

## GIFT Fintech Spotlight

### Shaping the Future of Fintech



## Welcome to the June 2025 edition of the GIFT IFI & GIFT IFIH newsletter!

As the world of fintech accelerates, so does our commitment at GIFT City to drive innovation and cultivate talent that can shape the future of finance. Through two pioneering initiatives — **GIFT IFI** (GIFT International Fintech Institute) and **GIFT IFIH** (GIFT International Fintech Innovation Hub) — we are creating a dynamic ecosystem that bridges education, entrepreneurship, and industry collaboration.

GIFT IFI and GIFT IFIH are two pillars of GIFT City's fintech vision, working hand-in-hand to foster fintech talent and entrepreneurial innovation. While GIFT IFI drives education and talent development, GIFT IFIH serves as the launchpad for groundbreaking fintech startups, making GIFT City a hub for both learning and innovation.

In this edition, we are excited to share the latest progress and milestones achieved by both GIFT IFI and GIFT IFIH over the April–June 2025 quarter. From the graduation of our first fintech cohort to the launch of a prestigious residential program for fintech startups, the journey is unfolding rapidly, and we are thrilled to have you along for the ride.





## Recent Highlights:

# GIFT International Fintech Institute

The April–June quarter at GIFT IFI was marked by meaningful progress across education, global engagement, and community outreach. The Institute celebrated the graduation of its first cohort, welcomed a new batch of learners, hosted an impactful grassroots financial literacy workshop, and engaged with senior leaders from the FirstRand Group and the UK's financial diplomacy circles.

From the heart of GIFT City, GIFT IFI continues to shape India's fintech future through talent, innovation, and inclusive capacity-building.

**April 22, 2025**

### Valedictory Ceremony: Graduation of First Fintech Foundation Cohort

The first cohort of the Fintech Foundations programme at GIFT International Fintech Institute graduated on April 22 at a special Valedictory ceremony.

Launched to build foundational capabilities at the intersection of finance and technology, the programme brought together students and professionals eager to engage with the evolving fintech landscape.

The Valedictory marked more than the end of a learning journey — it celebrated the beginning of new possibilities in one of the most dynamic sectors of the economy.



May 16, 2025

## FirstRand Group Explores Strategic Collaboration with GIFT IFI

GIFT IFI hosted senior executives from the FirstRand Group, South Africa's leading financial services institution, for a strategic dialogue on fintech policy, risk management, and future ready talent development within GIFT City.

The conversation focused on GIFT City's evolving regulatory ecosystem, cross-border financial services, and opportunities for academic-industry collaboration in areas such as compliance, digital transformation, and executive education.

The visit reaffirms GIFT IFI's growing role as a knowledge and learning partner for global institutions engaging with India's fintech transformation.



May 24, 2025

## Fintech Foundation Course : Batch Two Begins

A new cohort with diverse backgrounds has begun their journey at the Fintech Foundation course at GIFT International Fintech Institute.

Bringing together professionals from leading financial and technology companies, along with recent graduates and students from disciplines such as law, management, finance, and engineering, this group reflects the evolving, interdisciplinary nature of the fintech landscape.

The first session was led by Professor Jayatu Sen Chaudhury, whose decades of experience in banking, financial services, and data science set the tone for what promises to be a rigorous and engaging learning experience. The course will continue to feature faculty with deep expertise across finance, technology, and regulation.





May 29, 2025

## UK Delegation Visits GIFT IFI to Explore Strategic Collaboration

“Great day at GIFT City today. Developments at India’s offshore financial centre are really taking off.” Steve Hickling – British Deputy High Commissioner

Mr. Stephen Hickling, British Deputy High Commissioner, along with Mr. David Matthews, Head of Financial Services India Network, and Moumita Bhattacharya from the British High Commission, visited the GIFT International Fintech Institute to discuss potential areas of collaboration.

This visit marks a step forward in international knowledge exchange and underscores GIFT IFI’s growing role as a thought leader in the global fintech education and innovation ecosystem.



June 12, 2025

## Empowering Change at the Grassroots with Digital & Financial Inclusion

On June 12, 2025, GIFT International Fintech Institute and SEWA Ahmedabad came together to host a powerful workshop aimed at enhancing digital and financial inclusion for community leaders and changemakers.

1.

Over 74 women Aagewan (leaders), workers, senior members, and thought leaders from SEWA Ahmedabad gathered at the GIFT IFI campus for deep-dive sessions.

2.

From field-level data collection and digitisation to data analytics and fintech readiness, participants explored how digital transformation can strengthen decision making, shape policies, and unlock support systems.

This workshop marks the first in a series aimed at building capacity, decoding data, and driving real-world impact.



## | Upcoming Courses at GIFT IFI

GIFT IFI offers a range of specialized courses developed with input from industry leaders to meet the evolving demands of the fintech sector. These programs are designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of both the technology and business aspects of fintech.

Here's a look at the upcoming courses at GIFT IFI, designed to deliver in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience in key fintech areas:



### **Fintech Foundation**

A 7-day course blending finance with innovative technology.



### **Technology for Fintech**

A 6-day deep dive into blockchain, AI/ML, and cybersecurity in fintech.



