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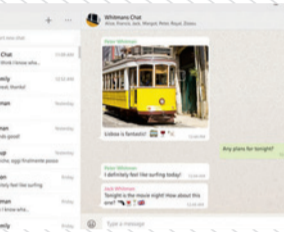
Tweet OF THE DAY



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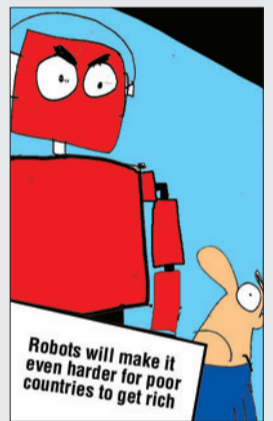
If you need to justify technical bullshit that would never stand on its own two legs, just slap the word "architectural" in front

Tech Buzz WhatsApp comes to the Desktop



WhatsApp has finally introduced a fully-functionally desktop app for Mac and Windows. There is already a web version of the service, but this is the first time it's had a native app designed specifically for Macs and Windows PCs. The desktop app supports notifications and keyboard shortcuts.

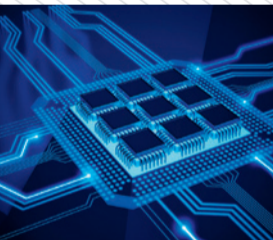
Quick Byte ANIRBAN BORA



Robots will make it even harder for poor countries to get rich

158.5 hrs can be saved in a year by watching Netflix and skipping ads, says CordCutting.com

ASUS Unveils Four Gaming Motherboards



ASUS and Republic of Gamers (ROG) on Wednesday launched four new motherboards that provide advanced customisation flexibility to achieve extreme performance. Four new ATX motherboards are ASUS Signature X99-Deluxe II, X99-A II, X99-E and ROG Strix X99 Gaming from its ROG Strix Series line-up. These are based on the Intel X99 chipset and loaded with technologies to maximise the potential of Intel Core i7 processor family for socket LGA 2011-v3. - IANS

Jargon Buster jQuery

jQuery is a free, open-source javascript library. It simplifies HTML scripting on the client-end and accelerates website development. It's simple to use, which makes it popular among developers.

Startups Scramble to Deliver Alibaba's India Story

Ecommerce-focused logistics companies like Delhivery, GoJavas and Ecom Express are getting ready for Alibaba's anticipated India entry

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Bengaluru: Chinese ecommerce giant Alibaba's anticipated India entry has seen ecommerce-focussed logistics companies including Delhivery, GoJavas and Ecom Express making a beeline to clinch a partnership said sources. ET earlier reported that Alibaba, which is an investor in Snapdeal and Paytm, is looking to launch its India operations with Paytm.

Tiger Global-backed Delhivery confirmed that it had a discussion with Alibaba in April this year to chalk out potential fit for its India plans. "We have discussed how best we

can provide fulfilment for Alibaba, which is still finalising its India strategy. There is no official agreement yet," Sahil Barua, CEO of Delhivery told ET.

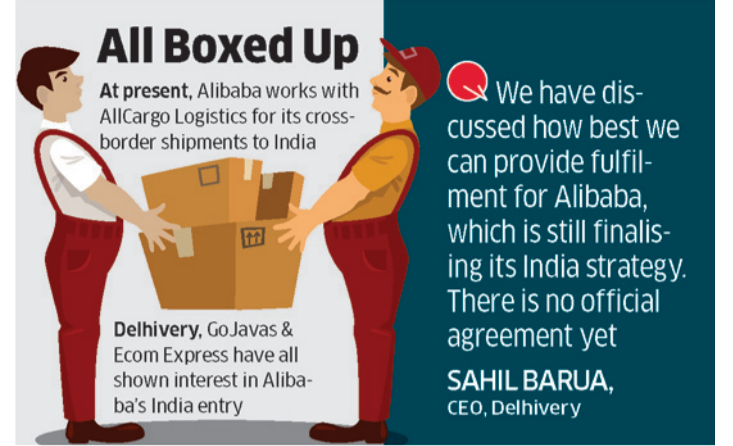
The deal becomes critical for the five-year-old logistics company, say industry experts, as it has been under pressure to diversify its business portfolio after one of its top partners Flipkart diverted part of its logistics business to in-house logistics arm Ekart.

Ekart opened up its services recently to third-party players including Paytm, ShopClues and Jabong, making it a competitor in the B2B logistics space. Similarly, other horizontal marketplaces such as Snapdeal and Amazon have invested heavily in strengthening their own logistics network. Snapdeal also holds a majority stake in GoJavas.

