
FAQs

1. What is RCB?

RCB is an acronym for Regional Centre for Biotechnology, an institution for education, training and research, set up by the Govt. of India through the Department of Biotechnology under the auspices of UNESCO, Paris. The Centre is currently operating from its interim facility at Gurgaon.

A 200 Acre campus as part of Biotech Science Cluster at Faridabad is being set up with state of art lab infrastructure, residential facilities for staff, students and researchers. The Cluster will have state of art incubation facility to extend from research to product innovation.

2. Whether an agreement has been signed with UNESCO for the centre?

Yes, the proposed centre is set up as a Category II centre in terms of principles and guidelines for the establishment and functioning of UNESCO institutes and centers.

3. What are Category II Institutes?

Category II Institutes and centers under the auspices of UNESCO are a modality without precedence in the United Nations system: they are provided and funded by Member

States and are committed to engage in support of UNESCO's strategic programme objectives.

4. What is the role and importance of UNESCO for the centre?

Biotechnology is recognized globally as a rapidly advancing science wherein molecular techniques and processes are employed to develop health care solution for human, animal sector, agriculture and environmental technologies.

In view of global recognition and positioning, UNESCO's association is strategic and important, in developing linkages with Centers of Excellence in Biotechnology on global basis. It would also impart international work culture with clear objectivity which is missing in most of Indian universities/ institutions.

5. How is the centre different from other DBT institutes?

India including Asia lacks institutions with interdisciplinary research focus. RCB will meet this objective and can handle basic sciences, engineering and technology at the same time.

RCB will be uniquely positioned to conduct such Master's level training and specialized programmes to meet various clientele requirements (industry, research and entrepreneurship) with high end skills and competency.

6. What is the broad objective of the Centre?

Towards fulfilling the mandate, RCB's broad objectives are to:

- Produce human resource for building strong sustainable biotech industry through regional and international cooperation with emphasis in novel interdisciplinary education and training programme
- Develop research programme of global nature through international partnerships

- Establish technology policy development and information dissemination activities
- Establish desired infrastructure and technology platforms to support core and allied functions of the Centre
- Enable periodic experimentation in design and implementation of education, training and research and be a source for new concepts and programmes
- Create a hub of biotechnology expertise in the countries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region and more generally in the Asian sub-continent to address the human resource needs
- Promote and strengthen south-south and south-north cooperation around issues relevant to biotechnology education, training, innovation, commercialization and trade and promote a network of satellite centre in the sub-regions.

7. What would the main focus of the centre?

The focus of the Centre will be to

- a. Create outstanding opportunities and high quality human resource in interdisciplinary areas.
- b. Conduct short-term training programme in interdisciplinary and platform technologies for skill development in existing personnel.
- c. Offer specialized Masters Degree courses, multidisciplinary PhD programmes, advanced workshops and training programmes & high quality R&D programme in specific areas.

8. Whether the courses designed are overlapping in nature similar Master's and Doctoral programmes of the country?

No. The courses are uniquely designed and are not available in the country and the region as a whole.

9. Whether the centre would have relationship with other centres in the cluster and elsewhere?

Yes. The centre will establish close working relationship with cluster institutions such as THSTI and also with other DBT institutes, IITs and medical schools at regional and international levels with the objective to augment innovations.

10. What is the economic benefit to the country?

- a. The centre is expected to produce highly trained and skilled manpower, capable of delivering low-cost effective healthcare, agricultural and veterinary technologies.
- b. The investment would also result in the creation of space, unique research infrastructure and critical core facilities which can be shared with other institutions.
- c. The centre would serve as a window for showcasing Indian competence in global market for economic gains.

11. What would be the Organizational Structure?

The centre functions through the Board of Governors (**BoG**), which is the apex body for the institute activities, under which the Executive Committee (**EC**) and Programme Advisory Committee (**PAC**) performs various functions. The decisions of the three committees are implemented by the Executive Director who is responsible for academic, administration and management of the Centre.

12. What would be the total number of posts under the centre?

As per EFC recommendations there are 162 posts.

13. How much autonomy and flexibility is given to the centre?

The centre is empowered to hire and retain outstanding and talented human resource in the newer disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas.

14. What would be the legal status, privileges and immunities of the centre?

It is proposed that the centre shall have an independent and autonomous status like the institutions of national importance on the lines of IITs/ AIIMS. The centre will be an autonomous body under a statute of parliament as an institution of national/ international importance for biotechnology, education, research and training. The centre shall enjoy privileges of tax benefits and immunities as an international organization under the United Nations Act 1947.

15. What would be the financial arrangements?

The Govt. of India will provide all infrastructures and recurring costs viz., laboratories, office space, equipment & related resources and facilities, manpower costs and operating costs.

The UNESCO shall provide some catalytic support, technical assistance, support activities which are in line with UNESCO's programme priorities.

16. Whether EFC approval has been accorded?

Yes, with some observations and amendments as also approved by the Department.

17. What is the approval which is being requested from the cabinet?

- a. Establishment of UNESCO-Regional Centre for Biotechnology, an institution for education, training and research as an autonomous institute with the National Importance Status on the lines of IITs/ AIIMS. The Centre shall be considered as a Category II Centre of UNESCO. EFC for the Centre was approved with the budgetary provisions of Rs. 9955.00 lakhs.
- b. Creation of various administrative, teaching and non-teaching posts.
- c. Accord administrative autonomy and flexibility in governance.
- d. Accord privileges and immunities under the United Nations Act, 1947.

18. Whether RCB has any overlapping objective with THSTI?

No. Whereas RCB is designed to produce high quality human resource, THSTI is designed to undertake translational research in health science technologies.

Abbreviations

BoG	Board of Governors
DBT	Department of Biotechnology
EC	Executive Committee
EFC	Expenditure Finance Committee
PAC	Programme Advisory Committee
RCB	Regional Centre for Biotechnology
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
THSTI	Translational Health Science & Technology Institute
UNESCO	United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization