

## **Scientific-infrastructure Access for Harnessing Academia-University-Research Joint-Collaboration (SAHAJ)**



The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India has been supporting the development of research infrastructure at universities, research- and medical institutes since 1986. In early years, needs of individual researchers, laboratories and biotechnology facility centres were catered under the 'Task Force on Infrastructure'. However, during 12<sup>th</sup> fifth year plan, the scheme was shifted to fund shared sustainable facilities to various several stakeholders including academia, agriculture, medicine, bioindustry and innovators through 'Scientific Infrastructure Access for Harnessing Academia University Research Joint Collaboration (SAHAJ) throughout the country.

The SAHAJ is DBT's portal meant to provide research resources and facilities access to all autonomous institutes. The DBT supported infrastructure programmes provides and shares its equipment and infrastructure to Indian research institutes, universities, colleges and start-ups, and entrepreneurs. The SAHAJ portal is partnering 15 institutes to provide their resources and infrastructure to students and researchers who do not avail any funding, fellowship and research grant through Government of India. The DBT provides a special infrastructure access grant up to rupees 10 lakhs per year on competitive basis to the host institute to facilitate access to such facilities.

The directors of the host institutes are given task of reviewing such applications in a time bound manner (not exceeding 4 weeks). The candidates are provided access to resources and facilities via an online form with well defined charges and terms and conditions.

Some of the important objectives of DBT-SAHAJ infrastructure program are

- To create “national” service facility and research resource platform to provide access to resources/facilities to deserving candidates
- SAHAJ provides research resources including the scientific and technical support to users for creating efficient research and innovation environment in the country
- To provide long-term sustainability research facilities at feasible and cheap rates to scientific community.
- To support service facilities of good laboratory practices (GLP)/non-GLP standards at highest biosafety levels.
- To provide huge chemical libraries, ultra-high throughput screening and big genetic databases in discovery, predictive toxicology platforms, cutting-edge '*omics*' and deep-seated knowledge of particular therapeutic areas.
- To bring together stakeholders to address and resolve various challenges.
- Quantitative and qualitative expansion of existing or establishing of new research infrastructure.
- To provide access to world class and state of the art facilities.
- Technology driven capacity building, and trained human resource development.
- Augment biotech infrastructure for educational and quality research leading to societal benefits.
- To support the long term operational sustainability, promote industry-academic collaborations, and to strengthen global competitiveness.
- To promote translational research leading to products testing, validation and development.
- To provide services for food and environmental biosafety assessment, diagnostic and detection services to people working in biotechnology, medicine, agriculture, environment, etc.

The overall motive of the programme is to establish the new or up-gradation of existing research resources, service facilities and platforms in Indian research institutions and universities engaged in cutting edge research in frontier areas of life sciences/biotechnology.

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