

# RICH COMMUNIQUE

July - Sept 2025



## COVER STORY



### » Advancing Inclusion: Women in STEM Cohort 3

Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) launched Cohort 3 of the Women in STEM Scholarship and Mentorship Programme, marking a milestone in advancing equitable participation in science and technology. This initiative continues the momentum of enabling aspiring women students in STEM to access opportunities at the very start of their careers.



### » PRMC Meeting Convenes to Review Ongoing Initiatives



### » Agri-Tech Startup Compendium Launched

## » ADVANCING INCLUSION: WOMEN IN STEM COHORT 3



Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) launched Cohort 3 of the Women in STEM Scholarship and Mentorship Programme, marking a milestone in advancing equitable participation in science and technology. This initiative continues the momentum of enabling aspiring women students in STEM to access opportunities at the very start of their careers.

Supported by the Biocon Foundation – India and Syngene International Limited, the programme brings together a strong network of partners and mentors, including:

Syngene Scientific Solutions, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, PathnSitu Biotechnologies, 30M Genomics, Elvikon AB, Atal Incubation Centre – CCMB, Department of Pharmacy at BITS-Pilani Hyderabad Campus, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Tribetoy, Deepcure Pvt. Ltd., Huwel Lifesciences, Bharat Biotech, and Appidi Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

Through structured mentorship, research exposure, and industry engagement, the programme is providing young women with skills, confidence, and real-world connections that will prepare them for careers in India's innovation ecosystem. Cohort 3 builds on the successes of the earlier editions, expanding the ecosystem of support to create a robust pipeline of women leaders in STEM.

## QUICK FACTS

- » **Cohort size:** 40
- » **Programme duration:** 18 months
- » **Mentors engaged:** 20 for third cohort (7 for UG and expected to onboard 11-13 more for PG)
- » **Workshops planned:** 9
- » **Partner institutions:** 15+ leading research & industry organisations

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## » PRMC MEETING CONVENES TO REVIEW ONGOING INITIATIVES



The 16th Project Review and Monitoring Committee (PRMC) meeting was convened to assess the progress made under Phase Two of RICH's initiatives. Updates were presented across the three focus areas: Green Economy, Smart Farming, and "We to Me" Healthtech.

Committee members provided constructive inputs to guide the next phase of implementation. The meeting also saw participation from sectoral partners, adding diverse perspectives and strengthening collaborative engagement.

The session concluded with a reaffirmation of support from the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, PRMC members, and ecosystem partners, reinforcing the shared commitment to enabling scalable innovation across critical sectors.

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## FROM THE CEO'S DESK

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This quarter, Rashmi Pimpale, CEO of RICH, contributed to key national and international forums, spotlighting both RICH's initiatives and broader opportunities for India's innovation ecosystem.

### » WOMEN IN STEM – IMPACT BEYOND NUMBERS

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In her article “More Women in Science Isn't a Nice-to-Have, It's a Must-Have!”, Rashmi reflected on the progress made through RICH's Women in STEM Scholarship and Mentorship Programme.

- » 20 students secured job offers or internship extensions
- » 19 students joined postgraduate programmes
- » 2 students were accepted into PhD programmes, including one abroad
- » 1000+ students from tribal and rural colleges engaged through outreach
- » 25+ mentors from Syngene and partner institutions volunteered their time

Each milestone represents new opportunities and stronger pathways for women in science.



## » PANEL ON AI AND GCCs IN HEALTHCARE

At the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IFCCI) event in Hyderabad, Rashmi Pimpale, CEO, RICH moderated a panel on “AI-Driven Innovation & the Rise of GCCs: Shaping the Future of Health & Life Sciences.”

The discussion focused on the role of AI in early diagnosis, clinician capacity-building, and rare disease management, alongside opportunities for startups through India–France collaborations. The panel underscored the role of government as an enabler in scaling AI adoption across healthcare.



## » PARTICIPATION IN THE ALL CLUSTER MEET

Rashmi Pimpale, CEO, RICH also joined the 3rd All Clusters’ Meet, chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India at Visakhapatnam. During the inaugural session, the official logo of the Science & Technology (S&T) Clusters programme was unveiled, symbolising the network as a hub of interconnections across academia, industry, startups, and government. The PSA also launched the official webpage for the upcoming International Conference on S&T Clusters, scheduled for December 4–5, 2025.



