

## **CSIR-NEIST signs MoU with KIIT-Technology Business Incubator, Bhubaneswar for mutual cooperation**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between CSIR-NEIST and KIIT-Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI) today to formulate & promote programmes for bio-entrepreneurship development in the country particularly in NE region. The MoU was signed by Dr G Narahari Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST and Dr Mrutyunjay Suar, CEO, KIIT-TBI in presence of officials from both the organizations.

CSIR-NEIST being the S&T Face for CSIR in North East Region has taken the responsibility to become the major hub for promoting & nurturing entrepreneurship in the region. The Institute has been organizing various programmes in the recent past to mentor & empower young entrepreneurs by helping them to acquire various skills and knowledge besides providing required infrastructure & platform which are all crucial for the development of entrepreneurship ecosystem. Dr Sastry said that the MoU is a combined vision of both CSIR-NEIST and KIIT-TBI for promoting bio-entrepreneurship development in this part of the region.

Dr Mrutyunjay Suar mentioned that the major step under the MoU will be the establishment of Bio-incubator at CSIR-NEIST.

It is worthwhile reporting that a two-day Nuts and Bolts of Innovation & Entrepreneurship Training Series on "Building & Translating Innovative Ideas" is underway at CSIR-NEIST in association with BIRAC-KIIT TBI, Bhubaneswar. The training series is based on the "Brewing Bio-entrepreneurship in Jorhat" programme held in July 2019 which primarily focused on sensitizing about BIG programme of BIRAC and other related schemes supported by BIRAC. The current two-day programme is aimed to mentor and provide a platform to impart necessary knowledge and skills to budding bio-entrepreneurs for transforming innovative ideas into successful and sustainable ventures. The programme also covered a pitching session wherein a few aspiring entrepreneurs from CSIR-NEIST who have submitted proposals for BIG grant will be pitching their ideas before the experts. Various experts and eminent personalities from KIIT-TBI led by Dr Mrutyunjay Suar and other organizations such as Dr S Shriram, Senior VP, Jananom Pvt.Ltd., Bangalore; Dr Kaustabh Dhangalkar, Design Thinker; Dr Namrata Mishra, Head-Bio-innovation KIIT-TBI and Dr Rajeev Aiyappa, Plataforma Ventures, Singapore deliberated on various important aspects of starting a business enterprise, bio-entrepreneurship, marketing, etc. The programme is attended by a large number of participants comprising of researchers, scientists, faculties and students from various educational and research institutes of Jorhat besides CSIR-NEIST. The programme was coordinated by Dr S P Saikia, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEIST.



Dr G Narahari Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST and Dr Mrutyunjay Suar, CEO, KIIT-TBI before exchanging the signed MoU in presence of officials from both the Institutes.



Experts and participants of the two-day programme with Dr G Narahari Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST.

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