



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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Today's View

Predictive Policing

Crime is a significant social problem. Funds spent on the criminal justice system and public safety forms a substantial part of any Government's budget. The U.S.A. alone collectively spends \$100 billion a year on policing. However, trying to find a potential criminal among billions of people is a significant challenge for law enforcement agencies. To deal with this, police forces all around the world are looking at Artificial Intelligence (AI) for helping them fight and solve crimes in pursuit of transformation.

Law enforcement has unique set of challenges such as identification of individuals with criminal bent, prediction of criminal activities, tracking of money flows, identification of fake news, etc. which creates demands for quick data acquisition and analysis. As AI offers exceptional capabilities to acquire and analyse big data, the law enforcement community looks keenly interested in applications of AI for predictive policing.

Several law enforcement agencies have already started their rendezvous with predictive policing. For instance, the UK police uses a system called **HART** (Harm Assessment Risk Tool) that classifies individuals and ranks the probability that they will commit another offence in the future. The system assesses people based on the severity of the current crime, criminal history, flight risk and more. Likewise, another system **PredPol** developed at Santa Clara University in California helps identifying future crime hotspots which is being used both in the US and the UK.

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73% of SMBs believe business is ready for AI: Study

small and medium businesses (SMB) in India scored high in artificial intelligence (AI) adoption compared to other countries, the third edition of the 'Small and Medium Business Trends Report' by Salesforce. The study surveyed over 2,000 SMBs owners to understand the impact of technology in this segment.



Source – *The Economic Times*

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Date – 17th May 19

Further, AI-driven facial recognition software's enable police authorities to detect crime in real time. Texas-based **BRS Labs** has developed an advanced surveillance platform **Alsight** which uses a particular form of reason-based analysis of video footage. The software monitors camera feeds in real time and alerts police if it detects criminal behaviour.

In addition to this, AI can shorten the time it takes to obtain leads about a missing person by the police authorities and to analyse those leads. For example, Intel uses advanced technology to find missing children by leveraging high-power computing for analysing the leads more efficiently.

Police authorities in India too are tapping into data analytics for improving analysis of crime data. Gurugram-based **Staquo** has been working with authorities to mitigate crime using AI. It offers various products like **ABHED** for fingerprint, facial and voice analysis, **Jarvis** for video analytics, and **Pine** for big data on criminals in safety and security space.

Recently, Indian police has introduced its first robotic police officer **KP-Bot** in the Thiruvananthapuram's police headquarters. In addition to the front office work, it can also create case files or register complaints and connect petitioners to the concerned officers via Skype.

It's interesting to see law enforcement agencies across the world increasingly experimenting with AI crime-busting and crime-prevention tools. We believe that with adoption of such tech, AI will surely play a significant role in creating a safer and more secure society.

Today's News

Fintech sees a blueprint in RBI's 3-year payments vision

Fintech sees a blueprint in RBI's 3-year payments vision The Reserve Bank of India's three-year vision for payments and settlements systems will offer huge opportunities for technology-enabled disruptions in finance, said Fintech players. Merchant acquisition of non-banks, participation of private entities in retail payments and a wider push to electronic mandates will open fresh business avenues for Fintech start-ups, they said.

A customer-centric approach to ensure prevention of fraud through digital channels puts the onus on banks and digital payments players to ensure stricter security checks and controls, according to the document. The central bank has also stressed heavily on creating consumer awareness. To smoothen digital payments in rural areas, the central bank will further push for feature phone-based digital payments. It has sought for the USSD system of payments to be strengthened, and innovation in offline payments. NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) was one such innovation, where the transactions can take place without internet connections.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of G Balakrishna and Pankaj Tadas



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Digital finance firms may get eKYC facility

Digital finance companies could be allowed to verify customer antecedents through the Aadhaar database according to a central government note that envisages grant of the electronic KYC facility to non-banking firms. This will mark a significant gain for those struggling to comply with central bank rules on mandatory customer verification including mobile wallets and digital lending startups.

The note, circulated by the department of revenue in the finance ministry, indicates that if non-banking companies -- bound by the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002-- follow the privacy and security standards of Aadhaar, the government will consider providing them with access to the biometric-based database.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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NITI Aayog bats for ending data monopoly

The government is considering a proposal to make consumer data accessible to all, subject to riders, instead of being the exclusive preserve of a few tech giants, said people with knowledge of the matter.

The NITI Aayog proposal to help boost the Fintech sector involves setting up an independent regulator with overarching powers to ensure that no entity has monopoly over data that has been anonymized so that the information can't be tied to specific individuals and their privacy is protected.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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OYO debuts a lightweight app 'OYO Lite' for travelers in low connectivity areas

Hospitality chain OYO Hotels & Homes has launched a lighter version of its consumer app OYO Lite, designed to work in low connectivity areas. The Android app, which is 800KB in size, claims to offer all the key functionalities of the flagship OYO app and is targeted at travellers using smartphones with limited storage and on poor mobile networks.

"At OYO, we are committed to creating multiple touch-points with guests for a convenient and comfortable experience by leveraging our technology prowess. The Lite app is a step forward in that direction and will enable travellers to make last minute travel plans without worrying about network and availability of quality accommodations at the tap of a button" said Anil Goel, Chief Technology Officer, OYO Hotels & Homes.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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India's unicorns leading charge to credit boom

India's tech stars are going plastic. SoftBank-backed ride-hailing outfit Ola and Paytm, which counts Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway and Alibaba affiliate Ant Financial as investors, have just unveiled credit cards with generous rewards. In this case, though, heavily subsidised growth may be profitable. Actual cards in wallets are destined to become relics, especially in developing economies where it is now easy to make payments by scanning a QR code or sending a message on a smartphone.

Making it easier for people to borrow to buy small and large items is a big opportunity, however. The country is home to more than 920 million debit cards following a huge government-backed drive to open bank accounts and promote financial inclusion amongst the country's poor.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Indian companies operating data centres ramp up capacity

Indian companies operating data centres are ramping up capacity, as enterprises make a shift to the Cloud and as the government pushes initiatives such as digitalisation and data localization. The data centre market, currently pegged at around \$4 billion, is likely to grow to \$7 billion by 2020 or 2022, say industry players. The demand has been spurred by a huge thrust towards digitization across industries, particularly financial services, manufacturing, e-commerce, and IT and IT enabled services.

"We're currently operating at a capacity of 65Mw and will increase this to 90Mw this year, and to over 200Mw over the next three years," said Sumit Mukhija, CEO, STTelemedia GDC India, which runs 14 data centres and has three greenfield facilities in the pipeline. The business had been growing at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate of 25% in the last few years, outpacing industry growth of almost 10%, he said.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Amazon close to buying a stake in UK's Deliveroo

Amazon is in talks to invest hundreds of millions of pounds in UK food delivery app Deliveroo as part of a \$575 million fundraising, sources said.

Deliveroo operates in over 100 towns and cities across the UK, working with more than 8,000 restaurants, as per the company's website. Its algorithm is based on "powerful predictive technology" to determine the most efficient way of distributing orders based on the location of restaurants, riders and clients. The company says its Editions platform helps restaurants expand to new areas, identifying cuisines that people want but are not available locally and then investing in restaurants to set up in these areas.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Voonik shifts to a private label business

E-commerce marketplace Voonik, said it was moving to a single-brand retail model in the coming weeks, and all products that sellers manufacture would be sold under the Voonik brand. "For apparel, Voonik will provide the tags and the same have to be used on every apparel product," according to the note sent to sellers.

Voonik will do the same for footwear products, it said. The company, however, clarified that other processes including order, payments and shipping would remain the same.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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