TSIC Connect

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
FROM TELANGANA STATE INNOVATION CELL

Jagtial, Metpally

Medak, Nagsanpally

Medchal, Quthbullapur

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

TSIC

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About TSIC

Telangana State Innovation Cell (herein referred to as TSIC Foundation) is an initiative by the Information Technology, Electronics and Communications Department, Government of Telangana. TSIC was set up in 2017 under the State Innovation Policy with a vision— to build and nurture the Culture of Innovation in the State of Telangana. Today, it acts as the first response of the State Government for identified innovators, start-ups, entrepreneurs, and innovation catalysts to foster an inclusive innovation ecosystem with State-as-a-whole-approach.

TSIC VISION

To build & nurture the Culture of Innovation, **primarily the Grassroots & Rural Innovation**, across Telangana
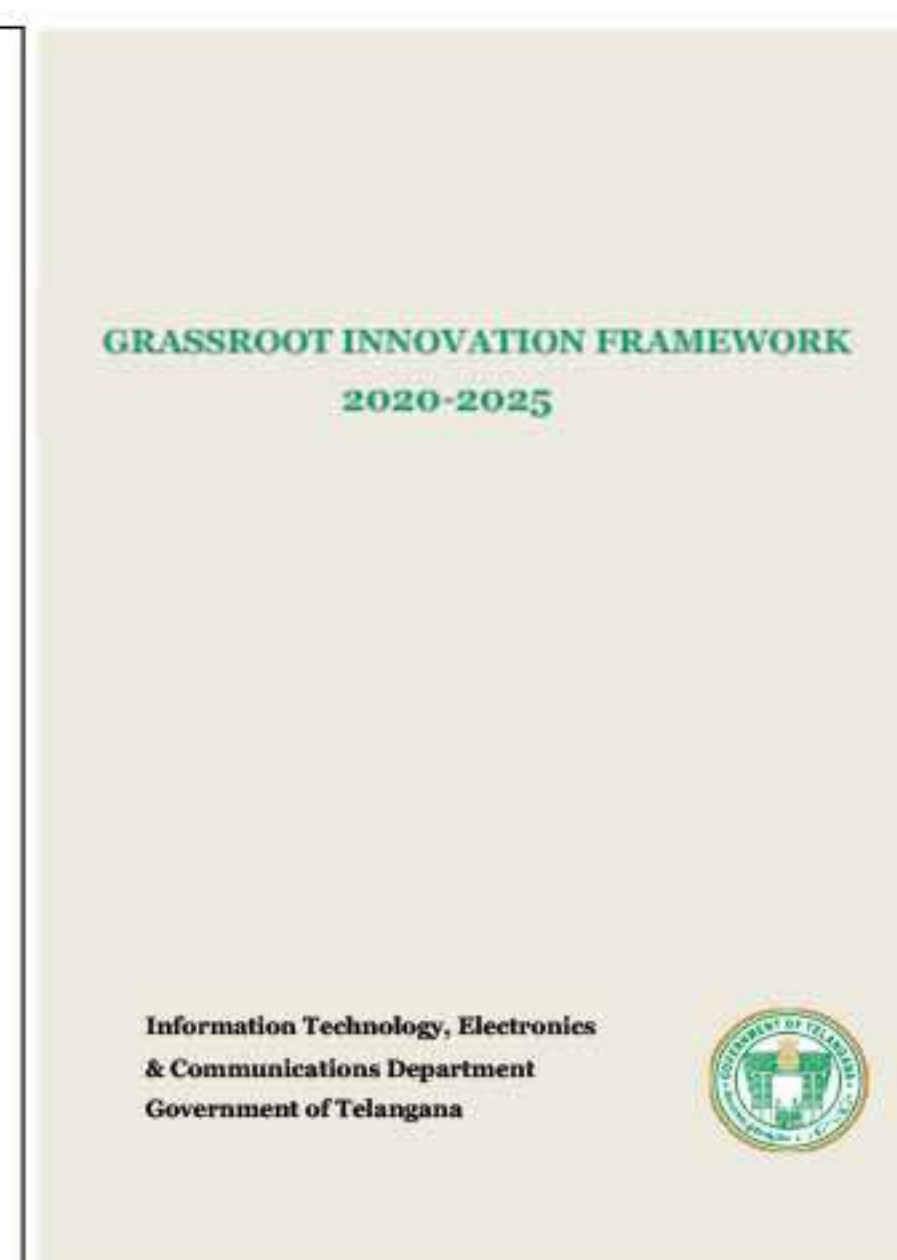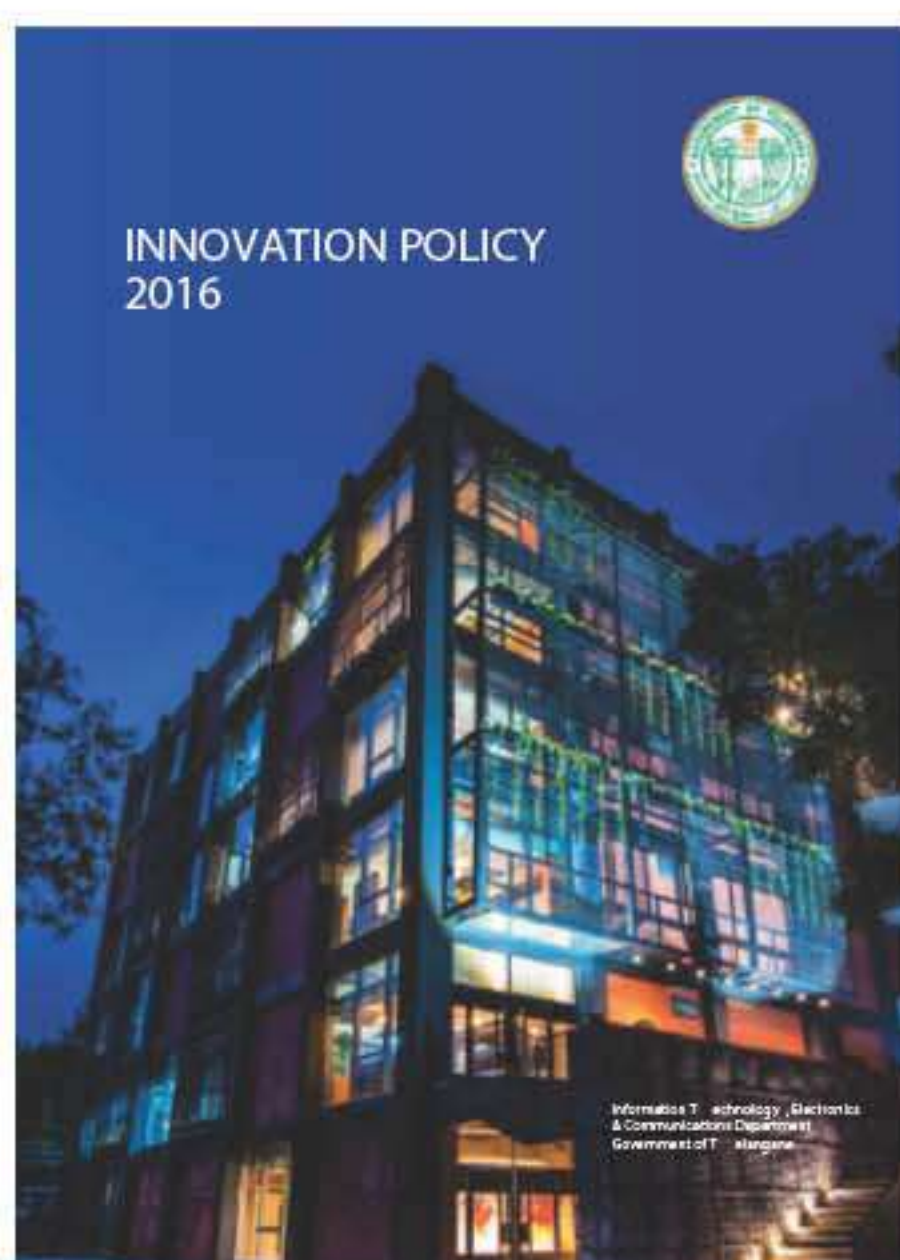
MANDATE

1. **To scout,** recognize, & disseminate the **Grassroots & Rural** Innovations.

2. **To strengthen** the **Inclusive & Social Innovation** ecosystem.

3. **To promote** Innovation in **Government & Administration**

APPROACH

To **Identify partners**, who spearhead the initiatives, further **enabling** the ecosystem to **own** the Culture of Innovation

TELANGANA STATE IS PROMOTING INCLUSIVE INNOVATION THROUGH DEDICATED POLICIES.

INNOVATION POLICY 2016

Information Technology, Electronics & Communications Department Government of Telangana

TELANGANA STATE INNOVATION CELL

Social Innovation Policy 2020

Information, Technology and Communications Department

Government of Telangana

GRASSROOT INNOVATION FRAMEWORK 2020-2025

Information Technology, Electronics & Communications Department Government of Telangana

TELANGANA INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

T-Hub

- Empowers startups to scale-up faster and create business value
- Elevates innovation for corporations
- Builds a culture of innovation that keeps its partners ahead

Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC)

- Scout & Create innovators
- Focus on building innovation culture from school age
- Bringing together Govt. and Innovators

WE Hub

- Support women entrepreneurs
- Focus on education, validation, and support

T- Works

- Decrease the barriers to prototyping
- Provide access to small production

Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH)

- Facilitate taking research to market
- Provide access to IP protection

Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK)

- Enhance skilling energy
- Run skilling initiatives and programs

Emerging Technologies Wing

- To develop the ecosystem required for the industry
- To make govt. departments leverage or adopt emerging technologies

IMAGE — First-of its-kind Hub for all the Gaming/VFX/AR &VR Startups

y-hub — To nurture problem-solving capacity among children and youth

ncam — Create and enable a sustainable ecosystem for product innovation in India

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By Vani Buddhavarapu

Telangana's Way Forward in Innovation
A Special Feature with Shri Jayesh Ranjan (IAS), Govt. of Telangana

Bridging the Gap: How Telangana is Championing Rural Innovation

Since its formation in 2014, Telangana has prioritized fostering entrepreneurship and innovation. Initiatives like T-Hub and WE Hub have emerged as hubs for these activities. However, a crucial gap was identified – limited participation from rural areas.

The state recognized a two-fold problem:

Exclusion by Design: Existing facilities were imposing, Hyderabad-centric, & had a culture that might not be comfortable for rural innovators.

Lack of Outreach: Rural innovators either weren't aware of these resources or not well-equipped to access them.

This led to the creation of the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) in 2017 with the core mission to identify and support rural innovators throughout the state.

Beyond 'Jugaad': Recognizing Rural Problem-Solving

A common misconception exists – rural solutions are often dismissed as mere 'Jugaad' (quick fixes) lacking scientific backing or sustainability. However, the reality paints a different picture. Villages and working-class communities face numerous challenges, yet rarely resort to constant protests. This resilience often translates into local, practical solutions – 'hyperlocal solutions' – that address everyday problems in agriculture and other vital aspects of rural life.

These solutions, often developed by individuals without formal scientific training, demonstrate remarkable ingenuity. TSIC believes these local innovations, when explored and studied, hold immense potential for further development & scaling.

Intinta Innovator and Beyond: Empowering Grassroots Innovation

TSIC spearheads initiatives like 'Intinta Innovator' that actively scout and support these rural problem-solvers. They collaborate with existing organizations like Palle Srujana and the Honeybee Network to strengthen this ecosystem.

