



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

UAE-based digital exchange Bitex forays into India with wallet and trading platform

AGS Transact, Utimaco partner to provide cyber defence technology for digital payments

Indian startups seek high tech solutions to colossal food waste

## U Akhil Handa †

### Real estate and AI

The real estate market in India is currently witnessing a steady rise in integration of technology and etched innovations that are further contributing to its growth. One of the most prominent developments is that of home automation, the perfect technology and real estate. The real estate sector is leveraging AI to cater to the niche segment of smart homes given the appreciation and better resale value of such properties.

New York based Skyline AI, collects data points from a variety of sources and analyzes past transactions to help you get a sense of which neighborhoods are up-and-coming and which are heading for a potential downturn. By analyzing property owner behavior, this tool can also help commercial real estate investors identify distressed properties, off-market deals and opportunities for value creation.

Similarly, Propportunity offers a similar service for those in the residential real estate industry. Operating in 50 markets, this tool gathers property value data, crime rates, transportation data, and school district ratings to fuel its automated valuation model and predict which properties and neighborhoods will give you the highest returns.

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OVHCloud to expand Indian presence for a mix of French Cloud computing firms. OVHCloud is expanding its Indian operations after entering the Indian market through the acquisition of Air in 2017. The company will open its first point of presence in Mumbai by year end, Lior Lagros, GM Asia Pacific. OVHCloud told ET.

"India is the APAC region for us, both in terms of customers and revenue. We started the Indian market push last year with the startup and partnership program," he says. *Source: The Economic Times*

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Endo uses machine learning capabilities which can help you calculate drone taxis and delivery market rents, find comparable properties and identify lucrative investment opportunities. For those considering renovations, it can also help you estimate the future value of any added amenit

Meanwhile, those in the vacation rental industry may benefit from using Beyond Pricing. This tool compares data from a variety of sources, including Airbnb and VRBO, to help you find the best pricing for your vacation rental.

Like Proportunity, Lofty AI claims to help you identify the best investment opportunities in 450 markets. This tool is geared towards out-of-state investors and uses deep learning as well as alternative data points to predict early signs of gentrification.

As the aforementioned growth projections and trends suggest, the future of Indian real estate not only looks bright, but also stands to benefit from technological innovation within this space, especially during unpredictable times.

## UAE-based digital exchange Bitex forays into India with wallet and trading platform

Bitex, a UAE based digital asset exchange, has announced its launch into the Indian market, through its cryptocurrency wallet and trading platform. Launched in 2018, Bitex after the Supreme Court's specific order on cloud lifted the ban on cryptocurrency trading. The digital asset exchange said platforms must transcend elements to know Indian users could through the platform, engage in the buying and selling of digital assets, including Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple, Litecoin, Dash, XRP, amongst others. Bitex said its trading platform was compliant with anti money laundering (AML) and know your customer (KYC) policies.

Source: The Economic Times

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State-run NHAI on Wednesday said that FASTag in the country have reached 2 crore mark, registering a growth of 400 per cent in a year. This has increased the total toll collection to Rs 92 crore per day which is a "substantial increase" in the daily toll collection from Rs 70 crore per day, a statement said. 'FASTag' is contributing to nearly 75 per cent of the total toll collection as of now," it said, adding that digital payment through FASTag is being actively promoted by NHAI to enhance the user experience on National Highways and reduce pollution on account of queuing of vehicles at the toll plazas.

Source: The Economic Times

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## Australian AI agency Versa forms JV with Mogae to enter India

Melbourne, Australia-headquartered leading conversational AI agency Versa has entered in a 50:50 joint venture (JV) with Sandeep Goyal and Tanya Goyal promoted Mogae Consultants, to enter India. The JV company will launch on Diwali and go live commercially from early 2021.

It aims to capitalise on the demand for specialised conversational AI and design in a market with a population of over 1.3 billion people, and an installed base of nearly a billion mobile phones

Source The Economic Times

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## CCI approves Google's \$4.5 billion deal Jio

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) Wednesday approved acquisition of 7.73% equity share capital of Jio Platforms by Google. On July 15 Google announced it would invest Rs 33,737 crore (\$4.5 billion) to buy 7.7% stake in Jio Platforms. After more than a month, probably addressing data privacy issues',

The nod will allow Google and Jio to jointly develop entry level Android smartphones. The Silicon Valley giant plans to invest in the digital Reliance Industries' wholly owned subsidiary, Google International LLC (GIL). Google dominates the search, video, and email segments in India. Nine out of 10 smartphones sold in India come with Google's Android OS. Jio Platform is a telecom company with nearly 400 million users.

Source The Economic Times

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## AGS Transact, Utimaco partner to provide cyber defense technology for digital payments

Global IT security solutions provider Utimaco and AGS Transact Technologies, an end-to-end cash and digital payment solutions provider, have entered a partnership to provide security solutions for payment and automation solutions. The partnership marks STTL's foray into cybersecurity solutions, which will be offered on a hosted model as well as on a 'sales motion' digital age, protecting sensitive information remains one of the highest priorities of organizations across sectors.

Evolving security threats require the use of sophisticated advanced solutions to safeguard all transaction activities. According to the Boston Consulting Group, Banking, Financial Services and Insurance firms are three hundred times more likely than other institutions to experience a cyberattack.

Source The Economic Times

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Indian startups seek high tech solutions to close food waste

Startups and venture capitalists are pouring into what might seem an unlikely place: India's vast agriculture industry

Seizing on controversial new deregulation, entrepreneurs are selling farmers apps

connect them to big buy nationwide and using artificial intelligence (AI) to improve rickety supply chains that

one-fourth of India's produce is lost to wastage.

Source The Economic Times

Google moved its venture debt firm BlackSoil, a venture debt firm focused on structure and real estate debt, has raised Rs 110 crore for its main fund (AIF) called BlackSoil I Credit Fund (BICF).

The company is looking to raise Rs 350 crore in all and plan to complete over 30 deals around Rs 200 crore per investment, including real estate companies." We are a strong pipeline of start-ups across technology, health enterprise and consumer segments with a need to finance their growth

businesses, which will continue to grow in the said Baskar Bansal, founder of BlackSoil, deployed Rs 950 crore over years across 7

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Source The Economic Times

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