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NCL bags award for Venture Centre

Reporters Name | Anjali Marar | Tuesday, 3 May 2016 AT 10:35 PM IST



Venture Centre, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, NCL, national award, technology business incubation for 2015, science, innovation, Pune, Anjali Marar



PUNE: When the Venture Centre to support start-ups was first set up by CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) a decade ago, it had fewer takers.

But today, it has bloomed to a full tree and gone on to bag the

national award for technology business incubation for 2015.

This award is presented by the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board functioning under Department of Science and Technology (DST), which identifies and felicitates institutions and persons, who help promote science, innovation and technology.

Also known as Entrepreneurship Development Center, which was set up in 2006, it currently supports over 35 start-ups in the field of science and technology ideated and run by scientists and engineers. Women entrepreneurs too have benefited with over 30 per cent of the startups incubated here in Pune.

Speaking to Sakal Times about the journey of the centre was NCL's deputy director and chair of chemical engineering division Vivek Ranade.

He said, "The concept of setting up this incubation centre in 2006 was very well thought and ahead-of-its time step. The journey has been heartening."

When asked how the union government's Start-Up India initiative catapulted the centre's activities, Soma Chattopadhyay, manager said, "There has definitely been a surge in the number of applicants seeking help for their start-ups. This year itself, we have close to 5-10 more requests than in 2015."

The centre is all set to play a father role to other CSIR labs across the country in setting up similar incubation centres in their campuses.

"Currently, talks are on with some CSIR labs who wish to seek our guidance in establishing similar centres," added Ranade.

The award comprises a cash award of Rs 5 lakh and will be presented by President of India Pranab Mukherjee at a special felicitation event to be held on Wednesday, May 11 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, which also marks the National Technology Day.

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