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Post Ph.D. Entrepreneurship in India

The flurry of startups in the post 2008 era, especially in e-commerce and Internet enabled services, has created an ambitious startup ecosystem in the country. This has created several opportunities for technology based startups to thrive as well. However, core technology based startups are still seen as risky propositions. More so, since they demand a significant investment in terms of time, capital and human resources. This talk will focus on the opportunities and risks that one undertakes as a post phd entrepreneur. Specifically, it will focus on lessons learned, advantages (and limitations) of a research mindset in a startup ecosystem. The talk is based on the authors experience as a co-founder at Mimyk, a startup incubated at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

Author Biography: Nithin Shivashankar completed his PhD in 2015 from the department of computer science and automation, Indian Institute of Science. His thesis explored the development of topological abstractions, their application in analysis of molecular structures and cosmological simulations. For this work, he was awarded the IBM CSA best thesis award, and the alumni gold medal for best thesis in CSA, IISc, 2017. From 2015-2016, he worked as an independent consultant in the areas of real time physics simulations and graphics for medical training and rehearsal systems, consulting with the Robert Bosch Center for Cyber Physical Systems at IISc, and other startups. From October 2016, he co-founded Mimyk medical simulations Pvt. Ltd. along with Shanthanu Chakravarthy, Raghu Menon , and Balaji Gopal. The focus of the company has been to apply real time simulation technologies in the fields of medical and surgical training, rehearsal, guidance, navigation, and visualisation.