Astro & former Coke India CEO-backed co puts $10M more in digital video network

#fame

 Founded in September 2014, #fame is a talent‐based digital entertainment network spanning several digital and social platforms including YouTube, Facebook, WeChat, Daily Motion etc.

 Its company Famebox Network Ltd raised $10 million in Series A funding from the digital media firm To The New Ventures (TTN Ventures)

 TTN is backed by Four Cross Media Services, a firm co‐founded by a group of professionals including Sanjiv Gupta, former chief of Coca Cola India, and backed by Malaysian media group Astro.

 #fame has witnessed rapid growth and traction since its launch, having showcased promising talent from every corner of the country, and is now building a pan‐Asian digital video network spanning 6 key markets in South‐East Asia.

 The new funds will be used to scale‐up the digital video business, grow emerging talent network, invest in technology and expand regionally in Asia.

Branded marketplace for budget hotels OYO

raises $24M led by Greenoaks

 Starting as a marketplace aggregating bed‐and‐breakfast establishments and private rooms for short term rental, Oravel Stays Pvt Ltd has expanded to OYORooms, now connecting branded budget hotels with travelers looking for accommodation.

 In a new round of investment led by Greenoaks Capital, OYORooms.com has raised $24 million, with additional participation from Lightspeed Venture Partners, Sequoia Capital and DSG Consumer Partners.

 Taking what is a largely fragmented and unorganized sector, OYO Rooms uses a customer‐

friendly approach to bring a standardized accommodation experience.

 The company is in indirect competition with Chennai‐based Stayzilla, yet another online accommodation marketplace which raised $15 million in its Series B round of funding recently.

 Neither of the players own nor operate the accommodations they provide.

 In six months, the startup has grown from 30 to 200 hotels and expanded to 10 cities.

Caratlane raises $31M in Series D round from

Tiger Global

 Founded in 2008, Carat Lane Pvt. Ltd, the company that owns and operates online jewelry portal Caratlane.com has built a network of over 4000 global vendors offering the largest collection of diamonds and diamond jewelry in the country.

 The company raised $31 million in Series D round of funding led by existing investor Tiger

Global.

 The funding comes almost two years after it raised its Series C round worth around $10 million from Tiger Global, with the latest transaction making it the most funded player in the business.

 Though the company has not confirmed what the funds will be used for, earlier report suggest the investment will be used for technology development and scaling its presence in offline stores.

FirstCry raises $26M in Series D round from

Valiant Capital, IDG, Vertex & SAIF

 Pune based BrainBees Solution Pvt Ltd raised $26 million in Series D funding led by Venture

Capital along with existing investors IDG Ventures India, Vertex and SAIF Partners.

 BrainBees’ flagship product FirstCry.com is a hybrid online‐offline baby and kids retailer.

 Founded in 2013, the firm has raised over $33 million in previous rounds of funding and has offline retailers across 85 cities in the country, competing with Babyoye and Hopscotch as well as other top e‐commerce retailers.

 BrainBees has distribution partnerships with over 5,000 hospitals making it the largest multi‐

channel brand for baby and kids products across India.

 The fund will be used to scale across channels ‐‐ online, mobile and offline besides investing in the growth of private label business.

Groupon India raises $20M from Sequoia; VC

firm to bring more in further rounds

 Groupon Inc, the online market for online vouchers and discount coupons raised $20 million from Sequoia Capital, in an unusual move by a multi‐national firm to dilute stake to a private investment firm for the local arm.

 The investment is for setting up Groupon’s Indian arm, Groupon.co.in

 Groupon entered Indian market by acquiring SoSasta after its conception in 2008.

 Though the sector has declined, Sequoia has agreed toraise funds in two more rounds.

 In 2015 so far, Sequoia‐led deals have accounted for 12% of all Indian startup venture rounds and 33% of capital raised by those startups in 2015.

 Groupon is looking to expand I other Asian markets as well.

LimeRoad raises $30M in Series C round from

Tiger Global, Matrix and Lightspeed

 With a vision to build an easy discovery interface to find lifestyle products, Suchi Mukharjee set out to build LimeRoad in 2012 alongside Manish Saksena, former COO of Tommy Hilfiger India and Ankush Mehra, former head of supply chain at Reliance Hypermarkets.

 LimeRoad.com raised $15 million in May 2014 and an additional whooping $30 million this year in a Series C round funding led by Tiger Global, Matrix Partners and Lightspeed Venture Partners.

 According to industry estimates, LimeRoad has Rs. 100 crore of overall revenue, with more than

60% of the transactions coming through mobile.

 The startup has exhibited high growth – its gross merchandise value growing 7x in last 12 months.

 The new funds are expected to be used for scaling up the company and hyper‐personalizing the existing platform.

IIT dropouts’ mobile news curator News In

Shorts raises $4M from Tiger Global, others

 Founded in August 2013 by IIT Kharagpur and Delhu drop outs, News In Shorts has grown to be a prominent mobile‐based news service, picking and editing stories across a variety of categories.

 In Series A round of funding led by Tiger Global with participation Rebright Partners of Japan and Flipkart founders, ADA News In Shorts Pvt Ltd has raised $4 million.

 The startup aims to own the mobile content space, integrating textual, audio and video forms of content and making it easily consumable on mobile devices.

 With 100,000 downloads in Android alone so far, the high traction could be the reason for the investor confidence.

 The app is currently available in Android and iOS

Online SME lending platform Capital Float raises $13M from Sequoia, SAIF & Aspada

 Founded by two MBA holders from Stanford, Capital Float works with small underserved businesses to provide them short term loans to purchase inventory, service new orders or optimize cash cycles.

