



The e-newsletter for the Indian Biotech industry

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## Gujarat hosts Vibrant Gujarat pre-summit on biotech on Dec 11.

## ABLE President urges Gujarat to boost national BioEconomy Share.

*By Narayanan Suresh, COO, ABLE*



The Government of Gujarat organized a pre-summit on biotechnology in the run up to the annual Vibrant Gujarat 2024 event. ABLE President, Mr G S Krishnan speaking at the inaugural session of the pre-summit at the Science City in Ahmedabad on Monday, December 11, 2023, presented an overview of India's BioEconomy numbers and urged Gujarat to target to achieve a much larger share of the national BioEconomy in the coming years. Gujarat is now ranked No.4 in the country with a \$ 11 billion BioEconomy.

Gujarat Chief Minister Mr Bhupendrabhai Patel inaugurated the event and pledged full support to the growth of biotechnology industry in the state. The chief Guest for the event Mr Mansukh Mandaviya, union minister for Health and Family Welfare, Chemicals and Fertilizers highlighted the role of the country's vaccine manufacturers in serving the nation and the world during the Covid-19 pandemic by providing crucial vaccines against the infection.

Government of India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT) Secretary, Dr Rajesh S Gokhale delivered the Key Note address. Dr Gokhale highlighted the importance of the biotechnology industry in helping to increase the rank of India to a middle economy in terms of per capita income in the next few decades.

The meeting was also addressed by Mrs Mona Khandar, IAS, principal secretary, department of S&T, Gujarat, state Chief Secretary, Mr Raj Kumar. GSBTM Director, Mr Videh Khare delivered the valedictory address.

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The day-long summit had other ABLE leadership team members such as Dr P M Murali, President, ABLE Council of Presidents, and Mr Narayanan Suresh, COO, ABLE, moderating important sessions. Another prominent speaker was Dr Manish Diwan, head, Strategy @ DBT-BIRAC, New Delhi.

ABLE had helped to curate the event for the Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission and there will be boot camp for startups, live pitching by startups, technology showcase, plenary talks, fire side chats, panel discussions. Experts from the UK and USA will be part of the 400 plus industry and academic experts participating in the event along with 53 biotech startups and 12 investment funds.

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## 'voice for BT' 2023 National Finale held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

*Ms Ketaki Nirbhavane is the Best Biotech Speaker in the country in 2023. She is from Vidya Prasarak Mandal's B. N. Bandodkar College of Science, Mumbai, Maharashtra*



'voice for BT', an Inter-Collegiate Public Speaking Competition, is currently India's only public-speaking contest. It's a platform that empowers the bright minds of biotechnology students across India. This annual event, organized by the Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) with the unwavering support from Patron Gold member companies, Novozymes South Asia and Yokogawa. The national finale was preceded by intense regional rounds that witnessed spirited participation from students hailing from every corner of India., added a touch of prestige and encouragement to the competition.

The journey to the national finale kicked off with zonal rounds, each organized with the valuable support of academic regional partners. The West zone on 8th September at DY Patil University, Mumbai, Maharashtra. The East zonal round was conducted online on 22<sup>nd</sup> September with the support from KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The South zonal round was conducted at Sastra University in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu on 6<sup>th</sup> October followed by the North zonal round on 13th October at Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

