John Brownstein of

Harvard

School is part

of a team that

Medical

is using

Machine

updates

Learning to

prepare real-

HARVARD

MicroMulti-Copter,

a Shenzhen-based

company, is deploy-

ing drones to trans-

port medical samples

and conduct thermal

imaging

time health

# ECHNOMIC





**FIGHT AGAINST** 

**VIRUS BACKED** 

Berlin, March 10: Europe's

privacy rulebook does not cre-

ate obstacles to taking action

to curb the coronavirus epidemic but mass tracking of

people's movements and con-

tacts using smartphone loca-

tion data would represent a

Technophiles support the

use of such data to reconstruct

the movements of people

exposed to the flu-like virus

and identify others at risk of

infection. Privacy advocates

counter that this approach, used in China, subjects people

to the kind of digital surveil-

lance that has no place in a

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) states that

people's data is their own and

requires anyone seeking to

process it to obtain their con-

Companies should take action to minimise both the risk of infection and viola-

Western democracy.

sent.

clear violation.

**BY EU LAWS** 



#### Silver Lake will invest \$1 billion in Twitter; 3 more directors to be added

Washington, March 10: Twitter on Monday reached an agreement with Elliott Management that lets Jack Dorsey stay as chief executive and adds three new directors a few days after Elliott's plan to push out the social media company's chief became public.

Elliott's head of US activism, Jesse Cohn, and private equity firm Silver Lake's co-chief executive officer Egon Durban, will join the social media site's board immediately and the company plans to appoint a third new director soon. Silver Lake also will invest \$1 billion in

Twitter. The agreement brings together hedge fund Elliott, which owns a \$1 billion stake in Twitter, and Silver Lake in an unusual arrangement that lets Dorsey continue to lead the company, for now, and sidestep a potentially

nasty proxy contest. "While our CEO struc-ture is unique, so is Jack and so is this company," Fwitter's lead independent director Patrick Pichette said. Twitter shares were up about 0.4 per cent on a day of heavy selling on Wall Street. In reaching the agree-

**CONCERNS** 

Washington, March

10: SpaceX founder Elon

Musk on Monday dis-missed scientists' con-cerns that his company's

Starlink constellation of

internet satellites would

obscure the view of the

night sky, predicting the

network "will not cause

any impact whatsoever

in astronomical discov-

eries.'

tions of privacy. They can information obtain on whether an employee has travelled to a region with confirmed coronavirus cases according to law firm CMS here

Some systemic data collection may also be required, such as through workplace questionnaires or requiring staff to report their travel plans.

is covered under This Articles 6 and 9, which cover workplace health and safety, and using preventive or occupational medicine to address serious cross-border health threats. Employers are not allowed to take readings of the temperature of employees or visitors, nor can they require them to fill out medical questionnaires. - Reuters



Jack Dorsey

keeps a close eye on Dorsey while also giving the company more time to formulate long-term plans and repair missteps, peo-ple familiar with Elliott's thinking said. They added that the deal avoids a mad scramble to find an immediate replacement for

Dorsey. Twitter's Chief Financial Officer Ned Segal, who was privy to the discussions, said he believed the arrangement reflected more than shortterm support for Dorsey.

"This is by no means thought about as temporary. This is just getting back to work with the team and the strategy, ambitions and timeframe that we were working against before," he told Reuters. "Egon joining should be

ment with Twitter, Elliott a big indication of Silver



pledged to grow daily users by 20 per cent or more in 2020

Lake's support for the founder, the team and our strategy and ambitions," he said. Twitter said in its state-

ment that it would use the Silver Lake investment to help fund a \$2 billion share repurchase program. Twitter also pledged to

grow daily users by 20 per cent or more in 2020 and beyond, roughly in line with user growth in its most recent quarter and its projections that costs and expenses would increase 20 per cent this vear.

The board will also create a temporary committee to evaluate Twitter's leadership structure and CEO succession plan that will share the results publicly before the end of the year.

