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Kalam university to get startup incubation centre

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Lucknow: Giving a boost to the startup sector in Lucknow and in Uttar Pradesh, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University and Kalam Centre will soon set up an innovation centre on its campus. The announcement of the centre was made at the international youth conclave organised in the memory of former President APJ Abdul Kalam whose first death anniversary was commemorated on Tuesday.

To be called the Startup Accelerator India (SAI) Lucknow chapter, the innovation centre will facilitate around 50 business ideas in the fields of digital health, education technology and social entrepreneurship in the first year of operation. Integrated in a three-step model, the ideas will be selected from across the state through a competition. This will be called the Kalam Startup Techno-preneurial Channel.

"Once ideas are selected, they will be incubated, polished and mentored in the second phase," said Anand Govindaluri, managing director and CEO of SAI, the Singapore-based firm that has been roped in for the project.

The centre aims to support students, teachers, professors or anyone who comes up with a fresh idea in any of the three fields. Even those with one to three-year-old startups in the areas will get assistance as the centre has no age bar or qualification expectation behind a bright idea. While the proposal is with the university and a formal announcement was made by the vice chancellor on Tuesday, the memorandum of understanding with the Singapore-based firm is yet to be signed.