SMBC
SMBC ASIA RISING FUND

【NEWS RELEASE】

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SMBC Asia Rising Fund

SMBC Asia Rising Fund Closes Investments in Shivalik and DPDzero

SINGAPORE, August 20, 2025 --- SMBC Asia Rising Fund, the corporate venture capital fund of SMBC Group, is pleased to announce its next two investments in startups operating actively in India.

SHIVALIK
Shivalik Small Finance Bank

Shivalik (Shivalik Small Finance Bank) secures US$ 11.5 million led by SMBC Asia Rising Fund.

As one of the few licensed Small Finance Banks, Shivalik provides comprehensive banking services across India, including underserved rural regions. Supported by a robust technology infrastructure and seamless API integration, it has built a highly optimized user experience. This foundation enables Shivalik to operate efficiently with a lean branch network, extending its reach through strategic onboarding collaborations with external partners.

DPDzero

SMBC Asia Rising Fund has also participated in the Series A funding round of DPDzero.

DPDzero is an AI-powered full-stack debt collection platform that combines intelligent automation with human expertise to enhance operational efficiency and deliver ethical borrower experience. It leverages an integrated, outcome-driven approach that overcomes the limitations of traditional manual processes. By blending AI with human expertise, DPDzero drives optimized engagement strategies—enabling faster recovery, reduced NPAs, and lower collection costs.

SMBC Asia Rising Fund is committed to driving sustainable regional growth through strategic collaborations with portfolio companies and investments in promising startups across India, Southeast Asia, and global markets.

For more information, visit the following websites.
SMBC Asia Rising Fund
Shivalik
DPDzero