Late last month, Elliott

to Twitter's board and was pushing to remove Dorsey, one of Silicon Valley's most prominent entrepreneurs, criticising him for being the CEO of two publicly traded companies: Twitter and Square, a

nominated four directors

mobile payments compa-ny he co-founded. Investors had also expressed concern about Dorsey's plan to spend three to six months living in Africa this year, some-thing he walked back last week citing "everything happening in the world,

particularly with Covid-19." "We invested in Twitter because we see a significant opportunity for value creation at the company," Elliott's Cohn said. "I am looking forward to working with Jack and the board to help contribute to realizing Twitter's full potential."

Cohn will now sit on three boards including online shopping company eBay, which reached an agreement with Elliott in early 2019. Devin Wenig, eBay's CEO at the time, left nine months after Elliott got a seat, citing differences with the board. 2020 promises to be a big year for Twitter with people looking to the compa-

ny for news about the Covid-19, the U.S. election and the planned Olympics in Tokyo. The company has taken

more aggressive steps in recent months to curtail abusive behavior and give people control over the content they see on the platform. It is also rebuilding its ads system following technical issues that hurt profits last year.

Dorsey told analysts in January that rolling out features at a faster pace was one of Twitter's top priorities this year, acknowledging that the company had been slow in turning products. ideas into

Silver Lake sent its first tweet ever to announce the news, saying: "Silver Lake is excited to partner with @Twitter by investing and joining the board and we look forward to working alongside @Jack and the whole team."

Twitter is one of the few U.S. technology companies headed, but not controlled. by one of its founders. It has given shareholders equal voting rights, making Dorsey, who owns only about two per cent of the company, vulnerable to a challenge from an activist such investor - Reuters Elliott.

#### **AI AND COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

As Covid-19 spreads across the world, several companies are coming out with Artificial Intelligence-enabled solutions

• UK-based Deepmind has said it has released structure predictions of several proteins to promote Covid-19 research



• Alibaba has said that its Artificial Intelligence system can detect Covid-19 in CT scans of patients with 96 per cent accuracy



Baidu has come out with a tool - LinearFold to reduce prediction time to just 27 seconds

ainfervision 🥏 Chinese doctors have been using an AI-based software inferVISION, which can guickly highlight problem cases in record time China-based Sensetime AI has

developed a face recognition system to scan faces of people with masks

ourselves and our allies"

national security and con-

tinental telecommunica-

Canadian Broadcasting

Asked whether he was

referring to the Trump

told

Minister

the

tions"

Innovation

#### **INTEL SAYS EU GOT ITS 2009 VERDICT WRONG**

Luxembourg, March 10: Intel on Tuesday said EU antitrust regulators got it wrong when they fined the chipmaker 1.06 billion euros more than a decade ago for thwarting a British rival in a case that could affect Google and Qualcomm.

The US company set out its arguments at the General Court in a rehearing of a case seen as testing the European Commission's power to go after US tech giants which offer incentives to lure customers from competitors.

EU antitrust enforcers in 2009 said Intel tried to block Advanced Micro Devices by giving rebates makers Dell, Hewlett-Packard Co, NEC and Lenovo for buying most of their chips from Intel. - Reuters



#### HOW DOES IT IMPACT TECH WORLD? **OVER STARLINK**

Huawei is a major player in building the 5G (fifth generation) technology infrastructure in the world. The tussle with the US government could impact the way 5G technology spreads across the world.

• WHAT HAS US DOES US' STANCE AGAINST HUAWEI **DONE SO FAR? THREATEN WORLD** Washington has **ECONOMY?** led a crackdown As per experts, the US by enforcing nationwide bans stance against the comon the compaUS envoy presses Canada on Huawei's 5G network

Washington, March 10: A senior United States envoy has pressed Canada about its forthcoming decision on whether to allow China-based Huawei Technologies to take part in its 5G net-work, a move Washington opposes, officials said.

United States President Donald Trump last year warned Canada it could lose access to top secret intelligence unless it blocked Huawei 5G tech-

nology. Robert Blair, Trump's special representative for international telecoms policy, discussed the

'importance of a secure and reliable next-genera-

Speaking ahead of the meeting, two US sources said Blair planned to underscore that a decision by Canada to include Huawei could jeopardise its access to United States

intelligence. The White House has accused Huawei of being The administration of able to spy on customers and maintaining close ties to the Chinese government, allegations Huawei denies

Washington's campaign to thwart the company was hit by Britain's plans to give Huawei a limited role in its next generation wireless network.

