



**ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025**

**Gujarat Grassroots Innovation & Augmentation Network (GIAN)
Bungalow No.1, Satellite Complex, Near Mansi Cross
Road. Ahmedabad, 380015, Gujarat, India**

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1. Foreword by The Chairperson



Prof Bakul Dholakia

*Chairperson, GIAN Board and
Former Director, IIMA*

I have been an appreciative witness to wide ranging activities of the GIAN over the years. The fifth ICCIG was a landmark event at IIMA. I saw the enthusiasm with which the Chairman, NABARD, responded to various ideas mentioned by GIAN at the conference. I understand that a follow-up meeting has taken place, and some policy and institutional impact might be expected in the year to come. The participation of international delegates showed the social capital of Honey Bee Network and GIAN.

I wish to put on record my appreciation for the support from the Industry Department for GIAN's building IN GIDC Sanand, which was pending for a long. I hope this support will continue to further augment GIAN's corpus to provide it with financial sustainability.

The projects supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, Gujarat Power Corporation Limited (GPCL), Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Limited (GETCO), and Zydus Life Sciences during the year have been pursued with rigour and enthusiasm by GIAN's team and have delivered very encouraging results. GPCL has already sanctioned the second project for the purpose. I hope others will also follow suit.

I am quite hopeful that readers will find this report as a vindication of the trust placed by society in the purpose and process pursued by GIAN. I compliment the team for working hard to accomplish all that has been done. The completion of the project by Suzuki Japan has been an important landmark because seldom have international corporations partnered with grassroots innovation organisations.

Wishing the GIAN team and all the stakeholders a happy partnership so that together we can unleash the creativity of grassroots people, not just in Gujarat, or India, but the whole world.

1. (a) Address by The Secretary



Professor Anil K. Gupta

*Founder, Honey Bee Network, SRISTI, GIAN & NIF
Visiting Faculty, IIMA, IITB, Academy Professor, AcSIR,
CSIR Bhatnagar Fellow 2018-21*

The GIAN has made significant strides during the year 2024-25 by deepening its impact, fostering meaningful new collaborations, and growing its national and international engagement. Staying true to our mission of nurturing grassroots creativity and innovation, this year has been particularly rewarding in terms of scale and outreach. In partnership with industry leaders such as Amazon, Zydus Lifesciences, GPCL, and GETCO, we hosted a series of award platforms and conferences that celebrated and supported grassroots innovations across key sectors, including agriculture, energy, healthcare, mobility, assistive devices, circular economy, etc.

From the HBNCRIIA Awards to the Fifth International Conference on Creativity, Innovation at Grassroots (ICCI 5) and the People's Festival of Innovation, our initiatives brought together innovators, policymakers, researchers, and ecosystem leaders to build synergies for inclusive development.

We also advanced several key projects from traditional knowledge-based product development in the Himalayas to technology validation and commercialisation support under the Suzuki and DBT-supported initiatives. International outreach and institutional partnerships expanded significantly, reinforcing GIAN's role as a catalyst for grassroots innovation both in India and globally.

Thanks to the most gracious continuing support from the Industry Department, Gujarat Government, the GIAN building at GIDC Sanand has made considerable progress, and perhaps next year, we might have a Board meeting in the new building.

A lot remains to be done, and the GIAN team is as eager as always to move ahead with the help of Honey Bee Network Institutions and volunteers to create new benchmarks in service to the social innovators and grassroots inventors. Your support indeed matters most.

1. (b) Message by The CEO



Dr. Anamika Dey
Chief Executive Officer,
GIAN

The year 2024-25 has been one of convergence, creativity, and community connect for GIAN. As an organization rooted in the spirit of grassroots innovation, we have continued to bridge the gap between traditional knowledge systems and modern science and technological framework, ensuring that ideas emerging from the margins find their rightful place at the center of our innovation discourse.

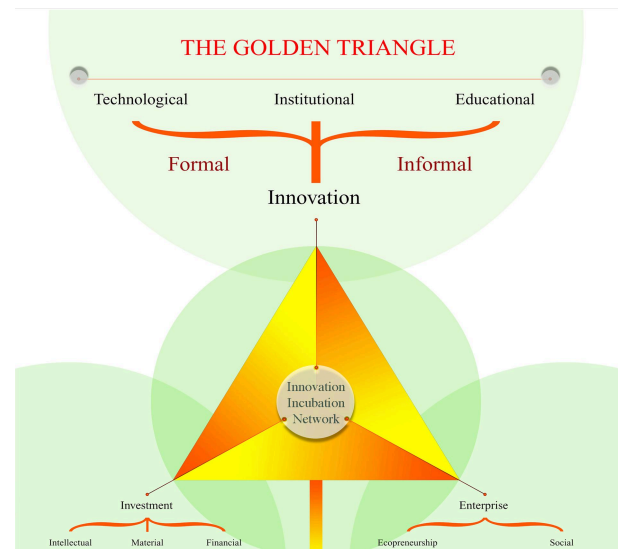
This year, our partnerships with leading industry players Amazon, Zydus Lifesciences, GPCL, and GETCO enabled us to design platforms that not only rewarded innovation but also amplified the voices of rural and community-based creators. Our celebration of grassroots creativity went beyond recognition; it became a space of dialogue, learning, and cross-sectoral collaboration, reinforcing GIAN's unique position in the national and global innovation ecosystem.

We also made significant strides in our core projects, from developing value-added products rooted in Himalayan traditional knowledge to taking grassroots innovations closer to market through design and commercialisation support. The People's Festival of Innovation (PFoI), in partnership with C-CAMP, further exemplified our intent to foster synergies between grassroots and deep-tech communities.

As CEO, I am proud of our team's unwavering commitment to our mission and deeply grateful to our collaborators, mentors, and well-wishers who walk this path with us. At GIAN, we remain driven by a simple but powerful belief: that innovation must be inclusive, accessible, and grounded in the realities of everyday life. With renewed energy, we look forward to the journey ahead with your continuing support.

2. GIAN Introduction

GIAN (Gujarat Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network) is the first incubator of grassroots innovations set up by Honey Bee Network in 1997 in collaboration with the Gujarat government and supported by SRISTI and IIMA. In 2003, it received the NSTEDB, DST, the best technology incubator award at the hands of then President Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, sharing it with IIT Madras. The Honey Bee Network pioneered the IPR protection for grassroots innovators in collaboration with SRISTI and created a platform for linking innovation, investment, and enterprise. GIAN has entered into an MOU with UNDP India and UNDP, New York to support inclusive and frugal innovations in 115 countries through 91 innovation acceleration platforms. GIAN has worked with UNESCAP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, FAO, and many national organisations like SIDBI, NABARD, NIF, SRISTI, IIMA, etc.



GIAN has also established a Sec 8 incubator company, GIANASTRE, with the assistance of the Gujarat government. GIAN's model was scaled up in 2000, in the form of the National Innovation Foundation-India, set up under the Department of Science and Technology with the help of the Honey Bee Network.

Mission

To cultivate and sustain the spirit of innovation, encourage experimentation, and nurture creativity at the grassroots. GIAN aims to promote innovations from and for grassroots communities, leverage functional traditional knowledge, and conserve and augment biodiversity using both commercial and non-commercial channels.