[\[Women in STEM Article\]](#)

[\[IFCCI Panel Post\]](#)

[\[PSA Logo Post\]](#)

## » DREAMS PILOT DEMONSTRATIONS – FROM CONSUMERS TO GRID PARTNERS



As part of the DREAMS project, RICH and partners conducted pilot demonstrations across Delhi NCR from 19–21 August 2025, showcasing how consumers can become grid partners through demand response solutions.

Pilots spanned e-rickshaw charging stations, residential and commercial buildings, and large housing societies, with results showing 5–10% energy savings and scalable potential for grid flexibility.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – DREAMS PILOT

- » Demonstrations at e-rickshaw stations, homes, and societies
- » 5–10% energy savings achieved via demand response
- » Partners: SIN, Sustain Impact, IIM Ahmedabad, Norwegian Embassy, DISCOMs
- » Flagship outcome of the India–Norway Task Force on Energy

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[\[Field Visits & Demo\]](#)



## » AGRI-TECH STARTUP COMPENDIUM

RICH launched the Agri-Tech Startup Compendium, profiling 71 early- and growth-stage startups that are advancing innovation in agriculture and allied sectors. The compendium highlights solutions spanning seeds, soil, sustainability, supply chains, and climate-smart practices, along with each startup's technology readiness level (TRL) and emerging support needs.

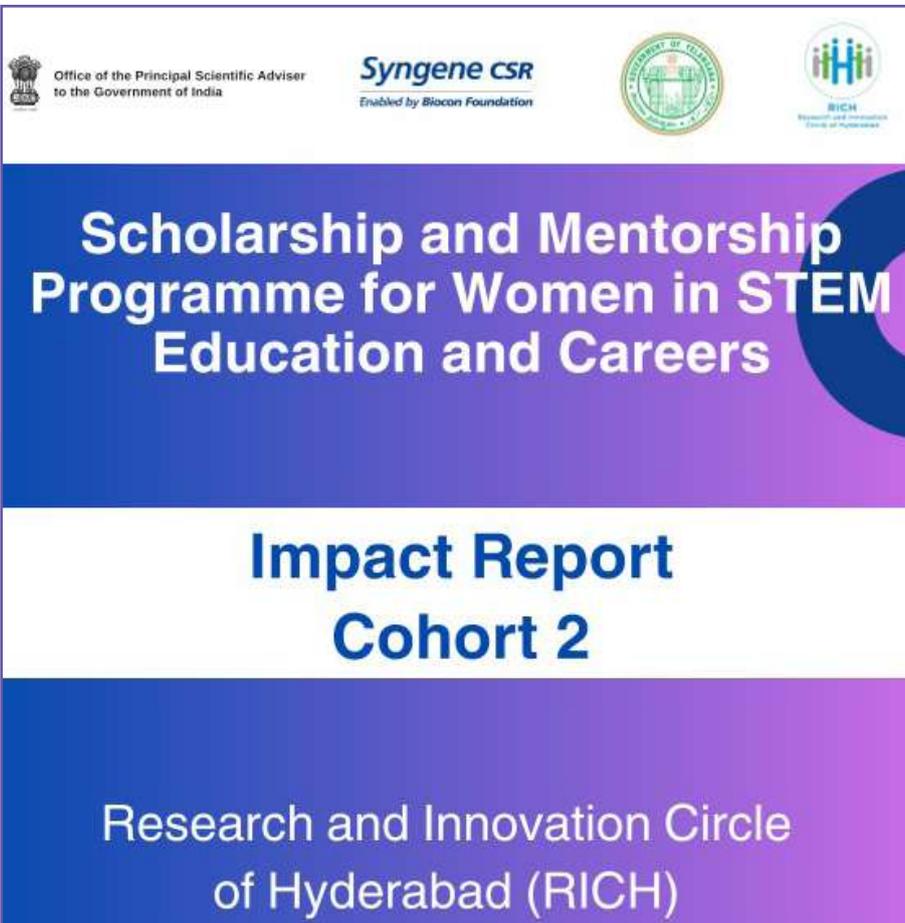
Designed as a resource for investors, policymakers, researchers, and ecosystem partners, the compendium captures founder inputs and provides a clear view of opportunities for collaboration and scale.

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### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – AGRI-TECH COMPENDIUM

- » 71 startups featured across proof-of-concept to commercialization
- » Focus areas: seeds, soil, sustainability, supply chains, climate-smart solutions
- » Provides TRLs, founder insights, and support requirements

This compendium reinforces RICH's commitment to strengthening India's agri-innovation ecosystem by enabling visibility, collaboration, and investment opportunities.