One of the Cabinet memfate of Huawei 5G equip-

about Huawei. A spokesman for Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland said Monday's meeting was "a part of regular and ongoing conversations with the United States regarding

Navdeep Bains, who will also have a say in Ottawa's decision, Corporation last Friday that Canada "won't get bullied by any other juris-diction" over the decision.

bers who will decide the Janau

### **ARRESTS 6 FOR HOAXES**

Jakarta, March 10: Six Indonesians have been arrested for allegedly spreading mis-information online about the deadly Covid-19, police said Tuesday, as the Southeast Asian nation's confirmed infection cases jumped.

A woman in Indonesia's second-biggest city Surabaya was arrested Monday for spreading inaccurate claims on Facebook a patient was being treated for the virus in the city, police said.

Five others were also detained for spreading false information on social media, including claims a Muslim woman flying to Saudi Arabia for a religious pilgrimage had died suddenly from the virus at Jakarta's international airport

All six suspects are accused of violating laws banning the spread of misinformation, which carries as much as six years in prison.

"It should serve as a lesson for other people not to spread hoaxes about Covid-19 in Indonesia," senior communiministry official cations Semuel Abrijani Pangerapan said.

Last month, two Indonesian women were arrested for allegedly posting virus-linked misinformation in a country with some 130 million people online -- among the globe's biggest internet audiences. On Monday, the country reported its confirmed cases had jumped to 19 from six.

Scientists have questioned the relatively low number of cases in the world's fourth most populous country, and suggested there could be many more people with the illness.

COVID-19 has killed more than 4,000 people and infected over 110,000 globally since it emerged last year.

Police seized some 1.9 million facemasks from a warehouse outside Surabaya on Monday, after Covid-19 sparked panic buying and sent prices for prevention products skyrocketing. -AFP

Musk is trying to seize control of the future internet space market and has already sent about 300 Starlink satellites into orbit — with plans to grow that number, potentially up to

42,000 Scientists raised objections after the initial batch appeared as a train of bright lights shortly after they launched last year, arguing they were a death knell for both optical

and radio astronomy. Speaking at a satellite internet conference in the capital Washington, Musk said his company had already taken measures to reduce their reflectivity. "I am confident that we

will not cause any impact whatsoever in astronomical discoveries, zero," he said. "That's my prediction,

we will take corrective action if it's above zero. He said the issue only occurred as the satellites were "tumbling" as they raised their orbit, and that once they achieved their final flight path, the issue went away. "I've not met someone

who can tell me where all of them are," said Musk. "So it can't be that big of a deal." But he added SpaceX was working with the science community to reduce the potential for reflection, including painting the antennas black instead of white, and placing a sunshade on the satellites.

The system is due to go live in the northern United States and Canada later this year and expand to global coverage by 2021. Musk wouldn't be drawn on the cost to users, nor on precise speed, but said it would be enough to stream high definition movies and to play highend video games without noticeable lag time. -AFP

pany could lead to a "dig-ital iron curtain", whereny's equipment and encouraging by countries may have its allies to do choose between working with the US or China.

telecommunicat infrastructure" and the defense partnership between the United States and Canada, the US embassy said.

Safety Minister Bill Blair, on Monday told legisla-tors that "there is a very robust and important discussion going on between

flow," said Goh Guek Eng,

managing director at

semiconductor products

Electronic. "Bad news:

Materials are not coming

Hotayi sources 60 per

cent of components such

Hotavi

including

assembler

in from China.'

administration, he "maybe that was the wrong choice of words ... we won't be influenced by other jurisdictions" Reuters

## Malay Silicon Valley hit by Covid-19 fears

**Penang, March 10:** Tech firms at Malaysia's one-time Silicon Valley of the East, swimming in orders from customers fleeing trade war-hit China, have seen fortunes turn again in the space of just a year as the Covid-19 outbreak cuts them off from Chinese suppliers.

the same.

Semiconductor test equipment manufacturer Pentamaster Corp saw its shares more than double last year as sales surged by about a fifth — the steepest in its 29-year existence as the firm became a afuge from Sino-US refuge import tariffs.

