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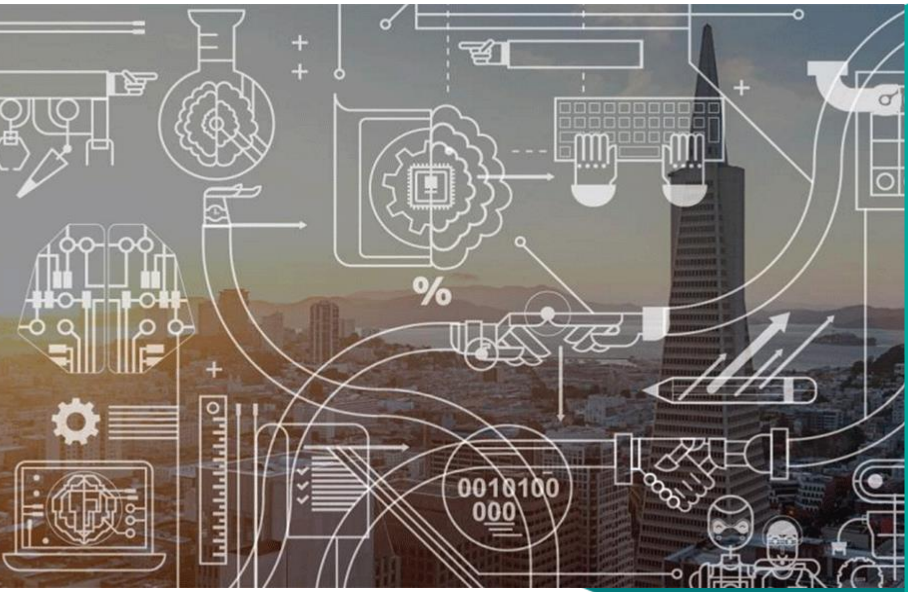

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

How Decimal Technologies Uses AI To Empower Digital Lending Platforms

Soft-touch regulation for digital lending

The Business Loan Apps Market in India, 2021 - Rise of NBFCs and Digital Lending Platforms due to Business Opportunities

Payment startups big winners of e-commerce boom

Today's View

Automated Driving

Automated driving normally refers to self-driving vehicles or transport systems that move without the intervention of a human driver. These features generally fall into logical groups based on how they combine acceleration, braking and steering. Autonomous vehicle market is projected to surpass US$ 65 billion by 2027 with companies such as **Tesla, Autoliv** Inc. being the key players.

Drivers need to be able to process a great deal of information as it is a skill that must be learned – this not only applies to people but is also true for automated and autonomous vehicles. In order for driverless cars to react correctly and safely in all situations, they require artificial intelligence and an electronic "brain" that must possess immense computing power.

With the new generation of its AI-capable control unit, **ZF ProAI**, has developed advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) which rely on cameras and radars. Companies like **Waymo** are working on the next stage: autonomous driving. When cars can drive themselves, human error – statistically the most likely cause of accidents – will no longer be an issue.

Today, cars are being developed with cognitive abilities similar to that of a human brain so that they can make decisions which are not included in their code.

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India has 100 unicorns, a Credit Suisse report with unique methodology claims

India has a 100 unicorns- private firms valued over a billion dollars- a new report with unique methodology claims, more than double the 35-40 that most other reports and venture capitalists claim.

Source – Money Control

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19th March 2021

In a fraction of a millisecond, self-driving cars must be able to process 360-degree view of the environment, interpret this information, verify the position of the vehicle itself, track the position of any sources of danger, calculate and carry out driving manoeuvres. Thus making, Vision Zero - the goal of ending motoring accidents a reality.

Chinese car sharing operator **Pand Auto** is already testing automated cars in Beijing. The Chinese government is supporting the construction of large test sites and has opened the first test center for autonomous vehicles in Beijing, creating what is literally a driving school for autonomous vehicles. The trend toward automation is not just limited to passenger cars. Companies like **ZF Friedrichshafen** have long been working on self-driving mass transit and cargo movers, automated commercial vehicles, parcel delivery services, intelligent forklift trucks and innovative agricultural machinery.

On the other hand, Amazon is planning to put 100,000 electric delivery vehicles on the road by 2030, with deliveries starting as soon as 2021. They plan to buy these vehicles from Rivian, an electric automaker in which Amazon has invested $440M. Similarly, Microsoft is joining forces with Cruise, the self-driving subsidiary of General Motors, to help speed up the commercialization of autonomous vehicles. Looking at the potential possibilities, we can safely conclude that self-driving cars on roads don't seem to be a distant dream.

Today's News

How Indifi has been able to disburse 30,000 loans and make money on a unit level

When Alok Mittal started lending platform Indifi, there was no doubt in his mind that the SME and MSME segment was underserved. Alok had found that close to 85 percent of SMEs and MSMEs weren't getting formal credit of any form. Further analysis revealed a whopping $397 billion of unfulfilled credit requirement in the segment.

