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**Nano Mission plans business incubation**

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*Commercialisation of nanotechnology through public-private partnerships*

The Union Department of Science and Technology is gearing up to promote entrepreneurship in nanotechnology by establishing a network of business incubators and extending loans up to Rs.10 crore for start-ups.

Praveer Asthana, Director of the Nano Mission under department, said here on Monday that business incubation in nanotechnology would be taken up as a major initiative in the 12th Plan period. "The basic science, infrastructure and human resource are already in place," he told *The Hindu* on his arrival here to attend the Nano India 2013 conference beginning on Tuesday at the National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

He said the Nano Mission had roped in financial institutions to provide loans for industries to take up projects in nanotechnology. "We are working out the mechanism for funding," he said. Dr. Asthana said the Nano Mission was finalising plans to facilitate the commercialisation of nanotechnology through public-private partnerships. "We have funded 200 research projects and established 19 centres of excellence in nano science and technology. Today, India has more than 1,000 researchers in the sector and 310 patents have been filed. The government has spent Rs.800 crore over the last five years to promote research and development in this sector". He said an India-Japan beamline had been established at the Photon Factory in Tsukuba, Japan.. "Our next objective will be to develop standards for nanotechnology-based products and come up with a regulatory framework to ensure safety.

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***Loans up to Rs.10 core for start-ups******Regulatory framework to ensure safety soon***

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