



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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Today's View

Robots – Your Personal Assistants

A great level of robot adoption is being seen in Industries, a response to faster business cycles and the requirement to produce with greater flexibility tailored to customer demand in all manufacturing sectors. A new generation of industrial robots is paving the way for ever more flexible automation. According to estimates by **IFR (International Federation of Robotics)**, by 2020 more than 1.7 million new industrial robots will be installed in factories around the world.

Not only in Industries, robots are increasingly being designed to run errands and act as personal assistants such as companions for the elderly, kitchen assistants, smart toys, robotic valet etc. The household robots make annoying household chores such as cleaning, dusting lot easier and fun. Apart from vacuuming, companies like **iRobot** have designed products specifically for activities such as pool cleaning, gutter clearing, and mopping.

The **Aeolus robot** is apparently everything that overtired parents have ever dreamed of. Using mechanical arms and machine learning, the robot can pick up stray toys and put them into bins, clean the floors with a standard vacuum, and even help owners unwind by grabbing a beer from the fridge. Then there is **FoldiMate** which is like having a friend who loves laundry folding.

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Walmart's traditional victims become its allies in India

Walmart Inc. is making friends in India with the kind of competitors that it spent decades putting out of business in the US—mom and pop stores.



Source – Mint

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Date – 5th April 19

Robots like **Pepper**, the humanoid companion created to communicate with humans through his voice, touch, and the expression of his emotions are turning out to be great conversation partners for elderlies. The Japanese government even supports introducing robots in care homes on a large scale to solve the country's ageing population problem.

French firm **Stanley Robotics** has been trialling its self-driving **robot valets** for a few years, and last week started its first full-time service at France's Lyon-Saint-Exupéry airport.

The system works like this. Customers park their cars in special hangars where the vehicles are scanned to confirm their make and model. Then, one of Stanley's robots — which are essentially self-driving forklifts named "Stan" — drives in, slides a platform underneath the vehicle, lifts it up, and carries it away and parks it. Stanley Robotics say its system uses space much more efficiently than humans, fitting 50 percent more cars into the same area. This is thanks in part to the robots' precision driving, but also because the system keeps track of when customers will return.

For a generation grown on watching the fanciful potential of robots in movies and television shows like *Small Wonder*, Robots mark the brightest of the future.

Today's News

Fintech cheers Sebi's call for MF rules

The proposal from Sebi (Securities and Exchange Board of India) to create a self regulatory organisation (SRO) to regulate the mutual fund industry has opened up new opportunities for fintech startups trying to drive investments online.

Entrepreneurs, who want to take mutual fund investments to the next 100 million users using technology, are hoping to get ample representation in the industry regulatory bodies since the future of investment distribution is digital, they say.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Tencent Teams up with Big State-owned Bank to Launch Fintech Lab in Shenzhen

Tech giant Tencent has unveiled plans to launch a new fintech lab with one of China's big six state-owned banks. On 3 April China Construction Bank (CCB) and Tencent executed a strategic cooperative agreement in Shenzhen for the joint establishment of a fintech innovation laboratory.

The initiative will bear the official title of "China Construction Bank – Tencent Fintech Joint Innovation Laboratory" and focus upon technologies including artificial intelligence, big data, cloud computing and blockchain.

Source – *China Banking News*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Manish Kulkarni and Aparna Anand

Investments by PEs, VCs triple in March to hit \$6.5bn

Private markets remain unhampered by the upcoming elections as deal activity in core sectors helped private equity (PE) and venture capital (VC) investments cross \$6 billion in March 2019 — triple of what was invested in February.

March saw \$6.5 billion of total PE and VC investments across 58 deals, data from research firm Venture Intelligence said. February recorded \$2.1 billion in investments across 42 deals. However, on a year-on-year basis, the deal count dipped 32% compared to the 85 deals that were recorded in March last year.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Flipkart, Amazon, OYO top workplaces in India: Report

Walmart-owned Flipkart is the most preferred workplace in India, followed by Amazon and OYO in the second and third places, respectively, according to LinkedIn's latest ranking released on Tuesday. E-commerce companies, ride-hailing and food-delivery firms, and IT businesses dominated the top spots in the list.

From homegrown companies to global giants, the leading firms in the LinkedIn list were cited as those that promised growth, offered jobs and fairness in working conditions and wages. Internet businesses Amazon, Paytm, OYO and Alphabet featured in the top 10 for the third consecutive year.

Source – *Economic Times*

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New customer-protection measures on cards for electronic payments

The proposed Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulations include having a common timeframe for all authorised electronic payment systems to respond to customer complaints and setting up a compensation framework for failed transactions.

“To have prompt and efficient customer service in all the electronic payment systems, it is necessary to harmonise the turnaround time (TAT) on the resolution of customer complaints and chargebacks, and to have a compensation framework in place for the benefit of customers,” RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said

Source – Bloomberg

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Micromax enters into two-wheeler segment

From mobile phones to appliances to now mobility segment, Micromax founder Rahul Sharma on Thursday launched electric vehicle brand called ‘Revolt Motors’ (under Revolt Intellicorp Pvt. Ltd), and the company is investing around Rs 500 crore on manufacturing plant and equipment.

The first product – an electric motorcycle – will be launched in June, and this will be the first two-wheeler to come with 4G LTE-embedded SIM with Artificial Intelligence (AI) for data analytics and connectivity. The company has set up a manufacturing plant in Manesar (Haryana), which will have a production capacity of 1.20 lakh units a year to be commissioned for phase-I.

Source – Hindu BusinessLine

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Indiabulls Consumer Finance invests Rs 46 cr in digital payments firm Transerv

Indiabulls Consumer Finance which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Indiabulls Ventures has invested Rs 46 crore to acquire 42% stake in digital payments and mobile wallet entity Transerv. Transerv offers mobile payments solutions under the brand name of Udio.

In a notification to the stock exchanges on March 20, Indiabulls said that they had issued a share purchase agreement to acquire 42% in Transerv on a fully diluted basis in one or more tranches. In the reporting to the exchanges, Indiabulls said that the acquisition will help them offer payments and lending services to the customers of its consumer finance business and the acquisition was set to be completed by March 29.

Source – The Economic Times

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Fintech firm AiX launches AI powered conversational Bond Broker

AiX, an AI Fintech firm is launching 'Bondsai, an Artificial Intelligence Bond Broker, setting their sights on disrupting the USD 15 trillion market. AiX has partnered with XinFin to leverage the XinFin protocol to facilitate offerings of global cutting-edge Infrastructure deals and create liquidity in traditional bonds in order to generate funding for projects. AiX's Bondsai along with XinFin will enable Development Banks and Government Treasuries to efficiently offload de-risked loans to secondary markets and thus provide more new lending.

Source – MoneyControl

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Payswiff partners with PhonePe to push offline digital payments

Digital payments player for merchant outlets Payswiff has partnered with PhonePe, one of the largest UPI payments application to allow their merchants to accept payments through PhonePe on their regular as well as mobile PoS terminals. This will allow merchants to accept payments through UPI, credit cards, debit cards, PhonePe wallet as well as external wallets. With over 1.5 lakh devices deployed with merchants small enterprise space, Payswiff is present across over 1320 locations and the company feels that working with PhonePe will allow Payswiff merchants to offer a seamless payment experience to their consumers.

Source – The Economic Times

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