



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Govt recognised 7,141 startups till Nov 5: Piyush Goyal

Vodafone Chooses Google Cloud as Strategic Cloud Platform for Infrastructure, Data Analytics, and ML

Fintech start-up Capitolis raises another \$40m

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Today's View

Disaster Prediction with AI

Natural disasters are catastrophic events that can cause fatalities and social environmental disruption. They have a significant impact on public health and wellbeing of populations.

From earthquakes in Indonesia, flooding in Japan and a volcanic eruption in Guatemala, thousands have lost their lives in natural disasters and hundreds of thousands more are injured or displaced. As per **statista.com** in 2018, there were some 10,300 fatalities reportedly caused by natural disaster events worldwide. **Artificial intelligence** increases our understanding and capacity to predict and plan for such events and circumstances.

Seismic data can provide clues to origins of earthquakes. Artificial intelligence can use the seismic data to analyze the magnitude and patterns of earthquakes. **Google** and **Harvard** are working on an AI system that can predict the aftershocks of an earthquake. Researchers have recorded and studied earthquakes and aftershocks to build a neural network. The researchers tested the neural network on events and the system predicted the aftershock locations more precisely when compared to traditional methods.

Volcanic explosion wreaked havoc in 2018. Scientists are training AI to recognize tiny ash particles from volcanoes. The shape of the ash particles can be used to identify the type of volcano. IBM is developing Watson to predict volcanic eruptions using seismic sensors and geological data

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Swiggy will invest another Rs 75 crore to expand its cloud kitchens

Food delivery platform Swiggy plans to invest Rs. 75 crore in the next six months to expand its cloud kitchen or delivery-only infrastructure business. This takes the total investment made by the Naspers-backed company to the cloud kitchen business which it calls Swiggy Access to as much as Rs. 250 crore.

1,000 Kitchens Swiggy Access runs	14 Cities it is present in	3-4% Unit's contribution to overall order volume
1.5 m Monthly orders	8,000 Jobs firm claims to have created through Access	7,000 Jobs to be added in the next six months

Source – The Economic Times

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Date – 21st Nov 19

Hurricanes create massive economic and physical damages every year. Hence, meteorological departments across the world are looking for better techniques to predict natural disasters like hurricanes and cyclones and track their path and intensity. Recently, **NASA** and **Development Seed** tracked **Hurricane Harvey** using satellite images and **machine learning**. This method proved to be six times better than the usual techniques, as the hurricane can be tracked every hour instead of every six hours with the traditional methods.

Researchers are working on developing AI-based systems that can learn from rainfall and climate records to create models that can predict floods better than the traditional systems. **Google** is building an AI platform to predict floods in India and make warnings via **Google Maps** and **Google Search**. The data for training the AI system is being collected with the help of rainfall records and flood simulations.

The developments in technology are helping in predicting and monitoring natural disasters. Such warnings can assist in mitigation efforts and save human lives and prevent economic damages.

Today's News

Govt recognised 7,141 startups till Nov 5: Piyush Goyal

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said the said 7,141 start-ups are recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in this fiscal till November 5.

Out of this, a maximum of 1,778 are from Maharashtra. It is followed by Karnataka with 1,374 start-ups, Delhi with 1,152 and Uttar Pradesh with 709. The department had recognised 8,618 startups in the entire 2018-19. "The details of Startups founded all over country is not compiled, however, various initiatives undertaken under Startup India initiative have resulted in increase in recognition of Startups by DPIIT since the launch of the initiative," Goyal said in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Maruti Suzuki Seeks Participation From Startups For Third Cohort of MAIL Programme

India's leading automobile manufacturer, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, has been doing its share to support India's startup ecosystem through its Mobility and Automobile Innovation Lab (MAIL) programme.

After accelerating and incubating five startups, the company, on Wednesday, announced the launch of the third cohort for its MAIL programme. Initially launched in January 2019, the MAIL programme identifies and brings together startups with innovative and cutting-edge solutions and collaborates with them for bringing innovation in the areas of connected cars, shared mobility, autonomous cars, electric vehicle, and its infrastructure etc.

