

# BIRAC Foundation Day 2016

## Scaling Bio-Entrepreneurship: Foundation for A Sustainable Future

New Delhi, March 20-21, 2016

### Media Coverage Report

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March 2016

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## PRINT MEDIA

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### ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS

**Publication:** The Hindu

**Edition:** New Delhi

**Date:** March 21, 2016

**Page:** 08

## Dept. of Biotechnology launches fund to tackle anti-microbial resistance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** In a move to encourage biotechnology start-ups as well as tackle the threat faced by India from resistance to antimicrobial drugs, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) — through the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) — has invested an initial \$1,00,000 to start an India-focussed seed fund to help groups in India compete for the Longitude Prize. This is a £10 million prize offered by Nesta, a U.K. charity, to any individual group anywhere in the world that develops an affordable, effective diagnostic test to detect resistance to microbes.

Renu Swarup, Managing Director, BIRAC, said the collaborations were to encourage more biotechnology start-ups out of India. "BIRAC, since its inception, has supported several social entrepreneurs and we are committed to creating



Collaborations are to encourage more biotechnology start-ups, says DBT. — FILE PHOTO

an atmosphere where innovation is encouraged and nurtured," she said. BIRAC is supported by the DBT.

India faces increasing instances of tuberculosis patients being resistant to frontline drugs. Experts say this is due to lax monitoring and profligate prescription by medical authorities that allow these drugs to be easily avail-

able. Indiscriminate usage means that bugs are, overtime, able to resist these medicines. The World Health Organisation statistics for 2014 give an estimated incidence figure of 2.2 million cases of TB for India out of a global incidence of 9 million, with instances of drug-resistant TB rapidly rising.

Alongside Nesta, BIRAC al-

so inked collaboration with Tekes, the Finnish funding agency, to improve competitiveness of Indian and Finnish industries through promoting collaboration in different phases of the knowledge innovation chain and it is teaming up with Horticulture Innovation Australia (HIA) for a joint funding programme to support innovative technologies for sustainable horticulture at a global level.

Last December, the DBT laid out a strategy whereby biotechnology would be at the foundation of a \$100-billion industry by 2025, rising from the current \$7-\$10 billion.

### Four missions

The National Biotechnology Development Strategy, as it is called, expects to launch four missions in healthcare, food and nutrition, clean energy and education, create a technology development and translation network across India with global partnership.

PRINT MEDIA

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HINDI PUBLICATIONS

<b>Publication:</b> Amar Ujala
<b>Edition:</b> New Delhi
<b>Date:</b> March 21, 2016
<b>Page No:</b> 04

## स्थापना दिवस पर कार्यक्रम

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। बायोटेक्नोलॉजी इंडस्ट्री रिसर्च असिस्टेंस काउंसिल (बीआईआरएसी) ने रविवार को देश दुनिया के कई संगठनों के साथ भागीदारी का ऐलान किया। इसके तहत स्वास्थ्य व कृषि क्षेत्र में मौजूद प्रौद्योगिकियों के विकास के लिए वित्तीय सहयोग दिया जायेगा। बीआईआरएसी के चौथे स्थापना दिवस पर इंडिया हैबीटेट सेंटर में आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में इसका ऐलान किया गया।

**Publication:** National Duniya

**Edition:** New Delhi

**Date:** March 21, 2016

**Page No:** 03

## ‘अनुसंधान से मिलता है बदलाव को बढ़ावा’

नेशनल दुनिया

नई दिल्ली। बायोटेक्नोलॉजी इंडस्ट्री रिसर्च असोसिएट्स काउंसिल (बीआईआरएसी) ने स्थापना दिवस के अवसर पर देशी व अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संगठनों के साथ कई भागीदारीया करने की घोषणा की है। इसके अंतर्गत स्वास्थ्य व कृषि के क्षेत्र में उपलब्ध प्रौद्योगिकियों को समर्थन, वित्तीय सहयोग दिया जाएगा और उनके पैमाने में इजाफा किया जाएगा।

ये घोषणाएं बीआईआरएसी के चौथे स्थापना दिवस पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम में दौरान इंपोसिस के कार्यकारी वाइस चेयरमैन क्रिस गोपालकृष्णन ने की।

बायोटेक्नोलॉजी विभाग के सचिव एवं बीआईआरएसी के चेयरमैन प्रो. के विजय राघवन, बायोटेक्नोलॉजी विभाग की वरिष्ठ सलाहकार व बीआईआरएसी की प्रबंध निदेशक डॉ. रेणु स्वरूप तथा

### सेमिनार

- बीआईआरएसी ने मनाया स्थापना दिवस
- कृषि क्षेत्र की प्रौद्योगिकी को दोगे प्रोत्साहन

आईआईटी मद्रास के प्रो. अशोक सुनसुनवाला ने कहा कि सोमवार को फैसल चर्चाएं होंगी, जिनमें उत्पादों के कॉन्सेप्ट से लेकर उनके कारोबारीकरण तक इनोवेशन पाइपलाइन में विभिन्न स्तरों पर प्रगति को रफ्तार बढ़ाने के तरीकों पर विचार-विमर्श किया जाएगा।

