WORK IN PROGRESS

Insights, stories, and updates from the ecosystem building India's impact economy

Innovation, at its most meaningful is an act of compassion. It is the steady movement of ideas from theory to practice, from constrained environments to lived realities. This edition of Work in Progress brings together stories from across the ecosystem, where critical, policy-driven and field-led ideas, and data, translate into lived outcomes.

We begin with a deep science journey that reaches its first patients, a reminder that technological advancement is built through patient, collaborative work. Across the sector, we also will find start-ups engaging with policymakers, global platforms, and communities, securing capital, building trust, and navigating complexity. Alongside these developments, we also bring these stories reflect an ecosystem at work, not chasing novelty, but strengthening relevance, execution, and endurance.

As always, we are grateful to the founders, partners, practitioners, and colleagues who continue to share their work, their learnings, and their time with us. Work in Progress remains a space to pause, reflect, and learn from what is being quietly, deeply, responsibly, and ensure that innovation serves both ambition and purpose.

From First Principles to First Patients

After more than a decade in the making, Vivamgrids Innovations Pvt Ltd has gone clinically live, marking the transition from research and validation to real-world implementation. The company has translated from research and validation to real-world implementation. Across its trials, the platform has demonstrated development complete, lightweight, fallback-free CGM sensor. Built to be more robust than conventional CGMs, the sensor is designed for long-term wear and reduced maintenance requirements, changes in settings where conventional CGMs will infrastructure remains out of reach.

Vivamgrids' journey reflects what it takes to build deep-science medical technology in India. Beyond the technical milestones, the company has navigated regulatory approvals, infrastructure challenges, the work began with first principles, long before product-market or commercial certainty. After years spanning research, academic scientists roles, and multiple attempts to build the sensor, the team has now reached a critical inflection point. Explore first Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR), training a develop with from idea to patient.

What followed was a long arc of prototyping, clinical validation, regulatory navigation, and product refinement.

With its first clinical deployment now underway, Vivamgrids demonstrates what lab-to-deployment truly looks like in deep science medtech, a journey measured not in months, but in years of sustained scientific and entrepreneurial effort.

ARJUN ARUNACHALAM
Founder, Vivamgrids

CENTRE STAGE

Conversations That Shaped the Dialogue

Across the month, members of the Social Alpha team contributed to key sector conversations, sharing insights from ecosystem-building work, portfolio learnings, and lessons from day-to-day engagement.

Pallavi Khare was invited to speak to the School of International Biodesign during the 5th Medtech Summit, joining a panel on MedTech start-up fundraising, what to pay attention to when, and how.

Representing Social Alpha internationally, Srikanth Cariappa joined a global Climate Innovation Exchange (CIX) panel in Dublin, Ireland, to discuss how ecosystem partnerships can be structured as a service and jury member, sharing perspectives from India and Social Alpha's experience in translating deep science into deployable solutions.

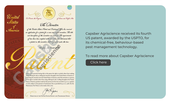
MONTHLY SCOOP

Learning at the Intersection of Field and Forum

Over the month, Social Alpha engaged with academic institutions, global partners, and field practitioners across classrooms, conferences, and field sites.

Delegations from the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management and the Stanford Graduate School of Business visited Social Alpha's Rohini Lab to understand India's start-up ecosystem and the institutional mechanisms that support early-stage innovation. Discussions covered India's ecosystem, its relevance to cross-border collaboration, health and climate innovation, and considerations for international start-ups entering the Indian context.

At a global forum convened by the World Bioeye Association, Dhanendra Kumar shared insights from Social Alpha's work on ecosystem building and the role of intermediaries in India's biologicals, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, food systems, and industrial manufacturing.



Sushant Rauthan contributed to discussions on agro-photovoltaics at a convening by the Sikkim Tata Water Mass Program in Gangtok, Sikkim, which brought together researchers and practitioners working at the intersection of agriculture, energy, and water.

START-UP SHOUT-OUT

New Patents from the Portfolio

TanSI Thermal Solutions was granted its third patent for its phase change material innovation designed for last- and mid-mile movement in India's cold chain. The technology enhances climate-friendly, energy-efficient alternatives to conventional cooling, enabling reliable temperature control across pharmaceuticals, logistics, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, food systems, and industrial manufacturing.

To know more about TanSI

Click here

Cassiber Agriscience received its fourth US patent, awarded by the USPTO, for its chemical-free, behaviour based pest management technology.

