



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

RBI's proposed rulebook for MFIs: Good on intent, but challenging to implement

Blockchain and the Future of Business Platforms

Powering Digital Lifestyles with Payments

This startup helps reduce COVID vaccine wastage in last-mile delivery

Today's View

Smart Logistics

Transport and logistics sector has seen marked improvements in recent decades. As new technologies have entered the market, efficiency has increased. Last mile logistics refers to the final step of the delivery process from a distribution center or facility to the end-user. There are important elements involved in the last mile delivery process that customers are looking for, namely, speed, timeliness, accuracy and precision of the product deliveries after reaching their endpoint.

Emerging technologies like **AI** and **machine learning** are helping make last mile deliveries more efficient, which is the key to profitability. Along with streamlining processes, AI could help e-retailers and their transportation partners to better predict shipments and plan ahead to ride out the fluctuations between a busy and a slack period.

Detrack is a real-time vehicle tracking and electronic proof of delivery solution. They have introduced **George**, the world's first Geocoding Artificial Intelligence algorithm. George has been developed with a particular focus on tackling the low success rates of geocoding addresses to make last mile delivery as seamless as possible. In particular, **George** can make a difference in countries that are known to have poor geocoding success rates, for lack of

Akhil Handa
+91 22 6759 2873

Prithwjit Ghosh
+91 22 6759 2579
Prithwjit.ghosh@bankofbaroda.co.in

How this NBFC is enabling financial inclusion by providing loans to micro-enterprises

Mumbai-based SBFC Finance is addressing the gap of providing loans to those categories of borrowers who are normally bypassed by traditional financial institutions and bringing them mainstream.

SBFC STARTUPS/ SNAPSHOT	
	PERSONAL Amenity, Office, Midfresh, Etcetera
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Source – Your Story

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infrastructure. **George** gathers, cross reference and process complex information from a multitude of sources including data signals from drivers through its algorithm in order to get to know accurate geocodes.

Onfleet is a last mile delivery platform, designed to help businesses perfect that final mile. It does this by empowering businesses like Gap, MedMen, United Supermarkets, and more to conduct leaner operations, make smarter decisions and improve customer experience. **Onfleet** optimizes delivery routes by automatically factoring time, location, vehicle capacity and traffic to recommend efficient routes. If anything changes, real-time updates are sent to drivers via SMS. With **Onfleet**, businesses can monitor key metrics including success rates, on-time rates, service times, feedback scores, distance travelled and export this data at any time to produce custom reports.

Time optimization can be achieved with the help of **Natural Language Programming** (NLP). Last-mile delivery systems which work on the basis of voice recognition makes it easier to change the time, road and other details regarding the delivery without the need to pick up the phone or go online. Israeli startup **Package. AI** has developed chatbot Jenny for different types of assistance during the last-mile delivery process, including changing the time of the delivery, editing details, cancelling the order, talking to the recipients via social networks, etc.

Last mile delivery logistics has been making inroads in the logistics industry and rising as a differentiator in the fiercely competitive market. Innovations are disrupting the traditional model and bringing efficiency in this space.

Today's News

RBI's proposed rulebook for MFIs: Good on intent, but challenging to implement

RBI's consultation paper is for academic purposes and remains in the realm of discussions and suggestions. But, if the proposed changes are implemented in their current avatar, they are likely to face a few on-ground challenges.

The concept of microfinance has evolved as a great tool of financial inclusion. Over the decade, this sector has managed to reach out to the poorest of the population and help them in setting up their commercial activities.

However, the idea does not come without its own share of risks. Over the years, it has created a vicious debt cycle for the bottom of the pyramid segment that the participants are finding difficult to break. The microfinance industry was placed precariously even in the pre-pandemic scenario with rising debt levels per borrowers.

Source – Money Control

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Do lower rates hurt savers? Not quite, says RBI research

Economic models suggest that loss of interest income is made up by a rise in demand and wages, as per views put forth at MPC meeting.

Savers looking for higher interest incomes must wait longer with economists embracing models that suggest only a section of them lose out in a lowerrate regime, but a large chunk of savers gain due to higher economic activity.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) executive director Mridul Sagar says the argument that lower rates hurt savers across the board doesn't hold water.

Source – The Economic Times

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This startup helps reduce COVID vaccine wastage in last-mile delivery

Manipal-based Blackfrog Technologies wants to reduce the wastage of both COVID vaccine and routine vaccines in last-mile delivery by deploying its product, Emvolio.

According to the World Health Organisation, more than 50 percent of vaccines that end up getting wasted globally every year take place during distribution, particularly at last-mile delivery.

The reason: thermal degradation of these temperature-sensitive vaccines due to poor temperature control.

Source – Your Story

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Powering Digital Lifestyles with Payments

Over the past few years, Southeast Asia has become a hotbed of payments innovation with the Covid-19 pandemic accelerating the shift to all things digital.

Nationwide lockdowns, movement controls and safe-distancing measures have reshaped consumer habits and preferences in varied ways and businesses had to adapt rapidly to keep pace. With Covid-19 likely to become endemic worldwide, these new digital habits are expected to stick, with innovative payment experiences set to power increasingly digital lifestyles across the region, according to payments firm Visa.

Based in Singapore, Mandy Lamb is group country manager, outlines key insights into how the pandemic has altered lives and payment behaviours, in addition to what we can expect in a post-pandemic world.

Source – *The Fintech Times*

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Blockchain and the Future of Business Platforms

In an increasingly digitised society, businesses must continuously innovate their platforms. Organisations need to be able to facilitate the evolving needs of their stakeholders in environments where expectations of security, trust and flexibility are rising. Blockchain technology can help facilitate this and prevent security issues such as fraud. Blockchain is still maturing as a technology in today's marketplace. As a result, whilst business leaders recognise a theoretical use-case for it, practical applications can be hard to pinpoint.

Axway is an information technology company that provide software tools for enterprise software, Enterprise Application Integration, business activity monitoring, business analytics, mobile application development and web API management.

Source – *The Fintech Times*

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Bueno Finance raises \$3 million in seed funding by Goat Capital and JAM Fund

Y Combinator-backed fintech startup Bueno Finance on Tuesday announced that it has raised \$3 million in its seed round from a slew of investors such as Goat Capital, JAM Fund, Olive Tree Capital, Good Water Capital, and others from Silicon Valley.

The Gurugram-based startup will use the funds to expand the product offerings and strengthen its team across engineering, product, sales, credit and operations, to support its accelerated growth plans. According to the announcement made by the company marquee Indian Angel investors Kunal Shah, Anupam Mittal have also participated in the round.

Source – *Live Mint*.

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Prithwijiit Ghosh

How Start-Up Visa Program is assisting international start-ups in setting up their businesses in Canada

After making a splash in India with its HR Tech platform that enables companies to customise customer relationship management and application tracking systems, tech startup Enrich.io shifted its base to Canada in September 2020.

Launched in the 1990s, TBDC helps startups from across the world explore new opportunities and set up their business in Canada while offering business resources and advisory support. The programme is tailored to suit the unique requirements of individual startups.

Source – *Your Story*

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Unacademy's Graphy launches Rs 100-crore grant for creators

Earlier today, content platform Graphy unveiled the Rs 100-crore Graphy Creator Grant, which aims to help applicants kickstart their online school.

An Unacademy group company, Graphy is a platform that helps creators grow their audience, monetise their skills and host live cohort-based courses. Applications from influencers, educators and domain experts are welcome, the website said.

The grant is expected to be deployed over the next two years.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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