

# BIRAC Foundation Day 2017

BIRAC @5

Impacting the Biotech Innovation Ecosystem

New Delhi, March 20-21, 2017



## Media Coverage Report

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March 2017

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**[Government aims to make India a global biotech hub by 2020](#)**

**March 20, 2017**

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) celebrated its fifth Foundation Day on Monday in New Delhi. The Foundation Day, aptly themed 'Impacting the Biotech Innovation Ecosystem' was presided over by the Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Y. S. Chowdary, and attended by a large number of dignitaries from the scientific and industry sectors both from within the country and overseas.

"Research and innovation has been one of the key areas that the Prime Minister and this government have focused on. BIRAC, which has completed five years today, stands at the cusp of a great leap. Globally, BIRAC has been hailed as one of the most effective government measures to create an enabling environment for research and development to flourish in a country. We aim to develop India into a global innovation hub by 2020 and BIRAC has paved the way to deliver on that mandate," said Chowdary.

BIRAC is a not-for-profit public sector enterprise, set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India which acts as an interface agency to support emerging biotech enterprises to undertake strategic research and innovation, to address nationally relevant product development needs.

Through the course of five years, BIRAC has supported over 618 projects, 850 start-ups, entrepreneurs, biotech companies and organisations and 20 incubators across the country, resulting in over 66 products and technologies and 120 Intellectual property rights being generated.

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"Innovation and research must be directed toward addressing the most pressing problems of society. We're proud that BIRAC and the Department of Biotechnology are spearheading this effort in the biotechnology domain. Since its inception in 2012, BIRAC has created nearly two dozen incubators across the country and supported over 350 start-ups. We firmly believe that social entrepreneurship is the key to creating an inclusive society and our government is committed to providing all the necessary support," said Dr. K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Chairman, BIRAC.

The science and technology sector will play a key role in the government's Start-Up India Action Plan. The DBT, in line with the Start-Up India Action Plan has undertaken a number of initiatives centered on the three pillars of an ideal innovation ecosystem – funding, mentoring and capacity building, and the infrastructure to translate scientific research into commercial products.

To this end, BIRAC implements its mandate through a wide range of high impact initiatives, providing access to risk capital through targeted funding, facilitating technology transfer, and supporting intellectual property management and handholding schemes for biotech firms to make them globally competitive.

“Through initiatives such as Start-Up India and the Science and Technology for Harnessing Innovations or SATHI, the government is ushering in supportive policies and removing regulatory barriers to create an atmosphere of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. The world as a whole stands to gain with Indian innovators stepping up and changing the way we address the grand challenges we face today. We are proud that BIRAC has created an enabling environment for the biotechnology industry to prosper,” said Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser, Department of Biotechnology and Managing Director, BIRAC.

The BIRAC Foundation will be followed by the Grand Challenges India Meeting to be held from March 21-24, 2017, which will have the participation of BMGF, Wellcome Trust, USAID and Grand Challenges Innovators from Brazil, Canada, Bangladesh, Korea, South Africa, Kenya and Switzerland.



## THE TIMES OF INDIA

### Government aims to make India a global biotech hub by 2020

**March 20, 2017**

Government aims to make India a global biotech hub by 2020, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Y S Chowdary said today. The Minister, after inaugurating the 5th Foundation Day of Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of Bio-Technology here, said biotechnology will be the leader among the knowledge based industries of the 21st century.

He said producing affordable products will be major issue for India. He called for efforts to set up a proper ecosystem with sustainable systems, particularly in hubs of rural India. "Research and innovation has been one of the key areas emphasised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Globally, BIRAC has been hailed as one of the most effective government measures to create an enabling environment for research and development to flourish in a country. We aim to develop India into a global innovation hub by 2020 and BIRAC has paved the way to deliver on that mandate," the Minister said. The 5th Foundation Day themed 'Impacting the Biotech Innovation Ecosystem' was presided over by and attended by a large number of dignitaries from the scientific and industry sectors both from within the country and overseas

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# Business Standard

## [Govt aims to make India global biotech hub by 2020](#)

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The Minister of State for Science and Technology & Earth Sciences, Mr. Y. S. Chowdary, has said that biotechnology will be the leader among the knowledge based industries of the 21st century. He said producing affordable products will be major issue for India. He called for efforts to set up a proper ecosystem with sustainable systems, particularly in hubs of rural India.

Mr. Y. S. Chowdary, further said that - Research and innovation has been one of the key areas emphasized by the Prime Minister. Globally, BIRAC has been hailed as one of the most effective government measures to create an enabling environment for research and development to flourish in a country. We aim to develop India into a global innovation hub by 2020 and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) has paved the way to deliver on that mandate.

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Dr. K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Chairman, BIRAC said that Innovation and research must be directed toward addressing the most pressing problems of society. We're proud that BIRAC and the Department of Biotechnology are spearheading this effort in the biotechnology domain. Since its inception in 2012, BIRAC has created nearly two dozen incubators across the country and supported over 350 start-ups. We firmly believe that social entrepreneurship is the key to creating an inclusive society and our government is committed to providing all the necessary support.

