

BITS Pilani to open incubator facility this wk

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Panaji: BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus, Zuarinagar, will open this week a state-of-the-art start-up incubator facility, which has been set up with funding of Rs 3 crore from the government of India's department of biotechnology (DBT).

The 3,500 sq ft BITS BIRAC BioNEST Lab will focus on helping start-ups in the health and environment sectors to find innovative solutions to issues in these areas. The start-ups will be assisted by the lab by providing them with equipment, space and support facilities to test their ideas and prototype in the lab, before taking it to the market.

The facility received financial assistance from Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a not-for-profit Public Sector Enterprise, of the

DBT. The BITS BIRAC BioNEST Startup Incubator cum Innovation Lab will be opened on January 3 by Goa University vice-chancellor Varun Sahni and director of BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus G Raghurama.

The lab will focus on health and environment start-ups that can create products which will not only have great market potential, but also provide a solution to several pressing problems of the modern-day.

STARTING UP

Incubation support includes work benches and equipment, office space and common infrastructure, legal & IPR services, mentorship and training, sample testing and analysis, and consultancy.

The college has called entrepreneurs, investors, engineers and scientists to be a part of the network and participate in innovative thinking and help create forward-looking startups.