Inauguration of Incubation & Innovation Centre and Sports Complex of IIT Jodhpur

by Hon’ble Shiksha Mantri, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’

News and Views

(https://youtu.be/klTQjFFYBXE)

Among many initiatives to promote entrepreneurship leveraging the academic knowledge, IIT Jodhpur has set up an Incubation and Innovation Centre in its campus to nucleate a cluster of new age ventures. The Incubation and Innovation Centre, along with the Institute’s Sports Complex was inaugurated on 16 October 2020 by Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, Hon’ble Shiksha Mantri, Government of India, in the august presence of Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon’ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Government of India, & Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Hon’ble Minister of State for Education. The event was presided over by Dr. R. Chidambaram, Chairman Board of Governors, IIT Jodhpur.

This Incubation and Innovation Centre would support the innovation ecosystem of IIT Jodhpur that currently includes three section-8 companies – the Technology Innovation & Startup Centre, the Technology Park and the Technology & Innovation Hub (iHub Dristi). Built in compliance with International standards and the norms laid down by the Sports Authority of India, the Sports Complex includes hockey, football, and cricket grounds, athletic tracks, basketball, tennis, volleyball and kabaddi courts, and an outdoor yoga area.

During the event, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said that IIT Jodhpur is emerging as an excellent centre in the field of education, research, technology, innovation as well as entrepreneurship in the country. The Shiksha Mantri also said that the sports facilities at IIT Jodhpur would make a significant contribution in education as well as all-round development of students. They will also improve their immunity and build a healthy competitive spirit, which combines with the ‘Fit India Movement’ spirit launched by Hon’ble PM Shri Narendra Modi. Speaking on the occasion Hon’ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, also appreciated the efforts made by IIT Jodhpur towards setting up of Innovation & Incubation Center and Sports Complex. Hon’ble Minister of State for Education, Shri Sanjay Dhotre, for Education Sanjay Dhotre mentioned that the new courses started by IIT Jodhpur in AI & Data Sciences will open new avenues for students and contribute to the country’s goodwill and pride.

Incubation & Innovation Centre

Inaugural video available at: https://youtu.be/kv0dJsWj2L4

Among many initiatives to promote entrepreneurship leveraging the academic knowledge, IIT Jodhpur has set up an Incubation and Innovation Centre in its campus to nucleate a cluster of new age ventures. The focus of this Centre is on Deep Tech to promote startups and programs founded on scientific discovery or meaningful engineering innovation to solve the global issues through transformative technologies. The focal theme for this centre is AIoT, a convergence of AI, IoT and 5G technologies. This next-generation technology is expected to impact all sectors of economy. Deep tech domains include: new materials, especially materials of intelligence, Artificial Intelligence, healthcare including Precision Medicine & Multi-omics, Cyber-security, Digital economy, Robotics, Advanced Communications, Quantum Computing, etc. Possible fields for Deep Tech applications include: Agriculture, Food (including processing, analytics and computing), Life sciences, Aerospace, Energy, Defence, etc. Currently the centre nurtures incubation projects supported by the Ministry of MSME and MeitY, Government of India besides administering a number of entrepreneurship related activities encompassing a multitude programs/stakeholders in the neighborhood.
Present available infrastructure has around 21,000 sq. ft. of built up area dedicated for incubation along with other business support amenities. At any time, on an average 30 incubatees can be accommodated in the unit and they will have access to the laboratory facilities, faculty and managerial expertise, library & student interns available at the institute. A strong academia-industry linkage available with the institute will help incubatees in getting the domain specific dedicated mentorship and networking with potential business partners & customers. Apart from these, this unit provides trainings, connect with investors, intellectual property protection support and feedback/suggestions for their progress in terms of product development, testing and customer engagement. Three startups are already incubating their products and five more student/faculty led entrepreneurship projects have been approved recently by the ministry of MSME and BIRAC for pursuing incubation towards products/business development. Pingala AI Pvt. Ltd. (Prithvi.AI), a provider of seed-stage acceleration program designed for budding start-ups in the Artificial Intelligence and machine learning arena; is also setting up AIOT and Industry 4.0 support system for HEEREAL (Healthcare, Education, Energy, Environment, Agriculture and Livelihood) at the Innovation Centre in the unit. An area has also been dedicated for setting of state-of-the-art facilities for bio-incubators with the help of BioNEST programme of BARC, Govt. of India.

**Sports Complex**

**Inaugural video available at:** [https://youtu.be/CY70f4NgPUs](https://youtu.be/CY70f4NgPUs)

Along with the Academic and Residential Facilities, a separate Sports complex is developed to provide excellent Sports Facilities to the students as well as Faculty and Staff Members. The Sports Complex is well connected with the other parts of the Campus. The playing facilities presently developed are:

- Cricket Ground with separate practice pitches (01)
- Football Ground (01)
- Hockey Ground (01)
- Synthetic Basketball Courts (04)
- Synthetic Tennis Courts (04)
- Synthetic Athletics Track (01)
- Volleyball Courts (05 Clay Courts)
- Kabaddi Courts (04 Clay Courts)

The facilities not only serve as recreation for IIT Jodhpur’s fraternity, but would be extensively used as a part of the physical activity component of the Institute’s curriculum and for preparations of Inter-IIT and national-level sports festivals and competitions. The Sports complex of IIT Jodhpur Campus is one of its kind in the city of Jodhpur and has attracted the attention of many nearby Academic Institutions/Schools for use.

All the dimensions of the Courts are as per Sports Authority of India Manuals/International Standards. The field surface of the Hockey, Cricket and Football field is natural grass with a complete system for watering.

The **Cricket Ground** has an oval play area of about 15000 square metres, and has three natural grass pitches compliant with international dimensions. There are four pitches (three with natural grass, and one with concrete) for net practice to give a varied pitching experience to the players. The **Hockey field** is 91.4 m x 55 m, and is appropriately sloped for drainage. The **Football fields** which are surrounded by synthetic athletic tracks, serve as a perfect spot to witness the emphatic highs of teams and adrenaline rush! The athletic tracks support all track and field events like shot put, Javelin, Hammer throw and long jump.

The Complex also houses five clay **Volleyball** and **Kabaddi** courts and four synthetic **Tennis** and **Basketball courts**.