR codes and acquire their own merchants as well, entities like BharatPe act as aggregators, on-boarding merchants for all forms of Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based payments. Out of the transactions seen on the BharatPe platform, PhonePe had over 54% share in UPI transactions, while Google Pay had 30% and Paytm 12% in June.

On QR codes deployed by BharatPe, the share of PhonePe has increased steadily from 44% in January, a jump of 10 percentage points. Paytm may have a smaller share, but the company dominates the overall QR code-based transactions, since it has a chunk of offline payments through a proprietary QR code base of its own. Paytm recorded around 250 million transactions on Paytm QR through 12 million merchants, it said. Paytm QR accepts UPI payments made from any bank account through the Paytm app.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Paytm Money to get Rs 250 crore, eyes low-cost broking business

One97 Communications-promoted Paytm Money will put an additional Rs 250 crore in its investment platform in 12-18 months. This will be on top of an Rs 80-crore investment made by the promoter in the first year of business. After building a retail base of nearly one million active users through its direct mutual fund distribution platform, the company plans to disrupt the low-cost broking model. It has already received approvals for providing stockbroking and depository services.

What sets Paytm Money apart from other distributors is that it is registered as an investment adviser with SEBI and does not receive any commission and investors can choose to put money in any of the direct schemes of all 40 mutual funds in the country. Since the entire process of on-boarding the customer to investment and redemption is done through a mobile app without human intervention, the company can enable systematic investment plans (SIPs) for as low as Rs 100.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of G Balakrishna and Manish Kulkarni

Flipkart opens first offline centre in Bengaluru

Flipkart has announced its foray into the offline space with its decision to set up first Furniture Experience Centre in Bengaluru. Spread across nearly 1,800 square feet, Flipkart would offer a touch and feel experience to customers in the fast-evolving online furniture market, the e-commerce major said in a statement.

According to the company, this is a step towards helping customers understand the vast selection of furniture offered by Flipkart and increase awareness around the seamless buying and installation experience it offers.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Indifi Technologies raises \$21 million in series-C funding round

Indifi Technologies, a Gurugram-based new-age lending company, has raised Rs 145 crore (\$21 million) in its series C funding round from the CDC Group, along with existing investors such as Accel India, Omidyar Network, Fair Finance Fund and Elevar Equity, according to data sourced from the Registrar of Companies.

The digital lending space has been facing stress as the overall liquidity situation in the shadow banking sector has been under stress, but a few of the breakout ones have been able to raise quality funding. Bengaluru-based Zest Money raised \$20 million in its Series B recently. Traditional lender Five Star Finance recently closed a \$50million round.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Easy Home Finance raises funding from Shinji Kimura's Harbourfront Capital

Real estate and lending tech company Easy Home Finance Limited has announced a strategic partnership with Harbourfront Capital, a group company of Das Capital. The VC firm will invest an undisclosed amount in the real estate financing company. Easy will be utilising the funds from Harbourfront in expanding its assets under management (AUM) base and for further investment in its technology platform. The investment firm and Easy Group intend to enter into a variety of financial services verticals through this strategic partnership.

The Mumbai-based financial services company was founded by Rohit Chokhani and have Debabrata Sarkar, ex-chairman, Union Bank of India as the chairman of the board of directors. It is registered under the National Housing Bank Act as a housing finance company and intends to serve the underserved addressable market for home loan customers through a paperless experience.

Source – Inc42

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San Francisco-based Paymentwall comes to India to solve the cross border payments problem

Estimated to touch \$500 Bn, India's digital payments sector is set to contribute 15% of the GDP by 2020. With the UPI revolution, India's digital payments technology is nearly at par with the global standard, however, there is a huge scope to bridge the cross-border payments gaps, and feels San Francisco-based payment company Paymentwall's founder and CEO Honor Gunday.

Speaking to Inc42, Gunday said, "With UPI which is basically a solution imported from China, there's a lot of local payment options and, the local payments companies doing a good job. What's the next step for this from what we know is the trend is for the companies to no longer want to be limited by the local market."

Source – Inc42

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Inside WinZo, Kalaari Capital's second biggest bet in gaming after Dream11

For most online applications that depend on users interacting with each other, such as Facebook and Twitter, going vernacular means increasing user engagement — the number of interactions rises with the number of languages the platform facilitates. Now, imagine a kind of platform where users can engage with each other despite different languages. In this case, the volume of engagement would shoot up much rapidly. Enter the world of vernacular digital gaming. WinZo was among the first e-sports apps in India to recognise the potential of the multitude of tongues spoken in tier-II and tier-III centres. It allows users to play casual games, real-time multiplayer games, tournaments, fantasy league, and quizzes for cash prizes across 10 languages.

Source – Business Standard

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Amazon in talks to buy Uber Eats India, plans to add food delivery to Prime

The India business of American e-commerce major Amazon is learnt to be in talks on a possible buyout of the local unit of Uber Eats, the food order and delivery platform hosted by the San Francisco-based travel aggregator.

According to sources, Amazon India is interested in entering the food delivery business so that it can add it to the list of services it provides, especially through its Prime membership plan. The company believes that food delivery can bring back customers to the Prime app more often than shopping for fashion, electronics or grocery is able to.

Source – Business Standard

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Logistics startup Leap raises Rs 216 crore to fund next phase of growth

Mumbai-based logistics startup Leap India has raised Rs 216 Cr in a Series-C funding round led by private equity firm TVS Capital Funds. While TVS Capital has infused Rs 100 crore, Sixth Sense Venture Fund invested Rs 32 Cr and Samena Capital pumped in Rs 40 Cr along with existing investors such as Mayfield and IndiaNivesh Fund. Leap India founder and CEO Sunu Mathew said that the fresh funds will help maintain the high growth trajectory. He said, "We are strengthening our capabilities by investing in track and trace technologies, enhancing our information platforms and modernizing the operational infrastructure to provide a best-in-class customer experience."

Source – Inc42

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