The focus is not just on recognizing existing solutions but also on improving them. This involves collaboration with TSIC network to enhance technology, features, and packaging for wider adoption.

A Global Recognition: JICA's Soft Loan

The TSIC's dedication to rural innovation has garnered international recognition. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a prominent Japanese funding organisation, typically focuses on infrastructure projects worldwide. However, in a significant shift, JICA awarded Telangana a ₹1700 crore soft loan to support the state's social development projects, specifically highlighting TSIC's work.

This recognition underscores the importance of fostering a culture of innovation beyond urban centers. While T-Hub serves as a beacon of excellence, true progress lies in spreading innovation across the state. TSIC along with its supporting partners, aims to achieve a holistic vision in the innovation ecosystem across the state.

Telangana's story demonstrates the importance of inclusivity in fostering innovation. By reaching out to untapped talent in rural areas, the state is not only empowering individuals but also creating a robust & diverse ecosystem of innovation that benefits everyone. Looking ahead, TSIC is committed to scaling up their efforts, ensuring that innovation truly flourishes throughout Telangana, not just in isolated pockets of excellence.

TSIC UNVEILS INAUGURAL EDITION OF ITS QUARTERLY MAGAZINE: UNVEILING STORIES OF GRASSROOTS INGENUITY AND FOSTERING INNOVATION
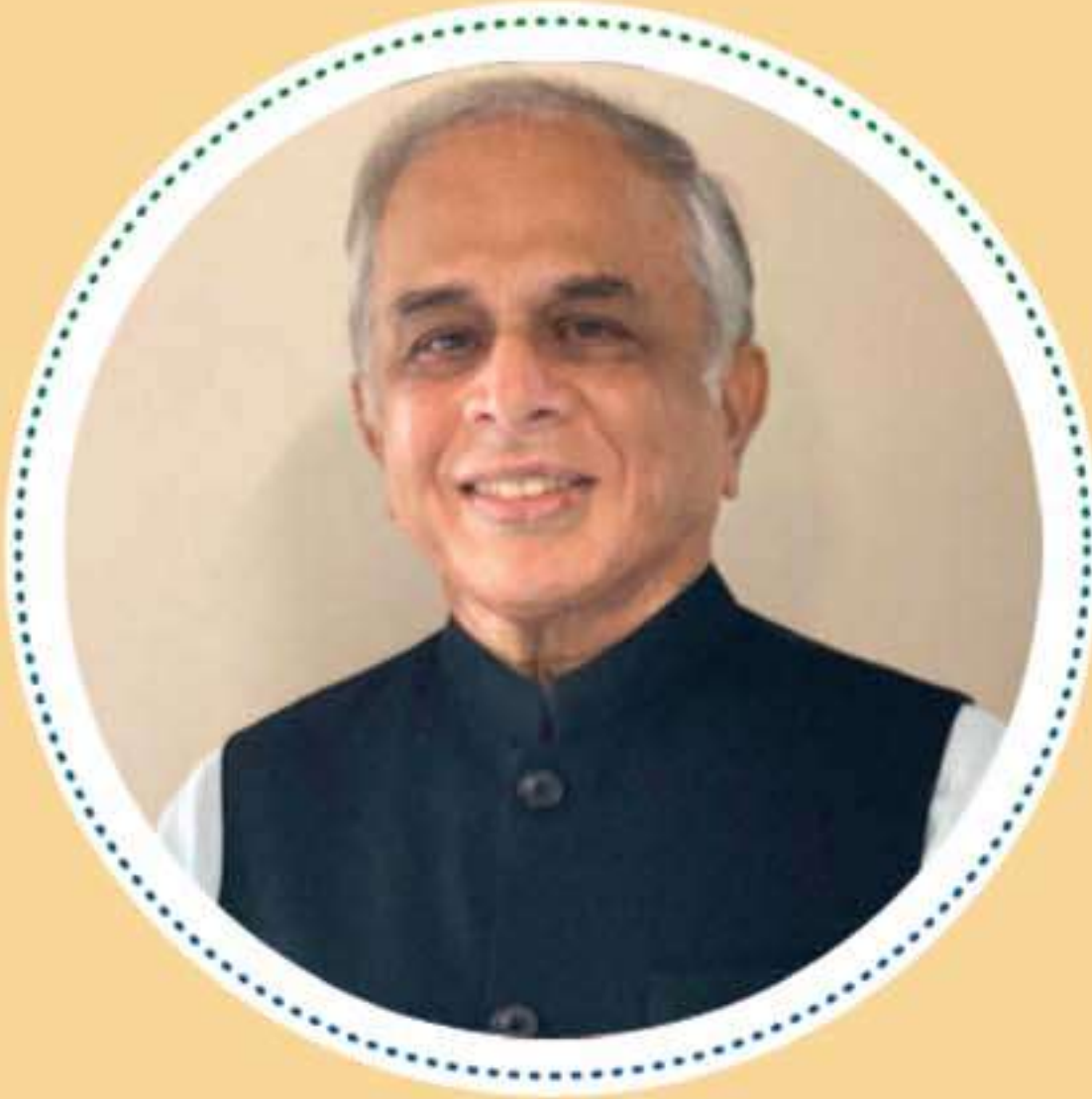
Shri Ajit Rangnekar
Chief Innovation Officer, Telangana

On behalf of the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC), I am pleased to present our first-ever quarterly magazine with all of you! This publication brings out stories of our esteemed innovators, exciting collaborations, and flagship initiatives that embody the spirit of Telangana's thriving innovation ecosystem.

In the past quarter, Telangana's holistic approach to innovation has paid off as the state was bestowed with the Top Performer rank in the 'State Startup Ranking '22 for the second consecutive year by the Department for Promotion Industry and Internal Trade, Govt. of India. This recognition is a proud testament to the collective efforts of all our enablers and the entire ecosystem.

The successful execution of 'One District One Exhibition' (ODOE) program in three districts of Telangana, with support from NABARD stands out as a landmark achievement. The exhibition showcased 30+ impactful low-cost agricultural solutions from our grassroots innovators sensitizing over 4,000 participants including farmers, agri officers, entrepreneurs, self-help group women, NGO workers, and eager young minds. The most pleasing part was to see 11 market-ready solutions securing 260+ orders. ODOE served as a bustling marketplace for knowledge exchange and collaboration, connecting innovators with farmers, government officials, and relevant stakeholders.

We were also pleased to see three of our grassroot trailblazers Sivakumar Modha for MODHA Pedal Operating Machine for Handlooms, Mohammed Khaja Mainuddin for Three-Wheeler Mobile Multi-Crop Thresher Machine, and Seelam Satyanarayana Reddy for Fertilizer Laying Machine being recognized for their groundbreaking solutions at the Hyderabad Software Enterprises Association (HYSEA) Awards.

Finally, we are delighted to announce the signing of the much-awaited collaboration with Telangana and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This partnership holds immense promise for propelling Telangana's Grassroots and Social Innovation Ecosystem to even greater heights. We look forward to sharing further details in the upcoming months.

This is just the beginning! We remain dedicated to empowering our innovators, fostering a vibrant innovation culture, and propelling Telangana towards a brighter, more innovative tomorrow.

Happy Reading!
Ajit Rangnekar
CIO, Telangana

By Sohel Khan

Grassroots Innovations: Nurturing Creativity from the Ground Up

Coloquially, innovation is defined as a novel idea that solves a problem or makes better an existing solution. Innovation thrives on necessity and creativity; Grassroot innovations stand at the heart of a vibrant and sustainable ecosystem for fostering creativity and addressing local challenges. The Wheel, one of the earliest Grassroots Innovations known to humankind has completely transformed our society and economy for all time to come.

At its core, grassroot innovations emphasize on the bottom-up approach, where solutions to problems emerge organically from the community itself. It champions the ingenuity of individuals and small groups, often operating with limited resources but boundless creativity. Fundamentally, these Grassroot Innovations differ from the mainstream products in terms of marketing, branding, sales channels or even their design. These solutions are conceived out of the desire to address pain points of the rural population. Consequently, their focus lies on solving the problem and alleviating the grievance rather than their design or packaging. Having been sourced and crafted from locally available resources, they are extremely cost efficient, affordable and accessible.

Given the nature of these innovations, they need to be cradled and nurtured. It must be a scientific process rather than an ad-hoc activity emphasising on building a culture of innovation. In that regard, Telangana proudly boasts of having a dedicated State Innovation Policy to foster and empower this innovation ecosystem. We have a burgeoning innovation landscape and the concept of grassroots innovation has been taken cognizance of at a government level, to facilitate meaningful change and empower communities. The policy emphasizes the need for inclusive and participatory innovation ecosystems, encouraging collaboration between government, academia, industry, and civil society. The policy aims to align its efforts with the National Innovation Framework, leveraging national resources and networks to amplify the impact of grassroots innovations within the state and beyond.

Despite the lack of lustre and visual appeal, Grassroot Innovations absolutely have the scope to be scaled up into successful enterprises provided they find the appropriate support, not about designing a solution, but only in terms of marketing their product better and developing an entrepreneurial spirit in the long run to make their innovation – relevant and sustainable and also accessible to a wider group of beneficiaries. The journey of an innovator/innovation is an organic process starting with creating awareness and capacity building of innovators. Subsequent development of infrastructure for them and creating an access to funding can ensure their scale-up. Finally culminating in creating market access, that will sustain the monetisation of these innovations.

In conclusion, grassroots innovations embody the spirit of resilience, creativity, & community-driven problem-solving reaffirming a sense of self-empowerment. There is a need to lay emphasis on nurturing them, and consequently enabling the innovators to transform their ideas into viable solutions, addressing local challenges while also creating economic opportunities and social upliftment.

Sohel Khan

By Anusha

Village Innovation Awards: Celebrating the spirit of Grassroots Innovation

Unlocking Rural Brilliance: 44 Innovations, 41 Villages, 20 Districts - Telangana's Proud Legacy!

On this year's Republic Day, Telangana resonated with the spirit of innovation as the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) celebrated 44 remarkable innovations across 41 villages in 20 districts. The Village Innovation Awards, an annual initiative by TSIC, honor the creative brilliance of rural problem solvers who are shaping a brighter future for their communities.

By addressing the challenges in agriculture, energy conservation, assistive technology, water and waste management, healthcare, the awardees showcased their creativity and passion for solving real-world problems.

The Village Innovation Awards 2024, highlighted the importance of grassroots innovation and community pride. This initiative, supported and led by the local administration consisting of: Panchayat Secretary, Sarpanch and District Panchayat Officer aims to foster a culture of innovation in rural areas, empowering individuals to create local solutions for local challenges.

This year, the initiative recognised rural innovators from these districts: Bhadradri Kothagudem, Jagtial, Jangaon, Kamareddy, Karimnagar, Mahabubabad, Mahabubnagar, Mancherial, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Medak, Nalgonda, Peddapalli, Rajanna Siricilla, Rangareddy, Siddipet, Suryapet, Wanaparthy, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Nizamabad, and Khammam.

What started as a pilot in 2022 with four villages has now grown to encompass 100+ innovations reflecting the growing recognition of the role rural innovators play in driving sustainable development and economic growth.

This first-of-its-kind initiative have not only recognized and rewarded innovators but also inspired a wave of creativity and problem-solving ability in villages across the state. They have ignited a passion for innovation and showcased the potential of local solutions to address global challenges.