Our objectives

- To scout, document and validate the grassroots innovation,
- Help them achieve scale by adding value, design, and other inputs from formal organisations.
- Do market research, develop strategies, protect IP where needed, promote solutions as DIY and facilitate partnerships between innovators and entrepreneurs.
- Unleash the creativity of common people, helping them gain respect, recognition, and reward innovations from India and around the world through HBNCRIIA-India and HBNCRIIA-International awards. Gian also pursues research and policy studies.

Governing Board Members of GIAN

Sr. No.	Name	GIAN Board	Designation
1	Prof. Bakul Dholakia	Chairman	Former Director of IIM Ahmedabad, Director & Former Vice Chairman of Adani Institute of Infrastructure Management and Advisor to Adani Group.
2	Ms. Mamta Verma, IAS	Vice-chairperson	Principal Secretary, Industries and Mines Department
3	Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta	Honorary Secretary	Honorary Secretary, GIAN, Visiting Faculty, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
4	Dr. Anju Sharma, IAS	Member (ex officio)	Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture, Farmers Welfare & Co-operation Department, Govt. of Gujarat
5	Shri Milind Torawane	Member (ex officio)	Commissioner and Secretary (Rural Development)
6	Prof. Sanjay Verma	Member	Associate Professor of Information Systems at IIMA
7	Prof. Vijaya Sherry Chand	Member	Former Faculty, Indian Institute of Management
8	Mr. Anish Sugathan	Member	Associate Professor of Strategy at IIMA
9	Mr. Nilesh A Kulkarni	Member	Director – Commercial, Gharda Chemicals Limited
10	Smt. Reema Nanavaty	Member	General Secretary, SEWA
11	Mr. Sunil Shukla	Member	Director, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India
12	Dr. Vipin Kumar	Member	Former Director, National Innovation Foundation
13	Mr. Sanjaybhai Tilwa	Member	Innovator, Akshar Agro Innovation Pvt. Ltd.

3. 2024-2025 at a Glance

During 2024–25, GIAN hosted **four landmark award campaigns** in collaboration with industry leaders—**Amazon, Zydus Lifesciences, GPCL, and GETCO**—spanning **one international forum and four national/state award ceremonies**. The innovations *from* and *for* grassroots got recognition, visibility, and financial rewards across sectors like agriculture, energy, health, circular economy, mobility, assistive devices, bioentrepreneurship, etc.

Highlights include:

- **HBNCRIIA Awards 2024–25**, co-hosted with Amazon and held at India International Centre in Delhi, drew over **2,500 entries** from 28 states and 4 Union Territories. Of those, 33 finalists were chosen and 15 awarded, with monetary prizes ranging from ₹5 lakh to ₹50,000. A distinguished jury chaired by Dr RA Mashelkar, and comprising the Director, IIMA, the Director, AcSIR and others from IISc, IITs and social enterprises helped in final selections.
- **The Fifth International Conference On Creativity And Innovation At/For/From/with Grassroots [ICCIG 5]** held from January 28th to 30th, 2025, brought together an eclectic mix of global leaders, grassroots innovators, academicians, researchers, school teachers, artisans, policymakers, and designers to build synergy for sustainable and inclusive development
- **The GIAN-Zydus Innovation Programme** celebrated innovations in healthcare, energy, waste management, and conservation, and featured top prizes of ₹5 lakh, ₹3 lakh, and ₹2 lakh.
- **Innovations in the Energy Sector with GPCL:** The Gujarat Energy Innovation Awards 2024 was launched to identify at least 50 impactful innovations, particularly those aimed at reducing the drudgery of women and enhancing energy conservation and generation in small enterprises and livelihood activities across Gujarat.
- **Innovative energy ideas from students with GETCO:** To mobilise futuristic energy innovations from youth and other stakeholders, GIAN launched the Gujarat Energy Idea Awards 2024, aimed at promoting grassroots innovations through a series of Ideathons organised across colleges and MSME clusters in Gujarat

These collaborations not only spotlighted grassroots innovators at state, national, and international levels but also convened key stakeholders—including policymakers, investors, ecosystem enablers—to deliberate on ecosystem status, challenges, and societal impact.

The ongoing project and activities made significant progress in the year with the **DBT-supported initiative**: Development of Himalayan traditional-knowledge-based products, scientifically validated and poised for market entry. **Suzuki-funded project**: The project was completed with **seven grassroots innovations finalized in design and market readiness**. **People’s Festival of Innovation (PFoI) 2024**, held in New Delhi in partnership with C-CAMP, brought together **50 grassroots innovators and 50 deep tech innovators** on one platform, fostering cross-disciplinary

exchange and collaboration. Stakeholders from both ecosystems convened to explore complementarities and strengthen India's startup and innovation landscape.

Dr. Anamika Dey, CEO of GIAN, and **Prof. Anil Gupta**, GIAN's founder, actively represented the organisation at global conferences, resulting in several **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** and international partnerships. Visits from international delegates to GIAN Ahmedabad fostered a deeper understanding of India's grassroots innovation ecosystem and paved the way for future collaborations across borders.

All initiatives this year deeply resonated with GIAN's core activities—to **identify, validate, support, and scale innovations from and for grassroots communities**, drawing on traditional knowledge, promoting sustainable solutions, and incubating local creators at their doorstep, not in urban centres.

GIAN's approach ensured that grassroots innovations are not just showcased, but **strengthened through value-addition, assistance in commercialisation assistance, intellectual property guidance, and community-level in situ incubation**.

4. GIAN Projects

4.1 'GRIPP' project in collaboration with Suzuki Innovation Centre (SIC)

Suzuki Motors Japan, in collaboration with GIAN, had shortlisted seven grassroots innovations for support in prototyping, refinement, and marketing. These innovations were selected for their potential to address local challenges through practical, scalable solutions. The Progress of each innovation under the initiative was as follows:

- **Mr. Nishi Biswas (Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh) – Paddy Transplanter**
Design improvements for both manual and motorized versions were undertaken by GIAN in partnership with the Suzuki Innovation Centre and faculty and students from IIT Hyderabad. Field testing and demonstrations were conducted across Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Telangana, and West Bengal. User manuals were developed for both models.
- **Mr. Sanjay Tilva (Rajkot, Gujarat) – Groundnut Digger**
The product was supported for marketing. Along with the groundnut digger, a mobile groundnut thresher was also marketed. Testing of the thresher was conducted with other legume crops such as Bengal gram and green gram.
- **Mr. P. M. Murugesan (Madurai, Tamil Nadu) – Banana Fibre-Making Machine and Products**
The GIAN and SIC teams, along with Prof. Uday B. Desai, Founding Director of IIT Hyderabad, had visited the innovator to assess needs and challenges. Funding was provided for a solar dryer and fibre production machinery, with design support extended. The innovator was also connected to Dr. Padmini Tolat Balam, Professor of Design at Visva-Bharti University, to enhance colouring techniques for the products.
- **Mr. Mansukh Jagani (Rajkot, Gujarat) – Bullet Santi / Sanedo**
The innovative vehicle was already being used in rural areas. Free service and maintenance camps were conducted for existing users, and customer feedback collected during seminars informed further improvements.

