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State of Startups: India's top funded ventures for 2017

By [Pranbihanga Borpuzari](#), ET Online | Updated: Aug 14, 2017, 02:44 PM IST

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Indian startups ecosystem, especially when it comes to investing, is showing signs of maturing. Lesser number of deals, but larger amounts invested mark the first six months of 2017.

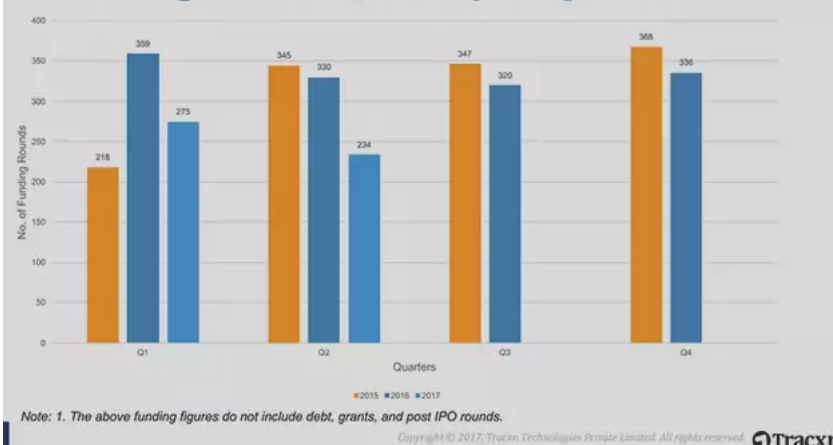
Indian startups ecosystem, especially when it comes to investing, is showing signs of maturing. Lesser number of deals, but larger amounts invested mark the first six months of 2017.

In the investing and [venture capital](#) community, there is a concept of spray and pray. This is essentially about making a lot of investment, mostly smaller in size, across many companies and hoping some of the bets you placed [yield](#) substantial result.

This was the case for most parts of 2015 and 2016, but it seems the trend has reversed in 2017. For the investing community in [India](#), 2017 clearly marks a period in time when they were looking at deriving value from their investment. Compared to 2015 and 2016, the first six months of 2017 saw a lesser number of investments in Indian [startups](#), but what is significant is that the amount invested in 2017 is significantly higher.

Figures from our partner [Tracxn](#) shows that a total of 563 deals were made during the first half of 2015. Compared to that, 2017 has seen a 10% drop in the number of deals to 509 in the first six months. If compared to 2016, a year that churned out 689 deals, 2017 marks a 26% drop in the number of deals.

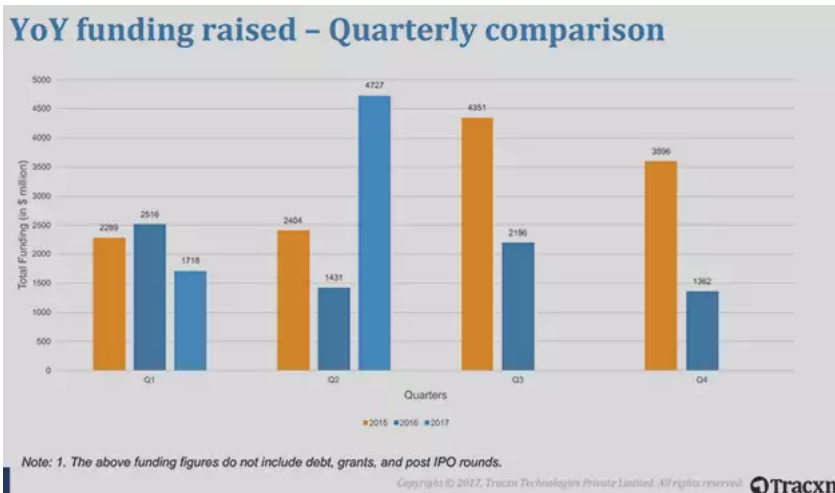
YoY funding rounds – Quarterly comparison



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If we look at the investment figures, the picture is different. The first half of 2015 saw \$4709 million being invested across startups in the country, but 2017 has seen a 37% jump in that number to total \$6445 million. Compared to the first six months of 2016 which saw \$3947 million being invested, this year marks a whopping 63% increase in the amount invested. What is notable that a significant part of this year's investment has come in the second quarter of this calendar year which has seen \$4727 million being invested in Indian startups.



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Driving forward:

Investments this year has been marked by big ticket funding like the \$1.4 billion being invested in [Paytm](#) by Softbank, another \$1.4 billion in [Flipkart](#) by Tencent, [Microsoft](#), eBay, Naspers and \$404 million in [Ola](#) by [Falcon](#) BSE 0.00 % Capital and SoftBank Group. This is the first time that two startups have raised over a billion dollar in investment during the first half of the year.

Also Read: [The full list of India's top funded Startups in 2017](#)

When it comes to Angel funding, the top three include Flock raising \$25 million, WeAreHolidays with \$7.7 million and iSOS raising \$5 million. What is significant is that Flock has topped the list of Angel funding in 2016 with an investment of \$20 million.

This year's seed funding has also seen significant traction with Acko raising \$30.9 million from Accel Partners, SAIF Partners, and Catamaran Ventures. Coming second is Julia Computing with \$4.6 million raised from Founder Collective and General Catalyst Partners and in third place is WayCool Foods and Products with \$2.7 million in funding from Aspada Investments.

What this means:

Last year Ibibo with \$250 million in investments from Naspers and Tencent took the third slot in the top funded companies. Today, Ibibo is a part of Makemytrip. Fourth in last year's list was [Snapdeal](#) with \$221 million from the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and Iron Pillar Fund. Today, Snapdeal is struggling to keep its business running.

A prominent investor once said, congratulating a company on raising funds is akin to applauding a chef on buying good vegetables. Funding does not automatically mean success nor is it a yardstick to determine a startup's achievement. What it does provide is the fact that there is investor interest and the startup maybe doing something interesting.

The top funded companies are the big guns of the startup community, but the stories to watch out for come from the top startups in the Angel and Seed rounds. Starting today for

watch out for come from the top startups in the Angel and Seed rounds. Starting today, for the month of August, we will showcase 30 of India's top funded companies in India and what they are doing. The startups span categories and sectors and all of them are doing phenomenal stuff.

For our first story tomorrow, we will showcase a company tackling mental health counseling and treatment. India is facing a mental health crisis and according to the World Health Organization 56 million Indians or 4.5% of India's population suffer from depression and another 38 million Indians suffer from anxiety disorders. Juno Clinic is the startup that wants to help you in your pursuit of happiness.

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