Goa gets 'BITS BIRAC BioNest' incubator for healthcare sector

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The Biological Sciences Department head Prof Srikanth Mutnuri explaining about the equipments to the Vice-Chancellor of Goa University Prof Varun Sahni in the presence of Director of BITS Pilani Goa Campus Prof Raghurama G and the Head of Department of Oncology Manipal Hospitals Dr Shekhar Salkar

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A state-of-the-art 3500 sq ft BITS BIRAC BioNest Innovation lab set up by BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus with financial support of Rs 3 crore from Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a non-profit public sector enterprise, set up by the department of biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor of Goa University Prof Varun Sahni.

In his inaugural address, Prof Sahni emphasised the role of interdisciplinary research in creating innovations and welcomed the joint research by Goa University and BITS faculty members and researchers.

"This innovation lab would provide incubation support to the entrepreneurs in the verticals of healthcare and environment by providing them equipment, space and supporting facilities to test their ideas, prototype in the lab and take it to the market", said Sahni.

In his introductory address, the Director of BITS Pilani Goa Campus Prof Raghurama G said that this facility would lead to innovations in terms of affordable healthcare and sustainable solutions to solve the pressing environmental problems of the country.

In-charge of the incubator Prof Mridula Goel invited scientists and startups from across the state to use the facility. She informed that the incubatees would be provided technical guidance by the technical directors of the BioNest. Students and faculty from educational institutions were invited to participate in the regular trainings conducted on equipments like Spray Dryer, TOC, RT PCR, PCR, Geldoc system, etc that are installed in the lab.