



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Credit Saison launches VC fund in India

Oyo, Apax join race for significant stake in CCD

Neotec Hub Mentoring 25 Startups, Plans to Take More Onboard

Loanzen gets funding from Zephyr Peacock India

Oravel board okays \$1.5 billion for Oyo from SoftBank, RA Hospitality

Today's View

F&B on Blockchain

Food & Beverages (F&B) segment has always been considered as a backbone to the overall growth of multiple industries and major source of income to numerous economies. As per **Statista**, global revenue in the Food & Beverages segment is expected to cross US\$ 107 bn in 2019 with an annual growth rate of 9.1% during 2019-2023.

Considering its growing importance, major firms are leveraging innovative technologies like Blockchain to transform the F&B sector by increasing efficiency, transparency and collaboration throughout the food system.

Thanks to Blockchain, consumers would be able to trace the source of their salad in seconds, shippers could see if a truck is full before they schedule a delivery and grocery stores could verify if a carton of eggs is actually cage-free.

World's four largest agriculture companies, mostly known as **ABCD (ADM, Bunge, Cargill, Dreyfus)** are using blockchain and AI to automate post-trade execution processes, which is normally considered to be a highly manual and costly part of the supply chain.

Similarly **Carrefour**, French retail firm is deploying a food tracking platform based on Hyperledger to track free-range chickens raised without antibiotic treatment. Each package will be marked by a QR code providing detailed info on the chicken's date of birth, type of nutrition, packing date, and more. The

Akhil Handa
+91 22 6759 2873

Manish Kulkarni
+91 22 6759 2885
manish.kulkarni@bankofbaroda.co.in

Paytm gets \$1 billion topup in latest financing round

Digital payments company Paytm said it has raised \$1 billion in a financing round led by US asset manager T Rowe Price with existing investors Ant Financial and SoftBank Vision Fund also participating.

Digital Payments Cos' Losses for FY19	
One97 Communications	₹3,959 CRORE
PhonePe	₹1,904 CRORE
AmazonPay	₹1,160 CRORE

Source – The Economic Times

[READ MORE](#)

Date – 25th Nov 2019

company has already already tested blockchain tracking for French poultry in 2018, showing its commitment to decentralized solutions.

Walmart has teamed up with **IBM** and **Tsinghua University** to create a blockchain-based food safety alliance. It has also observed that the blockchain can reduce tracking times dramatically. Before moving the process to the blockchain, it typically took approximately 7 days to trace the source of food. With blockchain, it's been reduced to 2.2 seconds. This substantially reduces the likelihood that infected food will reach the consumer.

Though most of the blockchain-based ventures in F&B sector are still in the infancy stage, blockchain has shown potential to increase accountability and transparency among the multiple suppliers, middlemen and retailers in this coveted segment.

Today's News

Neotec Hub Mentoring 25 Startups, Plans to Take More Onboard

Neotec Hub, a part of the Ambuja Neotia Group that is currently supporting around 25 startups, plans to take onboard more for mentoring and enabling them to earn revenue, a company official said. The hub supports startups in the fields of real estate, healthcare, education, sports, entertainment, fintech, clean technology, hospitality and IoT (Internet of Things), he said. "We are in the process of mentoring around 25 startups and more than 50 per cent of them are in the revenue stage. We plan to take onboard more startups in the days to come," Parthiv Neotia, director of Neotec Hub said.

Source – Indianweb2

[READ MORE](#)

Credit Saison launches VC fund in India

Japanese financial services firm Credit Saison has launched its venture capital fund in India, a month after the Tokyo Stock Exchange-listed company's subsidiary received a non-banking financial services licence from the Reserve Bank of India. Saison Capital, a \$55 million sector-agnostic, early-stage venture capital fund, will write cheques of \$500,000 to \$1 million, investing in six to eight startups, according to a senior executive at the fund. "About half of the fund will go into writing initial cheques, with the rest going into follow-on investments," Chris Sirisereepaph, partner at Saison Capital, told ET.

The fund has, however, yet to announce any investments in India. The fund is targeting opportunities across the broader financial technology, agriculture, supply chain optimisation and human resources solutions sectors, among others. The launch of Credit Saison's VC fund is the latest by a Japanese risk capital investor in India, for whom Asia's third-largest economy has been a happy hunting ground.

Source – The Economic Times

[READ MORE](#)

This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Preeti Patil and Manish Kulkarni

Loanzen gets funding from Zephyr Peacock India

Loanzen, a start-up that provides financial solutions to the logistics industry, on Sunday said it had raised funding from Zephyr Peacock India Growth Fund. However, it didn't disclose the funding amount. Existing investor Kae Capital also participated in the round, a statement said.