- **Mr. Samir Gani (Palanpur, Gujarat) – Manure Spreading Machine**
The innovator was supported in marketing and operational management. Financial assistance was provided to procure four welding machines and ₹2 lakh for marketing activities. A user manual was developed, and funds were given for inventory support.
- **Mr. Amit Doshi (Ahmedabad, Gujarat) – Neerain Water Filter**
GIAN shifted the marketing strategy to promote bulk institutional sales instead of individual household sales. Financial support was extended for marketing activities to boost outreach.
- **Mr. Rafiq Ahanger (Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir) – Snow Remover**
The existing version of the snow remover was refined, and a new version was conceptualised and built with design and functionality enhancements. Funds were provided for material procurement to support the redesign.

This collaborative initiative led to the presentation of a paper titled “Scaling Grassroots Innovations: Insights from Pilot Interventions in Indian Villages” at the 10th International Conference on Research into Design (ICoRD’25) held at the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad. The paper is set to be published in a Scopus-indexed volume by Springer Nature, highlighting key learnings and the broader impact of the pilot interventions. A book is also being prepared to document the project’s impact, detailing the methodology adopted, the work carried out, design improvements made, and the support extended to innovators throughout the initiative.

4.2 DBT, GOI for strengthening bio-resource-based entrepreneurship in the mountain regions (J&K, West Sikkim and Kiphire, Tuensang, Nagaland)

The project is nearing its completion and has gained significant momentum within the targeted communities, aligning with its key objectives. Several agro-food products and medicinal plants have been identified as potential sources for establishing sustainable businesses in the region. The initiative has positively influenced various areas, such as livelihoods, knowledge sharing, biodiversity conservation, skill development, technological progress, and social well-being. As a result, numerous income-generating opportunities have emerged, fulfilling one of the project’s goals of establishing five social enterprises within the area. In Jammu & Kashmir, five farmer groups are registered, and five are in the process of getting registered. In Sikkim, two enterprises are in the process of registration and in Nagaland, registration of three enterprises is in process.

The following products have been created under the project: -

Completed products

- **35+ value-added food products without preservatives and using Himalayan ingredients**

No.	Sikkim	No.	Nagaland	No.	Jammu & Kashmir
1	Nakima Pickle	13	Gooseberry Candy	23	green walnut shell as an additive for meat
2	Pumpkin Jam	14	Wild Apple Candy	24	Quince Murabba
3	organic Guava Jam	15	Wild Apple Jam	25	Kashmiri Kehwa

4	Pumpkin Seed Achar	16	King Chilli Oil	26	Kashmir ghee from shepherds
5	Chimping Nutrella Dry Pickle	17	Sichuan Pepper Masala	27	Kashmiri Gulkand in honeybee
6	Millet Chilla Mix	18	Sumac Tea	28	Mix dry fruit in honey
7	Buckwheat Chilla Mix	19	perilla chutney	29	Tulsi-infused Honey
8	Buckwheat Chilla Mix With Beetroot	20	Roselle Tea	30	Green chilli pickle
9	Dalle pickle	21	Gooseberry tea	31	Apple chutney
10	Dalle Sweet Chilli sauce	22	King chilli Oil	32	Kashmiri chilli paste
11	Millet drink			33	Apple pickle
12	Jackfruit seed coffee			34	Apple Murabba
				35	High altitude Apricot jam without preservatives
				36	Wild Raspberry Jam
				37	green plum jam

Completed workshops GIAN and Little Himalayan organized three workshops for community members from the Himalayan regions of Kashmir and Sikkim, where they learned to make popular Gujarati snacks like dhokla and Chakri.



- *Soap-making workshop*- workshop to teach them how to create soap from scratch using natural ingredients. The process involves mixing oils with lye to create a chemical reaction, producing high-quality, long-lasting soap that retains the benefits of natural ingredients.
- *Cake-making workshop* - workshop led by home baker Rakhi Sachdev, where participants learned to bake delicious cakes and gained insights into starting a home bakery. The session was a perfect blend of baking skills, creativity, and entrepreneurship
- *Gujarati snack making workshop* - community members learned to make popular Gujarati snacks like dhokla, besan sev and chakri. Led by a woman entrepreneur, the session focused on culinary skills, business insights, and the practicality of making healthy, travel-friendly snacks.

Ongoing

- Clinical trial on Paindel oil

- Hair dye-Himalayan Rhubarb as a key ingredient
- Postpartum bath solution for muscle strengthening with anti-inflammatory properties
- Water purifier effervescent tablet with antimicrobial properties to prevent waterborne disease
- *In vivo* study of galactagogue
- Diabetic wound healing cream



4.3 HBNCRIIA-India in partnership with Amazon India





A partnership agreement between GIAN and Amazon India Pvt. Ltd., signed on August 17, 2023, led to a nationwide campaign to identify and celebrate grassroots innovations under the Honey Bee Network Creativity and Inclusive Innovation Awards (HBNCRIIA) 2024. As part of this initiative, thirteen regional workshops were conducted across India—including in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Gandhinagar, Nagaland, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Coimbatore, Jammu, and Kalyani—engaging over 2,100 participants comprising students, teachers, and entrepreneurs. These workshops focused on mobilizing creativity and innovation at the grassroots level and promoting the HBNCRIIA platform. A total of 2,139 entries were received from nearly all states, across categories such as agriculture, health, environment, education, digital and design innovation, energy, water, food, art and culture, and social justice.






Through a rigorous review process—including preliminary screenings, regional evaluations, and final reviews by experts from IITs, IIMs, IISc, and former government secretaries, chaired by Dr R A Mashelkar, 75 entries were initially shortlisted, with 33 advancing to the final round. Director, IIMA, Director, AcSIR, Former Secretary, DBT and many other distinguished scholars were members of the jury. The final jury selected three winners and twelve consolation awardees. The HBNCRIIA 2024 award ceremony was held on November 29, 2024, at the India International Centre, New Delhi, as part of the People's Festival of Innovations (PFoI), celebrating impactful and inclusive innovations aimed at solving pressing societal challenges. The HBNCRIIA-India Award Coffee Table Book was also unveiled during the award ceremony.





List of Workshops conducted under HBNCRIIA-INDIA campaign:



Sr. No.	Target Groups	Location	No. of Participants	Date	Title of Workshop
1	Teachers and others	Delhi	139	1.12.2023	Innovation Workshop
2	Teachers and others	Delhi	75	4.12.2023	Innovator's and Teacher's Workshop under HBNCRIIA Innovation Award
3	Students	Ahmedabad	110	24.12.2023	Food for Creative and Innovative Thought: HBNCRIIA Campaign for Rewarding the Innovations for and from the Grassroots
4	Students	Bhubaneshwar	160	2.1.2024	HBNCRIIA Platform for unleashing grassroots innovations
5	Teachers and others	Hyderabad	185	3.1.2024	Harnessing Creative & Innovative Potential Teachers & Entrepreneurs: HBNCRIIA Platform
6	Teachers and others	Gandhinagar	80	7.1.2024	HBNCRIIA workshop for mobilising innovations and pooling high-quality content
7	Teachers and others	Nagaland	170	19.1.2024	Mind on Margins are not marginal Mind: Unleashing Innovations in Nagaland during Shodhyatra.
8	Students	Dhanbad	224	8.2.2024	Mining the minds: Uncovering creativity & innovation in eastern India
9	Students	Ranchi	247	10.2.2024	Unveiling Grassroots/Frugal Inclusive Innovations
10	Teachers and others	NITK	425	24.2.2024	A National Workshop on Unleashing Innovations For and From Grassroots
11	Students	E-Club PSG CT, Coimbatore	250	16.3.2024	Unleashing creativity & innovative potential of students, faculty & start-ups: leveraging HBNCRIIA platform
12	Students	MIET, Jammu	110	19.3.2024	Linking innovation, investment & enterprise through HBNCRIIA
13	Students	IIT Kalyani	340	21.3.2024	Unleashing the creative potential of students, startups and entrepreneurs