Telangana's Grassroot Trailblazers Shine at HYSEA Awards

At the 31st edition of Hyderabad Software Enterprises Association (HYSEA) Awards held on 14th February 2024, three of our innovators – Sivakumar Modha (MODHA Pedal Operating Machine for Handlooms), Mohammed Khaja Mainuddin (Three-Wheeler Mobile Multi-Crop Thresher Machine), and Seelam Satyanarayana Reddy (Fertilizer Laying Machine)-were deservedly awarded for their groundbreaking solutions. Their stories, along with many others, embody the spirit of Telangana's rural innovation revolution.

This year marked a momentous occasion, with Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) supporting innovators clinching awards for the third consecutive year. Their remarkable creations stand as a testament to the unwavering spirit of rural problem-solving & a 'can-do' attitude that thrives in the face of challenges.

Here are the winners:

Sivakumar Modha: Weaving Comfort into Handlooms

Among the awardees was Sivakumar Modha, whose ingenious 'MODHA Pedal Operating Machine for Handlooms' revolutionizes the lives of handloom weavers. This user-friendly design tackles a pervasive issue – knee and back pain – by lightening the workload and boosting productivity. Remarkably, it achieves this transformation without relying on electricity, making it a sustainable solution for countless weavers across Telangana.

Mohammed Khaja Mainuddin: Threshing Made Hassle-Free

Another awardee, Mohammed Khaja Mainuddin, impressed the jury with his 'Three-Wheeler Mobile Multi-Crop Thresher Machine.' Mounted on a readily available auto chassis, this innovation embodies farmer-centric design. It eliminates the need for back-breaking labor, reduces fuel consumption, and expedites the threshing process, making it both economical and hassle-free for farmers.

Seelam Satyanarayana Reddy: Precision Meets Efficiency in Fertilization

Seelam Reddy's 'Fertilizer Laying Machine' exemplifies innovation focused on maximizing farmer benefit. This fertilizer dispenser ensures precise application based on the specific growth stage of plants. By minimizing fertilizer wastage, reducing back pain, and streamlining the farming process, Reddy's creation empowers farmers with greater ease and efficiency.

The HYSEA awards ceremony not only recognizes these exceptional individuals but also serves as a beacon of hope, highlighting the impactful work undertaken by TSIC. By unearthing and supporting rural innovators, TSIC is fostering a culture of problem-solving and empowering Telangana's grassroots to become agents of positive change. These 'Grassroot Trailblazers' are paving the way for a more sustainable, efficient, and prosperous future for Telangana's Agriculture and Handloom sectors, one ingenious solution at a time.

By Sahil Suman

One District One Exhibition: Showcasing Solutions, Fostering Collaboration

The 'One District One Exhibition' (ODOE) program, a joint initiative by the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) and NABARD, was aimed to bridge the gap between ingenious rural solutions and their real-world application.

This 3-day program not only embodied TSIC's core mission of nurturing grassroots innovation across the Telangana state, but also provided them market access opportunities in the 3 districts, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Mahbubnagar and Nizamabad respectively.

Some of the highlights are:
- Over the 3 days, 30+ low-cost agri solutions showcased
- Over 4,000 visitors were sensitized including farmers, agri officers, entrepreneurs, self-help group women, NGO workers, and eager young minds.
- 11 market-ready solutions have already received over 260 orders, and more are coming in.

We express our sincere gratitude to NABARD, not just for the financial support, but for their partnership and guidance throughout the program, from the ideation to execution stage.

Grassroots Innovations: The Heart of ODOE

ODOE focuses on grassroots innovations - solutions developed by local communities to address their specific challenges. These innovations, often characterized by resourcefulness & practicality, hold immense potential to transform rural landscapes.

The program materialized as a series of exhibitions across three Telangana districts. These events showcased over 30 meticulously chosen innovations, each with the potential to revolutionize agriculture. The displayed solutions, ranging from cost-effective irrigation techniques to innovative agricultural apps, resonated with farmers, the lifeblood of these districts.

Collaboration: The Key to Scaling Up

ODOE goes beyond just showcasing innovations. By involving district officials & agricultural extension officers, the program fosters collaboration between the govt., communities, and innovators. This is crucial for scaling up these solutions and integrating them into existing systems for wider impact. Heartfelt thanks to the district administrations for mobilizing the visitors and maximizing the program impact.

Special thanks to Palle Srujana for their tireless efforts in bringing local innovators. Without their support, executing this program would not have been possible.

The active participation of women's self-help groups (SHGs) highlights the importance of gender inclusion in agriculture and innovation. This empowers women to contribute meaningfully to the development process and benefit from technological advancements. Additionally, student and educational institution engagement showcases the potential for integrating these solutions into academic curriculam, nurturing a culture of innovation from a young age.

The success of the pilot ODOE program demonstrates the transformative power of collaboration in fostering innovation-driven development in rural areas. TSIC's vision of expanding the program statewide holds immense promise for empowering rural innovators and unlocking Telangana's true innovation potential.

By Anusha

Telangana's Innovation Yatra Empowers Young Minds

Over 60 young college students and across Telangana recently embarked on a transformative journey – The Innovation Yatra! This six-day expedition was a collaborative effort to ignite the minds of the future.

A group of curious and ambitious young minds, including engineering students, recently embarked on a transformative journey – the Telangana Innovation Yatra held from March 11th to 16th.

The Yatra was organized by Atal Community Innovation Center-CBIT, and aimed to ignite their passion and innovative sprit.

The Yatra was an immersive deep dive into the heart of Telangana's innovation ecosystem. Participants, known as 'yatris' explored the innovation hub in Nizamabad, interacted with skilled artisans in Nirmal, learned from the wisdom of tribal settlements in Adilabad, witnessed cutting-edge sustainability initiatives in Siddipet, and capped it all off by experiencing the dynamic startup scene in Hyderabad. With each stop, the 60 participants gained invaluable insights, broadening their horizons and igniting their entrepreneurial spirit.

The journey wasn't solitary. The yatris had the privilege of engaging with inspiring role models – established innovators & entrepreneurs. These interactive sessions were powerhouses of practical knowledge and motivation, equipping the young minds with the tools they need to turn their ideas into realities.

The Yatra's core message resonated deeply: 'discover the innovator within'. It championed the importance of grassroots innovation and sustainable development. By learning from local communities and their rich traditions, the yatris gained a deeper appreciation for the past while being empowered to shape a sustainable future.

This transformative experience, with its focus on holistic learning, instilled a sense of responsibility in the participants. They emerged not just as future innovators and entrepreneurs, but also as individuals committed to preserving cultural heritage while driving meaningful change in their communities. The Innovation Yatra has undoubtedly left its mark on the changemakers who will build a brighter tomorrow for themselves and their communities.

By Sahil Suman

T-Incubators Meet-Up: Fostering Collaboration and Welcoming JBIET's New Launch

The Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) continues to champion innovation across the state with the monthly T-Incubators and Accelerators Meet-Up. The latest edition, held on March 30th, 2024, at J.B. Institute of Engineering & Technology (JBIET), marked a special occasion – the launch of JBIET's very own incubation center, the J. B. Institute of Inventors Association of India (JBIIAI).

The meet-up itself served as a vibrant platform for collaboration, bringing together representatives from 14 academic incubators across Telangana. This monthly event, initiated by TSIC in 2021, fosters a spirit of knowledge sharing and best practices. During the JBIET meet-up, participating incubators presented updates on their progress, shared their latest developments, and openly discussed challenges they face. This open and collaborative environment paved the way for brainstorming and collective problem-solving, allowing incubators to identify potential solutions and move forward with greater clarity.

Adding to the excitement of the day was the launch of JBIET's incubation center, JBIIAI. TSIC was represented by Sohel Khan, Lead Grassroots Innovation (GI), and Sahil Suman, Lead Marketing & Communications (Marcom) who were also felicitated by JBIET on this momentous occasion.

GOVERNMENT INNOVATION

Although India has a thriving Innovation Ecosystem, the complete potential of entrepreneurial solutions and the efficient deployments of innovations in the public sector is yet to be utilised and explored fully by the Government and Administration as they hold multiple hats: Enabler, Mentor, Buyer, and Deployer.

The role of the Government since the establishment of the Innovation Ecosystem across India commenced with support directly being extended along the lines of Infrastructure, Policy, Ease of Doing Business, etc. While the support mechanisms did get added, incentives and funding ignited startup ecosystem to become more self-aware of public-centric solutions. Both parties realised that the larger impact on society can be multiplied only if they worked together. This was evident across the world during the pandemic, as it opened thoughts to the exact role of government and administration in the need for promoting innovation across the geographical and demographic peripherals of the state.

While various State Governments addressed the above thought in their own versions, we at TSIC realised the limitations to sustain the interest between the Govt. & Innovation Ecosystem due to lack of awareness of Innovation Ecosystem by Government Bodies, lack of regular sensitisation on the concept of Innovation, & lack of understanding on Government's role to nurture the innovation ecosystem.

The state of Telangana had consistently scored high and remained champions in enabling active participation of Government departments and officials to promote & nurture innovation across the State through various sensitisation and capacity building programs. This led to state holding its head high in the last three editions of State Startup Ranking by Startup India, an initiative of DPIIT, Government of India.

We tried to capture some of the efforts by Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) in inclusive of the innensuring government officials at all levels ovation efforts.

At TSIC, our foremost focus was to remove all the taboos associated with government and administrative officials' inclusion in innovation. While we began this by sensitising the District Collectors & Magistrates through our Intinta Innovation Exhibition (Annual innovator-scouting exercise) the information reach was limited to the headquarters of the district. To address the same, we began to identify department-specific officials or line departments: Agriculture, Rural Development, Education, Information Technology) who hold closer connections with their respective communities: Farmer Organisations, Self Help Groups, Schools & Colleges, MeeSeva Centers. Even before we learned the delta of reach, we could have in promoting innovation, the delta of available government officials was high within the collectorates and likewise in the respective departments. Since 2018, we have been sensitising more than 300+ govt. officials at both state and districts level covering the officers across all the levels from secretaries to department heads, and collectors to panchayat secretaries. The rationale behind the approach is to increase the reach of innovation geographically across the state and within the district all the way from cities to villages.

The continous sensitisation sessions involve awareness on the concept of innovation and startup, exposure to innovation-related infrastructure, familiarity towards the types of innovations and startups.

The advantage of increasing the delta by involving various govt. departments and officials leads to a great depth of innovation penetration. The involvement of govt. in outreach efforts today in Telangana led to innovators and entrepreneurs coming out of Self-Help Groups, Backward communities, Unorganised labor, Homemaker community, Agricultural communities, etc.

TELANGANA CONTINUES TO SHINE AS A 'TOP PERFORMER' IN FOSTERING A VIBRANT STARTUP ECOSYSTEM!

Telangana secured the coveted 'Top Performer' title at the State Startup Ranking (SSR) Awards 2022 announced by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Govt. of India, marking three consecutive years of national leadership in dynamic startup ecosystems.

The award was presented by Shri Piyush Goyal (Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Textiles, and Leader of the House, Rajya Sabha) to Dr. Shanta Thoutam, Ph.D. (Ex - Chief Innovation Officer of Telangana) & Srinivas Rao Mahankali (MSR) (Chief Executive Officer of T-Hub), and Prannay Kumar Nalla, Head - Government Partnerships, TSIC at the results declaration ceremony held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on National Startup Day, 16th Jan 2024.

Telangana's commitment to entrepreneurship is evident in its 6,145 startups contributing 4.5% to India's GDP. Telangana's 100% funding support and capacity building of enablers demonstrate our dedication to becoming efficient in providing market access to startups and building a sustainable future.

