



Day 1:

Inaugural Session



Lamp lighting ceremony



Dr Mohd Aslam, Dr. Anuradha Acharya, Dr RenuSwarup & Dr. Anand Anand Kumar Releasing BIRAC Publications

The 7th Innovators Conclave of BIRAC was held at Heritage Village, Manesar on 19th-20th September 2018. The theme for this event was 'VIGYAN SE VIKAS'. The Innovator's Conclave witnessed the confluence of around 300 Scientists, Entrepreneurs, Academicians, and Industry Experts. The event was inaugurated by Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary DBT, Ministry of Science & Technology and Chairperson BIRAC; Dr Mohd Aslam, MD BIRAC & Advisor Scientist 'G', DBT; Dr Anand Anandakumar, Co-Founder and CEO, Bugworks Research; and Dr Anuradha Acharya, Founder & CEO Mapmygenome.

The inaugural session also witnessed the announcement of the BIRAC Innovators Awards:

1. Best Innovation in Healthcare (Devices & Diagnostics) was awarded to Forus Health Private Limited, Bengaluru in collaboration with Healthcare Technology Innovation Center, Chennai and Narayana Nethralaya Foundation, Bengaluru
2. Best Innovation in Agriculture was awarded to Jiva Science Private Limited, Bengaluru
3. Best Innovation in Healthcare (Therapeutics) was awarded to Regrow Biosciences Private Limited, Mumbai
4. Best Innovation in Industrial Biotechnology was awarded to String Bio Private Limited, Bengaluru
5. Best Innovation in Healthcare (Devices & Diagnostics) was awarded to PathShodh Healthcare Private Limited, Bengaluru



BIRAC Innovator Awardees

Poster Session

The Poster session was inaugurated by Dr Mohd Aslam, MD, BIRAC & Advisor Scientist 'G', DBT. The session was facilitated by Dr PKS Sarma, GM & Head Technical BIRAC. A total of 47 posters were displayed.



Glimpses from Poster Session

The posters were categorised into four categories: Therapeutics, Device and Diagnostics, Agriculture and Industrial biotechnology. A Committee of experts comprising of Dr Alok Ray, Dr Rita Mulherkar, Dr R B N Prasad, Dr A K Panda, and Dr K K Narayanan was constituted for evaluation of the posters.

The posters were evaluated as per the criteria of Presentation, Methodology, Data, Poster integrity and the Presenter. The awards were given in the form of monetary reward during the Valedictory Session.

Panel Discussions

The Innovators Conclave provided a podium for knowledgeable and thoughtful discussions on possible strategies and implementation plans.

Panel 1: Investors–Innovators Interaction

Dr. Manish Diwan, DGM & Head Strategic Partnerships and Entrepreneurship Development, BIRAC & Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed, CEO & Director, C-CAMP, Bangalore were facilitators for this session. The speakers for this session were Ms. Padmaja Ruparel, Indian Angel Network Mr. Rakesh Rewari, Ex SIDBI; Dr. Ramesh Byrapaneni, Endiya Partners; Mr. Ashwin Raghuraman, Bharat Innovation Fund; Dr. Harish Iyer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Ms. Rema Subramanian, Ankur Capital and Mr. Arun Venkatesan, Villgro.



Panelists of Session 1- Investors–Innovators Interaction

The salient outcomes and points for discussion that were concluded from the session were:

- Biotech is a High Risk-High Reward Sector
- “Need to have companies” preferred over “Nice to have companies” (specifically in developing countries)
- Great Scientists need to be mentored to become Great Entrepreneurs
 - ✓ Science is not the only parameter assessed by investors
 - ✓ Team is looked at very seriously by the investors
- Focus on Cheaper options- Not an option preferred always by the investors
- Entry to Market should happen as quickly as possible
- Co-investment by two or more angel investors or VCs is in trend for biotech investments
- Series A funding- Biggest challenge
- Choosing right investor at the right stage- Important
- Entrepreneurs to think Global right from beginning
- Networking- the most important element

Day 2:

BIRAC Plenary Lecture was given by Prof. G Padmanabhan, Former Director, IISC. He spoke about Biotech Innovation Ecosystem-Beyond 2025. One to One Business Mentoring Clinics were also conducted on 20th September, where the innovator's got an opportunity to discuss their challenges with mentors.



