

ABLE Governing Body Members

**Non-executive
Chairperson**
Dr Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

President
Mr G S Krishnan

Vice President
Dr Anand Anandkumar

General Secretary
Mr Ravi Bhola

Treasurer
Dr Anand Anandkumar

Governing Body members

Dr Ezhil Subbian

Dr Kavitha Iyer Rodrigues

Dr Shama Bhat

Dr Shriram Raghavan

Mr Venkat Kamalakar
Bundia

COO
Mr Narayanan Suresh

Government nod for biotech R&D promotion scheme



I am very happy to report that the Government of India has acceded to our industry's request by announcing a new scheme to promote research and development (R&D) by pharmaceutical sector in the Union Budget for 2023-24. Details of the scheme will be announced soon and thrust will be to attract R&D investment by the industry in specific areas.

This was one of the key demands a high level ABLE delegation led by our chairperson, Dr Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw had emphasised during the meetings in New Delhi in early January with key ministers such as Dr Jitendra Singh (S&T and PMO), Mr Mansukh Mandaviya (Health and Family Welfare, Pharmaceuticals), key policy makers like Dr Suman Berry (Niti Aayog), Dr Rajesh Gokhale (DBT), Ms S Aparna (Pharmaceuticals), Mr Anurag Jain (Department for Industry Promotion and International Trade). They listened to our emphasis on why it was importance to spur innovation with private investment in biotech research and had promised to launch a suitable scheme.

The budget has also announced the intention to fund high end research in medical devices, vaccines and specific drugs by creating new centres of excellence in top universities and research centres and private companies could collaborate with them. In addition, the vast infrastructure of the large network of laboratories of ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) will be available to biotech R&D centres for collaborative work. Another important announcement is the plan to start dedicated multidisciplinary courses to develop innovative medical devices in existing universities to increase availability of skilled manpower, develop futuristic medical technologies and promote high end manufacturing and research. This is one area where there are already hundreds of startups in the country and the move will further strengthen the national ecosystem in the segment. A good start has been made and now we eagerly look forward to more details of the above schemes in the next few weeks.

The government has also announced an Agricultural Accelerator programme to encourage more startups in the agriculture sector. And the Economic Survey for 2023-24 has also flagged the issue of hundreds of our promising startups exiting the country to foreign shores to make better use of incentives available there. The Survey has urged the government to stem this tide and get these innovative startups back to the country.

I am happy to inform members that ABLE will be setting up the India Pavilion on behalf of Government of India, at the forthcoming BIO Boston from June 5-8, 2023 and we will be sharing the details soon as we are formalizing the plans for a high-level government and industry delegation to the event. Look forward to your support and participation in the India Pavilion.

I would like to invite you all to the ABLE@20 anniversary celebrations planned along with Venture Center in Pune on February 8 and in Hyderabad on the side-lines of BIO Asia conference on 24th February. We shall soon communicate the date for the Grand event in New Delhi.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year 2023 and looking forward to your continued support.

G S Krishnan
President, ABLE

KEY BIOTECH ACTIVITIES

IN THIS ISSUE

- Key Budget Highlights
- Economic Survey Highlights
- ABLE Webinar on "Scaling Up Precision Fermentation: Strategies for Managing Complexities & Ensuring Consistency"
- ABLE holds a 2nd Special General Meeting
- Capacity Building Workshop for Startups working on Rural Technology & Rural Entrepreneurship Development
- New Jersey India Mission 2022
- ABLE holds a 20th Annual General Meeting
- Start-up showcase facilitated by ABLE at G20 summit on "Finance and Central Bank Meeting"
- UK-India HealthTech Bootcamp

Key Budget Highlights



Medical Research: Facilities in select ICMR Labs will be made available for research by public and private medical college faculty and private sector R&D teams for encouraging collaborative research and innovation.

Pharma Innovation: A new programme to promote research and innovation in pharmaceuticals will be taken up through centers of excellence. We shall also encourage industry to invest in research and development in specific priority areas.

Medical devices: Dedicated multidisciplinary courses for medical devices will be supported in existing institutions to ensure availability of skilled manpower for futuristic medical technologies, high-end manufacturing and research.