This recognition is a HUGE win for Telangana's holistic approach to innovation, fuelled by the inclusive policies for diverse startup ecosystems, financial support for early-stage ventures and a world-class incubation facility & access to dedicated mentorship and it's a proud testimony to the collective efforts of all the enablers and ecosystem partners.

|T-Hub | Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) | WE Hub | T-Works | Y-Hub | Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge | Y-Hub | Emerging Technologies Wing.

By Harsha poloju

TSIC'S ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT 4.0: BRIDGING GAPS, EMPOWERING LIVES

The Telangana State Innovation Cell's (TSIC) Assistive Technology Summit 4.0, titled 'TSIC Inclusive Talks,' held on World Braille Day, January 4, 2024. This year, the summit embraced a novel approach by inviting five speakers from diverse backgrounds to share their inspiring journeys and shed light on the pressing need for Assistive Technology (AT) to enhance accessibility and inclusion.

Unlike previous editions, this year's summit featured speakers who shared personal anecdotes and insights into the transformative power of AT. From advocating for low-cost, affordable assistive devices to emphasizing the importance of fostering a network of AT startups, the discussions delved into crucial issues such as inclusive education, innovation in gaming, and user-centric assistive technologies.

As a first-time event host, navigating the intricacies of orchestrating such a significant summit was initially daunting. However, as the event unfolded, I found myself increasingly immersed in the role, ultimately deriving great satisfaction from anchoring the proceedings.

It was a journey of personal growth and learning, underscoring the profound impact of stepping out of one's comfort zone.

One of the most intriguing yet challenging aspects of the summit was securing confirmations from guests and speakers. Coordinating schedules and aligning priorities amidst busy agendas posed logistical hurdles, necessitating meticulous planning and effective communication channels. However, overcoming these obstacles underscored the unwavering commitment to the summit's mission and reinforced the importance of perseverance in driving meaningful change.

TSIC's Assistive Technology Summit 4.0 transcends mere rhetoric, embodying a tangible commitment to fostering innovation & inclusivity. By amplifying diverse voices and catalyzing dialogue on pressing issues, the summit catalyzes transformative action in the AT landscape. As we reflect on this year's summit, let us celebrate not only its achievements but also the invaluable lessons learnt & the bonds forged in our collective pursuit of a more accessible and./ inclusive future.

By Harsha poloju

IMPULSE 2024: FOSTERING SOCIAL INNOVATION IN TELANGANA

The event brought together various stakeholders including investors, startups & mentors for workshops, discussions and networking opportunities. Over 600 attendees participated in the event which featured speakers from government and social startups. Impulse 2024 served as a platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing to drive social innovation in Telangana.

Impulse was organized by Bala Vikasa Centre for Social & Responsible Business (BVCSRB) in collaboration with TSIC on 27th January 2024. The event aimed to foster and promote social entrepreneurship in the region by bringing together various stakeholders, including social entrepreneurs, impact investors, incubators, and mentors. This was the third edition of the Impulse following the successful editions in 2022 & 2023.

The program featured a diverse range of activities, such as expert workshops, panel discussions, impact investor connections, a social startup expo, and networking sessions. Notable speakers included government officials, social entrepreneurs, and representatives from various organizations. The event was attended by over 600 participants from different districts of Telangana and a few from other states.

Keynote speakers included Shri Sridhar Babu, the IT Minister of Telangana, and Shri Shoury Reddy Singareddy, Executive Director of Bala Vikasa Social Service Society. The event opened with an insighful fireside chat between Dr Venkatesh Prajna from Aravind Eye Care & Mr K Vishnu Raju of BVRIT.

Ajit Rangnekar, CIO of Telangana moderated the Panel on channelling CSR and philanthropy to social enterprises, which was followed by an exciting panel discussion on community-centric approaches to promoting innovation in underserved rural areas.

The program also facilitated networking opportunities and roundtable discussions with incubator heads to address issues and suggestions within the ecosystem.

As a part of the summit, 15 social startups and grassroot innovators scouted and supported by TSIC showcases their social inovations ranging from safety devices for mining workers to healthcare solutions for mobility issues, all fostering sustainable social change.

Impulse 2024 served as a platform for fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and promoting social entrepreneurship in Telangana, contributing to the growth and development of the ecosystem.

SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT: MEASURING 'INPUTS AND OUTCOMES' IN THE SAME UNITS

Rahul Bhardwaj, Senior Director and Head, Bala Vikasa Centre for Social and Responsible Business (CSRB)

In recent years, the significance of impact assessment in designing, managing, and delivering socio-economic development programs has surged, primarily due to increased accountability placed on implementing organizations and funding entities. Showcasing impact is critical as funding becomes increasingly competitive & regulated. While common impact measurement methodologies often focus solely on enumerating outputs, there's a clear need for a more comprehensive assessment that quantifies the outcomes affected by a program. Various models & frameworks, such as the Theory of Change (ToC), Logical Framework (LM), OECD Impact Framework, Result Based Management (RBM), and donor-specific or customized frameworks, aim to address this gap by prioritizing outcomes. However, funding organizations have been increasingly insisting on outcome centric program designs and evaluations.

Bala Vikasa believes that impact evaluation should go beyond merely quantifying the outcomes and should measure the financial value of program outcomes. This ensures that both inputs sand outcomes are measured in the same unit, i.e., money. unit, i.e., money. Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a methodology employed by Bala Vikasa, which is somewhat analogous to Return on Investment or ROI, where financial investment options are objectively compared on their ability to offer financial returns. SROI enables the objective comparison of different socio-economic programs by evaluating the financial value of social impact.
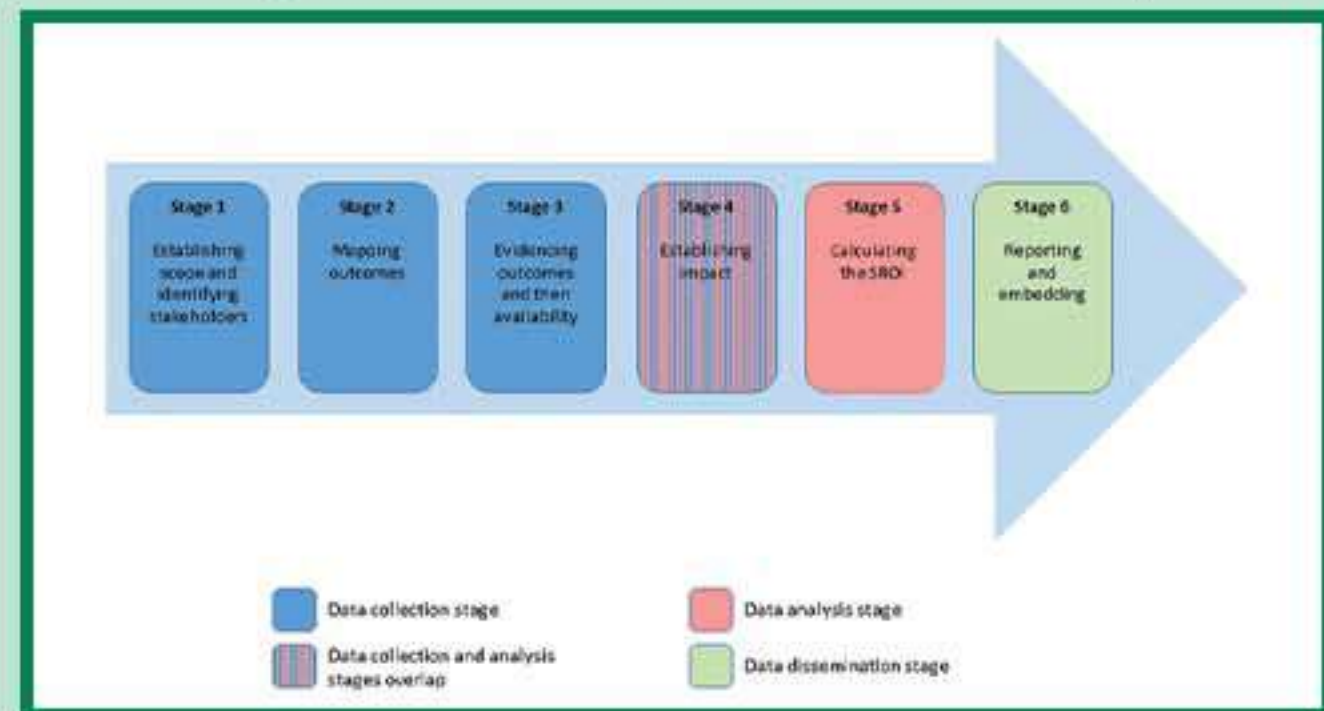
This involves a six-step process focused on quantifying & economically valuing all intended and unintended program outcomes. Estimating the economic value of each outcome may pose challenges depending on its nature and type. There are some additional adjustments and financial calculations involved, but none too daunting to perform. The result of SROI is the total value of all outcomes generated for a given input cost. Or in other words, SROI is reported as the value of social benefits generated by one unit of money invested or spent for the program.

SROI not only identifies the most valuable program outcomes but also provides deep insights into impact design. Furthermore, it facilitates the comparison of different programs based on their potential social value within a given budget, streamlining funding decisions for donors and governments. The adoption of SROI studies benefits all development stakeholders. Bala Vikasa utilizes SROI to design its programs and offer insights into others', while also providing guidance and training to donor organizations, CSR entities, and social entrepreneurs on impact assessment through SROI methodologies.

By Sahil Suman

Mission 10x: Catapulting Agritech and Medtech Startups to Scale in Telangana

This featured article highlights the success of Mission 10x, a collaborative program designed to support promising startups in the Agritech and Medtech sectors. Led by the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC), T-Hub, & RICH, the program equips early-stage ventures with the tools & connections needed to scale their businesses.

The Program Structure: Mission 10x offers a rigorous six-month program, starting with a selection process involving nominations from ESOs (Entrepreneurship Support Organizations) followed by evaluation by the Mission 10x core group. Selected startups receive mentorship, workshops, & crucial connections to industry leaders, potential investors, & relevant govt. departments.

Focus on Agritech Innovation: Let's take a closer look at the success stories of three participating startups:

- **FarmOR Agri Solutions Pvt Ltd.:** This innovative platform streamlines the agri-input supply chain, ensuring efficient product distribution & information flow. Through Mission 10x FarmOR has witnessed a surge in their customer base, repeat business, & is now engaged in promising discussions with potential partners like Kaveri Seeds.

- **Dhi Sathi Pvt Ltd.:** This company's autonomous & electric robots are revolutionizing weed control and spraying practices. Through Mission 10x, Dhi Sathi has secured paying customers, confirmed work orders, & established vital farmer connections across key agricultural districts in Telangana.

- **RootsGoods Pvt Ltd.:** Their AI-powered platform tackles the challenge of post-harvest losses, a major concern for farmers. Mission 10x helped RootsGoods secure paying customers, confirmed orders, and initiated pilot projects with Srinivasa Farms. Additionally, discussions with investors like Samunnati and Caspian highlight their promising future.

Targeted Support, Measurable Results: Mission 10x operates on a clear principle: provide targeted support that yields tangible results. The program meticulously selects startups through nomination and evaluation process. Once chosen, these ventures are immersed in a six-month journey filled with:

- **Expert Mentorship:** Seasoned professionals from AgHub of PJTSAU, IKP Knowledge Park, and RICH act as resident mentors, offering customized guidance and support tailored to each startup's specific needs.

- **Knowledge-Sharing Workshops:** Industry leaders like Amrendra Singh, Co-founder of DeHaat, shared valuable insights and feedback through workshops, equipping participants with crucial knowledge and strategies.