To read more about Cassiber Agriscience

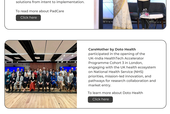
Click here

Blockchain Supports Immunization Efforts in Nigeria

Blockchain Technologies is supporting "Statewide Immunization Plus Days" in Bauchi State, Nigeria, a public health initiative that combines routine immunization with broader health outreach activities against measles cases, malaria, and VPD. Blockchain supports vaccine carrier, timeliness, is being used to maintain safe temperatures during last mile transport, enabling real-time tracking of patient records linked to vaccination.

To learn more about Blockchain Technologies

Click here



Partnerships Enabling Scale

TanSI Thermal Solutions signed an MoU with the Government of Tamil Nadu at the Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave. The partnership supports the expansion of TanSI's manufacturing capacity in sustainable thermal technologies, enabling wider deployment across cold chain, healthcare, and industrial applications. The partnership materials across industrial clusters, alongside job creation in manufacturing and operations.

LCB Fertilizers Private Limited signed an agreement with the Government of Uttarakhand to establish a manufacturing unit in the state. The unit will produce liquid fertilizers for farmers in districts, displacing organic and natural fertilizer solutions adopted to scale and crop needs to improve productivity and reduce water use.

To know more about LCB Fertilizers

Click here

Start-ups Engaging Policy and Global Platforms

PetCare was invited by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to speak at the Conference on Circular Economy for Industrial Clusters, where the discussion brought nationwide waste into a policy forum where it is often overlooked. Conversations focused on practical solutions from rivers to implementation.

To read more about PetCare

Click here

Commitment by Data Health Commitment by Data Health Joins Ge-India Health Exclusive Accelerator Program Cohort 3 In London, Commitment by Data Health has participated in Medical Health Service (MHS) priorities, mission-led innovation, and strengthening research collaboration and market entry.

To learn more about Data Health

Click here

Sollizens showcased NutriSmart at the 16th AgriCoop Conference (Vision Expo) organised by the Indian Institute of Management & Industry. The well-tasting device drew attention for its portability, ease of use, and potential to reach through sustained field feedback and real-farm conditions.

To know more about Sollizens

Click here

Periodrite Technologies presented Smart Support Co at the Global Demo Day of the Microsoft for Startups LAB Growth Cohort in Bangalore. The platform uses AI-assisted clinical diagnostics on support accessible, single-visit cervical cancer screening.

To read more about Periodrite Technologies

Click here

And the Winners Are...

Several portfolio companies received recognition this month across education, healthcare, livelihoods, climate, and craft, reflecting the breadth of impact led start-ups.

Thinkerbell Labs and **Medtec Health** were named winners at the ATP Awards 2026 for Education and Healthcare, respectively, at the Annual Technology Policy Summit. Thinkerbell Labs was also selected as a winner at the India Semi Forum of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Angrow was selected for the Global Citizen and Pyphil Small Business impact awards, recognising its work in pre-harvest.

Samatrika won the Craft Revival Grand Award at the Rule Innovation Challenge 2026.

Aeros Research, from the iPitar INCIubation NIPER-A Edition cohort, received the Entrepreneurship Promotion Award for Healthcare Start-up of the Year 2026 from the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India for its product Nervelux, recognising innovation in non-invasive vascular diagnostics.

Accelent was recognised with the Climate Champion Award at the Sarbat Awards 2026 for its work in the climate and sustainable mobility space, with impact benchmarks ranking it in the top 20 percent for inclusivity, health and No Alternative Indicators.

Khepri was selected as a Leader Finalist for the Lyman Family Prize 2026, recognising organisations advancing scalable, climate-resilient solutions for smallholder farmers.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Identifying Innovations for a Climate-Resilient Bengaluru

Social Alpha, in partnership with Unbounce BLR and WTFund, launched the Namma Bengaluru Challenge to surface innovations that can strengthen Bengaluru's climate resilience and water urban emissions. Supported by the Government of Karnataka and the Greater Bengaluru Authority, the challenge invited solutions across water management, waste management, air pollution, and waste management.

The evaluation process has now concluded, with a diverse jury of institutional leaders reviewing submissions against the city's climate risk profile and infrastructure needs. The final five innovations will be announced at BLR Hubbe in January 2026.

IN THE MEDIA

VisionFirst Presents The Great Indian Innovation Showcase (India) | Medgenta & Cakogi Group India

To watch the episode

Click here

Platform for Peer-to-Peer Lending Changes Lives, Hits 100 cr Loans

To read the article

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From Polluted Rivers to Cleaner Communities | She's The Change

To watch the video

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World's First Chip-Packet Sunglasses? India's Deep-Tech Recycling Breakthrough | ET New Hangouts

To watch the episode

Click here

In Focus Podcast (Chef's Train) Ep: Can It Even be Fixed?

To watch the episode

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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.

CONNECT WITH US

For any media enquiries or further information,
Please write to us at communications@socialalpha.org