



# RICH COMMUNIQUE

October - December 2024



## COVER STORY



### » RICH Takes the Lead in Driving AI Innovation Across Telangana

The Government of Telangana has an ambition to establish the State as a global hub for AI-driven innovation and implementation in the service of its mission of transforming the lives of citizens, and promoting more equitable and sustainable development.



### » Empowering Startups in the Medical Device and IVD Industry



### » RICH and C4IR Telangana (Initiative by World Economic Forum)

## COVER STORY



## » RICH TAKES THE LEAD IN DRIVING AI INNOVATION ACROSS TELANGANA

The Government of Telangana has an ambition to establish the State as a global hub for AI-driven innovation and implementation in the service of its mission of transforming the lives of citizens, and promoting more equitable and sustainable development. The government will set the direction for AI through the Telangana AI Advisory Council, an apex body that will work with the Chief Minister's office and bring together senior stakeholders from the government, industry and academia.

The council will be supported by an AI Research and Collaboration Network, which will spearhead research and innovation in AI in partnership with corporations and universities through a hub and spoke model. This network aims to foster collaborations in cutting-edge research on AI and its applications for social impact. The AI Research and Collaboration Network will also channel public and private investments, grants towards developing indigenous datasets,

models, applications and benchmarks. It will also work towards enabling use of safe, responsible and equitable AI in the State.

RICH has been assigned as the nodal agency to lead the AI Research and Collaboration Network. RICH shall be responsible for coordinating and leading the activities of this network including working closely with the research and academic institutions and corporates to drive collaborative innovation and anchor State's strategic priority initiatives in the AI Space.

Under this initiative RICH has visited the leading institutes such as ISB, IIT Hyderabad, IIIT Hyderabad, BITS Hyderabad, NIT Warangal and NALSAR University of law to understand the work being done leveraging AI along with organising sensitisation workshops with the institutes on the Agri Data Exchange (ADEX), IIIT H Data Foundation and ABDM

# SECTOR-SPECIFIC HIGHLIGHTS

## EMPOWERING STARTUPS IN THE MEDICAL DEVICE AND IVD INDUSTRY

### » ABCs of Medical Devices and IVDs Commercialization Journey Event

Conducted two days of interactive and practical sessions in collaboration with PathnSitu Biotechnologies as part of our annual flagship program, “ABCs of Medical Devices and IVDs Commercialisation Journey.”

#### ABCs Event - Day 1

The event successfully brought together a diverse array of industry experts, clinicians, startups, and innovators to explore the roadmap from ideation to commercialization in the medical devices, diagnostics, and digital health sectors.

Engaging discussions, interactive sessions with regulatory experts, and an insightful tour of T-Works provided invaluable insights for attendees, fostering a collaborative atmosphere conducive to driving innovation within the life sciences sector.

For all the details of ABC's Event - Day 1, you can visit the following LinkedIn post: [ABC's Event - Day 1](#)



## ABCs Event - Day 2

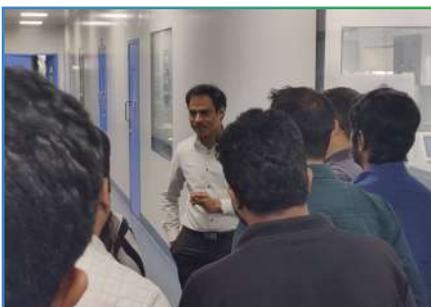
Selected startups delved into the Industrial Design and Manufacturing process, Regulatory Pathways, and Testing requirements crucial for the successful commercialization of medical devices.

Topics covered included the significance of QMS, DHF, D&D, MDR forms, inventory management, quality checks, packaging, and compliance with cybersecurity regulations for Software as a Medical Device (SaMD).

Participants gained hands-on experience with testing protocols such as Biological/Chemical, Electrical, Medical Safety, and Mechanical evaluations, further enhanced by a visit to PathnSitu Biotechnologies' cutting-edge facility.

These sessions underscore our dedication to nurturing innovation and supporting startups through the intricate journey of medical device commercialization. Gratitude to our mentors Kamal Prasad, Director PathnSitu Biotechnologies, and all contributors for their valuable guidance and support.