- **Industry Connections:** Mission 10x actively connects startups with potential partners, investors, and government departments. This exposure opens doors to collaborations, funding opportunities, and crucial market access.

Beyond Numbers: The positive impact extends beyond quantifiable metrics. Participating startups express immense satisfaction with the program. From gaining invaluable connections and expert guidance to the incredible learning experiences through workshops, Mission 10x empowers them to navigate the complexities of scaling a business. The program's focus on visibility, connecting them with potential investors & government officials, is another crucial factor for early-stage startups.

A Launchpad for Agritech Innovation Mission 10x is a launchpad for the future of Agritech in Telangana. By fostering collaboration, providing targeted support, & facilitating crucial connections, the program empowers startups to overcome challenges and accelerate their scaling journeys. With initiatives like Mission 10x paving the way, we can expect a future brimming with innovative Agritech solutions that will revolutionize the agricultural landscape, not just in Telangana, but potentially across the nation.

Revolutionizing Agriculture with Robotics

(Q&A with Susanth Masana, Founder of Farm Sathi)

1. Farm Sathi offers a unique solution for farmers. Can you elaborate on the benefits it provides compared to traditional methods?

Efficiency & Precision:
- Farm Sathi's Robot: Operates with precision, performing tasks like weeding, spraying and harvesting with minimal to No human intervention & efficient utilization of resources.
- Traditional Methods: Labor-intensive and often less precise, relying on manual labour for various tasks, leading to overuse or potential harm.

Flexible Work Cycle:
1. Farm Sathi offers a unique solution for farmers. Can you elaborate on the benefits it provides compared to traditional methods?
- Farm Sathi's Robot: Can work tirelessly as & when needed, optimizing productivity.

- Traditional Methods: Dependent on human schedules, leading to limitations in work hours.

Consistent Quality:
- Farm Sathi's Robot: Ensures uniformity in tasks undertaken by the Robot.
Traditional Methods: Variability due to human error or fatigue.

Scalability:
- Farm Sathi's Robot: Easily scalable for large farms, maintaining efficiency.
- Traditional Methods: Scaling up requires more labour and resources.

Cost-Effectiveness:
- Farm Sathi's Robot: Initial investment pays off through increased yield and reduced resource wastage. With the reduction in reliance on manual labour, human & financial resources are freed up for other essential tasks.
- Traditional Methods: Incurs higher labor costs over time. Fuel & Maintenance costs are nontrivial too.

Sustainability:
Farm Sathi's Robot: Promotes sustainable practices by optimizing resource usage.Traditional Methods: Leads to soil degradation and resource depletion.

2. Congratulations on reaching the revenue stage! What are your biggest challenges as you scale your business?

The biggest challenges that we expect to face once we scale our business include:
- Our ability to handle large orders with the present Manufacturing Infrastructure.
-Working Capital for Pre-order Production to maintain inventory for quicker deliveries.
- After Sales Support, we spread to different regions.

3. Each Startup who joined Mission 10x, had some specific goals in mind. Could you please tell us more about what you aspired to achieve through the program and how it turned out to be during the cohort?

Key connections were established with Industry Experts, Incubation Centers, Investors, and Agri-Businesses.
- New Market Access: Connecting with DeHaat was fruitful as we are planning a pilot followed by collaboration to expand into new geographies.
- Investor Connect: Connecting with IAN was fruitful as we could get into more concrete rounds of discussion with them.

4. A key component of the Mission 10x program was to connect the selected startups with their relevant targeted stakeholders. With regards to Farm Sathi, who were the connections you made through the cohort and were there any specific financing options you explored?

Finance Options for Customers: Banks with

startup branches were connected but they were offering Debt Options to Startups directly while we were trying to get finance options for our customers.

5. Farm Sathi is focused on building relationships with various stakeholders. How did Mission 10x add value to enabling the collaboration about your vision for the future of agricultural technology?

We got connected to the right people at the right times of our journey. We hope this support during our journey doesn't end with the cohort.

6. Your pitch to government officials from the sub-Mekong region sounds exciting. Do you see potential for international expansion in the future?

Farm Sathi's Robots could be better utilized in any kind of Horticulture Farm with 3Ft. inter-row spacing. Any region rich in Horticulture farming would be a great fit for Farm Sathi to venture into. The sub-Mekong region is rich in Horticulture plantations, so we are looking forward.

7. Looking ahead, what are your aspirations for Farm Sathi in the next few years?

Farm Sathi aims to establish quality Distribution & Dealership networks spread across India, with Andhra Pradesh, Telangana & Maharashtra as the initial target regions. We envision these networks to deliver our products effectively to the end consumer while maintaining profitable margins for themselves. Furthermore, Farm Sathi plans to capture 10% of the Market Share of 0-30HP Segment tractors that are sold in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh – which amounts to around 1120 Crores in 5 Years.

8. Before closing, what will be your message to the aspiring startups for the next edition of the Mission 10x cohort?

Mission 10x will help us scale to the next level with a wide outreach of incubation partners and industry veterans. They offer a range of experts on a palette, and we must try to use them to our full potential.

Using AI to Empower Farmers

(Q&A with Sachin Hegdekudgi, Founder & Director RootsGoods)

Q.1. Please tell us something about RootsGoods; what is the key problem you're solving via your venture?

Ans: It's s SAAS platform, we use AI, and DeepTech technologies to gather data and help farmers through skilling. Our focus craft is the Maize industry and we started working with the farmers in Telangana with support from AgHub, the Agri Incubator of PJTSAU.

Q.2. Please tell us about the application process for Mission 10X and what attracted you to apply for the cohort.

Ans: So, we got to know about the Mission 10X program from AgHub, & we sent in our applications Mr Jonathon Philroy from RICH helped us understand the nuances and we joined.

Q.3 Could you highlight a few challenges you faced before joining Mission 10X?

Ans: Scaling was a big challenge. And when Mission 10x came out, we understood that this program focussed on scaling greatly.

Q.4 When you talk about using AI in your solution, how do you ensure the ethical considerations that come along with the use of AI and how do you ensure the technology is not biased and helps everyone including small-scale farmers and not only the big ones?

Ans: On the contrary, our technology is directly for the access of the farmers. They can have access to the algorithm running on the server from their phone and get the quality assessment certificate done. There has been no conflict, we have been safeguarding the data through secured servers and the cloud on Amazon. The quality assessment certificates generated by our technology have helped the farmers quite a lot in getting better buyers.

Q.5 How has the experience been in finding key target stakeholders and finding a go-to-market strategy

Ans: We got good support from Jonathan at RICH, he connected us with Poultry India 2023 and we also got connected to NBFCs through RICH and AgHub both, and became active part of these programs. I am so happy to share that we are doing transactions with both the parties that we were connected to - Poultry industries & working capital providers like Sammunati. It is helping us scale and solve our issues to connect to buyers and also to maintain the working capital.

Q.6 How was your exposure to research institutions, and farming corporations, through Mission 10X?

Ans: It was very positive, especially FPOs. I could see a fire in their belly to do something. Barring a few there are a lot of very positive people that I interacted with. One incident I would like to share is that there's a procurement happening with an FPO called Vannapur, where farmers go themselves without any incentive, they travel up to almost 50-100 kilometres to check the commodities. We try to support us and in turn supporting themselves as they generate revenue for themselves too in the process.

Q.7 One of the major components of Mission 10x was assigning a set of mentors to each of

the selected startups. How were your learning and takeaways from dealing with mentors?

Ans: Yeah, AgHub helped a lot in connecting us with relevant stakeholders. They even helped us with funding and connected us to NABARD. So, I will be very grateful for all the learnings from AgHub and they continue to support us.

Q.8 Could you reflect a little about the workshops conducted under Mission 10X and how useful were, especially the interaction arranged with industry leaders in the agri space?

Ans: We met some really good startups and people who are part of the ecosystem. That was also a part of it, and we also met people from Caspian, like Mr Emmanuel Murray. And these kinds of meetings would give us an edge over the market because it's not every day you get to meet them and learn from them. This could also help in generating revenue as Caspian could help us in reaching out to more buyers and farmers. Dehaat also reached out to us to do a pilot project and connect us with their audience. The talks are going on and the process is in the pipeline.

Q.9 What are your plans for RootsGoods? How is it shaping up at the moment?

Ans: We are doing Proof Of Concepts in different states, we are working with the Institute of Rural Management, in Anand, Gujarat, and one POC at IIT Kharagpur, they are also investing. IIM Lucknow is investing. And we are doing a pilot in Nepal, Nigeria and Canada. So exciting times ahead. So that's been our core strength as well, to build our strength, to dig deep in one crop and then scale it internationally.

Q.10 What will be your closing message to budding and startups for the next cohort of Mission 10X?

Ans: For the next cohort of Mission 10X, if they can have a cross interdisciplinary team which would focus on agri or biotech in great depth, I think that would go a long way in helping the startups in the next cohort. Or for that matter any sector, but it has to be industry-specific experts.

And for the participants, my message would be to leverage the power of the network you make during this cohort, as much as you can.

By Vani Buddhavarapu

Building a Stronger Agri-Input Supply Chain

(Q&A with Sai Teja Co- Founder of FarmOR)

Sai Teja, Co-Founder of FarmOR, an agri-input supply chain platform, discussed his experience with Mission 10X, a program that empowers promising startups in the agriculture sector. After a rigorous six-month journey, Sai Teja reflects on the valuable mentorship, workshops, & industry connections he gained through the program.

Q: Congratulations on graduating from Mission 10X! Can you tell us about the specific challenges faced by farmers that FarmOR addresses?

Sai Teja: FarmOR tackles challenges faced by farmers indirectly, by focusing on the upstream players in the supply chain – Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and small retailers. These retailers are crucial because they're geographically close to farmers, who prefer to visit them for competitively priced, high-quality agri-inputs. However, these retailers struggle with:

-Limited access to quality agri-inputs at reasonable prices due to their lower order volumes.
-Farmer demand for in-store agronomy advice alongside products.

FarmOR empowers these retailers & FPOs by:
-Enabling them to access agri-inputs in smaller quantities and at better prices from authorized sellers and manufacturers.
-Digitizing their shop operations through the FarmOR Partner App.
-Streamlining Operations Before Mission 10X

Q: Before Mission 10X, what obstacles did FarmOR face in optimizing distribution channels, improving agronomic practices, & facilitating product feedback for farmers?

Sai Teja: Building trust with retailers regarding product quality was a major hurdle. Additionally, providing credit to retailers for running their businesses, converting credit sales to cash-and-carry transactions was challenging. Ensuring reliable and timely deliveries was another concern.

Q: Let's delve into your Mission 10X experience. How did the program help FarmOR address these challenges & refine its approach?

Sai Teja: Mission 10X provided a holistic experience that addressed various aspects of our business: We learned how to prioritize transparency on our digital platform. We ensure information is fed equally, avoiding biases based on search history or algorithms that might push unwanted purchases. Our mentor emphasized this as crucial for building trust with retailers.

The program provided valuable suggestions to expand our target audience. We received insights into expanding categories beyond agri-inputs to include equipment and exploring a B2C model for specific categories alongside our existing B2B focus. We're implementing these in phases.

My mentor, Amrendra from Dehaat, played a pivotal role. His guidance on focusing on niche supply or demand generation was a game-changer

for our business development strategy.

Mission 10X fostered collaboration within the agri-tech ecosystem. We connected with companies like Farmsaathi, which is innovating in agricultural equipment and machinery. This kind of collaboration is essential for progress in the sector. The program also connected us with FPOs through AgHub, agri-input companies, & even government and international groups, which has been immensely beneficial.