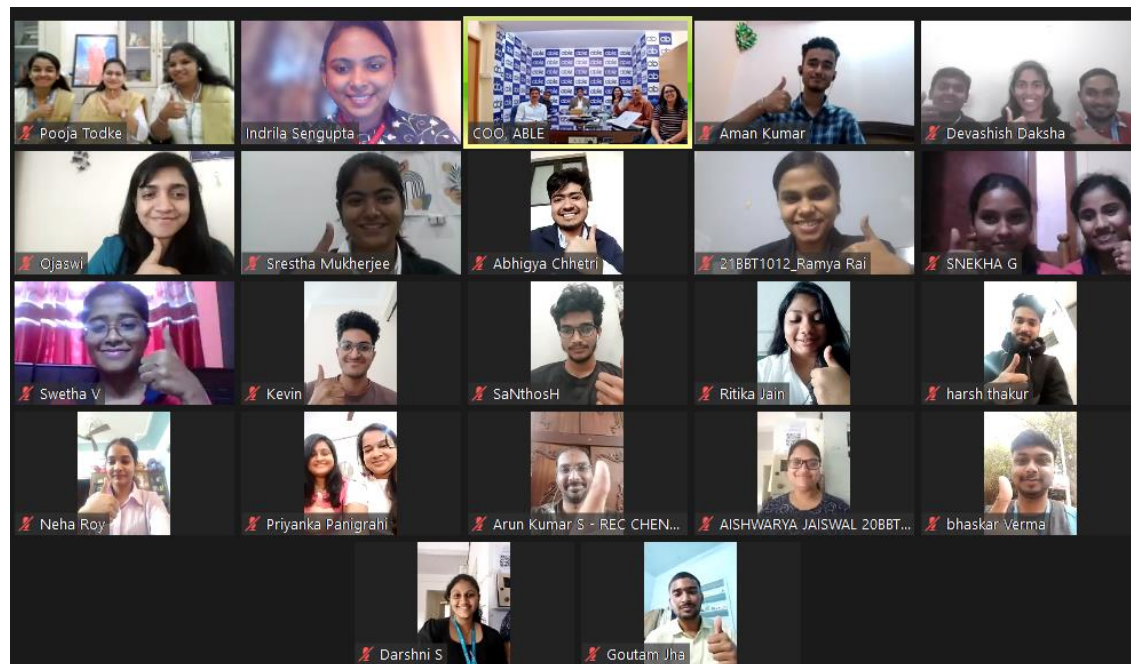


The national finale was conducted in online mode via zoom platform. Ketaki Nirbhavane from Vidya Prasarak Mandal's B. N. Bandodkar College of Science, Mumbai, Maharashtra, emerged as the national champion. The competition witnessed joint runner-ups this year, with Ipsita Mishra from Gandhi Institute of Engineering and Technology University, Gunupur, Odisha, and Janhvi Israni from Anand Engineering College, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, sharing the honors.



## BEST-2023 National Finale held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

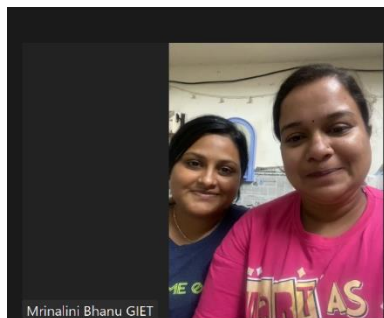
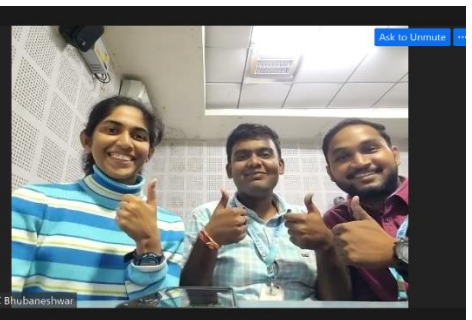
*The BEST 2023 winner is Rajalakshmi College of Engineering, Chennai*



ABLE has been successfully conducting the **Biotechnology Entrepreneurship Student Teams (BEST)** program to inculcate the spirit of entrepreneurship among biotech students since 2009, with the support of the Department of Biotechnology.

This program has been encouraging young graduate, post-graduate and doctoral students in developing their entrepreneurial skills by exposing them to issues involved in the commercialization of biosciences and bringing out an idea to present in front of an eminent jury. Over the past decade, at least 20 companies have been formed by BEST graduates that together have garnered more than Rs 400 crore in investment and have created 180 high value jobs. Startups like Sea6Energy, Pandorum Technologies, and KB Cols, which have emerged from the BEST program, have won many laurels for the country over the years.

The zonal rounds were organized with the support from our academic regional partners. The West zone on 8th September at DY Patil University, Mumbai, Maharashtra. The East zonal round was conducted online on 22<sup>nd</sup> September with the support from KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The South zonal round was conducted at Sastra University in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu on 6<sup>th</sup> October followed by the North zonal round on 13th October at Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.



**The National Finale** witnessed fierce competition, with the winners from Rajalakshmi Engineering College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, represented by V. Swetha, A. Santhosh, and G. Sneha followed by 1st runner-up title to the Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, Maharashtra, represented by Pooja Todke, Esha Attar, and Sanjivani Pathak and Chandigarh University, Kharar, Punjab represented by Neha, Ramya Rai and Srestha Mukherjee securing the 2nd runner-up position.

## India's BioEconomy soars 29% to \$137 billion in 2022

*Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh releases India BioEconomy Report 2023 on December 4*



“The Indian story of Bioeconomy is that of innovation. The innovation economy continues to flourish and we aspire to become the top 5 global hub in Bioeconomy. India’s bio-economy now accounts for approximately 4% of the \$4 trillion national economy which is robust and growing even as a very young economy and is slated to grow at a much faster rate from before”, said Dr Rajesh S Gokhale, secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Chairman of BIRAC during the inaugural session of the 3rd edition of Global Bio-India 2023 organized by DBT-BIRAC in New Delhi on December 4, 2023.



