

Betting Big in the Micro VC Category, Eximius Ventures Announces the First Close of its USD 10 Million Fund for Early Stage Startups in India

- As a micro venture fund, Eximius will support startups by providing them with sufficient capital in the pre-seed stage
- Focused sectors will be startups operating in edtech, fintech, gaming, healthtech, B2B SaaS, and online media
- Plans to invest capital in atleast 25-30 emerging startups in the next 3 years

National, 18th March 2021: Announcing its entry in the micro VC category in India, Eximius Ventures, headquartered in New Delhi, declared the first close of its maiden fund today. While it started in March 2020, the fund now plans to invest USD 10 million in early-stage startups with approximately \$300,000 equity cheque per startup. Its team, including **Founder & Managing Director, Pearl Agarwal**, have an accomplished history of investing and enabling businesses with growth opportunities. With over 50 years of cumulative experience, the Eximius team now plans to invest capital in at least 25-30 emerging startups in the next three years. The fund is looking closely at startups in edtech, healthtech, fintech, and gaming sectors as well as in high potential industries such as B2B SaaS and online media.

Micro VC as a space is already matured in the US with a 230% increase in the number of micro VC funds closed in 2017 as compared to 2009. Micro VC space in India is still in its nascent stages. With the ecosystem expanding and more startups emerging everyday, there will be a need for more such agile funds in the near future. These focused funds will need to develop deep knowledge and expertise in notable sectors so as to move swiftly at the same pace as the angel investors and write much bigger cheques compared to individual angel investors with the additional visibility of follow-up on funding.

Commenting on the first close of the fund, **Founder & Managing Director, Eximius, Pearl Agrawal** said, *“As a fund investing in the pre-seed stage, we would primarily focus on addressing funding and accessibility gaps faced by startups and extend our support beyond capital to offer unconditional network access, expert guidance, help with future fundraising, and more. I am delighted to share that I have been able to create an Eximius community, which is strengthened by industry experts, thought leaders, and mentors who together create a nexus for founders to scale their startup.”*

She added, *“As a woman entrepreneur myself, I want to create ample growth opportunities for women founders in India and want to set a precedent for them to enable them to become equal partners in building a sustainable economy. Also, as a micro VC fund, we are open to smaller seed investments and are excited about nurturing young talent in the industry. We have seen that founders today are spending a lot of time chasing angel investors and facilitating supporting paperwork. This time can be better utilized in focusing on product development and innovation. This is the gap that we are aiming to bridge in the ecosystem through Eximius.”*



As the next step, the fund wants to meet startups that have moved past their minimum viable product and have evidence of initial traction. Further, a strong founding team with relevant experience, initial market validation and view on the path to profitability adds additional merit to the entire evaluation criteria.

Pearl Agarwal, Founder & Managing Director, Eximius Ventures

Pearl Agarwal founded Eximius Ventures in March 2020 to build a thriving and equitable startup community in India.

Through the micro VC fund, Pearl aims to enable startups in the pre-seed stage to build and scale their businesses by supporting them with capital and growth opportunities. She also recognizes the need for women to become equal participants in the ecosystem and eliminates accessibility gaps by giving precedence to female founders.

During her decade-long journey in the investment landscape in the US and UK, she worked with companies like UTIMCO (\$40bn endowment fund), Merrill Lynch and Global Infrastructure Partners (\$70bn PE fund), and comes experienced in helping businesses raise capital, facilitating multi-billion-dollar mergers and acquisitions, and more.

Pearl is an active angel investor with 10 companies in her personal portfolio across edtech, fintech, and gaming, among other sectors. Her notable investments include Trell, Exprs, Ewar, BluSmart Mobility, GroMo, Redwing Labs, Nexweave, Lattu Kids and infeedo.

Pearl has a dual degree in Economics & Finance from the University of Texas at Austin (McCombs School of Business).

[About Eximius Ventures](#)

Eximius Ventures is a micro venture fund that invests an equity cheque of \$150,000 to \$300,000. It looks for startups bringing technological innovation, with a primary interest in edtech, fintech, gaming, healthtech, B2B SaaS, and online media and also gives precedence to female founders. Eximius invests in startups that are post their minimum viable product (MVP) and have seen early traction. While it is an early-stage fund, it has reserved capital for follow-on rounds as well. Its team and partners have a cumulative experience of 50+ years in investing and building businesses, and leverage their expertise to help startups realize their potential, supported by a strong network of mentors, industry experts, and thought leaders from the ecosystem. Investments made in Pearl Agarwal's own capacity include EWar, Lattu Kids, Trell, Gromo, Nexweave, Blu Smart Mobility, Exprs, FWD, Redwing Labs and inFeedo. As a SEBI registered fund, Eximius ensures that its investments fulfil compliance standards.

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