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BTS 2026 puts India's biotech startups and research institutions in focus

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Smart Bio Awards, BIRAC participation and industry engagement to highlight biotechnology entrepreneurship and research translation



India's biotechnology innovation ecosystem will receive a dedicated platform at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026, with the Smart Bio Awards, participation from biotechnology research institutions and the presence of leading life sciences companies forming part of the three-day event.

The summit, organised by the Department of Electronics, Information Technology & Biotechnology, Government of Karnataka, will be held from November 17–19 at BIEC.

Among the key highlights for the biotechnology sector is the Smart Bio Awards, which will recognise excellence in biotechnology. The summit will also feature Bio Quiz and Bio Posters, providing platforms to showcase knowledge, research and emerging scientific talent.

Institutional participation includes the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a key organisation supporting biotechnology entrepreneurship and innovation in India.

The participation of national research and technology organisations such as the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and National Research Development Corporation will further broaden the research and innovation landscape.

The corporate ecosystem will include biotechnology and life sciences companies such as Biocon Group, Syngene, Laurus Bio, Novonesis and Takeda.

More than 1,000 startups from approximately 100 cities across India are expected to participate in BTS 2026, spanning over 30 technology and industry categories. These include healthtech and biotech, AI and deeptech, robotics, semiconductors, agritech and climate technologies.

The Future Makers Conclave, scheduled for November 19, will also provide a platform for startup innovation and entrepreneurship. The programme will mark 10 years of Karnataka's ELEVATE initiative and feature startup showcases, investment announcements and recognition of unicorns and companies that have achieved successful initial public offerings.

The broader objective is to connect research institutions, startups, investors and industry participants, helping accelerate the commercialisation of new technologies.

Priyank Kharge, Minister for Home, Information Technology & Biotechnology and e-Governance, Government of Karnataka, said “We are particularly looking forward to bringing startups and investors together, facilitating international partnerships and creating opportunities for businesses to explore new markets.”

He further noted that the announcement of deeptech investments at the Future Makers Conclave and the celebration of a decade of the ELEVATE initiative would be important milestones this year.

For India's biotechnology ecosystem, the summit offers an opportunity to strengthen connections between scientific research, entrepreneurial ventures, established companies and investors.