

STARTUP UPDATES (06.08.20 – 12.08.20)

Byju's has acquired edtech startup WhiteHat Jr. for \$300 million as the Indian online learning giant looks to expand its dominant reach in the country. The all-cash deal makes 18-month-old Mumbai-headquartered WhiteHat Jr., which offers online coding classes to school-going students in India and the U.S., the fastest exit story at this size in the Indian startup ecosystem.

The ministry of agriculture, on Thursday (August 6), announced that it is planning to invest nearly INR 36.71 Cr in 346 agritech startups and startup working in allied sectors like agro-processing, artificial intelligence, digital agriculture, farm mechanisation, waste to wealth, dairy, fisheries among others.

The ministry also highlighted that it has already invested INR 11.85 Cr in 112 startups so far, and will be investing additional INR 24.85 Cr in 234 startups soon. The investment will be a part of a 'component, innovation and agri-entrepreneurship development programme' under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in this domain by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem.

The Indian government's AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge, meant to boost the adoption and development of Indian applications over foreign ones, has announced the final winners of the hackathon hosted on Friday (August 7).

The 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge' saw participation from 6,940 tech entrepreneurs and startups across the country. The mega challenge had entries for nine different categories – Business, eLearning, Entertainment, Games, Health, News, Office and Work from Home, Others and Social.

In a virtual event, the winners were announced across categories:

<u>ENTERTAINMENT</u>	<u>NEWS</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>
Caption Plus	Logically	Zoho workplace
Meme Chat	IsEqualTo	SureMDM
FTC Talent		
<u>GAMES</u>	<u>BUSINESS</u>	<u>SOCIAL</u>
Hitwicket Superstars	Zoho Invoice	Mitron
Scarfall	Mall91	YourQuote
WCC2	GimBooks	Koo
<u>HEALTH</u>	<u>ELEARNING</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>
StepSetGo	Disprz	MapMyIndia
iMumz	Kutuki Kids Learning App	AskSarkar
	Hello English	MylTreturn

With tighter scrutiny of Chinese investments coming into local Indian startups via tax havens like Mauritius, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has returned the applications of several Indian startups who were applying for the Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) license. Some of these Indian startups are Sequoia-backed BharatPe, Google Capital-backed CarDekho and digital banking startup Jupiter backed by Sequoia and Matrix Partners, sources aware of developments told Times of India.

Clinic, path lab and pharmacy on mobile van for non-Covid patients – Modi govt's new plan.

Proposal for 20 cities is now being fine-tuned. It comes after PMO asked chemicals and fertilisers ministry to draw up a scheme for non-Covid patients. The Narendra Modi government is preparing a plan to launch 2,000 mobile clinics to attend to non-Covid patients under a new scheme, tentatively titled 'Jan Aarogya Rath', ThePrint has learnt. The scheme is likely to be launched in 20 cities in the first phase. Under this, high-tech GPS-based mobile vans will mimic a doctor's clinic, a pathology laboratory and a pharmacy. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, which oversees the operations of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), is working on the proposal after receiving the directions from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to work on an idea for non-Covid patients who are postponing their visits to clinics due to Covid fears.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on Thursday (August 6), announced a host of measures to boost digital payments in the country. Among the announcements made by RBI governor Shaktikanta Das was a soon to be launched pilot for offline-based digital payments which won't require internet connectivity.

The RBI governor, while observing that the lack of internet access in some areas was proving to be an impediment in the adoption of digital payments, said that an option for off-line payments through cards, wallets and mobile devices is expected to help in this regard.

Beyond the major categories, the MyGov team also announced a special award across categories— Most promising apps.

Entertainment- Docubay and Boom

News: Paperboy and LetsUp

Games: kite fly, donkey master, math games

Office: Kaagaz Scanner, lamhere and Spark.Live

Health: Aurum, SastaSundar

Elearning: ChalkLit, eMedicoz

Business: Lynk My Business and Boomer-

Social: Mitron and Hidoc Dr- medical learning for doctors