"A company like Alibaba will look for an end-to-end logistics solution provider for its India play. Logistics partners it signs on would be expected to fulfil the deliveries through its warehouse network with additional features on export-import and custom clearance," said Manish Saigal, managing director, Alvarez & Marsal India. At present, Alibaba works with listed entity AllCargo Logistics for its cross-border shipments to India.

Delhivery has made investments in the last-mile and first-mile logistics companies, Opinio and Parcelled, which run as independent entities. Earlier this year, ET reported that the company has been in the market to raise \$200 million from investors including HillHouse, DST Global and others. Sources say, the round has been closed. However, Delhivery declined to comment.

Started in 2011, Delhivery counts Tiger Global among its investors, apart from Multiples Alternate Asset Management, Nexus Venture Partners and Times Internet, a part of Times Group which publishes this newspaper. (Additional inputs by Aditi Shrivastava)



Piggybank A roundup of the top fund raising stories from the startup world

IDG Ventures Raises ₹1k cr for its Largest India Fund

VC firm expects to raise entire \$200-m third fund by end of this year

Madhav.Chanchani @timesgroup.com

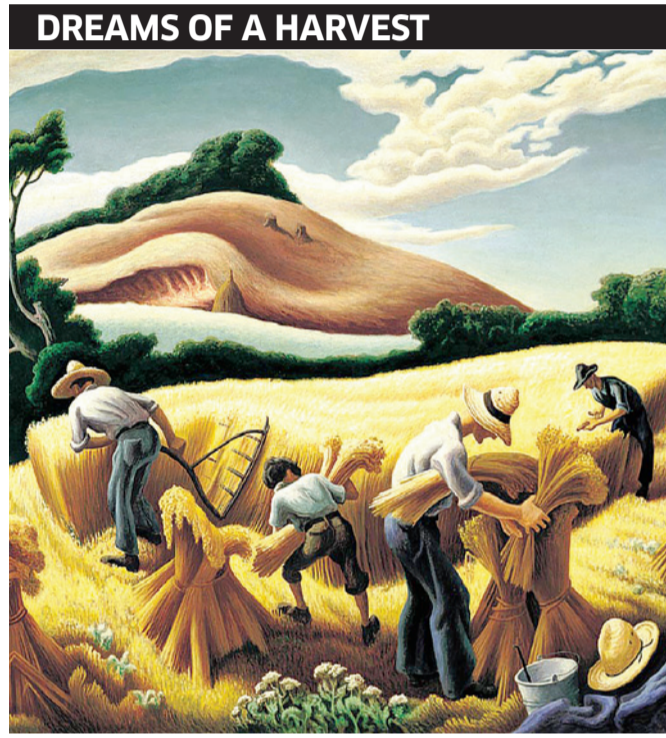
Bengaluru: IDG Ventures India, which counts Ratan Tata and Infosys cofounder Kris Gopalakrishnan as advisers, has secured commitments of about \$150 million (₹1,000 crore) from investors for its largest fund yet, according to two people directly familiar with the development.

The venture capital firm expects to raise the entire money for its \$200-million third fund, called IDG Ventures India Fund III, by the end of this year, one of them said. Its first two funds were of \$100 million each.

With this larger fund, IDG Ventures India, in addition to investing in young startups, will consider writing bigger cheques for maturing companies seeking money to fuel growth (Series-B investments and beyond), the second person said. "Around one-fourth of the fund will be allocated to later-stage investments," this person said.

This is crucial because while VC firms including Sequoia Capital and Accel India, too, are raising funds to invest in Indian companies, capital flow into early- and growth-stage firms has tapered because of the wariness among investors about the inflated valuations of startups and their lack of business fundamentals.

IDG Ventures, an early investor



in Lenskart and Myntra, will continue to focus on the consumer technology, healthcare technology and software sectors, as well as on emerging areas such as financial technology, the sources said, both declining to be identified.

IDG declined to comment on its latest fund.

The VC firm has started deploying capital from the new fund, leading a round of investments into mobile health and fitness startup HealthifyMe and participating in a ₹400-crore funding into Lenskart.

IDG Ventures raised most of the capital for its latest fund "from domestic investors like family offices besides existing limited partners," the first source mentioned above said. IDG is among only a few large venture capital firms

that actively tap domestic capital, unlike other big VCs that largely raise funds from overseas investors. For its latest fund, IDG is also working with Mumbai-based Edelweiss Wealth Management, which is expected to mobilise around ₹100 crore from its clients.

The firm's latest fundraise comes at a time when the pace of VC investments in Indian firms has dropped significantly, after reaching a record high in 2015.

