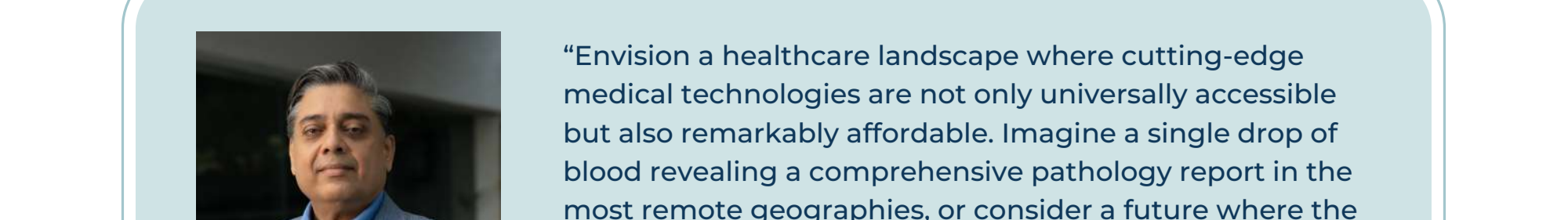
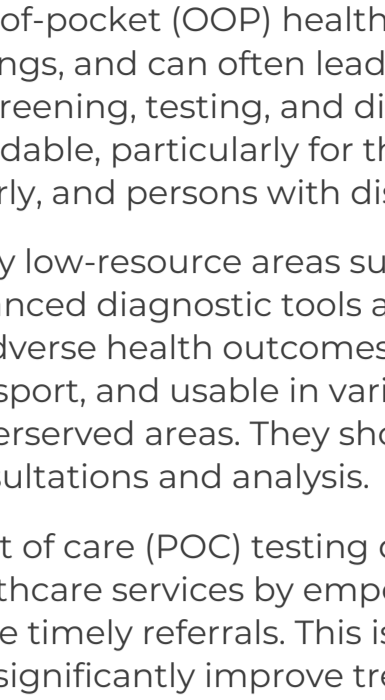


My Health, My Right



INSIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS



MANOJ KUMAR
Founder, Social Alpha

“Envision a healthcare landscape where cutting-edge medical technologies are not only universally accessible but also remarkably affordable. Imagine a single drop of blood revealing a comprehensive pathology report in the most remote geographies, or consider a future where the need for a blood drop itself is obsolete, and non-invasive technologies deftly gauge health parameters. What if your smartphone’s camera could detect diseases through a simple retinal scan? Once confined to the pages of 1960s science fiction, such narratives are now inching closer to becoming a reality.”

Out-of-pocket (OOP) healthcare expenses are a significant burden, especially in low-resource settings, and can often lead to financial hardship and intergenerational poverty. Innovations in screening, testing, and diagnostics are crucial to making healthcare more accessible and affordable, particularly for the poor and most vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Many low-resource areas suffer from inadequate diagnostic facilities. Skilled technicians and advanced diagnostic tools are often scarce. Delayed or imprecise medical diagnoses can lead to adverse health outcomes. Diagnostic devices should be designed to be lightweight, easy to transport, and usable in varied environments, thus making them ideal for remote or underserved areas. They should also allow for easy electronic transmission for remote consultations and analysis.

Point of care (POC) testing devices can bridge the gap between communities and essential healthcare services by empowering frontline health workers to conduct early screening and make timely referrals. This is crucial in low-resource settings where early detection of diseases can significantly improve treatment outcomes and save lives. From portable diagnostic kits to mobile health apps, we need innovation in POC technology to make these devices more accurate, affordable, user-friendly, and adaptable to various environments.

For example, our portfolio company, Vidcare, has developed a diagnostic platform using a novel immunoassay technology, which can provide results without the additional need for an electronic reader. We are also seeing significant advancements in AI, enabling the identification of abnormalities, providing preliminary diagnoses, and prioritising cases based on severity. This technology has seen remarkable growth in areas like radiology, pathology, and dermatology, to name a few. Some of our portfolio companies, such as AiSteth, already leverage the power of AI in medical screening.

