FIN-S, THE FINANCE SOCIETY
DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA COLLEGE

FINZINE

Vol. 7 2025

What's Inside? | Reshaping of the Finance Industry

The Finance Club of DDUC was established in 2012 with the objective of inculcating Financial Acumen amongst its members and the students of the college, One of the most popular societies in the University of Delhi, it provides a stimulus to knowledge sharing and learning by organising interactive discussions, seminars, competitions and other activities in the area of Finance. We at Fin-S believe that Finance is all about evolution and exchange not just of money but more importantly of ideas and strategies. Our endeavor is to equip students with the financial acumen required to succeed in business by providing them with insights into various aspects of Banking, Insurance, Credit Rating, Financial Services, Portfolio Management and Derivatives.

Fin-S also aims to improve students' understanding of financial aspects of management; to help develop practical knowledge and apply it to the markets and to create superior access to career opportunities available in the financial marketplace. Problems can become opportunities when the right people come together. Hence, the current team of FIn-S is on the path of scaling great heights and imparting financial literacy and bringing many laurels for DDUC for years to come.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Editor's Note: "Margin Scribble #01"*

Call it a whisper before the data. A breath before the briefings.

What if we didn't start with predictions?

What if we began with a question:

What are you investing in that doesn't show up in your bank balance?

This issue won't forecast markets or decode crypto trends.

It will not tell you where to put your money.

But it might ask where your time went.

And whether your calendar aligns with your values.

And whether your dreams are earning interest-or just accumulating dust.

Maybe that's where finance begins-not with funds, but with focus.

Not with stocks, but with self.

Welcome.

or

Let's blur the lines between spreadsheet and soul.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Principal's Desk

Dr. Hemchand Jain

I take immense pleasure and pride in intro ducing you to one of the most dedicated and premiere societies of our college. In this era of cut-throat competition, it is of paramount importance to impart integrated education to future generations.

Over the past years, this society has been empowering minds through a perfect blend of classroom knowledge and the practical approach to utilise it. This society has been fruitful in empowering the students with all the knowledge and guidance that they need to become worthy finance pro-fessionals, grooming them to become truly and globally well equipped to deal with the modern world
Dr. Hemchand Jain Acting Principal Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College
and its challenges, being conscious of their societal responsibilities.

The society has dedicated and hardworking office bearers who have effectively conducted events, competitions, and seminars to enrich the students with financial wisdom and have successfully established their name in the Delhi University circuit.

We are happy to bring out the seventh edition of the Finzine, which encompasses all the activities that help in the holistic development of students retaining their beauty and, intellect. The magazine covers the following topics:

From the Convener

Learning gives creativity, creativity leads to thinking, thinking leads To knowledge, and knowledge make you competent. It is a matter of delight to be a part of the Finance society of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College that contains myriads of wonders.

Through Finzine, we instigate the ever-evolving process of learning. This conversant magazine will facilitate students with intellectual growth and at the same time expose them to the declined World of Finance and Economics. With zeal, the probing minds have left no stone unturned in moulding mindsets and taking un-swerving cognizance of their responsibilities. We aim to empower students to nurture & broaden the horizons of their knowledge, to inspire the young mindsets and bolster their understanding.

Mr. Rakesh Kumar
Convener

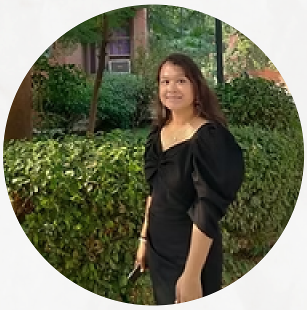
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Ganesh Verma
President

Ananya
Vice-President

Affan Mushir
General secretary

Samarth Dawar
Joint Secretary



Ishika Gupta
Graphics Head

Prachi Kumari
Marketing Head

Aman Bisht
PR Head

Anushree Jindal
Website and Tech head

ARTICLES

Can an option be more than a bet - Can it be your portfolio's secret weapon?

What are Options? A beginner's Guide

An option is a derivative contract between a buyer and a seller, where one party gives to the other the right, but not the obligation, to buy from (or sell to) the First Party the underlying asset on or before a specific day at an agreed-upon price. In return for granting the option, the party granting the option collects a payment from the other party. This payment collected is called the "premium" or price of the option. The right to buy or sell is held by the "option buyer" (also called the option holder); the party granting the right is the "option seller" or "option writer". The price at which the buyer has the right to buy the asset is agreed upon at the time of entering the contract and is known as strike price.

Options can be traded either on the stock exchange or in over the counter (OTC) markets (In India, only exchange-traded options are there). Options traded on the exchanges are backed by the Clearing Corporation thereby minimizing the risk arising due to default by the counter parties involved. Options traded in the OTC market however are not backed by the Clearing Corporation.
There are 2 broad categories of options which are explained below:

1. **CALL OPTION:** A call option is an option granting the right to the buyer of the option to buy the underlying asset on a specific day at an agreed upon price, but not the obligation to do so. Since the buyer of the call option has the right (but no obligation) to buy the underlying asset, he will exercise his

right to buy the underlying asset if and only if the price of the underlying asset in the market is more than the strike price on or before the expiry date of the contract.

2. **PUT OPTION:** A put option is a contract granting the right to the buyer of the option to sell the underlying asset on or before a specific day at an agreed upon price, but not the obligation to do so. Since the buyer of the put option has the right (but not the obligation) to sell the underlying asset, he will exercise his right to sell the underlying asset if and only if the price of the underlying asset in the market is less than the strike price on or before the expiry date of the contract.

Are Options really just risky bets?

When one thinks about it, options look just like some bets, where the buyer of an option (say, call option) bets upon the change in price (in this case, increase) for an amount (option premium), the seller on the other hand, bets on the decrease in price. If the buyer's guess goes right, it benefits him as he exercises the option and buys the underlying asset at a lower price as compared to the market. On the other hand, if the seller's guess goes right, the buyer does not exercise the option and the seller gets to keep the premium as his profit.

Even though a layman would consider this as a bet, in reality it is a lot more than that. There are many strategies for exercising options, making them strategic tools for managing risks, enhancing returns and unlocking flexibility. Options are often used for hedging. Let's say you own 100 shares of a Tech Company at $50 each but are concerned about the fall in price. You buy a put option that lets you sell at $50. If the stock price falls to, say $40, the put protects your loss.
Options also serve as a medium to speculate in a cost-effective way, generate income through strategies, etc. These approaches show that options, if used skillfully, are not just luck-based betting.

How investors use options to protect and grow their money.

Now that we're aware of the fact that options are sophisticated financial instruments used for strategic purposes, let's dive into how they are used by investors.

1. **GENERATING INCOME:** Investors generate income by investing a small amount through options in expensive underlying assets, say shares, and benefit by the volatility in the prices. For example: An investor speculates that Tesla would rise from $300 to $350, instead of making a capital-intensive investment by buying the shares, he/she can buy a call option for a fraction of the amount and still gain from the rise in price.

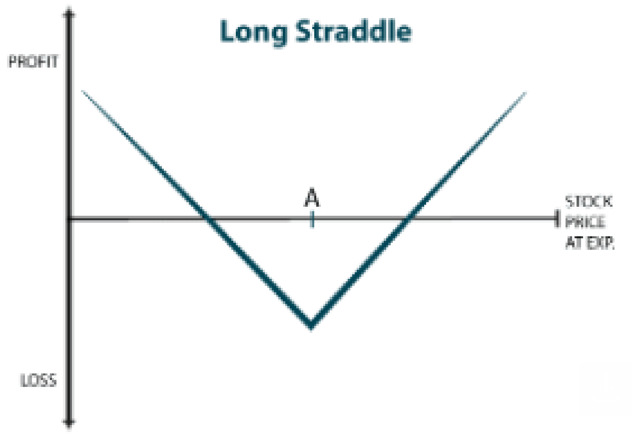
2. **PROTECTING PORTFOLIO:** Options can act as an insurance in some cases. The most common way is by using put options, as explained above through the example of a tech company. The strategy used in this case was Protective Put, which is used to limit downside risk while staying invested in the market.

3. **REDUCING RISK:** Options give a variety of alternatives for all situations, if you're concerned about fall in price, you may protect your downside risk by selling a put. If you want to buy a share in future but are concerned about the rise in price, you may buy a call. You may also combine options with other securities/derivatives, making them a strategy to gain in the losing situations as well.

Why options give you more flexibility than stocks.

Options can let you form endless strategies for almost any market condition, leading to endless profits and limited losses if the appropriate one is used.

For example, an investor believes that the stock price of an asset would show high volatility, which can be in any direction. In such a situation, a strategy known as Straddle can be used. A Straddle is a volatility strategy and is used when the stock price/index is expected to show large movements. This strategy involves buying a call as well as put on the same stock/index for the same maturity and strike price, to take advantage of a movement in either direction, a soaring or plummeting value of the stock/index. If the price of the stock /index increases, the call is exercised while the put expires worthless and if the price of the stock/index decreases, the put is exercised, the call expires worthless. With Straddles, the investor is direction neutral. All that he is looking out for is the stock/index to break out exponentially in either direction.



In the above example, it can be observed that unlike stocks, which only benefit from upward movement, options provide the tools to adapt, hedge, or profit from a wide range of market conditions, giving investors much greater control over their positions.

The mindset shift: It's not about risk, it's about strategy.

The real change in perspective is to move away from asking "How can I hit the jackpot?" and begin to focus on "How can I leverage these tools to steer my outcomes?" Options empower you to set your own risk levels, secure profits, and navigate various scenarios, rather than simply crossing your fingers and hoping for the best.
Following are some commonly used strategies:

1. **Covered Call:** A covered call is an options strategy where you sell a call option against stock you already own. It lets you earn income (the premium) if the stock stays flat or rises slightly, while capping your upside. **When to Use:** This is often employed when an investor has a short-term neutral to moderately bullish view on the stock he holds. He takes a short position on the Call option to generate income from the option premium.

2. **Protective Put:** In a protective put, we purchase a stock and buy a put option to protect the downside risk. It is a strategy with a limited loss and (after subtracting the Put premium) unlimited profit (from the stock price rise). **When to Use:** When ownership is desired of stock yet the investor is concerned about near-term downside risk. The outlook is conservatively bullish.

3. **Bull Call Spread:** A bull call spread is constructed by buying an in-the-money (ITM) call option and selling another out-of-the-money (OTM) call option. Often the call with the lower strike price will be in-the-money while the Call with the higher strike price is out-of-the-money. The net effect of the strategy is to bring down the cost and breakeven on a Buy Call (Long Call) Strategy.
When to Use: Investor is moderately bullish.

4. **Bear Call Spread:** The strategy requires the investor to buy out-of-the-money (OTM) call options while simultaneously selling in-the-money (ITM) call options on the same underlying stock index. The concept is to protect the downside of a Call Sold by buying a Call of a higher strike price to insure the Call sold.
When to Use: When the investor is mildly bearish on the market.

5. **Long Call Butterfly:** The strategy can be done by selling 2 ATM Calls, buying 1 ITM Call, and buying 1 OTM Call options (there should be equidistance between the strike prices). The result is positive in case the stock/index remains range bound.
When to use: When the investor is neutral on market direction and bearish on volatility.

Similar strategies can be used for put options as well.
We can conclude that an option isn't simply a gamble, it can serve as a powerful ally for your portfolio. It enables you to leverage various market conditions, anticipate uncertainties, and strategically enhance your returns. With options, you're not merely responding to market trends; you're proactively planning and maintaining control over your investments.

Mishika Dua
BMS 27

Middle-Class Mindset Vs. Wealthy Wisdom

"You must gain control over your money, or the lack of it will forever control you."