 Zen Lefin Pvt Ltd, the company behind Capital Float, has raised $13 million in Series A funding from Sequoia Capital with participation from existing investors SAIF Partners and Aspada.

 By focusing on building a convenient platform to deliver flexible access to finance, Cpital Float is able to make faster decisions and lend to emerging business models, wit most loan applications coming from online marketplaces such as SnapDeal, Flipkart, Amazon, PayTM and Myntra.

 The latest funds will be used to expand to more cities, improve the tech platform and launch new products.

Practo raises $30M in Series B from Sequoia, Matrix Partners

 In what is one of the largest Series B round of funding for an Indian tech startup, Practo Technologies Pvt. Ltd, raised $30 million in its second institutional round of funding led by Sequoia Capital with Matrix Partners participating as a new investor.

 Started in 2008 by two NIT Surathkal graduates, Practo offers services helping patients find relevant doctors online and schedule appointments.

 In its Series A funding in 2012, the company had raised $4.6 million from Sequoia Capital.

 Practo Search has grown more than 10x last year, with over 1 million users booking 120,000 appointments every month.

 The new funds will be used for expansion in India and abroad in addition to making a few strategic acquisitions and expanding the team.

 Practo has grown to be the market leader in online health care in India, revolutionizing healthcare by enabling consumers to make better informed decisions.

PremjiInvest leads $80M investment in open mobile operating system developer Cyanogen

 Cyanogen Inc, the leading mobile operating system developer which customizes Android OS for client devices, raised $80 million is Series C round of funding led by PremjiInvest , the personal investment vehicle of Wipro Chairman Aziz Premji.

 Committed to creating a platform that empowers the hardware makers, developers and customers, Cyanogen has raised a total of $110 million since its inception in 2009.

 The funding also day participation from Twitter Ventures, Qualcomm Incorporated, Telefinca Ventures and Rupert Murdoch in addition to existing investors such as Benchmark, and Andreessen Horowitz to name a few.

 The company is expected to use the fresh investment to hire people and accelerate the development of its OS platform.

 Cyanogen is developing its own Android‐based Cyanogen OS, which already has 50 million users in 190 countries.

Ratan Tata backs Paytm parent One97

Communications

 Former chief of Tata Group, Ratan Tata, invested an undisclosed amount in mobile internet firm One97 Communications Ltd, which runs virtual wallet property Paytm, in addition to joining the company as an advisor.

 For over 15 years, Paytm, the flagship product, has been offering mobile advertising, marketing and payment for merchants and currently has $25 million active wallets.

 With $1 million gross transaction value from its mobile app, Paytm has targeted to grow $4 billion gross transaction value.

 Its existing investors include SAIF Partners, SVB and Intel Capital.

Real estate portal CommonFloor raises funding from Google Capital

 maxHeap Technologies Pvt Ltd, the company behind CommonFloor.com, raised an undisclosed amount in funding from Google Capital, the corporate venture capital arm of tech giant Google Inc. three months after the firm raised $30 million in Series E round of funding from existing investor Tiger Global Management.

 This is Google Capital’s second investment in India following its investment in SaaS‐based customer support solutions startup Freshdesk Inc.

 Founded in 2007, CommonFloor.com is a real estate and apartment management portal which combines property search, apartment management and vendor management in addition to providing a platform to facilitate interactions with an apartment community and vendor management.

 The firm has more than 0.5 million active property listings, having already mapped 10 million homes.

Mobile-only food ordering startup TinyOwl raises $15M from Matrix, Sequoia & Nexus

 TinyOwl Technology Pvt Ltd, a Mumbai‐based startup that offers a location‐based mobile app for ordering food raised $15 million in Series B round of funding led by Matrix Partners along with existing investors Sequoia Capital and Nexus Venture Partners.

 Founded in March 2014 by a group of IIT Bombay alumni, TinyOwl allows users to order food from restaurants and have it delivered at their doorstep.

 In the last few months, the company has built a delivery infrastructure, partnering with over

4000 restaurants in Mumbai and will soon start charging 10 to 20 % cut from restaurants in addition to expanding to other major Indian cities.

 The new funds will be used to expand its reach to over 50 cities in the country and invest in technology, changing the way Indian dine at home and office.

Video streaming dongle maker Teewe raises

$1.7M from Sequoia & India Quotient

 Mango Man, Bangalore‐based home entertainment hardware maker, released in 2014 its flagship product Teewee – a HDMI dongle that lets user stream videos from their laptops and smartphones to their smart TVs, with an aim of addressing limitations of Broadband in India.

 After the launch of the product which is claimed to have sold out 10,000 units, the startup has raised $1.7 million in a fresh round of funding from Sequoia Capital and India Quotient.

 The device requires users to download the app on their smart TVs before using.

 Though very much similar to Google’s Chromecast released a year prior to Teewee, the product is relatively cheaper and has witnessed boost in sales with Chromecasts’s increasing popularity.

 The firm has confirmed that it will use its latest funds to build new audio and music‐focused devices and to enhance its supply chain by reaching out into the global market.

Visual discovery platform Pinterest raises

$367M at $11B valuation

 Visual discovery platform Pinterest raised $367 million in funding with some new investors along with the old.

 With a valuation of $11 billion, Pinterest has become one of the most highly valued startups by venture capitalists in the world.

 Since its launch in 2010, Pinterest has captured the attention of design‐savy crowds, gaining a loyal female‐centric user base and recently started its first advertising offerings.

 Over 2014 international user for the website has increased by 135% and the company aims to use the latest funds for international expansion.

 Prior to this round, Pinterest had raised $764 million in funding from SV Angel, Bessemer

Venture Partners, Fidelity, Andreessen Horowitz, FirstMark Capital, and Valiant Capital Partners.