There is immense potential in translating deep scientific research into impactful solutions for deployment in public and private healthcare systems. However, realising this potential involves navigating affordability, technological adaptation, training, infrastructure, and regulatory compliance. Attracting investors and philanthropists to this high-risk space is extremely difficult and requires a significantly large amount of non-dilutive and patient capital. Despite these challenges, our portfolio company, Voxelgrids, has developed a sophisticated, lightweight, ultra-fast, non-cryogenic MRI scanner to make medical imaging more affordable, accurate, and accessible in remote geographies.

As we celebrate World Health Day on 7th April and reflect on the global healthcare challenges, Social Alpha reaffirms its commitment to supporting healthcare innovations that strive to make ‘My health, my right’ a reality for all. Through its lab-to-market enablement ecosystem, Social Alpha will continue to support innovations that can reduce healthcare costs, democratise access, and promote global health equity.

Looking back at some of our start-ups’ remarkable achievements, such as Voxelgrids and Ai Health Highway receiving Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) approval and Vidcare entering the clinical trials phase, we are encouraged by the progress made. We invite you to explore the full list of our healthcare innovation portfolio on our website.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Manoj Kumar
Founder, Social Alpha

“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”
- Arthur C. Clarke - Profiles of the Future: An Enquiry into the Limits of the Possible (1973)



START-UP SPOTLIGHT

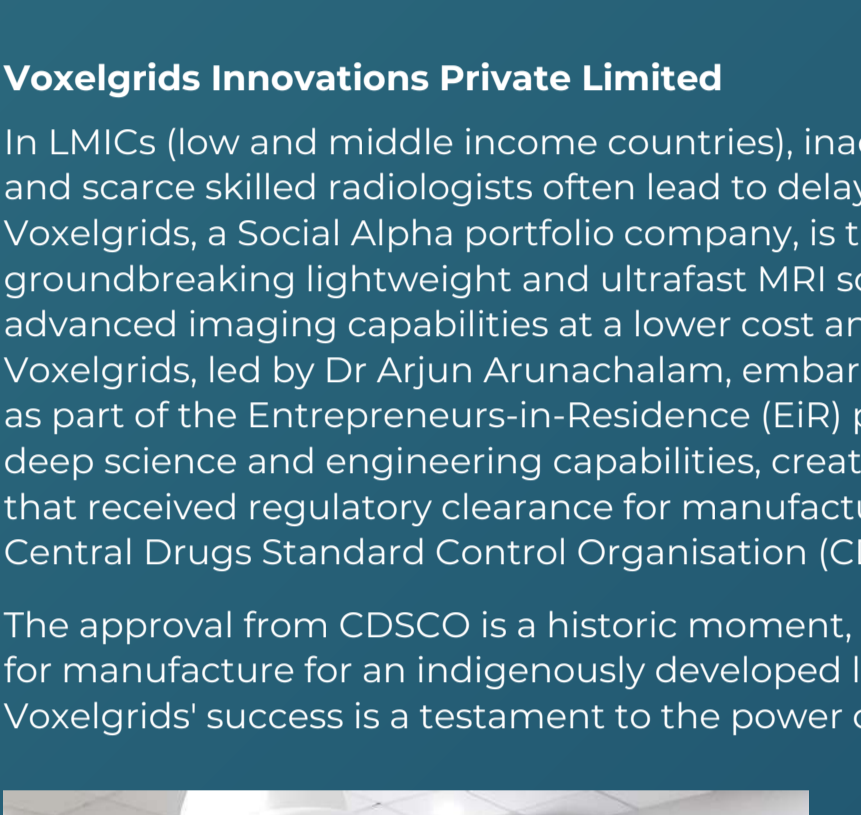
1/4

Blackfrog Technologies

Vaccine-preventable diseases remain a significant threat to children’s health, particularly in developing countries, where access to reliable cold chain systems for vaccine storage and transport is often limited. Blackfrog Technologies, a Social Alpha portfolio company, has developed Emvólio, a patented rapid cooling technology designed for safe last-mile transport of vaccines, insulin, blood serums, and other biologicals.

This rugged and all-weather solution, compatible with backpacks or sling bags, incorporates an inbuilt IoT system for real-time monitoring and regulation of temperatures. Emvólio has successfully delivered over 150,000 vaccines across 12 states in India’s most hard-to-reach terrains, demonstrating its efficacy in ensuring vaccine potency.

Their collaboration with PATH on deploying Emvólio was featured as a case study in the COP28 study, highlighting its role in advancing climate and health solutions.