For all the details of ABC's Event - Day 2, you can visit the following LinkedIn post: [ABC's Event - Day 2](#)



# PARTNERSHIPS

## » RICH and C4IR Telangana (Initiative by World Economic Forum)

RICH has partnered with C4IR Telangana to drive the Clinical Validation of Innovative Health Tech and Medical Devices, propelling the fast-track development and adoption of advanced medical products and decentralized clinical trials. This partnership marks a significant milestone in fostering healthcare innovation.

For more details check out the [LinkedIn Post](#).



## » MoU with SteerX

RICH has partnered with SteerX to boost healthcare innovation and support startups. Through this collaboration, we will work on projects, workshops, and hackathons, sharing a common goal of empowering innovators in the healthcare sector.

For more detailed information on this collaboration visit the [LinkedIn post](#).



## » MoU with SMBT

RICH has partnered with SRISHTI, by signing an MoU with the SMBT group of institutions. Together, we are dedicated to nurturing healthcare startups from Telangana and Maharashtra, extending crucial support in areas such as clinical validation, regulatory guidance, and market access. Additionally, this collaboration will explore joint research initiatives, the co-development of academic programs, and the creation of funding avenues to empower startups.

For more information about this partnership visit the [LinkedIn post](#).



# WOMEN IN STEM



## » Student Internship Review

We conducted an Internship Review Session as part of the Scholarship and Mentorship Programme for Women in STEM Education and Careers.

The session provided a platform for our interns to showcase their work and share their experiences. Each presentation reflected their learning journey and the impact of hands-on exposure in esteemed research institutions such as Syngene International Limited, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences and more.

Dr. Sreedhar of CCMB, Dr. Kiranam Chatti of Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences and Smruti Rekha Sahoo of Syngene International Limited joined us to evaluate these presentations, offering valuable feedback and encouragement to the students.

For detailed information check out the [LinkedIn post](#).



## » Educational Tour

The educational tour at Huwel Lifesciences on November 14, 2024, was a great success, providing valuable insights and experiences to all participants.

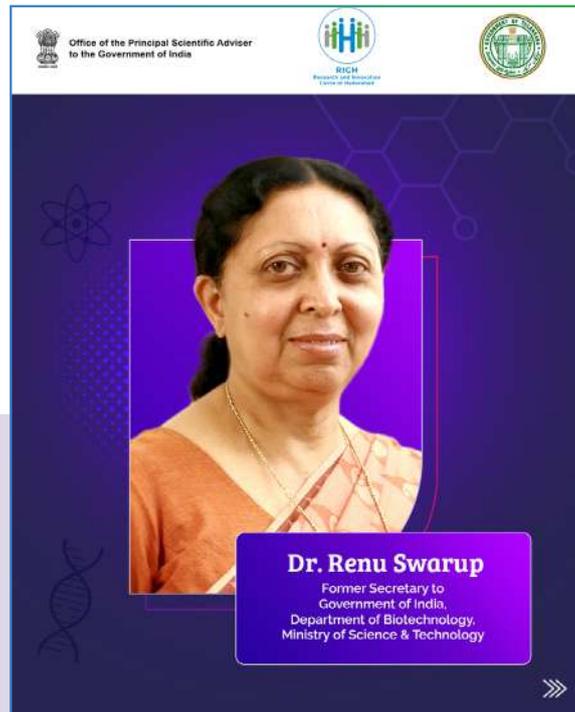
For more information on the tour check the [LinkedIn post](#).



Parvinder Maini: Explore the full interview [here!](#)



Kiran Mazumdar: Explore the full interview [here!](#)



Renu Swarup: Explore the full interview [here!](#)

## » League of Her Own Series

We are honored to showcase the extraordinary journeys of Dr (Mrs.) Parvinder Maini, Ms. Kiran Mazumdar, and Dr. Renu Swarup through our League of Her Own social media series. Their invaluable contributions have profoundly enriched this ongoing series, offering deep insights and inspiring narratives that resonate with our audience.