बायोटेक्नोलॉजी विभाग के सचिव प्रो. के विजय राघवन ने कहा कि अनुसंधान की वजह से ही बदलाव आता है। इसलिए मौजूदा बायोटेक कंपनियों को सशक्त व मजबूत करना तथा प्रोत्साहन देना महत्वपूर्ण है।

## ONLINE COVERAGE

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**[BIRAC Collaborates with International and National Organizations to Support Innovations](#)**

**March 20**

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) on Sunday announced a string of partnerships with domestic and international organizations to support, fund and scale-up available technologies with a focus on health and agriculture. The announcements were made on the 4th Foundation Day aptly themed 'Scaling Bio-Entrepreneurship: Foundation for Sustainable Future'. Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan, Executive Vice Chairman, Infosys delivered the Foundation Day Lecture.

The event was well attended by stakeholders from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government, Industry, Academia and Foreign Embassies. The dignitaries included Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Chairman, BIRAC; Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser, Department of Biotechnology and Managing Director, BIRAC; Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, IIT Madras. A number of panel discussions will be held on Monday, 21st March, to discuss mechanisms to accelerate progress on different levels on the innovation pipeline, from concept to commercialization of the product.

BIRAC is a not-for-profit Public Sector Undertaking, set up by DBT, Government of India as an interface agency to support emerging biotech enterprises to undertake strategic research and innovation, to address nationally relevant product development needs. BIRAC has supported nearly 300 start-ups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and 170 young entrepreneurs for innovation, research and product development. Nearly 100 entrepreneurs have been supported for medical technology innovation and 29 products and technologies have been developed and commercialized by BIRAC support.

Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Chairman, BIRAC said, "Research and innovation are crucial drivers of change. It is important to empower and strengthen existing biotech firms and encourage social entrepreneurship. Through the partnerships announced today, we aim to facilitate the development of innovative, high quality affordable products that can transform our lives for the better."

BIRAC announced collaborations with the following organizations: Nesta, the UK's Innovation Charity, to create an India focused seed fund within the Discovery Award Programme of the Longitude Prize at Nesta, which would create a pipeline of Indian innovators for competing in the coveted Longitude Prize - a challenge programme having a prize fund of 10 Million Pound, to help solve the problem of global antibiotic resistance; Tekes, the Finnish funding agency, to improve competitiveness of Indian and Finnish industries through promoting collaboration in different phases of the knowledge innovation chain; Horticulture Innovation Australia (HIA) for a joint funding programme to support innovative technologies for sustainable horticulture at a global level; and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to mentor the BIRAC's social innovators and assess the impact of BIRAC's social innovation initiatives and strengthen the impact of the same.

"Cross pollination of ideas and knowledge between organizations sharing the same vision can accelerate progress towards our targets. Encouraging innovation and research, especially in social spheres, is vital for our country. BIRAC, since its inception has supported several social entrepreneurs and we are committed to creating an atmosphere where innovation is encouraged and nurtured," said Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser, Department of Biotechnology and Managing Director, BIRAC.

## [Dept. of Biotechnology launches fund to tackle anti-microbial resistance](#)

**March 21**

The move is to encourage biotechnology start-ups as well as tackle the threat faced by India from resistance to antimicrobial drugs.

In a move to encourage biotechnology start-ups as well as tackle the threat faced by India from resistance to antimicrobial drugs, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) — through the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) — has invested an initial \$1,00,000 to start an India-focussed seed fund to help groups in India compete for the Longitude Prize. This is a £ 10 million prize offered by Nesta, a U.K. charity, to any individual group anywhere in the world that develops an affordable, effective diagnostic test to detect resistance to microbes.

Renu Swarup, Managing Director, BIRAC, said the collaborations were to encourage more biotechnology start-ups out of India. “BIRAC, since its inception, has supported several social entrepreneurs and we are committed to creating an atmosphere where innovation is encouraged and nurtured,” she said. BIRAC is supported by the DBT.

India faces increasing instances of tuberculosis patients being resistant to front line drugs. Experts say this is due to lax monitoring and profligate prescription by medical authorities that allow these drugs to be easily available. Indiscriminate usage means that bugs are, overtime, able to resist these medicines. The World Health Organisation statistics for 2014 give an estimated incidence figure of 2.2 million cases of TB for India out of a global incidence of 9 million, with instances of drug-resistant TB rapidly rising.

Alongside Nesta, BIRAC also inked collaboration with Tekes, the Finnish funding agency, to improve competitiveness of Indian and Finnish industries through promoting collaboration in different phases of the knowledge innovation chain and it is teaming up with Horticulture Innovation Australia (HIA) for a joint funding programme to support innovative technologies for sustainable horticulture at a global level.

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### **Four missions**

The National Biotechnology Development Strategy, as it is called, expects to launch four missions in healthcare, food and nutrition, clean energy and education; create a technology development and translation network across India with global partnership.

[Tie-ups with global bodies for innovations in health](#)

**March 21**

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a not-for-profit undertaking under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), has announced a string of partnerships with domestic and international organizations to support, fund and scale up technologies with focus on health and agriculture.