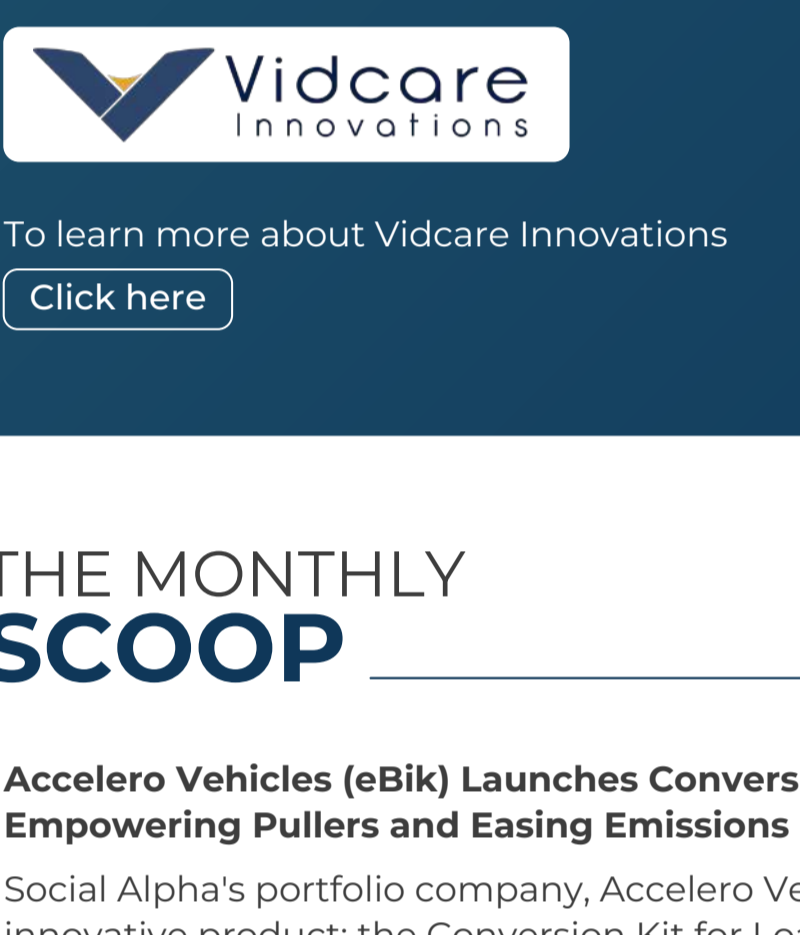
To learn more about Blackfrog Technologies

[Click here](#)

Voxelgrids Innovations Private Limited

In LMICs (low and middle income countries), inadequate medical imaging facilities and scarce skilled radiologists often lead to delayed or imprecise medical diagnoses. Voxelgrids, a Social Alpha portfolio company, is tackling this challenge with its groundbreaking lightweight and ultrafast MRI scanner, designed to provide advanced imaging capabilities at a lower cost and improved image quality. In 2017, Voxelgrids, led by Dr Arjun Arunachalam, embarked on its journey with Social Alpha as part of the Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIR) program. The company, through its deep science and engineering capabilities, created a clinically proven MRI solution that received regulatory clearance for manufacturing and commercial sales from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) in June 2023.

The approval from CDSCO is a historic moment, as it marks the first-ever clearance for manufacture for an indigenously developed liquid helium free MRI machine. Voxelgrids’ success is a testament to the power of innovation and entrepreneurship.