-Dave Ramsey

Overview

In a society that equates success with salary slips and possessions, the true essence of wealth is often misunderstood. Most people assume the difference between the middle class and the wealthy is income. But the real gap lies in mindset — how money is perceived, used, and grown. The middle-class script is familiar — study hard, get a job, save what's left. But the wealthy play by a different set of rules, focusing on learning, investing, and letting money grow. This piece challenges conventional beliefs and highlights key behavioural shifts that can transform how we think about wealth.

Why Financial Literacy Matters?

What really changes the game is financial knowledge. The typical middle-class person strives for a high-paying job because they believe that "an XXX LPA package is all we need," however this is a shortsighted perspective. How you handle your income is just as important as how much you make. Goal-based investment, risk tolerance, and asset classifications must all be understood.
Every investment, whether in mutual funds, stocks, or debt, should be in line with one's financial objectives. For example, a young investor with long-term financial objectives and a high-risk appetite and long-term financial goals could think about equities SIPs, but someone who is preparing for a significant life event in three years might favour debt instruments. The selection of financial instruments must be based on risk tolerance, income stability, and financial objectives.

The History of Taxes and the Power of Planning

Tax planning is often overlooked but can make a significant difference.it can involve aspects such as selecting the right tax regime (old vs. new), claiming deductions under various sections, or investing in tax saving investments. Understanding concepts like tax harvesting – where you strategically book short-term capital losses towards the end of the financial year to offset gains – is key. But to do this, one must track their annual income, investment gains, and tax liability.

Moreover, choosing between the old and new tax regimes is not a one-time decision. Each year, one must assess which regime works best based on deductions, exemptions, and income type. Wealthy individuals approach this strategically, while the middle-class often blindly follows default suggestions without analysis.

Work to Learn, Don't Work Just for Money

A steady income and job stability are frequently the top priorities for the middle class. Wealthy thinkers, on the other hand, place a higher value on learning, growth & development, and exposure. Experiences that foster a solid worldview, financial literacy, and communication abilities on a range of subjects, such as geopolitics, climate change, and individual interests, are valued by them.

Having meaningful conversations with senior stakeholders, learning across domains, and engaging in healthy intellectual debates builds personality and credibility. Money becomes a byproduct of value creation, not just a pay check.

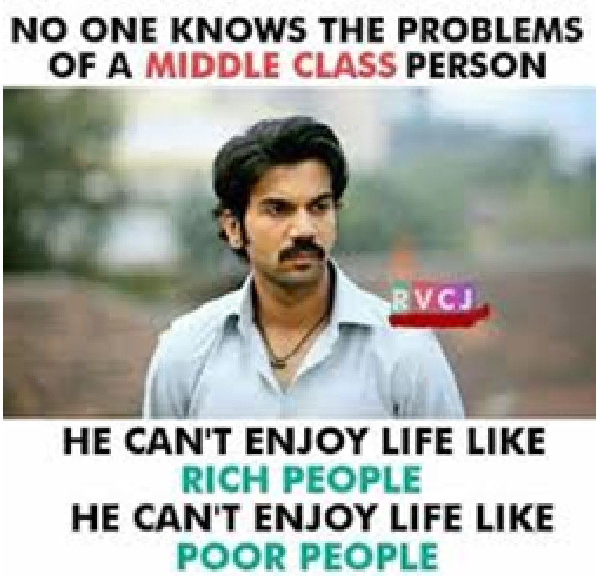
Assets V/S Liabilities Choose WIsely

A large home or a fancy car might seem like the pinnacle of success, but they can also be financial traps. Vehicles lose value as soon as they are taken out of the showroom. Homes, although emotionally fulfilling, come with long-term EMIs that restrict financial flexibility.

Liabilities are frequently mistaken for assets in middle-class thinking. Young professionals and even those in the middle of their careers should resist emotional buying and avoid making rash purchases. Wealthy wisdom is characterized by delaying gratification in order to invest in assets that will appreciate over time, such as stocks, mutual funds, or skill development.

Doing Well with Money Has Little to Do with Intelligence

You don't need to be a math genius or an investment expert to build wealth. Financial success doesn't demand brilliance, it demands behaviour. Habits like budgeting, starting a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), and tracking expenses go a long way. SIPs allow you to invest small amounts regularly, harnessing the power of compounding over time.
Long-term wealth isn't built by chasing trends or timing the market — it's built by showing up consistently. You don't need to be a genius — just patient, disciplined, and emotionally steady. While others panic during market dips, those who stay the course come out stronger. Simplicity, done consistently, outperforms complexity without direction.



Conclusion

The mindset of the middle class frequently centres on security, stability, and living within predetermined limits. It emphasizes short-term objectives and immediate needs. In contrast, wealthy wisdom is about building beyond those boundaries through vision, planning, and deliberate actions. Aligning your actions with long-term financial objectives is more important than heedlessly chasing money. Anyone can go from financial stress to financial freedom with the correct information, consistent planning, and emotional control. This path is propelled by a mental shift where development, learning, and strategic thinking serve as the cornerstones of long-term prosperity rather than just luck or a high income.

Saket
B.com (h) 27

The Rise of ROBO - ADVISORS and Automated Investing

Ever wished you could snap your fingers and someone would create the perfect investment portfolio for you? Your wish may come true or close to it, Robo-Advisors got you.

What is a Robo-Advisor?

Resistant to pay professional advisors in millions for investment advice?
Consider a Robo-Advisor. Robo-Advisors are digital platforms that provide automated, algorithm-driven investment management services. They use technology and data from their users to create and manage portfolios tailored to individual needs and risk tolerance. Most of these online platforms are equivalent of working with a human advisor, but without the financial cost or stress of making decision yourself. The entire process is digital and fully automated, with no human intervention i.e. a Pure Robo-Advisor. They also provide users with the option of hand-on advice and guidance combined with automated investing i.e. a Hybrid Robo-Advisor.
Once you fund your account, the advisor invests the funds for you into a portfolio of diversified assets according to your inputs, risk tolerance, financial goals and more.

How Robo-Advisors work?

Most advisors start with Investor Onboarding – investors provide their personal information and complete a questionnaire to determine their risk tolerance & investment goals and specify their investment objectives & funds that the investor can and will invest.

Robo-Advisors take this information and either choose one of their pre-built portfolios or guide you in creating your own customized portfolio.
Some Robo-Advisors take the wheel entirely - from handling every aspect of your investments, including rebalancing your portfolio, to minimizing your tax

liabilities and reassessing your investments. While other work as a hybrid - providing guidance but lets you do the investing yourdelf. No matter the type of advisor you choose, you receive investment advice at a fraction of the cost of a human advisor.

Pros and Cons of Robo-Advisors

Opening a investment account with a Robo-Advisor is quick and easy, and doesn't require any investment knowledge or even a lot of money. These advisors charge a fraction of what typical investment brokers charge. On average they charge 0.25 to 0.3 percent of assets under management. This means for every million rupee you invest, it might cost you as little as Rs. 2500 a year. Robo-Advisors advanced algorithm process vast complex data and provide effective investment decisions.

Downsides to using a Robo-Advisor is you'll have limited investment options- most advisors only offer ETF (Exchange Traded Fund) investments. Unlike wealth management firms or traditional financial advisors, Robo-Advisors struggle to assist in complex financial planning situations say- pension plan management, estate planning or trust creation. And unlike any investment option there's no guarantee that you'll make or lose money.

Conclusion

Robo-Advisors have a reputation and potential for beating the market because of their systematic approach to investing. Robo-Advisors offer removal of emotional investing i.e. you won't jump ship just because the market crashes or dump a stock because you heard a bad news about the company. They operate on data and calculations that helps investors to make informed decisions and generate profits. Robo-Advisors provide you the guidance you want and the hands-off approach to manage your portfolio easily and effectively.

Siddhant Maheswari
B.com (h) 27

FINTECH

Crypto ETFs Are Here—Now You Can Lose Money With Wall Street's Blessing!

"How Bitcoin Went From Anti-Bank Weapon to BlackRock's Bestseller – And Why the Risk Never Left"

The Stage Is Set: A Revolution Co-Opted

The year was 2009. In the shadow of the global financial crisis, an anonymous hacker named Satoshi Nakamoto unleashed Bitcoin onto the world- a radical experiment designed to overthrow banks and governments. Its manifesto declared war on Wall Street's "fractional reserve banking", calling it a corrupt system rigged against ordinary people.

Fast forward to 2025. The same anti-establishment asset is now packaged into slick exchange-traded funds (ETFs) by BlackRock and Fidelity, complete with prospectuses, expense ratios, and the ultimate irony- SEC approval. The rebel had been housebroken.

Bitcoin Spot ETF's Are Launched On The Nasdaq Exchange As Blackrock Executives Ring Nasdaq Opening Bell

NEW YORK, NEW YORK - JANUARY 11: The Nasdaq board in Times Square displays scenes from ringing the opening bell as Bitcoin Spot ETF's are launched on the Nasdaq Exchange on January 11, 2024 in New York City. The trading of several exchange-traded funds (ETFs) tied to the milestone for the cryptocurrency industry that has been seeking regulatory approval for the financial product for over a decade.(Photo by Stephanie Keith/Getty Images)

The Institutional Makeover: How Crypto Got a Suit and Tie

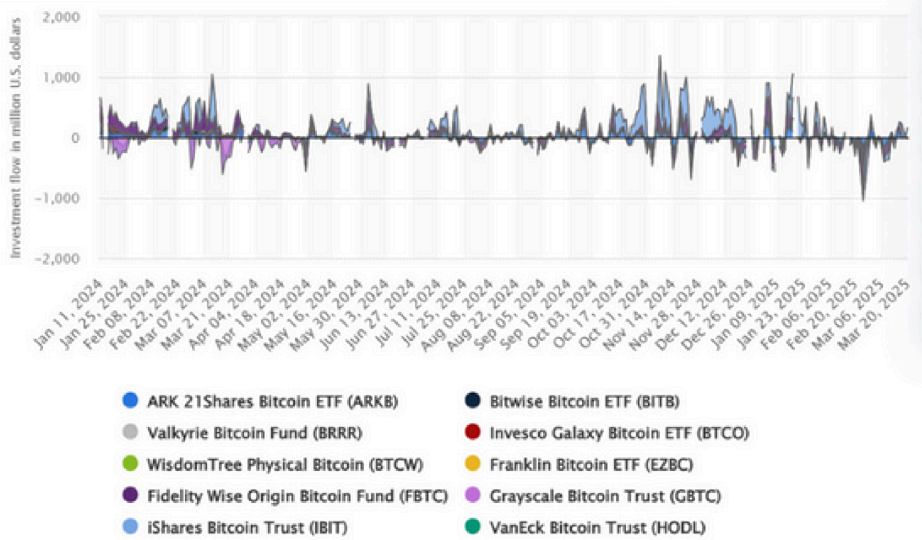
The launch of Bitcoin ETFs in January 2024 marked a turning point. Suddenly the asset once traded by anarchists on the dark web became available alongside stocks and bonds in retirement accounts.

Why this matters:

- **Accessibility:** Your aunt who still writes checks can now buy Bitcoin through her existing brockerage.
- **Perceived Safety:** No more worrying about exchange or lost private keys.
- · **Liquidity:** $50 billion poured into crypto ETFs globally within 18 months.

Cryptocurrency investment flow per day in the Bitcoin ETFs listed on the NYSE and NASDAQ from January 2024 to March 2025

(in million U.S. dollars)



But this institutional embrace came at a cost.The very features that made Bitcoin revolutionary- decentralization, anonymity, independence from traditional finance- were being stripped away in the name of mainstream adoption.