VC firms struck 90 deals in the January-March quarter, compared with 138 deals in the same year-ago period, according to VCEdge. The total value of VC dollars dropped by about 80% to \$337 million in the first quarter of 2016 from \$1.79 billion a year ago. Early-stage and Series-A deals dropped to a six-year low in April to four transactions, as compared to 23 deals in the same month last year.

But investors remain bullish on the long-term prospects of Indian startups, and seven VC firms have raised nearly \$2.6 billion in new funds since 2015.

Sequoia Capital recently closed its \$920-million fund and Accel India is expected to hit the road for a new fund that will be larger than its previous \$305-million corpus. Much of the money, though, is being reserved for portfolio companies seeking growth capital.

"The amount of money that companies need to scale in a competitive environment (is more) than what they had estimated in the past

SUMIR VERMA
MD, Merisis Advisors

The amount of money that companies need to scale in a competitive environment (is more) than what they had estimated in the past

₹167 crore in Capital to Float the Boat at this Co

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Bengaluru: Online lending platform Capital Float has raised \$25 million (₹167 crore) in a Series-B round of funding led by US-based Creation Investments Capital Management, along with existing investors SAIF Partners, Sequoia Capital and Aspada Ventures.

Capital Float has so far raised a total of \$42 million and after the latest funding round, the company is valued at over \$100 million. The company will use the newly-raised funds for ramping up its proprietary credit underwriting engine, penetrating newer segments, including travel and driver financing, as well as introducing new product lines. Capital Float aims to disburse up ₹2,000 crore in loans by March 2017.

"A major benefit of Capital Float's technology is their operational efficiency made possible with automation, meaning a reduced turnaround time for applications which eliminate mundane and error-prone tasks. By next year, the company will be many times larger than it is now," said Adam J Code, vice-president at Creation Investments Capital Management.

"In terms of new segments, we have been looking at driver financing space through

Helping Hand

Investors in this round: Creation Investments Capital Management, SAIF Partners, Sequoia Capital and Aspada Ventures

₹2,000 cr Loans that the co aims to disburse by March 2017

our partnership with Uber: B2B marketplaces will also be a strong focus area. We have a partnership with Alibaba and are also partnering with Industrybuying, Tolexo amongst others," said Sashank Rishyasinga, cofounder of Capital Float.

According to Mridul Arora, principal at SAIF Partners, Capital Float's team is a perfect blend of technologically-skilled employees ranging from a background in data science to individuals from traditional banking institutions.

"We roughly receive one application every five minutes and more than half of all our applications come from tier-2 and 3 cities. The loan sizes are as small as ₹50,000 or less," said Gaurav Hinduja, cofounder, Capital Float.

Unacademy Gets ₹3.3 crore from Blume, Others

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Bengaluru: Education technology platform Unacademy has raised \$500,000 (about ₹3.3 crore) in a funding round led by Blume Ventures. A clutch of angel investors including Google's Rajan Anandan, CommonFloor founder Sumit Jain and redBus founder Phanindra Sama also participated in the round.

"Unacademy's vision is to distribute knowledge of the educators and innovators in the form of mini courses having lessons of not more than 10 minutes each," said Gaurav Munjal, CEO at Unacademy.

"Delivery of education in India needs radical shifts," said Karthik Reddy, managing partner at Blume Ventures. "Unacademy is a manifestation of the team's vision to make all forms of educative material so intuitive and accessible that learning becomes extremely interesting and scalable."

Other investors included TaxiForSure's founder Aprameya Radhakrishna and former Flipkart executive Sujeeet Kumar.

Laghate Finds a Space in this House

Former Amazon & Time executive joins real estate portal Housing.com product team



Ashish Laghate

Bengaluru: Real estate portal Housing.com has hired former Amazon and Time Magazine executive Ashish Laghate to work on its product team as part of the company's strategy to strengthen its top management.

The announcement, on Wednesday, comes a week after the company named Dilip Tuli, a director at the audit and consultancy firm KPMG, as the head of its strategy and new business initiatives.

"This entire year our focus is to grow steady and strong by solving pain points in the buy and sell real estate segment," said Snehil Buxy, chief product officer at

RELAYING THE BRICKS

Under the new CEO Jason Kothari, Housing has revamped its top management

Housing.com. "In terms of product innovation, our team will be working to improve existing features and make new additions to add value for buyers at every step of their home-buying journey."

Under the new chief executive Jason Kothari, Housing.com has revamped its top management and appointed more experienced talent on its board. The company has made several additions to its lead-

ership team naming Mani Ranganathan as the chief financial officer; Nikhil Runge as the chief marketing officer; Nandini Mehta as the general counsel, Abhishek Hota as the chief of staff and Keerthi Kiran as the head of new real estate projects.

