

GU vice chancellor to inaugurate BITS BIRAC BioNEST, startup incubation facility on Jan 3

BY A REPORTER

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Panaji: BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus has set up an incubator with financial support of Rs three crore from Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a not-for-profit public sector enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India.

With 3500 square feet of state-of-the-art facility, the BITS BIRAC BioNEST Lab will help the startups in health and environment sector by providing them equipment, space and supporting facilities to test their ideas, prototype in the lab and take it to the market.

Professor Varun Sahni, Vice Chancellor of Goa University will inaugurate this BITS BIRAC BioNEST Startup Incubator cum Inno-

vation Lab at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus on Thursday, January 3 at 5 pm.

The event will be presided over by director of BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus prof G Raghurama and will include an expert panel discussion on 'Opportunities in Healthcare'.

Experts will include Dr Shekhar Salkar, head dept of oncology, Manipal Hospital, Goa and past president, Goa Medical Council & Indian Medical Association Goa; Dr N Sriram, director, Molbio Diagnostics and founder Tulip Diagnostics; Dr Praveen Khullar, head of Global Development Center, Sano-Synthelabo (India) and president, Goa Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association; Dr Manish Diwan, head- Strategy Partnership & Entrepreneurship Development, BIRAC, a Govt of India enterprise

and V Joshi, co-founder, Sattva Medtech.

The BITS BIRAC BioNEST Lab focused in the area of health and environment nurtures innovations in areas that can create products which will not only have great market potential but also provide a solution to several pressing problems that are modern day challenges to mankind. Incubation support includes- Startup Incubation, Laboratory (Workbenches & Equipment), Office Space & Common Infrastructure, Legal & IPR Services, Mentorship & Training, Sample Testing & Analysis, and consultancy. BITS invite entrepreneurs, investors, engineers and scientists to be a part of network and to participate in stimulating conversations, innovative thinking and create forward-looking startups. This initiative aims to ignite the spark

of new ventures to make a worthwhile contribution in biotechnology, health and environment sector.

BIRAC promotes industry-academia interface and implements its mandate through a wide range of impact initiatives, be it providing access to risk capital through targeted funding, technology transfer, IP management and handholding schemes that help bring innovation excellence to the biotech firms and make them globally competitive. In its five years of existence, BIRAC has initiated several schemes, networks and platforms that help to bridge the existing gaps between the industry-academia and take socially useful products to the market.

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