

Industry leaders to attend Start-up India brainstorming

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New Delhi, Jan 12: The unveiling of a work plan on the Start-up India programme on January 16 may well aim to build an eco-system to suit domestic conditions, but that doesn't stop the government from letting local entrepreneurs draw lessons from Silicon Valley's experience. The proposed one-day brainstorming session for Start-up India on Saturday will have a dedicated panel discussion on 'Inspirations From Silicon Valley', to be moderated by IDG Ventures India founder chairman Sudhir Sethi.

Shalini Govil Pai, senior director of Google and YouTube, Kanwal Rekhi, partner of Inventus Capital, Anand Rajaraman, founding partner of Milliways Ventures, Ram Reddy, founder of Global Industry Analyst Inc and Asha Jadeja Motwani, founder of DotEdu Ventures, will participate in this discussion.

As many as 14 sessions of

Flipkart founder Sachin Bansal, Snapdeal's Kunal Bahl, Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal, Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Shop Clues founder Radhika Agarwal, Oyo Rooms' Ritesh Agarwal will attend

discussions will be held throughout the day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils the action plan on Saturday evening. Interactive sessions with eminent global business leaders, including SoftBank founder and chief executive Masayoshi Son, Uber founder Travis Kalanick and WeWork founder Adam Neumann, will be a crucial part of the event, as the government expects around 40 top executives, start-up founders, ven-

ture capitalists and angel investors from the Silicon Valley to take part in or witness the series of discussions.

The who's who of Indian start-ups and businesses — Flipkart founder Sachin Bansal, Snapdeal's Kunal Bahl, Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal, Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Shop Clues founder Radhika Agarwal, Oyo Rooms' Ritesh Agarwal — will be in attendance. Secretaries from various departments will be a part of the discussions as well. The event will be inaugurated by finance minister Arun Jaitley, which will also be attended by commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman and minister of state for finance Jayant Sinha.

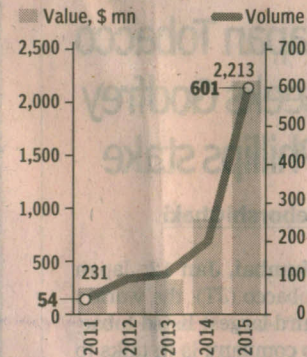
The action Plan is expected to include the definition of start-ups and various incentives to be extended to them to boost entrepreneurship. Commenting on the definition, a senior government official told *FE* that a start-up should be technology-driven and focus on innovation.

Start-up funding in India grew at CAGR of over 57% in the last five years, says Grant Thornton

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Mumbai, Jan 12: Start-up funding in India has grown at a rapid pace in the last five years with investment values increasing at a CAGR of more than 57% while total number of investments have increased at a CAGR of over 62%, according to a latest report by Grant Thornton. The report, which looks at or below Series B stage funding, lists increase in smaller value transactions due to higher seed and angel rounds as the key reason for the growth numbers. While the average deal ticket size moderated to some extent in 2015, at least three start-ups received more than \$100 mil-

Investment in start-ups



lion in funding. Also, five start-ups raised more than \$ 50 million each. Among the large-ticket size investors, Warburg Pincus, Rocket Internet and Goldman Sacs figured prominently, whereas investors

like Accel Partners, Blume Ventures, Tiger Global, Kalaari Capital, SAIF Partners, Sequoia Capital, IDG Ventures, the Indian Angel and Mumbai Angel Network continued to dominate the market by funding the most number of start-ups.

Among the sectors listed in the report, consumer-focused start-ups raised around 58% of total investments with a cumulative funding of \$1.2 billion. Among B2C start-ups that received the most investments were companies in segments like food tech, discovery platforms and retail. A number of start ups in the logistics sector received close to \$ 262 million in investments.