“Today we are at the cusp of a major breakthrough when it comes to creating this enormous bio-economy. Hon’ble PM of the country promotes the Biovision of Bharat, and we have to pay attention to innovation and entrepreneurship.,” said Dr. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Honorary Chairperson of ABLE and CMD, Biocon in her inaugural speech.

She added: “What we have to really focus on now is to scaling up the bio-economy. We have to use the bio-economy to address many challenges and opportunities that we have in climate change, sustainability, energy security, food and nutrition, healthcare and other aspects of economic development. Biotech and bio-economy are very inclusive and every part of our

society can engage in them. The opportunities are greater today due to technology convergence and we are gradually seeing more investment and an unprecedented talent pool.

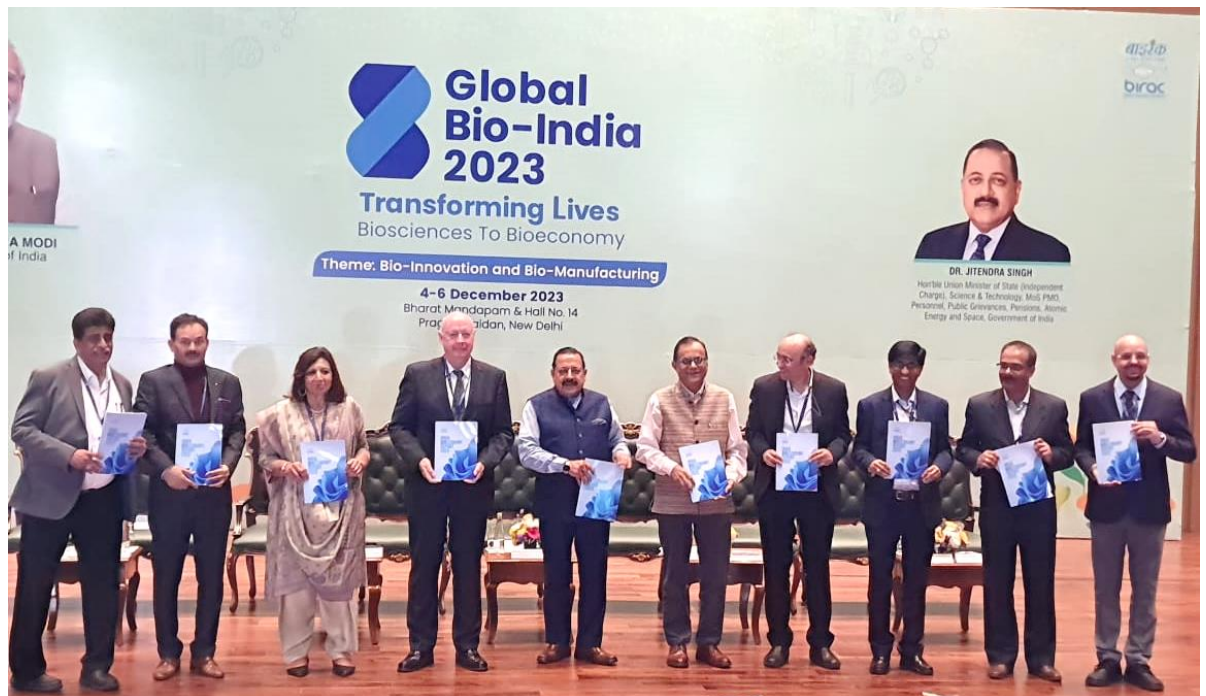


ABLE President, Mr G S Krishnan, presented the highlights of the India BioEconomy Report 2023. The bio-industrial segment was the largest contributor to the economy. Every region is looking at how it can contribute to the bioeconomy by leveraging its advantages. There has also been an increase in private equity investments, Mr Krishnan pointed out.

The top five states for Biotech startups are Maharashtra (1,162), Karnataka (852), Telangana (699), Delhi (712), and Uttar Pradesh (544). These states account for over 50% of all biotech startups in India. The other states have a relatively smaller number of biotech startups, with the exception of Gujarat (522) and Tamil Nadu (458).

**The IBER 2023 report can be [downloaded here](#).**

Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India, Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, Secretary, DST, Dr Abhay Kharandikar, also spoke in the inaugural session. BIRAC Managing Director, Dr Jitendra Kumar, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of GBI as it has emerged as the largest biotechnology focused event in the country.



**ASSOCIATION OF  
BIOTECHNOLOGY  
LED ENTERPRISES  
(ABLE)**

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