The Dirty Secret: Risk Never Left the Building

While Wall Street's marketing machines tout crypto ETFs as "the safe way to invest", the reality is far messier:

1. **Volatility Didn't Vanish:**
That 20% single day drop in April 2025? ETF investors felt it just as hard as crypto purists. The wrapper changed; the wild swings didn't.

2. **New Risks Emerged:**
· Counterparty risk (your Bitcoin is only as safe as BlackRock's custody)
· Regulatory whiplash (SEBI still hasn't approved them in India)
· Hidden fees (0.8% may sound small until you compare it to Bitcoins 0% fee structure)

"Fee Structures of Leading Bitcoin ETFs: Hidden Costs Revealed"

ETF name & symbol	Fee	Notes
Grayscale Bitcoin Mini Trust (BTC)	0.15%	N/A.
Franklin Templeton Digital Holdings Trust (EZBC)	0.19%	N/A.
Bitwise Bitcoin ETF (BITB)	0.20%	N/A.
VanEck Bitcoin Trust (HODL)	0.20%	Fee waived until Jan. 10, 2026 or first $2.5 billion in fund assets, whichever comes first.
Ark 21Shares Bitcoin ETF (ARKB)	0.21%	N/A.
iShares Bitcoin Trust (IBIT)	0.25%	N/A.
Fidelity Wise Origin Bitcoin Fund (FBTC)	0.25%	N/A.
WisdomTree Bitcoin Fund (BTCW)	0.25%	N/A.
Invesco Galaxy Bitcoin ETF (BTCO)	0.25%	N/A.
CoinShares Valkyrie Bitcoin Fund (BRRR)	0.25%	N/A.
Hashdex Bitcoin ETF (DEFI)	0.90%	N/A.
Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (GBTC)	1.50%	N/A.

3. **The Scam's Evolved:**
Delhi police reported a 300% in "ETF related" financial frauds in 2025, with everything from fake SEBI-approved ETFs to Ponzi schemes disguised as "arbitrage opportunities."

Why Crypto ETFs Still Matter? (Despite It All)

For all their flaws, Crypto ETFs represent a seismic shift:

1. L**egitimization:**
Like it or not, ETF approval was the final stamp of “this asset class isn’t going away.”

2. **Democratization:**
They’ve bought Crypto to investors who would never navigate a Binance or Conibase.

3. **Innovation Catalyst:**
The ETF structure is evolving- some now incorporate staking yields or blend multiple cryptocurrencies.

The Million-Rupee Question: Should You Invest?

The crypto ETF debate isn’t about whether to invest—it’s about who you are as an investor. Let’s break it down:

1. **For the Cautious Investor:**

- Pros:
  1. No more panicking over lost seed phrases or exchange hacks
  2. Clean tax reporting (SEBI may frown, but your CA will thank you)
  3. Easier to dollar-cost average (no more "I forgot to buy the dip" excuses)

- Cons:
  1. You’re playing Wall Street to hold crypto for you (irony alert).
  2. Still just as volatile-your 10,000 can become 6,000 by next Tuesday.

“Great for people who want Bitcoin exposure without the ‘my crypto wallet got hacked’ horror stories. Just don’t check your portfolio daily!”

2. **For the Crypto Purist:**

- Pros:
  1. None. You hate this. ETFs are the antithesis of Satoshi’s vision.

- Cons:
  1. Centralization wrapped in a ticker symbol
  2. Defeats the whole "be your own bank" ethos

Punchline: "If you're this person, you're already angrily tweeting 'Not your keys, not your coins'—and we respect that."

3. **For the Opportunist:**

- Pros:
  1. Can short Bitcoin without touching a crypto exchange
  2. Arbitrage play between ETF price and underlying crypto

- Cons:
  1. Requires next-level risk tolerance (or a therapist on retainer)

"For those who see 'financial innovation' and think 'how can I game this?' Godspeed."

The Verdict?

- If you're Indian: SEBI hasn't approved these yet, so you're stuck with offshore workarounds (and their risks).
- If you're lazy: ETFs are your best bet.
- If you're a true believer: Walk away slowly.

"Crypto ETFs are like diet soda—fewer calories, same questionable health effects. Choose your poison."

The Crypto ETF era has arrived, but it's not the victory many imagined. What began as a tool to overthrow financial elites is now being sold by those very elites. Yet perhaps Satoshi would smirk knowing that even in its sanitized form, Bitcoin continues to disrupt- just differently.

For Indian investors, the choice remains complex: embrace regulated volatility through backdoor ETF routes, wait for SEBIs approval that may never come, or stick to traditional assets. One truth endures- in crypto, there are no shortcuts to easy money.

Anvi
B.com (h) 27

Green Fintech for Climate Resilience: Driving Sustainable Solutions

Climate change presents a significant challenge to global economies, ecosystems, and communities. As the world seeks innovative ways to combat its effects, Green Fintech—the intersection of financial technology and sustainability—has emerged as a transformative tool for enhancing climate resilience. By leveraging technologies like blockchain, artificial intelligence (AI), and big data, Green Fintech is fostering investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, promoting green bonds, and enabling individuals and businesses to adopt environmentally conscious practices. This article provides a comprehensive overview of Green Fintech, its applications, benefits, challenges, and future trends.

What is Green Fintech?

Green Fintech refers to the integration of financial technology with environmental goals. It aims to catalyse decarbonization, reduce carbon footprints, and enhance climate resilience through innovative financial products and services. From monitoring carbon emissions to funding renewable energy projects, Green Fintech empowers individuals and organizations to contribute to sustainability.

Key Features:

- **Digital Financial Tools:** Track and offset carbon emissions using mobile apps and web platforms.
- **Green Investment Platforms:** Optimize portfolios for sustainability by integrating ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) criteria.
- **Blockchain-Based Solutions:** Ensure transparency in carbon markets through secure and traceable transactions

Applications of Green Fintech

1. Green Bonds

Green bonds are financial instruments used to fund environmentally friendly projects such as renewable energy installations or reforestation initiatives. Fintech platforms simplify their issuance and tracking by:

- Leveraging Blockchain: Ensures secure transactions and provides transparency in how funds are used.

- AI-Driven Analytics: Helps investors assess the environmental impact of projects, enhancing decision-making.

Impact: Increased investor confidence has mobilized capital for large-scale green projects globally, supporting sustainable development and reducing environmental degradation.

2. Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Investments

Infrastructure plays a critical role in mitigating climate risks. Green Fintech enables financing for projects such as:

- Nature-Based Solutions: Investments in ecosystems like wetlands or forests that act as natural buffers against extreme weather events.

- Decentralized Electricity Markets: Blockchain facilitates peer-to-peer trading of renewable energy, ensuring efficient distribution and promoting energy independence.

Impact: Enhanced resilience in vulnerable communities while promoting sustainable energy distribution, reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

3. Carbon Markets

Carbon markets allow entities to trade carbon credits, incentivizing reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Green Fintech enhances these markets by:

- Tokenizing Carbon Credits: Using blockchain to create secure and tradable digital assets.

- Developing APIs: For businesses to integrate carbon-neutral products into their offerings, promoting sustainable practices.

Impact: Improved transparency and scalability of carbon offset initiatives, encouraging more companies to adopt carbon-neutral strategies.

4. Climate-Smart Banking

Fintech companies are introducing digital banking solutions that encourage climate-conscious behaviour:

- Wooden or Plant-Based Payment Cards: Track users' carbon footprints, providing real-time feedback on environmental impact.

- Apps Providing Transaction-Level Analysis: Offer tips for reducing environmental impact, empowering consumers to make informed decisions.

Impact: Empowered consumers make environmentally conscious choices, driving demand for sustainable products and services.

5. Climate-Focused Investment Platforms

Wealth management platforms optimize portfolios based on sustainability criteria such as deforestation reduction and fossil fuel divestment. These platforms use AI and big data to align investments with global climate goals like the Paris Agreement.

Impact: Democratized access to sustainable investments mobilizes additional capital for climate action, supporting projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development.

Additional Benefits of Green Fintech

1. Cost Reduction Through Resource Efficiency

Green Fintech enables businesses to identify inefficiencies in resource usage through tools like IoT (Internet of Things) devices and AI-driven analytics:

- Smart meters optimize energy consumption.
- Supply chain transparency reduces redundancies.

Result: Lower operational costs while minimizing environmental impacts.

2. Enhanced Brand Reputation

Adopting Green Fintech solutions improves a company's public image:

- Businesses that prioritize sustainability attract environmentally conscious customers.

- Positive brand perception leads to higher customer loyalty and market differentiation.

3. Regulatory Compliance and Incentives
Governments worldwide are tightening regulations on carbon emissions:
- Green Fintech provides tools for tracking compliance with ESG standards.
- Companies adopting green practices may qualify for tax incentives or grants.

Challenges Facing Green Fintech

Despite its potential, Green Fintech faces several hurdles:

1. Regulatory Gaps

Standardized frameworks for green finance are still evolving globally:
- Lack of clear definitions makes scaling difficult.
- Inconsistent regulations across regions deter international collaboration.

2. Data Privacy Concerns

The use of big data raises questions about the security of sensitive environmental information:
- Cybersecurity risks threaten the integrity of environmental data.
- Varying data protection laws complicate cross-border initiatives.

3. Limited Awareness

Many businesses remain unaware of how fintech can contribute to sustainability efforts:
- Lack of education hinders adoption.
- Targeted outreach is needed to highlight the economic benefits of green practices.

4. High Initial Costs

Implementing Green Fintech solutions often requires significant upfront investment:
- Small businesses may struggle with adoption due to limited resources.
- Financial incentives are needed to support early-stage implementation.

Successful Examples of Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Investments

1. Climate Resilience of Watersheds – Nepal

Improved water reliability for 51,000 households through watershed resilience interventions like plantations and bioengineering techniques:
- Enhanced water accessibility during dry seasons supported agriculture and domestic needs.

2. Apalachicola Bay Living Shoreline – Florida, USA

Engineered oyster reefs safeguarded critical evacuation routes while enhancing ecological resilience:
- Protected biodiversity while mitigating coastal erosion risks.

3. La Gogue Dam Expansion – Seychelles

Increased water storage capacity by 60%, addressing water scarcity issues exacerbated by climate change:
- Reduced reliance on bottled water while supporting tourism industries.

Future Trends in Green Fintech

1. Integration with SDGs
Green Fintech will play a pivotal role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Encourages international collaboration on decarbonization strategies.
- Focuses on impact investing that delivers both financial returns and positive environmental outcomes.

2. AI-Powered Insights
Advanced analytics will enable real-time tracking of environmental impacts across industries:
- Predictive modelling helps forecast outcomes of green investments.
- Data-driven decision-making ensures funds are allocated efficiently.

3. Collaborative Ecosystems
Partnerships between governments, private entities, and international organizations will drive innovation in green finance solutions:
Public-private partnerships leverage resources for large-scale projects.
Global standards facilitate cross-border collaboration on sustainability goals.

Conclusion

Green Fintech represents a transformative approach to addressing climate challenges by combining financial technology with sustainability goals. From green bonds to decentralized energy markets, these innovations empower individuals, businesses, and governments to build climate resilience while promoting economic growth. As regulatory frameworks evolve and awareness grows, Green Fintech will continue playing a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future.
By leveraging its potential, we can take meaningful steps toward mitigating the effects of climate change while ensuring equitable growth across communities worldwide.

