



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Uber in pact with SUN Mobility to deploy e-autos in India

Accel Partners leads \$25 million Series-B funding round in Drip Capital

Cars24 gets NBFC license from RBI

WhatsApp announces privacy education partnership

Today's View

Trading with AI

Over the years, the world of trading has matured to leverage technology to create a differentiated edge. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced data analytics have emerged as powerful differentiator for the array of firms fighting to generate alpha and reduce costs. These tools have expanded across the domains of trade strategy, trade execution, settlement, compliance, operations, and customer engagement.

While human intervention remains a major part of the trading equation, AI has started playing an increasingly significant role. According to a recent study by U.K. research firm Coalition, electronic trades account for almost 45% of revenues in cash equities trading.

Global investment banking firm **UBS** has built a Machine Learning (ML) - based algorithm to trade volatilities. It scans vast amounts of trading data to create a strategy based on learning from market patterns.

Similarly, **JPMorgan** has been leveraging AI to execute trades in equities businesses. Remarkably, AI is also helping in the behavioral analysis of traders. Looking at the history of traders, these algorithms can identify key behavioral traits of the traders.

Chicago-based **GreenKey Technologies** are working on AI platform with speech recognition and natural language processing technology to save

Akhil Handa
+91 22 6759 2873

M T Rao
+91 22 6759 2879
m.rao@bankofbaroda.com

India jumps five places in Global Innovation Index

India improved its ranking in Global Innovation Index, 2019 by five notches to 52nd position in a survey of innovative capacity among 129 countries by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). India also outperformed on innovation relative to its GDP per capita for nine consecutive years.

GLOBAL BANKING		INDIA'S RANKING	
Rank	2018 - 2019	Rank	2018 - 2019
1	Switzerland	1	ICT services exports
2	Sweden	2	Domestic market scale (in PPP)
3	USA	3	Growth rate of GDP/header (in PPP)
4	Netherlands	4	Ease of protecting minority investors
5	UK	5	Graduates in science and engineering
6	India	6	Ecological sustainability
7	France	7	Education
8	Germany	8	Tertiary inbound mobility
9	Canada	9	ICT use
10	Japan	10	

Source - Mint

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traders time searching through conversions, financial data, and notes. With the company's platform, financial professionals are using AI to sift through, and access, notes, market insights, and trending companies in real-time.

On the other hand, **Kavout's K Score** processes massive diverse sets of data and runs a variety of predictive models to come up with a stock-ranking rating. With the help of AI, the company recommends daily top stocks using pattern recognition technology and a price forecasting engine.

Delhi-based **Auquan's** algorithmic trading platform is democratizing trading and helps finance companies develop high-quality trading strategies. Consequently, its clients are able to translate human skills into trading profits.

While **Epoque's** fully automated AI trading from Switzerland has three "engines": a strategy engine that observes and analyses potential trades; an order engine that creates orders and performs operational actions; and a logical engine that handles active orders and uses machine learning to improve its performance.

Looking at the potential applications, we believe AI will surely have a significant role to play in the future of trading.

Today's News

Accel Partners leads \$25 million Series B funding round in Drip Capital

Mumbai and Palo Alto-based Fintech start-up Drip Capital has raised \$25 million (Rs 172.50 crore) in a fresh round of funding, which has been led by Accel Partners, as the five-year-old company looks to expand into newer markets. The latest round has also seen the entry of GC1 Ventures and institutional syndication platform Trusted Insight into the company's investor cap table. Existing backers of Drip Capital, which include Sequoia Capital, Y Combinator and Wing VC, have also participated in the equity financing transaction. While Accel India is an existing investor in Drip Capital, the new fund raise has also seen Accel US come on board as a new investor.

Source – Mint

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Uber in pact with SUN Mobility to deploy e-autos in India

Ride-hailing giant Uber has announced a partnership with SUN Mobility to deploy e-autos in India. This partnership will be piloted across select cities in the coming months, Uber said. As part of the alliance, SUN Mobility will offer its unique energy infrastructure platform, which includes swappable smart batteries and quick interchange stations to select original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) for building e-autos.

Fleet owners and Uber's driver partners will benefit because they can buy vehicles without the battery to save money on initial acquisition costs. They will receive charged, swappable batteries as a service by SUN Mobility, thereby helping bring the overall cost of e-autos in line with their internal combustion engine (ICE) counterpart.

