



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

KYC rider gets banks back in remittance game

Flipkart adds 27,000 kirana shops to strengthen last-mile delivery

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Today's View

Textile Tech

Textiles are formed using different processes, such as knitting, weaving, felting, or crocheting. These materials are used in the manufacturing of a wide range of conventional, as well as advanced finished goods, in kitchen, upholstery, bedding, transportation, etc.

The global textile market size was valued at USD 925.3 billion in 2018 and is expected to register a CAGR of 4.24% over the period 2019-2025 as per a report by **Grand View Research**. This growth is attributed to the high demand for apparels, particularly in the developing economies including India, China, Bangladesh, and Mexico. Textile tech start-ups are using technology for silk protein production to artificial leather.

Bolt Threads produces silk protein found in n large quantities through fermentation using yeast, sugar, and water by putting special genes into yeast for the textile industry. Yeast produces silk proteins in liquid form which is turned into fiber using the wet-spinning process. These proteins are spun into fibers which are later weaved into fabrics and garments.

Leather is an in-demand fabric. Growing activism around the world has generated awareness about the use of natural leather. Brooklyn-based **Modern Meadow** uses cell engineering to bio-fabricate leather with living cells instead of animals. Their proprietary technology involves DNA editing and transformation of the living cells with the edited DNA to enhance collagen

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At Rs 3,960 Cr, losses mount 165% for Paytm parent One97

Paytm's losses widened 165% in the last financial year while revenue increased marginally, at a time when the digital payments leader faces increased competition from Google Pay and PhonePe.



Source – The Economic Times

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Date – 11th Sept 19

expression. The process is environment-friendly, does not involve harsh chemical treatment, and reduces the tanning process.

On similar lines, **Piñatex** produces artificial leather made of pineapple leaf fiber and finds applications in multiple products such as fashion apparel, bags, footwear, watch straps, and car seat furnishing.

Footfalls & Heartbeats have developed a revolutionary manufacturing process that allows the control and manipulation of both yarn-to-yarn interaction and the movement of micro-mechanical structures that form the basis of knitted fabrics. These fabrics can be used for making smart garments for infant monitoring, athlete monitoring, and remote monitoring of health and physiological symptoms for those in high-risk environments, such as first responders and defense personnel.

"37.5" develops textile products using its proprietary technology that helps in maintaining micro-climate -area next to skin- humidity at 37.5 % at all times. The patented active particles, permanently embedded at the fiber level, capture and release moisture vapour and maintains an optimum humidity in micro-climate.

The arena of textile production as we know it is undergoing disruption. Modern tech and innovation is making it safer for the producer as well as the end-user.

Today's News

KYC rider gets banks back in remittance game

A loss of business for mobile wallets has brought in windfall gains for the banking system, as the entire domestic remittance business, which had moved to the prepaid segment, has returned to the business correspondents space. The shift back is caused by a Reserve Bank of India order, requiring full KYC compliance for creating and transferring money through wallets. Bankers and industry insiders ET spoke to said almost 95% of the money remittance business that was happening through players like Oxigen, PayPoint and Eko had moved into the banking channels, where the same players are now doing the business as business correspondents (BCs), or agents, of the banks.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Flipkart adds 27,000 kirana shops to strengthen last-mile delivery

Flipkart has announced the On-boarding of nearly 27,000 kirana shops across 700 cities to its pan-India supply chain, helping it reach out to millions of new consumers during the upcoming festive event, the Big Billion Days. This will strengthen and personalise e-commerce experience for its existing 160 million customers, help deepen its reach to newer geographies and consumers and support kiranas by enhancing their income.

Source – *BusinessLine*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of G Balakrishna and Prithwiji Ghosh

Oyo acquires Copenhagen-based data science company Danamica

Softbank-backed Oyo has acquired Copenhagen-based data science company Danamica for an undisclosed amount. Earlier this August the company had committed to invest €300 million in the vacation homes business in Europe, with a special focus on strengthening technology.

With the acquisition of Danamica, Oyo looks to drive growth by leveraging dynamic pricing across all its brands - Oyo Home, Belvilla and DanCenter. Additionally, Oyo and its real estate partners around the world will benefit using data sciences for improved yield.

