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Rajasthan to Get its First Biotechnology Park

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Why in News

Rajasthan government will be signing a **memorandum of understanding** with the **Centre's Department of Biotechnology** to set up **its first biotechnology park and incubation centre** in the state.

- The biotechnology park and incubation centre would be set up in the State with the support of the **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**.
- **Objectives:**
 - This will enable the State government to take up **research in the field of biotechnology** and provide **employment to the youths**.
 - It would also help to promote **interdisciplinary field research** such as bioinformatics, biomedical engineering and nanomedicine.
 - Further, it will also help to promote biotechnology on the lines of health, agriculture, industry and food which will intensify the **science-based manufacturing in industrialisation**.

Biotechnology Parks and Incubators

- The **Department of Biotechnology** has established Biotechnology Parks/Incubators across the country to translate research into products and services by providing the necessary infrastructure support.
- These Biotechnology Parks offer facilities to Scientists, and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) for technology incubation, technology demonstration and pilot plant studies for accelerated commercial development of Biotechnology.
- The Department so far has supported 9 Biotechnology Parks in various States.

- The Department has also come up with 'National Biotechnology Parks Scheme'. The scheme aims to create an ecosystem to absorb the start-ups which have graduated from incubators and give them a platform for further scaling up their R&D activities in collaboration with the state government and industry.

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council

- Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is a Public Sector Enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- BIRAC is a **industry-academia interface** and implements its mandate through a wide range of impact initiatives.
- It aims to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.

Source: TH