List of HBNCRIIA-INDIA Awardees:

Sr No	Innovator Name	Innovation Details	Award
1	<p>Suneel Singh, Kishtwar Jammu and Kashmir</p> 	<p>The Suneel (S1) walnut variety: He developed through grafting and produces uniform, soft-shell walnuts that are high-yielding, pest-resistant, and organic. Each mature plant, 15-22 feet tall, yields 100-150 kg of walnuts with clusters of 9-15 fruits. Unlike conventional varieties that grow 50-55 feet and take 6-8 years to mature, Suneel S1 starts bearing fruit within 2-3 years, reducing risks during harvest. Bud grafting ensures a 98% success rate and higher productivity.</p>	First Award
2	<p>Samir Ashikhusain Gani, Banaskantha Gujarat</p> 	<p>Farm Land Manure Spreader Machine: The trolley-type machine, attached to a tractor and operated via remote control, uses a hydraulic system to evenly spread fertilizer loaded by a JCB or loader.</p>	Second Award
3	<p>Ishfaq Ahmad Wani, Anantnag Jammu and Kashmir</p> 	<p>The Clipper (Fruit tree safety holder): The mechanical Safety holder supports fruit trees against wind, rain, snowfall, and fruit load, using a clipper to balance branches and shape trees, saving 4-5 boxes of fruit per tree with durable, adjustable brake wire and rod types.</p>	Third Award
4	<p>Sanjay Dhirajlal Tilva, Rajkot. Gujarat</p> 	<p>Mobile Groundnut Pick Up And Threshing Machine: The pickup and threshing machine attaches to a tractor to collect and thresh groundnuts, separating them from fodder, with storage compartments for shells and leaves, and operates continuously in dry conditions.</p>	Appreciation Award

5	<p>Mr. Radhesh Agrahari, Jaipur Rajasthan</p> 	<p>Golden Feathers: They convert chicken butchery waste into natural fabric and superior woollen fibre for textiles and eco-friendly paper using innovative processing and 27 natural sanitization processes.</p>	Appreciation Award
6	<p>Vishal Singhal, Telangana Hyderabad</p> 	<p>Low-power cold storage solution for fruits and vegetables: Vishal and his team developed dew point cooling technology, which consumes 80% less energy than refrigeration, cooling to 18-25°C using indirect evaporation without refrigeration, and can convert any room into a cold storage room.</p>	Appreciation Award
7	<p>Mitesh Rasal, Pune Maharashtra</p> 	<p>Rim With Suspensions: RUT3's innovative Damsus wheel integrates a multi-axis suspension system inside the wheel, enhancing comfort, safety, and efficiency by replacing conventional spokes with flexible ellipses that provide suspension and aid forward movement.</p>	Appreciation Award
8	<p>Ankit Jain, Rajsamand Rajasthan</p> 	<p>Fasal Amrit, a natural soil conditioner made from fruit peels: It absorbs water up to 100 times its weight, retains water, prevents fertilizer leaching, improves soil, and boosts yields by 40%, increasing farmer income by 30%.</p>	Appreciation Award
9	<p>Yash Parkhi, Pune, Maharashtra</p> 	<p>Adaptive ROM Tracker, 3D Joint Simulator & Progress Monitor for Remote Physiotherapy: The device combines 3D joint simulation and motion tracking for enhanced remote physiotherapy, accurately recording joint angles, pain localization, and range of motion for better patient data and therapist insights.</p>	Appreciation Award

10	Pratik Raghuwanshi, Amravati Maharashtra 	Able Glasses for the deaf, mute and blind: Able Glasses uses bone conduction technology and AI to help the deaf hear sound and translate sign language, while providing audio descriptions for the blind, offering a lightweight, non-invasive solution for hearing and vision assistance.	Appreciation Award
11	Gaurav Anand, Jamshedpur Jharkhand 	Fusion Saree from Water Hyacinth: The plant stems are dried, processed into paper and yarn, and woven into sarees by handloom weavers in 3-4 days.	Appreciation Award
12	Nabajit Bharali, Dhemaji Assam 	The Automatic feeding machine: It uses sensors to detect the user's face, scoops food with a motorized spoon, and delivers it smoothly, with a foldable design, reduced manufacturing cost, and portable, user-friendly operation.	Appreciation Award
13	Arpit Kumar, Udupi Karnataka 	Metal (Molecular Magnetic Technology For Arsenic Removal): METAL uses Molecular Magnetic Technology to remove arsenic from groundwater by applying a magnetic field to isolate and extract arsenic, offering an eco-friendly, chemical-free, low-maintenance solution.	Appreciation Award
14	Priyank Dodhia, Suburban Maharashtra	Hook: E-Bike Conversion Technology: HOOK uses a friction drive mechanism with a motorized roller to propel the bicycle forward, offering a modular, easy-to-attach solution, unlike chain-driven or hub motor systems.	Appreciation Award

			
15	<p>Darshan Meher, Nitin Ahmednagar Maharashtra</p> 	<p>"CASE" is an intelligent cloud-connected battery pack: Case- Intelligent Cloud Connected Battery Pack with a PCM-based thermal cooling system, integrated with a Battery Management System (BMS) and predictive algorithms to enhance battery life, reducing ownership costs by 33%.</p>	Appreciation Award



4.4 Partnership with Zydus Lifesciences for instituting, supporting & carrying out the Innovation Program powered by Zydus and GIAN

As part of its ongoing efforts to recognize and support grassroots innovations in the state of Gujarat, GIAN partnered with Zydus to launch a two-phase campaign aimed at identifying and celebrating innovators working in the domains of Health, Technology/Engineering Impact, Energy/Water Conservation, Environment/Waste Management, and Education/Social Impact.

Phase I

In the first phase, 41 entries were received, of which 15 were shortlisted. Following a review meeting with Zydus on 3rd April, 2024, six innovations were selected for the awards. Professional video documentaries of these innovations were produced by the GIAN and Zydus teams. An award ceremony and exhibition were held on 17th April, where the following innovators were recognized:

- **1st Prize:** *Nikhil Kumar* – Biodegradable & Compostable Bottles made from Plants
- **2nd Prize:** *Kavya Mistry* – Kit for Drug Detection in Beverages to Detect Spiked Drinks
- **3rd Prize:** *Vaibhav Shitole* – Bio Sampler: Expanding Diagnostic Accessibility to Remote Locations



An informal mentoring session with Prof. Anil K. Gupta was also organized for the six shortlisted innovators post-award.

