



**NAAC
GRADE A+**
ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION

NEWSLETTER

KIIF

KARNAVATI INNOVATION &
INCUBATION FOUNDATION



**Highlighting Innovation,
Accelerating Success**



Student Startup Story - KIIF

UID Alumni Transforming Crop Waste into Sustainable Mycelium-Based Leather



Vaibhav Kushwaha
Alumnus, UID & Founder MICO

MICO, founded by Vaibhav Khuswaha (Alumnus, UID – Karnavati University), is transforming agricultural stubble into high-performance, mycelium-based leather. By converting crop residue into a nutrient-balanced substrate and cultivating mycelium under controlled conditions, MICO produces biodegradable, animal-free, and plastic-free material. Instead of chemical manufacturing, the material is grown as mycelium binds biomass into dense, uniform sheets.



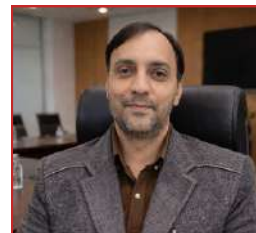
Crop Waste into Sustainable Mycelium-Based Leather

Currently at TRL-4 validation, the startup has achieved successful substrate development and consistent lab-scale colonization, with ongoing testing focused on strength, uniformity, and surface finish.

Supported with ₹1.25 lakh under SSIP through KIIF, MICO established lab-scale incubation systems and iterative testing infrastructure.

Mentor Insight

From the Desk of the Director Research



Dr. Ravinder Kumar
Director Research & Professor,
Karnavati University

At the Innovation and Incubation Foundation (KIIF) of Karnavati University, we believe that innovation must be ethically grounded, research-driven, and socially impactful. Our mentoring philosophy is focused on converting ideas into scalable, sustainable businesses through intellectual rigor, industry relevance, and strategic validation.

We support innovators in converting research into market-ready solutions using an interdisciplinary approach, data-driven decisions, and structured problem-solving. KIIF provides support during each stage of the entrepreneurial process, from developing prototypes to protecting intellectual property to preparing for funding and complying with regulations.

We encourage startups to incorporate sustainability, governance, and social value into their core strategy through alignment with key national priorities (i.e., Atmanirbhar Bharat) and the Sustainable Development Goals.

KIIF is committed to developing purpose-driven enterprises that align innovation with responsibility. By providing ongoing mentorship and collaboration with industries, as well as conducting performance evaluations, KIIF is creating an environment where research is being developed into entrepreneurial ventures to have a meaningful and measurable effect.

D3S Healthcare: Democratizing Early Breast Cancer Detection

Showcased to national and state leaders as a scalable solution for women's health

D3S Healthcare Technologies presented BR-Scan Clinic to Nitin Nabin, Harsh Sanghavi, Jagdish Vishwakarma, and Hemang Joshi. The portable, radiation-free, AI-enabled device supports early breast cancer detection in rural areas, enabling affordable, non-invasive self-screening.



KIIF Signs Agreement and Releases EIR Support Funds

Taali Toys, founded by UID alumni, creates eco-friendly, culturally rooted, screen-free educational toys. Supported with ₹20 lakh under SISFS through KIIF's WEnnovate Program, it is scaling meaningful learning solutions across India.



Team Machajo Signing Agreement for SISFS

KIIF's Highlights

Ahmedabad Design Week 7.0 – ADW Pitching

Over 25 teams from across Gujarat participated in the ADW Pitching session, exploring the intersection of AI and Design to solve real-world challenges.

The ADW Pitching session, held on 1 February 2025 as part of Ahmedabad Design Week 2026, brought together 25+ teams from across Gujarat to present ideas aligned with the theme of AI and Design. Participants showcased innovative, user-centric solutions while receiving valuable feedback from mentors and industry experts. The session served as both a competitive and learning-driven platform, helping founders strengthen their ideas, pitching skills, and market readiness, while reinforcing KIIF's commitment to fostering innovation-driven entrepreneurship.