Centres of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence: For realizing the vision of "Make AI in India and Make AI work for India", three centres of excellence for Artificial Intelligence will be set-up in top educational institutions. Leading industry players will partner in conducting interdisciplinary research, develop cutting-edge applications and scalable problem solutions in the areas of agriculture, health, and sustainable cities. This will galvanize an effective AI ecosystem and nurture quality human resources in the field.

National Data Governance Policy: To unleash innovation and research by start-ups and academia, a National Data Governance Policy will be brought out. This will enable access to anonymized data.

Shree Anna: Now to make India a global hub for 'Shree Anna', the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad will be supported as the Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the international level.

Economic Survey Highlights

Domestic pharmaceutical market to reach \$130 bn by 2030



The Economic Survey of India states that the Indian Pharmaceutical industry plays a prominent role in the global pharmaceutical industry and that India is ranked 3rd worldwide in the production of pharma products by volume and 14th by value.

India's domestic pharma market is estimated to reach \$130 billion by 2030 and the pharma industry has sustained its growth momentum after the pandemic. The country's pharmaceutical exports achieved a healthy growth of 24 per cent in FY21, driven by COVID-19-induced demand for critical drugs and other supplies made to over 150 countries as the survey.

The sector is the largest provider of generic medicines globally, occupying a 20 per cent share in global supply by volume, and **is also the leading vaccine manufacturer globally with a market share of 60 per cent.** The performance of pharma exports has been robust, sustaining positive growth despite the global trade disruptions and drop in demand for Covid-19-related treatments. **The cumulative FDI in the pharma sector crossed the \$20 billion mark by September 2022.**

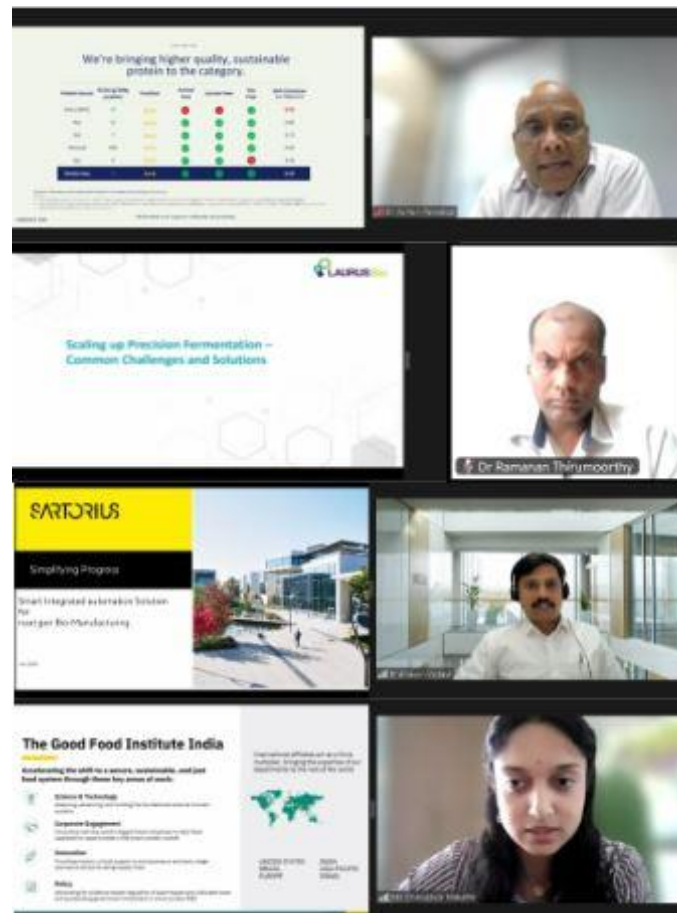
India's domestic pharmaceutical market is estimated at \$41 billion in 2021 and is likely to grow to \$65 billion by 2024 and is further expected to reach \$130 billion by 2030.

In terms of exports, the Indian pharmaceutical exports achieved a healthy growth of 24 percent in FY21, driven by COVID-19-induced demand for critical drugs and other supplies made to over 150 countries. The performance of pharma exports in FY22 has been robust, sustaining growth despite the global trade disruptions and drop in demand for COVID-19-related treatments. Carrying forward this growth momentum, drug and pharmaceutical exports during April-October 2022 was 22 percent higher than the corresponding pre-pandemic period of FY20.