Phase II


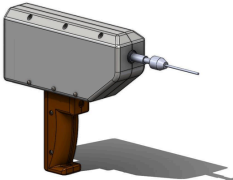
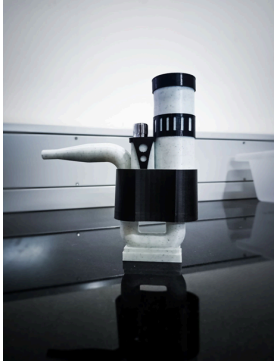


The second phase of the campaign saw an expanded outreach through 15 innovation workshops (both offline and online) held across Gujarat, engaging grassroots communities and innovators. Over 130 registrations were received from various domains. A joint evaluation by teams from Zydus and GIAN led to the shortlisting of the top 20 innovations, with a focus on real-world impact and sustainability.

The final award function was held on 11th March 2025 at the Zydus campus, where 15 shortlisted innovators showcased their work. From these, three innovators were selected for awards. To commemorate the achievements, a book featuring all awardees was jointly released by GIAN and Zydus.

This collaborative initiative not only celebrated impactful grassroots innovations but also fostered mentoring, visibility, and opportunities for scaling sustainable solutions across sectors in Gujarat.

The list of top 15 shortlisted innovations is as follows:

Innovation Title	Innovation Name	Location	Winners
Ankita Vijayvergiya	BillionCarbon	Gandhinagar ▾	Winner

			
Raghavendra Bhalerao	<p>Intelligent Bone Biopsy Device</p> 	Ahmedabad ▾	Runner Up
Gaurav Sharma	<p>Dhoopan Yantra</p> 	Ahmedabad ▾	Second Runner Up
SynerSense Frugal Innovation	<p>SynerSense Frugal Innovation</p> 	Ahmedabad ▾	Second Runner Up
Arjunbhai Mohanlal Paghadar	<p>Swargarohan</p> 	Junagadh ▾	Appreciation
Murtaza Hathi	<p>Raj Biofuels</p>	Ahmedabad ▾	Appreciation

			
Dr. Abhijeet Ashok Salunke	<p>A-Hand: Indigenous Affordable Myoelectric Hand</p> 	Ahmedabad ▾	Appreciation
Fatema M. Arsiwala	<p>Yogatron</p> 	Vadodara ▾	Appreciation
Patel Jignesh Kumar Mafatlal	<p>Multifunctional Power Tiller</p> 	Bharuch ▾	Appreciation
Kapadiya Divyesh Rameshbhai	<p>IoT-Based Solar Panel Cleaning System</p>	Amreli ▾	Appreciation

			
Solanki Keyur Vallabhbhai	Aqua Sense Water Monitoring System 	Gir Somnath ▾	Appreciation
Bhuva Kishan Subhashbhai	Mitrayu Energy 	Rajkot ▾	Appreciation
Darji Dheeraj R.	Solar Panel Cleaning Machine 	Vadodara ▾	Appreciation
Sachika Tomer	A Solar Energy-Powered Oil Skimmer 	Vadodara ▾	Appreciation
Shivam Sarve, Deepak Panchara	An Energy Saver Device for Public/Mass	Junagadh ▾	Appreciation



4.5 Innovations sanctioned under the Startup Gujarat Scheme

Mr. Prakashbhai Vala, the inventor of the Fully Automatic Cotton Wick Tapping Machine, has submitted an application for grant support under the current scheme. The first review committee meeting has already been conducted by the Startup Cell, during which Mr. Prakashbhai presented his innovation.

Mr. Janakbhai Panchal, the developer of the Destoner Machine, has been approved for a grant of ₹27.4 lakh. GIAN has disbursed an initial amount of ₹1 lakh to support his work. Quotations from Mr. Panchal are currently being collected for submission to the Startup Cell.



4.6 Partnership with Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Limited

To mobilize futuristic energy innovations from youth and other stakeholders, GIAN launched the Gujarat Energy Idea Awards 2024, aimed at promoting grassroots innovations through a series of Ideathons organized across colleges and MSME clusters in Gujarat. The initiative sought to engage young minds and innovators in addressing pressing energy and sustainability challenges.

A total of 21 workshops (including two online and nineteen offline sessions) were conducted across various districts, successfully mobilizing participation from diverse regions. These Ideathons received an enthusiastic response, with over 650 entries submitted during the campaign. Promotional activities were actively carried out to ensure wide outreach and engagement.

Out of the total entries, 18 ideas were shortlisted, and the top 10 ideators were awarded a cash prize of INR 20,000 each in recognition of their creativity and potential for impact.


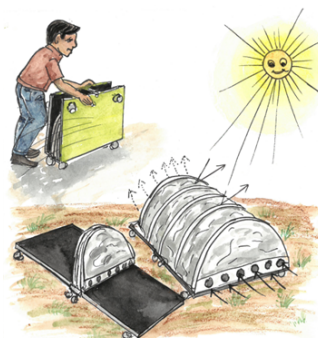
The Gujarat Energy Idea Awards 2024 ceremony was held on 30th January 2025 at IIM Ahmedabad as part of the Fifth International Conference on Creativity and Innovation at/for/with Grassroots (ICCI 5). The event celebrated bold, grassroots-led solutions for the energy sector. A book featuring the award-winning ideas was jointly released by GIAN and GETCO, showcasing the innovative spirit and commitment of Gujarat's youth toward a sustainable energy future.

The list of awardees is as follows:

S. N.	Name	Idea title	Location
1	Jhanvi Amit Gandhi	Bioclastic - The Better Plastic	Nirma University, Ahmedabad

2	Vasoya Aman ManojBhai	<p>Mini Biogas Plant</p>	Renewable engineering and environment engineering, Dantiwada
3	Luhar Shiv JitendraKumar	<p>Development of a Non-electrical Device to track the Sun's movement</p>	Shri K.J. Polytechnic, Bharuch
4	Rawat Santosh	<p>Nature in Paper, Siyas</p>	Law College, Rajasthan University, Maharani College, Jaipur
5	Shravan Kumar	<p>Triple Benefit from Waste</p>	B A College of Agriculture, Anand

6	Dev Patel	<p>Turbine Rooftop Water pipe</p>	Nirma University, Ahmedabad
7	Raju Barman	<p>Phase Change Material Incorporated Energy Efficient Thermo-Electric Refrigeration System</p>	JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY, Jadavpur, West Bengal
8	Yasam Veera Reddy	<p>Flother</p>	Nirma University, Ahmedabad
9	Darsh Kelaiya	<p>Fuel-saving Car batteries</p>	Nirma University, Ahmedabad

			
10	Parama Datta	<p>Foldable Parabolic Dome-Type Solar Dryer</p> 	Raiganj University, West Bengal




4.7 Partnership with Gujarat Power Corporation Limited




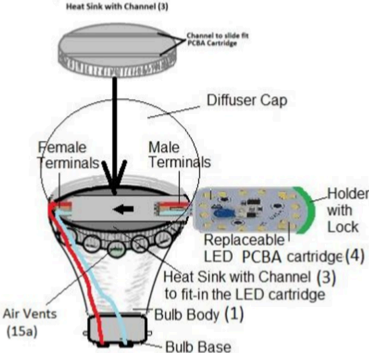
The Gujarat Energy Innovation Awards 2024 was launched with the goal of identifying at least 50 impactful innovations, particularly those aimed at reducing the drudgery of women and enhancing energy conservation and generation in small enterprises and livelihood activities across Gujarat. The campaign focused on scouting innovations, best practices, and sustainable solutions from grassroots communities, especially those applicable to energy use in everyday life and work. As part of the initiative, two online and eight offline workshops were organized to engage participants and promote idea submissions. Promotional activities and the call for entries remained open throughout the campaign, leading to 20 shortlisted entries, out of which 10 were recognized with state-level awards.