# STARTUP SPOTLIGHT



## » MARUT DRONES

Marut Drones has successfully raised \$6.2M from LOK CAPITAL, propelling their endeavors in agricultural innovation and technology.

**Sector:** Agriculture and Technology

Read more about this on [LinkedIn](#).



## » BIOPRIME SOLUTIONS

Bioprime Solutions has raised \$6M, led by edaphon, demonstrating their significant impact and potential in agricultural solutions.

**Sector:** Agricultural Solutions



## » JARSH SAFETY

Jarsh Safety has secured an impressive \$500,000 in seed funding, indicating a strong vote of confidence in its mission and potential.

**Sector:** Safety and Security

The company's milestone reflects a promising step forward. For more detailed information, visit the [LinkedIn post on Jarsh Safety's funding](#).



## » RANGBIO SOLUTIONS

RangBio Solutions has been funded through SISFS of RICH for INR 15 Lakhs, a significant boost to its innovative biotechnology ventures.

**Sector:** Biotechnology

To delve deeper into RangBio Solutions' achievement, refer to their [LinkedIn post regarding the funding](#).



**Core Idea  
Innovations**

## » CORE IDEA INNOVATIONS

In a noteworthy accomplishment, Core Idea Innovations has raised INR 25 Lakhs under the Unnati Women Entrepreneur award from PRIF, IIM Calcutta, underscoring their commitment to female entrepreneurship.



## » GUDLYF MOBILITY PVT. LTD

Gudlyf Mobility Pvt. Ltd has received funding through SISFS of RICH for INR 30 Lakhs, fortifying their sustainability efforts in hydrogen fuel technology.

**Sector:** Hydrogen Fuel Technology



## » AMBIATOR

Ambiator has secured funding through SISFS of RICH for INR 30 Lakhs, validating their innovative approach to sustainable energy-efficient cooling solutions.

**Sector:** Sustainability - Energy-efficient Cooling Solutions

## RICH ORGANIZED TALKS/SESSIONS

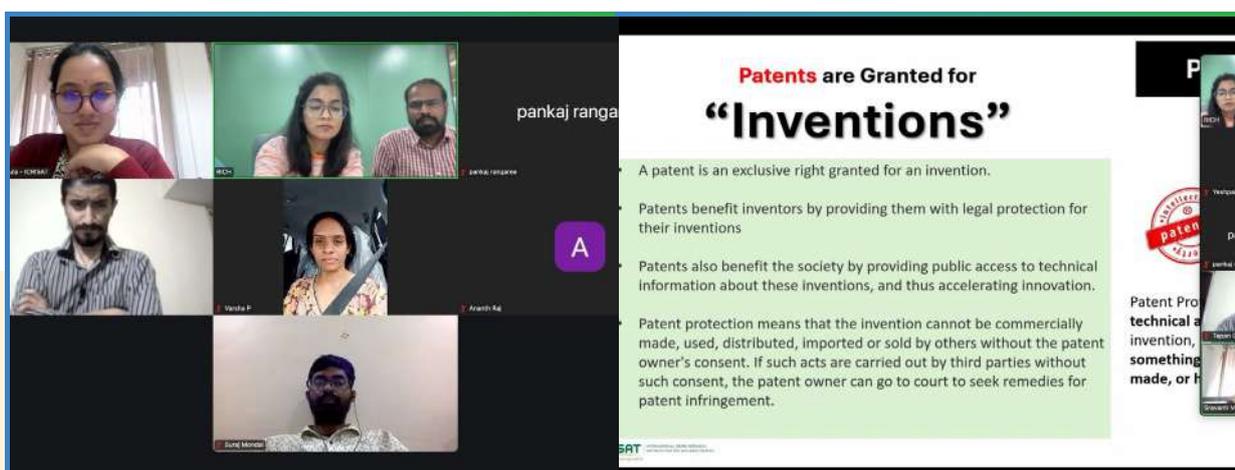


### » SPACETECH IN HEALTHTECH

The event, organized by Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) in collaboration with AIG Hospitals, 8C Healthcare, and DNR MedInnovations, featured discussions on pioneering healthcare innovations within the context of SpaceTech in HealthTech under the Hyderabad Biodesign Initiative. Highlights included insights into the transformative impact of innovation, product journeys, and a fireside chat with Dr. Daniel Alex Luebke, the inventor of the PillBot.

