

BIRAC's Bio-NEST program to foster innovations in India

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India has launched Bio-incubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies (Bio-NEST) scheme with a vision that focused on fostering the biotech innovation ecosystem in the country. Such bio-incubation centres will help in harnessing of the entrepreneurial potential of start-ups by giving them access to infrastructure as well as mentoring and networking platforms during their fledgling days.



In 2016, Prime Minister of India announced startup India Action Plan to scale up of biotech startup ecosystem in country and kept a target of reaching to 2000 start-ups by 2020. This necessitated the creation of new world class bio-incubation space that can provide cutting edge access to the best bio-incubation environs for propelling innovative ideas towards product commercialization.

Bio-NEST program aims at providing support to enterprising ideas in the biotechnologists and to provide landing space to test their ideas, run their operations, have access to high end instrumentations and locate in a place where they connect with other start ups and mentors. Bio-NEST program provides support either as a separate entity or as a part of academia. So far BIRAC has supported 41 bio-incubators creating a cumulative area of 441862.7 sq. ft. for budding entrepreneurs through Bio-NEST program.

Further, new bio-incubation spaces created should be cognizant about multiple needs of different biotech start-ups like medtech, biopharma, agri-biotech and biomaterials. So far BIRAC has supported 727 incubatees, 530 resident incubates, 193 non resident incubates, and 194 women entrepreneurs. Also 767 jobs have been created by incubates under Bio-NEST Scheme. Furthermore, BIRAC has committed an amount 213 Cr for BioNEST incubation centres and will continue to foster their growth in the country.

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