



GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT



## Event: Bio- Invest in Gujarat: Reshaping human lives through Biotechnology

Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014 | Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar

### Press Release

#### **Bio- Invest in Gujarat: Reshaping human lives through Biotechnology**

**Gandhinagar, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2014:** As a part of run up to the Vibrant Gujarat 2015 Global Summit, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat and Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM) in coordination with Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE), Industrial Extension Bureau (iNDEXTb) and KPMG (Knowledge Partner) organized today an event on “Bio- Invest in Gujarat: Reshaping human lives through Biotechnology” at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar.



The event was inaugurated by **Shri Govindbhai Patel**, Hon'ble Minister of State, Science and Technology, Energy and Petrochemicals, Government of Gujarat. He released four publications on Biotechnology namely Analytical Report on Biotechnology and Life Sciences Companies in India, Compendium of Biotechnology and Life Sciences Companies in Gujarat, Directory of Biotechnology and Life Sciences Industry in Gujarat and Curious Kids – In the Wonder which are compiled by GSBTM, DST. **Shri Sreeshan Raghavan**, Joint Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India graced the event as the Guest of Honor. **Shri S. J. Haider**, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat, **Shri Akshay Saxena**, Mission Director GSBTM along with international and national experts such as **Dr. Hans Soderlund** Director- Global Strategic Alliance - Paras Biopharmaceuticals from Finland, **Prof. Sir John Burn** - Professor of Clinical Genetics, Newcastle University and Director & Head Institute of Human Genetics from UK, **Prof. Ken-ichi Arai** - Founding President, Asia-Pacific IMBN: Professor, Emeritus University of Tokyo from Japan, **Dr. Ananda M. Chakrabarty** – Prof. Univ. of Illinois, Chicago, Founder Amrita Therapeutics from USA, **Dr. K.V. Prabhu**, Joint Director Research, Indian Agriculture Research Institute, **Dr. K.C Bansal**, Director, National Board of Plant Genetic Resources, ICAR, GOI, **Dr. Rashmi Barbhaiya**, CEO & MD Advinus Therapeutics and Vice President ABLE among other dignitaries graced the inaugural session of the event.



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The one day international event was aimed at attracting investments in Gujarat and fostering a holistic innovation ecosystem in the field of Biotechnology and Life Sciences. Apart from dignitaries who graced the inaugural session there were **over 25 distinguished and renowned speakers and panel members** comprising of senior representatives of Government of India, Industry representatives, Biotechnology & Life Sciences experts and academicians. It saw participation from **over 500 delegates** including Government Officials, Captains and Representatives of Biotechnology and Life Science Industry, Researchers and Academicians, Students, Representatives from Allied Industries, Biotechnology Entrepreneurs, Consultants and Subject Matter Experts, Private Equity and Venture Capitalists.



Following the inaugural session, the program included 4 panel sessions on the following themes :

- “Biotechnology- Changing the Face of healthcare [Technologies within reach: Technologies on the horizons],”
- “Biotechnology- Driving efficiency and productivity in Agriculture” [Newer challenges: Emerging technologies],”
- “Biotechnology- Facilitating a Greener and Cleaner Environment [Technology Solutions: Diverse options],”
- “Biotechnology- Developing Innovation Ecosystem [Enabling Intervention: Connecting the Dots]”

Session 1 themed around “Biotechnology- Changing the Face of healthcare” was moderated by Dr. Rashmi Barbhैया. Session 2 themed around “Biotechnology- Driving efficiency and productivity in Agriculture” was moderated by Mr. Vijay Vijayaraghavan – Chairman Sathguru Consultants. Session 3 themed around “Biotechnology- Facilitating a Greener and Cleaner Environment” was moderated by Mr. K Krishan – Chairman Malavalli Power Plant. Last but not the least the final session of the day themed around “Biotechnology- Developing Innovation Ecosystem” was moderated by Mr. Utkarsh Palnitkar – Life Sciences Subject Matter Expert & Partner KPMG India .Each panel discussion was followed by an exhaustive question-answer session wherein several delegates got a chance to interact with the speakers and share their views.



