

SRI International provides soldiers who are wounded in combat the ability to receive some of the best medical care possible with the M7 surgical robot. The M7 surgical robot offers force-feedback for sensations such as pressure when making a cut into someone's skin and eliminates vibration and shake from the environment. SRI's M7 robot is getting critical care to wounded service quicker than ever before.

On similar lines **Ekso Bionics** provides exoskeletons to civilians, military and other defense personnel. Ekso Bionics' suits are being used successfully to rehabilitate injured patients and help them regain their ability to walk and move freely.

A French startup **Tibot** has ventured into poultry with their robotics applications. They have developed robotic solutions Spoutnic and Spoutnic NAV for poultry farming businesses. Spoutnic is an autonomous rechargeable robot designed to increase the technical and economic performance of poultry operations and to improve the breeder's work conditions and Spoutnic NAV is an indoor navigation system to stimulate the movement of poultry and aerate litter.

Synergy between robots and emerging technologies has the potential to alter industries as we know them today. Efficiency and savings created in the process shall spur further innovation.

Today's News

'Black Swan' effect? India Inc hopes impact is minimal

CEOs of top companies in India say they are alert about the spread of the novel coronavirus, having restricted international travel and extended all support to employees, but they are cautiously optimistic that its impact on their business and the economy will be limited. Some CEOs even said if the country manages the pandemic well, there are business opportunities to be tapped.

Source – Economic Times

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TikTok steps up transparency efforts after privacy concerns in United States

Social media app TikTok is launching a content moderation center in a bid to boost transparency, the Chinese company said on Wednesday, as it faces scrutiny from U.S. lawmakers who have accused it of sharing user data with the Chinese government. The "Transparency Center" is to be opened at TikTok's Los Angeles office where external experts will oversee its operations, the company said in its blog.

Source – Business Standard

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Servicing gig economy workers pays off for a host of startups

Gig workers who miss out on regular employee benefits now have something to cheer about. A string of startups, such as Clinikk Healthcare, Springwork, PickMyWork and WorkIndia, have sprung up over the last 12-18 months providing services to these workers, who are usually part-time staff at, for example, cab aggregators or food delivery companies.

The startups offer health insurance to gig workers, find daily tasks for them or execute background screening for the organisations that they work for, in the process solving problems for the blue-collared, grey-collared and also some white-collared professionals.

Source – Economic Times

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Tech firms rework rolls as demand rises for core engineering talent

IT services providers are diversifying their talent pool to include more mechanical and electronics engineers. This is to cater to emerging service segments such as internet of things, industrial automation and 5G technology, all of which require core-engineering skills. Indian technology firms have traditionally preferred to hire computer science engineers.

Source – The Economic Times

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Disney Plus goes live in India with Hotstar

Content from Disney Plus, the streaming platform from Disney, is now live in India via Hotstar, 18 days before its announced launch date of March 29. The Hotstar app, now rebranded as Disney Plus Hotstar, on Wednesday started showing Disney Plus content such as "The Mandalorian", "Diary of a Future President", "The World According to Jeff Goldblum", documentary "One Day at Disney" and "High School Musical: The Musical – The Series".

Other shows are "Pick of the Litter", "Lady and the Tramp", "Encore", "Noelle" and "Pixar In Real Life". Uday Shankar, president of the Walt Disney Company Asia Pacific and chairman for Star and Disney India, is set to make an announcement on March 13 about the launch of the streaming service in India.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Allow ride-hailing firms to aggregate shared vehicles: Uber & BPAC urge Karnataka govt

Ride hailing company Uber and Bangalore Political Action Committee have urged the Karnataka government to allow aggregators to legally aggregate shared cabs, shared autos, bike pools, private shuttle services and feeder buses in Bengaluru, within the ambit of the existing contract carriage permit rules.

In a joint report, titled "Sustainable mobility for Bengaluru", they have sought to incentivize the use of public transport over private car ownership. The report was prepared in collaboration with mobility startups including Ola, Bounce and QuickRide, as well as more than 500 stakeholders like think tanks, Resident Welfare Associations and the government.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Edtech firms offer free access to their learning platforms amid COVID-19 outbreak

Education technology platforms Byju's and Vedantu have said they would offer free access to their learning platforms to all students after some states ordered primary schools to remain shut due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak. Both companies said their paid versions will be available free for students going into the upcoming school year in April.

Byju's said the free access would last until the end of April, while Vedantu did not mention a time period for the offer. "Considering the rigour of the exam season, access to the learning program will further assist and help students continue with their preparation for the year-end examinations," Byju's said in a statement.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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These urban farming startups are going the extra mile to bring organic food to your table

The Green Revolution in the 50s and 60s may have allowed our farmers to better their yields, but it also brought with it the evils of using pesticides and chemical fertilisers. Over the years, they have been incorporated into conventional farming methods, bringing with them a host of problems. They are not only found to be toxic to humans by increasing the risk of getting cancers, but they also cause pollution, degradation of soil and water, and poison domestic animals. Started by Linesh Narayan Pillai in 2017, Urban Green Fate (UGF) Farms converts unused spaces into live food gardens. Live food gardens are built in a way that they do no structural damage to buildings.

Source – *Your Story*

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FIR registered against ShareChat for alleged copyright violation

The Yeshwantpur Police in Bengaluru have registered an FIR against social media platform ShareChat for alleged copyrights violation based on a complaint from Lahari Recording Company. The music company, in its complaint, said it owns the audio rights of many movies, but Mohalla Tech, which owns ShareChat, has facilitated users to download its copyrighted musical content without its consent. This has caused monetary loss to the company, the complainant said.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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