"One of the key steps to Housing's transformation has been to build a strong foundation for the company and professionalise the company, while keeping it entrepreneurial and innovative," said CEO Jason Kothari. "This has involved attracting and motivating world-class talent from both India and outside of India to ensure we have one of the most experienced and driven teams in the broader technology space, not just the online real estate space."

B'luru Finds a Route to Save the Map from Govt

Various groups to appeal to MHA officials soon

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Bengaluru: A campaign against the Union government's move to govern how companies and individuals use maps is gaining momentum, with a number of think-tanks, research organisations and activists launching efforts to rally resistance against the proposed law.

The Centre for Internet and Society, Geo-Bangalore, Open Data Bangalore, DataMeet, DataKind and other entities, several of them based in Bengaluru, are preparing to meet top officials of the ministry of home affairs to recommend crucial changes to the draft Geospatial Information Regulation Bill, 2016.

The group met on Wednesday evening to discuss recommendations to submit to the ministry, which has invited responses till June 4.

Through an internet campaign called 'Save The Map', which seeks to replicate the success of the 'Save the Internet' drive that was aimed at ensuring equal access to the internet for all, the campaigners are stepping up efforts to build awareness about the far-reaching implications of the bill. These could include jail terms or cash penalties for organisations such as Uber and Ola as well as individuals for using the India map without a licence.

"We have had people write to us about the Bill and we have asked them to write in to the ministry (as well)," said Sajid Anwar, a member of the Geo-Bengaluru group of digital mappers. He is also a member of a community of mappers and cartographic emergency responders called the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team, or HOT.

A website (savethemap.in) and a Twitter account (@savethemap) have been set up for people to read the draft bill, understand its implications, discuss it and email the MHA with recommendations.

"What we have also done is that we have started creating small snippets or paragraphs of text so that they can create a response which startups and other organisations can then send to the min-

Charting Route

Organisations involved in the campaign: Centre for Internet and Society, Geo-Bangalore, Open Data Bangalore, DataMeet, DataKind

The ministry of home affairs is taking responses to the Geospatial Information Regulation Bill, 2016 till June 4

Internet campaign - 'Save The Map' - with a website (savethemap.in) and a Twitter account (@savethemap) set up

istry," Anwar said.

He added that HOT had not pitched in with assistance during the Chennai floods in November-December or the Nepal earthquake in April last year without open access to free geo-spatial information about settlements and infrastructure.

Thejesh GN, an open data activist associated with the movement, said the government's Digital India and Smart Cities programmes would be among the victims of the proposed legislation.

"How can you have Smart Cities without Internet of Things sensors providing real-time dynamic information on traffic, utilities and transport in our cities? Passage of this Bill will bring to a halt most of the modern (information technology-enabled services) as well as location-based services."

ET IN THE CLASSROOM

SORRY, YOUR STREET HAS JUST Fallen Off the Map

The latest Geospatial Regulation Bill cites national security as the reason to take on companies such as Google. While everyone agrees security is a valid concern, there does not seem to be much clarity on the procedure to block or mask a location on geospatial maps. Here is a look at the process

HOW IS A REQUEST TO MASK A LOCATION ON GOOGLE MAPS MADE?

The starting point for an end user would be "Removing Content from Google" page. Select "Maps", which lets a person report inaccurate information. Additionally, governments can make requests for removal or modification of location data.

DOES GOOGLE ON REQUEST EXCLUDE ALL IMAGES OF LOCATIONS CONSIDERED SENSITIVE?

It does not. Often, governments do not put in a formal request, but choose diplomatic routes. If it makes a change based on a governmental request, Google will disclose it as part of its transparency report. It may not name the exact location, but will declare that it received and completed a government request.

DOES GOVERNMENT PROVIDE TECH COMPANIES WITH A LIST OF SECURITY ESTABLISHMENTS?

No. A list is maintained by the ministry of defence and other ministries, but it is not public and is not ordinarily shared with individuals or companies. This creates a 'chain' of the previous block, thereby creating a 'chain'.

HOW DOES ONE FIGURE OUT WHAT TO BLOCK THEN?

According to a geographical information system (GIS) expert, if a request is made for satellite data, the MoD either denies the request or returns satellite imagery with such areas blacked out. This is also where it becomes a chicken and egg issue—while the government wants to block out sensitive security areas, if all were blacked out on a map, sensitive locations would also become evident on the map.

WHY DOES GOOGLE NOT BLOCK OR BLUR ALL REQUESTS?

One reason is that Google and other maps products also get a lot of their data from third-party sources, including commercial satellite image providers, aerial images and open mapping projects. So, it may not have control over them.

(ET SPOKE TO INDUSTRY, LEGAL AND GIS EXPERTS FOR THIS PIECE) TEXT: NEHA ALAWADHI