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Today's View

Geospatial Analytics in Insurance

Insurance industry is slowly embracing remote property intelligence as a quick, dependable, and cost-effective alternative to relying on estimates based datasets. COVID-19 lockdowns and corresponding physical-distancing protocols have double-downed the need to rethink underwriting.

High-resolution aerial imagery can reveal the underlying risks of the properties and add to the details in application data for underwriting purposes. According to a report by Markets & Markets, the global geospatial imagery analytics market size is expected to grow from \$6.9 billion in 2020 to \$27.9 billion in 2025, at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 32.1% during 2020-2025.

Insurers are likely to increase the use of geospatial analytics to take advantage of the latest in AI & ML advancements to allow for automated damage classification by combining this with location information such as an address and other information like the extent of damage. Pre and post-disaster imagery also will provide intelligence needed to expose insurance fraud.

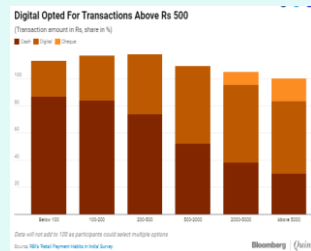
Companies such as CAPE Analytics provides instant geospatial property intelligence for buildings across the USA and have now expanded to Canada. When integrated with Guidewire, Cape Analytics and Betterview offer insurers improved visibility and actionable insights into damage or risk so they can more accurately price, underwrite and adjudicate commercial and personal lines.

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Cash Is Still King Despite Digital Payments Gaining Traction In India: RBI Survey

Cash remained the most preferred mode of transactions even as digital payments gathered pace in a country of more than a billion people, according to a pilot survey by the Reserve Bank of India.



Source – Bloomberg Quint

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28th April 2021

InsitePro by Intermap is a cloud-based software solution that brings together all the necessary data and analytics for underwriting natural catastrophe risk. Detailed elevation and terrain knowledge provides critical data giving underwriters the ability to expand portfolios and reduce risk exposure.

Under GOI's crop insurance scheme, **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**, agencies will be conducting large-scale pilot studies for technology-based gram panchayat level yield estimates, using Geospatial Analytics.

Skymet in India is opening up its 10-year geospatial proprietary farm-level data repository through a digital platform '**SkAlgeo**'. It can help the banking and insurance sector to create programmes after evaluation of crop risks using different indices. Some banks are using a digital lending solution built using the SkAlgeo platform to assess the risk profile of the farmers.

The pace of change has been augmented by the industry's need for quick decision making, driving down costs and optimizing the customer experience. We believe, geospatial analytics can help insurers make more accurate underwriting decisions, help reduce losses and assess claim payouts judiciously.

Today's News

ICICI Bank ties-up with Decentro to offer customized business banking APIs

Decentro, has partnered with ICICI Bank to offer customized business banking APIs to fintechs, startups, and corporates and e-commerce companies. Decentro is a full-stack API banking platform. Decentro, has integrated ICICI Bank's seven business banking APIs from a variety of categories, including deposits, payments, and collections, as part of this collaboration.

It has also bundled these APIs together to provide a robust and productive kit to the end user. With this, every fintech, startup, or corporation will now have instant and stable access to customised business banking APIs on top of ICICI Bank. It enables companies to access all business banking solutions seamlessly through Decentro, rather than integrating different business banking APIs.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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FSS and NIPL Partner to Expand UPI Global Footprint

Business Wire India FSS (Financial Software and Systems), a globally leading provider of integrated payment products and India's largest payments processor, and NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL, International arm of National Payment Corporation of India), have signed a strategic partnership to expand UPI (Unified Payment Interface) rails in international markets.

India is among the first countries globally to launch real-time payments rails, processing close to three billion transactions a month on the UPI network. Several governments and regulators globally, and emerging markets, in particular, are keen on modelling NPCI's success in building an interoperable, real-time payments infrastructure, supporting the long-term growth of the digital payments' economy.

Source – *Outlook India*

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Sub-K Impact Solutions to expand product portfolio

Hyderabad-based Sub-K Impact Solutions has been partnering with banks and financial institutions to bridge the gap between financial service providers and customers by leveraging technology. The company is operational in 27 States and serves a customer base of over six million with a range of financial services.

Sasidhar N Thumuluri, CEO & MD of Sub-K tells *Telangana Today* how the company is ensuring financial inclusion to people mainly in the rural and semi-urban areas of the country.