Saksham Mangal
BMS 27'

🏏💸 Fantasy vs. Finance: Decoding Gen Z's Financial Playbook Amidst IPL

📈 The Rise of Fantasy Gaming Over Traditional Investing

In recent years, India has witnessed a seismic shift in its financial landscape. The Indian Premier League (IPL) has not only captivated cricket enthusiasts but also transformed the way young Indians engage with their money.

What began as a cricket tournament has evolved into a cultural and commercial phenomenon , engaging everyone from college students to corporate adults.

Dream11 > SIPs? Indian youth says “Main Risk Uthaa Lunga”

A striking revelation is that more Indians now have an account on fantasy gaming platforms like Dream11 than traditional demat accounts. This trend reflects a shift toward ‘moneytainment’ — a space where where the lines between financial engagement and entertainment are rapidly blurring , and monetary decisions feel more of a play than planning.

Unpacking the Numbers

As of March 2025, Dream11 boasts over 230 million registered users, overtaking the total number of demat account in India which stands at approximately 190 million users. The total number of dream 11 users growing at an annual rate of 30% isn’t just a fun stat. It’s a loud signal.

To put this gigantic number of 230 million into perspective, that's more than the entire population of Brazil getting their daily dose of virtual cricket action.

The growth rate for new registrations for a demat account is at its slowest in 23 months with 52,500 demat accounts being closed in February alone, marking the highest number of closures in a single month since demat accounts were introduced in mid-90s. Factors such as market volatility and election-year uncertainty have added to this growing concern.

🧢 "You bought HDFC shares? Cute. I made ₹127 last night on Shubman Gill's cover drives.

IPL Advertising: The Fantasy Gaming Invasion

If you've even watched a single IPL match this season or in the past few years , you must have been bombarded with fantasy gaming ads.

IPL isn't just cricket now ; it's the country's most expensive real estate for advertisers. And fantasy gaming platforms are the biggest buyers.

It's as if trying to enjoy a meal while being constantly offered a dessert by someone.

For Every other possible second during a fleeting pause in the game , screens light up with ads :

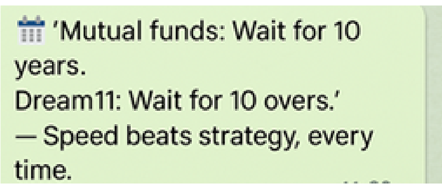
- Between overs: Dream11 jingle
- Strategic timeout: Bonus offers from MPL
- Post-match shows: Ads for betting and prediction platforms pitching new eatures and fake promises and what not.

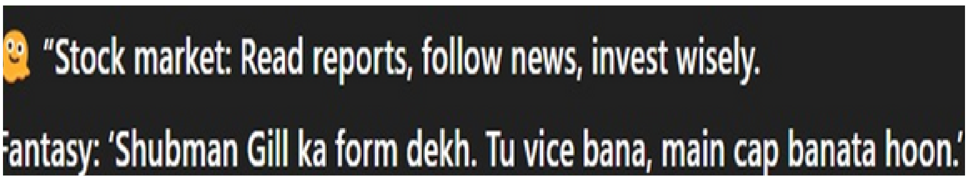
When the scoreboard says "Strategic Timeout," what it really means is: check your fantasy score and tweak your team.

And these advertisements don't end with the match.

Fantasy gaming brands have expanded their presence far beyond the cricket ground, through influencer marketing and targeted marketing .

The cultural shift isn't just in numbers — it's in humour too. Finance rarely trends. Fantasy cricket is all over memes, reels, and WhatsApp groups. Social media is flooded with Influencer reels claiming to have made ₹xxx in a particular match using xxx app". Fantasy apps understand meme culture — and use it to spread faster than SIP calculators ever could , they aren't just winning wallets — they're winning laughs





These memes might be funny — but they reflect a deeper truth: people are more emotionally invested in fantasy games than in their actual finances.
For IPL 2025, fantasy gaming platforms are among the top advertisers, with brands investing ₹550 crore into influencer-led campaigns whereas - Dream11, MPL, My11Circle & other such apps are projected to earn ₹4,000–4,500 crore during IPL 2025 alone since 25–30% of these fantasy sports apps annual revenue comes during this short cricket window.

Big-budget campaigns, celebrity blitz, and low entry barriers = explosive growth.

This aggressive marketing strategy significantly contributes to the widespread adoption of fantasy gaming among young audiences. **The result is total normalization of real-money betting and gaming, especially among younger users. The psychology is simple — repeat a message enough, and it becomes truth.**

The Gen Z Psychology: Fast, Fun, and FOMO-Driven

Gen Z is financially aware and aren't disinterested in money — but are disinterested in the way conventional finance presents itself since their engagement with money is shaped less by tradition and more by user experience. Being raised in a digital-first, attention-fragmented world, their preferences are shaped by speed, simplicity, and social engagement making their expectations from financial tools , markedly different from the previous generations.

What does Gen Z really want from their financial experiences?

Not spreadsheets. Not jargon. And definitely not a five-year wait for results.
Here's what they — and anyone chasing quick wins in today's fast-paced landscape — truly prefer:
Quick returns over long-term waiting
Low commitment over high-stakes investing
Gamified, intuitive interfaces over spreadsheets and dashboards
Social validation over solitary financial planning
Fantasy gaming platforms — especially during IPL season — align perfectly with these preferences. Cause who needs a SIP plan when you have cricketing instincts and 'Thala for a reason' energy?"

If traditional investing is the equivalent of eating kale — beneficial but bland — fantasy gaming is more like pani puri: instantly gratifying, addictive, and deeply social. One is a responsible choice; the other is a shared experience. And in today's economy of attention, experience often wins.

Fantasy Gaming 🕹️	Stock Market 📈
₹49 entry fee	₹500–₹5,000 minimum investment
Win/loss in 3 hours	Wait months or years
Celebs, memes, leaderboards	Charts, ratios, SEBI disclosures
Play with friends	Mostly solo experience

In this, lies a critical insight:

Micro-investment psychology.

A ₹49 entry into a fantasy league feels safer, lighter, and more accessible than committing ₹499 to a SIP.
One brings immediate emotional payoff, gratification; whereas the other promises slow financial growth — often with little to no short-term satisfaction.
This mindset has further been boosted by platforms like Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) and micro-investing apps, which normalize financial actions that are of high risk ,low-friction, low-barrier, and behaviorally addictive.

Increasingly, these platforms aren't just encouraging spending — they're enabling betting on borrowed money, where credit-fuelled participation becomes routine. This creates a dangerous vicious loop, especially for users chasing repeated wins. The thrill of "playing to earn" can quickly spiral into a debt trap, particularly when losses mount and emotional risk-taking overrides rational limits.

Notably, over 65% of fantasy gaming revenue now comes from Tier 2 and

Tier 3 cities, driven largely by Gen Z users. For many, fantasy gaming feels like an accessible gateway to financial participation — making one feel like a fund manager, without the homework.

Is This Dangerous or Just a Phase?
While fantasy sports are fun, the stakes are real:

- High addiction risk.
- 28% GST eats into winnings(if any)
- No long-term asset value.

In contrast, traditional financial tools — like mutual funds, SIPs, PPFs, or even tax-saving investments under Section 80C — offer:

- Tax deductions or exemptions
- Capital growth over time
- Actual asset ownership (shares, bonds, etc.)

So while fantasy gaming may feel rewarding in the moment, it lacks the substance of financial stability — raising the question:
Are we gamifying money, or gambling with it?

The Real Problem: Financial Literacy Is Still Lagging

This boom in fantasy gaming highlights something India has ignored for too long: we're great at taking risks, but not at understanding them. Millions can bet on Glenn Maxwell's strike rate, but can't explain how compounding interest works. Fantasy platforms are intuitive and entertaining. Trading platforms? Often overwhelming.

If we truly want to turn India into a financially empowered nation, we must reimagine how we present finance — making it feel as accessible, engaging, and emotionally rewarding as fantasy sports.

And unlike fantasy leagues, in real finance —
there's no 'next match' to win it all back.
Fantasy gaming might win the match...
But finance?
It still wins the series

So yes, enjoy the thrill — just don't confuse luck with literacy.
Until then, the scoreboard reads:
🏏 Rohit Sharma – 42 (off 24)
💸 Your emergency fund – Still ₹0

Disclaimer:

This article isn't financial advice — just a light-hearted take on a serious topic. Fantasy gaming can be fun, but it comes with real risks. And no, memes aren't substitutes for money management. Play responsibly, invest wisely, and maybe talk to someone who knows what "diversification" means (besides picking 5 all-rounders).

Lakshita Jain
B.com (h) 27

Revolut: Banking's Biggest Disruptor or Fintech's Flash in the Pan?

"Banking is necessary, banks are not." – Bill Gates

Introduction: The Fintech Earthquake

In the last decade, "Revolut evolved from a travel card app to a $48 billion global bank with more than 50 million customers." Central to this expansion was Revolut, a London fintech unicorn, which started with a money-saving card for clients when they traveled outside their home countries and eventually evolved into a full platform which aimed to substitute conventional banking, brokerage services, budgeting apps, and travel wallets. Revolut did not simply enter the financial world; instead, it significantly shook the foundations of conventional banking by providing an immense variety of services, ranging from banking to stock trading, crypto investment, budgeting software, insurance, and more, within one app.

This spectacular growth was not just a triumph of technology; it was a sign of changing times. Just as the rise of financial influencers—online figures who teach (or sometimes mislead) mass audiences about money—Revolut offered a streamlined, social, and accessible alternative to traditional finance. But with this fast-paced progress came more scrutiny. Was Revolut building the future of money, or just a hype-driven bubble?

This piece looks at the disruptive path of Revolut, its dramatic rise, and the controversies that have continually hung over its path — as well as drawing out some striking parallels with the world of digital financial influencers.

The Disruption: Reinventing Banking from a Basement

Founded in 2015 by Nikolay Storonsky (CEO) and Vlad Yatsenko(CTO), Revolut was initially a digital solution to a daily struggle — foreign exchange fees hidden within bank transfers. But its founders saw something more: a future where individuals had a single app to manage their entire financial life, avoiding slow old banks.
Right from the start, Revolut was different:

- **No branches. No forms. No delay:** Revolut eliminated the need for physical banking — users could open an account in minutes, right from their smartphones, skipping all traditional red tape.
- **Currency exchange at the interbank rate:** It offered FX rates usually reserved for institutions, allowing users to convert currencies at real-time market rates without hidden markups or weekend surcharges.
- **Free foreign ATM withdrawals:** Users could withdraw cash abroad with no extra charges (up to a set limit), a huge relief for travelers tired of paying steep foreign ATM fees.
- **Real-time transaction tracking:** Every transaction was instantly logged and categorized in the app, offering transparency, smart budgeting, and better control over spending habits.
- **Investing in-app for stocks, cryptocurrencies, and commodities:** With just a few taps, users could buy U.S. stocks, Bitcoin, gold, and more — transforming their bank account into a fully-fledged investment platform.

By eliminating middlemen and offering a seamless, gamified user experience, Revolut built a relationship with an insurgent, tech-native audience—basically, those who seek out investment advice from social media influencers like those on YouTube, Instagram, and Telegram. This audience, having been raised with an expectation of instant access and mobile-first usage, was drawn to Revolut's stripped-back design, rapid sign-up process, and real-time functionality—turning everyday financial habits into immersive digital rituals.

Unmatched Speed: The Pace of Innovation

What really separated Revolut from the rest was not so much what it made, but how quickly it made it.
In a mere five years, Revolut grew its business to more than 35 countries, gained more than 30 million customers, and added new features at a pace even legacy banks struggled to match. Revolut released features every nearly monthly cycle,

often iterating in real time through customer feedback loops, versus legacy banks, which took quarters (if not years) to approve one product launch.