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**Shri Govindbhai Patel** in his chief guest address to the gathering stated that the government is serious about development of Biotechnology(BT) in the state and that BT is an important tool not only for economic growth and progress but also for social development. Citing the State Government's slogan of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas" the Hon Minister highlighted that BT progress based on development of skills, knowledge sharing and awareness, Technology, research and development can become key contributors of development for all and progress for all that can provide social benefits.



**Shri Sreeshan Raghavan** in his inaugural address highlighted the high potential of BT growth in India and its contribution to the world. He congratulated Government of Gujarat and GSBTM for its initiatives in this sector that will reap long term benefits to the state. He indicated that the State government needs to take up relevant policy interventions and urged the stakeholders – industries and researchers to become more active in seeking infrastructure/ different research grants and incentives provided by DBT, DST, GOI and BIRAC (a body set up by GOI to fund innovations and lead to affordable product generation) and can focus on Bio Safety and GM crops as future areas of focus to reshape human lives through BT.

**Shri S.J. Haider** in special address stressed on the importance of collaboration and public private partnership in the area of development of skills, developing technology and building awareness. He highlighted that due to potential applications in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, environment, innovation, Biotechnology becomes a strong tool to reshape human lives. The state Government is taking appropriate steps for policy planning & incentives, human resources development, promotion of BT Industries, BT Industrial parks, BT entrepreneurship and awareness building.



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**Shri Akshay Saxena** gave a pen picture of the overall Biotechnology industry in Gujarat and its achievements. He highlighted that Gujarat has over 50 patents in BT, from 54 organizations with 1000 crore revenue in 2014 to 154 organizations with 4000 crore revenue in 2014, biotechnology sector has grown tremendously. Today the focus is on technological solutions and we can capitalize on available technologies. He stated that biotechnology needs platform of research and academic institution which can generate high quality manpower. Since Gujarat lacks such institutes, GSBTM has taken initiative of developing centres like bio Diversity Gene Bank, Genomics facilities, bio-informatics, Stem Cell research and training, genetic diagnostic centre which will evolve into centre of excellence and create catchment of skilled manpower, research and technologies. He emphasized that pool of young talent has to be groomed, facilities are to be provided. And society must be prepared to invest money time and resource in biotechnology. We have to believe that every money spent on science will not go in drain.

**Dr. Rashmi Barbhaiya** in his address stated that such an event on Bio Invest in Gujarat is important and focus on affordability, accessibility and environment can make a big difference. Gujarat is ahead of several state in India in field of BT at the 4<sup>th</sup> place and can further its position by shifting focus from short term to long term approach, by changing our mindsets and by creation of an ecosystem that promotes academic and research institutes of repute. He emphasized "Bet on young Talent and you will not be disappointed".

**Dr. Hans Soderlund**, in his address mentioned that the applications of BT have been primarily focused on which are health sector, agri and food applications sector and for environment sector and we should now focus on industrial BT. He emphasized that the basis for future work in BT will rest on 3 pillars which are sense & hypothesis, diagnosis, building instruments to measure & analysis.

The one day international event successfully concluded with the closing remarks given by Shri Akshay Saxena.

### About Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit

To give impetus to Strategic Partnerships and Knowledge Sharing from across the globe, we biennially organize the Vibrant Gujarat Summit. Vibrant Gujarat 2013, which was the sixth edition of this popular event, has become a model for economic success and a strong example of the visionary approach of the Government of Gujarat. It is a mark of its progressive impact that the Vibrant Gujarat - 2013 witnessed participation from nearly 121 countries with over 2,100 foreign delegates and around 58,000 Indian delegates along with 2,670 strategic partnerships forged across the globe. Japan and Canada were the Partner Countries for the summit. A staggering 17,719 investment intentions were signed during the summit.

On the backdrop of this, the state is geared up towards Vibrant Gujarat 2015 Global summit, the **7<sup>th</sup> edition of the summit** to be held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2015. The Summit will be inaugurated by Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi who had created and conceptualized the summit. The 3 day summit will host a Global CEO's Conclave, Country Seminars, Theme Seminars, State Seminars, Discussion Forums, B2B meetings, B2G meetings, exhibition pavilions and other networking programs. Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade show 2015 with an exhibition area of over 100,000 sq meters will also be held concurrently from 7<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> January 2015.