Source – *Inc42*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Preeti Patil and Prithwjit Ghosh

Fintech start-up Capitolis raises another \$40m

A company co-founded by former Thomson Reuters boss Tom Glocer and backed by two of the technology industry's largest venture capital firms has raised another \$40m, as it pitches to help the world's biggest banks operate more efficiently.

New York-based Capitolis has attracted almost \$70m from investors since it was launched two years ago by a group of former trading and financial tech executives. The company aims to streamline the way banks and asset managers manage large and open-ended trades on capital markets.

Source – *Financial Times*

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Now, an App that gives you realtime data on air pollution

Would you like to know more about the air quality in your neighbourhood? Whether you live in highly-polluted Delhi or in idyllic Mysuru, the information on what you breathe is, now, on your fingertips.

A Gurugram-based start-up Blue Sky Analytics (BSA) has launched an App, BreeZo, which would help you decide whether to put on that N-95 mask before you step out of home.

The App, which is downloadable on both Android phones and iPhones, provides real-time data on air pollution at 200 geographical locations across the country.

Source – *The Hindu Business Line*

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Syntizen in talks with States for subsidy management, Aadhaar masking tool

Syntizen, a Business to Business digital identity management products and Solutions Company, is in talks with several State Governments to offer its subsidy management system and Aadhaar masking solution. The Hyderabad-based company, founded in 2014, has already provided its SMS (subsidy management system) to the Telangana and Uttar Pradesh Governments and is engaged in talks to offer these services to other States.

Founded by Siddharth Kukatlapalli, Vamsi Kotte and Dinesh Desu, it has had investments from MasterCard International, and ACPL, a leading biometric device provider, and it works primarily on the Aadhaar ecosystem and has developed three major product lines. Siddharth Kukatlapalli, Founder of Syntizen said, "We work primarily with both governments and private sector companies offering a range of customised Aadhaar services such as eKYC, authentication, e-sign, Aadhaar-based attendance system."

Source – *The Hindu Business Line*

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Skin machine enables physical pain in virtual reality for the first time

Scientists have developed a device that allows people to experience the sensation of touch within virtual reality. The skin machine consists of a soft, lightweight sheet of electronics that sticks to the body. It uses a combination of pressure, vibration and motion to simulate the sense of touch for users.

A paper describing the "skin-integrated wireless haptic interfaces for virtual and augmented reality" was published in the scientific journal Nature. The authors say it could have profound implications in areas ranging from video games to prosthetics. "The whole process is very complex," the paper states. "The sense of touch is a collection of several sensations, encompassing pressure, pain and temperature."

Source – *Independent*

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Vodafone Chooses Google Cloud as Strategic Cloud Platform for Infrastructure, Data Analytics, and Machine Learning

Google Cloud today announced that Vodafone, one of the world's leading telecom and technology services companies, has selected Google Cloud to host its strategic cloud platform for data analytics, business intelligence, and machine learning, called Neuron. Vodafone serves 625 million customers across mobile operations in 24 countries and partner networks in 42 more.

Vodafone also has fixed networks in 19 markets with 27 million fixed broadband customers and 22 million TV customers, including all of the customers in Vodafone's joint ventures and associates. Vodafone is committed to being a digital-first operator, transforming how it manages network data to enhance the customer experience.

Source – *PRNewswire*

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Atul Nishar's online education firm Azent buys AdmissionTable

Azent Overseas Education Ltd, an online education startup founded by IT firm Hexaware Technologies Ltd founder Atul Nishar, Wednesday said it has acquired Bengaluru-based AdmissionTable.com, an artificial intelligence (AI) driven online platform for overseas university selection and admission counselling.

The deal is part of Azent's larger plan to invest ₹250 crore in technological capabilities, services, acquisitions and infrastructure. The company did not disclose the deal value.

Source – *Live Mint*

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Artificial Intelligence Could Help Solve America's Impending Mental Health Crisis

Five years from now, the U.S.' already overburdened mental health system may be short as many as 15,600 psychiatrists as the growth in demand for their services outpaces supply, according to a 2017 report from the National Council for Behavioral Health. But some proponents say that, by then, an unlikely tool—artificial intelligence—may be ready to help mental health practitioners mitigate the impact of the deficit.

Medicine is already a fruitful area for artificial intelligence; it has shown promise in diagnosing disease, interpreting images and zeroing in on treatment plans.

Source – *Time.com*

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