## » WOMEN IN STEM

### COHORT 2 REPORT RELEASE

RICH released the Cohort 2 Report of the Women in STEM Scholarship and Mentorship Programme, documenting the achievements, learnings, and pathways created for young women pursuing careers in science and technology.

The report captures highlights from mentorship engagements, skills-building workshops, and industry exposure opportunities provided during the cohort. It also includes participant reflections and outlines recommendations for strengthening future cohorts.

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### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – WOMEN IN STEM COHORT 2 REPORT

- » Outcomes and learnings from Cohort 2 consolidated
- » Covers mentorship, training, and exposure modules
- » Provides participant insights and future recommendations

The report reflects RICH's continued focus on building inclusive talent pipelines and enabling women to contribute to India's innovation economy.

# STARTUP SPOTLIGHT



## » KUPPISMART SOLUTIONS PVT LTD

Kuppismart Solutions, supported under SISFS, continues to advance its agri-tech solutions for livestock monitoring and precision farming. The startup is enabling farmers to adopt digital, data-driven practices that improve productivity and sustainability. Got invited to Netherlands Startup showcase event

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – KUPPISMART

- » SISFS-funded by RICH
- » Agri-tech and livestock solutions
- » Driving sustainable, data-led farming practices

## » GUDLYF MOBILITY PVT LTD

Gudlyf Mobility, developing Type 4 composite cylinders for hydrogen storage, was awarded the Energy Leap Innovation Award and received a Rs10 lakh CSR grant from Cummins India. Earlier support included Rs10 lakh from Nidhi Prayaas and Rs30 lakh from RICH under SISFS.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – GUDLYF

- » Hydrogen storage solutions
- » Energy Leap Innovation Award
- » Funding: Rs10L Nidhi Prayaas, Rs30L SISFS (RICH), Rs10L CSR Cummins India





## » PAVAKAH ENERGY

Pavakah Energy is working on thin-film solar paint technology to convert surfaces into solar panels. With SISFS funding and lab access from RICH, the startup has begun fabrication on glass and PET substrates, was selected for the Brigade REAP cohort (Aug 2025), and is preparing its first commercial pilot at the World Trade Centre, Bangalore.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – PAVAKAH

- » Thin-film solar paint innovation
- » SISFS support + lab access from RICH
- » Brigade REAP cohort; pilot at WTC Bangalore

## » ALTHION TECHNOLOGIES

Althion Technologies, operating in the life sciences sector, has been recognised for its contributions to healthtech innovation. Althion has been awarded a Product Commercialisation Plan grant by BIRAC.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – ALTHION

- » Sector: Life Sciences
- » Healthtech innovation recognised
- » Supported through RICH's ecosystem



# EVENTS & SESSIONS ORGANISED BY RICH



## » BEYOND HEALING: DOCTORS POWERING INNOVATION – DOCTORS’ DAY 2025

To mark Doctors’ Day, RICH organised a special event titled “Beyond Healing: Doctors Powering Innovation”, celebrating the role of clinicians as catalysts for healthcare innovation.

The session brought together a community of doctors — some already engaged with RICH’s initiatives and others exploring ways to participate in the ecosystem. Through interactive discussions, the event fostered peer learning, collaboration, and shared insights on patient-centric innovation.

The programme paid tribute to doctors who extend their impact beyond clinical practice, shaping future-ready healthcare solutions informed by patient needs and ground realities.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – DOCTORS’ DAY EVENT

- » Theme: Beyond Healing: Doctors Powering Innovation
- » Focus: Clinicians as contributors to innovation
- » Format: Interactive peer learning & collaboration
- » Outcome: Strengthened clinician engagement in RICH’s ecosystem

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## » BIODESIGN INNOVATION SUMMIT 2025

RICH hosted global Biodesign leaders from the Asia-Pacific region during their visit to Hyderabad for the Biodesign Innovation Summit 2025.

The summit convened programme leaders from Israel, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Ireland, and other countries, who shared frameworks, best practices, and real-world insights on accelerating biomedical innovation.

