

Health monitoring systems for infants based on wireless communications are a reliable and efficient tool for both parents and doctors that helps ensure better infant care. Such systems monitor parameters such as body temperature, pulse rate, movement of an infant which are made available to parents in real-time. Seoul-based **Monit** specializes in smart baby care solutions that comprise of a diaper monitor, air quality measurement hub and mobile app that monitors the state of the baby's diaper, humidity and temperature of the baby's surroundings.

Sleep is important for a baby's cognitive and physical development. **Nanit** manufactures a smart baby monitor which requires no wearable's. **Nanit** tracks and understands sleep patterns, parent visits, room conditions and much more. In addition, the product features a time lapse heat map that shows parents, in a glance, how their baby moves around the crib as well as tools to share videos, and digital scrapbooks with other people.

With new age startups focusing on the wellbeing of newborns, parenting has become easy. That's why we appreciate any company that creates a solution to ease the daily grind of parenthood. Real time monitoring for warning signals has made it safer for babies.

Today's News

Fintech platforms disrupting digital payment space with their product innovation

The payment ecosystem is one of the most technology influential sectors in this pandemic. Innovation is not only highly driven with the changing face of the current payment system, but also, making it faster than the current pace. 2021 is expected to bring acceleration to the B2B payment methodologies, pointing towards a transformational change in the payment ecosystem.

With this unrestricted flow of customer demands, there is an increase in the widespread innovation in payments that, in turn, squeezes the traditional payment market. Thus, to gain popularity among the customers, it is essential to reward agility by anticipating the next-gen payment solutions.

Source – Business World

[READ MORE](#)

Unicorns of 2021: Five Star Finance latest entrant to \$1B club; takes total number to 3

Only three months into 2021, the Indian startup ecosystem has already added three new companies to the coveted \$1 billion valuation club. With more than 125 deals and raising over \$1.5 billion in funding in 2021, the country is already cheering its new unicorns — insurtech startup Digit Insurance, SaaS startup InnovAccer, and NBFC Five Star Business Finance.

Heading into 2021, research firms and industry experts had predicted that India will see a significant increase in the number of unicorns. At least 12 more startups are expected to join the unicorn club in 2021, taking the total count of 50 from the current 38.

Source – Your Story

[READ MORE](#)

Visa moves to allow payment settlements using cryptocurrency

Visa Inc said on Monday it will allow the use of the cryptocurrency USD Coin to settle transactions on its payment network, the latest sign of growing acceptance of digital currencies by the mainstream financial industry.

Visa has launched the pilot program with payment and crypto platform Crypto.com and plans to offer the option to more partners later this year, it said. The USD Coin (USDC) is a stablecoin cryptocurrency whose value is pegged directly to the U.S. dollar.

Source – The Times of India

[READ MORE](#)

SEBI does its bit for startup ecosystem

Capital markets regulator Sebi has made far-reaching changes to listing norms on the Innovators Growth Platform (IGP), the novel exchange podium for startups. It has considerably eased the eligibility and listing criteria, which seems most welcome.

The idea is to boost public listing from India's thriving startup ecosystem. At present, for a company with early-stage investors to be able to list on IGP, the shareholding period for investors owning 25% in the startup needs to be at least two years. Sebi has now halved the timeline to just one year.

Source – The Economic Times

[READ MORE](#)

The Minefield of Instant Loan Apps

Unable to keep up with bills after losing his job as a gym trainer during the Covid-19 lockdown, Jatin (name changed on request) borrowed INR 15,000 from a micro-lending app last year. Terms were simple and suited his circumstances - he didn't have to produce income documents and his credit score will be ignored, provided he paid INR 5,000 within 8 days.

Due to absence of any regular income, the 27-year-old defaulted on the payment. What followed was an absolute nightmare for Jatin. "My phone just won't stop ringing all day," recalls the Gurugram resident. "Agents flooded my Whatsapp with abuses and threats. They even threatened to malign me publicly if I didn't pay immediately. I thought it was just a threat but they did it!" The company extracted contact details of his friends and family from his phone, which Jatin gave permission to while filling an application for the loan, and sent them messages over Whatsapp and Facebook flagging him a cheat. Embarrassed and anxious, he gathered funds to pay the initial INR 5,000. But the hounding was far from over.

Source – Entrepreneur

[READ MORE](#)

BharatPe launches instant liquidity facility for SME

With its focus on small and medium enterprises, BharatPe on Friday announced the launch of a new lending product that would provide instant liquidity to distributors, wholesalers, traders and dealers. Called Distributor to Retailer (D2R) Finance, it would offer collateral-free loans of up to ₹50 lakh for a period of seven days to 30 days.

BharatPe raises \$108 million in Series D equity round "BharatPe has already facilitated D2R loans of ₹50 crore in the first month of launch and aims to facilitate disbursement of ₹2,500 crore via this new product in the next fiscal year 2021-22," it said in a statement. The facility is live in 10 cities and has close to 2,000 SME registrations in just one month of launch, it further said, adding that the loan is available at a low interest rate, with zero processing fees and involves minimal paperwork. "We aim to provide this offering in all 100 cities where we are present," said Suhail Sameer, Group President, BharatPe.

Source – The Hindu Business Line

[READ MORE](#)

Amazon Pay looks to become e-financial powerhouse in India

Amazon, which is a dominating player in India's e-commerce market, is looking to do a similar feat in payment services and expand its array of financial services. The company which started offering wallet services a few years back now offers a host of services ranging from money transfer, bill payment to merchant payments. It is now looking to step up play in segments such as insurance to credit via Amazon Pay, according to reports.

The Offering. While about 1 million Amazon sellers use Amazon Pay, over 4.5 million offline merchants offer it. Over About 40 million customers use the unified payments interface (UPI) on Amazon Pay. Last year Amazon launched UPI for iOS users, the minimum KYC pre-paid instrument (PPI) wallet, scaled up adoption of Amazon Pay ICICI credit card, and launched new ticketing use cases including rights, buses and movies.

Source – The Economic Times

[READ MORE](#)

Payment startups Paytm, Pine Labs planning to list in FY22

Payment startups Paytm and Pine Labs are planning to list on market bourses in FY22, sources told CNBC-TV18. While Pine Labs is planning a US listing, Paytm will be listed in India.

Pine Labs aims to raise around \$5 billion through the issue, the sources said. Incorporated in Singapore, the firm is eligible for a direct overseas listing. Meanwhile, the sources added that Paytm is exploring all options but is keener on an Indian listing. Paytm's last round of funding was in December 2020, where the company was valued at over \$16 billion. Pine Labs, on the other hand, was valued at \$2 billion in its last round of funding.

Source – CNBC TV18

[READ MORE](#)

RBI is set to start its blockchain system: Report

India's banking regulator Reserve Bank of India's much-talked forthcoming digital currency will use a private blockchain platform, stated a report in Mint.

The report, quoting sources, stated that the digital currency system would be pretty much like cash to give firm control to the apex bank. The central bank's private blockchain system will be based on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) model, where public and private sector firms can create their apps. However, the talks are in the initial phase, and a final decision has yet to make it.

Source – CNBC TV18

[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.