Q: Can you share a specific example of a connection facilitated by Mission 10X that has benefited FarmOR?

Sai Teja: Absolutely! Through Mission 10X, we connected with FPOs through AgHub. This connection has helped us expand our reach and serve more farmers indirectly.

Q: Looking back, what did you find most valuable about Mission 10X? What advice would you give to future startups considering participation?

Sai Teja: The most valuable aspect of Mission 10X was the diversity of connections we gained – from industry leaders to potential investors and government representatives. We've actively leveraged these connections and seen the benefits. My advice to future participants is to actively engage with mentors, participate in workshops, and make the most of the networking opportunities provided by the program.

Q: What are FarmOR's future plans for revolutionizing the agricultural input supply chain and empowering farmers?

Sai Teja: : Our vision is to transform our platform into a one-stop shop for all stakeholders in the agricultural ecosystem – from farmers and retailers to distributors and manufacturers. This will improve information sharing and accessibility across the supply chain. We also plan to leverage innovative technologies to enhance efficiency and transparency, while ensuring the authenticity and quality of agricultural inputs. Ultimately, we aim to expand our services to provide farmers with comprehensive support, including access.

By Vani Buddhavarapu

From Tragedy to Triumph: SK Rajalipasha's Helmet for Safety

SK Rajalipasha isn't your average innovator. Overcoming challenges like inability to hear and polio, this man from Bhadradri Kothagudem has dedicated himself to creating something special. Driven by a desire to help others, Pasha has become an inspiration for many.

Pasha's love for science started young. But it was a real-life event that pushed him towards invention. A close friend, who was also deaf, died in a motorcycle accident because he couldn't hear the oncoming traffic. This heartbreaking experience sparked an idea in Pasha's mind - a helmet designed specifically for people with hearing disabilities.

Imagine a helmet that lights up when a car honks behind you! That's exactly what Pasha came up with. This helmet helps deaf riders be aware of their surroundings, keeping them safe on the road. It's a simple yet brilliant solution born from personal experience and a big heart.

Building this helmet wasn't easy for him. Living in a village with limited resources, Pasha had to get creative. He used the internet to learn new things and even ordered parts online. His family, especially his mom, stood by him every step of the way.

Then came a stroke of luck! Pasha discovered the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC). TSIC saw the potential in Pasha's helmet and provided him with the help he needed. Supported his innovation from the idea stage, nurtured and now working on scaling his innovation.

Thanks to Pasha's innovation, many people with disabilities can now ride motorcycles safely. They're contacting him, excited to get their hands on this special helmet.

Pasha's story is a reminder that anyone can invent something amazing. All it takes is a good idea, a little determination, and maybe some help from friends. With TSIC by his side, Pasha is already looking ahead, eager to create more solutions that can change lives. And with his never-give-up mindset, we can be sure that SK Rajalipasha will keep inventing a brighter future for everyone.

By Vani Buddhavarapu

From Village Struggles to Smart Solutions: Shashidhar's Automatic StreetLight Innovation

Shashidhar, a bright young innovator from Azamnagar village in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district, is proving that big ideas can come from anywhere. Studying at Vignana Bharathi Institute of Technology, Shashidhar's passion for innovation stems from a personal place.

Witnessing his mother and others in his village struggle with time-consuming tasks due to a lack of proper equipment ignited a fire in him. He wanted to create solutions that would make life easier and more efficient for everyone.

One particular issue caught Shashidhar's eye: the village's inefficient streetlights. He noticed the lights being left on all night, wasting power and requiring manual switching by municipal workers. This sparked his first invention - an automatic street light system.

Shashidhar's innovation is a simple yet impactful one. Using a sensor, the system automatically turns on streetlights at dusk and switches them off at dawn. This not only saves energy but also reduces the workload of municipal workers. Starting small, Shashidhar's initial prototype controlled just a few lights. But with unwavering determination, he honed his design, expanding its capacity to manage a network of 10,000 lights.

Shashidhar's journey hasn't been easy. He believed in the positive impact of his innovation - increased productivity, reduced energy consumption, and extended lifespan of the lights themselves.

Shashidhar's story is a demonstration of the power of resourcefulness and perseverance. He emphasizes the importance of affordability in his inventions, ensuring that his solutions are accessible to everyone, not just the privileged few.

Now, with the support of TSIC, Shashidhar's innovation is poised to make a real difference in his village and beyond. We're excited to see how his journey unfolds and the future innovations he creates to improve lives!

By Sahil Suman

TSIC Innovators Shine at India International Science Festival

S Pratibha Bharathi and Poongothai Ramaswamy, two innovators scouted & supported by TSIC, represented Telangana & exhibited their innovations at the India International Science Festival 2023 held from 17th to 20th Jan 2024 at NCR Biotech Science Cluster, Faridabad, Haryana.

The India International Science Festival (IISF) is a collaborative endeavour between the Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Space & Department of Atomic Energy in partnership with Vijnana Bharati - a science movement spearheaded by scientists of the nation with swadeshi spirit.

Innovator - S Pratibha Bharathi
I**nnovation - Biodegradable Compostable Products** a sustainable alternative to single-use plastics, crafted from natural starch sourced from corn and potatoes. These eco-friendly alternatives fully degrade within 180 days in landfills. Serving as a comprehensive replacement for single-use plastics, they contribute to a lower carbon footprint, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and help preserve non-renewable resources, safeguarding the Earth for a greener future

Innovator - Poongothai Ramaswamy
nnovation - *Non-Invasive Point of Care Diagnostics for Sickle Cell Disease* **A new way to screen for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)** using a portable device. Unlike other methods that are expensive, their approach is affordable for mass screening, especially in rural areas. This user-friendly tool aims to change how we diagnose SCD early, making it accessible in places with fewer resources. It's designed to help tribal populations & save lives, especially those of affected children

PROTOTYPE- I   SCD DEVICE (back view)

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TSIC FOSTERS COLLABORATION AT MONTHLY INCUBATOR & ACCELERATOR MEET

Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) hosted its monthly Incubator & Accelerator Meet on April 30th, 2024, at T-works. The theme this month was 'State Startup Rankings Framework: Role of Incubators and the Road Ahead,' brought together 20 incubators from across Telangana.

The meet served as a valuable platform for discourse on the latest state startup rankings framework. Experts discussed the crucial role incubators play in nurturing the state's startup ecosystem and how they can benefit from the framework.

TSIC, a key facilitator for startups, has been running this meetup series since 2021. The initiative aims to unite Telangana's incubators under one roof, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing. Each month's meetup focuses on a specific theme, this time emphasizing the importance of incubators in the state's startup ranking.

The event provided a platform for incubators to showcase their latest programs, events, and initiatives to the network, fostering wider industry awareness. This collaborative approach strengthens Telangana's startup ecosystem by enabling incubators to learn from each other, explore opportunities, and build valuable connections.

TSIC's commitment to hosting these monthly meetups with diverse themes underscores its dedication to empowering Telangana's startup landscape.

Since 2021, TSIC has been a key enabler, bringing together incubators to:

- **Discuss the Evolving Startup Landscape:** These meetups foster discourse on critical topics impacting Telangana's startups.

- **Share Best Practices:** Incubators learn from each other's programs and initiatives, accelerating their growth.

- **Build a Strong Network:** Collaboration strengthens the entire Telangana incubator ecosystem.

By Vani Buddhavarapu

WORLD CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION DAY: TELANGANA'S INNOVATION SPIRIT TAKES CENTER STAGE!

On April 20th, 2024, the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) hosted a webinar titled 'Celebrating the Spirit of Innovation' as part of the T-Innovation Mahotsavam. This event, coinciding with World Creativity & Innovation Day, brought together over 800 attendees from across Telangana, including college students, aspiring entrepreneurs, NGO representatives, and grassroots innovators.

The webinar fostered a dynamic environment for connection, learning, and idea exchange. Industry leaders shared practical guidance on nurturing and developing innovative ideas, empowering participants to turn their visions into reality. Telangana's grassroots innovators; A. Srija, Ganesh Yakara, and Alladi Prabhakar, took center stage, inspiring the audience with their journeys of solving local problems through creativity and perseverance.

Among the celebrated innovators, Ganesh Yakara's 'Samskar Toy' designed to educate children about the concept of good touch and bad touch, and Hemesh Chadalvada's 'Alpha Monitor,' a wearable device that assists Alzheimer's patients and alerts caregivers, garnered significant attention.

The session wasn't just about showcasing achievements. Expert talks by Ajit Rangnekar, CIO of Telangana; Annie Vijaya, CEO of ACIC-CBIT; Sravan Kumar of Navam Innovation Foundation; and Kranthi from Palle Srujana provided invaluable insights on navigating the intricacies of the Telangana innovation ecosystem and scaling impactful solutions. This knowledge exchange empowered participants, particularly the grassroots innovators, with the confidence to translate their ideas into reality.

"Telangana's grassroots innovators have a remarkable track record of talent and creativity," said Ajit Rangnekar, CIO of Telangana. "The TSIC's webinar provided a perfect platform to showcase their achievements and connect them with the resources they need to thrive. This well-attended event exemplifies our efforts towards fostering a culture of innovation across Telangana," he added.

By celebrating the successes of Telangana's local heroes and offering practical guidance, this initiative aims to inspire a new generation of innovators and entrepreneurs to contribute to the state's flourishing innovation landscape.

By Sahil Suman

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SOCIAL INNOVATION HACKATHON & PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST CHAMPIONS!

Rural Waste Management

Team e-Setch Bin - 24-hour compost bin utilizes advanced technology to convert food waste into nutrient-rich compost efficiently.

Team Sri Shakti - incinerator technology now incorporates an innovative emissions control mechanism.

Winner

Runner Up

Urban Water Management

Chagarla Sujatha - Their innovative solution for solar powered greywater purifier impressed the judges with its potential to create real-world impact.

