



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Digital lending: a sector that continued to grow and innovate lending through 2018

Fintech companies raised a record \$39.6 billion in 2018

\$2.67 billion Tokenization market - Global forecast to 2023

Bavaria invites Indian IT start-ups to explore tie-ups

Today's View

Visa Processing, with AI

Visa and Immigration process can be tedious for tourists and business travellers prior to their journey. For decades, it has been performed manually using basic support technology to garner and assess an array of information. However, with advances in technology, immigration offices are in the process of offering personalised visa services backed by data security. These automated solutions can assess an applicant's eligibility in terms of a wide range of threshold questions, especially where straightforward approval cannot be granted.

AI-based applications like chatbots, language translation and visual perception are leading the future of the visa processing industry, both domestic and globally. As per **ExpressComputer** research, adoption of AI in the visa processing can result in savings up to \$90 billion by 2025, with as many as 90 percent of all future visa applications being decided through an automated platform.

In **Australia**, the Department of Home Affairs is looking at artificial intelligence and machine learning to spot dubious applicants. With the volumes of visa and citizenship applications expected to grow by around 50 percent to 13 million per annum over the next 10 years, the department has launched first-ever visa services chatbot VIVA for visa services in collaboration with **VFS Global**. It assists visa applicants with queries related to the visa application process, akin to any highly trained customer support executive.

Akhil Handa

+91 22 6759 2873

akhilhanda@bankofbaroda.com


Manish Kulkarni

+91 22 6759 2885

manish.kulkarni@bankofbaroda.com

RBI asks P2P lenders to file quarterly details

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked all registered peer-to-peer (P2P) lenders to furnish details about borrowers, lenders, their financial profiles, total exposure of participants and the financial health of the platforms themselves as it looks to assess the overall wellbeing of the sector.



Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

Date – 29th Jan 19

VIVA offers applicants round-the-clock support and can currently handle 10,000 enquiries per second, significantly reducing the turnaround time for applicant queries.

Meanwhile, **Singapore's** Changi airport is testing AI-based facial recognition cameras to spot travellers who are late or lost. The airport is already using facial recognition to allow passengers to check in on their own, including immigration and boarding. While **UAE** is planning to fully automate immigration work by 2020 by using AI and facial recognition.

Looking at rapid strides being made by AI-based applications, we believe that AI will soon be an integral part of the immigration process. However, considering its potential impact especially in case of visa applications based on humanitarian purposes, it is imperative for all stakeholders to join hands in executing focussed result-driven policies including legal and seamless technologies, which will not only uphold the future of visa industry, but help countries to provide safe and reliable experience for applicants.

Today's News

Digital lending: a sector that continued to grow and innovate lending through 2018

Digital lending companies use technology to originate, underwrite and disburse loans effectively to end-users. In an emerging digital economy like India, this form of lending is undertaken by Fintech companies. By lending from their balance sheets or by co-lending with banks and NBFCS, Fintech companies are able to efficiently address the sizable demand for credit across various industries. For example, MSMEs alone confront a credit gap of approximately \$230 Bn. Digital lending has emerged as the go-to solution for addressing such voluminous needs in the market.

Source – Inc42

[READ MORE](#)

'AI will drive aerospace sector in the next 15 years'

Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be the key driver of fast-paced developments in Aerospace sector in the next 15 years, said VK Saraswat, member, NITI Aayog. At the Annual General Meeting and National Conference of the Aeronautical Society of India (AeSI), he said it would play a significant role in cutting down costs, reduction in cycle time of design, optimisation, simulation, prototyping, manufacturing, maintenance and product updates.

AI will be one of the disruptive technologies which will impact efficiency, productivity, speed and innovation in the emerging industries, he added. G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman of the DRDO, said that unmanned vehicles will play a major role in both defence and civilian sector. Therefore, there is an urgent need to gear up in the area.

Source – BusinessLine

[READ MORE](#)

This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of G Balakrishna and Manish Kulkarni

\$2.67 billion Tokenization market - Global forecast to 2023

The tokenization market size is estimated to grow from USD 983 million in 2018 to USD 2,670 million by 2023, at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 22.1% during the forecast period. The factors expected to drive the tokenization market are the growing need to protect cardholders' data by following PCI DSS guidelines and increasing payment frauds that need to be prevented.