But then China sent workers home to slow the virus, stifling supplies of parts and material further upstream. Pentamaster called alternative sources in Japan, South Korea, Germany and Italy, only to find the action had left

them in the lurch too. The firm has since lowered its 2020 revenue growth outlook to flat from double digits, while its stock has fallen more than 10per cent since China in late January locked down virus epicenter, the Wuhan.

"Even if you source from another country, the other country also depends on China," said Pentamaster Executive Chairman Chuah Choon Bin. Pentamaster's predica-ment is echoed across Malaysia's coastal state of Penang, one of the world's biggest electronics and electrical hubs, which had been losing business to China for the past decade until the trade war



Bavan Lepas Free Industrial Zone is a high-tech manufacturing area in Bavan Lepas. near the southeastern tip of Penang Island. - Wikimedia

sparked a revival.

Home to factories owned Intel Corp and Broadcom Inc alongside numerous other firms that supply tech majors including Apple Inc, the state accounts for about 8per cent of global back-end semiconductor output.

investment Inbound reached a historic high last year. This year, however, the goal is just a third of that, at about \$1.2 billion though that is due to the life cycles of investments rather than the virus, the state government said.

The roller-coaster ride illustrates how quickly and broadly the virus is changing fortunes around the world.

While Penang firms saw

record sales last year from customers seeking to curb reliance on China and escape US tariffs, they themselves relied on China for as much as 60 per cent of components and materials with the rest coming from Europe or elsewhere in Asia.

as printed circuit boards Analysts and local firms and multi-layer ceramic said the virus' sales impact would be acute in capacitors from China, for customers Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, LG Electronics Inc the April-June period when stockpiles run out. While many firms have and Sharp Corp. warned of delays, some have seen orders surge as customers continue to seek suppliers outside of China.

'Good news: Product transfers from China are leading to more quotation production. requests and order overof its components such as motors and sensors from Japan, Europe and China the latter making up 20 per cent to 30 per cent. In the past few weeks, it has changed the design of some equipment to accommodate parts from outside

China, Ĉhuah said. 'We're able to get supplies but the lead time is long — two to three months from Europe," he said, compared with two to three weeks from anywhere under normal circumstances.

said other Analysts firms likely affected by the supply disruption include electronics manufacturing services companies VŠ Industry Bhd and ATA IMS Bhd as they rely on China for up to 30 per cent of components and material.

Semiconductor company Inari Amertron Bhd, whose radio frequency components are used in smartphones including Apple's iPhones, might have a weak second half after the U.S. firm flagged slowing production and demand in China, Malaysia's AmInvestment Bank said.

Inari told Reuters the virus had indeed had an impact on its supply chain but "probably less than the market feared" as the situation in China was improving.

Its sales soared 40 per 'We expect our performcent last year. Goh said its ance to be in line with the 20per cent target this year overall growth, resilience or lack thereof, in the globcould be at risk due to the supply issues, which could turn critical in one to two al semiconductor market," months' time and badly hit said Vice Chairman Tan Seng Chuan. Pentamaster buys most Globetronics Technology

Bhd, a contract manufac turer of semiconductor based products, told Reuters it did not directly source from China but that there was a small risk to its indirect supply chain.

"We had previously forecast the year over year growth for all semiconduc tors to be 5.5per cent in 2020. said Kevin Anderson, senior analyst for power semiconductors consultancy Omdia. With the virus, "now we think the range could be from 20per cent (worst case) up to 2.5per cent

(best case), with a most likely of 3 per cent". "All this depends very much on impact on the demand side as the virus spreads around the world and how quickly the electronics supply and logis-

tics chains recover.' Qdos, which makes flexible printed circuit boards and caters to five of the world's 10 biggest smartphone makers, cut its sales growth outlook to "the low tens" from 20per cent forecast last year, said Group Chief Executive Jeffrey

Hwang. "The supply chain in electronics and semiconductors is really long, so one way or another you touch China," said Hwang, whose company also has a factory in the Chinese city of Xiamen.

"China is a big supply chain that has served the world really well, so com-panies will not stop going to China entirely but probably they will cut down on dependence on China - Reuters alone.'