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Lucknow: Kalam Centre to help startups rake in the moolah

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LUCKNOW: A day before Uttar Pradesh governor Ram Naik is scheduled to inaugurate the Kalam Centre for Innovation and Incubation of Start-ups (K-CIIS) at APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU), the university announced the names of three start-ups, which will initially be incubated here.

They will get innovation support from the Kalam Centre, while Singapore-based venture capital firm Govin Capital will be the investment partner.

The three start ups - Aquvio, Innovative Machine Private Limited (IMPL), and Diabport Private Limited (DPL) - winners of the Kalam Impact Entrepreneurship Challenge, will get Rs 10 lakh each as angel investment,

during the youth conclave on creating a liveable planet at AKTU, Earth 2017, scheduled on Thursday, the former President's death anniversary.

Saving water in the kitchen: Aquvio, founded by civil engineers from IIT-BHU Rohit Kumar Mittal and Naveen Kumar, claims to reduce water wastage by regular RO purifiers from 70% to 30%. "When four litres of water is fed to the current reverse osmosis-based water purifiers, they waste nearly three litres to produce a litre of purified water, which is a recovery of around 20-30%. The waste water runs out into the drain. Our technology gives around 70% recovery, while reducing power consumption by 50%," said Mittal.

Helping hand for the rice farmer: The second winner, IMPL, came from alumni of ITS Engineering College, Greater Noida. The

founders, Sudhanshu Ranjan and Jyoti Prakash, have developed a pneumatic rice-threshing machine to replace the traditional hand-threshing. "Our machine will increase productivity and reduce manual labour. At present, only 2-3 kg of rice is threshed per minute by one person. This machine doubles production up to 5-6 kg per minute," said Ranjan.

Diabetes on check: Pranay Wal, founder of the third winner, DPL, is a faculty of Kanpur-based Pranveer Singh Institute of Technology. A healthcare start-up, Wal has developed a machine that works on patients with diabetic neuropathy and tell the number of nerves damaged by diabetes. "I've also created a herbal oil which helps patients regain sense in these damaged nerves," said Wal.

According to Anand Govindaluri, founder of Govin Capital, "There is unlimited potential in UP. The issue is, youth in UP don't stay here. The incubation centre is an attempt to turn students into job creators, not job seekers." K-CIIS, said AKTU vice-chancellor Vinay Pathak, will be a satellite centre for the selected start-ups. "The idea is to create an academic ecosystem to promote start-ups, set up incubation facilities, share resources and mentorship for budding entrepreneurs, and also get investors for funding," Pathak said.

The conclave will be also be a ground for the young to share ideas and dreams. Dreamathon Van, an effort by the Kalam Centre to spread the message of the former President , will be launched on the occasion. Inspired by Kalam's words: "Dream is not that which you see while sleeping, it is something that does not let you sleep", students will be asked to express their one dream that does not let them sleep, through artwork and creative writing.