ABLE Webinar on “Scaling Up Precision Fermentation: Strategies for Managing Complexities & Ensuring Consistency”

31st January 2023

ABLE with the support from Karnataka Innovation and Information Technology (K-Tech), IT BT Department Karnataka organized the monthly webinar on Precision Fermentation. The webinar had experienced industry experts – **Dr Ashish Paradkar**, Vice President, R&D, Perfect Day Foods, **Dr Ramanan Thirumoorthy**, President and Head R&D, Laurus Bio, **Mr Bhimasen Vadavi**, Head Integrated Solutions (India & SEA), Sartorius and **Ms Chandana Tekkatte**, Science & Technology Specialist, Good Food Institute of India discussed and provided insights into the strategies adopted to overcome the challenges associated with scaling up precision fermentation technology and coming up with great products into the market.



Mr G S Krishnan, President, ABLE said he had been personally involved in pushing for innovation and large-scale manufacturing of alternate proteins in the country for many years. India is an attractive global destination for this sector in terms of cost, scientific and manufacturing capabilities. There are some challenges in scaling up and in recent months ABLE had organized nationwide discussion with various stakeholders in Bengaluru, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad how to collectively move forward. The segment has immense potential for creation of high value jobs, Mr Krishnan emphasized.

Dr Ashish Paradkar, congratulated ABLE for its efforts to create ideal conditions for the growth of the precision fermentation industry and shared details of how Perfect Day has invested heavily and innovated to bring to the table animal-free milk protein. Perfect Day, founded in California is setting up a manufacturing facility in the country in addition to its two other global centers. “Our milk protein, produced without cow, from corn starch and genetically engineered is cholesterol free and is a perfect drop in substitute for milk protein in any product,” Dr Paradkar explained.

He was very optimistic about the increasing popularity of these products and the company has offered to share its expertise and facilities for other startups in the area to scale up their products. “Its not about just one company doing it and we want everyone to do well so that the sector can be grown by all together,” he added.

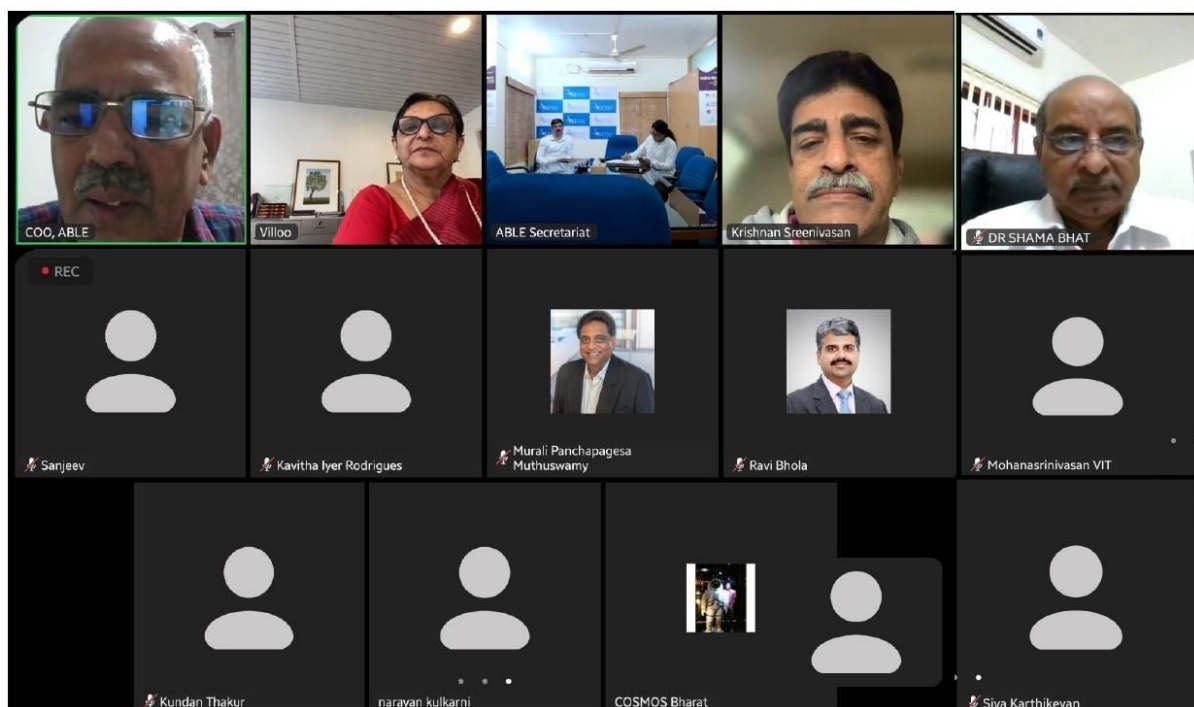
Dr Ramanan Thirumoorthy of Laurus Bio highlighted how his company has helped supply of more than 20 billion doses of a variety of pharmaceutical without animal-based ingredients. The company has a 10,000 litre fermenter in its premises, another 200,000 litre fermenter in Tumakuru and is currently building a huge 2 million litre plant for contract manufacturing of a range of new age protein alternatives.