The exchange reinforced that addressing the world's toughest healthcare challenges requires not only innovative ideas but also collective global action through cross-border collaboration.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – BIODESIGN INNOVATION SUMMIT

- » Global Biodesign leaders from 8 countries participated
- » Shared frameworks, best practices, and insights
- » Focus: Accelerating biomedical innovation
- » Outcome: Strengthened international collaboration in healthcare

[\[LinkedIn Post\]](#)



## » DEMO ENERGY AUDIT – RAMP PROGRAMME

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On 24 July 2025, RICH, in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad, organised a live demonstration of an energy audit for Implementing Agencies under the RAMP programme at Fortune Art Wires & Cables, Cherlapalli Industrial Area.

The session aimed to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of energy audits in industrial operations. The IIT Hyderabad team showcased the equipment, procedures, and best practices used in conducting audits, while the Fortune Art team provided an overview of their manufacturing processes to contextualise the audit in practice.

Officials from the Commissionerate of Industries also joined the session, strengthening the dialogue between industry and policymakers.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS – DEMO ENERGY AUDIT

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- » Organised with IIT Hyderabad under the RAMP programme
- » Live demonstration at Fortune Art Wires & Cables, Cherlapalli
- » Participants: Implementing Agencies + Commissionerate of Industries
- » Focus: Energy audit procedures, equipment, and industrial benefits



## » VISIT TO TKIL INDUSTRIES – GREEN HYDROGEN COLLABORATION

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On 17 September 2025, RICH organised a meeting at TKIL Industries (formerly Thyssenkrupp) in the Cherlapally Industrial Area as part of efforts to build a Green Hydrogen ecosystem in Telangana.

The session brought together Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and the green hydrogen startup Sohhytec, which is developing a novel photo-electrochemistry-based solution. RICH facilitated the exchange and is working towards creating a consortium of partners to advance this initiative.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – TKIL INDUSTRIES VISIT

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- » Date: 17 Sept 2025 | Venue: Cherlapally Industrial Area
- » Focus: Green Hydrogen ecosystem development
- » Participants: SCCL, Sohhytec, RICH
- » Outcome: Discussions to form a partner consortium for advancing solutions

# RICH AT EVENTS



## » IMPACT HARVEST FORUM 2025 – INVESTING IN INCLUSIVE BUSINESSES

On 3 July 2025, RICH participated in the Impact Harvest Forum, organised by UNESCAP & TGFPS at HICC. The second edition of the forum explored opportunities for investing in inclusive businesses through masterclasses, matchmaking sessions, and panel discussions.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – IMPACT HARVEST FORUM

- » Date: 3 July 2025 | Venue: HICC
- » Organised by UNESCAP & TGFPS
- » Focus: Inclusive business investments
- » Participants: Ravi Kiran G, Maneesha Nangunoori

## » STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION – NATIONAL TURMERIC BOARD

RICH joined the National Turmeric Board's stakeholder consultation on 15 July 2025 at a-IDEA NAARM. Discussions focused on strengthening value chains and promoting turmeric as a high-potential agri-product.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – TURMERIC CONSULTATION

- » Date: 15 July 2025 | Venue: a-IDEA NAARM
- » Organised by National Turmeric Board
- » Focus: Turmeric sector opportunities and value chains
- » Participants: Ravi Kiran G, Maneesha Nangunoori





## » NABARD FPO CLUSTER MEET – WARANGAL

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On 12 August 2025, RICH attended the NABARD FPO Cluster Meet in Warangal. The dialogue with FPO leaders and stakeholders identified six region-specific agricultural challenges, with RICH working to map relevant technology solutions.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – NABARD CLUSTER MEET

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- » Date: 12 Aug 2025 | Venue: Warangal
- » Organised by NABARD
- » Focus: Regional FPO challenges and solutions
- » Participants: Ravi Kiran G, Maneesha Nangunoori

## » EXPORT CHAMPIONS – AGRI & FOOD PROCESSING (RAMP)

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RICH joined the stakeholder roundtable “Export Champions”, organised by TGTPC & FTCCI on 13 August 2025. The session highlighted export opportunities for food and agri-processing MSMEs, with APEDA guidance for scaling exports.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – EXPORT CHAMPIONS

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- » Date: 13 Aug 2025 | Venue: FTCCI
- » Organised by TGTPC & FTCCI
- » Focus: Export opportunities for agri-processing MSMEs
- » Participants: Ravi Kiran G, Maneesha Nangunoori





## » SEMINAR ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

On 21 August 2025, RICH served as Knowledge Partner at the Indian Chambers of Commerce (ICC) seminar on Climate Smart Agriculture for Food, Feed and Future, hosted at T-Hub. Discussions addressed climate change, agri-innovation, and corporate sustainability actions.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – CLIMATE SMART AGRI SEMINAR