The partners include the UK's Nesta, Finnish Tekes, Horticulture Innovation Australia and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). The partnerships were announced on the occasion of BIRAC's fourth Foundation Day celebrations here on Sunday.

With Nesta, BIRAC will collaborate to create an India-focused seed fund to incentivize innovators to help solve the problem of global antibiotic resistance.

Tekes, the Finnish funding agency, will help improve competitiveness of Indian and Finnish industries by collaborating in the knowledge innovation chain, a BIRAC release said.

Horticulture Innovation Australia will be part of a joint funding programme to support innovative technologies for sustainable horticulture at a global level, while TISS will mentor BIRAC's social innovators.

"Research and innovation are crucial drivers of change. Through the partnerships, we aim to facilitate the development of innovative, high quality affordable products that can transform our lives for the better." said K VijayRaghavan, Secretary, DBT, and Chairman, BIRAC.



## [BIRAC collaborates with international and national organisations to support innovations](#)

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The event was attended by stakeholders from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government, Industry, Academia and foreign embassies

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) announced a string of partnerships with domestic and international organisations to support, fund and scale-up available technologies with a focus on health and agriculture. The announcements were made on the 4th Foundation Day aptly themed 'Scaling Bio-Entrepreneurship: Foundation for Sustainable Future'. Kris Gopalakrishnan, Executive Vice Chairman, Infosys delivered the Foundation Day Lecture.

The event was attended by stakeholders from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government, Industry, Academia and foreign embassies. The dignitaries included Prof K VijayRaghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Chairman, BIRAC; Dr Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser, Department of Biotechnology and Managing Director, BIRAC; Prof Ashok Jhunjhunwala, IIT Madras. A number of panel discussions will be held to discuss mechanisms to accelerate progress on different levels on the innovation pipeline, from concept to commercialisation of the product.

BIRAC is a not-for-profit public sector undertaking, set up by DBT, Government of India as an interface agency to support emerging biotech enterprises to undertake strategic research and innovation, to address nationally relevant product development needs. BIRAC has supported nearly 300 start-ups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and 170 young entrepreneurs for innovation, research and product development. Nearly 100 entrepreneurs have been supported for medical technology innovation and 29 products and technologies have been developed and commercialised by BIRAC support.

Prof K VijayRaghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Chairman, BIRAC said, "Research and innovation are crucial drivers of change. It is important to empower and strengthen existing biotech firms and encourage social entrepreneurship. Through the partnerships announced, we aim to facilitate the development of innovative, high quality affordable products that can transform our lives for the better."

BIRAC announced collaborations with the following organisations: Nesta, the UK's Innovation Charity, to create an India focused seed fund within the Discovery Award Programme of the Longitude Prize at Nesta, which would create a pipeline of Indian innovators for competing in the coveted Longitude Prize – a challenge programme having a prize fund of 10 million pound, to help solve the problem of global antibiotic resistance; Tekes, the Finnish funding agency, to improve competitiveness of Indian and Finnish industries through promoting collaboration in different phases of the knowledge innovation chain; Horticulture Innovation Australia (HIA) for a joint funding programme to support innovative technologies for sustainable horticulture at a global level; and

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BIRAC announced collaborations with the following organizations: Nesta, the UK's Innovation Charity, to create an India focused seed fund within the Discovery Award Programme of the Longitude Prize at Nesta, which would create a pipeline of Indian innovators for competing in the coveted Longitude Prize - a challenge programme having a prize fund of 10 Million Pound, to help solve the problem of global antibiotic resistance; Tekes, the Finnish funding agency, to improve competitiveness of Indian and Finnish industries through promoting collaboration in different phases of the knowledge innovation chain; Horticulture Innovation Australia (HIA) for a joint funding programme to support innovative technologies for sustainable horticulture at a global level; and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to mentor the BIRAC's social innovators and assess the impact of BIRAC's social innovation initiatives and strengthen the impact of the same.

"Cross pollination of ideas and knowledge between organizations sharing the same vision can accelerate progress towards our targets. Encouraging innovation and research, especially in social spheres, is vital for our country. BIRAC, since its inception has supported several social entrepreneurs and we are committed to creating an atmosphere where innovation is encouraged and nurtured," said Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser, Department of Biotechnology and Managing Director, BIRAC.

# Business News This Week

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## [BIRAC Collaborates with International and National Organizations to Support Innovations](#)

**March 20**

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) on Sunday announced a string of partnerships with domestic and international organizations to support, fund and scale-up available technologies with a focus on health and agriculture. The announcements were made on the 4th Foundation Day aptly themed 'Scaling Bio-Entrepreneurship: Foundation for Sustainable Future'. Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan, Executive Vice Chairman, Infosys delivered the Foundation Day Lecture.

The event was well attended by stakeholders from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government, Industry, Academia and Foreign Embassies. The dignitaries included Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Chairman, BIRAC; Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser, Department of Biotechnology and Managing Director, BIRAC; Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, IIT Madras. A number of panel discussions will be held on Monday, 21st March, to discuss mechanisms to accelerate progress on different levels on the innovation pipeline, from concept to commercialization of the product.

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