The award ceremony was held on 30th January 2025 at IIM Ahmedabad, as part of ICCIG 5, celebrating socially relevant and energy-focused innovations. The top ten innovations were honored with substantial prize money—₹2.5 lakhs for the first prize, ₹1.5 lakhs for the second, ₹75,000 for the third, and ₹25,000 each for the remaining seven.




Looking ahead, the next phase of the project is expanding its reach to MSME industries and their workers, in addition to colleges.

List of Awardees of the First Phase Campaign:

S.No	Innovator Name	Innovation Title	Location	Awards
1	Amit Gupta	Semi-Automatic Solar Panel Recycling Technology 	Amreli, Gujarat	1 st
2	Arjunbhai Mohanlal Paghadar	Swargarohan- An innovative and environmentally friendly cremation system	Junagadh, Gujarat	2 nd

				
3	Nabajit Bharali	<p>Solar Pot with Sapling Watering Facility- Atmospheric moisture condenses into water droplets within this device, powered efficiently by an attached solar panel.</p>  	Dhemaji, Assam	3 rd
4	Shreya Chopra	<p>GLEED - Reusable LED bulbs with Replaceable LED cartridges</p> 	Gautam Budha Nagar, UP	Appreciation Award
5	Darpan Kadu	<p>AshvaMitra- An innovative, eco-friendly solution for India's logistics and trucking sector with its modular electric truck system</p>	Vadodara, Gujarat	Appreciation Award

				
6	Jenil Gandhi	<p>From Farms to Fashion- Plant-based vegan leather from agricultural waste, specifically wheat and rice straw</p> 	Ganesh Society, Chital Road	Appreciation Award
7	Yogeshkumar Devjibhai Khimsuriya	<p>Revolutionary Solar Air Heater for Sustainable Agricultural Drying: Enhancing Nutrient Retention and Energy Efficiency</p> 	Navsari, Gujarat	Appreciation Award

8	Chandrashekara M	<p>Increasing Power Output and Lifespan of Photovoltaic-A cooling system for solar cells uses earthenware devices (made of clay) mounted on the rear side of photovoltaic (PV) panels.</p> 	Kurukshetra, Haryana	Appreciation Award
9	Korat Nikunj k	<p>EV- Tractor- electric battery-operated tractor for farming that generates the same torque as an 18-hp diesel tractor</p> 	Nikol, Ahmedabad	Appreciation Award
10	Sudhakar Babu Gariganti	<p>SvachSakthi- An off-grid Cooperative model for an inclusive Decentralized Renewable Energy Ecosystem</p> 	Guntur, Andhra Pradesh	Appreciation Award



4.8 School Children Nutrition Kitchen Garden in Government Schools

As part of a broader initiative to promote nutritional awareness, sustainability, and self-reliance among schoolchildren, Nutrition Kitchen Garden kits were distributed to 1,230 Government Schools across Gujarat in 2024. Each kit contained 15 varieties of vegetable seeds, aiming to promote nutritional awareness, environmental responsibility, and hands-on learning among students. Alongside cultivation, students actively participated in the entire process—learning how to plant, care for, and harvest vegetables. This experiential learning helped them develop a deeper understanding of plant life cycles, sustainable farming practices, and the nutritional value of fresh vegetables, while also fostering a love for nature and healthy eating habits.

Data collected from participating schools showed that Bottle Gourd recorded the highest overall yield, followed by Brinjal, Cherry Tomato, and Ridge Gourd. Leafy vegetables such as Spinach, Coriander, and Fenugreek showed moderate yields due to shorter cycles, while Hyacinth Bean, Cow Pea, and Cluster Bean performed less consistently. The results reflected the influence of local conditions like soil, water availability, and management. Overall, the initiative not only supported school nutrition and garden-based learning but also instilled valuable life skills and environmental sensitivity in thousands of students.



4.9 Discover & Deploy- UNDP Energy Campaign and support for policy reforms

GIAN has continued its support to the Innovation Acceleration Lab Network on a need basis. In addition, it has also pursued ideas for cross-regional diffusion of innovation, validation of some of the African innovations in the energy space, besides participation in a regional meeting in Guatemala and a mini shodhayatra after the meeting with volunteers.

4.10 Third People's Festival of Innovations with Deep-Tech and Grassroots Innovations in collaboration with C-CAMP, Bengaluru at IIC New Delhi

The People's Festival of Innovations, a vibrant celebration of India's ingenuity and inventive spirit, unfolded its third edition, held from 25-29 November, 2024, at the India International Centre (IIC), Delhi. Co-organised by C-CAMP and GIAN, the festival has firmly established itself as a premier platform, showcasing the transformative strides made by India's science-driven deeptech innovators and grassroots change-makers alike. This year's festival was a vibrant convergence of nearly 100 innovators, representing both deep-tech advancements and grassroots innovations, alongside key stakeholders from national and global innovation ecosystems. Over five days, more than 30 distinguished speakers shared their insights and expertise. The festival also welcomed a 15-member French delegation, fostering international collaboration. A total of 40 one-on-one meetings took place between 15 promising startups and four investors, creating valuable networking and funding opportunities. Additionally, the event attracted a strong external audience, including aspiring entrepreneurs from seven different colleges and institutes, further enriching the ecosystem with fresh perspectives and enthusiasm.

The Festival was inaugurated by Dr. V. K. Paul, Hon'ble Member of NITI Aayog, and featured an esteemed panel of dignitaries, including Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, ASRB; Dr. Renu Swarup, Former Secretary, Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India; Prof. Anil Gupta, Founder of the Honey Bee Network, SRISTI, GIAN & NIF, Visiting Faculty at IIMA & IITB, Academy Professor, AcSIR; Dr. Swati Basu, Former Scientific Secretary, O/o PSA; and Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed, CEO & Director, C-CAMP. The Festival brought together industry leaders, innovators, policymakers, regulators, prominent academicians, and the general public for meaningful interactions and engagement.

This year, the festival featured a diverse lineup of engaging sessions designed to spark discussions and insights on key themes, including:

- Enabling Policy Frameworks for Promoting Innovations for and from the grassroots, besides others
- Advancing Product Innovation
- Building Scalable Innovation Models
- Overcoming Challenges in Commercializing Products
- Opportunities for Mobilizing Investments
- Scaling Innovations — Deploying Technology Across States



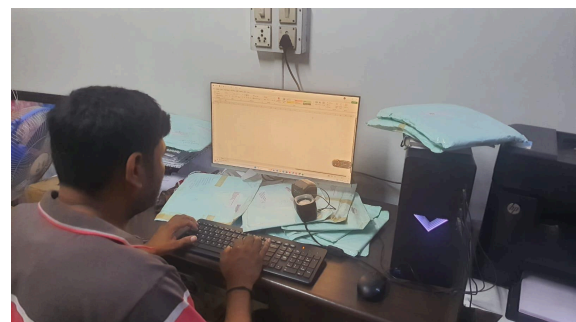
4.11 Participation in the Sattvik Traditional Food Festival

GIAN participated in the Sattvik Food Festival organized by SRISTI from December 28-31, 2024, with a focus on promoting community empowerment and experiential learning. As part of this initiative, GIAN invited community members from Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh (because IIMA shodhyatra was organised in Lahul Spiti, HP), and Jammu & Kashmir to participate in the event and gain real-life exposure in entrepreneurship, customer connect, generating feedback in real time, and service management. This engagement provided participants with valuable hands-on experience, enhancing their skills in areas such as customer interaction, product display, and sales. The initiative aimed to foster self-reliance, entrepreneurial thinking, and cross-cultural learning among communities from diverse regions.