The event successfully helped sensitize 60 innovators on the intersection of SpaceTech and HealthTech, showcasing the potential for growth and innovation in the healthcare sector.

For detailed information on this event visit [LinkedIn Post](#).



### » WEBINAR ON FREE IP FACILITATION SUPPORT BY ICRISAT'S IPFC

The webinar successfully helped sensitize 12 innovators, providing valuable insights into intellectual property and funding support, and also highlighted the free IP facilitation support available through ICRISAT's IPFC.

For detailed information on this event visit the [LinkedIn post](#).



## » WEBINAR ON RAMAGUNDAM GREEN HYDROGEN CLUSTER ROADMAP

The webinar, organized by RICH & GIZ, showcased the collaborative effort in preparing a report titled “Development of Roadmap for a Green Hydrogen Cluster in Ramagundam.” This report was crafted based on inputs from key stakeholders in the region and was unveiled at the International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH 2024) in September 2024. During the webinar, industry and subject matter experts shared insights and highlighted key findings from the roadmap. Additionally, the session aimed to gather critical feedback from key stakeholders to further the discussion on the Green Hydrogen (GH) Valley in the region. The webinar was inaugurated by Shri Bhavesh Mishra, Deputy Secretary of the IT & Electronics Department, Government of Telangana. Approximately 125 individuals participated in the webinar, gaining a comprehensive understanding of the proposed Green Hydrogen Valley and engaging in interactive discussions with subject matter experts.

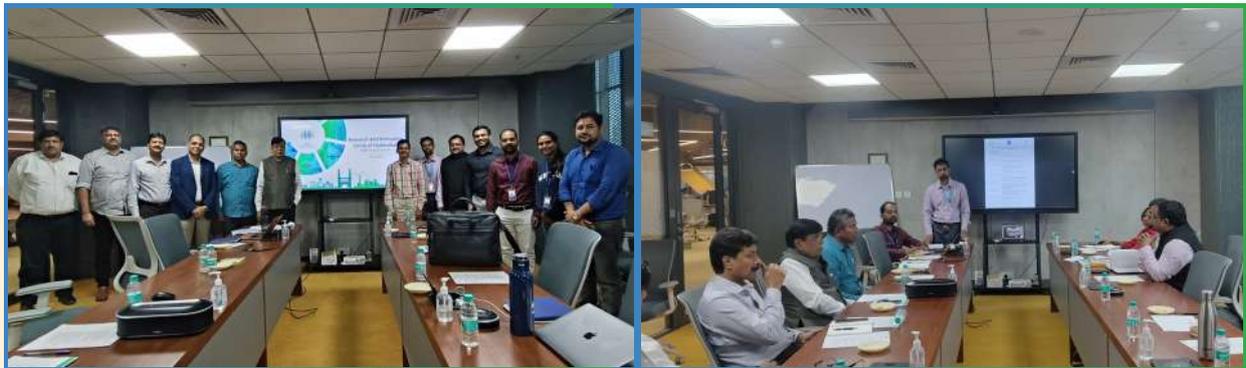
**Team Members Involved:** Rashmi Pimpale-CEO, Srinivas Cherla-Director of Sustainability, Naga Durga Babu Nainala-Project Manager (Sustainability)



## » **ROUNDTABLE WITH UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON**

Dr. Sushmitha Sundar, along with RICH and T-Works, facilitated discussions with a delegation from the University of East London on their Year of Health Theme. Expert participants from Hyderabad ranged across academia, industry, and start-ups. The focus of the conversation was on exploring collaborative opportunities in the field of MedTech, particularly for Cancer and other disease areas.