"Loanzen will invest the funds raised in the development of technology, build data analytics teams, scale operations in existing locations across Karnataka and expand to new markets," it added.

Source – The Hindu Business Line

[READ MORE](#)

Zolostays in talks with Credit Suisse for \$100M funding

Nexus Venture Partners-backed co-living space provider Zolostays is in talks with Credit Suisse to raise around \$100 million (about Rs 710 crore) to fund its expansion plans, a top company official said. The Bengaluru-based firm is planning to increase its portfolio to 2 lakh beds by the end of 2021, Zolostays Co-founder and Chief Executive Nikhil Sikri told PTI.

"We are in talks with Credit Suisse to raise \$100 million in Series C round to fund our expansion plans to increase the number of beds to 2 lakh," he said, adding the company will also increase its headcount. In January this year, Zolostays had raised \$30 million in Series B funding round led by IDFC Alternatives, Mirae Asset, and Nexus Venture Partners.

Source – Your Story

[READ MORE](#)

Oravel board okays \$1.5 billion for Oyo from SoftBank, RA Hospitality

The board of Oravel Stays, which owns and operates Oyo Hotels & Homes, has cleared a \$1.5 billion primary capital infusion into the company by its largest institutional stakeholder SoftBank Vision Fund and RA Hospitality.

In a special resolution passed at an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders, SVF India Holdings Cayman Islands-registered entities, has been issued 15,325 Series F compulsorily convertible preference shares at a price of \$52,643.22 a share, while RA Hospitality, the special purpose vehicle also domiciled in the Cayman Islands, has been issued 13,169 equity shares, at the same price, according to a note by paper.vc.

The development comes a little over a month after the SoftBank-backed company stated that its founder and Group Chief Executive Ritesh Agarwal would invest \$700 million into the company he founded in 2013, with the rest coming in from its largest investor SoftBank and other unnamed investors.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

Oyo, Apax join race for significant stake in CCD

SoftBank-backed hospitality chain Oyo and British private equity firm Apax Partners have joined the race to buy a significant stake in Café Coffee Day (CCD), according to two people close to the development. Both Oyo and Apax have signed nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) with Coffee Day Enterprises (CDEL) and have initiated discussions to buy the group's coffee business. KKR, TPG Capital and Bain Capital have also signed similar agreements with CDEL and are in the race to buy CCD, ET had reported on November 15.

The first of the two people cited above said that all bids were being evaluated and the company's board had started negotiations with at least two of the interested parties. "There have been five bids and all are being evaluated, but we will get some clarity only after a few days.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

Cognizant's \$250m-a-year content moderation business up for grabs

Cognizant's move away from the content moderation business, including the service it provides Facebook to monitor user content, has opened up an over \$250 million (Rs 1,795 crore) a year opportunity for other companies. Genpact is likely to benefit the most, while Accenture and Wipro, too, stand to gain as Cognizant's clients are expected to initiate a rebidding process to assign contracts to new service providers, analysts said. Industry experts expect the rebidding process to begin soon. In fact, some of the work from a Cognizant client has already moved to Genpact, said a person aware of the development. "They are already a large client for Genpact. But a lot of the other IT services and BPM (business process management) companies are pushing for the business as well. It's good for companies because a major competitor has left the business," a BPM industry executive said.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

Using Virtual Reality to Communicate the Immediacy of Climate Change

Connie Monroe clicks a button, flicks her wrist and watches as her neighborhood floods. The reed-covered shorelines are first to go. Then, the baseball fields at Fleming Park. By the time seawater reaches the senior center, it has inundated streets, flooding more than a dozen multiunit brick homes that she can see.

Monroe moves her head up and down, side to side, taking in the sobering simulated view. This is what could happen to Turner Station, a historic African American community southeast of Baltimore, as sea levels rise. "Everything's underwater. The school is underwater. Our house is underwater," Monroe says.

Source – *NPR.ORG*

[READ MORE](#)

Investcorp closes Rs 323-crore funding round in NephroPlus

Global alternative asset manager Investcorp has closed an estimated \$45 million (about Rs. 323 crore) funding round in dialysis services provider NephroPlus, in the process, providing an exit to one of the Hyderabad-headquartered company's existing investors.

The latest transaction will see Sea-Link Capital Partners, the investment firm founded by former KKR senior executive Heramb Hajarnavis, score an exit from its three year-old investment. SeaLink is reported to have invested about Rs 90-100 crore in the company.

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.