

Six warehouse management trends to watch in 2021

Dr Malini Saba
Founder and Chairman
Saba Group

Effective warehouse management has become even more important following the advent of the global crisis. The pandemic has disturbed the supply-chain industry, re-emphasised its importance, and created an entirely new outlook for 2021.



The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted almost every sector of the Indian economy, including warehousing. However, the **impact of the crisis** was majorly positive for the industry. While its sister industry, i.e. the supply chain sector, suffered a massive blow due to the unprecedented lockdowns, warehouse management emerged as the avenger for industries, allowing them to store and manage their stock during all these times.

Here are six warehouse management trends that are predicted to be path-breakers in 2021.

Robust AI

Automation has been in trend in almost every other industry of the economy. The success of the technology since the previous decade indicates that the trend is likely to get stronger this year. To apprise, **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** is the executing technology, which helps to perform day-to-day operations automatically. It relies on human intelligence for the accomplishment of tasks. Stronger AI not only saves time but also the possibility of human error, thereby making the operations more efficient.

Blockchain technology

It is easy to lose critical information in the sleuth of managing something as huge as a warehouse. However, this can be avoided with the help of blockchain technology. To apprise, blockchain is like a common ledger, visible to all the stakeholders. More the number of users, more the number of blocks. Any shift in one block in the form of data change or monetary transaction, is visible to all the viewers.

Advanced data analytics

Warehouse technology comprises big data that allows designated authorities to track the process, map the techniques and measure productivity. This grants insight into the system. Advancements in data collection facilitate tracking and grants insights into the business, hence boosting predictive analytics.

Internet of things

While wearables are not new, they are certainly novel to the warehouse management segment. These days, businesses are trying to go contactless, especially during times of crisis. Natural Language Processing or NLP unlocks voice activation that makes several tasks hands free and safer for the workers. For instance, smart glasses are available with custom cameras these days that help scan barcodes in a matter of seconds.

Driverless vehicles

Driverless or automated vehicles can be deployed to carry large items to and fro from the warehouse. This streamlines the process of transportation that does not require manual intervention or tedious forklifts that occupy a lot of space.

Prioritising sustainability

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us all the importance of protecting Mother Nature. Today, more and more warehouses are adopting green technology that plays a significant role in reducing the carbon footprint. Something as simple as going digital helps save a large amount of paper.

Final takeaway

Many believe that traditional industries are slow in adopting technology. Contrary to this perception, industries such as the Indian agro-warehousing sector are steadily turning to big data, AI and machine learning to minimise burning issues, such as post-harvest loss, overstocking, and spoilage. Clearly, warehouse technology is here to stay.

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