Most Notable Achievements of Revolut's Scale-Up Innovation

- **2017:** Launched **business accounts**, giving SMEs a digital-first alternative to clunky traditional banking. Simultaneously, it enabled **cryptocurrency trading** for retail users — beating most banks to the punch during crypto's early rise.
- **2019:** Rolled out **commission-free stock trading**, democratizing access to global markets. Introduced **Metal subscription tiers** with premium benefits like cashback, lounge access, and **concierge services** for high-spending users.
- **2020–21:** Unveiled **Revolut Junior accounts** to onboard the next generation of users with parental controls. Expanded with **travel perks, real-time budgeting tools, salary advance options, and bill-splitting**

— blurring the line between personal finance and lifestyle management.

- **2022–23:** Evolved into a near-superapp by integrating **travel booking, intelligent spending analytics, location-based notifications, subscription management, and AI-powered financial insights** — all under one app interface.
- **2023–24:** Introduced **Revolut Pro** for freelancers and gig workers, allowing them to manage business and personal finances simultaneously. Launched **credit products** in select markets and strengthened AI capabilities in fraud detection and customer service. Made strides toward securing a UK **banking license**, signaling a shift from disruptor to established financial institution.

Revolut's product pipeline was aggressive and relentless. It didn't just evolve as a neobank — it sought to predict lifestyle requirements ahead of users even expressing them. This swiftness mirrored the hyper-responsive nature of finfluencers who change their content on a weekly basis in response to algorithmic trends and audience signals.

The Superapp Playbook: One App to Rule Them All

"We're creating a global financial superapp" - Nikolay Storonsky

Revolut's vision was not so much to be yet another challenger bank but to bring a much greater number of applications onto one platform. That vision, often called the "Superapp" model, tries to bring all the personal finance capabilities and lifestyle services into one interface.

The concept was that a user would not need to have distinct applications for banking, investing, cryptocurrency, travel, and budgeting. Revolut wanted to merge these functionalities into one, unified
digital financial solution that can be accessed easily in a pocket.
Here's how it executed on this strategy:

- **Investment center:** Members can invest in US stocks, ETFs, gold, silver, and more than 100 cryptocurrencies — with low commissions and real-time price quotes.
- **Global travel wallet:** Insurance for travel, virtual cards, instant account freezing/unfreezing, and currency exchange based on location.
- **Subscription management:** The application enabled customers to track and cancel inactive subscriptions, an industry first in Europe then.
- **Rewards & cashback:** Merchandise discounts, loyalty rewards, and tailored merchant offers based on purchasing behavior.
- **Budgeting AI:** Smart analytics and nudges for saving behavior, real-time

This approach was likened to WeChat in China or Paytm in India — but with a Western spin, strongly emphasizing user experience, clean design, and high-speed UX. By bringing different verticals under a single umbrella, Revolut started to make the boundaries between bank, broker, travel companion, and money coach somewhat irrelevant.

This bundling is almost identical to the evolution of financial influencers, who have extended beyond content production to encompass courses, paid communities, merchandise, and mobile applications, all with one brand name.

Speed Wobbles at Scale: Cracks Beneath Revolut's Rise

But with it came cracks in the system—just like there is pushback against financial influencers when their recommendations prove to be incorrect.

1. Regulatory Red Flags

Revolut's internal controls were in constant question. In 2023, Lithuania, where Revolut has a banking license, fined the company €3.5 million for anti-money laundering rule breaches. Critics claimed the company's expansion was too rapid to be able to sustain good internal controls.

Similar to finfluencers who are most probably going to do business without financial credentials, Revolut was criticized for acting like a bank but not quite — taking advantage of legal loopholes to expand quickly without complete regulation.

2. Cultural Controversies

There were claims of a poisonous company culture at Revolut. High employee turnover, high stress from performance, and a "growth-at-all-costs" culture raised ethical problems. There were compliance process breakdowns within the company exposed by a whistleblower, which is in line with product roll-out safety issues. 3. Customer Trust Issues When revolut started making investments, customers began questioning its transparency. Traders complained about lagging executions, confusing fee disclosures, and poor customer service during busy hours — again, finfluencer behavior, promising more and delivering less. In 2021, comparisons were drawn between Revolut and rogue Telegram trading groups that promoted high-risk cryptocurrency websites. The general tone was identical:
financial products and advice were being distributed here, there, and everywhere with insufficient safeguards.

3. Trust and Transparency

Customers love Revolut... until they don't. While its clean interface and seamless features won fans worldwide, cracks began to show under pressure. Some users flagged slow order executions during volatile trading windows, especially in crypto markets, leading to missed opportunities. Others were caught off-guard by confusing or poorly disclosed fees. The biggest frustration? Getting help. Customer support — often reliant on bots — was sluggish during urgent moments. For a platform handling real money, that loss of responsiveness turned convenience into anxiety, and admiration into growing mistrust.

Revolut and the Finfluencer Parallels

Revolut and finfluencers operate in different mediums — one is an app, the other a persona — but their models intersect: Both thrive on accessibility, immediacy, and sleek digital experiences that sidestep traditional gatekeepers.

Their power lies in relatability, not authority — which makes them beloved, but also precariously positioned.

Aspect	Finfluencers	Revolut
Platform	Social Media	Mobile app
Audience	Millennials, Gen Z	Millennials, Gen Z
Hook	Easy, relatable financial tips	Instant access to global finance
Risk	Unqualified advice	Unregulated service
Monetization	Courses, ads, Affiliate links	Premium subscriptions, fees

What's Next? Regulation, Responsibility, or Reinvention?

Revolut is now at a turning point. It will keep developing and expanding, but the regulators are catching up. The Financial Conduct Authority in the UK has suspended Revolut's application for a full banking license due to compliance issues. Revolut is under closer scrutiny in the EU and Asia as well. In order for Revolut to continue leading, it needs to:

- Improve internal controls and compliance through commitment to strong audit infrastructure, the employment of seasoned risk officers, and the inclusion of regulatory environments directly within the product development process. Revolut will need to ensure that each stage of its high speed innovation pipeline is addressed by checks embedded — from automated anti-money laundering screening and fraud protection to open customer protection processes. Active collaboration with regulators and independent compliance audits will be crucial in building long term legitimacy in an increasingly risk-averse fintech landscape.

- Establish trust by being open and user-centric through active disclosure of policy updates, product risk, and service notices in plain, user-centric language. Quicker human customer support, not chatbots, and an open feedback loop could decrease user churn and frustration.

- Embracing regulation as a friend, not an enemy, through close partnership with financial regulators from all corners of the globe to co-design improved standards for online banking. Rather than compliance as a box-ticking exercise, Revolut can see compliance as a vehicle through which to chart the future of global fintech regulation worldwide — and expand its brand along the way.

Conclusion: Revolut — A Fintech Pioneer at a Crossroads.

Revolut did, certainly, disrupt the conventional banking model with faster, cheaper, and more convenient money. Its explosive growth is a sign of the larger shift to digital-first money — as with the finfluencers changing young people's relationship with money. Disruption without accountability is risky. However, with ever more regulatory pressure, Revolut needs to demonstrate that it is capable of growing ethically, securely, and responsibly. Whether it becomes a financial superapp that we trust or succumbs to its own ego will be decided by how it grows over the next few years.

One thing is certain: the financial future will not be constructed by the banks — it will be crafted by the people who will topple them.

Meet Sahu
BMS 27

"Impersonating a Prime Minister: India's Most Bizarre Bank Fraud"

"May 24, 1971. A man walks into a State Bank of India branch in Delhi with nothing but his voice. Hours later, ₹60 lakhs are gone—and a national scandal is born."

It was just another ordinary day at the State Bank of India's Parliament Street branch. The head cashier, Ved Prakash Malhotra, was attending to his daily responsibilities when the phone rang.

On the other end, a voice he instantly recognized.

Firm, commanding, unmistakable.

"This is the Prime Minister speaking."

Malhotra froze. The voice sounded just like Indira Gandhi.

The message was urgent—₹60 lakhs had to be withdrawn immediately for a "matter of national importance." No time for paperwork. No time for protocol. The money, he was told, was needed to support a secret mission related to Bangladesh.

"A courier will collect the cash. You will get a receipt later. Do not delay."

Malhotra, overwhelmed by the gravity of what he believed to be a matter of national security, complied.

Malhotra, overwhelmed by the gravity of what he believed to be a matter of national security, complied.

And just like that, the money was gone.

The Twist

The next day, Malhotra visited the Prime Minister's residence to collect the promised receipt. But when he inquired, the response sent chills down his spine.

"No such request was made by the Prime Minister."

Malhotra's world shattered. Realizing he had been duped, he immediately informed the police.

What followed was a **24-hour national manhunt**.

By the next day, the impersonator was caught trying to flee from the airport. His name was **Rustom Sohrab Nagarwala**, a former Indian Army officer. And most of the stolen money was quickly recovered.

Justice, or Something Else?

Just two days later, Nagarwala was presented before a magistrate.

He confessed—said he had imitated the PM's voice and orchestrated the entire plan alone.

The trial? **TEN MINUTES**
The verdict? **GUILTY.**
The sentence? **FOUR YEARS IN PRISON.**

S.K. Aggarwal, a veteran investigative journalist, would later describe this as **“unique in legal history.”**

But the story did not end in the courtroom.

Because just months later, Nagarwala died in custody, reportedly of a heart attack. No full trial. No appeals. No deeper inquiry. Only whispers.

The Confession That Didn’t Add Up

India, 1977 — A New Government, Old Secrets

Six years after the ₹60-lakh SBI scam, the **Janata government** reopened the case. Justice **Pingle Reddy** was tasked with uncovering the truth behind **Rustom Nagarwala**—the man who mimicked **PM Indira Gandhi** and walked away with a fortune.

But doubts had already begun to swirl.

A Whispered Cover-Up?

Before the commission met, India Today suggested Nagarwala wasn’t a conman—but a covert courier, possibly helping fund Bangladesh's liberation war. Had the government discarded him to avoid exposure?

What the Reddy Report Revealed (1978)

- The confession was unreliable, unsupported by evidence.
- The bank held unaccounted funds.
- Gandhi’s office obstructed the probe.
- Yet, no direct link to Gandhi was proven.
- Nagarwala’s death in custody was ruled a heart attack.

Letters from Jail

In letters written before his death, Nagarwala claimed he wanted to “reveal the truth”—hinting at a connection with Indira Gandhi. She later said she didn’t remember him.

Still Classified

Years later, an RTI order forced the Home Ministry to release some records. But much of the truth behind India’s most mysterious banking scandal remains buried.

“What If Nagarwala Called Today?” – A Fictional Reenactment

Nagarwala (2025): “This is the PM’s office. Release ₹60 lakh immediately.”

Bank System:

- Facial ID mismatch
- Suspicious transaction flagged
- AI triggers alert: Voice mismatch with PM’s database profile
- Alert escalated to compliance
- RBI informed in real time

Case closed before it began.

Today, such a scam would likely be stopped at multiple checkpoints—from automated alerts to internal audit red flags. But back then, the absence of regulatory protocols allowed one voice to override an entire institution.

1971 Banking Practice	Modern-Day Regulation
Verbal instructions acted upon	Written approvals & secure digital trails
No ID or voice verification	KYC norms & biometric/facial verification
No secondary approval for large sums	Dual authorization and audit trails
No real-time fraud monitoring	Centralized fraud detection systems (RBI)

Lessons for Today’s Bankers: “Nagarwala Protocols” (Hypothetical Learnings)

Let us pretend this scandal resulted in real rulebooks. Develop a satirical "protocol list" banks must abide by today, based on this flop.