Source – *Money Control*

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Ed-tech start-up WhiteHat Jr scores \$10M in Series-A funding round

Ed-tech startup WhiteHat Jr has raised \$10 million in its Series-A round of financing, led by existing investor's venture capital firm Nexus Venture Partners and Omidyar Network, the philanthropic investment firm set up Ebay founder Pierre Omidyar.

Also joining the Mumbai-based company's cap table is Owl Ventures, the Menlo Park-based, ed-tech-focused investment firm. This is the second ed-tech bet placed by Owl Ventures in India in the last three months, having earlier participated in market leader Byju's \$150 million equity financing round, alongside Qatar Investment Authority in July.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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McKinsey roped in for first digital capability centre

India will set up its first digital capability centre showcase advanced technologies and provide a test bed for emerging innovations as the government looks to transform the country's manufacturing sector. The Niti Aayog has roped in McKinsey & Company, which supports five such centres globally — in Aachen, Chicago, Singapore, Venice and Beijing.

A senior official, aware of the deliberations, said that the government will act as a facilitator to bring together industry, academia, and research on one platform to help set up a digital capability centre (DCC), which has to be driven by the private sector. The Aayog has lined up extensive stakeholder consultations over the next few months to firm up the plan. Rajat Gupta, senior partner McKinsey & Company, confirmed the deliberations are on with NITI Aayog and industry to understand the needs of the Indian industry.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Delhi-NCR ahead of Bengaluru, Mumbai with over 7,000 start-ups, 10 unicorns: Report

Delhi-NCR is home to over 7,000 start-ups, including 10 unicorns with a cumulative private market valuation of worth \$50 billion, as per a report by TiE Delhi NCR and global management consulting firm Zinnov. While there were 7,039 start-ups in Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru had 5,234, Mumbai 3,829 and Hyderabad 1,940.

According to the report, accelerating growth of the ecosystem will require addressing several core areas including the need for a lot more seed and early stage funding, creating more affordable co-working spaces, increasing the number and quality of accelerators and incubators, developing deeper pools of technical talent and developing sector specific policies.

Source – *Money Control*

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Grab in talks to merge Indonesian payment firms to overtake Gojek: Sources

SoftBank-backed ride hailer Grab is in talks to merge OVO, an Indonesian digital payments firm in which it owns shares, with an Ant Financial-backed local peer to build heft and power ahead of archrival Gojek, people familiar with the matter said. A deal would see Singapore-based Grab buy a majority interest in Ant-backed DANA from Indonesian media conglomerate Elang Mahkota Teknologi (Emtek) and merge it with OVO, they said.

It could help OVO-DANA dominate Gojek in Indonesia's multi-billion dollar online payments market. OVO and Gojek have been vying for the top spot in payments since 2018, with DANA not far behind. Grab and Gojek are the top-two start-up brands in Southeast Asia, valued at \$14 billion and \$10 billion, respectively, according to sources. They compete in a host of areas including financial services, e-commerce, and ride-hailing and food delivery.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Investors look to hitch a ride on bike-sharing firms

Global growth and late-stage investors are backing home-grown scooter-sharing startups Vogo and Bounce, which are largely solving for short-distance mobility needs of customers in cities, multiple investors said.

Vogo, backed by ride-hailing major Ola, is in talks to raise close to \$50 million in equity financing from Goldman Sachs, three people aware of the talks said. Its closest rival Bounce is also close to raising its next round with soft commitments of \$75 million from existing investors Accel Growth, B Capital, Falcon Edge and Sequoia Capital, sources in the know said.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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OYO expands presence to over 500 cities in India

Hospitality firm OYO said it has expanded presence to over 500 cities across India with focus on tier 2 and 3 cities and smaller towns. This is in line with the company's objectives of going deeper in existing markets and metros, while forming a stronger national network through presence in smaller towns, cities and popular tourist destinations, OYO said in a statement.

"At OYO Hotels and Homes, we are focused on strengthening our presence in India and South Asia, while enabling economic opportunities at every level and, not just across metros but also tier 2, 3 and 4 cities," OYO Hotels & Homes India & South Asia CEO Aditya Ghosh said.

Source – *Money Control*

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