### **Summer Course – Fintech Foundation**

A 6-day immersive program covering digital finance, blockchain, and more.



### **Fintech Workplace Environment & Professional Communication**

A course focused on workplace communication and professionalism in the fintech industry.

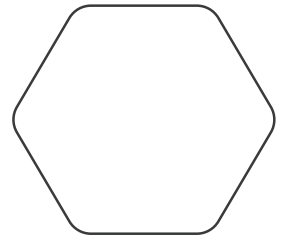
For more information and to apply, visit **GIFT IFI Admissions** (<https://giftifi.in/admissions/>).



## Recent Highlights:

# GIFT International Fintech Innovation Hub

The April–June 2025 quarter was pivotal for GIFT IFIH as it saw the successful conclusion of Batch 0, the launch of a **Residential Program** for early-stage startups, and the unveiling of TGIF (The GIFT Innovation Forum)—all initiatives that strengthen GIFT City’s role as a premier destination for fintech innovation. These efforts are in close synergy with the educational programs of GIFT IFI, ensuring a seamless pipeline from talent development to real-world innovation.



April 7-9, 2025

## Event Spotlight: GIFT IFIH Innovation Expo

From April 7-9, GIFT IFIH proudly hosted its inaugural Innovation Expo, drawing over 200 attendees for an exciting three-day event that celebrated the achievements of Batch 0 startups. This landmark occasion provided these emerging innovators with a platform to pitch their groundbreaking solutions while fostering valuable connections with industry leaders, regulators, and investors.

Here's a glimpse of the Innovation Expo—[check out the video \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHS9C1-RDkY\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHS9C1-RDkY) for a quick overview, and explore some of the key highlights below.

### 1. Founders' Brunch: Sharing Entrepreneurial Insights

The Expo kicked off with an inspiring Founders' Brunch, where entrepreneurs shared their personal stories of resilience and success. The session also featured a dynamic VC reverse pitch, giving startups an exclusive opportunity to understand investor expectations and refine their pitch for future funding opportunities.

### 2. Corporate Innovation Series: Collaboration at the Core

The Corporate Innovation Series offered attendees a series of insightful workshops, as well as a panel discussion on "GIFT City as a Catalyst for Innovation in Financial Services." The session emphasized the importance of corporate-startup collaboration and showcased how GIFT City is positioning itself as a key player in transforming the financial services sector.

### 3. Open House: Thought Leadership from Industry Experts

The Expo concluded with an impactful Open House session, featuring keynote addresses from distinguished dignitaries including Ms. Mona Khandhar, Principal Secretary, Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat; Mr. Tapan Ray, Managing Director and Group CEO of GIFT City; and Dr. Hasmukh Adhia, Chairman of GIFT City.



**May 16, 2025**

## **Workshop on the Strategic Adoption of AI in Financial Services**

On 16 May 2025, Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Limited (GIFTCL) in partnership with The Coalition for Responsible Evolution of AI (CoRE-AI) convened a highlevel, in-person workshop focused on the strategic and responsible adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) in the financial services sector.

Held at GIFT IFIH, this workshop brought together leading stakeholders from across the financial services ecosystem. Participants included senior executives from retail and corporate banking, investment banking, insurance, asset and wealth management, NBFCs, fintech companies, and AI technology providers.



## | Residential Program: Now Live

In May 2025, GIFT IFIH launched a 6-month Residential Program focused on solutions across Fintech, Data, and AI, tailored for the BFSI (Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance) industry. Hosted at GIFT City, this hybrid incubation program combines in-residence collaboration, global mentorship, and investment-readiness support to assist startups at various stages of development.

The program is structured in two phases:

### 1. Phase 1 (First 3 months):

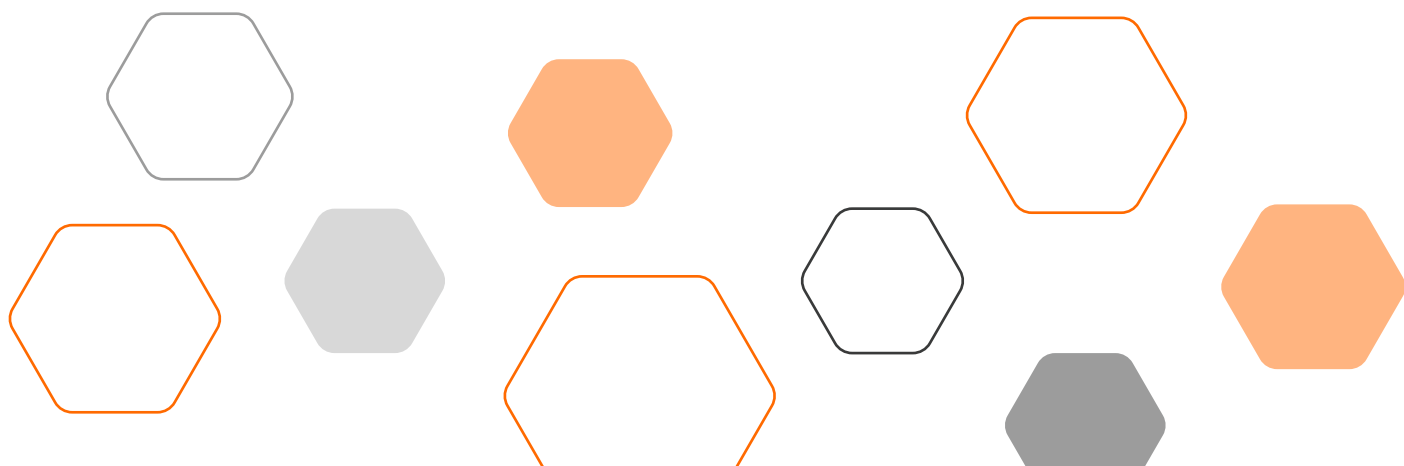
Focuses on transforming early-stage ideas into a Minimum Viable Product (MVP), with hands-on support and resources available within the GIFT City ecosystem.