AquaHT Labs - Their groundbreaking idea focusing on harvesting water from the atmosphere showcased the immense potential for positive change.
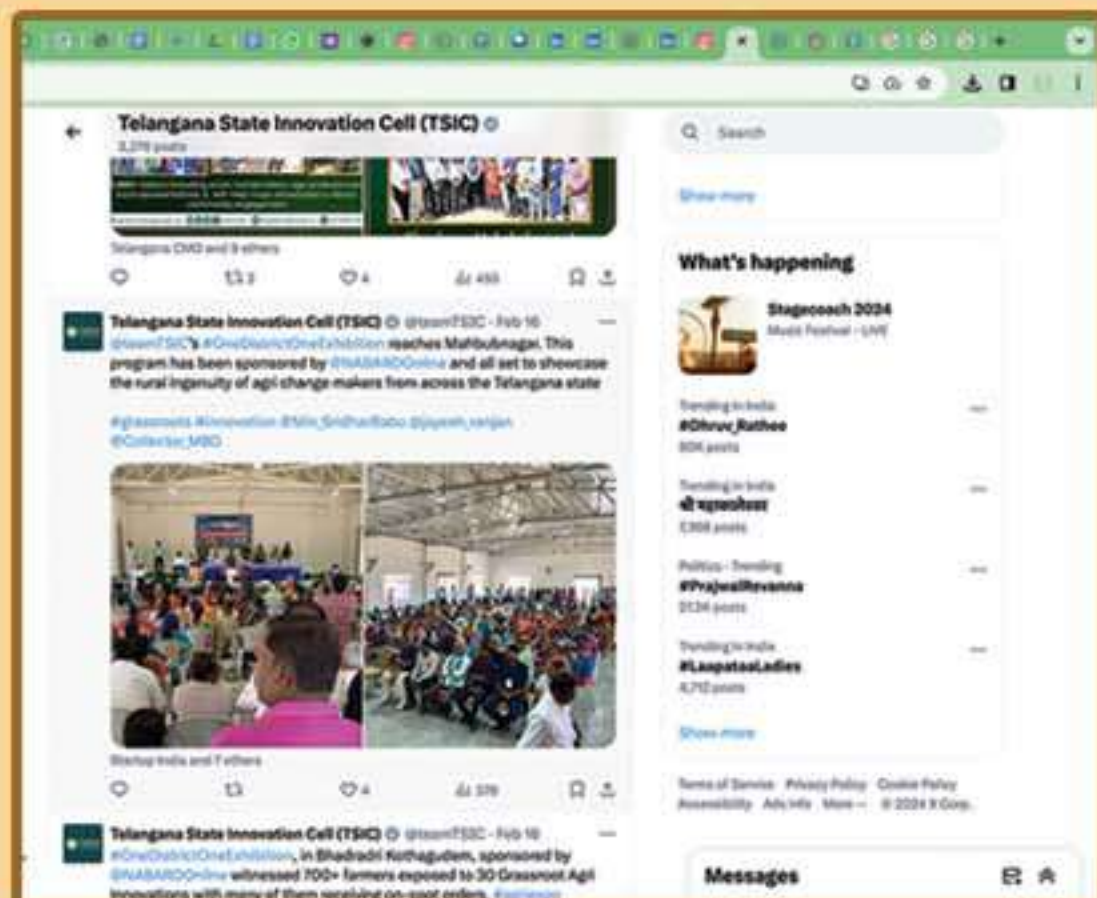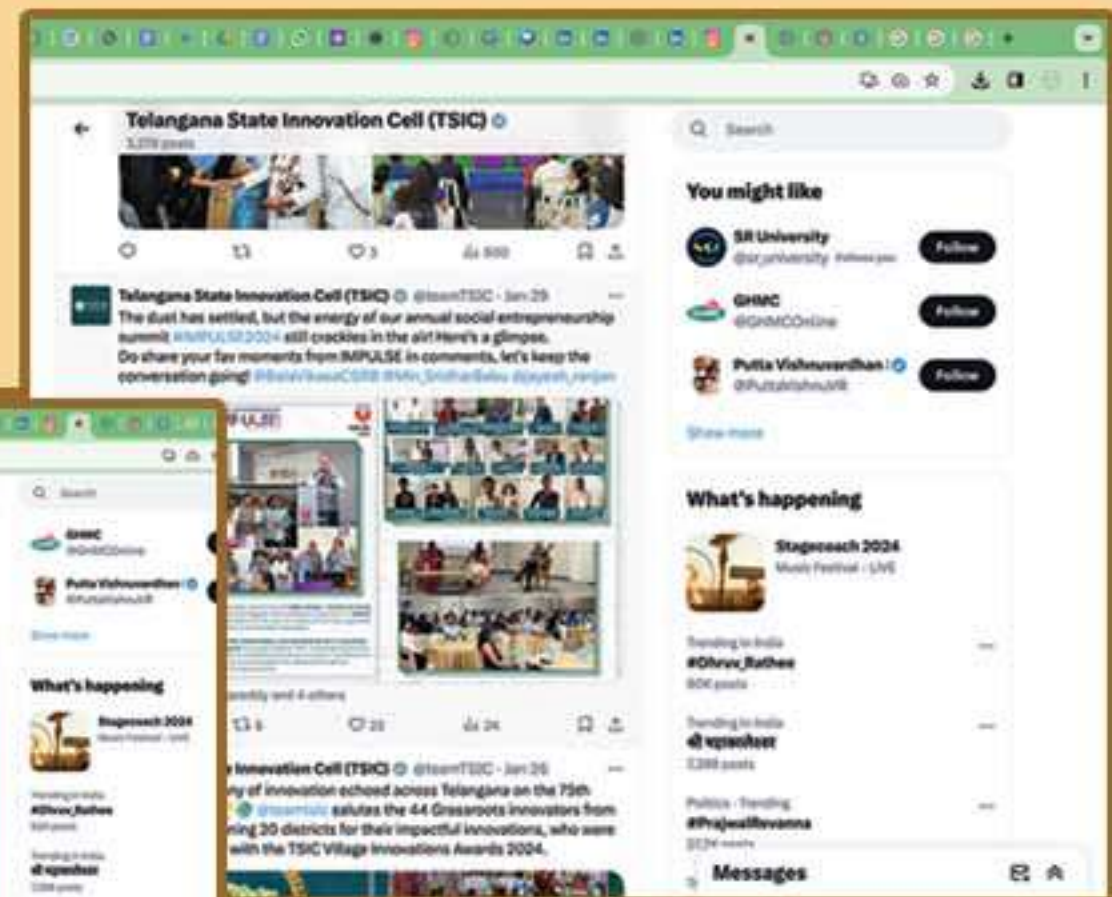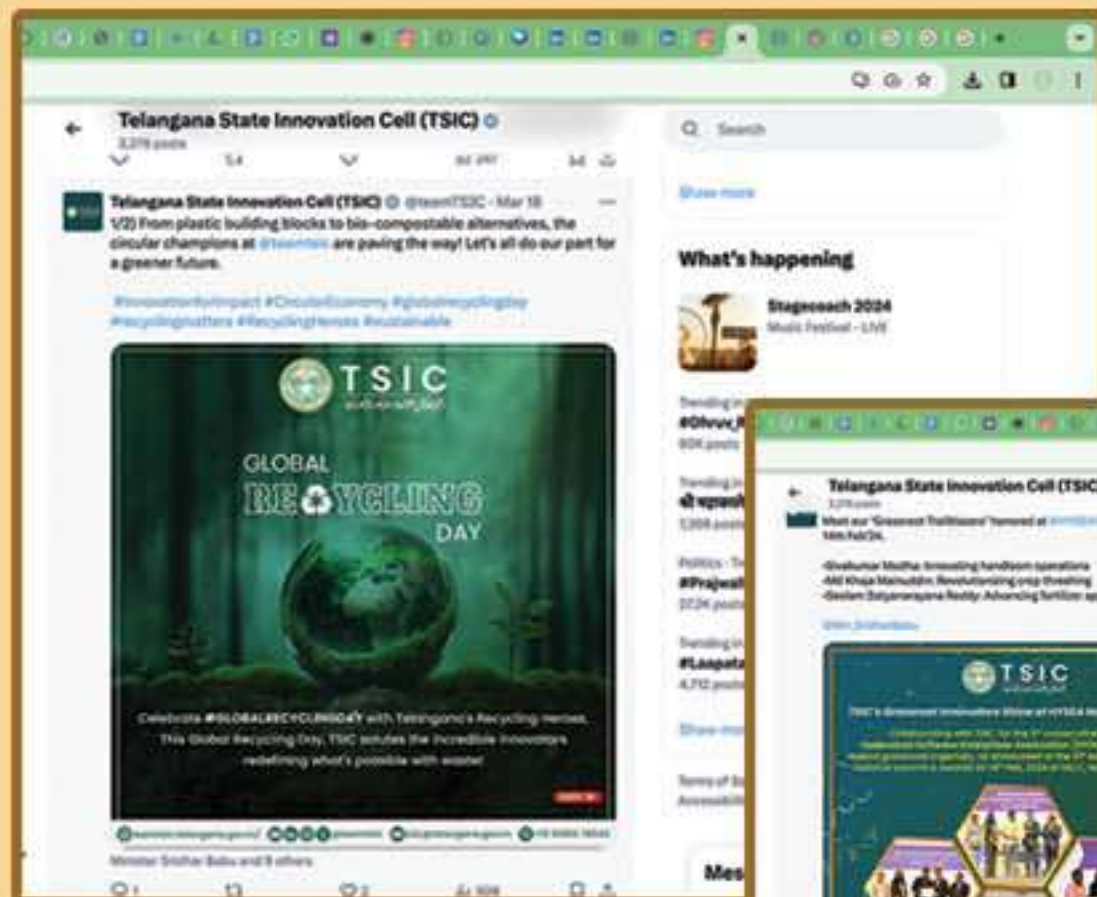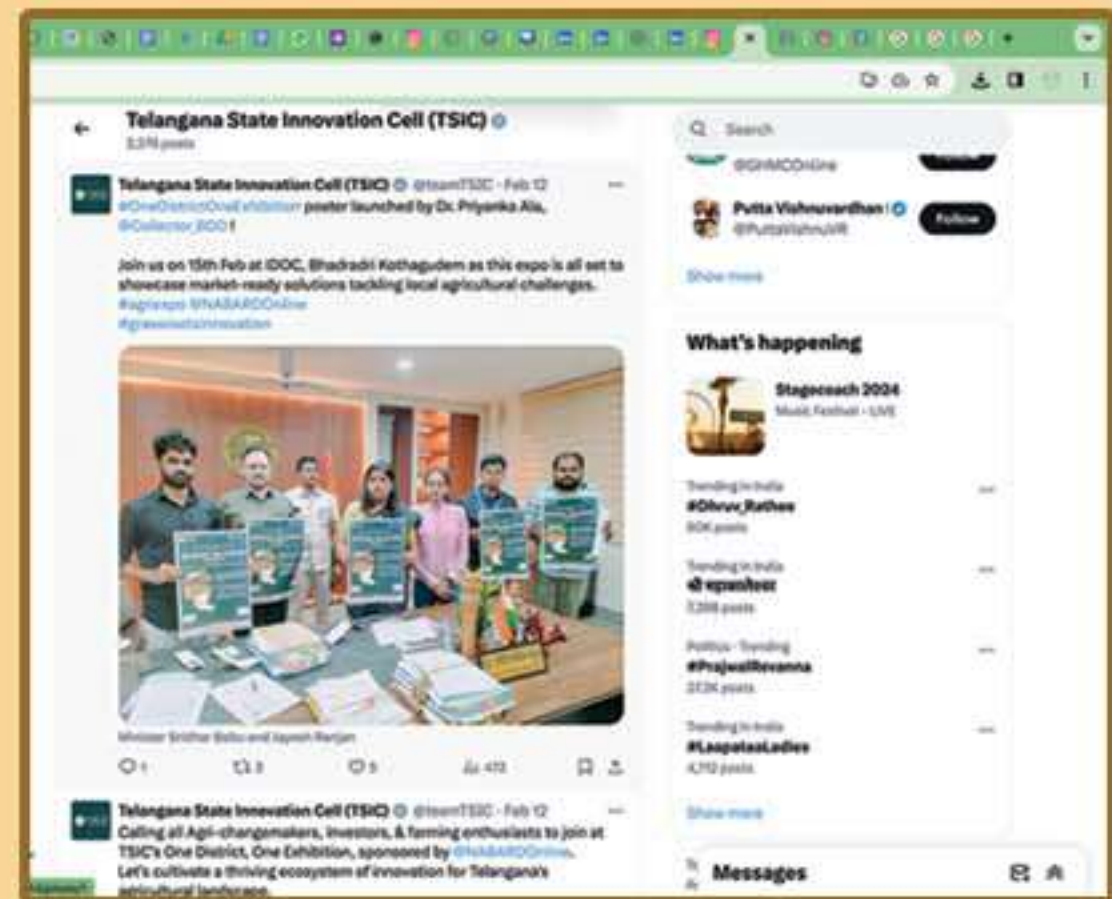

Winner

Runner Up

Photography Contest Winners:

Winner: Nagendra Sai Sharma - Photo Title: Budding Innovators of Karnataka
Runner Up: Pavan Gandham - Photo Title: Crafting with care

Winner

30

Runner Up

MEDIA CORNER

Telangana retains premier position in startup rankings; funding, capacity-building ecosystem major drivers

During FY23, Telangana contributed around 4.5% of India's GDP; more than 550 startups received incubation support and over ₹5 crore was disbursed among 100+ startups between August 2021 and December 2022

January 16, 2024 08:54 pm | Updated 09:18 pm IST – HYDERABAD

LAVPREET KAUR

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TSIC Spark Excellence innovators awarded at HYSEA National Summit 2024

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THREE innovators from the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) were awarded at the HYSEA National Summit 2024, a prestigious tech-focused event held in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

According to TSIC officials, Sivakumar Modha, Mohammed Khaja Mainuddin and Seelam Satyanarayana Reddy are three innovators who bagged the award.