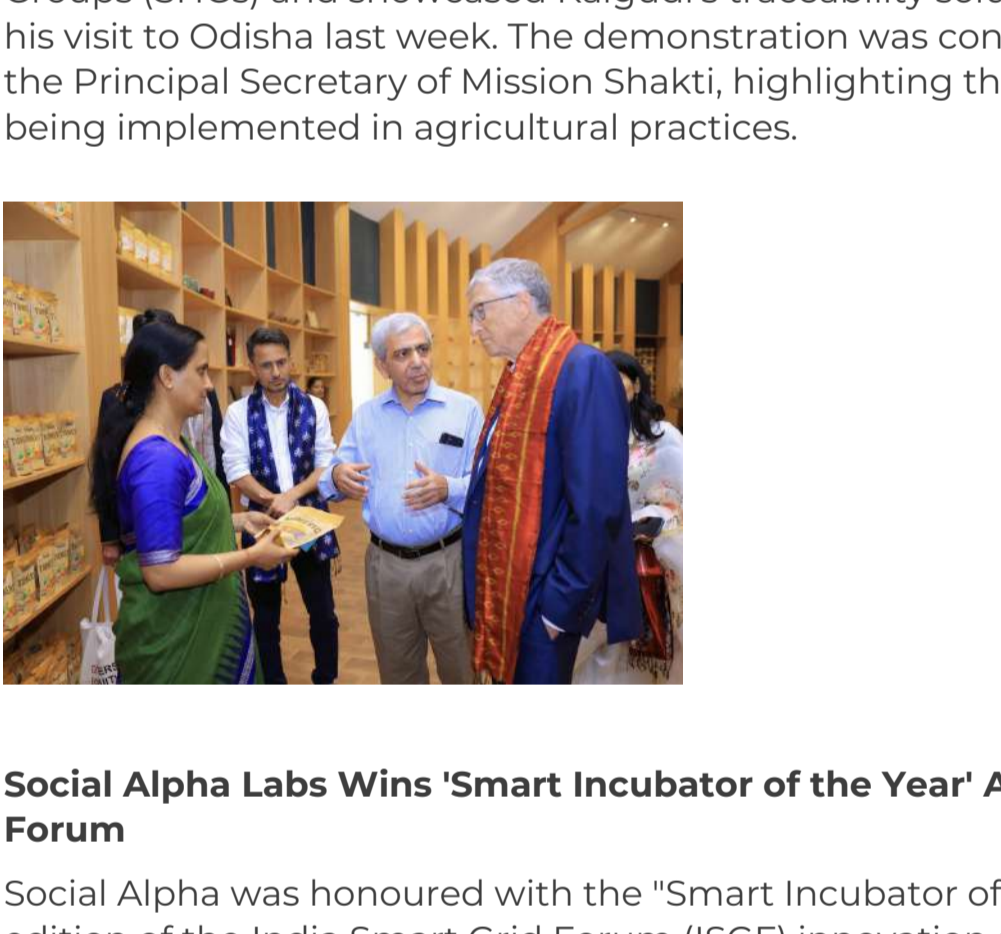
To learn more about Voxelgrids

[Click here](#)

Vidcare Innovations Private Limited

Vidcare is on a mission to transform healthcare by revolutionising diagnostics. They develop easy-to-use, point of care tests that will make diagnostics convenient and available to anyone, anywhere, anytime. These tests need only a drop of blood from a finger prick and can also enable users to self-test for various disorders like hypothyroidism, diabetes, and nutritional deficiencies. Results can be obtained in a few minutes and shared with doctors to facilitate appropriate treatment decisions. Their first tests are for measuring Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH) and Glycated Haemoglobin (HbA1c).

In a significant development, Vidcare has received ethical committee approval from the Centre for Medical Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CMIE) at AIIMS, Delhi, to conduct clinical trials of their first product, MuSure for hypothyroidism. This milestone marks a critical step forward in bringing convenient and qualitative diagnostics closer to people’s homes and healthcare centres, especially in areas with limited access to traditional diagnostic facilities.



To learn more about Vidcare Innovations

[Click here](#)

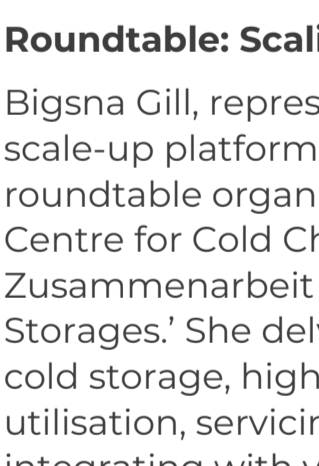


THE MONTHLY SCOOP

2/4

Accelero Vehicles (eBik) Launches Conversion Kits for Lead Rickshaws, Empowering Pullers and Easing Emissions

Social Alpha’s portfolio company, Accelero Vehicles (eBik), recently unveiled its latest innovative product: the Conversion Kit for Lead Rickshaws. This kit addresses the physical drudgery faced by manual rickshaw pullers, aiming to improve their health and livelihoods. By transitioning to battery-powered rickshaws, it reduces emissions, benefiting the environment, and offers a pragmatic, community-focused solution to climate change impacts on vulnerable populations.



