

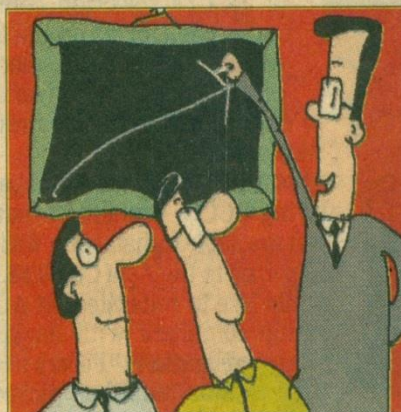
Help at Hand: IIT Delhi Launches Course for Aspiring Entrepreneurs

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New Delhi: Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, which has been a budding ground to startup founders of Zomato, Snapdeal and Flipkart, is offering a specially designed course for wannabe entrepreneurs. The institute is also seriously considering launching a Minor in entrepreneurship programme.

"Many entrepreneurs have failed due to a lack of basic understanding of, or preparedness for, the area of entrepreneurship. IIT Delhi is naturally inclined to bring the critical and preparatory learning for entrepreneurs especially in the initial and transitional stages of their venture," said Harsh Mishra, lead faculty (Innovation & Entrepreneurship Centre of Excellence) at the Department of Management Studies.

Called Startup BaseCamp, it is created by the department as a certificate programme to begin with. Its objective is to create entrepreneurs equipped to handle the ideation, operation and growth process of startups/tech ventures using tested methods and frameworks suited for



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entrepreneurs.

The first module was completed in last July after 100 hours of instructional and mentoring inputs from IIT Delhi faculty, startup ecosystem experts and leaders from both industry and government. After classroom sessions, for the next two months, the programme participants get a chance to work on developing their startup idea facilitated by a group of mentors.

"Each business and management discipline is adapted to address the very nature of startup realities that is dynamic, formative, unstructured, and resource crunched," said Mishra.

The first batch admitted 50 young graduates, entrepreneurs, leaders of small and medium enterprises, and graduates with family business background.

The plans for BaseCamp include scaling it up to be launched as an offsite extension programme at locations including Gurgaon, Noida, Chandigarh and Jaipur, and eventually make it a blended online model to cater to a wider audience.

"The programme is tuned into the Indian and global startup ecosystem. As the ecosystem evolves, so will our offerings," Mishra said.

The institute also plans to launch programmes for the advanced stages of entrepreneurial journey with accelerators and an incubation facility.

"For those looking for corporate entrepreneurship or the 'Intrapreneurship' path, internship in startups after the programme is also a possibility," said Mishra.

The IIT has already announced a PhD programme in which candidates develop startups around their research. As these programmes produce desired outcomes, other possibilities can reasonably be undertaken, he said.