

IIT-I, Ujjain Engg College may mentor startups at IT Park

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Indore: The Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (MPIDC) initiated discussions with IIT Indore and Ujjain Engineering College to put in place a structured mentoring framework for startups that are expected to operate from the upcoming IT Park in Ujjain.

The initiative aimed to strengthen the local startup ecosystem by connecting young technology firms with academic expertise, industry knowledge and research support, as the city prepared to host its 1st large-scale IT infrastructure project.

The Rs 46-crore IT Park, launched in December 2024, is scheduled for completion by December 2026 and is expected to emerge as a regional hub for information technology and technology-enabled services.

Rajesh Rathod, executive director, MPIDC Ujjain, said the corporation's focus was

on developing an ecosystem rather than just physical infrastructure. "Mentoring by experienced professionals and academic institutions will help startups improve product development, innovation capacity and long-term business sustainability," he said.

Ujjain Engineering College indicated its willingness to play an active role in

MPIDC INITIATIVE

the initiative. Dr Umesh Pendharkar, principal of the college, said discussions were underway with MPIDC to support budding entrepreneurs.

"We are in talks with MPIDC to mentor startups and young entrepreneurs who will come up in the IT Park. The college is considering forming a dedicated team of faculty members who will train and mentor them in technical and business aspects," Pendharkar said.

MPIDC received 11 ex-

pressions of interest for space in the IT Park, covering nearly 1.26 lakh sq ft in the 1st phase. The proposed employment generation from these EOIs is estimated at more than 3,800 jobs.

Technology firms from Indore, Ujjain and Bhopal submitted applications. Officials said many of these companies were engaged in software development, IT services, design solutions and small-scale technology research and development, pointing to the potential for a diversified technology ecosystem.

The IT Park is planned with plug-and-play office spaces, shared facilities and digital infrastructure to attract startups as well as established IT firms.

Officials said the proposed mentoring framework will help bridge the gap between academia and industry, positioning Ujjain as an emerging technology destination alongside Indore's established IT base.