



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Motilal Oswal-led fund to infuse Rs. 250 crore into VVDN technologies

Medtronic bats for greater technology adoption in healthcare

China to widen scope of Blockchain cross-border platform

Alibaba to invest \$10M in logistics startup XpressBees

Crackdown on bank-fintech partnerships would hurt subprime borrowers

Today's View

Facial Recognition through AI

Facial recognition technology has been traditionally associated with the security sector but today there is an active expansion into other industries including retail, marketing and health.

Cloud-based facial recognition services like time tracking, gender recognition, head-pose estimation and analytics provides statistics about buying patterns in retail stores to retail professionals, product managers and strategists. With rapid developments in related technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), Over-the-Top (OTT) services and many others, the deployment of cloud-based facial recognition services is also expected to increase in future.

Facial analysis capabilities, such as those available in **Amazon Rekognition**, allow users to map the face in an image or video and ascertain attributes thereon.

IntelliVision facial recognition software searches an existing database of faces and compares them with the faces detected in the scene to find a match. Face Recognition detects faces in the camera's field of view - as many as 15 at the same time - and matches them against faces previously stored in the database.

It is estimated that by 2024, the global **facial recognition market** would generate **\$7 billion** of revenue, supported by a compound annual growth rate

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Efforts on to make it easier to start up, do business

A plethora of regulatory changes covering startups is in the works to reduce time spent on tax compliance by them to less than one hour a month along with easier incorporation processes and boosting the availability of global and domestic capital.

Startups spend time and money on monthly GST filings and tax returns

Easier norms on cards for incorporation, doing business

Tax filing time to be reduced to less than one hour per month

Increased capital availability in the offing

MINISTRIES, REGULATORS FINE-TUNE COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Source – The Economic Times

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27th December, 2019

(CAGR) of 16% over the period 2019-2024. For 2019, the **market** is estimated at \$3.2 billion. Data security initiatives by government, growing usage of mobile devices and increasing demand for robust fraud detection and prevention systems are the major growth drivers.

Major vendors in the global market include NEC (Japan), Aware (US), Gemalto (Netherlands), Ayonix Face Technologies (Japan), Cognitec Systems GmbH (Germany), NVISO SA (Switzerland), Daon (US), StereoVision Imaging (US), Techno Brain (Kenya), Neurotechnology (Lithuania), Innovatrics (Slovakia), id3 Technologies (France), IDEMIA (France), Animetrics (US) and MEGVII (China).

NEC (Japan) offers hardware services and integrated solutions for computing and communication applications. NEC develops and markets its facial recognition offerings under the products segment – public safety and offers 2 solutions, namely, NeoFace Watch and NeoFace Reveal.

As a regular household technology, biometric facial recognition authentication has more than 62 million security cameras in the U.S. alone and millions more in everyone's pocket. Although it's hard to predict where facial recognition will be in coming years, it will certainly become more widespread around the globe, providing more sophisticated features.

Today's News

Alibaba to invest \$10M in logistics startup XpressBees

Pune-based logistics startup XpressBees is set to raise \$10 million from its existing investor, Alibaba, in its Series D round. The Chinese conglomerate invested over Rs 225 crore in XpressBees in 2018. XpressBees will be using the additional funds for growth and expansion of its business. According to the filings with Registrar of Companies, as accessed by YourStory, XpressBees has resolved to raise the capital by issuing compulsory convertible cumulative preference shares (CCPS) or Subscription Shares. XpressBees was founded by Amitava Shah (also Co-founder of FirstCry), and Supam Maheshwari in 2012. The last time YourStory spoke with XpressBees, it was delivering to more than 10,000 pincodes with 53 hubs and more than 1,300 service centres.

Source – [YourStory.com](#)

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Zoomcar prepares to be electric vehicle-driven by 2025, plans expansion

Sequoia Capital and Mahindra & Mahindra backed self-driving car rental Zoomcar is betting on the electric vehicle (EV) segment and plans to add 2,500-3,000 more EVs. The Bengaluru-headquartered firm currently operates a fleet of 500 EVs, which it claims is growing four times year-on-year. The company, which rents cars by the hour, day, week and month, has Mahindra E2O Plus and Tata E Tigor available on the platform for which it charges a subscription fee of Rs 15,000-20,000 per month. It is soon planning to add new Tata Nexon to its fleet of EVs. "Electric vehicles will continue to pick up and based on the current trends we will be close to 100 per cent electric in the next 5-6 years," said Greg Moran, co-founder and CEO of Zoomcar.

Source – [Business Standard](#)

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Preeti Patil and M. T. Rao.

