



Student Startup Story - KIIF

GaganDrone: Redefining Autonomous Flight Beyond GPS

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Every great innovation begins with a simple question. For a team of students at Karnavati University, that question was: What if a drone could navigate confidently even when GPS disappears? Driven by this challenge, the students set out to build GaganDrone, an autonomous aerial platform capable of making intelligent decisions in complex, GPS-denied environments. Combining Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM), computer vision, autonomous docking, and onboard intelligence, the team is developing a drone that can map unfamiliar spaces, avoid obstacles, and execute missions with minimal human intervention.

The project's potential soon caught the attention of the Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP 2.0). Backed by a grant of ₹1.2 lakh through the Karnavati Innovation and Incubation Foundation (KIIF), the team is now transforming its concept into a robust prototype. With applications spanning disaster response, industrial inspections, defence, and autonomous exploration, GaganDrone reflects how student-led research can evolve into technologies that address real-world challenges and shape the future of intelligent aviation.



Team Achievements

Mr. Sandip Takwani, Assistant Manager at KIIF, delivered an expert session at KCG's Capacity Building Programme under Innovation Club and SSIP, equipping students and mentors with practical insights on rapid prototyping, validation, iteration, and innovation funding pathways.



Mentor Insight

From the Desk of Dr. Kirtika Chetia



Dr. Kirtika Chetia
Mentor at KIIF

As founders, students, and innovators, we often get caught up in building the next big product or adopting the latest technology. But in a world where technology evolves almost every day, one thing changes even faster, the people we are building for.

Consumers today think differently, buy differently, and expect more than they did just a few years ago. Their priorities, values, and behaviours continue to evolve. That is why marketing isn't just about promoting a product; it's about staying connected to the people you want to serve.

One of the simplest ways to think about marketing is to imagine two circles. The first circle is your brand, what you believe in, the problem you're solving, and the value you bring. The second circle is your customer, their needs, aspirations, frustrations, and motivations. The magic happens where those two circles overlap. That overlap doesn't happen by chance. It comes from listening, observing, asking the right questions, and continuously learning from your customers. The better you understand them, the more relevant your product, communication, and business become.

Many startups believe better marketing means spending more on advertisements or creating more social media content. In reality, the biggest returns often come from making your solution more meaningful to your audience. Relevance will always outperform noise.

At KIIF, I have seen this firsthand while mentoring startups such as Taali Toys and the women-led ventures that participated in WEnnovate 2.0. The founders who make the greatest progress aren't always the ones with the biggest budgets; they're the ones who remain curious about their customers, adapt to changing market needs, and are willing to refine their ideas based on real feedback.

Whether you're building your first prototype, preparing to launch, or scaling your startup, remember this: before you try to sell your solution, take the time to understand the people you're building it for.

KIIF's Highlights

WEnnovate 2.0 Bootcamp Series

**7 Expert-Led Sessions | 480 Minutes of Learning
100+ Women-Led Startups Impacted**

As part of the WEnnovate 2.0 Startup Bootcamp Series, KIIF conducted a month-long learning journey designed to equip women entrepreneurs with the knowledge required to build scalable and investment-ready startups. The sessions covered critical aspects of the startup lifecycle, including IP Strategy & Importance, Government Schemes & Grant Support, Startup Funding Readiness, and Achieving Market Adoption. Delivered by distinguished experts from industry, academia, and the startup ecosystem, the bootcamp offered practical insights on protecting intellectual property, leveraging non-dilutive funding opportunities, preparing for investor engagement, and acquiring early customers. Through these interactive sessions, participants gained actionable strategies to strengthen their ventures, navigate the innovation ecosystem, and accelerate their journey from idea to sustainable business, reinforcing KIIF's commitment to fostering the next generation of women-led deep-tech startups.



Startup Achievements



Vitricion Oral Strips Wins Best Emerging Healthcare Startup Award

Innovation from the KIIF startup ecosystem continues to gain national recognition. Vitricion Oral Strips, founded by Vatsal Dixit, was honoured with the Best Emerging Healthcare Startup Award by Gujarat's Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Harsh Sanghavi, at the Leaders of Navbharat event organised by Times Now Navbharat on 8 July 2026. The recognition acknowledges the startup's contribution to advancing healthcare through its innovative oral strip technology, aimed at making medicine delivery more accessible, convenient, and patient-centric. The achievement reflects the growing impact of innovation-driven startups emerging from the KIIF ecosystem and their contribution to addressing real-world healthcare challenges in India and beyond.



Startup Achievements



DeployNXT Advances India's Space Technology Ambitions



A major milestone has been achieved by DeployNXT Private Limited, a startup supported under the GENESIS Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) Cohort at the Karnavati Innovation and Incubation Foundation (KIIF).

The company recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a Research Agreement with the IIT Bombay Satellite Program, while also receiving Letters of Intent (LoIs) from Maargin and the IIT Bombay Satellite Team.

Founded in January 2025 in Navsari, Gujarat, DeployNXT is developing mission-critical deployable satellite infrastructure, including advanced solar arrays, radiators, and space structures designed to power the next generation of satellites and space-based computing. Currently at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3-4, the startup is progressing towards its first in-orbit demonstration, reflecting the growing strength of India's emerging private space ecosystem and the role of incubation in accelerating deep-tech innovation.

WSRO Regional Championship 2026 Inspires the Next Generation of STEM Innovators

The WSRO Regional Championship 2026, hosted at Karnavati University on 11 July 2026 in association with WSRO India, SSIP, and KIIF, brought together more than 250 students from 22 schools and institutions for a day of innovation, creativity, and competitive learning. Young participants, aged 4 to 16 years, showcased their talent across robotics and STEM challenges, including LEGO robotics, Robo Soccer, Smart Factory Robotics, Young Scientist, and autonomous robot competitions. The championship concluded with a valedictory ceremony attended by senior dignitaries from WSRO India and Karnavati University. Celebrating excellence in STEM education, 54 teams secured qualification for the National Championship, marking another milestone in nurturing India's future innovators and problem-solvers.

