

The Talent Search Contest (TSC) – Cohort 1.0

The Talent Search Contest (TSC) – Cohort 1.0 Award Ceremony on “Innovative Ideas Leading to Entrepreneurial Venture in Fisheries, Aquaculture & Allied Areas” was successfully organized by the Business Incubation Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture (BICFA) at GBP under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Department of Fisheries, Government of India, on 27th February 2026.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Bula Choudhury, SS, PI, BICFA followed by a vision talk from Shri Deba Kumar Mishra, CEO, GBP, highlighting the growing scope of fisheries-led entrepreneurship in the North Eastern Region. Distinguished guests including Prof. Probodh Borah, Prof. U.S.N. Murty, Shri Loken Das, and Shri Chandan Chetry shared their insights. A key highlight was the award presentation to TSC Cohort 1.0 winners, who also shared their entrepreneurial journeys, inspiring participants and stakeholders. Jury members from leading institutions such as IIT Guwahati, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, and IIM Calcutta Innovation Park were felicitated for their contributions.

The event also featured a special address session by sectoral experts, encouraging dialogue on policy, funding, and technical support for strengthening fisheries and aquaculture enterprises. A major milestone was the launch of TSC Cohort 2.0, accompanied by the unveiling of its official brochure and an audio-visual presentation of BICFA’s achievements, presented by Dr. Rajiv Chandra Dev Goswami, RA, Co-PI, BICFA. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Nabajyoti Das, followed by networking interactions and facility visits. The ceremony marked a significant step in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in fisheries and aquaculture, reinforcing BICFA’s commitment to strengthening the blue economy and startup ecosystem in the region.



Visit by academicians from University of Tsukuba, Japan

GBP had the pleasure of hosting Prof. Dr. Hiroko Isoda, Professor, Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Japan, along with Ms. Soya during their visit on 6th March 2026. The delegation was received by the GBP scientific team led by Dr. Bula Choudhury, who presented an overview of ongoing research activities, innovation initiatives, and incubation support services, including work at the modular laboratories division. During the visit, the delegates interacted with startups and incubatees at GBP, gaining insights into emerging technologies and entrepreneurial ventures within the ecosystem. Prof. Isoda and Ms. Soya appreciated the efforts of GBP in promoting biotechnology-driven innovation and expressed strong interest in exploring future collaborations and joint initiatives with the University of Tsukuba. The visit marks a significant step towards strengthening international academic-industry collaboration, fostering knowledge exchange, and building global innovation partnerships.



Japan -NER Academia-Industry Technology Cooperation Symposium 2026

The BICFA and Skill Satellite Centre (SSC), GBP participated in the Japan-NER Academia-Industry Technology Cooperation Symposium 2026 (JNTCS 2026), organized by IIT Guwahati on March 9-10, 2026. The GBP team, Dr. Bula Choudhury, Dr. Rajiv Chandra Dev Goswami, and Ms. Nilofar Yasmin, actively engaged with scientists, industry leaders, and policymakers, contributing to discussions on strengthening innovation linkages between Japan and Northeast India. Key highlights included sessions on AI-driven healthcare and sustainable food technologies, along with strategic networking opportunities with organizations such as JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). The Industry Showcase provided insights into the Japanese market and potential avenues for collaboration.

The GBP team also presented two posters and an abstract titled “Incubation and Skill Center for Catalyzing the Economic Growth of NE India (Contribution of BICFA-SSC, GBP)”, which generated significant interest among international delegates. The participation marks an important step toward fostering global collaborations, with GBP aiming to translate these connections into impactful innovations for the Northeast Region and beyond.



Visit to NFDB, Hyderabad

The team from the Business Incubation Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture (BICFA), GBP, comprising Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist, PI-BICFA, Dr. Rajiv Chandra Dev Goswami, Research Associate, Co-PI, BICFA, and Mr. Nabajyoti Das, Project Associate, BICFA, visited the National Fisheries Development Board in Hyderabad. NFDB, an autonomous organization under the Department of Fisheries, Government of India. It plays a pivotal role in driving the sustainable development, modernization, and expansion of the nation's fisheries and aquaculture sector.

During the visit, the team engaged in a detailed and productive interaction with NFDB officials, including Shri Mallikharjun Are. The discussion provided a platform to present the ongoing initiatives and achievements of BICFA, GBP, while also exploring potential avenues for future collaboration. The interaction emphasized strengthening institutional linkages and fostering innovative interventions to further support entrepreneurship, capacity building, and sustainable growth in the fisheries and aquaculture domain.