1. No Transaction Without Traceability
2. Voice ≠ Authority
3. Dual Eyes on All Large Withdrawals
4. Never Prioritize Urgency Over Protocol
5. Fraud Is Not Just a System Failure—It's a Leadership Failure

Ananta
B.com (H) 27

The Unseen Dollar Empire

“Dollar, dollar everywhere... in vaults, in clouds, and even in the air.”

But not all dollars are born equal. What we often think of as simple currency is, in reality, part of a sprawling network of promises, obligations, and financial illusions.
One of the most disregarded players in this system is the Eurodollar, a dollar, yes, but not quite the dollar you might expect.

To truly understand this parallel universe of offshore dollars, we need to rewind the clock to 1944 when the world was quietly reshaped at the Bretton Woods Conference."
Prior to 1944, countries around the world were all on their own versions of the gold standard, meaning their currency was backed by the value of the gold present with their central banks. But after World War II, most advanced nations had spent all their gold paying for the damages of war, they were practically out of gold.

So instead of starting from scratch, they turned to the one country that still had a massive stockpile of gold: the United States. In 1944, at Bretton Woods, the world agreed to peg all major currencies to the U.S. dollar, and the dollar itself was still backed by gold. That way, instead of each country backing their money with gold, they could back it with dollars, which were as good as gold because the U.S. promised to exchange them for actual gold when needed.

For a while, this worked. Countries printed their local currencies, did trade, and operated with confidence because they believed the dollar was solid and, in turn, so was their own money. But the U.S. started to get a little too comfortable. It kept printing dollars, for wars, infrastructure, global influence, more than it had gold to cover.

Some countries, like France, got cautious and began asking to exchange their dollars for physical gold. And that was when it became clear that the U.S. didn’t have enough gold to cover all the dollars floating around.

Still, by that time, it was too late to reverse the dependence. The world was already used to using dollars. From international trade to commodities to bank settling payments, everything was done in dollars. And even though it wasn't ideal, things worked, or at least kept working.
And in this dollar dependent world, something unexpected happened. Dollars started showing up outside the U.S., especially in European banks. These weren’t physical bills moving around, they were ledger entries, electronic IOUs. But they were dollars nonetheless. Banks outside the U.S. started holding and lending them, giving birth to what we now call Eurodollars.

They had nothing to do with the euro currency or any European government. They were simply U.S. dollars held outside of U.S. regulations, usually in London or other European financial centers. And over time, they quietly became the fuel for a massive, parallel financial system.

And as the system was accepted and continued, the only difference was now that the government and central banks have the superpower to print an unlimited amount of their own currency and the only restraints would be political will or the bittersweet truth of hyperinflation if over printed. Switching back to the current time, it's nearly impossible to calculate how much of those dollars are there in circulation today. Or well, at least that's what people actually say. A mere task of calculating all the dollars is well an impossible task and it's all because of just one word " Re-hypothecation".

It sounds complicated, but the concept is deceptively simple and incredibly powerful. Let’s say a bank holds a client’s collateral, like U.S. Treasuries or dollars and lends it out to someone else. That second party can then turn around and do the same thing that is to lend it again. The same original asset can be reused, or rather, re-hypothecated, multiple times across multiple deals, across multiple banks.

What this creates is a kind of mirrored liquidity. On paper, everyone thinks they’re holding a claim to actual dollars or safe assets. But in reality, that same dollar might be tied up in five or six different promises, stretched across the globe. The more times it’s reused, the longer and more fragile the chain becomes.

Now imagine what happens if just one link in that chain breaks , say, a bank defaults or fails to return the collateral. It doesn't just affect that one bank. Everyone else who was relying on that collateral suddenly finds themselves at the threshold. And since most of these transactions are built on trust and leverage, it can trigger a domino effect.

One default can lead to a funding shortage. That shortage causes another player to miss a payment. And then another. And just like that, we've got a global liquidity crisis. Not because there's no money but because everyone's afraid they might not actually get what they're owed.

This hidden vulnerability is baked into the system. The Eurodollar network runs on promises and rolled-over credit, not actual green bills. And while that makes it flexible and scalable, it also means that damage can spread faster than most people expect.

And the scariest part? Most of this happens outside the purview of national central banks. Because the Eurodollar system lives beyond borders and regulation. It's not "unlawful", it's just, unaccounted for.

And the reason it's not really accounted for? Well, that's because there's no official agency watching over Eurodollars. They don't fall under U.S. regulations, no one's really tracking them. They just move, built on bank promises, passed around across borders, far from any single point of control.

And if you think that surely the Fed has some say in all this, that's where most people get it wrong.

Most people think the Fed has a handle on all this. But outside the U.S., in the Eurodollar world, the Fed is more of a bystander. Indeed, it controls rates and printing within the country, but these offshore dollars? They run on something else entirely, trust, credit, and a whole lot of backstage dealing.

So while the Fed might look like the parent, the truth is, its child, the Eurodollar, moved out years ago, but somehow still controls the entire household budget.

That's the strange part, it's not even just about the dollar anymore, it's about the idea of the dollar. Floating quietly across borders, shaping economies without ever really showing its face

Kanishka
B.com (h) 27

Banking-as-a-Service (BaaS): Revolutionizing Startups' Financial Services Access

The age of financial services is being redefined with the advent of Banking-as-a-Service (BaaS). This innovative model allows non-banking companies and startups to offer banking-type services without taking full banking licenses. Leverage licensed banks' infrastructure and regulatory support, BaaS allows businesses to natively integrate financial products into their platforms while focusing on customer experience and innovation. This report provides a professional overview of BaaS, its pros and cons, key factors, and future directions.

What is Banking-as-a-Service?

Banking-as-a-Service (BaaS) is a cloud-based model through which licensed banks provide their regulated infrastructure—such as payment processing, account management, and compliance regimes—to third-party firms via APIs. These firms embed financial services into their platforms under their own branding.

For example:

- · A ride-hailing app may offer in-app wallets for drivers to accept payments.
- · An e-commerce website may offer branded credit cards to consumers.

BaaS demystifies banking infrastructure, and non-financial companies can offer financial services without building complex backends or negotiating with regulators.

Why Startups are Moving towards BaaS?

1. Cost Efficiency

Building a banking infrastructure from scratch requires significant investment in technology, compliance frameworks, and licensing. BaaS avoids these up-front expenditures by enabling startups to "rent" banking services from established providers. The cost-saving alternative allows firms to allocate resources toward product development and customer acquisition.

2. Speed to Market

Onboarding financial products used to take years due to regulatory complexities and technology hurdles. BaaS speeds it up, enabling startups to go live in weeks or months. For instance, financial giants like Revolut leveraged the BaaS offerings to scale their product rapidly to a number of countries.

3. Focus on Innovation

By outsourcing back-end processes such as compliance and payment processing, startups can concentrate on creating innovative customer experiences. Through innovation, they can differentiate themselves in competitive markets through functionalities such as customized financial information or gamified savings solutions.

4. Financial Inclusion

BaaS enables startups to reach underserved segments by providing affordable financial products targeting specific groups. Neobanks that started as mobile-first banks have used BaaS platforms to provide banking to the unbanked in emerging markets, including economic inclusion.

Case Studies: Startups Leveraging BaaS

Startup	Application of BaaS	Impact
sRevolut	Multi-currency accounts and crypto trading via APIs	Scaled rapidly across Europe without obtaining full banking licenses initially.

Stripe	Payment processing and card issuance	Dominated the global e-commerce payments market with seamless integration for merchants.
Solarisbank	White-label banking services for fintech's	Empowered over 50 European startups to launch compliant financial products quickly.
Synctera	Matches startups with community banks for compliance	Helped niche fintech's (e.g., green finance platforms) scale while ensuring regulatory adherence..

Key Elements of a BaaS Platform

An effective BaaS platform has several critical elements to facilitate seamless financial services integration:

1. API Infrastructure
APIs are the building blocks of BaaS platforms, enabling safe interaction between provider and client apps. They facilitate access to main features of the core bank, such as creating an account, payment, and credit.

2. Account and Payment Management
This feature allows for virtual accounts being presented to clients and transactions carried out with ease using channels such as NEFT, RTGS, UPI, or cross currency exchange.

3. Framework for Compliance
Compliance operations such as KYC (Know Your Customer) checks and AML (Anti-Money Laundry) operations are undertaken by the BaaS platform on behalf of clients to cater to local compliance requirements and to limit liability.

4. Issuance of Card

Most of the platforms offer white-label products for issuing branded debit or credit cards—virtual and physical—linked to global payment networks like Visa or Mastercard.

5. Lending Services

BaaS enables businesses to offer lending products like personal loans or BNPL (Buy Now Pay Later) without a banking license by providing loan origination systems and credit scoring models.

6. Data Analytics

Advanced analytics platforms provide insights into user behaviour and transaction patterns in real-time dashboards and predictive models, allowing businesses to customize their offerings more precisely.

7. Security Infrastructure

Robust security measures such as end-to-end encryption, multi-factor authentication (MFA), and regular penetration testing protect data and maintain compliance with global standards such as GDPR.

8. Cloud Scalability

Cloud infrastructure offers scalability through businesses' capacity to take in extensive numbers of transactions at peak periods and offer low-cost pay-as-you-go plans.

9. Third-Party Integrations

Third-party service integration, such as with payment processors (e.g., PayPal), accounting applications (e.g., QuickBooks), or loyalty programs, underpins BaaS platforms' increased functionality.

The Future of BaaS

Global Banking-as-a-Service market is poised for unprecedented growth as industries adopt more integrated finance solutions. Its future is being shaped by:

1. Hyper-Personalization
AI-powered platforms will create customized financial products based on the specific preferences of individual users using insights into their behaviours.

2. Cross-Border Expansion
With globalization driving demand for global payments, cross-border solutions powered by BaaS will reduce costs while improving efficiency**.**

3. Embedding Sustainability
Carbon credit trading or ESG-compliant investments will be integrated as part of future BaaS offerings.

4. Bank and FinTech Partnerships
Traditional banks are increasingly likely to partner with fintech's utilizing BaaS platforms rather than fighting them—a trend fostering innovation while leveraging banks' regulatory expertise.

Drawbacks and Risks of BaaS

BaaS might have some benefits, but it carries obstacles that businesses must resolve:

1. Reliance on Providers
BaaS providers are susceptible to disruptions caused by technical downtime or regulatory changes on the provider side. Such dependencies are likely to impact service continuity and trust among customers.

2. Limited Customization
Pre-built APIs can limit the degree of customization that startups can implement in their products, making it difficult to differentiate in extremely competitive markets.

3. Regulatory Complexity
While licensed banks deal with compliance on the BaaS model, the startups have to ensure their activity complies with local laws (e.g., GDPR in Europe or AML regulations worldwide). Failure to do so may attract penalties or brand damage.

4. **Security Concerns**

Usage of third-party APIs to manipulate sensitive monetary data carries a high risk of cyber-attacks. The startups would have to bear massive costs for security like encryption and multi-factor authentication for safeguarding customer data.

Conclusion

Banking-as-a-Service does represent a paradigm shift in financial services provision that enables startups to innovate rapidly without facing the regulatory complexities it entails or the prohibitive cost it involves with legacy banking business models. Issues like dependence on providers and cybersecurity risks notwithstanding, the benefits are much more convincing for most businesses.