He shared with the participants the various technical challenges faced while scaling up manufacture of alternative proteins in handling raw materials, inoculum preparation, feeding conditions, quality of utilities, fermenter design, aeration, heat dissipation etc and it was a masterclass for budding entrepreneurs in the sector how to learn from the experience of veterans. Dr Thirumoorthy also talked about some of the micro factors such as handling of metabolites and stressed that lots of analytics is needed to get it right.

Mr Bhimasen Vadavi shared with members the wide range of equipment and other technologies provided by the company to help the industry. Ms Chandana Tekkotte gave an overview of global and Indian capabilities in the sector and stressed the need to rework infrastructure needed for growth, retrofit outdated biofuel fermenters to boost national capacity. She shared details of various support offered to budding entrepreneurs in the sector by GFI.

ABLE holds a 2nd Special General Meeting

9th December 2022



The Meeting was called to order by ABLE President, Mr G S Krishnan (Novozymes) at ABLE Secretariat, Bengaluru, Karnataka. On ascertaining from the Chief Operating Officer about the Quorum, President started the special General Meeting that had been called to seek approval of the members to make some amendments to the bylaws of the organization.

Mr Krishnan welcomed the members for their presence at the special meeting. He appraised the members of some of the recent activities of the Association. President then requested the Honorary General Secretary, Mr Ravi Bhola (K&S Partners) to brief members about the main agenda of the meeting. Mr Ravi Bhola then presented to the member the process followed and the key amendments suggested to the existing bylaws of ABLE.

Members then discussed all the proposed amendments in details. A Resolution to APPROVE all the proposed changes was proposed by Dr P M Murali (Jananom). The Resolution was SECONDED by Dr Viloo Morawala-Patell (Avesthagen). Members unanimously approved the resolution.

President Krishnan then asked members whether they wanted to discuss any other issue. As no other issue was raised by members, President briefed members about the plans to celebrate 20 years of the formation of the Association and sought ideas and support from all the members.

Capacity Building Workshop for Startups working on Rural Technology & Rural Entrepreneurship Development

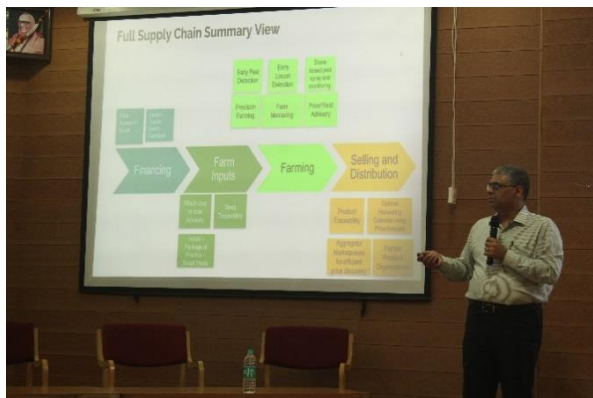
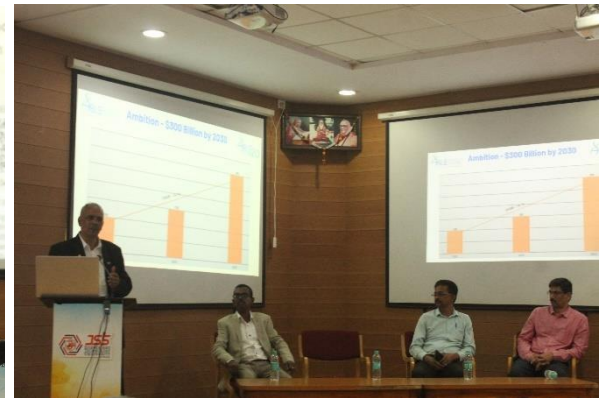
10th December 2022