**Team Members Involved:** Dr. Sushmitha Sundar - Head of Life Sciences



## » **MSME BRAINSTORMING STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WORKSHOP**

RICH is leading the “Greening of MSMEs” initiative under the Telangana State RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) program. The project aims to benchmark the energy intensity of MSME clusters and implement interventions to enhance energy efficiency and promote sustainable practices among 2000 MSMEs. As part of the project launch, RICH organized a stakeholder brainstorming consultation workshop involving representatives from industry bodies, MSME industry associations, MSME Development and Facilitation Office, and the Telangana Open Data Unit. The workshop focused on identifying current energy monitoring practices, energy intensity clusters, reliable data sources, challenges faced by industries, and opportunities for energy intensity reduction in various MSME clusters in the state. The inputs gathered during the workshop have been instrumental in shaping a comprehensive project plan.

**Team Members Involved:** Srinivas Cherla-Director of Sustainability,  
Naga Durga Babu Nainala-Project Manager (Sustainability)



## » REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE SYMPOSIUM

The symposium aimed to unite diverse perspectives, challenges, and initiatives in scaling regenerative agriculture from various sectors including research institutes, industry, universities, corporates, farmer groups, and grassroots organizations. It provided a platform for the exchange of ideas and best practices to drive innovation and sustainable practices in the field of agriculture.

**Team Members Involved:** Ravi Kiran G - Director of Food & Agriculture,  
Maneesha Nangunoori - Project Manager - Food & Agriculture

For detailed information about this event view the Regenerative Agriculture Symposium [LinkedIn post](#).



## » ONE DAY AI WORKSHOP FOR INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY BY MICROSOFT

The workshop conducted by Microsoft aimed to enhance productivity through the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies. The team members who participated in the workshop included Ravi Kiran, Aboli, Azhar, Neeraja, Nagababu, and Maneesha. The workshop likely covered topics related to AI applications, tools, and techniques that can be leveraged to improve efficiency and productivity in various sectors.

**Team Members Involved:** Ravi Kiran, Aboli, Azhar, Neeraja, Nagababu

To delve deeper into this event visit [LinkedIn post](#).



## » DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF PJTAU

Ravi Kiran G, as the Director of Food & Agriculture, served as a jury member for an ideathon organized by Ag-Hub as part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of PJTAU. The ideathon focused on showcasing innovative solutions in areas such as nutrition, storage technologies, AI & IoT in agriculture, and sustainability (including commercialization of agricultural waste).

**Team Members Involved:** Ravi Kiran G - Director of Food & Agriculture.



## » FICCI BHARAT R&D SUMMIT 2024 AT NEW DELHI

The FICCI Bharat R&D Summit 2024 held in New Delhi on 3rd and 4th October aimed to enhance collaboration between industry and academia, fostering a vibrant R&I culture to bolster India's standing in global innovation. As part of the summit, RICH, represented by Dr. Sushmitha Sundar, Head of Life Sciences, showcased the Hyderabad S&T cluster during a dedicated session on "S&T Clusters - Opportunities for Industry-Academia Collaboration." This platform provided insights and discussions on how industry-academia partnerships can drive innovation and contribute to the growth of the scientific and technological landscape in India.

**Team Members Involved:** Dr. Sushmitha Sundar - Head of Life Sciences

For detailed information about this event view the [LinkedIn post on FICCI Bharat R&D Summit](#).



## » NATIONAL ONE HEALTH MISSION IKP KNOWLEDGE PARK – IKMC 2025 – @IKP@25: AN EPIC RHAPSODY & THE NEXT SYMPHONY

Dr. Sushmitha Sundar, as Head of Life Sciences, took part in a roundtable discussion at the National One Health Mission event, where challenges in implementing the One Health approach were acknowledged. The approach calls for collaboration across human, animal, and environmental health sectors to address global issues, highlighting the need for a multi-disciplinary collaborative approach.

**Team Members Involved:** Dr. Sushmitha Sundar - Head of Life Sciences



## » G-SPARC 2024

Dr. Sushmitha Sundar participated as a panel member in a session discussing the importance of medics being innovators and entrepreneurs. The discussion focused on improving interactions between start-ups and clinicians, highlighting the benefits and challenges of this collaboration. Additionally, the session explored the healthcare innovation ecosystem in Hyderabad and India, emphasizing the necessity of integrating an entrepreneurial mindset into healthcare education.