To learn more about Accelero Vehicles (eBik)

[Click here](#)

Social Alpha’s CEIBIC Start-ups at International Energy Festival of Kerala

Social Alpha’s Lab, Clean Energy Innovation and Business Incubation Centre (CEIBIC) showcased its start-ups SolYield and Tranquility at the International Energy Festival of Kerala (IEFK) 2024. CEIBIC, a collaborative initiative by Energy Management Centre (EMC) Kerala, Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC), and Social Alpha, supported by partners like Kerala State Electricity Board Limited (KSEB) and Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology (ANERT), aims to foster clean energy innovation and start-ups at the grassroots level in Kerala, contributing to the region’s sustainable energy future.



Strengthening Odisha’s Agri Ecosystem

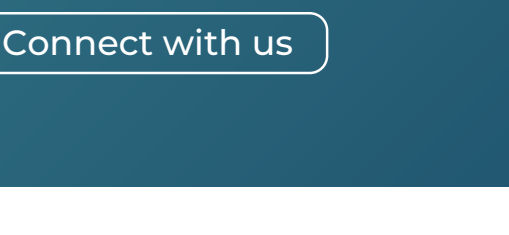
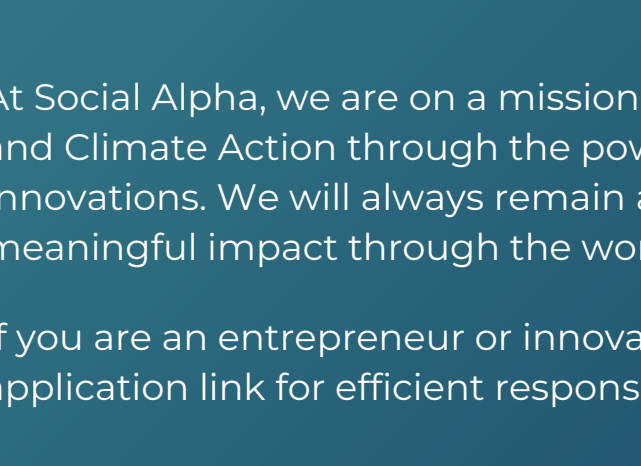
During the State Odisha’s FPO Conclave in Bhubaneswar, an MoU was signed between the Directorate of Horticulture, Odisha, and Kalgudi Digital, a start-up under the Smart Farming Scale-Up program by Social Alpha. This partnership aims to digitally empower the Agri & Rural ecosystem in Odisha, providing convergence tools for various stakeholders and contributing to the region’s agricultural development and growth.

Furthermore, Vivek Sehgal, the CEO of Kalgudi Digital, demonstrated the advantages of Odisha Mission Shakti’s farm produce procurement from Self Help Groups (SHGs) and showcased Kalgudi’s traceability solution to Mr Bill Gates during his visit to Odisha last week. The demonstration was conducted in the presence of the Principal Secretary of Mission Shakti, highlighting the innovative approaches being implemented in agricultural practices.



Social Alpha Labs Wins ‘Smart Incubator of the Year’ Award at India Smart Grid Forum

Social Alpha was honoured with the “Smart Incubator of the Year” award at the 8th edition of the India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) innovation awards. ISGF is a renowned Think-Tank focused on Energy Transition, Electric Mobility, and Grid Modernisation with a mission to accelerate electric grid modernisation and energy transition in India.



mach33.aero Hosts US Department of Defense and Indian Defense/Space Start-ups for Exchange

mach33.aero served as a nexus for the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), National Security Innovation Network (NSIN), and Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Policy from the Department of Defense (DoD) in the US, along with a curated group of pioneering Indian Defence/Space start-ups. The gathering aimed to provide first-hand insights into pivotal work in the Defense sector and establish a broader network encompassing academia, research, and policy realms for future collaborations benefiting start-ups.

Sustain Plus

Roundtable: Scaling Green Agri Cold Storages

Bigsna Gill, representing Sustain Plus, Social Alpha’s innovation deployment and scale-up platform for energy access and livelihoods, led a panel discussion at the roundtable organised by SELCO Foundation, in collaboration with the National Centre for Cold Chain Development and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on ‘Scaling of Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) cold storage, highlighting insights on addressing cold chain gaps, challenges in utilisation, servicing technology in remote areas, defining profitability, and integrating with value addition processes.