Visit to National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, MANAGE

Team from BICFA, GBP comprising Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist, PI-BICFA, Dr. Rajiv Chandra Dev Goswami, Research Associate, Co-PI, BICFA, and Mr. Nabajyoti Das, Project Associate, BICFA actively participated in the “Fisheries Startup & Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet” and the “National Policy Workshop on Startups and Entrepreneurship in Fisheries” held on 16–17th March 2026 at National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. Dr Choudhury delivered an expert session on "Strengthening aquaculture Entrepreneurship through Regional Innovation and Incubation Initiative" on 17th March 2026. The two-day national event brought together policymakers, incubators, startups, and industry experts to collaborate, connect, and catalyze innovation in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.



Exposure visits to Advance Innovation & Rural Entrepreneurship

The team from BICFA, GBP, comprising Dr. Bula Choudhury (PI-BICFA), Dr. Rajiv Chandra Dev Goswami (Co-PI, BICFA), and Nabajyoti Das, undertook exposure visits to leading institutions in Hyderabad on 18th March 2026, including a-IDEA, ICAR-NAARM, and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).

At a-IDEA, the team held detailed discussions with Paritosh Tripathi and his team, focusing on strengthening incubation practices, startup mentoring, technology commercialization, and developing collaborative platforms for agri-fisheries startups in the Northeast region.

At NIRDPR, interactions with Dr. C. Kethiresan and Dr. Khan provided insights into rural incubation models, integration of technology with grassroots livelihoods, and opportunities for capacity building and skill development. A major highlight of the visit was the exposure to the Rural Technology Park, a demonstration hub showcasing innovative, low-cost, and scalable technologies designed for rural communities. The visits offered valuable learnings from established incubation and rural innovation ecosystems and opened avenues for collaborative initiatives to strengthen entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and sustainable development in the Northeast region.



Industry–Academia Meet 2026, Gauhati University

Dr. Bula Choudhury represented GBP at the Industry–Academia Meet 2026 organized by the Department of Biotechnology, Gauhati University on 9th March 2026. The event brought together academia and industry experts to foster collaboration and innovation in biotechnology. Dr. Choudhury shared insights on research-to-entrepreneurship pathways, emphasizing incubation, industry partnerships, and capacity building for students in the Northeast. Such initiatives strengthen the biotech ecosystem by enhancing skills, employability, and innovation.



Official visit of Jammu & Kashmir Science & Technology Department delegation

GBP had the privilege of welcoming Mr. Riyaz Ahmed Wani (JKAS), Special Secretary, S&T Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, and Mr. Asif Amin Chandel (JKAS), Deputy Secretary, S&T Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, during their official visit to explore the biotechnology ecosystem at GBP. The visit was undertaken with a focused objective of gaining first-hand insight into the functioning, infrastructure, governance model, and incubation modalities of GBP, with a view to developing a similar Biotech Park in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. During the visit, the delegation toured the state-of-the-art Technology Incubation Centre, interacted with incubated startups and innovators, and reviewed GBP's incubation framework, mentoring systems, and funding linkages. Discussions were also held on policy approaches, strategic partnerships, and sustainable models for fostering innovation-driven growth.

The interactions reflected a shared commitment towards strengthening India's bioeconomy through regional collaboration and knowledge exchange. GBP continues to play a pivotal role in fostering innovation, supporting startups, and contributing to capacity building across states, and looks forward to continued collaboration with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir in building a robust biotechnology ecosystem.



Fishery Entrepreneurship Meet cum Discussion on PM-MKSSY

GBP successfully hosted a Fishery Entrepreneurship Meet-cum-Discussion on PM-MKSSY (Performance Grant to Improve Value Chain Efficiencies), bringing together experts, officials, and aspiring entrepreneurs on a common platform to deliberate on strengthening the fisheries value chain. The programme commenced with opening remarks by Shri Sanjay Sarma, DFDO, Kamrup. Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist, GBP, highlighted the organisation's pivotal role in advancing aquapreneurship in the region, outlining the incubation support, infrastructure, technical guidance, and other facilities available to fish farmers and entrepreneurs.

