STARTUPS

Funding for women co-founded startups holds near $1 billion as investors back fewer, bigger bets

Total funding slipped slightly in 2025, but early-stage investment rose and more women-led startups were acquired, according to Tracxn.

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Women-led startups raise a record $1.1 billion this year

In 60 seconds

1. Women co-founded tech startups in India raised about $1 billion in 2025, slightly less than in 2024.
2. Early-stage funding for these startups rose 12%.
3. Bengaluru led with $447 million, followed by Gurugram and Mumbai.
4. Acquisitions of women-led startups rose to 33 from 12.

Women co-founded technology startups in India raised about $1 billion in 2025, slightly less than

the previous year, according to data platform Tracxn, as investors concentrated their money in fewer companies.

Early stage up, totals down

While overall funding dipped, early-stage funding for women co-founded startups rose about 12%, a sign that investors are still backing young companies with promising products. Seed and late-stage funding fell, in line with the wider slowdown across Indian startups.

Where the money went

Bengaluru remained the leading hub, with women-led startups there raising about $447 million. Gurugram followed with about $115 million and Mumbai with about $112 million.

> *Fewer cheques, but more exits: a sign of a maturing ecosystem.*

More exits

Acquisitions of women-led startups rose to 33 in 2025, from 12 in 2024. Acquisitions matter because they give founders and early investors a return on their money, which encourages more investment in the next generation of companies.

The long view

Women co-founded startups in India have raised more than $26 billion in total over the years, with funding peaking in 2021. Advocates say better access to networks and early capital remains the biggest challenge for women founders.