



## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

India poised to lead the world in real-time payments volume in next 5 years

How fintechs can bridge India's wide invoice financing gap

Drones take banking & insurance sectors to a new high

Indian Railways reaches out to e-commerce firms with special freight trains

## Today's View

### Tiny AI

Tiny AI is the term that is used to describe the efforts of the AI research community to reduce the size of algorithms, especially those that require large amounts of datasets and computational power.

Tiny AI Researchers develop methods, called distillation methods that not only reduce the size of a model but do so while accelerating inference and maintaining high levels of accuracy. Using these distillation methods, a model can be scaled down significantly, by factors reaching up to 10x. Besides, a much smaller algorithm can be deployed on the edge without sending data to the cloud, rather making decisions on the device.

In their quest to build more powerful algorithms, researchers are using ever greater amounts of data and computing power, and relying on centralized cloud services. This not only generates alarming amounts of carbon emissions but also limits the speed and privacy of AI applications.

But a countertrend of tiny AI is changing that. Tech giants and academic researchers are working on new algorithms to shrink existing deep-learning models without losing their capabilities. Meanwhile, an emerging generation of specialized AI chips promises to pack more computational power into tighter physical spaces and train and run AI on far less energy.

These advances are just starting to become available to consumers. **Google** announced that it can now run Google Assistant on users' phones without sending requests to a remote server. As of iOS 13, Apple runs Siri's speech recognition capabilities and its QuickType keyboard locally on the iPhone.

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### Blackstone pumps Rs 525 crore in Mphasis to buy more stake

Private equity giant Blackstone Group is consolidating its position in IT services firm Mphasis by acquiring additional stake, taking advantage of the fall in share price.



Source—The Economic Times

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3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

**IBM** and **Amazon** now also offer developer platforms for making and deploying tiny AI.

As A.I. gets more accurate, there is a hidden environmental cost to high accuracy. According to the study, training one single algorithm might consume 5x the lifetime carbon dioxide emissions of an average car, or the equivalent of about 300 round-trip flights between New York and San Francisco. In search of high accuracy, we seem to have lost our focus on energy efficiency.

The global market for artificial intelligence should grow from \$3.5 billion in 2018 to reach \$26.1 billion by 2023 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 49.1% for the period of 2018-2023.

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## Today's News

### Xtensifi adds open banking consulting as a service for FIs, FinTech firms

Xtensifi, a digital consulting and development firm that enables financial institutions and FinTech providers to create and execute their mobile and online strategies, has announced its new open banking consulting service for both financial institutions and financial technology firms. Xtensifi enables banks and credit unions to be the primary hub for when and where consumers authorize their data.

With intellectual property and core competencies around back-end integration and API development, Xtensifi helps mitigate problems with existing permission-based methodologies that often causes valuable customer and member data to go unused for years. Xtensifi helps to facilitate legal, fully-compliant connections between fintech firms and financial institutions. With decades of experience in the financial services industry and a deep understanding of how to communicate effectively with FIs, the firm has proven experience in helping fintechs better market – and integrate – their products to these organizations.

Source – Money Control

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### IvyCap Ventures pumps Rs 27 crore in fintech startup Fingpay

Tapits Technologies, which owns and operates fintech startup Fingpay, has closed an estimated Rs 27 crore Series A round of funding from early-stage investment firm IvyCap Ventures, the Mumbai-based company announced on Thursday. The four-year-old company founded by Pratyush Halen and Anuraag Agrawal, will use the proceeds from the latest round of funding to add various banking and financial products on the platform that can be accessed by its last-mile customers, as well as enter new geographies, according to an official statement released by the company.

Additionally, Fingpay, which had earlier raised seed funding from ICICI Bank in 2018, has also stated its objective of evolving into a digital or neo-bank, although it did not specify an exact timeframe for doing so. "In the current situation, digital banking has become the need of the hour for all the segments of our society. As we stride towards digital and financial inclusion, we are developing simple, secure and reliable banking and financial products for the last mile," Halen, chief executive of Fingpay, said.

