ML India – Get started kit

Contents:

1. **Introduction**

2. **Pre-requisites**

3. **First meet-up**

4. **Documentation**

5. **Ideas for subsequent meet-ups**

6. **About Aspiring Minds Research**

1. Introduction

http://ml-india.org, is our attempt at spurring the machine learning and data science ecosystem in India. We see this as a platform where we're able to get academia, industry and other efforts in machine learning and data science under one roof, help them learn from each other, collaborate and create a more vibrant community.

In this regard, we frequently hold machine learning/data science meet-ups with people from various backgrounds who are enthusiastic about applying the latest in ML in their line of work. We discuss influential papers, brainstorm ideas and have practitioners and researchers present their work. We're already holding meet-ups in Bangalore and Gurgaon and plan to branch out to other cities as well.

If you find this enticing and want to organize such meet-ups in your city, we'll be glad to help you get started. We've put together step-by-step instructions which will guide and help you in getting on board with this initiative quickly.

2. Pre-requisites

- **Meet-up account**: The first step is to create a meet-up account.
  - Sign yourself up and create a group for meet-ups named "Machine Learning India-<Your city>".
  - Follow/use topics like Big Data, Artificial Intelligence Machine Learning Robotics, Machine Learning, Predictive Analytics, Data Mining, Data Science, Big Data Analytics etc., to get noticed and discovered.
  - Add small summary for every meet-up that you set up along with other necessary details of time, date and venue.
  - Check out this for reference. Notice how small details like the URL of the page helps in getting you traction for the meet-up.
  - The organizer subscription price for the account can be looked up here.
- **Location**:
  - Be sure to have a place in mind that can be used to organize the meet-up regularly, which is fairy accessible and available on the weekends.
  - It is highly recommended that the location you choose should have a Wi-Fi connection and a projector. This would come in handy during the talks and presentations. We also recommend light snacks for the participants. Good food = Happy minds. Aspiring Minds will be happy to foot the bill for the first couple of sessions. We can then figure out a longer-term financial model to get this moving.

- In case you're unable to arrange for a place, we can try reaching out to our existing network of colleges in the city and help you out. In Bangalore and Gurgaon, we've been holding meet-ups in the Aspiring Minds offices which generally remain free on the weekends.

3. First meet-up

- This meet-up is supposed to get the participants warmed up to the idea of machine learning and the meet-up exercise as a whole.
- We strongly recommend using this presentation for the first meet-up to get things going.
- If time allows, you could then probably discuss a paper that uses simple machine learning applications to get people to understand how it's being used to solve real-world problems. For example, A Machine Learning Approach to Twitter User Classification by Pennacchiotti et al, or start off with an introduction to NumPy and Scikit (refer section 5 for more on this).
- Discuss with the participants after the meet-up about the agenda for the next meeting. Ask them to share their reviews and experiences of the meeting and note down suggestions and ways to improve the exercise for future meet-ups. Keep this cycle running for every meet-up.
- Please ensure that the participants of the meet-up are kept a record of. The easiest way is to ask them to sign up on ml-india so that they can be a part of our regular mailing lists.

4. Documentation

- **Pre-meet-up publicity**: You'll need to share the link of the meet-up with us as soon as you're sorted on the event's logistics and set up the event on the website. Share the link with your own network of people that you think would add value to the discussion. We'll be sharing the link with our network as well. Need to maximize RSVPs overtime.
- **Post-meet-up write up with photos and videos**: The meet-ups need to be documented rigorously in the form of pictures, videos, and a write up which describes the discussion and highlights the important ideas that came up. Please ensure you follow-up and this write-up is available within 2-3 days of the meet-up. Initially, we'll help you host your meet-up on the website but eventually you'll need to take this practice up. Please see the following short write-ups from our Bangalore chapter.

5. Ideas for subsequent meet-ups and how to go about it

- It's your creativity which drives the subsequent meet-ups. You can play around with ideas which you think would be interesting for the meet-up and how wisely you can use them to manage the content and the agenda for the meet-up.

- One successful exercise we have learned from our meet-ups is hosting a hands-on session where participants can work on the different stages of a typical machine learning workflow. The code and related documents have been documented [here](). We strongly recommend making use of one session to walk through this exercise.

- Additionally, you may [get an expert to talk]() at the meet-up, or [discuss a paper]() if the audience is more academia oriented. Stress point here is the quality of content, which needs to be paramount. We can help you direct your ideas for the meet-up if necessary. Also, there's always content from the previous meet-ups to refer to.

This broadly covers all the important points which need to be followed to successfully start and efficiently maintain the meet-up process.

6. About [Aspiring Minds Research]()

We're a product company which builds machine learning-driven technologies to map a person's skills to the right jobs in the market. Our lab's work has been shipped out in multiple products which a million students interact with today.

Mail us at [research@aspiringminds.com]() for any queries.