Source – *Telangana Today*

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IBM brings cloud, AI solutions to retailers as digital adoption becomes a must

The latest surge in Covid-19 cases and subsequent lockdowns has revived conversations around how the retail industry can quickly adopt digitization and leverage it on a long term basis. In the last six months, we have seen the rise of retail-tech startups such as Arzoo. At the time same time, players like Facebook, Amazon and Flipkart have also focused on tech-based solutions for retailers in the country.

A rather surprising name in this series of technology firms lending a helping hand to retailers is IBM. The company is providing cloud and AI-based solutions.

Source – *Hindustan Times*

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SBI launches Video KYC based savings account opening via YONO

State Bank of India (SBI), has launched a Video KYC based account opening feature on its mobile banking app – YONO. The Video KYC based account opening feature functionality will help individuals open an account with SBI without having to visit a bank branch. The feature is a digital initiative powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Facial Recognition Technology is a contactless and paperless process.

This Video KYC feature will be available to people planning to open a new savings account with the State Bank. SBI is offering a paperless and contactless online account opening feature on its YONO mobile banking app. To avail of this new facility, one needs to download and install the YONO App, then click on 'New to SBI', and select 'Insta Plus Savings Account'. They will have to enter their Aadhaar details in the app and once the Aadhaar authentication is complete they will have to input personal details and schedule a video call to complete the KYC process. On successful completion of Video KYC, the account will be automatically opened. Hence, customers can open new SBI savings account without having to visit the bank branch.

Source – Financial Express

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How to bridge the credit gap for MSMEs

The financial year has begun badly, with the pandemic engulfing India. The Nomura Business Resumption Index has slumped back to October 2020 levels and small businesses are reeling under mini-lockdowns across India. The government has been announcing support measures to stressed MSMEs, but the impact on the ground has remained limited. The lifeline offered through the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) of Rs 3 lakh-crore has been extended in scope and duration.

However, less than 10 million of India's 63.3 million MSMEs have benefited from the ECLGS so far. There is the Rs 20,000 crore sub-ordinate debt scheme, intended to help about 200,000 MSMEs who are already stressed or under NPA. The pickup is low, less than 500 beneficiaries by March-end. The Rs 10,000 crore fund of funds announced last year, an innovative concept to help young MSMEs with growth potential to scale up, is still to be actioned.

Source – Money Control

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Innovation in fintech bolstering the banking sector

Technology has become an inseparable element in every aspect and it is quite difficult to think of doing a business without making a noteworthy reference to technology. Giving a way to the traditional mechanisms of the business, the use of current technology has helped the businesses grow at a faster rate. Technology has revolutionised the way companies conduct business and working has become very easy and simplified today.

It has replaced the outdated systems of the traditional banks, improved the transaction processes, escalated the efficiency, and strengthened the financial institutions. The increased preference and growing investments in fintech sector have put the banking industry towards the top of the list when it comes to adopting new technologies. Traditional banking vs. fintech. Fintech has changed and evolved over years to fit with the feed of the customers and its place in the public conscience has really taken off in the past few years. With the growing consumer expectations and heightened security concerns, interest in the fintech sector is at an all-time high.

Source – Express Computer

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Fintech startup FypMoney raises \$2M from angel investors

FypMoney app, a Gurugram-based fintech platform, recently raised \$2 million seed funding round from angel investors including Liberatha Kallat, Mukesh Yadav, and Dinesh Nagpal.

Owned and operated by Pocket Payment Technologies Pvt Ltd, the startup aims at promoting the usage of digital money transactions for teenagers and is set to launch its exclusive Fyp Money app for teenagers in June 2021.

Source – Your Story

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HSBC bets on digital growth in India as Citi, FirstRand wind up

Amid Citibank and FirstRand Bank shutting down India operations, HSBC, one of the biggest foreign bank in India stays bullish. The bank which posted \$1 billion in profits in 2019 and 2020, has retained its growth forecasts for India despite the second wave of Covid.

While the bank rationalised its branch operations in India a few years earlier it grew business through digital channels. It sees a substantial part of its banking activities eventually moving towards digital, self-serve models. HSBC's number of customers has increased 37% since December 2017 to 10.5 lakh in December 2020. The bank's pre-tax profits from India have been over \$1 billion for 2019 and 2020.

Source – The Economic Times

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