

Netherlands based **Lacquey** is working with **FTNON**, a manufacturer of food-processing equipment, to get the technology ready to go to work inside the giant chillers where today humans process cabbage, lettuce, and other produce for packaging. Their machines rely on 3-D visual feedback as well as physical cues to detect what it's grasping or cutting, and make sure it's doing it correctly. Then we bring up advanced cutting and slicing, the food industry has relied completely on human workers but robotics is starting to make its way. Fish cutting, for example, involves detecting and removing defects from the fish as well as cutting fillets to uniform shapes and sizes.

A noodle-slicing robot named **Foxbot** designed by Foxconn technology group can be found at Dazzling Noodles, an open-kitchen restaurant chain in North China. Not only does Foxbot make the perfect knife-cut noodles, but also does it better than any human hand and can clean itself.

The **Cornell robot** developed at **Cornell University**, can detect a dead chicken's orientation in space, and gets feedback from its knife to determine whether it's cutting meat or bone in the right place.

Coming to Butchery, it is a very difficult task to automate, especially beef butchery. Parts of the process are very dangerous for human workers. Rib cutting, for example, involves operating a high-speed circular saw for several hours. Beef manufacturer, **JBS** has automated this action using robot manipulators and various vision sensors. The application has improved safety and product consistency.

Once the dreamy-eyed vision of futuristic thinkers, robotics is paving its way into various food-related processes and industries, more about the same in the next write-up.

Today's News

PINTEC Announces Acquisition of Australian Credit Risk Solution Provider InfraRisk

Pintec Technology Holdings Ltd, a leading independent technology platform enabling financial services in China, today announced its acquisition of InfraRisk Pty Ltd. (InfraRisk), a leading supplier of credit risk related software and services in Australia. The acquisition represents a new milestone in PINTEC's international expansion. With InfraRisk as a wholly-owned unit, PINTEC will further enhance its capability to serve financial institutions through its "SaaS Plus" model, and explore new market opportunities in developed countries.

Incorporated in November 2008 and headquartered in Melbourne, Australia, InfraRisk has over 10 years of experience in providing services for financial institutions in Australia, New Zealand, the UK, Ireland, Spain, Asia and the Middle East. InfraRisk has been providing long-term services, primarily commercial and retail origination systems, to multiple banks and financial institutions including the big four banks in Australia and Toyota Finance.

Source – PR News Wire

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

Facebook Hubs to support start-ups

Social media platform Facebook launched "Facebook Hubs", an initiative to foster innovation and offer support for budding entrepreneurs. Facebook Hubs will extend support for start-up community by hosting mentor hours and conducting trainings, workshops, and discussions across 20 locations in Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Navi Mumbai and in Goa, it said in a statement.

The social media platform said it has partnered with 91springboard, an office space rental firm, for a year-long programme to help start-ups and entrepreneurs scale their businesses.

Source – BusinessLine

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Oyo announces investment of Rs 1,400 crore in India, launches new Collection O brand

Hospitality chain Oyo Hotels & Homes announced a commitment of Rs 1,400 crore (\$ 200 million) for the India & South Asia business on Tuesday. Oyo said the investment is directed at its efforts to further double down on its expansion plans, improve customer experience and ensure increase in asset owner success.

The company also announced the launch of its new brand Collection O to its existing portfolio and also introduced an in-app SOS button that activates on check-ins. Oyo said currently, over 93% of Oyo's sales are from repeat or word-of-mouth customers.

Source – The Economic Times

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'Public, BFSI sectors driving blockchain adoption in India'

Public sector firms across half of the states along with the banking and financial sector are driving blockchain adoption in the country, a report by IT industry body Nasscom said. "The public sector has driven blockchain-based projects with nearly half the Indian states involved to address different elements of citizen service delivery," Nasscom said in a statement.

It said the state governments are also ensuring a progressive approach to impart a conducive framework for start-ups and niche service providers to participate in these initiatives. According to the report, more than 40 blockchain initiatives are currently being executed by public sector companies with 92 per cent projects in pilot phase and 8 per cent in production phase.

Source – BusinessLine

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HSBC pegs Zomato's valuation at \$3.6 billion ahead of Swiggy

HSBC Global Research has valued Zomato at \$3.6 billion, or about Rs 2,500 crore, around 70% higher than the valuation ascribed to the restaurant discovery and food-delivery firm when it raised capital recently. The jump in valuation also pushes Zomato ahead of its fierce rival Swiggy that was valued at \$3.3 billion post a \$1 billion funding it announced in December.

The brokerage arm of diversified financial services firm HSBC has upped Zomato's valuation while taking stock of its publicly traded shareholder InfoEdge, which holds 26% in the Gurgaon-headquartered Zomato. In a detailed report on InfoEdge, HSBC said Zomato's business has changed fundamentally, with food delivery now contributing about 70% of total revenue.

Source – The Economic Times

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76% Indian businesses hit by cyberattacks: Sophos' EDR Survey

Sophos, an endpoint security provider said that 76% of Indian businesses were hit by cyberattacks in the past year, the highest after Mexico and France. In its global survey, 7 Uncomfortable Truths of Endpoint Security, Sophos said that more than 18% threats discovered in India are on mobile devices, almost double than the global average, while only 7.9% were discovered on endpoints. 39% threats were discovered on the organisation's servers and 34.5% on its networks.

"Server security stakes are at an all-time high with servers being used to store financial, employee, proprietary, and other sensitive data. Today, IT managers need to focus on protecting business-critical servers to stop cybercriminals from getting on to the network. They can't ignore endpoints because most cyberattacks start there, yet a higher than expected amount of IT managers still can't identify how threats are getting into the system and when." said Sunil Sharma, MD sales at Sophos India & SAARC.

Source – The Economic Times

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AgroStar raises \$27M funding led by Bertelsmann India

Pune-based agro-tech start-up AgroStar has raised \$27 million in Series C funds to scale up operations and strengthen its technology platform. The funding round was led by Bertelsmann India along with its existing investors Accel, Chirate Ventures and Aavishkar Bharat Fund.

"We intend to invest more in data science and strengthen our technology capabilities so that we can provide better real-time and relevant information to more farmers in the country," said Shardul Sheth, chief executive officer of AgroStar, which started operations in 2013.

Source – The Economic Times

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Drivezy in talks to raise \$100 million funding, eyes international expansion

Drivezy, a self-drive peer-to-peer car and bike sharing company, is looking at raising about \$100 million in equity funding, and another \$400 million in asset financing as it enhances domestic presence and lays out international expansion plans.

The company, which has a presence in 10 Indian cities including Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, Hubli and Manipal, is also looking to ramp up the number of vehicles listed on its platform, taking the total to about 80,000 cars and bikes by March 2020.

Source – The Economic Times

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