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IITBBS startup boost for state's young innovators

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Bhubaneswar: The startup culture in the state has gained momentum after Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar (IITBBS), opened an incubation centre and a start up cell in 2015 to help entrepreneurs realise their dreams.

IITBBS that houses incubation as well as startup centres on its campus has groomed nine in-house startups developed by its students and also mentored seven start ups, which are run by outside students who had taken space in the incubation centre to start their business.

"We set up incubation and startup centres and a research and entrepreneurship park. It is aimed at encouraging anyone interested in entrepreneurship. Our students and the alumni have done extremely well in this front," said RV Raja Kumar, IITBBS director.

Sanka Arvind, an alumnus of the institute, founded Rapido, a bike taxi app that has now expanded to more than 16 locations. Rapido is a platform through which peo-

IIT goes green

To achieve a pollution free campus, Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar (IITBBS), on Thursday flagged off a battery-operated vehicle on its permanent campus in Argul. It will ferry people inside the campus. "We are committed to building a green campus. We have achieved success in this endeavour through our plantation drives, cycling culture, zero discharge designs, rainwater harvesting, and solar system, among others. The battery-operated vehicle is a part of the effort," said RV Raja Kumar, director of IITBBS. TNN

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ple can book a bike ride to and from the destination of their choice. It provides opportunity to people with two-wheelers to offer rides on their bikes and make some extra money. The startup was also featured in the Forbes 30 under 30 Asia list.

Besides Arvind, another pass-out, Yadish Khan, co-founded Musk Technologies. It is an app-based technology providing a chain of financial services.

Among others pass-outs, Mudit founded Dapper — an online portal for laundry services and Manish Jindal started Piixy Global, which manufactures electronic products.

The existing students of the institute are not behind. Vishwas and Mohnish founded Prajjwala and have bagged a number of awards.

They designed an IoT-based solution to measure, track, transmit and store a consumer's LPG consumption.

Some startups created by students of other varsities are SakRobotix founded by Sakyasingh Mohapatra and Jar Lights founded by Bibekananda Jujharsingh.

While SakRobotics is changing the trend of robotic studies in the state, Jar Lights is making strides in manufacturing low cost LED street lights and solar bulbs, among others.

SakRobotix has recently announced the launch of its school and research centre in the city. "The mission is to find out and empower hidden talents of our country in robotics study," Mahapatra said.