



Monthly Newsletter of Guwahati Biotech Park



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*Today*

### Talent Search Contest cum North East Biostart- Life Sciences Startup Drive –Third Chapter



*Smti. Kimnei Changsan, ACS, Director and Joint Secy., S&T, GoA at the inaugural session of the TSC cum North East Biostart 2019*

A day long program on final round of GBP's "TALENT SEARCH CONTEST 2019 on Innovative Research Ideas Leading to Entrepreneurial Venture in Biotechnology and Allied Areas" was organized by Guwahati Biotech Park in association with Assam Start-up, The NEST on 20th November, 2019.

The Talent Search Contest is an annual event at GBP to accelerate the R&D activities of the region and ignite the young minds to cultivate entrepreneurial ideas in Biotechnology and allied fields for students and professionals experienced in Biotechnology and allied areas. The awards of the contest include ready to use laboratory space at GBP and/or cash prizes.

Out of the total proposals received for participation in the contest, 11 proposals were shortlisted for presentation at the Assam Startup- The NEST, Ambari, Guwahati as the final round of the contest. The program was started with an opening remark by Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist, GBP, delivering a brief about the program and its role in bringing together various stakeholders involved in creation of a Biotech Start-up Ecosystem.

In the inaugural session, Prof. Bhabesh Ch. Goswami, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Cotton University was invited as Chief Guest and Sri Niraj Verma, IAS, Principal Secretary, S&T Dept., GoA; Smt. Kimnei Changsan, Joint Secretary, S&T Dept., GoA, Dr. Abhijit Sharma, Director, IIE; Dr. Arup Kr Misra, Director, ASTEC, and Mr. Pranjal Konwar, Chief Operating Officer, Assam Start-up- The NEST, were welcomed onto the dais.

During the inaugural session, Smt. Kimnei Changsan, delivered the welcome address and lamp lighting ceremony was held.

Prof. Bhabhesh Chandra Goswami, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Cotton University, delivered a speech on scientific achievements and challenges to overcome in coming years. Prof. Goswami also appreciated efforts taken by GBP in reaching out to other organizations to support and create events like TSC for boosting entrepreneurship ecosystem. Prof. Goswami congratulated all shortlisted participants of the TSC and expressed pleasure on GBP's efforts for organizing the event.

Shri Niraj Verma, IAS, Principal Secretary, GoA, outlined the potential role to be played by GBP in shaping the future of Bio Start-ups in the region and also the initiatives like TSC to promote R&D activities/projects in Biotech sector. Shri. Verma stated the various initiatives taken by S&T Dept., GoA and shared the Government's vision to create the start-up ecosystem for promoting biotech research and expressed his thoughts on combining both biotech and IT sector.

Dr. Abhijit Sharma, Director, IIE, conveyed his best wishes for all the participants of TSC. He specially mentioned about government initiatives aimed at creating an ecosystem for entrepreneurship development through education and training across the country. He stressed on role of innovation and ideas in creating profitable start-ups leading to development of products with high market value. Dr. Arup Kr. Misra, Director, ASTEC, in his speech mentioned about the opportunities and scopes in Biotechnology within the region. Dr. Misra emphasized on the role of Biotechnology in medical science and incorporation of technologies like Robotics in healthcare sector creating new possibilities in medical science. Dr. Misra also appreciated GBP's effort in promoting Bio-entrepreneurship by organizing contests like TSC which he believes will shape the future of Bio Start-ups in the region.

Mr. Pranjal Konwar, COO, Assam Startup-The NEST, welcomed everybody to the Assam Start-up, The NEST and conveyed his regards and best wishes for the TSC 2019 participants which was hosted at his organization. Mr. Konwar expressed his pride in the existing association between Assam Startup-The NEST and GBP, Mr. Konwar mentioned about the role of ecosystem partners like GBP, IIE etc. for successful transition of R & D projects into business ventures. Mr. Konwar specially mentioned about the role of Micro-entrepreneurs in innovations and development in the society.

