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# Innovation lab to promote digital skill development

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**VARANASI:** In a bid to foster innovation and enhance digital skill development, the IIT-BHU announced the launch of 'Cisco thingQbator'—innovation labs — at Malaviya Centre for Innovation, Incubation and entrepreneurship (MCIE).

This is part of Cisco's corporate social responsibility (CSR) with the objective of building digital skills and facilitating student entrepreneurship.

Director IIT-BHU, Prof PK Jain said, "Local solutions are required for local problems and these solutions would help in generating local jobs. Innovation would be required so that India can become a technologically self-reliant country and 'Cisco thingQbator' is an effort in that

direction."

Vice-president, sales, Cisco, Vish Iyer said, "The programme is designed to create a culture of innovation by supporting students and empowering them to turn their ideas into practical and meaningful solutions to solve real-world problems."

It will be run in two annual batches with 60 students each. Selected students will have full access to the makerspace to turn their ideas into working models.

On the sidelines of the event, some students presented their innovative works to the dignitaries present.

Students of electrical engineering Mayank Bansal, Deepak Bansal and Rajeswar Sharma presented a sensor-fitted prosthetic arm which works via Bluetooth.

Another student of electronic

engineering named Abhishek presented a 'self-balancing robot' which can crawl on two wheels while successfully striking a balance. This robot could be used for patrolling and security purposes, he said.

Cisco, as the programme sponsor, will provide the technical know-how and mentorship along with access to its digital technologies. This makerspace is part of a network of five makerspaces that Cisco is setting up across the country in various universities.

The programme is initiated in collaboration with NASSCOM Foundation and partners such as Project DEFY and Li2 technologies.

Coordinators of MCIE, Prof PK Mishra and Prof Pradeep Srivastav along with other dignitaries and students were present on the occasion.