**Team Members Involved:** Dr. Sushmitha Sundar - Head of Life Sciences



## » WORLD HEALTH INNOVATION FORUM AT AMTZ

RICH participated as a delegate at the World Health Innovation Forum organized by AMTZ. The forum featured insightful sessions on Affordable Healthcare Delivery, Design and Regulatory Importance in MedTech, and Health Technology Assessments (HTA). Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to visit cutting-edge facilities at the world-class infrastructure dedicated to healthcare innovation at AMTZ.

**Team Members Involved:** Mr. Aravind Kumar - Sr. Project Manager, Life Sciences



## » FTCCI-INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLEAN ENERGY FOR MSMEs

FTCCI, in partnership with MSME Government of India, organized a conference to promote emissions-free growth, secure funding for clean energy transitions, and improve energy efficiency in industrial systems. Panel discussions covered Clean Energy Sources, De-carbonization of Industry, and Funding options for green transition. RICH presented the state MSME profile, renewable energy potential, and support needed for MSMEs to transition to green practices. They also shared outcomes of the “Greening of MSMEs” project and sought collaboration with MSMEs, startups, and industry associations for decarbonization efforts.

**Team Members Involved:** Srinivas Cherla-Director of Sustainability,  
Naga Durga Babu Nainala-Project Manager (Sustainability)



## » CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON RAMP PROJECT

RICH is leading the “Greening of MSMEs” project under the Telangana State RAMP initiatives, focusing on improving energy efficiency and sustainability practices among 2000 MSMEs. Collaborating with JNTU Hyderabad, a stakeholder consultation workshop was held to address current environmental practices, challenges in MSME clusters, and opportunities for clean technology adoption. The workshop aimed to guide effective interventions for MSME development and environmental impact mitigation.

**Team Members Involved:** Srinivas Cherla-Director of Sustainability,  
Naga Durga Babu Nainala-Project Manager (Sustainability)



## » PANEL DISCUSSION ON RESILIENT FUTURES:COMMUNITY-LED STRATEGIES FOR CLIMATE CHALLENGES

Srinivas Cherla participated in a panel discussion entitled “Resilient Futures: Community-Led Strategies for Climate Challenges” at a curtain raiser event for the 12th JSW-TOI Earth Care Awards. This event aimed to highlight successful adaptation strategies and brought together policymakers, sustainability experts, community leaders, and stakeholders to collaborate on enhancing community resilience in the face of climate change. The Earth Care Awards seek to amplify the voices of those actively involved in adaptation efforts and promote collective action towards a more resilient future.

**Team Members Involved:** Srinivas Cherla-Director of Sustainability



## » IIIT HYDERABAD-ROUNDTABLE ON STARTUP INNOVATION FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Srinivas Cherla and Naga Durga Babu Nainala participated in roundtable discussions focused on supporting startup innovation for climate action, specifically addressing financial and non-financial assistance. The discussions emphasized collaboration, access to capital, and policy backing for climate-tech solutions. The event provided a platform for engagement with startups, corporates, and investors. RICH highlighted government initiatives aimed at fostering the ecosystem within the state. Insights, challenges, and actionable recommendations shared during the dialogue emphasized the importance of collective efforts in enhancing the climate-tech ecosystem and driving impactful innovation.

**Team Members Involved:** Srinivas Cherla-Director of Sustainability,  
Naga Durga Babu Nainala-Project Manager (Sustainability)



## » VNRVJIT-HYDROGEN CARNIVAL

Srinivas Cherla participated as a speaker at the Hydrogen Carnival held on World Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day. The event aimed to raise awareness about the significant role of hydrogen as a clean fuel in addressing climate change. RICH has been actively involved in promoting a sustainable Green Hydrogen economy in the region through various initiatives such as formulating GH policies, supporting GH startups, and collaborating with key stakeholders to establish a Green Hydrogen valley.

**Team Members Involved:** Srinivas Cherla-Director of Sustainability,  
Naga Durga Babu Nainala-Project Manager (Sustainability)



**RICH**  
Research and Innovation  
Circle of Hyderabad

## Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad

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