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Karnataka announces SMART BIO Awards 2026 winners, recognising emerging biotechnology innovators and entrepreneurs

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Axleres.Ai named Startup of the Year; Biodesign Innovation Labs wins Innovator of the Year as Karnataka recognises six contributors to its biotechnology ecosystem



Award Category	Awardee	Place
Startup of the Year	Axleres.Ai	Bengaluru
Innovator of the Year	Biodesign Innovation Labs (BIL)	Bengaluru
Women Entrepreneur of the Year	Dr. Pratibha Nadig (Akshaisarathi Healthcare Solutions Pvt. Ltd.)	Bengaluru
Best Campus Company of the Year	Trivexia Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Mangaluru
Best Business Mentor of the Year	Harish Gadagin (CEO of Anvesana Technology Business Incubator (Anvesana TBI))	Shivamogga
Startup of the Year (Beyond Bengaluru)	Wide Mobility Mechatronics Pvt. Ltd.	Hubballi

The Government of Karnataka has announced the winners of the SMART BIO Awards 2026, recognising emerging innovators, entrepreneurs, startups and ecosystem enablers contributing to the state's biotechnology sector. The awards recognised achievements across six categories, highlighting innovation, entrepreneurship, mentorship and the growing geographical reach of Karnataka's biotechnology ecosystem.

The awards were announced as part of the 29th Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2026, second day of the summit held under the theme 'AI & Beyond'. The summit brings together global technology leaders, policymakers, investors, startups and research institutions to explore emerging technologies and innovation opportunities.

Six categories recognise biotechnology excellence

Axleres.Ai was named Startup of the Year, recognising its contribution to the emerging startup ecosystem. Biodesign Innovation Labs (BIL) received the Innovator of the Year award for its innovation-led work.

Dr Pratibha Nadig of Akshaisarathi Healthcare Solutions Pvt. Ltd. was recognised as Women Entrepreneur of the Year, highlighting women's leadership in biotechnology and healthcare entrepreneurship.

Trivexia Solutions Pvt. Ltd. received the Best Campus Company of the Year award, acknowledging the role of campus-led entrepreneurship in developing new technology ventures.

Harish Gadagin, CEO, Anvesana Technology Business Incubator, was honoured as Best Business Mentor of the Year for his contribution to nurturing entrepreneurs and supporting startup development.

Recognising innovation beyond the state capital, Wide Mobility Mechatronics Pvt. Ltd. received the Startup of the Year (Beyond Bengaluru) award, highlighting the potential of regional innovation ecosystems to contribute to Karnataka's technology and entrepreneurship landscape.

Strengthening Karnataka's biotechnology startup ecosystem

The SMART BIO Awards form part of Karnataka's broader efforts to encourage biotechnology innovation, support emerging enterprises and strengthen the connections between research institutions, entrepreneurs, incubators and industry.

The six award categories reflect different dimensions of ecosystem development, from startup creation and product innovation to women-led entrepreneurship, campus enterprises, business mentorship and regional innovation.

The recognition of Beyond Bengaluru entrepreneurship is particularly relevant to the state's efforts to expand innovation and investment opportunities beyond Bengaluru and encourage technology-led enterprises across Karnataka.

With the Bengaluru Tech Summit bringing together stakeholders from biotechnology, healthcare, information technology and other technology sectors, the SMART BIO Awards provide a platform to recognise the entrepreneurs and organisations contributing to the next phase of Karnataka's biotechnology growth.