Dialogue on Renewable Energy for Livelihoods in Ranchi

Social Alpha’s Sustain Plus, in collaboration with Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, and Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CINI), organised the first dialogue on Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE) in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The event gathered women FPO leaders, technology players, philanthropic agencies, financial institutions, civil society players, and government representatives. The discussions centered on leveraging Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) for livelihoods, emphasising the optimisation of assets, operation and maintenance mechanisms, quality benchmarks, and collaborative action to ensure sustainable rural livelihoods.

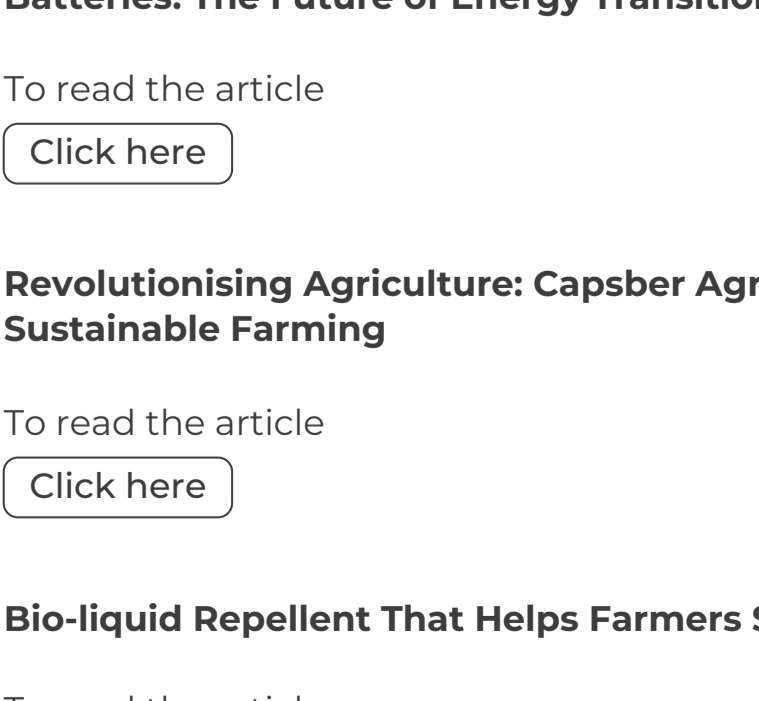


PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

3/4

Pfizer INDovation: NIPER-A Edition

To advance healthcare accessibility for all by making #DiagnosticsDecentralised, Social Alpha has launched Pfizer INDovation: NIPER-A Edition, with Department of Pharmaceutical and NITI Aayog as anchor partners. The objective of this program is to empower start-ups that are building high-quality and affordable diagnostic devices.



To learn more and apply

[Click here](#)

Introducing the Winning Cohort of Techtonic – Innovations in AgriTech 2.0

Techtonic – Innovations in AgriTech 2.0 was launched under the India Agritech Incubation Network (IAIN), a collaboration between the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Social Alpha. The challenge invited innovators and entrepreneurs with technology solutions aimed at benefiting smallholder farmers in Uttar Pradesh and Odisha.

The 5 winning start-ups, through their technologies, have the potential to create a lasting impact on the lives of small and marginal farmers by leveraging their innovative prowess to combat varied challenges faced by these farmers.



IN THE MEDIA

4/4

Reshaping Menstrual Hygiene and Waste Management With PadCare

To read the article

[Click here](#)

Batteries: The Future of Energy Transition

To read the article

[Click here](#)

Revolutionising Agriculture: Capsber Agriscience’s Visionary Approach to Sustainable Farming

To read the article

[Click here](#)

Bio-liquid Repellent That Helps Farmers Save Their Crops From Animal Attacks

To read the article

[Click here](#)

At Social Alpha, we are on a mission to drive Economic Growth, Social Justice and Climate Action through the power of Entrepreneurship and Market-creating Innovations. We will always remain a Work in Progress as we strive to enable meaningful impact through the work we do.

If you are an entrepreneur or innovator, reach out to us through our new application link for efficient responses and relevant feedback.

[Connect with us](#)