The science and technology sector will play a key role in the government's Start-Up India Action Plan. The DBT, in line with the Start-Up India Action Plan has undertaken a number of initiatives centered on the three pillars of an ideal innovation ecosystem - funding, mentoring and capacity building, and the infrastructure to translate scientific research into commercial products. To this end, BIRAC implements its mandate through a wide range of high impact initiatives, providing access to risk capital through targeted funding, facilitating technology transfer, and supporting intellectual

property management and handholding schemes for biotech firms to make them globally competitive.

Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser, Department of Biotechnology and Managing Director, BIRAC said that through initiatives such as Start-Up India and the Science and Technology for Harnessing Innovations or SATHI, the government is ushering in supportive policies and removing regulatory barriers to create an atmosphere of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. The world as a whole stands to gain with Indian innovators stepping up and changing the way we address the grand challenges we face today. We are proud that BIRAC has created an enabling environment for the biotechnology industry to prosper



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## [Government aims to make India a global biotech hub by 2020](#)

**March 20, 2017**

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## [BIRAC celebrates 5<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day](#)

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The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) recently celebrated its 5th Foundation Day. The 5th Foundation Day aptly themed 'Impacting the Biotech Innovation Ecosystem' was presided over by the Minister of State for Science and Technology & Earth Sciences, Mr. Y. S. Chowdary, and attended by a large number of dignitaries from the scientific and industry sectors both from within the country and overseas.

While inaugurating the event, Y. S. Chowdary said, "Research and innovation has been one of the key areas that the Prime Minister and this government have focused on. BIRAC, which has completed five years today, stands at the cusp of a great leap. Globally, BIRAC has been hailed as one of the most effective government measures to create an enabling environment for research and development to flourish in a country. We aim to develop India into a global innovation hub by 2020 and BIRAC has paved the way to deliver on that mandate."

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**[BIRAC invites applications from Indian biotech cos for funding R&D under SBIRI scheme](#)**

**March 23, 2017**

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) under its Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) scheme, has invited proposals from Indian biotech companies, including SMEs and start-ups, for funding of research and development in the field of biotechnology. It has invited proposals for product development from these companies in the areas of biosimilars & stem cells; drugs including drug delivery; devices and diagnostics; and vaccines and clinical trials.

Under this flagship public-private partnership programme, BIRAC will provide support to the biotech companies for discovery; proof-of-concept and early stage innovations.

SBIRI is an advanced technology scheme for high risk, transformational technology/process development from proof-of-concept to validation leading to high value product commercialisation. It will support new and futuristic technology development with major social bearing but uncertain market driven demand. It will also support start-ups, SMEs and other biotech companies on cost sharing basis. The companies can send their proposals till March 31, 2017.

A single or consortia of Indian company(ies) registered under "The Indian Companies Act 2013" with minimum 51 per cent Indian ownership, and DSIR recognised in-house R&D unit, are eligible to apply either alone, or in collaboration with a partner from another company, institute or university. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) launched the SBIRI scheme to boost public-private-partnership effort in the country. The distinctive feature of SBIRI is that it supports the high-risk pre-proof-of-concept research and late stage development in small and medium companies led by innovators with science backgrounds which is unique in nature to support private industries and to get them involved in development of such products and processes which have high societal relevance. SBIRI has unique process for generating ideas by bringing users and producers of technology together, it has the direct focus on producing product and a sense of urgency for producing defined results that only private sector engagement can produce.

BIRAC has been set up under the department of biotechnology (DBT) to nurture the biotech innovation ecosystem, support start-ups and SMEs for innovation research and promote affordable product development through public-private partnership.

## [Now, detect water contamination via your smartphone](#)

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Iftak Hussain, 27, has bagged the prestigious BIRAC-SRISTI Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Award 2017 for the technology, which can also detect the level of turbidity in water. BIRAC, or Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, is a government enterprise.

The ambient light sensor (ALS) and the LED flash in smartphones are used to detect fluoride contamination, Iftak said. "The detection technology is based on fluoride's reaction with zirconium dye, which forms a colourless complex anion (a negatively charged ion). As the fluoride concentration increases, it tends to bleach the dye to make it progressively lighter in colour. A specific wavelength from the LED flash is allowed to interact with the reagent-treated water sample. The optical signal transmitted from the sample is detected by the ALS," he explained.

An Android app has been developed to convert the ALS response into readable data, Iftak said. "The interface is simple and easy to use. This technology can be handled by anyone," he added.

The project, with which Kamal Uddin Ahmed of the department of civil engineering at Tezpur University is also associated, is extremely significant in the state, where the concentration of fluoride in ground water has been detected to be up to 6.88 mg per litre. According to the Bureau of Indian Standards, the permissible limit is just 1 mg per litre.