The Technical session was moderated by Dr. M. G. Barthakur, Senior Scientist, GBP. The invited jury members present during the evaluation were

- » Dr. Sabriti Choudhury Bordoloi, Rtd. Professor, IASST, Guwahati
- » Mr. Pranjal Konwar, Chief Operating Officer, Assam Startup-The NEST
- » Dr. Nitin Maurya, National Innovation Foundation (NIF), IITG
- » Mr. Ribhu Ranjan Baruah, Investment Manager, NEDFi
- » Dr. Rupam Choudhury, Everzen Healthcare Pvt Ltd., Guwahati
- » Mr. Vikram Duggal, Managing Partner, Ekle Ventures & Ekle Advisory Services, Kolkata.





*A glimpse of the TSC cum North East Biostart 2019 program*

During the evaluation, jury members thoroughly evaluated each of the proposals in terms of innovativeness, novelty, market need and for future business prospects of the products as well as addressed all the issues and queries raised by the participants during the session. They interacted with all the TSC participants and conveyed their suggestions and views towards the participants.

After the presentations and evaluation by the jury members next session on Investors Meet and Open Forum, which was moderated by Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist, GBP.

The technical session started with a talk by Mr. Vikram Duggal, Managing Partner Eckle Ventures & Eckle Advisory Services. Mr. Duggal delivered a talk on entrepreneurship and briefed about the journey of an entrepreneur from academics to business development. Mr Duggal emphasized on benefits of GBP's Talent Search Contest and its role in entrepreneurship development.

The next talk was delivered by Mr. P. K. Saikia, Former MD, AIDC. Mr. Saikia delivered a detailed overview on how to apply for proposals and grants and to have financial assistances for start-ups from various government as well as private sectors. Mr. Saikia mentioned about the GBP's assistance and help in entrepreneurship development in the entire NE region and shared a few success stories of Start-ups including GBP's incubates.

Mr. Ranjit Baruah, Director, Aromica, was also present during the session where he had an informative interaction with the panel of experts present in the session. Mr. Baruah mentioned about the importance of aromatic tea including the introduction of Bhut Jolokia tea by him, where Bhut Jolokia is blended with organic black tea made using a 'dheki', a wooden threshing tool, and dehydrated lemon and ginger powder. Mr. Monojit Bhattacharjee from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) also attended the session, where he shared about FICCI's initiative in the region with the participants and the help and support which FICCI provides to start up and entrepreneurs of the region. Mr. Ribhu Ranjan Baruah, Investment Manager, NEDFi, delivered a talk on profitable business models and scale up procedures. Mr. Baruah stressed on the importance of team work, marketing and long term goals for a successful start-up and mentioned about the role of venture capitalist for entrepreneurship. Mr. Mahesh Ch. Borah, from Elrhino Eco Industries Private Limited also attended the session, where he shared his experiences with the gathering, while initiating his venture i.e. Elrhino, which become a successful brand, making various



paper-based products from elephant and rhino dung and which is now recognised globally.

After the Investors meet, during the Award ceremony Prof. Alak Kr. Buragohain, Chairperson (Academic), Royal Global University, delivered a talk on software development and cyber security systems and cited a number of examples of successful software and application based start-ups in the country. Prof. Buragohain stressed on critical questioning which often results in innovations and particularly to change the mind-set of people of the region to share ideas and innovative thoughts.

During the concluding session Dr. Nitin Maurya, Scientist & Coordinator North East NIF, National Innovation Foundation (NIF) shared about the initiatives taken by NIF and highlighted about the innovation, incubation experiences at NIF from grass root level.

Dr. Maurya, announced the winners of TSC 2019 and the first five proposals were declared as winners of TSC 2019 and the best 5 proposals selected by jury members which were

Award	Proposal
First Prize	OPTISENSE, a simple smartphone-based fiber optic biosensor for detection of malaria in human serum samples. Mr Sanjay M, M.Tech ,Dept of BSBE ,IITG
Second Prize	A low cost portable wound healing technology for accelerated healing of chronic wounds in resource constraint settings. Mr Neelarnab Dutta, Founder and Managing Director, Abhedya Innovations Private Limited. Jorhat, Assam
Third Prize	Entrepreneurs development through cultivation of Cordycepsmilitaris and its spawn: The most expensive fungus in the world and development of economically viable synergistic nutraceutical formulations thereof. Dr. Akalesh K. Verma , Assistant professor, Department of Zoology, Cotton University,
Fourth Prize	Affordable Silk-based Patient-specific 3D Meniscus Implants for Knee Injuries” Mr. AshutoshBandyopadhyay , PhD Scholar, Dept. of BSBE, IIT G
Fifth Prize	Human like glycosylated interferon alpha 2b production by Pichia pastoris: Therapeutic cytokine with improved pharmacokinetic properties. Dr SrikanthKatla, Ph.D. Student ,Biosciences and Bioengineering, IITG

The Talent Search Contest, 2019 program finally concluded with a group photograph.