Source – PR Newswire

[READ MORE](#)

Bavaria invites Indian IT start-ups to explore tie-ups

Bavaria is exploring business horizons by forging new alliances in the form of technology, business collaborations and exchange of ideas in the sectors of Information Technology, especially in the segments of Internet of Things (IOT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Source – BusinessLine

[READ MORE](#)

CreditVidya raises \$3M funding from Bharat Innovation fund & others

Mumbai-based deep technology startup CreditVidya has raised \$3 million from Bharat Innovation Fund and the partners at Falcon Edge Capital who have invested in their personal capacity in a fresh round of equity funding. The company, backed by Matrix Partners and Kalaari Capital, helps banks and financial institutions lend to new customers with the help of advanced data analytics.

Source – The Economic Times

[READ MORE](#)

Fintech companies raised a record \$39.6 billion in 2018

Venture capital-backed financial technology companies raised a record \$39.57 billion from investors globally in 2018, up 120% from the previous year, according to research by data provider CB Insights published on Tuesday. Funding was raised through 1,707 deals, up from 1,480 in 2017, the research said. The surge in funding was due in large part to 52 mega-rounds, or investments larger than \$100 million, which were worth \$24.88 billion combined, the research said. A \$14 billion investment in Ant Financial, the payment affiliate of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group, accounted for 35% of total Fintech funding alone last year, the research said.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

ICICI, Kotak, Axis among 11 to launch blockchain-linked funding for SMEs

ICICI Bank, HDFC bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Axis Bank are among the consortium of 11 big lenders set to launch the country's first blockchain-linked funding for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), an initiative that is set to transform the face of lending to default-prone tiny firms. Yes Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, RBL Bank, and South Indian Bank are part of the consortium. IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda are participating in the meetings as outside members.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

IndusInd bank partners with government of Maharashtra and NPCI for Mumbai Fintech accelerator programme

IndusInd Bank announced that it has joined the first edition of the 'Mumbai Fintech Accelerator Programme' backed by the Government of Maharashtra and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) as a banking partner. With this, IndusInd Bank aims to partner with the State Government in its effort at making Mumbai a global Fintech hub in the coming years. The accelerator programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis and aims to attract developers, start-ups, and technopreneurs who would build and showcase technological prototypes across areas like Financial Inclusion, Public Payment Infrastructure and Government technology.

Source – *Express Computer*

[READ MORE](#)

Will finalize on OTT-services issue by February-end: TRAI chairman

The telecom regulator authority of India (TRAI) hopes to finalize by February-end, its recommendations on whether over-the-top (OTT) services, such as WhatsApp and Skype, should be brought under the regulatory ambit, according to a top official. "We will be organizing open house discussions soon. And hopefully, by the end of the next month, we should be able to come up with recommendations," TRAI Chairman RS Sharma told in an interview.

Source – *The New Indian Express*

[READ MORE](#)

SoftBank-backed Grofers claims Rs 300 crore sales for January 2019

Online supermarket Grofers has recorded a revenue of Rs 310 crore in January 2019, said the company in a statement. The marketplace has further added 2.5 lakh new customers this January and eyes a revenue target of Rs 2,500 crore for FY 2019. Adding, Grofers said that during this period, it sold a total of 1.81 crore items worth Rs 207.5 cr.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

IIM-Ahmedabad's CIIE backs environmental IoT startup Oizom

Oizom Instruments, an internet of things (IoT) start-up focused on curbing pollution, has raised an undisclosed amount in seed funding from Centre for Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (CIIE). A unit of IIM-Ahmedabad, CIIE incubates technology-based businesses. Oizom said that it plans to deploy on Data-as-a-Service (DaaS) model for predictive analytics of environmental health.

Source – *VCCircle*

[READ MORE](#)

Jio launches an IRCTC like app for booking train tickets

Reliance Jio has launched an application called JioRail for its JioPhones. The app will allow customers to book and cancel tickets by using debit cards, credit cards and e-wallets, check PNR status, train information, timings, routes, seat availability and several other services.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[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.