

Azhar Yakkundi



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5+ years of experience in venture capital and startup ecosystem. Led early-stage investments across B2B space (Marketplaces, Agritech, Industrial 4.0 and Deeptech), with a track record of driving strategic growth and delivering value to portfolio companies.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Arali Ventures ([website](#)) – Seed fund focused on enterprise tech **Bangalore, India**

Investment Associate **Feb '23 – Present**

- ❖ **Sourced and executed investments across multiple stages:** Seed (EZOBooks '23, Bidaal '23, Harvested Robotics '24) and Pre-Series/Series A (Growcom '23, Jidoka Technologies '24).
- ❖ Led the **overall fund pipeline & managed multiple portfolio companies** across B2B Marketplaces, India SME SaaS, Industrial Automation and Deep Tech Investments.
- ❖ Conducted **comprehensive sector research** to identify & analyses new market trends, market landscape, & built investment thesis resulting in over 5 investments and 7 companies presenting to the investment committee.

Deshpande Startups ([website](#)) – Bharat Focused technology business Incubator **Hubballi, India**

Asst Manager – Incubation **Aug '19 – Jan '23**

- ❖ **Sourced and onboarded 75+ innovative entrepreneurs and startups** across programs like Incubation, EDGE, and Market Access, while directly managing a portfolio of 20+ early-stage startups, driving measurable growth and scalability.
- ❖ **Organized and led Startup Dialogue 2020 & 2022**, attracting over 1,000 participants, including investors, founders, and industry leaders, positioning the event as a premier startup platform.
- ❖ **Designed and implemented community engagement strategies** for a network of 250+ startups, 100+ mentors/advisors, and 50+ investors, fostering collaboration and driving ecosystem growth.

Zam Foods Brand – QSR chain focusing on delivering healthy & affordable meals **Dharwad, India**

Co-founder & Operations Lead **Jun '18 – Aug '19**

- ❖ **Co-founded and scaled a QSR chain to 5 operational stores** across the region, achieving an **annual turnover exceeding ₹1 Cr** with positive PAT, while starting to back passionate small-scale entrepreneurs with seed capital (**3 Angel Investments in traditional businesses**).
- ❖ Currently serving as an advisor and minority stakeholder, focusing on operations and financial strategy.

Team Velociraptors, MVJCE ([website](#)) - Intercollegiate ATV engineering & racing club **Bangalore, India**

Team Manager **Jun '16 – Jul '18**

- ❖ Team Velociraptors was a **75-member team** of highly motivated and talented students from across engineering streams focused on building internationally regulated All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and other racing category automobiles.
- ❖ Managed over 1000sqft state of the art R&D and Manufacturing facility at MVJCE, Bangalore.

EDUCATION

M V J College of Engineering ([website](#)) **Bangalore, India**

- ❖ **Bachelor of Engineering (B.E):** Mechanical Engineering - 70.6% | First Division with Distinction **Jun '14 – Jun '18**

Additional Information

Date of birth: 29th March 1996
Nationality: Indian
Languages known: English, Hindi, Kannada, Urdu.