



# Media Coverage Report

**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India  
Ministry of Science & Technology  
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**BIRAC celebrates its 6th Foundation Day**

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) celebrated its 6<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on Tuesday in New Delhi. Themed as ‘Sustaining Innovation – A Market Driven Pathway’, the event was attended by a large number of dignitaries from the scientific and industry sectors both from within the country and overseas.

Inaugurating the event, the Chief Guest, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India said, ‘BIRAC has played a critical role in supporting the entrepreneurial aspirations of brightest minds in the country through its programs and mentor support networks in keeping with the Government’s mandate. It is through these efforts that we are able to develop affordable products and technologies that will better the lives of our people. I commend the work of BIRAC and am convinced that this is only the beginning of success.’

The Guest of Honor Dr. Vinod Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, Government of India said, ‘The role that BIRAC has played in bringing together healthcare, entrepreneurship and science has been pivotal. From affordable devices or diagnostics, to treatments, BIRAC supported innovators and technologies are on their way to changing healthcare in India and beyond.’

Through the course of six years, BIRAC has supported over 650 projects, more than 500 start-ups, & entrepreneurs, and 30 incubators across the country, resulting in over 100 products and technologies and 150 Intellectual property rights being generated.

‘A 6<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day is a testament to the commitment of the organization to its mandate, in this case, bringing together innovators and entrepreneurs, mentors and peer-networks with the goal to harness the power of biotechnology to do good for society.’ said Dr. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Secretary Department of Biotechnology and Chairman, BIRAC.

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.

BIRAC has over 10 flagship schemes that are supported by funding from the Department of Biotechnology, and manages 7 collaboratively funded programs with international partners, such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Nesta, the Wellcome Trust and USAID, among others. BIRAC tries to galvanize the social impact by piloting research and extension services within a series of thematic calls and other global definite initiatives to improve public health and beyond.

The event also saw the felicitation of Prof. G Padmanabhan, Former Director and current Honorary Professor of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, on the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and the release of the second volume of his memoirs, titled 'Doing science in India: My second innings'.

The event also saw the announcement of the preliminary winners of the SoCH (Solutions for Community Health) awards. This award is an innovation challenge award which was launched on the MyGov portal in September 2017. This challenge has two themes, platform technologies for reducing disease burden (communicable and noncommunicable diseases) and sanitation and waste recycling. The winners will now have 6 months and rupees 15 lakhs to develop a minimal viable prototype and will then compete for the larger rupees 50 lakh award within their categories.

'BIRAC has over the years facilitated creation of a vibrant start up ecosystem. We are pleased that today on we are seeing the impact of this ecosystem in not only providing affordable solutions for societal problems but also enhancing innovation competence. It is now important to develop robust pathways to sustain these innovations' said Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser, Department of Biotechnology and Managing Director, BIRAC.

#### About BIRAC

**Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)** is a not-for-profit Public Sector Enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology Government of India, to empower the emerging biotech industry to undertake strategic research and innovation. BIRAC is a new 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 Indian biotech firms and make them globally competitive. BIRAC has initiated several schemes, networks and platforms that help to bridge the existing gap between industry-academia research and facilitate novel, high quality and cost-effective affordable technologies. BIRAC has initiated partnerships with several national and global partners to collaborate and deliver the salient features of its mandate.

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Source: [http://birac.nic.in/webcontent/Media\\_coverage\\_report\\_Foundation\\_Day\\_2017\\_10\\_04\\_2017.pdf](http://birac.nic.in/webcontent/Media_coverage_report_Foundation_Day_2017_10_04_2017.pdf)



## **BIRAC celebrates 6th Foundation Day**

**March 20, 2018**

DBT and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation partnership Grand Challenges India has announced a new initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) recently celebrated its 6th Foundation Day in New Delhi. Themed as 'Sustaining Innovation – A Market Driven Pathway', the event was attended by a large number of dignitaries from the scientific and industry sectors both from within the country and overseas.

The Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation partnership Grand Challenges India through its Program Management Unit housed at BIRAC (PMU-BIRAC) announced an upcoming new initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) directed at encouraging innovations in surveillance data, technologies and products and removing antibiotics from effluents in tackling AMR. The application process will open shortly.

BIRAC and PerkinElmer, Inc., USA have agreed to partner with the intention to promote a portfolio of 'Indian led revenue-based innovations/start ups' in multidisciplinary areas comprising of medical devices, point of care, algorithms and information technology/ software in thrust areas including maternal health, newborn health and food. Under this partnership calls will be announced to support innovators for funding, mentorship and incubation space. With close association of PerkinElmer, industry partner, from an early stage, the innovators would gain from business mentorship and validation of the product/ technologies to enhance global competitiveness.