This led him to found Gurugram-based Indifi in 2015 with Siddharth Mahanot. Since then, the lending startup has disbursed 30,000+ loans across 12+ industries, actively leveraging its extensive network of 20+ lenders, including its in-house NFBC Riviera, and 80+ partners.

Source – Your Story

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CBS Bank aims 30% yearly increase in branch network; focus on digital banking

CSB Bank on Thursday said it is expanding its footprint across India. The private sector lender aims 30% yearly rise in its branch network.

The bank is working on branch expansion at the rate of 30% year-on-year, after having already clocked expansion of 101 branches during FY20-21, the South India-based bank said. The century old lender said it will enhance customer experience with innovative digital banking solutions.

Source – Live Mint

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Payment startups big winners of e-commerce boom

They were little known before the pandemic, but startups in the flourishing digital payment industry are now worth a fortune as Covid-19 has forced people to increasingly embrace e-commerce.

Online shopping, contactless card readers and mobile payments are nothing new, but lockdowns and fears of contagion changed consumer behaviour during the coronavirus crisis. "2020 considerably accelerated the shift in consumer preferences to electronic payments and online shopping," said ..

Source – The Economic Times

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Bid to increase contactless payment limit faces hurdle

A central bank directive raising the upper limit of contactless payments via point of sale (PoS) terminals hangs in limbo due to deployment delays, inconveniencing customers.

Since 1 January, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed customers to use contactless payments through both debit and credit cards for up to Rs. 5,000, from Rs. 2,000 earlier. What it meant was that a customer could tap and pay up to ₹5,000, without the need to enter a pin. While contactless cards have been around for quite some time now, the covid-19 pandemic led to higher adoption as people preferred not to touch the payment terminals.

Source – Live Mint

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How Decimal Technologies Uses AI To Empower Digital Lending Platforms

For this week's startup column, Analytics India Magazine spoke to Lalit Mehta, Co-founder & CEO of Decimal Technologies to understand how the Gurugram-based fintech firm is leveraging emerging technologies to digitise lending. Founded in 2009 by Lalit Mehta and Arvind Nahata, Decimal Technologies is a fintech startup that offers various mobile-based applications solving business requirements such as lead management, activity management and more.

So far, the company has garnered over 200 thousand application users and disbursed more than $100 million in loans. Besides Gurugram, Decimal Technologies has offices in Delhi, New York and Singapore. "Our aim is to empower the new generation mobile workforce and reduce customer acquisition costs by moving the digital touchpoint closer to the customer and making the entire onboarding process paperless and convenient," said Mehta.

Source – Analytics Indiamag

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Soft-touch regulation for digital lending

The Indian lending landscape has progressively adopted the digital route over the last few years, and an exponential rise is predicted for the coming years. Several factors have acted as impetus, including growing demand for instant credit, innovative lending models, and a conducive regulatory and policy environment. Impetus from the regulatory standpoint has been driven by the underlying policy objectives of financial inclusion and digitisation.

Presently, there are three digital-lending models, seen through the regulatory-approach lens: a) bank/NBFC-owned digital platforms operating under the direct regulatory purview of RBI, b) fintech companies' proprietary digital platforms, working in partnership with banks/NBFCs, typically under an outsourcing arrangement, to support sourcing of borrowers, assessing creditworthiness using alternative data, and recovering dues; being mere intermediaries, these platforms are not required to seek any registration with RBI, and are only indirectly regulated through RBI's outsourcing guidelines applicable to Banks/NBFCs, and c) peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platforms, which usually involve the otherwise unregulated retail lenders.

Source – Financial Express

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The Business Loan Apps Market in India, 2021 - Rise of NBFCs and Digital Lending Platforms due to Business Opportunities

The digital lending market is forecasted to show accelerated growth between 2019 and 2025. The digital lending market in India is poised to grow from $110 billion in 2019 to $350 billion in 2023. This will improve the share of the digital lending market from 23% in 2018 to 48% by 2023. This will make the digital lending sector as the highest penetration sector by digital channels in India.

The main reasons for the growth in MSMEs, startups, increasing internet and smartphone penetration, push towards digitization, and government reforms. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) estimates the total addressable credit demand by the country's MSMEs at $490 billion.

Source – Global Newswire

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Our digital transactions have gone as high as 67% now: SBI Chairman

The country's largest lender State Bank of India has seen a perceptible increase in the number transactions happening at its multiple digital channels, with the percentage moving from 60 per cent in the pre-pandemic period to 67 per cent currently, Chairman Dinesh Khara said.

The rise in the number of digital transactions at the bank was largely driven by pick up in e-commerce during the pandemic-induced lockdown, which restricted movement, he said.

Source – Business Standard

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vCard: Enabling UPI via credit card

A Hyderabad-based company has developed India's first mobile-based credit card which allows Unified Payments Interface (UPI) through a mobile application.

The product of Tensor Fields Consultancy Services, vCard allows users to make UPI payments using their credit card seamlessly. The application has a credit limit of Rs 5 lakh and it can be repaid in 30 days and/or users can convert their entire credit amount into easy monthly installments (EMI) as well.

Source – Telangana Today

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