Source – The Economic Times

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of G Balakrishna and M T Rao

Cars24 gets NBFC license from RBI

An online marketplace for used vehicles, Cars24 has received a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India and is set to carve out the lending business as a separate entity within the Cars24 group. The company plans to foray into both consumer lending and business lending, to eventually expand its scope of operations and help it cater to a larger clientele.

Further the company will also allow consumers who will buy these used cars to take loans from the platform and in times of a financial emergency sell the car back to the platform at the right price and repay the loan.

Source – The Economic Times

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254 start-ups get Rs 1,700 crore investment from AFI

As many as 254 startups have received investment to the tune of over Rs 1,700 crore from the SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) and the central government has also set up a Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) with corpus of Rs 10,000 crore, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said.

Goyal said in Lok Sabha that the FFS with corpus of Rs 10,000 crore will meet the funding needs of startups. He said the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is the monitoring agency and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the operating agency for FFS.

Source – The Economic Times

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WhatsApp announces privacy education partnership

WhatsApp has announced a partnership with The Indian School of Public Policy, India's first programme in the theory and practice of public policy, technology product design and management. The company said the partnership will bring a series of privacy design workshops co-hosted by Facebook founded Trust, Transparency and Control Labs (TCC Labs) to future policy makers. The workshops will kick off on September 17 to explore the importance and practice of privacy-centric design to help technology make a positive impact on society.

Will Cathcart, the global head of WhatsApp was in Mumbai to announce this partnership during a discussion with Indian start-ups and entrepreneurs hosted at Innov8. During the session, Cathcart discussed how designing products with privacy as a key principle is critical for building successful consumer and business products.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Toyota to invest \$600 million in China's ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing

Toyota Motor said on Thursday it will invest \$600 million in Chinese ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing and a new joint venture to expand collaboration with the firm in China. The move accelerates a trend in China which has seen automakers launch their own ride-hailing services, and ride-hailing firms such as Didi team with automakers to develop purpose-built cars for their services. The Japanese carmaker said the new joint venture would include Toyota's Chinese partnership with Guangzhou Automobile Group (GAC), and would see the companies combining services and technologies.

The collaboration utilised Toyota's connected technologies and next-generation battery electric vehicles, Toyota Executive Vice President Shigeki Tomoyama said. Toyota, which has said it aims to get half of its global sales from electrified vehicles by 2025, has tapped Chinese battery makers including Contemporary Amperex Technology (CATL) and BYD to aid it in the shift to to electricity-powered cars.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Insuretech startup Coverfox receives Rs 40 Cr investment in ongoing Series-C round

Online insurance aggregator platform Coverfox has received Rs 40 crore (\$5.79 million) capital infusion from its existing investors as a part of its ongoing Series C funding round. With this investment, the total funding raised by Coverfox reached \$58.59 million.

According to the Registrar of Companies (RoC) filings, the Mumbai-based company has issued Series C5 compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS) to investors such as International Finance Corporation, Aegon Digital Investments, Transamerica Ventures, Accel India, and SAIF Partners.

Source – *Your Story*

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SoftBank to commit \$40 billion to second Vision Fund: Report

Japanese tech conglomerate SoftBank Group will invest \$40 billion in its forthcoming second Vision Fund, the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday. Citing people familiar with the matter, the report said SoftBank's board will meet to approve the commitment.

While the first, \$100 billion Vision Fund launched with \$60 billion in backing from the sovereign wealth funds of Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi, SoftBank has pledged to launch its second even without such support as it markets the fund to potential investors.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Quikr raises Rs 20 crore debt funding from Trifecta, total funding now at \$44 mn

Bengaluru-based online classifieds marketplace Quikr has raised a debt funding of Rs 20 crore from Trifecta Capital, according to RoC. The startup had also received Rs 13.90 crore on May 27 from its Mauritius-based entity. Pranay Chulet-led firm has issued 14,940 equity shares at a premium of Rs 9,300 per share to Quikr Mauritius Holding Ltd.

Quikr, which claims to have over 30 million unique users a month, is present in 1,200 cities in India, and operates classified businesses across C2C, cars, education, homes, jobs, and services over its mobile app as well as a desktop site.

Source – *Your Story*

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