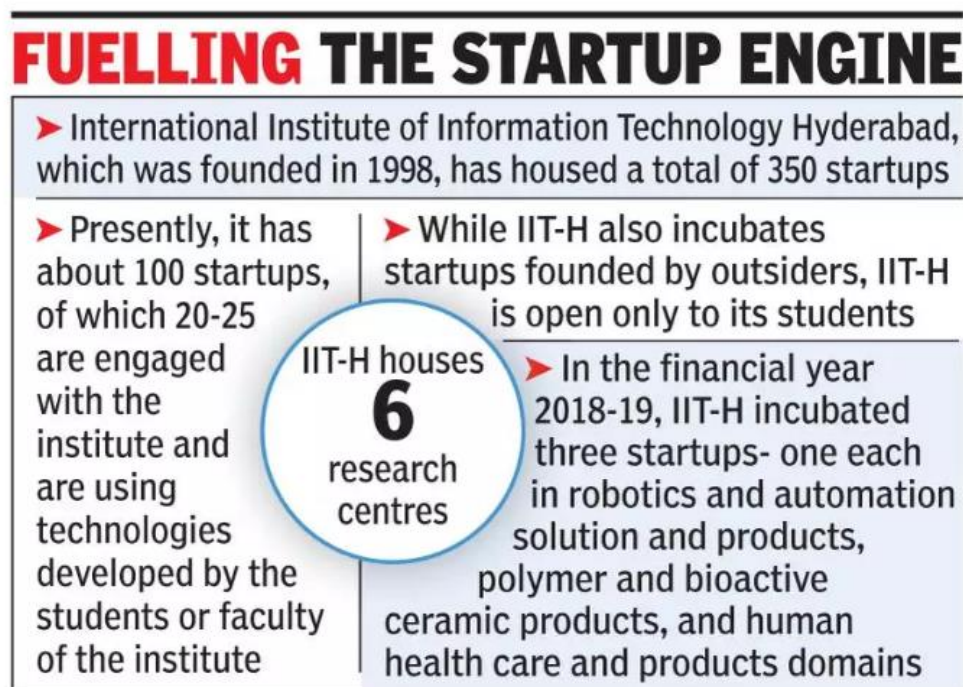# IIT-Hyderabad incubates 14 startups across sectors in 11 years

HYDERABAD: In 11 years, the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) has incubated 14 startups across sectors such as healthcare, microelectronics and technology. Of them, three are currently making profits, five have received funds and three have over 40 people employed with them, shared BVR Mohan Reddy, chairman, Board of Governors at IIT H during the eighth convocation of the institute.

## FUELLING THE STARTUP ENGINE

➤ International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad, which was founded in 1998, has housed a total of 350 startups

➤ Presently, it has about 100 startups, of which 20-25 are engaged with the institute and are using technologies developed by the students or faculty of the institute

**IIT-H houses 6 research centres**

➤ While IIT-H also incubates startups founded by outsiders, IIT-H is open only to its students

➤ In the financial year 2018-19, IIT-H incubated three startups- one each in robotics and automation solution and products, polymer and bioactive ceramic products, and human health care and products domains

"When compared to other IITs, 14 startups in 11 years might look like a small number, but considering that this is a new IIT and have minimum facilities, the number is good," said Bhanu Prakash, who was heading the entrepreneurship cell (e-Cell) at IIT-H until very recently. He said that a batch of about 200 students produces one good startup, on an average, every year. "There are many students who are working on their ideas and showing interest in being entrepreneurs; that's a very good sign.

Further, getting one startup, which is working on cutting-edge technology, every year cannot be dismissed as a small thing," he added. Many startups floated by alumni are incubated outside the campus, students from e-cell added added. "In all, there might be around 25 to 30 startups that have stemmed from the institute," said a student, while claiming that many prefer incubators outside the IIT campus as they have better facilities and provide a stronger

ecosystem. "But the fact is that majority of the students at IIT-H are involved in research, though their focus area might be different," the student added. While lauding the tremendous growth in startup space, experts also stressed the need for institutes to bridge the gap between research and market. "A research can solve multiple problems, it is important to identify that one problem, solving which can give rise to a startup," said Ramesh Loganathan, professor of practice, co-innovations at International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad (IIIT H). Loganathan, a guest faculty at IIT-H, said that institutes need to play a more prominent role in motivating the students.

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