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Neemuchwala of Wipro says the co will need a 'few quarters' to start posting industry-like growth after recording lukewarm results ► P 1

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‘Early-stage Funding in Healthcare IT Firms May be Drying Up’

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Mumbai: Healthcare IT companies raised \$4.6 billion (more than ₹31,000 crore) globally in 2015 from venture capital and private equity investors, but early-stage funding in the sector might be drying up, according to a report by a consultancy firm.

The number of deals fell to 574 from 670 in 2014, Mercom Capital Group said. In the fourth quarter of last year, 17 Indian healthcare IT firms received funding, the highest ever in a single quarter. This was

led mostly by mobile health companies which received funding worth \$1.1 billion.



Healthcare IT cos raised \$4.6 b globally in 2015 from VC and PE investors, says a study

tal. “Apart from innovative technologies and solutions, bu-

ness and revenue models are becoming more important.”

According to Mercom, funding trends are shifting from practice-focused to consumer-focused technologies and products. Data show consumer-centric companies attracted investments worth \$3.1 billion, compared with \$2.3 billion in the previous year. The flavour of investment, according to the report, is tilting towards mHealth apps and wearable devices.

China’s Guahao, a healthcare platform that helps patients schedule appointments with doctors, received the highest investment in this space at \$394 million.