

The benefits are two-fold –it gives self-insured employers the chance to save on their healthcare expenses and it also encourages a more positive and energetic workplace culture.

On the other hand, rich visualization capabilities afforded by wearable AR or VR devices can augment staffers’ design and data analysis abilities. For instance, Pfizer’s researchers can absorb complex data about protein structures more quickly by virtually stepping inside molecules, studying them up close from every angle.

AR can also make collaboration more cost-effective by giving people the ability to see remote activities in real time. While repairing equipment at bottling plants, **Coca-Cola** technicians use smart glasses to share their visuals with remotely located experts for advice, which reduces delays and costs involved in flying in the specialists to the site.

Though the core utility of wearables at workplace remains to ensure the safety and augment the capabilities of workers, we’ll likely see wearables take even more forms and combine a wider range of emerging technologies in coming years. More on this in our next article.

Today’s News

Aadhaar-based farmer database in the works

The Centre plans to digitise all its farm-oriented schemes and ensure farmers are paid procurement prices directly, by launching an Aadhaar-based database that will also map landholdings of beneficiaries, said officials. In the first phase, the database will have details of 50 million farmers across nine states, they said.

“The database, to be completed by June 30, will have satellite imaging of individual farm land so that farmers may be provided advisories based on the kind of land they possess and the crop they grow,” said Vivek Agarwal, joint secretary of newly created Digital Agriculture Division.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

Instamojo launches InstaCash to provide small businesses with working capital

Bengaluru-based small business focused startup Instamojo has launched InstaCash a working capital product for businesses which are selling on its platform. The company said it will offer merchants loans up to Rs 1 lakh for a period of 7 to 14 days. Once the merchant places a request for the credit, Instamojo will transfer the funds including convenience and processing fee charges. This money will help businesses till the next payment is received by them.

"The current situation has left micro-businesses reeling under pressure to source funds for day-to-day operations...we identified that ‘instant funds’ were the need of the hour. Through InstaCash, we aim to not just empower micro-businesses through digitization, but act as an enabler by addressing key challenges and thus, facilitate smooth operations," said Sampad Swain, Chief Executive Officer, Instamojo.

Source – *Money Control*

[READ MORE](#)

Agriculture ministry eyes drones to fight off locusts swarms

The Department of Agriculture is looking for drones that can fly at night and stay airborne for an extended duration, as it seeks to expand use of unmanned aerial vehicles to fight off locust swarms that have invaded India’s western and central region.

The broad specification comes a little over one month after India’s civil aviation regulator granted the agriculture ministry conditional exemption to use drones in anti-locust operations, making India the first country to do so.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

Pivot and Persist: How B2B ecommerce startup ShakeDeal leveraged its health portfolio to combat coronavirus

Nine out of every ten startups in India are expected to see their revenues slide over at least the next couple of quarters due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a NASSCOM survey. This is especially the case for early- and mid-stage startups which are in a grim place as external funding and risk appetites have dried up.

However, many startups are navigating the crisis by pivoting to tap into the current needs, and concurrently aligning their manufacturing processes.

Source – *Your Story*

[READ MORE](#)

Bootstrapped to billions: Zerodha becomes rare profitable fintech startup to achieve unicorn status

Before Zerodha became a unicorn, it was a 'proficorn' – a profitable startup with no external funding. Now, as India's largest brokerage turns a decade old, it is formally claiming unicorn status, 'conservatively' valuing itself at \$1 billion as it announces an employee stock options buyback plan. Zerodha's Rs 65 crore employee stock ownership (ESOP) buyback plan, which is being facilitated at around 5X the book value, puts the bootstrapped fintech startup's valuation at Rs 7,000 crore or around \$1 billion.

But this number could have been 'much higher' if Zerodha had been valued as a tech firm, rather than as just a brokerage firm, Co-founder and CEO Nithin Kamath tells YourStory. "4X-5X book value is what brokerage firms typically get. The thing is, we are not just a brokerage firm. We're actually a tech firm that's growing very fast. The actual valuation numbers could be way higher because people value tech businesses based on growth," explains Nithin.

Source – Your Story

[READ MORE](#)

PhonePe launches UPI handle in partnership with ICICI Bank

Digital payments major PhonePe has officially launched '@ib!' handle in partnership with ICICI Bank as part of an effort to diversify into a multi-bank partnership model. The Flipkart-backed payments player had started with Yes Bank and was offering the '@ybl' handle. "With customers now being able to choose between multiple handles for their UPI IDs, we have achieved another key milestone in our journey towards making payments easy, secure and accessible to all," PhonePe, vice president, financial services and payments, Hemant Gala said on June 26.

PhonePe suffered a major outage in March when the Reserve Bank of India imposed a moratorium on Yes Bank because of the private lender's poor financial health. Since all its transactions were processed by Yes Bank then, PhonePe, as reported by Moneycontrol, had to overnight transfer load to ICICI Bank to continue operations. Collaborating with two banks will strengthen the overall service reliability and uptime of PhonePe's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) offering, the company said in a press note.

Source – Money Control

[READ MORE](#)

Fintech, digital lenders launch schemes for MSME credit

As banks are being prodded by the government to extend liquidity support to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), a number of digital lenders and non-bank finance companies are jumping aboard to offer fast credit solutions to these firms.

In recent weeks, many such players have announced plans to provide funding to the sector, which needs ready cash solutions to restart operations after the Covid-induced lockdown. For instance, U GRO Capital, a technology-first, small-business lending platform, plans to roll out an end-to-end digital lending platform for the sector and plans to reach out to five lakh MSME clients.

Source – The Hindu Business Line

[READ MORE](#)

Oracle ups investment in India, opens second cloud region in Hyderabad

With the demand for enterprise services on the rise, Oracle has decided to take a leaf out of Microsoft, Amazon, and Google's India strategy and decided to expand its data center footprint in the country.

The IT giant has now launched its second data center (also referred to as cloud region) in Hyderabad, less than 8 months after its first data center launch in Mumbai. The move is part of Oracle's global plans to operate 36 second-generation Cloud regions by the end of 2020.

Source – CNBC TV 18

[READ MORE](#)

Startup funding deals in H1 2020 down 31% at 272

Dealmaking for startups in the first six months of 2020 has dipped by 31% to 272 transactions, while the total capital invested fell by 11% to \$4.1 billion as compared to the year-ago period, according to data from Venture Intelligence.

Venture capital investors feel that given the double whammy of Covid-19 and blocking of investments from China, things will get worse in the next two quarters, as there is usually a lag between when deals are closed and their announcements. The data shows investments in early-stage startups at idea and concept stage took the biggest hit, as deals of up to \$2 million were down by 43% to 98, while transactions from \$2-25 million fell by 26%.

Source – The Times of India

[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.