ABLE with support from the Department of Electronics, IT & Bt, Government of Karnataka is coordinating and collaborating with other ecosystem partners in the State to conduct a series of Capacity Development Workshops for Startups working on sectors focused on Rural Impact and Renewable Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability. On 10th December 2022, conducted “Capacity Building Workshop for Startups working on Rural Technology & Rural Entrepreneurship Development” at JSS Science and Technology University, Mysuru. This workshop aimed to bring in the experts from the field of AgriTech, biotech and manufacturing to provide an insight into the technological advancement that can increase productivity, promote rural entrepreneurship and use the technological tools to improve the health and bring “Ease of Living” for rural population.

The workshop started off with the opening remarks of **Dr. S. Nanjunda Swamy**, President, IIC-JSS STU and an overview about ABLE by **Mr Narayanan Suresh**, Chief Operating Officer, ABLE. The speakers were **Mr Ravi Trivedi**, Indian Administrative Fellow, Agriculture, Govt of Karnataka who spoke on AgriTech and the Government initiatives to make it future perfect. **Dr. P. Manilal**, Chief Scientist & Coordinator NPIC-CIF, CFTRI (Retd.) spoke on Food and Agri-technology and its opportunities galore for rural entrepreneurship. **Dr. Shrilakshmi Desiraju**, CEO- Co Founder at Triphase Pharmaceuticals spoke on Potential Role of Probiotics for Sustainability in Rural India and **Mr Shajee Kozhukkunnon**, Senior Director,

Manufacturing Intelligence Division, Hexagon spoke on Leveraging Technology for Rural Reach - A NexGen Approach.



Dr Ravi Trivedi gave an overview of the current status & challenges in the agriculture sector. He also discussed the problems being pursued through AI and other innovations which will bring an impact on doubling the farmer income. The presence of many agri-tech startups can be built on top of Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning stack in the Karnataka state and innovation in agriculture and other areas can leapfrog the growth of Karnataka Agriculture. He also explained

various government building blocks in digital agriculture.



Dr Shrilakshmi Desiraju, briefly explained her entrepreneurial journey of being a pioneer in the probiotics space and how she's changing the world of probiotics through her startup Triphase Pharmaceuticals. Her mission of enhancing the quality of human life through probiotics has made Triphase the world's first and only biotech startup that makes temperature-stable probiotic strains for various use cases. The startup's first

innovation in the probiotics space eliminated the cold chain from the industry. This probiotic industry is helping to provide the opportunity for entrepreneurship.



Dr P. Manilal highlighted various Food & Agri-Technologies of CSIR-CFTRI and how few selected technologies have their potential market impact which have opportunities for rural entrepreneurship. He explained the role of business incubators & innovation ecosystem, the opportunities & the potential for innovators & other stakeholders. He gave a glance through the stories of a few successful startups.



Dr Shajee Kozhukkunnon gave an overview of Hexagon's leveraging technology for rural reach. It is a multinational company which is working closely with the Government of Karnataka and the startups to provide automation in agriculture with drones in rural India. He explained how various industry-academia connect programs have direct engagement with local and global Industries and providing a platform to exhibit industry relevant skills & milestones.

New Jersey India Mission 2022

13th December 2022



The New Jersey team had productive interactions with ABLE about how New Jersey can be a destination for Indian businesses looking for a home in the United States. The Choose New Jersey delegation included **Wesley Mathews**, President & CEO, Choose New Jersey; **Bill Noonan**, Business Development Director, Choose New Jersey; **Mathew Abraham**, Director – Ta Credit Programs, New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA); **Phil Loureiro**, Business Development Officer, Choose New Jersey and **Mike Reagan**, Senior Vice President CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc.. **G S Krishnan**, President, ABLE and **Narayanan Suresh**, Chief Operating Officer, ABLE were also the speakers for the event. The key sector focussed was the Life sciences sector which includes Biotech, R&D, and light manufacturing. The discussion was on how New Jersey is an attractive business location for Indian companies evaluating the US as a location for greenfield investments. An overview was given about the state's pragmatic regulatory process, infrastructure & logistics, utility cost, and visa regulations. Discussion was also on the incentives offered by the state government to promote investments. The interactive meeting was held at Taj Westend, Bengaluru.



