SOCIAL alphaX 10

WORK IN PROGRESS

FEB 2026

At Social Alpha, we are in the middle of a great experiment, and everything will remain a work-in-progress.

An innovation starts to matter only when it leaves the lab and through the systems, solving the problems it was meant to solve by getting tested, adapted, and piloted along the way. This month's updates catch that movement at different stages.

Some mark real arrival: recognition on a global stage, a regulatory clearance, a product reaching the market. Others are earlier and quieter: field conversations about designing for women farmers, hard questions about what adoption looks like in agri-tech, and the groundwork for the next generation of aerospace start-ups. Across the issue you'll also find teams being recognised for work spanning healthcare, waste management, and environmental sustainability.

As always, this is a small window into work underway across the ecosystem.
Thank you for reading Work In Progress.

CENTRE STAGE

CanvaLoop and Microbeworks Scientific Among Global Change Award 2026 Winners

CanvaLoop and Microbeworks Scientific, two Social Alpha portfolio companies, have been named among the ten winners of the H&M Foundation's Global Change Award 2026. The recognition places both India-based innovations working on some of fashion's most persistent challenges, resource-intensive fibre production and toxic dyeing processes, on a global platform.

CanvaLoop's Agro-Lycoil converts the woody portion of agricultural residue into regenerated cellulosic fibre. Using materials such as linseed residue, it offers a non-wood alternative to conventional lyocell.

Microbeworks Scientific's MicroBlue produces biodegradable dyes through microbial fermentation. The dyes can be used in existing dyeing systems, offering a sustainable alternative to petroleum-based colourants without requiring factories to change their infrastructure.

AI Health Highway Receives US FDA 510(k) Clearance for AiSteth

AI Health Highway has received US FDA 510(k) clearance for AiSteth, its AI-enabled smart stethoscope platform. The clearance enables the platform to be used by healthcare professionals as a diagnostic decision support tool during physical assessments of paediatric and adult patients.

AiSteth can record, amplify, filter, store and share cardiac, respiratory, vascular and abdominal sounds through a connected device and mobile application. Having crossed 100,000 patient screenings in India, the milestone marks an important step in taking an India-built solution for cardiac and respiratory screening to global markets.

MONTHLY SCOOP

Building India's Next Generation of Aerospace Start-Ups

At a recent session, at RISE Conclave 2026, on building the next generation of aerospace start-ups, Manoj Kumar, Founder, Social Alpha, spoke about the need for mission-driven companies that can take on complex national and global challenges.

He highlighted the growing opportunity created by the convergence of emerging technologies, alongside the need for stronger incubation ecosystems to help founders translate advanced research into scalable aerospace solutions. Opening the discussion, Jacob Poulose, Chief of Operations at mach33.aero, called for closer collaboration between innovators, investors, industry and research institutions to help breakthrough ideas move towards market-ready ventures.

Women Farmers at the Centre of Climate Adaptation in Uttar Pradesh

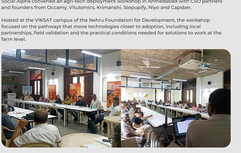
Social Alpha joined the State-Level Conference on Empowering Women Farmers for Climate Adaptation Measures in Lucknow. The gathering brought together more than 120 policymakers, researchers, civil society organisations, agri-innovators and women farmers to examine the gendered realities of climate risk and the systems needed to strengthen resilience.

Speaking during a session on women entrepreneurship and climate-smart agri-tech, Onkar Pandey from Social Alpha shared how the ecosystem can better support women-led enterprises to access resources, and work across the realities of smallholder agriculture. Social Alpha supported companies also showcased solutions for farmers, with the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Government of Uttar Pradesh, engaging with the innovations on display. Across its work in the state, Social Alpha has identified 83 technologies with potential for wider scale-up through farmer collectives, government systems and local delivery networks.

Taking Agri-Tech Deployment Conversations to Ahmedabad

Social Alpha convened an agri-tech deployment workshop in Ahmedabad with CSO partners and founders from Oculeye, Vitulomics, Krimanshi, Steepudy, Niyo and Capsber.

Hosted at the VIKSAT campus of the Nehru Foundation for Development, the workshop focused on the pathways that move technologies closer to adoption, including local partnerships, field validation and the practical conditions needed for solutions to work at the farm level.



START-UP SHOUT-OUT

Indian Deep-Tech Ventures Take the Global Stage in France

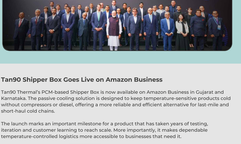
Social Alpha's innovation community was represented across two leading technology platforms in France this month.

Sunfox Technologies, a Pitlar INOnovation 2026 winner, joined the DPIFI recognised start-up delegation at VivaTech Paris 2026, showcasing Sunfox's its pocket-sized 12-lead ECG and connected cardiac care platform.

To know more about Sunfox Technologies

Click here

Manastu Space, BrainSightAI, Periwinkle Technologies, Marbles Health, Trinano Technologies, Solinas Integrity and Tarus Motions represented India at Bharat Innovates 2026 in Nice. The start-ups showcased innovations including green propulsion systems for satellites, AI-powered brain mapping for neurosurgery, single-visit cervical cancer screening, a wearable headset for personalised mental health care, nano coatings to improve solar panel performance, AI and robotics for underground water infrastructure inspection, and compact electric powertrains.



Tan90 Shipper Box Goes Live on Amazon Business

Tan90 Thermal's PCM-based Shipper Box is now available on Amazon Business in Gujarat and Karnataka. The passive cooling solution is designed to keep temperature-sensitive products cold without compressors or diesel, offering a more reliable and efficient alternative for last-mile and short-haul chains.

The launch marks an important milestone for a product that has taken years of testing, iteration and customer learning to reach scale. More importantly, it makes dependable temperature-controlled logistics more accessible to businesses that need it.

To read more about Tan90 Click here

And the Winners Are...

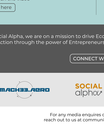
Marbles Health Featured in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2026

Marbles Health has been recognised in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2026, recognising its efforts to make brain health care more affordable brain health care. Founders Lakshay Sahni and Rimya Villaprajada, Marbles health has developed EASE, a neuromodulation headset that uses mild electrical stimulation to support the treatment of anxiety, depression and other mental health conditions. The technology is currently being used across more than 75 hospitals and clinics in India.

Sustainability Innovators Recognised Across the Portfolio

Three Social Alpha portfolio companies received recognition this month for advancing more sustainable and inclusive systems.

Hasiru Data Innovations received the Green Vanguard Award at the MSME Excellence Awards 2026, organised as part of the Global MSME Conclave by FKCCI. The award recognises the organisation's work in building professional and inclusive waste management systems.



Rahul Bakare, Founder and CEO of **Uridhum Environmental Technologies**, received the Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskaar 2026 for his contribution to environmental solutions and sustainable development.

PadCare Labs was named winner of the Indo-French Start-up Award for Sustainable Innovation at the third Indo-French Sustainability Conclave, recognising its work to build safer and more circular solutions for menstrual waste.

IN THE MEDIA

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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.

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