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# Find your way with mobile maps soon

By **Max Martin**  
in Bangalore

IF A friend skips your party and says he or she had lost her way, it may soon cease to be a good excuse. For mobile and web services companies are doing everything they can to beat each other in the race to put locality-specific maps on your phone.

This week has seen hectic activity on the mapping front. Nokia has extended its mobile navigation system to the internet on its ovi.com website. Closer home, apmyIndia.com, which provides maps for General Motors cars and BlackBerry phones, has announced iNav — a locator service for mobile phones.

Information-rich city guides and expert advice are also on the anvil. Nokia aims to give free maps for over 150 countries, with 15 million points of interest pre-loaded. What's more, this information can be shared over mobile phones.

"Nokia maps will unfold out of the company's own phones

as we look more at software and services," said Michael Halbherr, the vice president of the context-based services of the Finnish company.

Nokia, MapmyIndia and other companies already run services that tell you exactly where you are on the map. These services use the Global Positioning System (GPS) facility that runs with satellite aid. But even if your phone is not GPS-enabled, you can still get a rough idea of where you are based on the tower your phone is connected to.

VRL, one of Bangalore's biggest truckers, has already been using a similar tower-based tracking system with its drivers' mobile phones.

Mapmyindia lets you download iNav and allows its use with an add-on GPS device if your mobile is a basic model. If you are headed from Malleswaram in Bangalore to Greater Kailash in New Delhi, on road or rail, you can reach there using the map, said Rohan Verma, MapmyIndia's marketing head.