Technical insights on the scheme were shared by Mr. Arddhendu Sekhar Mohanty, Aquaculture Technology Specialist, and Mr. Pranjalya Anami, Monitoring, Evaluation & Communication Specialist, who elaborated on key features and opportunities under PM-MKSSY. Further, Dr. Rajiv Ch Dev Goswami, Research Associate, GBP, provided an overview of initiatives undertaken by BICFA at GBP and its role in promoting aquapreneurship while supporting fish farmers across the region. The meet served as an engaging platform for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange, fostering innovation and sustainable growth in fisheries—particularly within Kamrup District.



Hands-on training program on Mushroom cultivation & spawn culture techniques

The Skill Satellite Centre, GBP successfully conducted a training programme on Spawn Culture Techniques and Mushroom Cultivation on 17th February 2026 under its women-focused capacity building initiative. The programme featured expert-led sessions and hands-on demonstrations on spawn culture, sustainable cultivation practices, and equipment support. Key contributions included sessions by Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist, GBP, and Mr. Imdadul Majid, Director, NE Ginger Ale, who shared practical insights and entrepreneurial opportunities in mushroom cultivation. Technical sessions were also delivered by Ms. Nilofar Yasmin, Mr. Nabajyoti Das, and Dr. Rajiv Ch. Dev Goswami. Participants gained exposure to advanced laboratory facilities at SSC and BICFA, along with practical training and interactive discussions. The programme effectively combined theory, lab experience, and field practice, encouraging participants to explore sustainable agri-biotech entrepreneurship and livelihood opportunities.



Hands-on Training on Basic Techniques in Molecular Biology & Applications of Analytical Instruments

A one-day hands-on training program on Basic Techniques in Molecular Biology and Applications of Analytical Instruments was successfully organized by GBP for 35 B.Sc. students of the Department of Zoology, UN Academy College, Kokrajhar. The session was conducted by Dr. Neeharika Gogoi, Chemical Analyst, RHTL, GBP, who provided practical exposure to essential molecular biology techniques and demonstrated the applications of analytical instruments in modern scientific research. Students actively participated and gained hands-on experience in DNA extraction along with a deeper understanding of laboratory techniques and instrumentation.



Hands-on Training on Value Added Products of Fish & Mushroom

BICFA, GBP under PMMSY (Govt. of India), in collaboration with SSC under TDUPW, A2K+ Scheme, DSIR-GoI, organized a Hands-on Training Programme on 26th March 2026. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from aspiring entrepreneurs and stakeholders. Sessions included expert talks by Dr. Bula Choudhury and Dr. Manashi Das Purkayastha, along with exposure to modern equipment by Dr. Rajiv Chandra Dev Goswami. Participants gained practical experience in preparing value-added products under the guidance of Mr. Nabajyoti Das and Ms. Nilofar Yasmin. A special session on fermented foods by Shri Dipankar Bhowmick added further value. The initiative aimed to promote skill development, entrepreneurship, and value addition in fisheries and allied sectors.



INTERNSHIP

A 2-week internship programme on “Basic Techniques in Bioinformatics, Herbal Extraction, and Phytochemical Analysis using Sophisticated Analytical Instruments (GCMS, HPLC)” was completed by Ms. Aanavi Patel (B.Tech Biotechnology, VIT Vellore), Mr. Prateek Sahu (B.Tech Biotechnology, Odisha University of Technology and Research, Bhubaneswar), Ms. Navroz Ahmed Razdan (B.Sc Biotechnology), and Ms. Ruhi Kalita (B.Sc, Chandigarh University) at GBP. The internship was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Saurav Dey, Scientist, GBP, and Dr. Prajjalendra Barooah, Research Associate, GBP.



Mr. Rohit Saha (Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, West Bengal), Mr. Adhiraj Shome and Mr. Manajit Dutta (USTM, Meghalaya), successfully completed an internship programme at GBP in January 2026. The internship was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist, GBP, and Dr. Rajiv Ch Dev Goswami, Research Associate, GBP, on the theme: “Tools and Techniques in Molecular Biology, Microbiology, and the Role of Advanced Instrumentation in Biotechnology Research.”

During the programme, the interns gained valuable hands-on experience in: Fundamental and advanced molecular biology techniques, PCR, RFLP and mapping techniques, Laboratory practices in microbial technology, Applications and significance of advanced scientific instrumentation etc.



Ms. Samrika Talang from USTM, Meghalaya successfully completed a 120-hour internship programme under NEP, titled “Herbal Extraction Techniques and Biomolecular Profiling of Phytochemicals” conducted during the months of December 2025 to January 2026 at GBP. The Internship programme was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist, GBP, Dr. Rajiv Chandra Dev Goswami, Research Associate, GBP.