Winners of ADW Pitching

Startup Category: Okunys – Aarsh Chaurasia (₹5,000)

Jury's Choice: Aurometer – Bhati Ankit Hiteshbhai (₹4,000)

College Student Category Pitching Winners

Winner: Saligluco – Joshi Dhara Nareshkumar (₹5,000)

Winner: Fund My Trade – Ayushi Vohra (₹5,000)

2nd Runner-Up: Runiverse – Daksh Dipakbhai Amalseda (₹3,000)

2nd Runner-Up: Drone MatrX – Rudra & Lithika (₹3,000)



Pre-AI Impact Summit at KU

Hands-on learning and expert dialogue driving inclusive and socially impactful AI innovation.

KU- KIIF, in collaboration with AICTE and the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, hosted the AICTE Pre-Summit on Inclusion and Social Empowerment with AI Innovations at Karnavati University as part of the AI Impact Summit India 2026 initiative.



The panel discussion on AI inclusion featured K. Ramachandran (GERMI, GSPC), Khilan Popat (Magikkraft), Aman Loharuka (PrepSOM Labs & IAQS), and Pratik Parmar (Atomo Innovation), who shared insights on responsible and socially impactful AI adoption.

A technical session by Parth Devariya (GFuture Tech Private Limited) covered AI and machine learning fundamentals, real-world applications, generative AI tools, and ethical AI usage, providing participants with practical and future-focused learning.

Through expert dialogue and practical learning, the Pre-AI Impact Summit reinforced KU's commitment to preparing students and innovators for an inclusive and AI-driven future.

Startup Story

PrepSOM: Building a Career Co-Pilot for Students



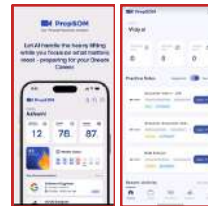
Aman Loharuka
Co-Founder PrepSOM



Vidhya Makwana
Co-Founder PrepSOM

For many students, the transition from academics to employment is filled with uncertainty. Recognizing this challenge, PrepSOM, founded by Aman Loharuka and Vidhya Makwana, was created to serve as a structured career co-pilot that guides students from preparation to placement through aptitude training, mock interviews, and practical career readiness support.

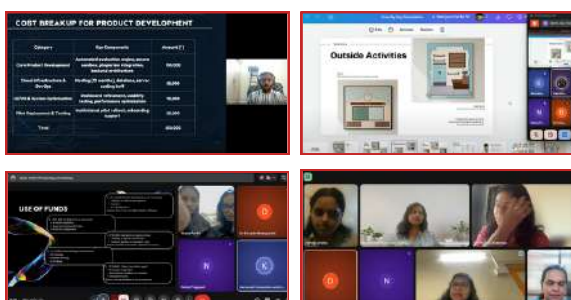
What began as a focused effort to simplify career preparation has grown into an impact-driven initiative. PrepSOM has trained over 5,000 students and successfully supported the placement of 500+ students across diverse industries, helping bridge the gap between education and industry expectations.



The startup's progress has enabled partnerships with eight national and international institutes, allowing career readiness programs to be delivered at scale. A significant milestone in its journey came through support from KIIF under the GENESIS Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) program.

Aarambh 5.0 with 16 Innovations

Building the Next Wave of Innovators: Aarambh 5.0 Screening Highlights



As part of the Aarambh 5.0 Pre-Incubation Drive, KIIF successfully completed the primary screening process, selecting 16 promising teams comprising student innovators and early-stage founders working across all schools of Karnavati University.

During this phase, participants underwent hands-on pitch deck training aimed at strengthening their ability to present ideas effectively under KIIF's student and startup-centric schemes focused on Proof of Concept (PoC) development. The initiative continues to build a strong pipeline of innovation-driven ventures emerging from the KIIF ecosystem.



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