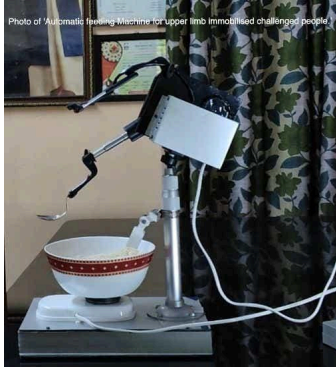
4.12 STMicroelectronics Foundation teaching activities

In collaboration with the STMicroelectronics Foundation, GIAN has been running an IT Training Centre to impart basic computer skills to students from marginalized sections of society. During the financial year 2024–25, the centre successfully trained over 50 students, expanding its focus this year to also include illiterate household workers, providing them with foundational digital literacy to enhance their day-to-day lives and livelihood opportunities. As part of the ongoing effort to widen access, GIAN is currently in discussions with Thaltej Primary School to resume classes, subject to the necessary permissions as outlined in the project guidelines.



4.13 Host Institution under MSME

GIAN, as a 'Host Institute' by MSME, actively participated in its activities. GIAN received 12 entries under the MSME Idea Hackathon 4.0 (Youth). After hosting a review committee meeting on 28th October 2024, six shortlisted start-ups were sent to MSME for evaluation.



5. Upcoming GIAN Entrepreneurship and Innovation Centre in Sanand

Construction is currently 40% complete, with all necessary regulatory approvals secured. Additionally, the Industries Department has disbursed the first instalment of ₹66.34 lakh.

Some of the items were not included in the original tender. Additionally, some included items required more material and funding than originally planned. The additional items in the proposal, such as a boundary wall, backfilling, a water tank, and a soak pit, are being added. An estimation for this cost is being developed by the architect team and the project management consultant.

GIAN will submit it to the infrastructure department shortly for approval. The revised rates of items, with reference to the Schedule of Rates (SOR) updated from 2021 to 2023-24, will also be included in the proposal.

The continued support from the Industry Department is much appreciated



6. Other Activities

6.1 Internships at GIAN

GIAN has been hosting students from different institutes and academic institutions as interns for different durations to orient & make them aware of the grassroots innovations and their potential in the current scenario. Students were from IIMs, NID, Ahmedabad University, IISc and other institutions.

6.2 Shodhyatra

During the financial year 2024–25, GIAN actively collaborated with SRISTI and the Honey Bee Network in organizing three Shodhyatras aimed at uncovering and celebrating grassroots knowledge and local innovations. The 51st Shodhyatra, June 17-23, covered a 90 km route from Harima to Chak Dhani in Nagaur District, Rajasthan, with the participation of 50 Shodhyatris. The objective of this journey was to recognize and learn from resourceful local knowledge systems and to support the development of traditional and local enterprises in the region.

Building on this momentum, GIAN further collaborated for the 52nd Shodhyatra, held in Katihar, Bihar, February 15-21, 2025, and the 53rd Shodhyatra, conducted from Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh to Chhota Udepur, Gujarat from June 4-10, 2025. These walks continued the mission of engaging

with grassroots communities, identifying sustainable practices, and fostering inclusive innovation across different geographies.



6.3 GIA Gathering (24-27 Jan 2025) in Ahmedabad hosted by GIAN

- The Grassroots Innovations Assembly for Agroecology (GIA) convened in Ahmedabad, India, from January 25-27, 2025, for its second international meeting. The gathering, hosted by GIAN, included a 3-day workshop/meeting followed by three days presence of GIA representatives at the Fifth International Conference on Creativity and Innovation at Grassroots, bringing together organizations from across the globe that promote grassroots innovation. These organizations collaborate to advance technological sovereignty for smallholders, focusing on research and regional action.
- Representatives from 15 organizations participated, including ProInnova Asia (Nepal, India), Kenyan Peasant League (Kenya), Farm Hack (USA), and FAO/OIN (Italy), among others. The assembly provided a platform for sharing experiences, discussing innovations, and strengthening global collaborations.
- GIA members visited Ahmedabad's Farmer's Market, engaged with local farmers about organic produce and sustainable farming practices. Later, they explored an organic farm at Lothal, where they learned about innovative ghee production and the Miyawaki

reforestation. The farm visit included a discussion on sustainable farming practices and a homemade lunch prepared in a firewood kitchen.

- Workshop sessions covered a range of topics, including fostering agroecology schools and peer networks, exploring the risks and potentials of emerging innovations, and sharing grassroots innovations through documentation and cross-pollination. Discussions also addressed enabling infrastructure, alternative financial models for sustaining grassroots innovations, and strengthening international collaboration and governance within the GIA network, building upon the experience of the Honey Bee Network.



6.4 The Fifth International Conference On Creativity And Innovation At/For/From/With Grassroots [ICCIG 5] held from January 28th to 30th, 2025

The Fifth International Conference on Creativity and Innovation At/For/From/With Grassroots (ICCIG 5), held from January 28–30, 2025, in Ahmedabad, was a landmark global event that celebrated the transformative power of grassroots innovations in addressing local and global challenges. Jointly organized by GIAN, SRISTI, and the Centre for Management in Agriculture (CMA), IIM Ahmedabad, the conference brought together an eclectic mix of global leaders, grassroots innovators, academicians, researchers, policymakers, and designers to build synergies for sustainable and inclusive development.

The conference featured 100+ scholars from India and abroad who presented their research papers and posters, contributing valuable insights into innovation, design, sustainability, and policy.

Simultaneously, grassroots innovators from across India exhibited their technologies and practices in front of global experts and institutional leaders, offering real-life examples of frugal and sustainable problem-solving rooted in local contexts. Key international participants included representatives from the Philippines (GRIND DOST), Indonesia (University of Malang), Malaysia (ISTIC–UNESCO), Norway, and others, who discussed strategies to scale grassroots innovations through policy, regulatory, and financial frameworks.

A special highlight of ICCIG 5 was the hosting of the Gujarat Energy Idea Awards and Gujarat Energy Innovation Awards, recognising both young student ideators and grassroots innovators for their outstanding contributions to the energy sector. These awards showcased solutions ranging from improved energy-efficient devices to renewable energy innovations addressing household and enterprise-level needs. The conference sessions also explored the convergence of design, traditional knowledge, and emerging technologies, while emphasizing the need to preserve cultural heritage and promote agroecological sustainability.

Overall, ICCIG 5 reinforced the importance of global collaboration in creating enabling ecosystems that support the scouting, nurturing, and scaling of grassroots innovations.