Ms. Chandi Yadav (Ph.D., Food Technology, NEHU, Tura) and Ms. Prerona Nath (M.Sc., Food Technology) successfully completed a 2-week internship programme at GBP from 5th–22nd January 2026. During the internship on “Basic Techniques in Herbal Extraction, Biomolecule Profiling and use of Sophisticated Analytical Instruments,” the students gained hands-on exposure to: Herbal extraction techniques, Biomolecule profiling methods, Operation and application of advanced analytical instruments, Laboratory best practices and research workflows. The internship was carried out under the guidance of Dr. Saurav Dey, Scientist, GBP and Dr. Prajjalendra Barooah, Research Associate, GBP, whose greatly enriched the learning experience.



Ms. Kashmiri Sona Daimari, Ms. Helena Daimary, and Ms. Marami Baro from the Department of Zoology, Bodoland University successfully completed an internship program at GBP in January 2026 on the topic “Proximate Analysis of Insect Samples and Application of Modern Analytical Instruments in Biotechnology.” The programme provided comprehensive hands-on training in sample preparation, proximate analysis, nutritional profiling and the use of modern analytical instruments. The internship was carried out under the expert supervision of Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist, GBP, and Dr. Rajiv Chandra Dev Goswami, Research Associate, GBP.

Six Masters in Pharmacy interns from Dibrugarh University successfully completed their one-month internship at GBP, where they gained hands-on experience in herbal extraction and phytochemical analysis using advanced laboratory instrumentation. The internship cohort—Abdus Samad, Nikita Begum, Abishek Barma Mazumdar, Dipshika Borah, Krishti Pegu, and Abishek Mishra—demonstrated commendable dedication and enthusiasm throughout the programme. Under the mentorship of Dr. Saurav Dey, Scientist, GBP, and Dr. Prajjalendra Barooah, Research Associate, GBP, the interns actively engaged in practical learning, strengthening their technical skills and research aptitude.



Ms. Princess Bordoloi, Ph.D. Scholar from the Department of Botany, Assam down town University, successfully completed her internship at GBP. During her internship, she carried out research on “Evaluation of Antimicrobial Activity of Different Solvent Extracts of *Commelina sp.* Against Bacterial Strains.” The internship was conducted under the expert supervision of Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist, GBP, and Dr. Rajiv Chandra Dev Goswami, Research Associate, GBP.



Mr. Bitupon Gogoi successfully completed his internship at the BICFA, GBP, from November 2025 to February 2026. During the internship, he acquired hands-on experience in aquaculture techniques, molecular biology, advanced analytical instrumentation for feed analysis and biotechnology, and plant tissue culture. The program was conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist & PI-BICFA, and Dr. Rajiv Chandra Dev Goswami, Research Associate & Co-PI, BICFA, who guided him throughout the training.

Students of the Department of Zoology, Auxilium College, Udalguri successfully completed an enriching internship at GBP. The programme was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist, GBP, and Dr. Rajiv Chandra Dev Goswami, Research Associate, GBP, with a focus on molecular biology techniques and advanced instrumentation in biotechnology. Aligned with the vision of National Education Policy 2020, the internship emphasized experiential learning, skill development, and multidisciplinary exposure. Students gained valuable hands-on experience in modern laboratory practices and advanced scientific instruments, effectively bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.



Exposure Visits

PM SHRI Agdala Chariali Higher Secondary School

Students from PM SHRI Agdala Chariali Higher Secondary School, Kamrup, Assam, visited GBP on 7th January 2026 as part of an initiative to promote experiential learning and holistic development. The students received a guided tour of the facilities and were introduced to GBP's pivotal role in advancing scientific research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the biotechnology sector.



Department of Biotechnology, Gurucharan University, Silchar

A group of undergraduate students and faculty members from the Department of Biotechnology, Gurucharan University, Silchar, Assam visited the TIC, GBP on 12th February 2026. During the visit, participants were introduced to the state-of-the-art instrumentation facilities and modular laboratory infrastructure available at GBP. The group explored key units including the greenhouse, cold room, packaging unit, biofloc and aquaculture unit, as well as the mushroom cultivation setup. The visit also featured live demonstrations of advanced analytical instruments at the Central Analytical & Instrumentation Facility, providing students with valuable exposure to modern techniques and applications in biotechnology.



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