

BLUE PRINTS

The Studio Newsletter

Issue 04

MAY 2025 - JULY 2025

An Initiative of



WATERPRENEUR STUDIO - ICCW

“மழை வரும் நாளிலே மகிழ்ச்சி பெருகுதடி
மக்கள் வாழ்வு செழிக்குது, மண் புது சுவை தருதடி
நதி பாய்ந்து கடல் சேர, நலம் புகழ் பெருகுதடி
நமக்கு வந்த வளம் எல்லாம், நீரினின்றே உருவாதடி”

Interpretation :

Rain and water are the foundation of joy, prosperity and survival. When rain falls, it brings happiness to people, makes the land fertile and supports the growth of crops. Flowing rivers that join the sea symbolize the harmony of nature and the endless cycle that sustains life. He reminds us that every form of wealth - food, health, culture, and growth - comes from water. Without it, there can be no progress or civilization. His words are not only a celebration of nature's gifts but also a reminder of our duty: to respect, value and conserve water, because in protecting water, we protect life itself.

Subramania Bharathiyar was a great Tamil poet, freedom fighter and social reformer, inspired people with his powerful poems on patriotism, equality, women's rights and nature.



What's Inside

Anniversary Celebration **4**

Impact Report 2024-25 **5**

Outreach Events **6 - 7**

BLUE LEAP - Roadshow **8**

Chennai Climate Party **9**

Blog Spotlight **10**

Call for Akamai Program **11 - 12**

Anniversary Celebration

One Year of Waterpreneur Studio

A year of Impact and Innovation

On this special occasion, we gathered with our team and ecosystem partners at ICCW for an evening filled with gratitude, inspiration, and celebration. A highlight of the event was hearing from our Directors, Prof. Thalappil Pradeep and Mr. E Nandakumar, who shared their insights and aspirations for the journey ahead.

A key highlight of the event was the launch of Waterpreneur Studio's first Annual Report, showcasing a year of accomplishments—from supporting early-stage deep-tech startups and fostering community engagement to building partnerships within the broader innovation ecosystem. The report reflects the studio's mission to catalyze sustainable, scalable solutions in water treatment and access.

Over the past year, Waterpreneur Studio has become a hub for startups working at the intersection of science, technology, and social impact. Through mentorship, infrastructure support and strategic collaborations, the centre has played a crucial role in turning promising ideas into viable solutions for one of India's most pressing challenges: clean and accessible water for all.



One Year of Waterpreneur Studio

Impact Report 2024-25

A year of Impact and Innovation

In just one year, Waterpreneur Studio - ICCW has emerged as a catalyst for change in India's water-tech ecosystem. From nurturing early-stage ideas to launching market-ready solutions, the studio has supported startups, MSMEs, and innovators with the tools, mentorship, and opportunities they need to tackle India's most urgent water challenges.

23

Startups
Facilitated

2.3Cr

External Funding
Mobilized

40+

Jobs created
through startups

90+

Services Provided
to startups

Akamai Accelerator

6th
COHORT

4
STARTUPS

₹1.5Cr
GRANT

S
SELECTED STARTUPS



Akamai Accelerator

2nd
COHORT

5
STARTUPS

₹33 L
GRANT

S
SELECTED STARTUPS



12

Mentors
Onboarded

08

Consultant
Onboarded

15

Events
Organized

412+

People & Startups
Benefitted

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS



Akamai
Technologies



Sattva
Consulting



ICRISAT
Hyderabad



SPARK-SREC
Coimbatore



CWRDM
KSCSTE

Outreach Events

NGSS – An Initiative IWA

Next Generation Sanitation Systems (NGSS)

On May 13th, 2025, Waterpreneur Studio – ICCW had the honor of hosting an exclusive outreach event for the Next Generation Sanitation Systems (NGSS) – a global initiative by the International Water Association (IWA). This important platform is on the lookout for groundbreaking, non-biological sanitation technologies that are capable of treating both greywater and blackwater, in alignment with ISO 30500 or equivalent standards like EPA/NSF.

