

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

**NASDAQ and Citi invest in blockchain outfit Symbiont**

**IDRBT proposes road map for blockchain technology**

**Gastrotope shortlists five Agri-tech startups for first cohort programme**

**Amazon starts testing delivery through self-driving robots Scout**

## Today's View

### Robotics in Automobile Industry

Robots have been used for basic functions and primary support in factories for many years now, but technological revolutions have brought about an obvious change in the way they are applied to different processes. The **IFR World Robotics 2018** mentions the automotive sector as the largest driver of demand in industrial robotics across industries, and the demand is expected to increase in the coming years.

According to a report by **Industry Research**, the global automotive industry is set to grow from a value of \$5.7bn in 2018 to almost \$8.5bn in 2023. Robotics has been crucial to the growth of the motor vehicle industry over the last few decades. The first automotive robot, UNIMATE, was installed in General Motors' New Jersey plant and since then, use of robotics has been essential to remain economical within the highly competitive automobile manufacturing sector.

**General Motors** has been growing its use of connected robots that can help the automaker identify maintenance problems before they occur. GM launched the Zero Down Time robot program with Japan's **Fanuc** about three years ago. It has grown to include more than 13,000 robots in 54 of GM's plants globally.

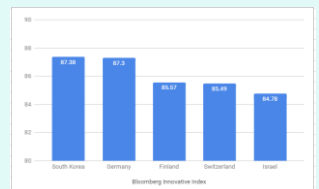
GM has also been extensively using collaborative robots, "cobots," in the manufacturing plants that can safely operate around human workers without

**Akhil Handa**  
+91 22 6759 2873  
akhilhanda@bankofbaroda.com

**Aparna Anand**  
+91 22 6759 2873  
aparna.anand@bankofbaroda.com

### India among most innovative nations' list for first time

In a major development, India has debuted among the world's most innovative countries, according to a report. In Bloomberg 2019 Innovative Index, India has grabbed the 54th position among 95 countries.



Source – Financial Express

[READ MORE](#)

Date – 24th Jan 19

the use of safety cages. In the plants, workers are using the **RoboGlove** to add strength and grip to the human hand. The glove is driven by a mechanical delivery system that the worker wears on his back that helps increasing the grip strength. Another company, **Universal Robot** are supplying robot arms to automobile industry that can also be used in screw driving, assembling, labelling, handling, and quality control applications.

Other automobile manufacturers like **BMW** are using automated ground vehicles (AGVs) that simplify the movement of goods on the factory floor. BMW also uses Robots for automobile assembly. For example, at BMW's Dingolfing factory, in southern Germany, a ceiling-mounted lightweight robot in the axle transmission assembly lifts the bevel gears, which may weigh up to 5.5 kilos, and fits them accurately without any risk of damage to the gear wheels.

Pouring molten metal, transferring metal stamps, and loading and unloading CNC machines in automobile manufacturing are best completed by a robot as these are dangerous tasks. Apart from these painting and welding are other tasks that where Robots are highly useful in the automotive industry.

Robots in the automobile Industry is steadily enabling manufacturers to respond to sudden changes in demand ever more rapidly and in some cases even manufacture micro-batches of tailor-made products cost-efficiently.

---

## Today's News

### NASDAQ and Citi invest in blockchain outfit Symbiont

Symbiont, a start-up working to bring blockchain technology to capital markets, has raised \$20 million in a Series B funding round led by Nasdaq Ventures and joined by Citi. Galaxy Digital, Raptor Group and others also joined the round, the proceeds of which will be used by Symbiont to push its work in areas such as data management, mortgages, and private equity and syndicated loans. As part of its investment, NASDAQ is also pledging to "explore" the use of Symbiont's enterprise blockchain and smart contract platform, Assembly, with clients that are looking to adopt the technology.

Source – Finextra

[READ MORE](#)

### IDRBT proposes road map for blockchain technology

The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) has come out with a blueprint of blockchain technology for the banking sector. The institute has been working with government, banks and industry for building a blockchain that can serve as a common platform to launch varied applications. The blueprint has suggested broad roadmap on adoption of the new technology in various business and organisational functions along with common protocols to ensure interoperability among different entities as there are no regulatory guidelines in place for adoption of blockchain in banks and financial institutions.

Source – Financial Express

[READ MORE](#)

This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of G Balakrishna and Aparna Anand

### Uber launched redesigned Uber Fleet app in India

Ride-sharing major Uber has launched a redesigned Uber Fleet app for its fleet owners in India. The new app was built in partnership with the fleet owners and comes with a simple design that offers a complete end-to-end experience with greater usability, better technology and new features.

Source – The Economic Times

[READ MORE](#)

### China deletes 7 mn pieces of online information, thousands of apps

China's cyber watchdog said, it had deleted more than 7 million pieces of online information as well as 9,382 mobile apps, and it criticized tech giant Tencent's news app for spreading "vulgar information". The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) said in a statement on its website the action was part of a clean-up of unacceptable and harmful information that started this month, adding that it had also shut down 733 websites.