The event also saw the felicitation of Prof. G Padmanabhan, Former Director and current Honorary Professor of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, on the occasion of his 80th birthday and the release of the second volume of his memoirs, titled 'Doing science in India: My second innings'.

The event also saw the announcement of the preliminary winners of the SoCH (Solutions for Community Health) awards. This award is an innovation challenge award which was launched on the MyGov portal in September 2017. This challenge has two themes, platform technologies for reducing disease burden (communicable and non-communicable diseases) and sanitation and waste recycling. The winners will now have 6 months and 15 lakhs INR to develop a minimal viable prototype and will then compete for the larger 50 lakh INR award within their categories.

Source: <https://www.biospectrumindia.com/news/22/10632/birac-celebrates-6th-foundation-day.html>

# THE HINDU BusinessLine

## **BIRAC celebrates 6th foundation day**

**New Delhi, March 20**

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) under the Department of Biotechnology celebrated its sixth foundation day here today with the launching of a partnership with PerkinElmer, US-based multinational corporation that focused on the business areas of human and environmental health.

The new partnership is designed to promote a portfolio of Indian-led revenue-based innovations and startups in multidisciplinary areas comprising of medical devices, point of care products, algorithms and software in thrust areas including maternal health, newborn health and food.

The partnership will provide support to innovators in terms of funding, mentorship and incubation space. PerkinElmer would be associated from the early stages itself. Consequently, innovators are expected to gain much, among other things, through better validation of products and technologies and thus have enhanced global competitiveness.

The foundation day celebrations also saw the announcement of a new initiative in the area of anti-microbial resistance under the Grand Challenges India Programme promoted by DBT and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The new initiative focused on encouraging innovations in surveillance data, technologies and products and removing antibiotics from effluents to tackle the problem of anti-microbial resistance more effectively.

Inaugurating the celebrations, Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan, urged BIRAC to hold a brainstorming session with all stakeholders to help create an atmosphere for finding innovative and affordable solutions for the various problems facing the country in different sectors at the earliest. He also suggested to Member (Health) of NitiAayog, Prof. Vinod K. Paul, who was present at the function, to help set up a mechanism through which scientists, clinicians and technologies could interact on a regular basis to come up inexpensive solutions in the health sector.

Dr Vinod Paul, in his address earlier, commended BIRAC for playing a pivotal role in strengthening and empowering emerging biotech enterprises to undertake strategic research and innovation efforts aimed at various needs of the country.

On the occasion, the Minister also felicitated Prof G Padmanabhan, former Director and current Honorary Professor of the Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru, on the occasion of his 80th birthday and released the second volume of his memoirs titled 'Doing science in India: My second innings'. The book, which has been brought out by IISc, dealt with his life and work

since 1998, when he retired as IISc Director. The first volume had dealt with his life and work till 1998 and had been published by VigyanPrasar.

Dr Harsh Vardhan also presented awards to preliminary winners of BIRAC's Solutions for Community Health (SoCH) programme. The innovation challenge awards are aimed at developing platform technologies for reducing disease burden and better sanitation and waste recycling. The winners will have to develop minimal viable prototypes within six months. Each of them has been provided with a sum of Rs 15 lakh for the purpose. Once they develop the prototypes, they will compete again for a large award of Rs 50 lakh.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/birac-celebrates-6th-foundation-day/article23304092.ece>

## Research Matters

### **Celebration of 6th Foundation Day of BIRAC**

**March 20, 2018**

The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) celebrated its 6th Foundation Day on Tuesday, March 20th, at the India Habitat centre in New Delhi. This year, the theme for the Foundation Day celebration was ‘Sustaining Innovation: A market driven pathway’. The event saw a participation from large number of dignitaries from the industry and academia, public and private sector, policy makers and national and international organizations.

The Foundation Day celebration was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan. In his address, the honourable minister mentioned about the need for a collaborative approach for identifying and solving the problems of the nation.

Prof Vinod K Paul, Hon'ble Member (Health) NITI Aayog, Govt. of India, was the guest of honour of the event. He provided many recommendations to the august audience, including the need of more focus in primary healthcare sector.

In his opening remarks, Prof Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST & DBT and Chairman, BIRAC appreciated the tremendous contribution of BIRAC to the nation. He mentioned that BIRAC is a unique organisation which supports innovation in both public and private sector.

“BIRAC has over the years facilitated the creation of vibrant start up ecosystem. We are pleased that we are seeing the impact of this ecosystem in not only providing affordable solutions for societal problems but also enhancing innovation competence. It is now important to develop robust pathways to sustain these innovations”, said Dr Renu Swarup, Senior Advisor, DBT & Managing Director, BIRAC.