### 2. Phase 2 (Final 3 months):

Dedicated to validating the MVP and achieving Product Market Fit (PMF), with continued mentorship and investor access.

To connect with the broader startup community, GIFT IFIH organized four roadshows—three offline events in GIFT City, Bangalore, and Hyderabad, and one online session. These events provided an opportunity for startups to learn more about the program and engage directly with the initiative.

The first residential cohort will begin on July 31, 2025. For more details on the program, visit <https://www.giftifih.in/residential-program>.



**June 2025**

## **New Startup Initiative: The Always On Program**

In June 2025, GIFT IFIH introduced the Always On Program, a rolling accelerator designed for high-potential fintech startups from post-seed to Series D. The Always On Program empowers startups to expand both in India and globally, leveraging the GIFT City fintech ecosystem to access corporate partnerships, investors, regulatory support, and cross-border opportunities.

The program provides:

### **1. Strategic Connections:**

Exclusive introductions to key players, including banks, insurers, regulators, family offices, and VCs.

### **2. Pitch Readiness:**

Expert advisory and pitch review support to refine fundraising efforts.

### **3. Visibility & Showcase:**

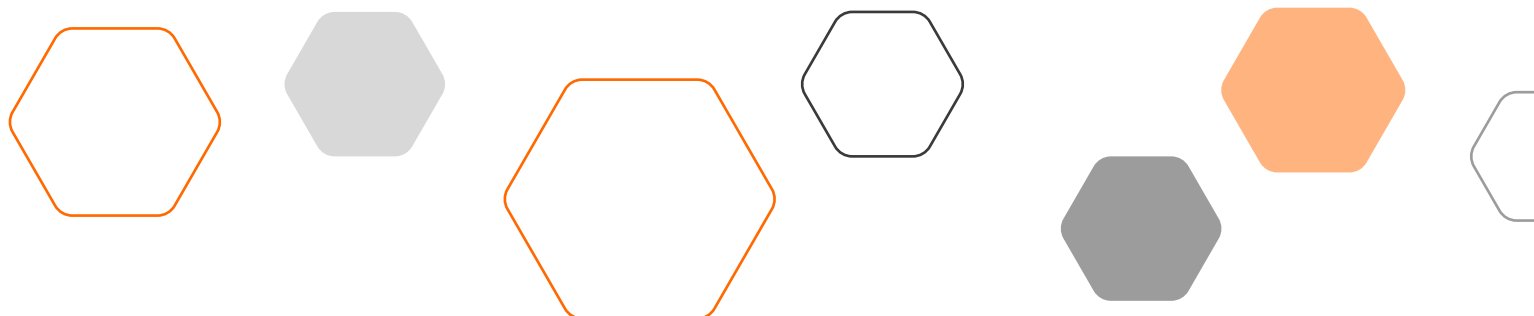
Feature at major ecosystem events and marketing amplification via GIFT IFIH efforts.

### **4. Alumni Access:**

Ongoing, targeted support even after completing the program.

Join us and grow with GIFT IFIH's Always On Program

<https://www.giftifih.in/always-on-program>



## | Upcoming Events: The GIFT Innovation Forum (TGIF)

**Date:** July 4, 2025

**Format:** Invite-only, closed-door, in-person session

We are excited to announce TGIF (The GIFT Innovation Forum), an exclusive, invite-only series launching on July 4th at GIFT IFIH. This closed-door gathering is designed for CXOs and senior leaders in India's top financial institutions to engage in honest, focused dialogue on the future of fintech. TGIF aims to build a trusted, intimate community that drives real innovation and collaboration within the ecosystem.

### Stay Connected and Informed!

As GIFT City continues to drive fintech innovation, we invite you to stay engaged and explore the exciting opportunities ahead. Whether you're looking to deepen your knowledge, collaborate with startups, or be part of the latest fintech developments, there's always something new to discover.

For more information on upcoming events, courses, and programs, visit GIFT IFI (<https://giftifi.in/>) and GIFT IFIH (<https://www.giftifih.in/>) and follow us on social media for real-time updates.

We look forward to seeing you at the next milestone!



GIFT IFIH in partnership with

**PLUGANDPLAY**

GIFT IFI in partnership with



**Ahmedabad University**




**UC San Diego**

**Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Limited**

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