Source – Reuters

[READ MORE](#)

### Google to begin retiring Hangouts for G Suite users from October

Google has announced the timeline of the transition from classic Hangouts to Chat and Meet for its paying G Suite customers. The tech giant said that Hangouts retirement will start in October 2019. Starting April 16, Chat will become available on the web for G Suite domains that have classic Hangouts enabled, but it won't replace Hangouts just yet.

Source – The Economic Times

[READ MORE](#)

## Amazon starts testing delivery through self-driving robots Scout

The online shopping giant said it has started testing self-driving robots, named Scout, in Snohomish County, Washington that can bring Amazon packages to shoppers' doorsteps. The robots are light blue, about the size of a Labrador, have six wheels and the Amazon smile logo stamped on its side, according to photos of the robot previewed by Amazon. Six of them will be roaming the sidewalks and streets of the neighbourhood and can navigate around pets and pedestrians, the company said.

"We developed Amazon Scout at our research and development lab in Seattle, ensuring the devices can safely and efficiently navigate around pets, pedestrians and anything else in their path," said Amazon vice president Sean Scott who is heading the project, in an official blog post introducing the delivery system.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

## Google's 'My Business' app gets an update, allows users to share information via Maps & Search

Google has released an updated version of its 'My Business' app to allow users to share the service-areas and information about their business via Maps and Search, increasing their chances to be discovered. Google's 'My Business' is a free tool for businesses and organisations, created to help them manage their online presence across Google.

"With this update, we hope to better connect you with potential customers in your service areas so consumers get the services they need and you find new customers," Tom Pritchard, Product Lead, My Business, Google wrote in a blog post on Tuesday. Since service areas vary from business to business, to make information accurate, users could also configure their service areas by adding specific postal codes or cities they cover. "Taking into account the changes every business goes through, these settings can be adjusted as needed - so there's no need to worry about being locked into any specific area," Pritchard said.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

## Cars24 is the latest to join NBFC license line in India

Cars24, an online marketplace for buying and selling used cars, has applied to the Reserve Bank of India for an NBFC (non-banking finance company) licence, another internet company in the transportation sector to do so after Ola, and intends to start lending from its own books. CEO Vikram Chopra told that the Gurgaon-based company would form a separate entity under the Cars24 umbrella to start the financing business. "Our platform does buying and selling of used cars, which requires financing. Therefore, we see a great business opportunity in lending," said Chopra. "We intend to do vehicle loans as well as finance dealers to help them expand business." Cab aggregating company Ola has applied for an NBFC licence and plans to enter the lending business as an extension of its payment entity.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

## Gastrotope shortlists five Agri-tech startups for first cohort programme

Gastrotope, the Agri-food tech accelerator, founded by a team of entrepreneurs from Japan and India, has selected five Agri-tech startups in its first cohort programme. This accelerator programme aims to create new agriculture and food-tech enabled industry ecosystem to create the farm to fork value chain. Gastrotope was founded by Taizo Son of Mistletoe, and GSF, an accelerator led by serial entrepreneur Rajesh Sawhney and Infobridge.

Source – *Your Story*

[READ MORE](#)

## Uber open to outside investment for self-driving unit

Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said it was "possible" the ride-hailing giant would look for outside investors for its self-driving car unit. The company's pouring large, undisclosed sums of money into its Advanced Technologies Group, which includes the company's self-driving car research as well as plans to build VTOL (vertical takeoff and landing) vehicles at scale and speed, with a goal of them becoming a mass-market technology.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

## Adobe acquires 3D editing specialist Algorithmic

Adobe has acquired Algorithmic, makers of 'Substance' which is the industry standard for 3D textures and material creation in game and video post-production, for an undisclosed sum.

Source – *The Economic Times*

[READ MORE](#)

**Disclaimer:** The views expressed in this newsletter are personal views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Bank of Baroda. Nothing contained in this publication shall constitute or be deemed to constitute an offer to sell/ purchase or as an invitation or solicitation to do so for any securities of any entity. Bank of Baroda and/ or its Affiliates and its subsidiaries make no representation as to the accuracy; completeness or reliability of any information contained herein or otherwise provided and hereby disclaim any liability with regard to the same. Bank of Baroda Group or its officers, employees, personnel, directors may be associated in a commercial or personal capacity or may have a commercial interest including as proprietary traders in or with the securities and/ or companies or issues or matters as contained in this publication and such commercial capacity or interest whether or not differing with or conflicting with this publication, shall not make or render Bank of Baroda Group liable in any manner whatsoever & Bank of Baroda Group or any of its officers, employees, personnel, directors shall not be liable for any loss, damage, liability whatsoever for any direct or indirect loss arising from the use or access of any information that may be displayed in this publication from time to time.