

Vision: What future we want to create? To be known as the best B-School for aspiring management leaders in the country with an industry-focused curriculum and practice.

Mission: Why we exist? To create value for students, business and society by providing intellectual leadership, advancing the science and practice of management, and developing confident leaders to be the agents of change in a world driven by data, technology and innovation.

STARTUP SPARK

YOUR FORTNIGHTLY GUIDE TO INDIA'S ENTREPRENEURIAL NEWS

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E-SPARK Business Idea Competition 2025

The **E-SPARK Business Idea Competition 2025**, organised by the **School of Commerce & Management Studies – PG (SCMS-PG)**, Dayananda Sagar University, was successfully conducted on 17th December 2025 at the Kudlu Gate campus. Designed to encourage entrepreneurial thinking and problem-solving, the event brought together **22 student teams from 17 management institutes**, making it one of the largest inter-collegiate business idea competitions hosted by SCMS. The event was supported by **DERBI & AIC-DSU (Atal Incubation Centre)**.

The competition saw participation from leading institutions such as **Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, ISBR Business School, Welingkar Institute of Management Development & Research (Bengaluru), Presidency College – MBA, NIT Surathkal – MBA, Don Bosco Institute of Management, Acharya Bangalore B-School**, and several others, alongside strong representation from **DSU's SCMS-PG, Executive MBA, and School of Engineering**. Student teams presented a diverse range of business ideas spanning sectors such as technology, sustainability, consumer services, healthcare, education, and social impact. Each presentation was followed by an engaging Q&A session with a panel of eminent judges, where participants were challenged on their assumptions, scalability, and execution strategies. The evaluation was based on clearly defined criteria, including problem identification, market understanding, business model clarity, feasibility, and depth of analysis.

The event progressed smoothly and on schedule, largely thanks to the excellent coordination of the E-SPARK student volunteer team, which efficiently managed registrations, timekeeping, presenter transitions, technical support, and overall logistics throughout the day.

The E-SPARK Business Idea Competition 2025 reinforced SCMS-PG's commitment to entrepreneurship as a core pillar of management education. Beyond competition, the event served as a powerful learning platform, exposing students to real-world entrepreneurial thinking, peer learning, and constructive feedback, further strengthening the school's mission of nurturing future founders and business leaders.



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Indian Startup & Business Ecosystem – Latest Updates

Macro and ecosystem signals

- India's economic centre of gravity is shifting towards self-made tech and consumer founders, with IDFC FIRST-Hurun's Top 200 list showing new-age entrepreneurs overtaking legacy business families in value creation and tax contribution.
- India's economy is projected to grow 6.6% in 2025, among the fastest rates across large economies, while India remains a key target market for global tech and AI majors seeking users and multilingual training data.
- Bengaluru retains its position as India's top startup hub, hosting the largest concentration of founders on the self-made entrepreneurs list and the headquarters of over 50 of the listed companies.

Consumer and retail trends

- Decathlon India's post-pandemic boom has cooled sharply: revenue growth slipped to 3.1% in FY25 (Rs 4,133 crore vs Rs 4,008 crore) after 41-35% growth in FY22-23, and margins swung from a 4.8% net margin peak to a -1.6% loss, showing the comedown from "revenge fitness" and rising cost pressures.
- Decathlon is responding by deepening India as a global sourcing hub, aiming to nearly double India's share of its global production to 15% by 2030, aligning with "Make in India" and export-led growth themes.
- Sawariya Group illustrates how India's fragmented consumer economy is being stitched together by specialised distribution: from a single kirana in 1990 to a \$230 million multi-category distribution and brand management engine with large, owned and contracted warehousing, and a proprietary supply-chain intelligence system (UniLink) that optimises assortment, pricing, and localisation.

Entrepreneurial power and wealth creation

- Eternal's Deepinder Goyal now tops India's 2025 "Top 200 self-made entrepreneurs of the millennia" list, with Eternal valued at Rs 3.2 lakh crore, surpassing DMart's Rs 3 lakh crore and rising 27% year-on-year—signalling the dominance of platform-driven, network-effect businesses over asset-heavy retail.
- The list underscores a structural shift: consumer-tech and digital-native brands with sticky users, omnichannel presence, and cross-sell potential—such as Lenskart—are now central to India's wealth map, collectively employing ~800,000 people and paying Rs 8,030 crore in direct taxes, almost double the previous year.
- India's youngest elite founders are quick-commerce and fintech entrepreneurs: Zepto's Kaivalya Vohra (22) and Aadit Palicha (23) lead as the youngest, followed by BharatPe's Shashvat Nakrani (27), with founders like OYO's Ritesh Agarwal and ShareChat's Ankush Sachdeva also featuring under 32, underscoring the youthfulness of India's entrepreneurial elite.

Healthtech, fintech, and deeptech entrepreneurship

- Hyderabad-based BlueSemi's EYVA device reflects a surge in accessible healthtech: a pocket-sized, non-invasive metabolic health tracker measuring glucose stability, BP, oxygen, heart rhythm, and metabolic history, paired with an AI-driven app to personalise insights; the company has raised about \$3 million, hit ~\$25 million in FY24 revenue, and claims 2.5x revenue growth in FY25.
- Neev Finance exemplifies quantitative, data-driven fintech for the mass-affluent: it offers a stable-yield account and a multi-asset dynamic fund that algorithmically shifts exposure across stocks, crypto, commodities, and cash, managing \$3-5 million for around 2,000 investors while planning to expand into tax optimisation, retirement, and real estate advisory via a mobile-first platform.
- Broader tech and capital markets remain active globally, with large raises (e.g., Databricks' \$4B Series L, MoEngage's \$180M Series F), Coinbase's entry into prediction markets and stock trading, and Accenture's AI-led demand growth, all reinforcing AI and digital assets as core investment and innovation themes.

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