ABLE holds a 20th Annual General Meeting

15th December 2022



The meeting was held at ABLA Secretariat, Bengaluru, Karnataka. President G S Krishnan welcomed all the members and confirmed from COO Narayanan Suresh about quorum. He referred to the AGM notice sent to all members on 25th November 2022 along with the detailed activities report for 2021-22 and the Audited Financial Statement for 2021-22.

General Secretary Mr Ravi Bhola then presented a resolution seeking the approval of members for the minutes of the previous 19th AGM held in November 2021. Dr Shriram Ragavan (Jananom) proposed the resolution and Mr Sanjeev Neelappa (Yokogawa) seconded the resolution. It was adopted unanimously.

COO Narayanan Suresh presented the audited financial results and the detailed activities report for the year 2021-22.. He pointed out that due to the frugal spending and resumption of some of the regular activities, the Association posted an increased revenue and wiped out the deficit for the previous year.

The Audited Financial Report adoption resolution was proposed by Mr Sanjeev Neelappa (Yokogawa) and seconded by Dr Gawir Baig (Anthem Biosciences). The resolution was adopted unanimously.

General Secretary, Mr Ravi Bhola, then moved a resolution to re-appoint the firm of Chartered Accountants Venkat and Vasan as the Statutory Auditor for the financial year 2022-23. The resolution was proposed by Dr P M Murali (Golden Jubilee Biotech Park for Woman) and seconded by Mr Rashesh Doshi (Zytex). The resolution was adopted unanimously.

President Mr Krishnan then opened the floor for discussion on any other matter. He briefed the members about the preparations to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of ABLA with get togethers in Pune, Hyderabad and New Delhi in the early part of 2023. Mr Krishnan announced that ABLA will be setting up the India Pavilion on behalf of Government of India at the forthcoming BIO International Convention in Boston, USA from June 5-8, 2023. He

urged members to participate in big numbers in the exhibition and conference and highlight our industry's good work to the world. President informed members that ABLE was planning to revive the popular BEST (Biotech Entrepreneurship for Student Teams) program to inculcate the idea of bio entrepreneurship among biotech college students with support from members.

President Krishnan then concluded the meeting thanking all members for the presence and seeking their cooperation implementing the ambitious agenda for the Association.

Start-up showcase facilitated by ABLE at G20 summit on “Finance and Central Bank Meeting”

15th December 2022

India has been given the baton for presiding over the G-20, a premier forum for international economic and financial cooperation. The prime minister will host the leaders of the other G-20 nations for the bloc's 18th summit, which will be held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10 next year. As part of the series of meetings planned in India through the year, the first “Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting” of India's G-20 presidency was held in Bengaluru from 13th to 15th of December 2022. This included a tech-showcase, especially from the start-up ecosystem that Karnataka hosted on 15th December at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) campus.

Government of Karnataka and the Dept. of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T initiated the start-up demo showcase where various companies innovations, achievements and ideas were displayed to a global audience. The companies showcased the financial viability and cost-effectiveness of the solutions that India can offer, especially in the Biotechnology, AI and Deep Tech space.

The biotech startups that participated in the interaction meeting with G20 Secretaries were Immuneel Therapeutics Pvt Ltd, Bugworks Research, Pandorum Technologies, String Bio Pvt Ltd, Sea6Energy, Hanugen Therapeutics and Medgenome Labs.

C-CAMP's flagship event “India's 6th NBEC competition for bio-entrepreneurship”

20th December 2022



NBEC, India's largest and the most prestigious national competition for bio entrepreneurs, was being held for the sixth consecutive year by Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms as part of the BREC – the BIRAC Regional Entrepreneurship Centre, established at C-CAMP in partnership with BIRAC. NBEC aims to attract, identify and nurture deep science driven business ideas that address India's most pressing societal challenges in new, innovative, and commercially viable ways.

The competition was launched by Dr. Vijay Chandru, Co-Founder & Director, Strand Life Sciences in presence of startups, several eminent industry partners and stakeholders from the ecosystem. Dr. Chandru was joined by Dr. Alka Sharma, Senior Advisor, DBT and MD, BIRAC; Dr. Manish Diwan, Head, Strategic Partnerships & Entrepreneurship Development, BIRAC and C-CAMP CEO and Director Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed.