Speakers for the Event



Ms Kavitha Chinnusamy
COO, Waterpreneur
Studio ICCW - IIT M



Mr. Jeyannathann Karunanithi
India Regional
Operations Manager, IWA



Dr. Elena Fernandez-Miranda Cagigal
Project Manager,
NGSS, IWA

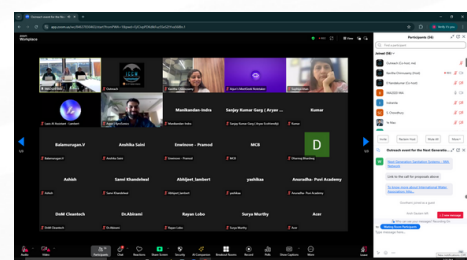
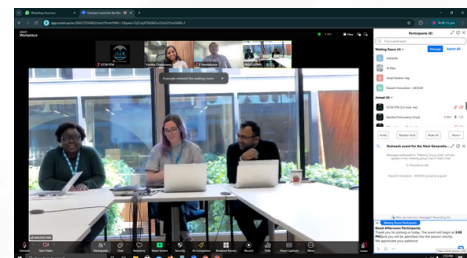


Ms. Wandoo Akosu
Senior Project Officer,
Next Generation
Sanitation Systems, IWA

The virtual event saw an enthusiastic turnout from sanitation startups, innovators, and ecosystem enablers from across the globe.

The IWA team presented the vision, goals, and application process for NGSS, which offers selected solutions a chance to receive up to \$3 million USD in funding, access to customized technical support, and global visibility.

This initiative is a call to action for all sanitation innovators—bringing the future of decentralized, inclusive sanitation systems one step closer. The session ended with a lively Q&A, encouraging founders to share their ideas and challenges.



Outreach Events

UNNATI.AI Accelerator

Microsoft-Powered Initiative

On June 19th, Waterpreneur Studio – ICCW in association with FITT, IIT Delhi, hosted an engaging Outreach Webinar for the UNNATI.AI Accelerator – a Microsoft-powered initiative designed to empower AI-driven innovation across urban and rural India.



The poster for the UNNATI.AI Accelerator Outreach Webinar features logos for FITT (Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer), Waterpreneur Studio (an initiative of ICCW), and Microsoft. It states the event is organized by Waterpreneur Studio - ICCW in partnership with FITT - IIT Delhi. The central graphic shows a stylized brain circuit with the text 'unnati.ai' and the tagline 'EMPOWER. ACCELERATE. TRANSFORM. ACCELERATING GRASSROOTS INNOVATION'. Below this, it specifies the date as Thursday, 19 June, 2025, starting at 11:30am, with a grant amount of up to INR 30 Lakhs. A 'REGISTER NOW' button is prominently displayed. A table of offerings includes Seed Grants and Funding Opportunities, AI & Cloud Infrastructure, Market Access & Partnerships, Bootcamps & Workshops, Exclusive Change Makers Community, and Mentorship from Experts.

FITT FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान दिल्ली
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

WATERPRENEUR STUDIO
An Initiative of
ICCW

Microsoft

WATERPRENEUR STUDIO - ICCW
in partnership with
FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER - IIT DELHI

ORGANIZING AN EXCLUSIVE OUTREACH WEBINAR ON

unnati.ai
EMPOWER. ACCELERATE. TRANSFORM.
ACCELERATING GRASSROOTS INNOVATION

THURSDAY
19 JUNE, 2025
Start at 11:30am

GRANT UPTO
INR 30 LAKHS

REGISTER NOW

OFFERINGS

- Seed Grants and Funding Opportunities
- AI & Cloud Infrastructure
- Market Access & Partnerships
- Bootcamps & Workshops
- Exclusive Change Makers Community
- Mentorship from Experts

