

The Triple Helix of Innovation at IITH



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One common question we keep getting is: what is innovation, and how exactly is it different from, say, research or invention? The short answer to it would be the market. The emphasis of innovation is not merely to do something novel but to commercialize it too. So the contemporary meaning of innovation emphasizes taking technological advancement from lab to market.

With this vision in mind, IIT Hyderabad has been striving to create a holistic atmosphere for innovation, supporting the entrepreneur through all these stages with the help of various enabling cells and centres: iTIC Incubator, eCell, BUILD Projects, Center for Healthcare Entrepreneurship, Department of Entrepreneurship & Management, TiHAN, Technology Research Park, Intellectual Property Facilitation Center, to name a few.

These initiatives can be categorized into three interrelated sets of activities, characterized in the form of the triple helix model, with each set interacting and furthering the other.



The representation of Triple Helix of Innovation

Academic Initiatives: The Institute facilitates multiple options for the students to pursue their entrepreneurial ambitions in the form of various credited courses and programs. Students can take up a minor in Entrepreneurship or register for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Project (IEP) or convert to Dual Degree with MTech in Techno-Entrepreneurship. This help exposes students to innovation and entrepreneurship activities at their early stage and supports the pathway from ideation to innovation to market.

Industry Needs: The technology transfer process involves the transfer of technology from the laboratory to the industry, thus enabling the transition towards newer technological advances. These are aimed at understanding the Industry's needs and pursuing relevant research. While the Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre (IPFC) helps in the patenting process, the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) helps take it to Industry through technology licensing. While events like Innovation Day facilitate interactions with the Industry and Technology Research Park (TRP), allowing this Industry to set a footprint on campus.

Startups: The incubation centres of IITH help handhold the student or faculty in embarking on their entrepreneurial journey and give them the necessary support for prototyping, market understanding, testing, certifications, etc. These have been aided further with the formulation of the "Institute Innovation and Startup Policy", synchronizing the various innovation activities at IITH and giving them the necessary policy framework. The Startup activities are not just limited to IITH but are open to all entrepreneurs at a pan-India level. With the inclusion of Jai Anusandhan to Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, and Jai Vigyan bandwidth, the Startup ecosystem of India is a happening space, and IITH is keeping pace with it.

A welcome development this year has been IITH's performance in the Innovation category of NIRF ranking, where it secured 3rd Rank. The innovation category assesses institutes on the number of startups, prototyping facilities for startups, funding they received, the number of technologies developed and tech transfer in the institute, TRL levels of tech, IP, and patents filed, etc. While these rankings and indicators give us the occasional boost of confidence to move ahead in a manner typical of academicians, let us remember that the long-term goal is to create a nurturing and facilitating ecosystem and culture. Seeking the support and participation of all in that journey.

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