- » Date: 21 Aug 2025 | Venue: T-Hub
- » Organised by ICC
- » Focus: Climate-smart agriculture and climate change
- » Participants: Ravi Kiran G, Maneesha Nangunoori

## » THINKAG HARVESTING TOMORROW SUMMIT 2025

RICH participated in the ThinkAg Harvesting Tomorrow Summit on 3–4 September 2025 at Alila Diwa, Goa. The summit convened stakeholders across agriculture and food systems to explore future-ready innovations and partnerships.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – THINKAG SUMMIT

- » Date: 3–4 Sept 2025 | Venue: Alila Diwa, Goa
- » Organised by ThinkAg
- » Focus: Future of agriculture and food systems
- » Participant: Maneesha Nangunoori





## » SAMUNNATI FPO CONCLAVE 2025

On 3–4 September 2025, RICH joined the 5th Samunnati FPO Conclave at Novotel HICC, Hyderabad. The conclave, themed “Partnerships for Sustainability towards a Future-Ready FPO Ecosystem”, brought together 1,000+ FPOs, agri-businesses, financiers, and policymakers.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – SAMUNNATI FPO CONCLAVE

- » Date: 3–4 Sept 2025 | Venue: Novotel HICC, Hyderabad
- » Organised by Samunnati
- » Focus: Strengthening FPO ecosystems and sustainability
- » Participant: Ravi Kiran G

## » PRECISION AGRICULTURE ROUNDTABLE

RICH participated in the Roundtable on Precision Agriculture, organised by BeST Cluster and CoE-FPO on 2 September 2025 at UHS Bengaluru. Discussions focused on the challenges, gaps, and opportunities in scaling precision agri-tech adoption.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – PRECISION AGRI ROUNDTABLE

- » Date: 2 Sept 2025 | Venue: UHS Bengaluru (Hybrid)
- » Organised by BeST Cluster & CoE-FPO
- » Focus: Precision agriculture adoption and financial viability
- » Participant: Ravi Kiran G





## » IPEC CONFERENCE 2025 – ENERGY EFFICIENCY PANEL

At the India Process Expo & Conference (IPEC 2025), RICH joined a panel on “Innovating for Impact: Energy Efficiency and Sustainability in Process Industries.” Panelists shared experiences on applying AI, advanced energy systems, and process intelligence in industry.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – IPEC CONFERENCE

- » Date: 22–24 Aug 2025 | Venue: Hitex, Hyderabad
- » Organised by IPEC & Grundfos
- » Focus: Energy efficiency and sustainable process industries
- » Participant: Srinivas Cherla

# PARTNERSHIPS

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## » MoU WITH TIE HYDERABAD – STARTUP SUPPORT

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On 1 August 2025, RICH signed an MoU with TiE Hyderabad to strengthen support for startups through funding access, mentoring, and ecosystem linkages.

The partnership will focus on enabling startups across life sciences, food & agriculture, and sustainability sectors, with curated mentoring programmes and opportunities to connect with TiE's investor and entrepreneur networks.

This collaboration reinforces RICH's commitment to building a vibrant innovation ecosystem by creating stronger pathways for startups to access the resources needed for growth and scale.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – MOU WITH TIE

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- » Date: 1 Aug 2025 | Venue: Hyderabad
- » Partners: RICH & TiE Hyderabad
- » Focus: Startup funding, mentoring, ecosystem connections
- » Outcome: Strengthened support for early-stage and growth-stage ventures



## » MoU WITH SHREYAS TRUST – EMPOWERING STARTUPS WITH AI CAPABILITIES

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RICH signed an MoU with Shreyas Trust to strengthen the innovation ecosystem and enable startups with advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities.

Through this collaboration, Shreyas Trust will offer AI training programmes for RICH-supported startups and provide access to its open-source AI platform for startups and researchers. Both organisations will also collaborate on joint research and development initiatives, helping innovators leverage cutting-edge AI tools, skills, and global opportunities to accelerate their journey from ideas to impactful solutions.

[\[LinkedIn Post\]](#)

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS – MOU WITH SHREYAS TRUST

- » Date: 25 sep 2025
- » Venue: Hyderabad
- » Partners: RICH & Shreyas Trust
- » Focus: AI training, R&D collaboration, open-source AI platform access
- » Outcome: Empowered startups with advanced AI tools and global opportunities







## Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad

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