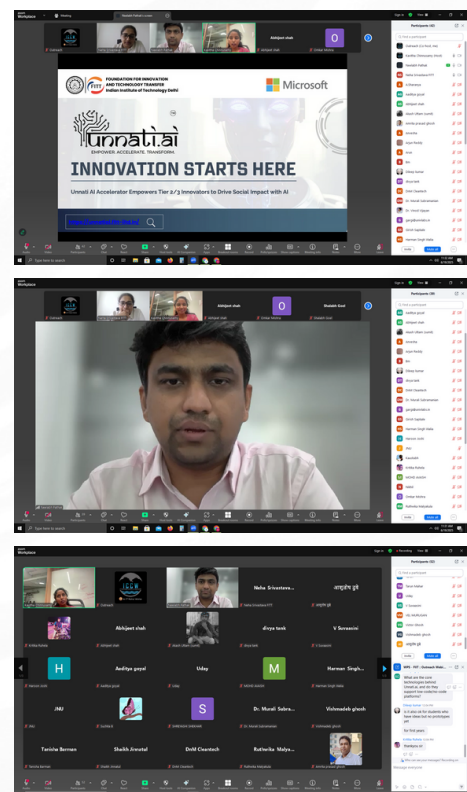
The webinar welcomed a wide spectrum of attendees including students, entrepreneurs, developers, AI enthusiasts, startup founders and mentors.

Participants gained insights into the program's offerings – which include funding opportunities, expert mentorship, infrastructure access, and market linkages – all focused on leveraging AI for social impact.

The theme, “AI for Good,” resonated strongly throughout the session, with speakers highlighting real-world applications of AI in water conservation, public health, education accessibility, and environmental sustainability.

From water quality monitoring to early disease detection and smart irrigation, the potential of AI in solving grassroots challenges was made evident.

The energy was palpable, with several young innovators expressing interest in applying for the upcoming cohort, signaling a growing alignment between AI innovation and water entrepreneurship.



Startup Event

BLUE LEAP

The Waterpreneur Studio Roadshow

June 6th marked an exciting milestone in our journey to connect water innovators across India. Waterpreneur Studio - ICCW, in collaboration with SREC SPARK Incubation Foundation, hosted BLUE LEAP - The Waterpreneur Studio Roadshow at the Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College Campus, Coimbatore.



The event brought together an energetic mix of student entrepreneurs, early-stage startups, and domain experts from the water sector. The agenda featured a dynamic panel discussion, product showcases, and a high-energy networking zone, where innovators could explore collaboration opportunities and receive real-time feedback on their ideas.

A major highlight was the signing of an **MoU between Waterpreneur Studio and SREC SPARK**, laying the foundation for a long-term partnership focused on nurturing young water-tech entrepreneurs in the region.

We're deeply grateful to our partners, mentors, and participants for making this roadshow such a success. BLUE LEAP continues to travel across India, creating ripples of innovation.



Community Event

Chennai Climate Party

A Collaborative Dialogue on Water

The Chennai Climate Party, held on June 21st at StartupTN HQ, brought together an inspiring mix of voices to explore one of the city's most urgent issues: **Water**.



With representation from Waterpreneur Studio – ICCW, and led by facilitator Mr. Chandrasekaran Jayaraman (Founder, WatSan™), the panel discussed systemic solutions to Chennai's water crisis. Highlights included:

- **D.C. Sekhar** of AlphaMERS Ltd. on cleaning urban waterbodies
- **CMA Padmapriya TS**, Chief Executive of Sanitation First India, on Chennai's water history and participatory models
- **Kavitha Chinnusamy**, COO, Waterpreneur Studio, sharing insights on clean water innovations

The event wrapped up with an immersive climate gaming experience by Biblubox, encouraging attendees to engage with the complexity of water systems through play.

An insightful moment came from analyzing India's rainfall data: despite receiving nearly 3.88 trillion cubic meters of rainfall annually, only 8% is captured –most of it flowing out to the sea.

A big thank you to the organizers and attendees for making this a powerful, action-oriented conversation.



Blog Spotlight

We Can Sleep Without Worry

Rural Community's Transformation in WB

When we went to Purulia on January 25, along with Mr. Nandakumar E - CEO, ICCW and Mr. Nagarjuna T - Head of Implementation, ICCW, a moment that left a lasting impression. In a small village in the Purulia district of West Bengal, a child stood by a hand pump, trying to draw water—but nothing came out. The pump creaked with each attempt, but the ground offered no relief. The child kept trying, silently, determined. It was a quiet yet powerful scene that reflected the daily struggle of many rural families—grappling for access to safe and sufficient drinking water. Traditional hand pumps, once reliable, often ran dry, leaving families with no option but to spend hours in search of alternative water sources.

