B’luru-based incubator N/Core selects 10 non-profit startups

SOME OF THE SELECTED NON-PROFITS

- Sushrut Foundation, founded by Shilpa Mehrotra who has past experience in Stanford India Bodesign, a collaborative programme between AIIMS, IIT Delhi and Stanford University, supported by the government, to nurture and train medical device innovators. Sushrut is putting in place a better process and methodology in government hospitals.

- Foundations for Environmental Monitoring, founded by Samuel Rajkumar, which is solving the problem of access to clean drinking water in India through a smart mobile-based water quality testing solution.

- Akshar Foundation, founded by Mazin Mokhtar, a Sudanese student at the University of Maryland, and who has a unique approach to teaching young children from underprivileged backgrounds in Assam, musicians.

- Anahad Foundation, founded by Abhinav Agarwal, who registered his non-profit while pursuing his degree from Berklee College of Music, Boston, and who is building a technology-based infrastructure for folk music and musicians.

N/Core received 1,032 applications from 2,654 entrepreneurs from 19 countries across the world. The applications included graduates from institutions such as IITs, IIMs, ISB, NIT, JNU, Stanford University, Princeton University, Yale University, INSEAD, University of Maryland, NUS Singapore, Oxford, and many others.

Given that only 10 had to be selected, the selection rate was less than 1% of the applications. Atul Satija, founder of N/Core, said some of the best business schools in the world do not have such a rate, and that it indicated an increasing inflow of highly talented and motivated entrepreneurs to solve for poverty in India. Of the 1,032 applicants, 330 submitted proper business plans. Based on these plans, 50 were shortlisted. There were telephonic interviews with these 50, and based on their depth of thinking, the number was brought down to 20. And finally 10 were chosen after another round of video interviews.

The incubation programme will start on September 11 in Bengaluru. N/Core is offering an innovation grant of Rs 10 lakh each to selected non-profit. They will be mentored by industry leaders, including Sanjay Purohit, chairman of Infosys Consulting, Maneesh Dhir; former MD of Apple India and current partner of Social Venture Partners. K R Lakshminarayan, chief endowment officer of Azim Premji Foundation, and Ujjwal Thakar, ex-CEO of Pratham and GiveIndia. The batch is being supported by BookASmile, the charity initiative of BookMyShow, Dr Reddy’s Foundation, and philanthropists like Deep Kalra, founder, MakeMyTrip, among others.