Two parallel tracks, one for start-ups, entrepreneurs and established companies in India and an exclusive one for aspiring student teams were there. The prize money was of up to 10 lakhs for winners of student teams track and 16.0 Cr including investment opportunity for start-up track. There was 30+ Industry and Investment Partners. The main focus areas were Healthcare, Therapeutics, Vaccines, Medical Devices, Diagnostics, Digital Health including AI & ML, Maternal & Child Nutrition, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Agritech & Mol Bio, AI & ML in Agri, Food & Nutraceuticals, Environmental Biotech, Clean & Renewable Energy, Water & Sanitation, Industrial Biotechnology, Personal Care Products.

24 winners from the Start-up and student track bagged 16 Cr INR in cash prizes and investment opportunities at NBEC 2022.

Meet the Winners of NBEC 2022



Student Track ▶



Start-up Track ▶



The winners of NBEC Grand Finale 2022 were:

- Vivek Gupta from Gumpro Drilling Fluids Pvt Ltd for winning the Novozymes Cash prize of INR 3 Lakhs in the domain of Biotech.
- Srinath GS from TAPAH Mechatronix Pvt Ltd for winning the Mahyco Cash prize of INR 3 Lakhs in the domain of Agritech
- Rajkumar Halder from Ruhvenile Biomedical for winning the Biocon Biologics Cash prize of INR 3 Lakhs in the domain of Therapeutics & Drug Discovery
- Anjana Badrinarayanan from BioHues for winning the Curadev Cash prize of INR 3 lakhs in the domain of Green Chemistry
- Radhesh Agrahari from Mudita & Radhesh Pvt Ltd for winning the Syngene International Limited Cash prize of INR 3 Lakhs in the domain of Therapeutics & drug discovery.
- Prasad Desai from Animal Digital Information Systems-ADIS for winning the Anthem Biosciences Private Limited Cash prize of INR 3 Lakhs in the domain of Molecular Biology & AI in Agri





UK-India HealthTech Bootcamp

Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster Foundation (BCKIC) and KIITBI in association with UK Govt, Academic Health Science Network, Yorkshire and Humber are excited to announce the call for application under the UK-India HealthTech Bootcamp for Indian companies to learn about the UK's health ecosystem, develop market access strategies, and explore potential overseas partnerships.

The 3-days fully funded crash course to 25 selected Indian companies will provide key insights on the UK healthcare market, access to subject matter experts, and the opportunity to engage directly with UK NHS stakeholders. Furthermore, 6 companies from this cohort will be selected for a 5 day fully funded bespoke program in the UK to get the opportunity to engage directly with the wider healthtech ecosystem in the UK.

Healthcare startups come forward and apply for this exciting bootcamp!

Apply before 8th Feb 2023

Application link: <https://lnkd.in/gQw8Sc4j>

IN THIS ISSUE

- National Covid-19 Vaccination programme
- Biocon Foundation bags 'IHW Gold Award for Diseases Screening Initiative of the Year'
- USFDA issues a CRL for the Biologics License Application for Insulin-R
- Chat GPT3 predicts the year in biotech says Cytiva
- Dr. Reddy's successfully completes clinical studies of its rituximab biosimilar for filing in the U.S., Europe

Funding Partner



Training Partner



Technical Partner



UK – INDIA HEALTHTECH BOOTCAMP

Take centre stage to catapult your HealthTech business in India to the UK

About the Bootcamp

The British High Commission in India is organising a UK-India HealthTech Bootcamp from March 13th - 15th, 2023. This is an exciting opportunity for Indian companies to learn about the UK's health ecosystem, develop market access strategies, and explore potential overseas partnerships. The event is being organised in collaboration with the Academic Health Science Network, Yorkshire & Humber, KIIT-Technology Business Incubator, and Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster Foundation, who will support us on this journey to boost participant's understanding of what is required to enter the UK's health market and continue their global product improvement journey.

Application Link:

<https://propel.bckic.in/register/>

Application Open Till 8th Feb 2023

Program Timeline

STAGE 1: 25 companies will get to participate in 3 days fully funded HealthTech Bootcamp from 13th - 15th March 2023 in Bhubaneswar.