[Prof. G Padmanabhan delivering the BIRAC Plenary Lecture](#)

Panel 2: Global perspective on Innovations

The session was moderated by Ms. Deepanwita Chattopadhyay MD & CEO, IKP Knowledge Park and Dr. Shirshendu Mukherjee, Mission Director PMU-BIRAC. Speakers of this session were Dr. Janet White, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Dr. Hardik Makkar, Ignite fellow; Mr. Adarsh Natarajan, Ignite fellow; Mr. Karthik Raghunandan, Slush fellow; Mr. Nachiket Deval, Slush fellow; Ms. Preetha Rajaraman, US Embassy; Ms. Sarah Mooney, UK Embassy; Ms. Maria Lunander, Embassy of Sweden; Ms. Mousumi Mondal, DNDi and Ms. Laura Marquez Lopez, Embassy of Spain.



[Panelists of Session 2 - Global perspective on Innovations](#)

The salient points for this discussion were:

- ✓ Collaborate
 - Collaborations and partnerships through each stage of product development are the key to innovation ecosystems
 - Industries should partner in scale-up and commercialization
- ✓ Indian Innovation ecosystem

- India has unique ecosystem; more movement is required in innovation ecosystem
- Strengthening of regulatory system
- Public funding should enable access to new technologies
- ✓ Think global
 - Think and focus on being global since start, build trust
 - Put global standards as the benchmark during product development
- ✓ Understanding the market
 - Understand the landscape and target market well
 - Globally, India is seen as a big market for partnership, collaboration and commercialization of new technologies

Panel 3: “Vigyan se Vikas”- Science Impacting Society

The session was moderated by Dr. Manish Diwan, DGM & Head Strategic Partnerships and Entrepreneurship Development, BIRAC. The speakers were Ms. Bincy Baby, Eram Scientific Solutions; Mr. Kabir Udeshi, Flycatcher Technologies; Dr. Vishal Uchila Shishir Rao, Innaumation Medical; Dr. Nusrat J M Sanghamitra, Cyca Oncosolutions; Dr. Arun Chandru, Pandorum Technologies and Dr. R.M. Kathiresan , Annamalai University.



Panelists of Session 3 - “Vigyan se Vikas”- Science Impacting Society

The salient points for this discussion were:

- Flycatcher Technologies - Convert hotel, hospital and household food waste to value as biofuel and manure (Corporate social responsibility)
- Annamalai University - Integrated farming systems deployed in farmers field resulted in ‘public good’ (nutritional security, generated revenue and livelihood upliftment)
- Innaumation Medical – ‘affordable - \$1’ voice box post laryngectomy for vulnerable cancer patients
- Eram Scientific Solutions – e-Toilets integrated with waste management system are self-sustainable, cost-effective and resource recovery
- Cyca Oncosolutions - Drug Delivery mechanism for cancer patients expect for an extended life span
- Pandorum Technologies - Tissue engineering, developing tissues of cornea at affordable cost for effective treatments

Valedictory Session

The two day event came to an end with the valedictory session. Dr. Mohd. Aslam distributed the awards to the below mentioned Winners of the Poster Session and gave his closing remarks.

- 1st Prize-BmNPV Resistant Transgenic Silkworm (APSSRDI& CDFD)
- 2nd Prize-USENSE (Module Innovations Pvt Ltd)
- 3rd Prize-Refining of Biogas (DCM Shriram Daurala Sugar Works)
- Consolation Prizes-Cocoons to Tissue (Biolmed Innovations Pvt Ltd) & Orthoscrew, Osteoanchor, PromaTack (Orthocrafts)



Winners of Poster Session



BIRAC TEAM



Participants of 7th BIRAC Innovators Conclave