Source – The Economic Times

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## Asia-Pacific to offer new opportunities in the mobile payments market: Report

The mobile payments market was valued at USD 1139.43 billion in 2019, according to ResearchAndMarkets.com.

Stores and services across the globe are rapidly adopting and integrating mobile payment applications, such as PayPal, Samsung Pay, Apple Pay, AliPay and WeChat Pay, to accept payments.

Owing to changing lifestyle, daily commerce, and rapid growth in online retailing, this trend is expected to continue over for subsequent many years.

Source – Money Control

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## Indian Railways reaches out to e-commerce firms with special freight trains

The Indian Railways is reaching out to e-commerce companies, local industries, among other organisations for providing on-demand parcel train services in a bid to ensure unhindered supply of essential commodities across the country.

Local industries, e-commerce companies, any interested groups, organizations, individuals and prospective loaders can also contact Railway officials at zonal level, contact details of Railway officials at various stations have also been circulated and made available so that anyone can contact to load the parcel, the railway ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

Source – The Economic Times

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## Drones take banking & insurance sectors to a new high

The worldwide drone market has been on an upward trajectory in recently years, thanks to the increased adoption by industries like construction, agriculture and so on.

Evolving drone regulations and laws across the globe have played a critical role in the commercial application of drones. In the US for instance, with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) giving new exemptions, many companies have thronged to use drones to operate their businesses.

Source – Money Control

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## Vertex leads \$6 million fundraise in fintech startup Recko

Enterprise fintech startup Recko has raised \$6 million (about Rs 46 crore) in its Series A round of funding led by Vertex Ventures, the venture capital arm of the Singapore government-owned investment company, Temasek.

The round has also seen participation from Prime Venture Partners, an early-stage investment firm and existing investor in Recko, according to a press statement released by the company on Thursday.

Source – The Economic Times

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## Western Union expands its digital services

Western Union, a leader in cross-border and cross-currency money movement, has expanded its digital money transfer services, the fastest-growing part of its business in 2019, to over 75 countries, and payout into a global network of four billion accounts and wallets across 100 countries, in addition to a vast agent retail network in 200 countries and territories.

Western Union's digital global expansion has been a strategic pillar for years, and today is available across every continent of the world. The Company's digital services purposefully capture all the top 20 of the world's primary remittance sending countries ranked by the World Bank. Equally, the Company's global account and wallet payout network covers the world's major remittance receive countries.

Source – Money Control

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## How fintechs can bridge India's wide invoice financing gap

India's invoice financing business, which stands at over a whopping INR 8 lakh crore, was historically the domain of traditional financial institutions (FI). Now a growing number of fintechs like CredAble are servicing this domain.

The reason is simple – they are more agile than traditional FIs, can customize products and implement technology into their solutions easily and with quicker turnaround times than the incumbents. In fact, most scalable programs are run in tandem with fintechs and banks as partners, pointed out Nirav Choksi, Co-Founder and CEO, CredAble.

Source – Money Control

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## IIM-B and ICICI Securities launch incubation program for fintech startups

ICICI Bank's broking and investment banking arm ICICI Securities (I-Sec) on Thursday said that as a part of its CSR initiative it is partnering with IIM Bangalore's startup hub N S Raghavan Centre of Entrepreneurial Learning (NSRCEL), to support startups in the fintech space through a structured program, the company said in a statement.

Startups in ideation to early customer stage will be guided by mentors through need assessment, one-on-one interactions and workshops, the statement said.

Source – LiveMint

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## India poised to lead the world in real-time payments volume in next 5 years

More than half a trillion real-time payments transactions will be processed over the next five years, according to Prime Time for Real-Time, a new global report from ACI Worldwide and Global Data. This industry-first research, which analyzes global real-time, account-to-account payment volumes and forecasts across 30 global markets, projects a CAGR of 23.4 percent from 2019 to 2024.

According to the report, India is also set to lead the world in the next five years in overall real-time payments volumes as real-time payments transaction volumes are set to grow from 15.3 billion in 2019 to a staggering 52.8 billion in 2024.

Source – Money Control

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