Sachin Bansal's Navi Technologies acquires MavenHive

Sachin Bansal and Ankit Agarwal-led Navi Technologies (formerly known as BAC Acquisitions) has acquired Bengaluru-based tech consulting firm MavenHive for an undisclosed sum. As per the deal, MavenHive employees along with founders Bhavin Javia and Anandha Krishnan will join Navi. The deal is expected help Navi boost its product development initiatives and augment its technology capabilities, Sachin Bansal said in a statement. Founded in 2012, MavenHive deals in web applications, as well as in minimum viable product (MVP) and application programming interface integration for companies. Registered in Bengaluru in December last year, BAC Acquisitions was rebranded as Navi in October this year. BAC Acquisitions came into existence soon after Bansal sold his stake in the firm Flipkart to retail giant Walmart last year for over \$1 billion.

Source – [The Economic Times](#)

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China to widen scope of Blockchain cross-border platform

China is in the midst of planning to build out its blockchain cross-border pilot platform, according to Lu Lei, the deputy head of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), as Reuters reported. Lei said the regulator will reinforce the fusion of FinTech and the foreign exchange market and will oversee the advancement of new technology.

Source – [Pymnts.com](#)

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Crackdown on bank-fintech partnerships would hurt subprime borrowers

Partnerships between fintech firms and banks provide access to safe and affordable credit to more than 160 million Americans. These are people who have generally been excluded from traditional financial institutions because they have a nonprime credit score of less than 700. For nonprime Americans, a surprise expense like a car breakdown or an important medical attention could mean relying on costly, predatory loan providers. This is exactly why regulators have long supported bank-fintech partnerships that allow FDIC-insured banks to lend to nonprime Americans in a safe, convenient and responsible way. Just as technology companies are providing revolutionary, on-demand food delivery and transportation services, financial technology companies are partnering with traditional banking institutions to improve customer experience and increase access to financial products and services. There are four reasons why these partnerships are worth supporting: options, innovation, cost of doing business and legality.

Source – *AmericanBanker*

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ShopClues narrows losses to Rs. 68.58 cr in 2018-19

E-commerce platform ShopClues narrowed its losses to Rs 68.58 crore in the year ended March 2019 compared to the previous financial year. The company, which is registered as Clues Network, had registered a loss of Rs 208.14 crore in 2017-18, according to documents sourced by business intelligence platform Tofler. ShopClues' revenue from operations also declined 24.7 per cent to Rs 204.07 crore in 2018-19 from Rs 271.2 crore in 2017-18, it added. Its total revenue fell 23.3 per cent to Rs 209.46 crore in 2018-19 from Rs 273.30 crore in the previous financial year. When contacted, ShopClues co-founder and CEO Sanjay Sethi said that in 2018-19, the focus was clearly on reducing losses. "With revenues remaining relatively flat for us, we have been able to reduce the losses by 67 per cent. Following the merger with Qoo10, we strongly feel that ShopClues, with our differentiated position as a value-for-money marketplace and our thriving ecosystem of more than 7 lakh small and medium merchants, will now have access to global markets via their strong presence in Southeast Asia," he added.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Medtronic bats for greater technology adoption in healthcare

India can well take a page out of South Korea's approach to healthcare, said Madan Krishnan, Vice President (Indian subcontinent) with the medical devices company Medtronic. The Government in South Korea places much importance on the adoption of innovative technology and its own spending on healthcare, Krishnan told BusinessLine, outlining areas that India could work on to make the region attractive for companies to invest. Having worked for over two decades outside India and with exposure to developed, developing and emerging markets, Krishnan said that Medtronic was looking to "encourage" the parent company to make more investments in India. Presently, at about \$ 6 billion, the medical devices segment is small on a global scale, he said. Medtronic's own journey in India has clocked 40 years.

Source – *The Hindu Business Line*

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Quikr India's income up 48% to Rs. 201.5 cr, Losses decline too

Quikr India's total income for the 2019 fiscal year rose 48% to Rs. 201.5 crore, with losses down marginally to Rs. 228.8 crore, regulatory filings showed. Net revenue from operations rose 75% to Rs. 191 crore, while the company's cash balance at the end of the fiscal year stood at Rs. 87 crore. The company clarified in an emailed statement that "as per the new requirement of Ind AS 115, we have to net off our incentives and other compensation to customers from the revenue and hence we have restated our numbers for FY17-18 and have reported FY18-19 numbers as per the new standard too."

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Motilal Oswal-led fund to infuse Rs. 250 crore into VVDN technologies

Motilal Oswal Private Equity (MOPE)-led fund will invest Rs 250 crore into Gurugram based product engineering firm VVDN technologies. The investment amount will be taken from India Business Excellence Fund – III, a fund managed by MOPE Investment Advisors Private Limited which is a subsidiary of Motilal Oswal Financial Services. VVDN is a value added reseller with customers like semi-conductor companies and large to mid-sized OEMs across multiple areas like 5G, IoT, Cloud and Applications is a growing ODM out of India with offerings ranging across cloud, product engineering and manufacturing.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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