Prof. G Padmanabhan, former Director and current Honorary Professor of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, was felicitated in the event. The second volume of his memoir titled “Doing science in India: My second innings” was also released. Names of the preliminary winners of the SoCH (Solutions for Community Health) award were also announced. This award is an innovation challenge award under two themes, ‘platform technologies for reducing disease burden’ and ‘sanitation and waste recycling’.

“The foundation day plenary talks and panel discussions are aimed at building momentum for health and development initiatives via innovations and foster scientific collaboration among national and international groups. The focus of this event is on sustaining and survival of start ups in the market after their launch”, mentioned the press release from BIRAC.

BIRAC is non-profit public-sector enterprise set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology to promote emerging biotech industry and to undertake strategic research and innovation. Through various schemes and collaborations, BIRAC is

promoting novel, high quality affordable technologies. BIRAC has over 10 flagship schemes supported by DBT and manages 7 programs collaboratively funded with international partners. In the last six years, BIRAC has supported over 650 projects, and more than 500 start ups and entrepreneurs. It has also developed a strong support network across the country through its 30 supported incubators and 2 regional centres for entrepreneurship. Over 100 products and technologies have been developed through BIRAC support and 150 Intellectual Property Rights have been generated so far.

Source: <https://researchmatters.in/news/celebration-6th-foundation-day-birac>





## **BIRAC and PerkinElmer Sign Letter of Intent to Promote India-Led Startups and Innovations**

**March 20, 2018 10:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time**

NEW DELHI--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) celebrated its 6th Foundation Day on Tuesday in New Delhi. The event, aptly themed ‘Sustaining Innovation: A Market Driven Pathway’, was presided over by the Hon’ble Minister of State for Science and Technology & Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Advisor, DBT & MD, BIRAC, Government of India, and attended by a large number of dignitaries from the scientific and industry sectors both from within the country and overseas.

During the Foundation Day, BIRAC and [PerkinElmer, Inc.](#) signed a Letter of Intent to work together on the identified areas for a five-year partnership to promote India-led startups and innovators in the areas of biomedical, biotechnology and public health.

“The goal of the collaboration is to promote the portfolio of Indian-led innovations and startups, which aligns with PerkinElmer’s mission to innovate for a healthier world. Moving ahead, PerkinElmer will continue to invest in India by lending support to government initiatives in technology innovations and advanced solutions that help protect the environment, the safety of our food, and the health of mothers and their newborn babies,” said Scott Palubiak, Vice President, Market Development, PerkinElmer.

Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Advisor, DBT and Managing Director, BIRAC said, “BIRAC supports entrepreneurs and startups at different stages of innovation – from the ideation stage to managing intellectual property rights, and finally to the commercialization of products. This collaboration with PerkinElmer exemplifies our focus to enable commercialization and ensure the global competitiveness of Indian enterprises. This endeavor will also help to develop a complete ecosystem from an innovative idea to employment creation and generation, to product commercialization in domestic and global markets.”

“PerkinElmer is committed to developing innovative technologies to address the challenges of healthcare in India, completing the ecosystem from preventive to advanced healthcare. The products and solutions developed through this partnership will not only contribute to the national efforts of ‘Make in India’, ‘Skill India and Entrepreneurship’, but also promotes ‘Go to Global’ market opportunities,” said Jayashree Thacker, President PerkinElmer India.

The LOI was signed by Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser, DBT & Managing Director, BIRAC and Dr. Prahlad Singh, Senior Vice President, PerkinElmer.

### **About BIRAC**

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) a Public Sector Enterprise, set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India as an industry-academia 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 1000 start-ups, entrepreneurs, biotech companies and organizations and 30 incubators across the country, resulting in over 100 products and technologies and an Intellectual property rights wealth of nearly 200 patents being generated. Additional information is available at <http://www.birac.nic.in/>

### **About PerkinElmer**

PerkinElmer, Inc. is a global leader committed to innovating for a healthier world. Our dedicated team of about 11,000 employees worldwide is passionate about providing customers with an unmatched experience as they help solve critical issues, especially impacting the diagnostics and discovery and analytical solutions markets. Our innovative detection, imaging, informatics, and service capabilities, combined with deep market knowledge and expertise, help customers gain earlier and more accurate insights to improve lives and the world around us. The Company reported revenue of approximately \$2.3 billion in 2017, serves customers in more than 150 countries, and is a component of the S&P 500 Index. Additional information is available through 1-877-PKI-NYSE, or at [www.perkinelmer.com](http://www.perkinelmer.com).

Source: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20180320006446/en/BIRAC-PerkinElmer-Sign-Letter-Intent-Promote-India-Led>