Sivakumar Modha's innovation, the 'MODHA Pedal Operating Machine', has proven to be a boon for handloom workers experiencing knee and back pain. This adaptable machine easily attaches to the loom within an hour, alleviating the daily 20-45 kg load through a simple toe switch mechanism. Operating without the need for electricity, this ingenious solution enhances production, improves cloth quality, and provides much-needed relief to handloom workers nationwide.

Mohammed Khaja Mainuddin's innovation, the 'Three-Wheeler Mobile Multi-Crop Thresher Machine', mounted on an auto chassis, efficiently separates seeds from husks. This cost-effective and farmer-friendly solution, equipped with a modified diesel engine, features an automatic adjustment system that not only saves fuel but also reduces labor. With its compact design, the machine is easy to transport, making threshing hassle-free and cost-effective for farmers cultivating various crops.

Seelam Satyanarayana Reddy aimed to address the inefficiencies in chemical fertiliser application, especially in crops like cotton and vegetables. His 'Fertiliser Laying Machine' ensures precise and easy application, eliminating the common practice of applying fertilisers at specific intervals. Farmer-centric, the innovation minimises back pain, promotes ease, and prevents wastage by delivering precise amounts based on plant age, contributing to sustainable and efficient farming practices.

Ajit Rangnekar, Interim CIO of TSIC, stated, 'HYSEA's recognition and encouragement, for the third successive year, of the great solutions being developed for rural India, is a significant boost for the social innovation sector and TSIC, as we strive to disseminate these solutions into the larger market.'

Hans India

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25 innovators will get to showcase unique innovations at Impulse 3.0

Meghna Nath
Hans News Service | 27 Jan 2024 9:18 AM IST

HIGHLIGHTS

Impulse 3.0: Social entrepreneurship summit in Hyderabad, promoting innovative startups

Hyderabad: As many as 25 innovators will come together in the city today to participate in Impulse 3.0, a social entrepreneurship summit that aims to promote startups. The event is being organised by the Bala Vikasa Centre for Social and Responsible Business in collaboration with the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC).

According to TSCI officials, over 1,000 participants are expected to be present at the third session of the event from across the social entrepreneurship ecosystem to spark meaningful change in India.

Telangana Today

Tuesday, Mar 19, 2024

Hyderabad Telangana AP News India World Entertainment Science and Tech Sport Business Rewind

TSIC wraps up Assistive Technology Summit

The summit featuring 'TSIC Inclusive Talks' themed 'Involve - Inspire - Innovate' delved into the personal experiences of the speakers and the transformative role of assistive technology in enhancing the quality of life for people with special needs.

BY TELANGANA TODAY   UPDATED ON: 5 JANUARY 2024, 11:42 AM

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విజయవంతమైన వన్‌డిస్ట్రిక్ట్ –వన్ ఎగ్జిబిషన్

➤ క్షేత్రస్థాయిలో ఉపయోగపడేలా వినూత్న ఆవిష్కరణల ప్రదర్శనలు

మన తెలంగాణ/నిజామాబాద్ బ్యూరో : తెలంగాణ స్టేట్ ఇన్నోవేషన్ సెల్ (టిఎస్‌ఐసి) ఆధ్వర్యంలో, నేషనల్ బ్యాంక్ ఫర్ అగ్రికల్చరల్ అండ్ రూరల్ డెవలప్‌మెంట్ (నాబార్డ్) తోడ్పాటుతో వన్ డిస్ట్రిక్ట్ – వన్ ఎగ్జిబిషన్ పేరిట శనివారం నిజామాబాద్ జిల్లా కేంద్రంలో రాజీగాంధీ ఆడిటోరియంలో నిర్వహించిన ప్రదర్శన విజయవంతం మైంది. ఉదయం 10.30మంది మధ్యాహ్నం 2.30 గంటలవరకు కొనసాగిన ఈ ప్రదర్శనలో జిల్లా వ్యవసాయాధికారి వాజేద్ హాసేన్ లాంఛనంగా ప్రారంభించారు. వ్యవసాయం, గ్రామీణాభివృద్ధిలో రైతు నాగరకులు ప్రయోజనాల కోసం భారీ విస్తరణగా నలభైరు చేయడం ఈ తరహాల్లో ముఖ్య ఉద్దేశమని టిఎ తెలిపారు. గ్రామీణ, అట్టడుగు అవసరాల కోసం తగిన మార్కెట్లను ఏర్పాటు చేయడం, కస్టమర్ ఎంగేజ్‌మెంట్, మ్యానుఫ్యాక్చరింగ్, మార్కెటింగ్, వ్యాల్యూ చైన్ డెవలప్‌మెంట్ వంటి అంశాలపై దృష్టి సారించడం, ఈ ఎగ్జిబిషన్ లబ్ధిదారులకు పరిచయం చేసి ఇన్నోవేషన్‌కు, వాటిని

అవలంబించడానికి ఆస్కారం కల్పించిందన్నారు. కాగా రైతులు, విద్యార్థులు, రైతు ఉత్పత్తిదారుల సంఘాలు, స్వయం సహాయక బృందాలు, స్థానికులు, పౌరసమాజాలు భారీ సంఖ్యలో తరలివచ్చి క్షేత్ర స్థాయిలో ఉపయోగకరంగా వినూత్న ఆవిష్కరణలను తిలకించారు. వాటి పనితీరు గురించి ఆవిష్కరణ మరాజు అడిగి తెలుసుకున్నారు. విభిన్నత్వమైన గ్రామీణ ఆవిష్కరణలు ప్రదర్శించే దానికి ఈ కార్యక్రమం రచ్చట వేదికగా నిలిచిందన్నారు. వ్యవసాయం, నీటిపారుదల, న్యధ్రాల నిర్వహణ, పాడిపరిశ్రమ, గ్రామీణారి వృద్ధి తదితర అంశాలలో క్షేత్ర స్థాయిలో ఎదురయ్యే సవాళ్లను పరిష్కరించడం, మార్కెటింగ్ సిద్ధంగా ఉన్న, తక్కువవరద అవిసరాలను ప్రదర్శించడానికి 30 మంది పెట్టి స్థలాన, ఆవిష్కరణ పోట వ ద్దారు. తెలు, వ్యవసాయ, ఉపాధికి అవినర కార్పికరికల క్రమము తగ్గించడం, తమ్మ ఛర, స్థిరమైన పరిశ్రమను, ఆవిష్కరణలకు మార్గ టింగ్ సౌలభ్యం, వ్యాపార అవకాశాపై ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో ఆసంగా హాస కర్పించారు. ఈడిఎం కార్తీక్, టిఎస్‌ఐసి ఏరా మేనేజర్ బుద్ధ రష్ వాడే, వ్యవసాయ, ఉపవందశాఖల అధికారులు పాల్గొన్నారు.

సాక్షి

అవార్డు అందజేత

గంభీరావుపేట(సిరిసిల్ల): దమ్మన్నపేట జెడ్పీ ఉన్నత పాఠశాలకు చెందిన తొమ్మిదో తరగతి విద్యార్థిని పొన్నాల వినీలకు శుక్రవారం విలేజ్ ఇన్నోవేటర్ అవార్డును సర్పంచ్ లక్ష్మీ అందజే శారు. కేరళలో నిర్వహించిన సౌత్ ఇండియా స్థాయి వైజ్ఞానిక ప్రదర్శనలో తృతీయస్థానం లో నిలిచింది. ఆగస్టులో ఇంటింటా ఇన్నోవేషన్ అవార్డు అందుకుంది. విద్యార్థినిని ఉపాధ్యా యులు, గ్రామస్తులు అభినందించారు.

SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

By Sahil Suman

EXCITING TIMES AHEAD

JICA TO EXTEND ₹1,336 CR. ODA LOAN FOR GRASS ROOTS, SOCIAL INNOVATION & START-UP ECOSYSTEM, IN TELANGANA

Telangana became the first state to be supported by The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in bolstering the innovation and startup ecosystem through an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan agreement.

The objective is to discover and promote the culture of innovation including social and grassroots across the state by providing capacity building, infrastructure development,financial assistance, and market creation opportunities through the innovation ecosystem of Telangana.

Telangana was represented by Mr Prannay Kumar Nalla, Head - Government Innovations & Parternships, Telangana State Innovatiopn Cell (TSIC.)

Shri Vikas Sheel, Additional Secretary to Centre's Department of Economic Affairs, Govt. of India and Saito Mitsunori , Chief Representative, JICA India signed the loan agreement on 20th Feb 2024.

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MEET THE TEAM

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CIO- Telangana

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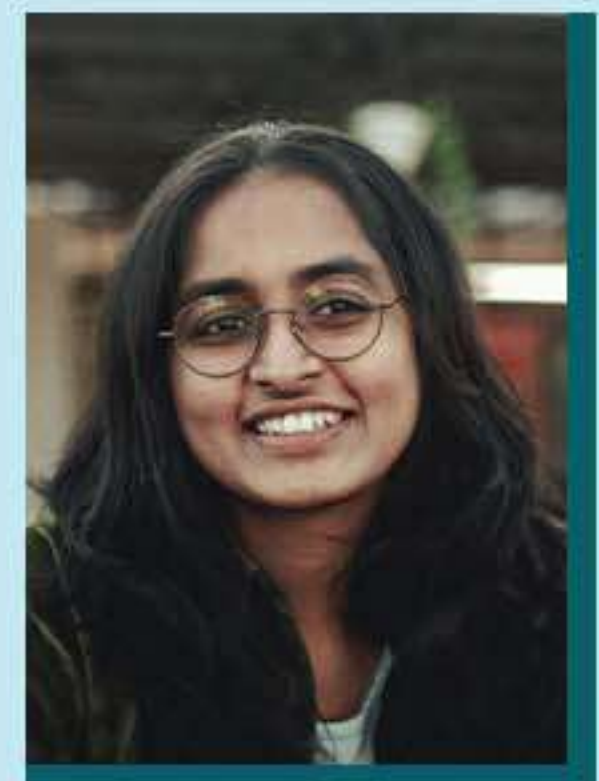Head - Partnerships & Govt. Innovation

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CREATIVITY

GOVERNMENT

VILLAGE
INCUBATION

PITCH

CONCEPT CAPACITY BUILDING

GRASSROOTS

STARTUP SCOUTING SCALING

MARKET VALUE PROPOSITION

BRILLIANCE
ENTREPRENEUR

AGRICULTURE HACKATHAON

HEALTHCARE

RURAL SCOUTING
FUNDING

MARKET VALUE INNOVATION

SOCIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

ONE DISTRICT ONE EXHIBITION

For any queries, please get in touch