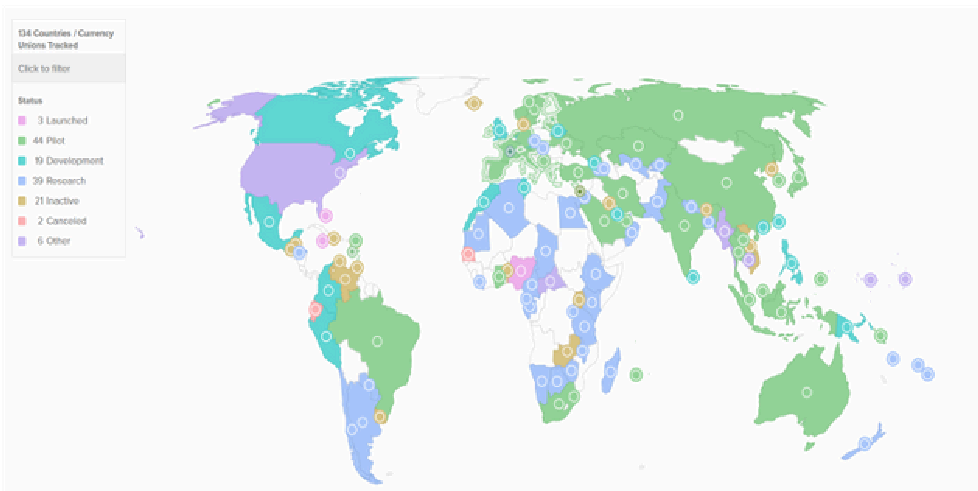
With the emergence of new technologies like blockchain and quantum computing along with the growing need for embedded finance products, the application area of BaaS will expand broader reshaping the world's financial future.

Saksham Mangal
BMS 27'

The Rise of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs): A New Era for Monetary Policy?

Introduction: The Digital Transformation of Money

We are on the verge of a monetary revolution. Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs)—digital versions of sovereign currency issued by central banks—are changing from the realm of theory to reality. Now, over 130 countries around the world are examining the implementation of a CBDC, including many of the largest economies in the world such as China (e-CNY), the European Union (the digital euro), and India (digital rupee pilot), representing perhaps the biggest change to the global financial system since the introduction of electronic banking.This change raises difficult questions: How will CBDCs impact monetary policy? What will they mean for financial stability and private individual concerns? And perhaps most importantly, are we ready for our money to be programmable, traceable, and with a level of government oversight not seen



"CBDCs promise to modernize money—just don't expect them to make your rent any cheaper."

1.The Driving Forces Behind CBDC Adoption

1.1 The Reduction of Physical Cash-Cash transactions have now declined to under 20% of payments in advanced economies. Sweden, who leads the way in cashless adoption, had cash cover only 9% of transactions in 2023. CBDCs provide central banks the opportunity to remain relevant in an increasingly digital payments realm, while maintaining some degree of monetary sovereignty.

1.2 The Cryptocurrency Challenge-The rapid growth of private cryptocurrencies (a $2.5 trillion market by 2024) and stablecoins has prompted central banks to react. CBDCs represent an attempt to harness the efficiencies and benefits of blockchain technology, while also serving as a stable spot based on the government - what some may refer to as the "crypto with training wheels."

1.3 Financial Inclusion Motivations-In emerging markets, CBDCs could potentially bring millions of people into the formal financial system. In India specifically, the digital rupee pilot tests offline functionality with the ultimate aim to test potential value for rural areas without strong internet connectivity.

2. CBDCs and the Future of Monetary Policy

2.1 Tools for Precision Policy-Central banks will gain access to real time flows of economic data through CBDCs, allowing for:Targeted liquidity injections,Dynamic adjustments of interest rates and Granular distribution of stimulus.The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) estimates CBDCs could improve monetary policy transmission by 15 to 20%.

2.2 Breaking the Zero Lower Bound-Once physical cash is removed from the math, central banks could, theoretically, impose negative interest rates of deeper magnitude during periods of economic crisis. This is controversial; however, it could potentially be a useful tool.

2.3 Programmable Money: Promise and Perils- CBDCs enabled with smart contracts could allow for:Automated tax collection, Time-sensitive stimulus spending and Sector-specific monetary assistance "The upside? Smarter economic policy. The downside? Your money may have more terms and conditions than your software license."

3. Critical Challenges and Risks

3.1 The Bank Disintermediation Problem- IMF evidence shows that a shift of 20% of deposits to CBDCs in a crisis would generate a rise in funding costs for banks of 40-60 basis points, which could risk the stability of the credit system.

3.2 Privacy vs control-The digital euro proposal includes a "privacy tiers" concept. In contrast, China's e-CNY allows full traceability and further merges the government's authority to surveil individual financial transactions. The long-standing tension between the government's financial surveillance interests and privacy rights has not been resolved.

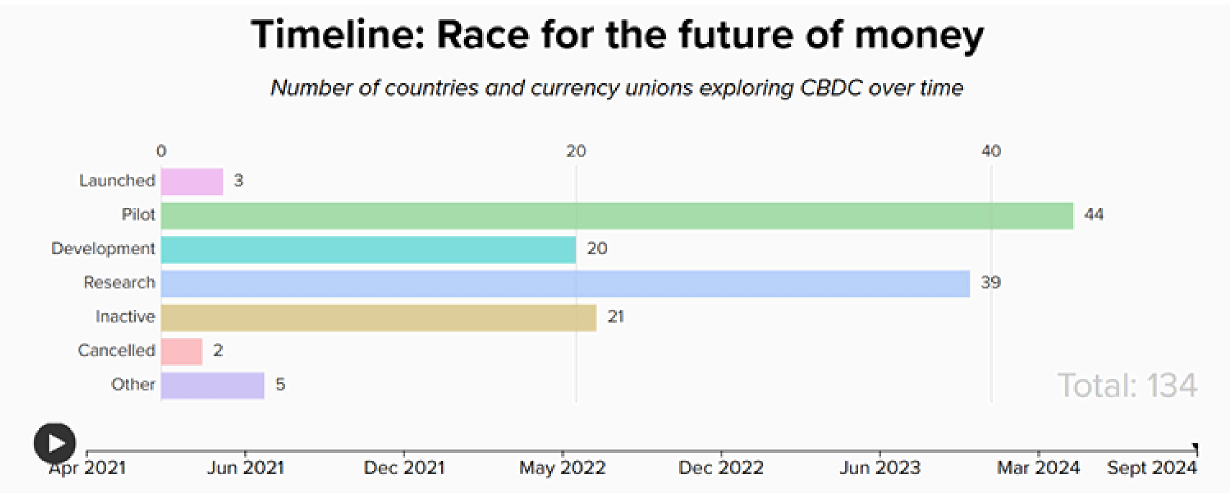
3.3 Geopolitical Aspects Dollar Challenges-There are cross-border CBDC ventures, for example mBridge (China, UAE, Thailand) which can lead to a reduction of dollar dominance. Sanctions Resistance: Russia has confirmed that it plans to develop a CBDC to undermine financial restrictions.

4. The Road Ahead

Implementation Timelines

2024-2025: Expanded pilots (EU, UK, India**)**

2026-2030: Potential full launches in major economie**s**



Conclusion: Proceeding With Cautious Optimism

CBDCs embody immense potential as well as enormous risk. In a nutshell, they create more efficient monetary systems and promote inclusion, BUT there are major opportunities related to privacy, financial stability, and concentration of economic power.In navigating the transition, it is becoming clear that the future of money will be digital—though we do not know what it will take. Central banks must demonstrate that they can innovate in tandem with the private sector and remain the stable institutions we are accustomed to relying upon.

"At the end of the day, CBDCs will change money, but will not change that there is never enough of it when you need it."

Charvi
B.com (H) 27

The Empty Sky: When America's Shield Falls, What Shadows Stretch Over Europe & Japan?

The Empty Sky:

Imagine your roof gone. That's the fear for Europe and Japan if America quits its role as world protector, especially leaving NATO. Suddenly, the sky feels empty and scary. For decades, America's power was their shield. Now? Uncertainty hits hard. Big Question: If America walks away, what happens next? Who steps up? Can they protect themselves? It's a wake-up call. The world order they knew might be gone, leaving them to face a new, uncertain dawn.

Security Isn't Free: The Great Economic Shuffle

For years, relying on the US "shield" meant allies could spend big on things other than defense – think healthcare, green energy, roads. But if that shield vanishes?

- **Guns Over Butter?** Suddenly, nations must pay their own massive security bill. Building up armies, advanced tech, and secure energy costs a fortune. Does that money come from social programs? Climate goals? It's a painful choice with no easy answers.
- **Fortress Europe?** The EU would scramble for "strategic autonomy," pouring cash into its own defense industries and trying to secure vital supply chains (like computer chips and medicine). But can 27+ nations truly unite, or will old rivalries and differing budgets cause cracks?
- **Japan Steps Up:** Though not in NATO, Japan relies heavily on the US alliance. An American pullback signals danger, likely pushing Japan to rapidly boost its own military, invest heavily in cutting-edge tech (AI, robotics), and forge stronger ties with neighbours like Australia and India.

More Than Just Military Spending

This isn't just about buying tanks. It's a potential rewiring of entire economies:

- **Energy gets strategic:** Forget cheap gas; reliable, secure energy becomes king.
- **Supply chains come home:** Dependence on faraway factories looks risky.
- **Tech becomes defense:** AI and cyber aren't just business tools; they're national security essentials.

Living without the shield means confronting deep anxieties and making tough economic sacrifices. The "shadows" in the empty sky force a fundamental rethink of priorities, a costly and complex transition into a new, uncertain world.

Empty Sky, Shaky Ground

Imagine the roof gone. That's Europe & Japan if America's security shield vanishes. Fear ripples deep, shaking everything. Economies twist towards defense. Will nations become more "us first"? Will the burden split us apart? The world feels different, less safe. A new, uncertain dawn breaks.

- **Money Shifts:** Fear of insecurity drives massive defense spending. This economic pivot means less investment in other crucial areas, impacting citizens directly.
- **Stronger Flags, Closed Minds?** A focus on self-defense could fuel nationalism and distrust of outsiders. This shift might lead to more insular and less cooperative societies.
- **Divided We Stand?** The costs of increased security will likely fall unevenly, creating new social and economic divides within nations. Unity could be strained.
- **Looking Inward:** Without a security guarantee, nations may prioritize self-reliance over global cooperation, potentially impacting immigration and individual freedoms in the name of safety.
- **Big Change:** The absence of the US security umbrella forces a fundamental and costly reassessment of priorities, ushering in a new, unpredictable era for these nations.

Final Word: The World Tilts

US security gone? Europe & Japan face a raw, uncertain world. Fear dictates spending. "My nation first" could divide us. Trust shrinks, borders tighten. The global map is redrawing. Brace yourselves; the big shake-up demands new answers in an empty sky.

Krish Raj
B.com (H) 27

The Art of Economic War: Sun Tzu Meets US-China Trade

1. "Know Your Enemy and Know Yourself"

All warfare is based on deception:
The US-China trade war, like Sun Tzu's Art of War, is a strategic contest for economic dominance. It goes beyond tariffs, employing psychological tactics, patience, and deception.

Forget swords, think tariffs! The US-China trade war isn't just about money; it's a smart game of mind tricks and long-term moves, like in Sun Tzu's ancient Art of War. The goal? To be the top economic power.

"In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity." — Sun Tzu

Forget guns, the big fight now is about trade, tech bans, and money moves. Like an economic Cold War, the US and China are battling using old tricks from Sun Tzu's Art of War: fooling each other, hitting weak spots, and trying to win without a direct fight.

$500 Billion Hook-Up: A Dangerous Game?

China sells tons to the US (phones, cars!), boosting its power. But this link is a risk for China.

US Playbook: Hit 'them Where It Hurts (Tech!).