In May 2024, the story began to change. With support from NVIDIA and implementation by the International Centre for Clean Water (ICCW), a sustainable, tech-enabled solution was introduced in the villages of Darodih, Kuchung, and Asanbani. Using Capacitive Deionization (CDI) and real-time IoT monitoring, new water purification systems were installed to provide safe drinking water. To date, more than 2,15,000 liters of clean water have been dispensed across the three villages. The initiative also introduced water user committees and a social business model, where water is made available at a nominal fee to support ongoing operations—ensuring local ownership and long-term sustainability.



The Ripple Effect:

- Children can now focus on their studies or enjoy playtime, no longer burdened by the daily struggle for water.
- Women save valuable time, previously spent walking long distances
- Improved awareness on hygiene and waterborne diseases.
- Villages are self-reliant, with systems in place for maintenance and accountability.

What was once a scene of scarcity and uncertainty is now one of resilience, dignity, and transformation. This project is a powerful example of how community-driven innovation can create lasting impact.

Akamai Acceleration Program Cohort - 7

Accelerate your Startup

Open Call for Application

Happy to announce that applications are now open for the Akamai Acceleration Program – Cohort 7, designed to fast-track innovations in water domains.



ACCELERATE YOUR STARTUP

with Akamai Acceleration Program Cohort - 7

Program Offerings

-  Funding up to INR 30 lakhs
-  Expert Mentorship
-  Platform to Scale your Solution
-  Pilot & Field Testing Opportunities

- Access up to INR 30 Lakhs in grants to scale up your solution.
- A structured technical and business mentorship support from domain leaders & industry veterans.
- Get connected to potential customers, stakeholders, and distribution channels.
- Deploy and test your solution in real-world through networked partners.

Thematic Areas

-  Waterbody Management
-  Water Sensing
-  Water Treatment
-  Agriculture & Aquaculture
-  Community Participation
-  Water Distribution

For more information Contact  +91 6379750622  coo@wpsworld.org

Eligibility Criteria

- The startup should have a validated Minimum Viable Product (MVP) demonstrating core functionality.
- Identified challenges and gaps in scaling operations and market penetration.
- A committed founding team with relevant expertise and full-time involvement.
- The startup must be registered in India and compliant with applicable legal and regulatory norms.
- Clear potential to create measurable positive impact in the water or sustainability sectors.



Akamai Incubation Program Cohort 3

Attention Early Stage Startups

Eligibility Criteria

- Early-stage startups operating in the water domain, with a working prototype and a clear roadmap toward developing a Minimum Viable Product (MVP).
- A committed founding team (minimum 2 members) with relevant domain expertise and full-time involvement in the startup.
- Open to pivoting based on customer feedback, with a growth mindset and willingness to adapt.
- The startup must be registered in India and compliant with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements.



TRANSFORM YOUR WATER INNOVATION

WITH AKAMAI INCUBATION PROGRAM COHORT 3



Program Offerings

- Participants will develop core entrepreneurial capabilities and strengthen their business acumen. The program introduces key techniques aimed at fostering innovation-driven leadership.
- Startups that achieve defined milestones will be eligible for a grant of up to ₹5 lakhs as financial support.
- Startups that successfully complete the incubation program with a validated MVP will earn the opportunity to pitch for the Akamai Accelerator Program.



Access to the
Ecosystem



12 months
Program



Funding up to
INR lakhs



Entrepreneurial
Mindset

THEMATIC AREAS



Community
Participation



Water
Distribution



Waterbody
Management



Water
Sensing



Water
Treatment



Agriculture &
Aquaculture

Become a Waterpreneur.

Phone

+91 97907 59013

Email

coo@wpsworld.org

Website

iccw.world/waterpreneur-studio-2



**WATERPRENEUR
STUDIO**