6.5 International Engagements on Grassroots and Sustainable Innovation

In 2024-2025, Dr. Anamika Dey and Prof. Anil Gupta actively represented the grassroots innovation movement at several prestigious international platforms. At the UNDP Regional Meet in Guatemala, key ethical and practical challenges in community engagement were discussed, emphasizing trust-building and fair knowledge exchange. Dr. Dey contributed as a plenary speaker at the Global Bio Economy Summit in Nairobi, highlighting the role of innovation in sustainable

bioeconomic solutions. She also shared field insights at the KONVENSYEN INOVASI SOSIAL (KIS) 2024 in Malaysia, focusing on grassroots innovation narratives. Most recently, she participated in the DeSIRA CONNECT Days in Vietnam, collaborating with like-minded organizations working across Asia and the Pacific.



6.6 A 15-member French delegation from the Paris Club of Chief Innovation Officers visited India from November 25–29, 2024.

The French delegation, which visited India from 25th to 29th November 2024, comprised fifteen members representing the Paris Club of Chief Innovation Officers. This esteemed group brought together innovation heads from nearly 100 leading global companies, along with representatives from public agencies, academic institutions, and major research and technology centres. During their visit, they attended the People’s Festival of Innovations 2024 and, accompanied by GIAN staff, visited NID, Ahmedabad University, IIM Ahmedabad, and other key institutions to explore opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

6.7 A high-level UK delegation led by Prof. Adnan Khan (Chief Economist, FCDO) visited GIAN in Ahmedabad on 5 February 2025

To explore grassroots innovation, technology democratization, and sustainable development. The delegation included:

Mr. Stephen Hickling (Deputy High Commissioner to Gujarat & Rajasthan), Mr. David Perkoff (South Asia Economist, Indo-Pacific Team), Mr. Jay Shanker (Head of Economic Research & Development), Ms. Moumita Bhattacharya (Senior Advisor, Economics, Climate & Development), Ms. Aditi Banerjee (Economic Adviser)

Scaling up grassroots innovations to catalyze impactful, community-driven change was one of the main points of discussion. Prof. Anil Gupta, Dr. Anamika Dey (CEO, GIAN), and the GIAN team showcased their ongoing projects. The UK delegation expressed keen interest in visiting GIAN’s field sites, and both parties recognized the importance of forging an inclusive innovation ecosystem—one that empowers grassroots innovators alongside established corporations.

They agreed to pursue tangible collaborations focusing on a sustainable grassroots-to-global (g2G) innovation model. A key highlight was the shared interest in establishing an Academy of Inclusive Innovations & Knowledge Augmentation (AIKA) a promising area for future cooperation.

6.8 Newly Scouted Innovations

In addition to the innovations scouted for HBNCRIIA(Amazon), Gujarat Energy Awards(GPCL, GETCO), Innovation program (Zydus), several other innovations were also scouted :

- **Mithilesh Harishchandra Desai- Adhiraj Semi-Automatic Green Cashew Peeling Machine**, a groundbreaking solution for the cashew processing industry. This innovative machine addresses multiple challenges faced by farmers and workers in the industry.
- **Thornless Khejri, Rameshwar Lalji, Rajasthan :**
He found a variety of Khejri, which is naturally thornless. He has grafted that variety with a commonly used Khejri variety and created two new thornless varieties, named Thar Harit and Dhoro ki Tarkari.
- **Wood splitting machine - Jignesh Patel, Gujarat:**
The innovator has used a part of the JCB compressor and built a machine to cut wood. The length of the log to be put in the machine for cutting has to be 2-5 ft. in length. The breadth of the wood is no restriction. There are multiple versions of the machine, 3 HP, 5 HP, 7.5 HP and 10 HP.
- **Modification of traditional Samovar - Mohammad Ismail Mir, Jammu & Kashmir:**
To solve the problems of overheating and smoke in the traditional Kashmiri samovar, the innovator has created a temperature and air controller. This device regulates airflow to the embers, maintaining a steady temperature that keeps the tea warm without boiling.



7. Notes on Accounts

Building on its steadfast financial stewardship, GIAN efficiently allocated 96% of its funds to core programmes and just 4% to administrative expenses, underscoring our strong operational discipline. This balance aligns with industry best practices, maximizing impact while sustaining essential infrastructure and governance. The recent audit report flagged no significant qualifications or comments, highlighting GIAN's unwavering commitment to transparency, fiscal accountability, and integrity in every financial transaction. GIAN recorded Income of ₹ 3,60,10,757 & Expenditure of ₹ 3,50,22,595 in the year 2024-2025.

Summary of the Accounts:

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Income	2,03,98,720	3,24,01,881	3,60,10,757
Expenditure	1,90,74,579	3,24,41,968	3,50,22,595
Surplus/(Deficit)	13,24,141	-40,087	9,88,162

Challenges & Way Forward

1. Mapping & Documenting a Vast Informal Innovation Landscape

For over 25 years, GIAN has championed grassroots innovation across India and internationally. Yet, the enormity of India's informal sector, rich with undocumented and region-specific innovations, remains a persistent challenge. These innovations span agriculture, healthcare, sustainable energy, artisanal crafts, and beyond, making systematic scouting, documentation, validation, design refinement, and market linkage efforts both resource-intensive and complex.

2. Fragmented Ecosystem & Stark Policy Gaps

Despite strong grassroots potential, the ecosystem suffers from fragmentation, weak linkages between innovators, incubators, research bodies, funders, and markets. Moreover, India needs a cohesive policy framework and a unified advocacy platform for grassroots innovation.

3. Funding Constraints & Institutional Capacity

At the micro level, GIAN faces challenges in securing stable funding to maintain operations and support innovators long-term. Effective ecosystem-building requires steady resources, not just for project-specific costs but also for the organisation-wide capacity building, market expertise, and staff for ongoing operations.

Way Forward: Strategic Roadmap

1. Establishing an international platform for Grassroots Innovation: GIAN envisions spearheading the formation of a Global Inclusive Innovation Foundation or AIIKA (Academy of Inclusive Innovations and Knowledge Augmentation) institution dedicated to grassroots innovation. This body would unify policy advocacy, coordinate stakeholders, set standards for documentation and validation, and act as a network repository for grassroots IP and technologies. It will also recognise the supply chain actors who help in scaling the grassroots innovations.

2. Strengthening Ecosystem Linkages: Foster partnerships between grassroots innovators and public and private research institutions and other labs for action research, mentorship, prototyping, and market access. Launch regional hubs or innovation clinics supporting scouting, testing, legal guidance, and go-to-market strategies.

3. Building Internal Capacity & Financial Resilience: Form an in-house fundraising and business development team, with expertise in grant-seeking, CSR partnerships, and donor engagement. Design diverse revenue streams: consulting services, innovation festivals, licensing, and commercialisation models to ensure sustained impact.
4. Leveraging Technology for Scalable Outreach: Employ low-cost digital solutions (e.g., mobile apps, AI-assisted tools) to empower remote innovators in documentation and validation processes.
5. Host consultations and roundtables with government bodies to lobby for fiscal incentives, incubation support, and public procurement mechanisms for GRI.
6. Pursue a nationwide policy for multi-location trials of Grassroots innovation to enhance their diffusion potential. Discussion has begun with some of the national agencies
7. Create a multi-media, multi-language exposition of innovations at the new campus if resources for the same can be mobilised.
8. Help uncover the **innovations by industrial workers** –an area which has been relatively neglected by HBN so far, though a concept of Industrial shodhyatra was indeed developed years ago (<https://anilg.sristi.org/industrial-shodhyatra-an-old-note-2008/>). GIAN wishes to take the lead in this regard.