Like Sun Tzu said, know your enemy's weak spot. The US saw China's need for tiny computer brains (semiconductors) and went for it:

- ASML's EUV Ban: Blocked China from buying the best chip machines.
- Nvidia's AI Chip Restrictions: Stopped key AI chips from going to China.
- Chip Switch: Tried to pull chip companies away from China.

This is like squeezing China's tech throat – slowing them down without a figh

China's Comeback: The Secret Weapon?

- Weaponizing rare earth metals: Controlling metals the world needs (Controlling 80% of global supply)
- Cheap Goods Flood: Selling super cheap EVs and solar, hurting others.
- Pushing the "petroyuan": Pushing their own money for oil deals.

More Than Just Taxes!

Sun Tzu's Lesson: "Attack where the enemy is unprepared."

2."The Supreme Art of War is to Subdue Without Fighting"

Sun Tzu's New Battlefield: US Tech vs. China's Global Gambit

Forget tanks and trenches. The real US-China war is invisible, fought with silicon chips, digital currency, and global supply chains. It's Sun Tzu's ancient strategies waged with 21st-century weapons, a battle for dominance where victory means controlling the invisible architecture of global power.

America's Strategy: The Tech Chokehold & Alliance Walls

The US aims to contain China by controlling critical technology and building strategic alliances:

- **Silicon Siege:** Denying advanced chips (like the Huawei ban) and the machines to make them (ASML embargo) aims to keep China technologically dependent.
- **Rallying the Allies:** Initiatives like the "Chip 4" (US, Japan, S. Korea, Taiwan) and "friendshoring" build economic blocs designed to isolate Beijing and reroute supply chains (boosting partners like Vietnam and Mexico).

Sun Tzu Principle: Cut the enemy's supply lines and unite the many to strike the few.

China's Strategy: Financial Insurgency & Global Reach

China counters by building alternative systems and expanding its global footprint:

- **De-Dollarizing:** Pushing the Yuan in global trade (like oil deals with Russia & Saudi Arabia) and launching the Digital Yuan creates pathways outside US financial control – a shield against sanctions.
- **Belt & Road Expansion:** Massive infrastructure projects across Asia and Africa secure resources (like cobalt from Congo), build influence, and sometimes create debt leverage (e.g., ports in Kenya, Zambia).

Sun Tzu Principle: Expand without battle and build your enemy a golden bridge (then own it).

The Hidden War

Beneath the surface, both sides employ patience (China's long game on rare earths), deception, and target each other's weak points, aiming to make the world dependent on their systems while breaking the other's.

The Core Question: Can China's patient global expansion and financial maneuvering bypass America's tightening tech blockade and alliance network before its own economy is strangled? The winner masters the invisible battlefield.

Krish Raj
B.com (H) 27

Advanced Financial Analytics: Data-driven decision making

You might associate data analysis with just coding or numbers, but it's much more than that. Imagine a career where you're working with the most valuable asset of the modern world—data.

Over the next few decades, Data Analytics will transform not only the **finance industry** but also **other industries that borrow significantly from finance.** The operating environment for investment management firms continues to evolve, with **technological innovations** and shifting **investor preferences at the heart of this change.** Hence, the application of Data Analytics in financial markets, trading, and asset management is called **Financial Analytics.**

Financial analytics is increasingly reliant on advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, which enable more sophisticated modeling, pattern recognition, and automation of analytical processes. As financial markets continue to evolve, the ability to leverage data analysis effectively becomes a competitive advantage for organizations aiming to navigate complexities, mitigate risks, and capitalize on opportunities in the dynamic world of finance.

Importance of Data Analysis in Finance

Data analysis is super important in finance because it helps people and companies make smart decisions, plan better, and improve overall performance. It turns numbers into useful insights, showing trends and risks so that investors and managers can act wisely—whether it's deciding where to invest, how to cut costs, or how to handle financial risks. It's also key in spotting fraud, staying compliant with regulations, and understanding customer behavior. By using data, businesses can manage portfolios more effectively, spot new market opportunities, and stay ahead of the competition. In short, data analysis gives the financial world the power to be faster, safer, and smarter in a constantly changing environment.

Tools and techniques in Finance

Tools and techniques in Finance Data analysis in finance uses a mix of tools and techniques to turn raw numbers into valuable insights. Popular tools like Excel help with basic modeling and analysis using charts and formulas, while statistical software like R and Python handle deeper analysis, such as forecasting and risk modeling. Business Intelligence tools like Tableau and Power BI make it easy to visualize data with interactive dashboards. SQL databases store large amounts of data, and data mining tools help find hidden patterns. For time-based data like stock prices, time series tools analyze trends and seasonality. Machine learning libraries automate predictions and find patterns, while platforms like the Bloomberg Terminal offer real-time financial data and tools for investment analysis. Risk management tools assess potential financial risks, and Excel add-ins boost Excel's power for tasks like optimization and real-time data updates. Depending on the job, analysts often use a combination of these tools to make smart, data-driven decisions in finance.

Future of Data Analysis in Finance

The future of finance is being transformed by exciting trends in data analysis that are making things faster, smarter, and more secure. Technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are helping financial institutions understand big data, spot patterns, and make better predictions—whether it's for trading, credit scoring, or fraud detection. Big Data tools allow businesses to process huge amounts of information for smarter decision-making, while Blockchain ensures safe and transparent transactions. Cybersecurity analytics is helping spot threats early, and personalization is making financial services more customer-friendly. Altogether, these trends show how data is powering a smarter, more efficient, and more innovative future in finance.

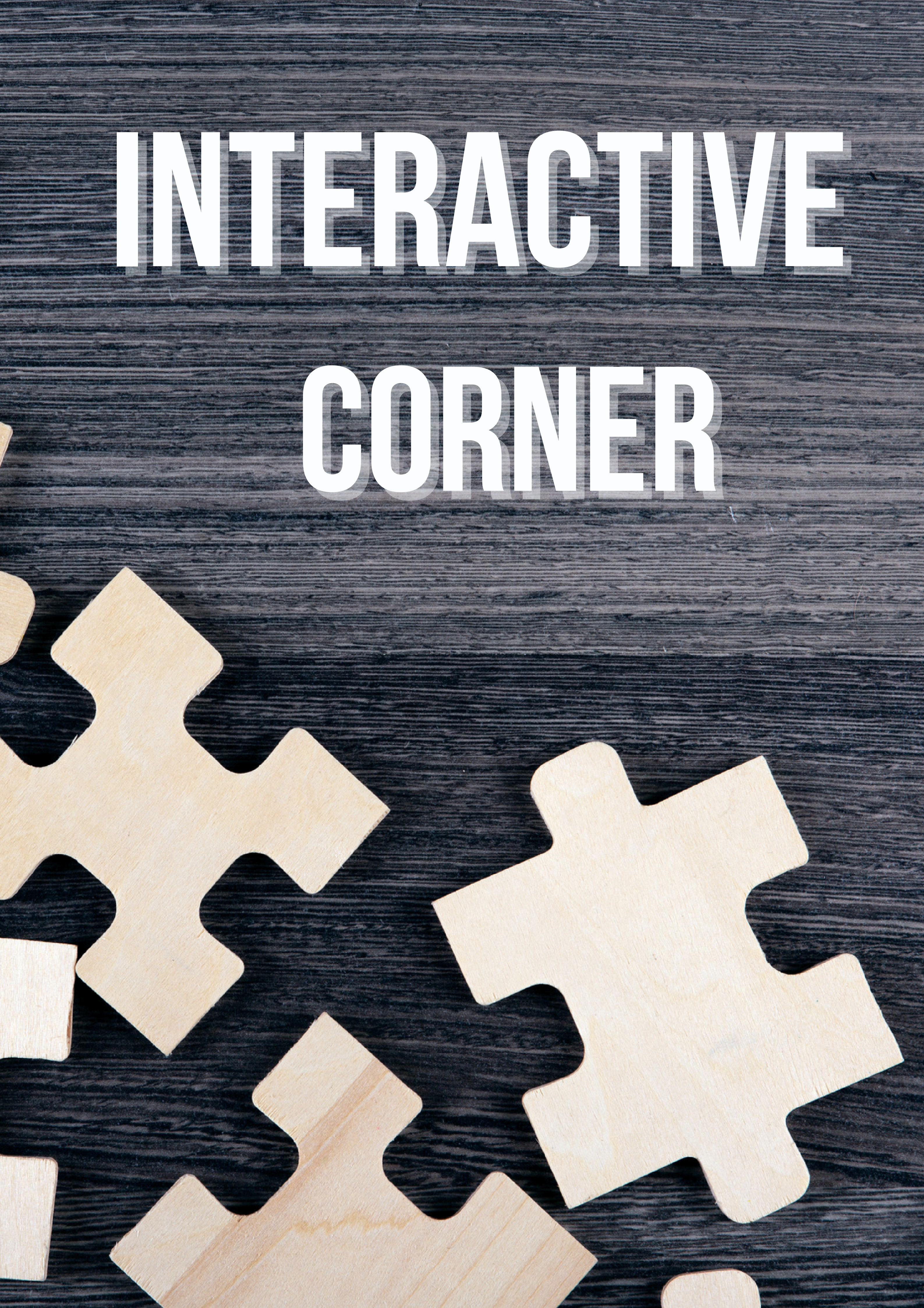
Conclusion

In conclusion, Data analysis has become an indispensable tool in the realm of finance, playing a pivotal role in shaping strategic decisions, managing risks, and optimizing performance. The convergence of advanced technologies, increasing data volumes, and evolving analytical methodologies is reshaping the landscape of financial data analysis.

Special thanks to: Sudharsana S.S.

Abhishek Srivastava
B.com (H) 26

INTERACTIVE CORNER



Finance Riddles

1. I exist today, but promise tomorrow,
A gamble you take, with joy or sorrow.
You pay me now and hope I grow,
But risk is part of what I show.
What am I?

2. My face is unknown, my form is code,
No bank can hold me, yet I'm owed.
Decentralized, I rise and fall—
I'm the future, some people call.
What am I?

3. I make rich people richer and poor people nervous.
I move without warning and show no service.
I'm influenced by fear, greed, and news—
If you play with me, be ready to lose.
What am I?

4. I'm not alive, but I grow with time,
I eat inflation like it's lemon-lime.
With dividends and compounding might,
In the long term, I shine so bright.
What am I?

5. I exist in law, a money shield,
When debts arrive, I take the field.
I separate your life from biz,
A smart move, in the finance quiz.
What am I?

Answers

Fun Facts

1. The first credit card ever was invented in 1950
It was called the Diners Club card and was originally designed for restaurant bills. Now we're tapping phones to buy coffee.

2. Coins last way longer than paper money
A typical coin can last 30+ years, while a $1 bill lasts around 6.6 years before it's too beat up.

3. U.S. paper money isn't actually paper
It's a blend of 75% cotton and 25% linen—basically, it's more like your jeans than your notebook.

4. The word "salary" comes from "salt"
Back in Roman times, soldiers were sometimes paid in salt, a highly valued commodity. Hence, the term "worth your salt."

5. There's a $100,000 bill—but you'll never use it
It features Woodrow Wilson and was used only for official government transactions between Federal Reserve Banks.

6. Warren Buffett bought his first stock at age 11
He made his first investment in Cities Service Preferred at just 11 years old—and still thinks he was "late to the game."

7. Monopoly money is printed more than real money
Hasbro prints about 30 times more Monopoly money each year than the U.S. Treasury prints real currency.

THE FINANCE SOCIETY

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya college

WWW.FINSDDU.IN

FINSDDUC

finance.club@ddu.du.ac.in

Fin-S, The Finance Society of DDUC