



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

We hope to cross the 100-million user mark on UPI over next 2 years: NPCI CEO

France's FM logistic plans to develop green trucks in India

JetSynthesys and Orkut's Hello Network bring 'Jet Hello' to India

Telcos say just obeyed DoT orders on linking mobile nos with Aadhaar

Today's View

AI for Refugees

As per **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**, there are approximately 60 million people displaced worldwide with 42,500 newly displaced each day. Apart from political uncertainties, climate change and global warming are also exacerbating the problem of displaced persons, with millions of people expected to be forced to relocate to other countries. The problem is becoming so widespread that **New Zealand** is even considering creating a new visa specifically for those displaced by climate change.

Acknowledging this global concern, institutions are taking help of technologies like artificial intelligence to mitigate this issue. For example, **Stanford University** and **ETH Zurich** have developed an algorithm to help countries place refugees more effectively by boosting their chances of finding employment and integrating into an unfamiliar society. This refugee placement algorithm is developed by analysing socioeconomic data of more than 30,000 refugees in the **United States** and **Switzerland**, by studying individual characteristics, such as English proficiency, education level etc. They found that employment rates among refugees would have increased by 41 percent had the algorithm been used to place the refugees.

The power of AI has been applied to organise the roots of refugees as well. For example, AI-based speech module can analyse the origin of their accent – if someone says they're from Egypt, but they speak with a Syrian accent, the system can detect it with 80 percent accuracy. AI also can link a person's

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Walmart may get Google on its side in fight with Amazon for India

Walmart's acquisition plan for Flipkart will likely involve Google's parent Alphabet taking a minority stake in India's largest ecommerce company, said people with knowledge of the matter.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Date – 27th Apr 18

name with the country of origin, and face recognition contributes to the analysis. This helps supervisors conducting the interviews to raise red flags that require further investigation.

Some firms like **X2AI** have developed AI-based chatbot **Karim**, which provides psychological support to refugees. The chatbot can have personal conversations in Arabic via text message by understanding a person's mental state and emotional needs, and responding appropriately with comments, questions and recommendations. As the user interacts with Karim, the system uses natural language processing to analyse the person's emotional state and returns appropriate comments, questions and recommendations.

Similarly, **Refugees Deeply** is a chatbot management system (CMS) for humanitarian organizations. Messages are input into the system online by an expert humanitarian organization. Translators are then notified to map them across to other languages. Messages can be sent over SMS and chat applications such as Facebook Messenger, Viber and Telegram. It also gives refugees advice on how to stay positive during the long waiting periods, what the police and humanitarian organizations can and can't do for them, as well as what to do in case of distress.

It is heartening to see that technologies like AI are being leveraged to mitigate centuries-old problems like refugee crisis. Though the application of technology is at a nascent stage, its potential to address refugee crisis can be greatly optimised when we apply human ingenuity to it.

Today's News

We hope to cross the 100-million user mark on UPI over next 2 years: NPCI CEO

From UPI to Bill Payments, from electronic toll collection to ATM transactions, in the country's journey down the digital payments highway, National Payments Corporation has been in the thick of action under new chief executive Dilip Asbe. While on one hand, NPCI is on mission mode to take India towards a less-cash society, on the other, it has to manage the multiple stakeholders of the entire process such as banks, payment startups, government and consumers.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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France's FM logistic plans to develop green trucks in India

French company FM Logistic plans to develop green vehicles for environmentally sustainable road cargo transportation in India, in keeping with the government's push for electric vehicles. The company plans a pilot project in India in the next one year, said Stephane Descarpentries, director, Asia operations, adding the company is already in talks with auto-makers for the same.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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

Future Group takes e-rivals head on, goes the app way for grocery delivery

Future Group, the country's biggest retailer, is launching an ecommerce application for Easyday members, mimicking Amazon's paid subscription service Amazon Prime.

The Kishore Biyani-owned chain will target the daily and weekly requirements of consumers.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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New Amazon warehouses soon in 5 cities

Online retailer Amazon on Thursday announced the opening of five new fulfilment centres in India, taking the count of its warehouses to 67 across 13 states and augmenting storage capacity to 20 million cubic feet. "The five new fulfilment centres will be for all categories and will be functional before the festive season," said Akhil Saxena, vice-president for customer fulfilment at Amazon India.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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BSNL in talks with SoftBank for using OneWeb's satellites

Softbank has held talks with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) for out leasing broadband bandwidth from OneWeb's low earth orbit (LEO) communication satellites to disrupt the telecom technology landscape in India with low latency Internet and voice services.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Startups now hunting for talent across the world

Several Indian startups are hunting for talent in artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics and big data across the world to overcome a big demand-supply mismatch for talent with knowledge of futuristic technologies.

While some of them are trying to rope in talent from markets such as the US, Europe and China, most are scouting for Indian professionals with an international stint or a global degree to improve cost efficiency.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Draft eHealth standards a 'regulatory overreach', say startups and industry bodies

Indian startups and industry bodies feel that the Digital Information Security in Healthcare Act (DISHA), which seeks to put in place eHealth standards, to enforce privacy and security measures for electronic health data, may be a 'regulatory overreach' that might lead to confusion and regulatory overlaps.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Telcos say just obeyed DoT orders on linking mobile nos with Aadhaar

Mobile phone operators said they were only following directions of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), as license holders of telecom services, while pushing subscribers for Aadhaar-based verification of mobile phone connections.

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), which represents all carriers including Bharti Airtel, Vodafone India, Idea Cellular and Reliance Jio, Thursday added that as licensees, the companies were bound by the conditions in the license to obey all reasonable rules issued by the telecom department.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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JetSynthesys and Orkut's Hello Network bring 'Jet Hello' to India

Digital innovation company JetSynthesys has announced a joint venture between JetSynthesys and Hello Network, - Jet Hello that will social network for the Indian user.

Under this strategic partnership, JetSynthesys as a hands-on local partner will be responsible for larger business strategy and operations, marketing and monetisation for hello to strengthen its reach in the Indian market, while the hello team will continue developing innovative technologies to bring a world class platform.

Source – *Business Standard*

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Report flaws in good faith, expect big reward: Uber

Uber plans to announce changes to how it rewards cyber researchers who report flaws in its software, a company executive told Reuters, as part of the ride-hailing firm's response to concerns raised about the way it handled a data breach in 2016. Among the changes to Uber Technologies' so-called bug bounty programme are new terms that more clearly define what Uber does and does not consider "good faith" vulnerability research.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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ShopClues' 1st offline store to open in Lucknow next month

Even as rumours about a potential sale of ShopClues to a larger ecommerce player abound, the company is set to enter the brick-and-mortar segment after having raised about \$10 million from existing investors.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Net4Hemo: Helping haemophilia patients connect with peers, learn about staying safe

Net4Hemo, is providing haemophilia patients an innovative way to learn about staying safe, being prepared, maintaining their treatment plans, and connecting them to peer groups. The application has been developed by Periwinkle Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

Source – *Mint*

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