The test kit will cost around Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000, several times lower than conventional detection technologies, project supervisor and associate professor of physics at Tezpur University Pabitra Nath said. "The cost of the kit will further go down once it starts commercial production," he added.

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## [India aims to be global biotech hub by 2020: YS Chowdary](#)

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NEW DELHI: India plans to be a global innovation hub and one of the top biotech markets worldwide by 2020, Minister of State for Science and Technology, YS Chowdary, said in New Delhi on March 20, 2017.

He said that Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), which has completed five years on March 20, 2017. has paved the way to deliver on that mandate. It has been hailed as one of the most effective government measures to create an enabling environment for research and development to flourish.

According to a release BIRAC has supported over 618 projects, 850 start-ups, biotech companies, entrepreneurs, and organizations and 20 incubators across the country, resulting in over 66 products and technologies and 120 intellectual property rights being generated.

Different initiatives of BIRAC target different stages of the innovation ecosystem from ideation stages to proof-of-concept and late stage validation to product development.

Highlighting the progress by BIRAC, Dr Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, said, "BIRAC has created nearly two dozen incubators across the country and supported over 350 start-ups. We firmly believe that social entrepreneurship is the key to creating an inclusive society and our government is committed to providing all the necessary support."

Dr Renu Swarup, director, BIRAC, said, "We are proud that BIRAC has created an enabling environment for the biotechnology industry to prosper. Our aim is to continue to gain the trust of our stakeholders in playing a transformational role in building the Indian Bioeconomy and be the bridge connecting stakeholders to deliver innovative and affordable products."

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## [Government aims to make India a global biotech hub by 2020](#)

**March 20, 2017**

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) celebrated its fifth Foundation Day on Monday in New Delhi. The Foundation Day, aptly themed 'Impacting the Biotech Innovation Ecosystem' was presided over by the Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Y. S. Chowdary, and attended by a large number of dignitaries from the scientific and industry sectors both from within the country and overseas.

"Research and innovation has been one of the key areas that the Prime Minister and this government have focused on. BIRAC, which has completed five years today, stands at the cusp of a great leap. Globally, BIRAC has been hailed as one of the most effective government measures to create an enabling environment for research and development to flourish in a country. We aim to develop India into a global innovation hub by 2020 and BIRAC has paved the way to deliver on that mandate," said Chowdary.

BIRAC is a not-for-profit public sector enterprise, set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India which acts as an interface agency to support emerging biotech enterprises to undertake strategic research and innovation, to address nationally relevant product development needs.

Through the course of five years, BIRAC has supported over 618 projects, 850 start-ups, entrepreneurs, biotech companies and organisations and 20 incubators across the country, resulting in over 66 products and technologies and 120 Intellectual property rights being generated.

BIRAC supports entrepreneurs and start-ups at different stages of innovation – from the ideation stage to managing intellectual property rights and finally to the commercialisation of products. Different initiatives of BIRAC target different stages of the innovation ecosystem from ideation stages to proof-of-concept and late stage validation to product development.

BIRAC has nine flagship schemes that are supported by funding from the Department of Biotechnology, and manages seven collaboratively funded programs with international partners, such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Nesta, the Wellcome Trust and USAID, among others. Social Innovation is a key focus for affordable and accessible product development.

"Innovation and research must be directed toward addressing the most pressing problems of society. We're proud that BIRAC and the Department of Biotechnology are spearheading this effort in the biotechnology domain. Since its inception in 2012, BIRAC has created nearly two dozen incubators across the country and supported over 350 start-ups. We firmly believe that social entrepreneurship is the key to creating an inclusive society and our government is committed to providing all the necessary support," said Dr. K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Chairman, BIRAC.

The science and technology sector will play a key role in the government's Start-Up India Action Plan. The DBT, in line with the Start-Up India Action Plan has undertaken a number of initiatives

centered on the three pillars of an ideal innovation ecosystem – funding, mentoring and capacity building, and the infrastructure to translate scientific research into commercial products.

To this end, BIRAC implements its mandate through a wide range of high impact initiatives, providing access to risk capital through targeted funding, facilitating technology transfer, and supporting intellectual property management and handholding schemes for biotech firms to make them globally competitive.

“Through initiatives such as Start-Up India and the Science and Technology for Harnessing Innovations or SATHI, the government is ushering in supportive policies and removing regulatory barriers to create an atmosphere of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. The world as a whole stands to gain with Indian innovators stepping up and changing the way we address the grand challenges we face today. We are proud that BIRAC has created an enabling environment for the biotechnology industry to prosper,” said Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser, Department of Biotechnology and Managing Director, BIRAC.

The BIRAC Foundation will be followed by the Grand Challenges India Meeting to be held from March 21-24, 2017, which will have the participation of BMGF, Wellcome Trust, USAID and Grand Challenges Innovators from Brazil, Canada, Bangladesh, Korea, South Africa, Kenya and Switzerland.