

# India's biggest startup hub opens in Jaipur, adds fillip to ecosystem

## Bhamashah Techno Hub To Have Startups, Investors, Mentors Under One Roof

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Jaipur: Country's largest startup incubation hub in Jaipur having 700-seat capacity went live on Thursday lending a major fillip to entrepreneurial ecosystem in Rajasthan. Built in record 15 months with an investment of about Rs 72 crore, the 7-storeyed Bhamashah Techno Hub provides startups free use of its plug-and-play workstations, conference facilities, cafeteria, tinkering labs, gym etc.

Inaugurating the hub here, chief minister Vasundhara Raje said that the techno hub is a common platform for startups, accelerators, investors, VCs and HNIs and I want the youth to make full use of the facility and contribute to the efforts of the government in making Rajasthan a leading state in the country.

She said the state government has created Rs 500 crore fund to improve the startup ecosystem in the state and create and nurture entrepre-

### TimesView

Bhamashah Techno Hub is a unique landmark in the country and is likely to force other states to treat entrepreneurship and innovation on a more serious note. Just when the startups in the state were beginning to gain national and international limelight, Rajasthan government has seized the moment by creating a comprehensive ecosystem providing startups with state-of-the-art infrastructure, fiscal incentives, landholding, mentorship and facilitating fund raising. But examples of good government initiatives losing sheen over the years is not rare. Hope, this project does not suffer the same fate even if there is a regime change in the state.

neurial talent. "More than 1000 startups have joined the state government's initiative," she added.

Often compared to T-Hub in Hyderabad, top government officials said there are basic differences, not only in size but also in the model.

"The incubation centre will not charge any kind of fee from startups as well as entrepreneurs and will provide free facilities unlike T-Hub in Hyderabad which charges fees for different facilities. It is bigger than the biggest T-Hubs operational in India,"

## A LANDMARK FOR INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Pics: Bhagrath



Bhamashah Techno Hub (left) at Jhalana. CM Vasundhara Raje and ex-director of Infosys TV Mohandas Pai (next to CM) along with top government officials at the inauguration



### FACILITIES AT TECHNO HUB

- ▶ Biggest in the country, the 7-storeyed startup hub has a seating capacity for more than 700 startups
- ▶ Common platform for startups, accelerators, investors, VCs & HNIs
- ▶ Will offer free space, connectivity, easier funding, mentorship and exposure to budding and rising entrepreneurs



- ▶ Infrastructure includes video conferencing rooms, individual and shared offices, committee halls, high-speed internet, cafeteria, gym and other facilities
- ▶ Tinkering labs to foster curiosity, creativity and imagination
- ▶ 'Digital Museum' provides glimpses of the evolution of IT and preserves historical collections

### HOW A STARTUP BENEFITS

#### ISTART: THE INTEGRATED PLATFORM

- ▶ Acts as a one stop-solution for startups, incubators, VCs, for ease of registration, availing facilities, benefits
- ▶ Helps startups to be discovered by relevant stakeholders
- ▶ Connects with investors, accelerators, and incubators

#### QRATE: STARTUP SCORECARD

- ▶ It's the only startup rating mechanism in the country accepted by all leading VCs and investors
- ▶ It helps entrepreneurs increase their chances of getting funded
- ▶ Creates a detailed scorecard and assessment report of startups
- ▶ Provides one-month boot-camp for select startups to help them refine their product, market strategy, and investor pitch

#### CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE

- ▶ The youth, working professionals and startups can either come forward with their own innovative ideas or take up projects offered by the government to bring the 'change'. The aim is to invite IT solutions for various citizen-centric services by the govt & recognizing the potential of the young brains



The facilities in BTH like regular sessions on venture capital funding will prepare us well in advance to attract attention of the investors. Meetings with investors are earned in the hard way. Sometimes startups fail to present properly and lose opportunities despite having a good scalable idea

**AKANSHA SOGANI** | Founder, Swag-i-Noor

The BTH is an incredibly encouraging initiative to build an ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship in the state. It will motivate the state's youth to take the first step of starting up a venture and then surviving the most difficult stages during the journey

**ANIRUDH SHARMA** | Co-founder, Brain Stem Technologies

Bhamasha Technohub is a great opportunity for those who want to be entrepreneurs as it has all the required infrastructure and working space with high internet speed. It gives a chance to improve yourself with the help of some very awesome mentors hailing from different fields

**ASHISH CHHANWAL** | Founder, Mr n Mrs Pet

said Akhil Arora, principal secretary, state IT and communication department.

The incubation centre is a landmark for the state government which has been working to make Rajasthan a well-known destination in the country in entrepreneurship and innovation. In 2015, it first came out with a startup policy offering various fiscal incentives to youths to take up entrepreneurship as a career.

"From galvanizing students community to providing infrastructure, funding,

ecosystem, handholding, finding investors and mentors, Rajasthan's vision to promote entrepreneurship is comprehensive. No doubt, Bangalore is the leader in the startup space but you can find one kind of ventures there whereas in Rajasthan, the ideas and innovations are diverse covering new areas," said Prajakt Raut, co-founder of Applyifi, who had flown in from Gurgaon to attend the event.

Of late, governments have started encouraging entrepreneurship as it reduces the burden on them of genera-

ting new jobs. Youths choosing entrepreneurship not only find a job for themselves but also create for others.

"There are many private incubators in the country but in the last couple of years, state governments have taken it seriously. Rajasthan may be leading the race but states like Gujarat, Telengana, and Kerala have invested in creating such incubation centres and rolled out startup policies. Punjab and Madhya Pradesh are also in the process of setting up such hubs in their states," said Chintan Bakshi,

CEO of Startup Oasis.

TV Mohandas Pai, former director of Infosys and a member in the chief minister's advisory committee, one of the brains behind the hub, heaped praise on the e-governance initiative of the government saying there is no state in the country which matches Rajasthan in adopting technology for delivering social welfare schemes.

"Much before Aadhaar was introduced in the country, Rajasthan had given the Bhamashah in 2005-06," Pai said.