

Billionaires Turned Venture Capitalists

In August this year American billionaire businessman and the world's third richest man Warren Buffett invested \$356 million in One97 Communications, the parent company of Indian digital wallet giant Paytm. It marked Berkshire Hathaway's first-ever deal in an Indian company.

Buffet is among the many billionaires who have pumped in investments to startups. Here is a list of billionaires who've invested in startups in this year.

Steve Cohen

Startup: Flare

Funding: \$21 million

American investor and hedge fund manager billionaire Steve Cohen's Point72 Ventures led a \$21 million Series B funding round along with Reinventure and BridgeLane along with Acorn Capital and Tank Stream Ventures in Flare, an Australian payroll technology startup.

Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, Richard Branson, Mark Zuckerberg, and George Soros

Startups: Form Energy and Quidnet Energy

Funding: \$9 million and \$6.4 million

Billionaires Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, Richard Branson, Mark Zuckerberg, and George Soros together launched the Breakthrough Energy Ventures, a \$1 billion fund to invest in energy startups. It injected \$6.4 million in Quidnet Energy, and \$9 million in Form Energy.

Yuri Milner

Startup: ShareChat

Funding: \$100 million

In September, Bengaluru-based social language platform ShareChat raised \$100 million from returning investor Shunwei Capital alongside new investors including Hong Kong-based Morningside Ventures and Jesmond Holdings, an affiliate of Russian billionaire Yuri Milner's DST Global. The latest funding values ShareChat at \$460 million.

Steve Case

Startups: Nickson, Soundways, Mixtroz, FreightWays and Inscope Medical

Funding: \$100,000 (each)

Through his venture capital firm Revolution, American billionaire Steve Case invested in five startups at the seventh edition of Rise of the Rest tour competition. Case committed \$150 million seed fund for the competition and the winning teams were given \$100,000 each in seed round.

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