*TSC Judges, winners, participants and GBP and NEST officials after the conclusion of TSC cum North East Biostart 2019*



## Participation at India International Science Festival Mega Science Expo

GBP participated at the recently held India International Science Festival 2019 from 5th – 8th November at Science City Kolkata. Shri. Keshab Mahanta, Hon'ble Minister, S&T, IT etc., Govt. of Assam paid a visit to the Assam Pavilion during the event. A team of GBP officials comprising of Mr. Jawahir Md. Ekbal, FM, GBP, Mr. Hemen Das, PR & MO, GBP and Dr. Rajiv Ch. Dev Goswami, RA, GBP attended the festival & interacted with the visitors. The event saw huge participation from people across the scientific fraternity.



*Shri. Keshab Mahanta, Hon'ble Minister, S&T, Shri. Hemen Das, IAS, CEO, GBP, Dr. Arup Mishra, Director, ASTEC and other officials of GoA at the Assam Pavilion, at IISF 2019*



*Mr. Hemen Das, PR & MO, Mr. JM Ekbal, FM and Dr. R Ch. Dev Goswami, RA, GBP at the GBP's stall at IISF 2019*



## Participation in Global Bio India

Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist, GBP and two incubates of GBP viz. M/s Bio Aptagen and M/S Innotech Intervention Pvt. Ltd. participated in Global Bio India 2019, 21-23th November 2019, the mega international congregation of biotechnology stakeholders held at Aerocity, New Delhi.

## Visit by Ms. Manju Mann, Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India

Ms. Manju Mann, Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance, GoI visited GBP on 17th Oct 2019 for physical and financial review of the GBPIC and progress of construction of TIC at the upcoming permanent campus of GBP.



*Ms. Manju Mann, Under Secretary, MoF, GoI, along with Mr. O.A Badshah, ACS, Administrator, GBP and GBP staff during her visit at GBP*

## Internship

Ms. Upasana Das, a student of M.Sc Microbiology 1st Semester from Krupanidhi Institute of Pharmacy, Bangalore has successfully completed the Internship program on “Application of Sophisticated Analytical Instruments” during December 2019 to January 2020 for a period of 1 month at Guwahati Biotech Park under the supervision of Dr. SauravDey, Scientist, GBP.

## Workshop on entrepreneurship

NCL Innovation Park is organized a day long workshop on “Essentials of Scientific Entrepreneurship” in association with GBP on 6th December 2019. Topics such as raising money, tech transfer, company formation, inventive problem solving, IP, networking & pitching were covered in the workshop.





*Participants of daylong workshop on “Essentials of Scientific Entrepreneurship” at GBP*

## Exposure Visits

### North Gauhati College

22 BSc Botany, 3rd semester students and 2 faculty members of Dept. of Botany, North Gauhati College visited GBP for an exposure tour on 29th October, 2019.



*Students and faculty members of North Gauhati College during their visit to GBP*

### Mangaldoi College

A team of students of Mangaldoi college is visited GBP facilities on 4th November 2019.



*Students and faculty members of Mangaldoi College during their visit to GBP*



### Assam Down Town University

A team of 27 students along with 2 faculties and 1 SRF from Assam Down Town University, Department of Food Nutrition and Dietetics visited facilities of GBPIC on 5th November 2019.



*Students and faculty members of Assam Down Town University during their visit to GBP*

### Assam Don Bosco University

A team of 12 students from M.Sc 3rd Semester, Dept. of Zoology, Assam Don Bosco University, Tapesia visited GBP on 8th November 2019.



*Students and faculty members of Assam Don Bosco University, Tapesia during their visit to GBP*

### Invited Talk

Dr Bula Choudhury attended and delivered a talk on technologies available for commercialization at GBP and other organizations in the “Industry interaction meet on biotech and Agriculture sector” held at Siliguri on 10th Dec 2019

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