STAGE 2: 6 companies from this cohort will be selected for a 5 day fully funded, bespoke programme in the UK where they will get the opportunity to engage directly with the wider

Eligibility Criteria

Indian companies with solutions to address the following challenges being faced by the NHS:

- Workforce: Innovations that support the NHS workforce
- Waiting lists: Innovations that helps manage NHS waiting lists
- Mental health: Innovation that monitor, manage and support mental health.
- Early diagnostics (particularly cancer and mental health): Innovations that help in diagnosing disease early leading to early and cost-effective interventions.
- Urgent and emergency care: Innovations to prevent / reduce unscheduled care episodes, speed up ambulance care and discharge

Key Takeaways

- Gain actionable insights on the UK's health ecosystem and market
- Access to subject matter experts & networking
- Opportunity to engage directly with UK NHS stakeholders

Contact Us:

+91 8249471927 / +91 7377340477

Email: namrata@kiitincubator.in

tbi@kiitincubator.in / Chethan.GM@fcdo.gov.uk

kiitincubator.in

National Covid-19 Vaccination programme



The Economic Survey of India states that India's National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme is the world's largest vaccination programme. It began on 16 January 2021 and now covers all persons aged 12 years and above.

As on 6 January 2023, India has been able to administer more than 220 crore Covid vaccine doses across the country. 97 per cent of eligible beneficiaries have already received

at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine and around 90 per cent of eligible beneficiaries have received both the doses. Vaccination for the age group 12-14 years was started on 16

March 2022, followed by the precautionary dose for the age group 18-59 years starting from 10 April 2022. So far, more than **4.2 crore adolescents** have been administered the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and **22.4 crore precautionary doses** have been administered.

Under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, the Union Government focussed on scaling up expenditure on health infrastructure by (a) investing in grass root health institutions and ramping up HWCs in rural and urban areas; (b) setting up critical care hospital blocks in all districts; and (c) strengthening the laboratory network and surveillance by integrated public health laboratories in all districts and blocks and public health units to manage pandemics.

The administration of more than 220 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses was made possible because of the robust digital infrastructure of Co-WIN. With more than 84.7 crore Co-WIN beneficiaries seeded with Aadhaar among the total 104 crore (between January 2021 to September 2022).

Biocon Foundation bags 'IHW Gold Award for Diseases Screening Initiative of the Year'



ABLE Member, Biocon Foundation, the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of **Biocon Limited**, has been awarded the **Gold Award** in the '**Diseases Screening Initiative of the Year**' category for its '**Oral Cancer Screening Program**' by the **India Health and**

Wellness (IHW) Council at the annual IHW Summit & Awards event, held in Mumbai.

Biocon Foundation's Mission Director Dr Anupama Shetty received the award at the 8th edition of the IHW Summit & Awards, which was co-hosted by the Public Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Maharashtra and supported by NITI Aayog.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson, Biocon and Managing Trustee, Biocon Foundation, said, *"The IHW Council's 'Gold Award for Diseases Screening Initiative of the Year' is a great recognition of the impact Biocon Foundation has made in the early detection and management of oral cancer in the country through its cost-effective, innovative and technology-based screening program. Downstaging oral cancer through early detection is key to alleviate the burden of disease and oral cancer has been a major public health issue in India for several decades. The Foundation's efforts are leading to improved survival, decreased morbidity and low out-of-pocket expenditure for patients."*

USFDA issues a CRL for the Biologics License Application for Insulin-R



“The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a Complete Response Letter (CRL) for the Biologics License Application (BLA) for the Insulin-R product filed by Biocon Biologics. The CRL cites additional data required in the BLA submission and an expectation of a satisfactory implementation of a CAPA plan

pertaining to the Pre-Approval Inspection of our Bangalore facilities in Aug’22. The company is in the process of comprehensively addressing the CRL.”

Chat GPT3 predicts the year in biotech says Cytiva



Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers an opportunity to automate parts of jobs. Conor McKechnie, VP of Marketing and Strategy, Cytiva, observed, “One major trend we expect to see is an increased focus on precision medicine.

Precision medicine involves using

genomic data to tailor treatments to an individual's specific genetic makeup, rather than using a one-size-fits-all approach. This approach has the potential to significantly improve patient outcomes and reduce healthcare costs by targeting therapies to those who will most likely benefit from them. We expect to see more personalized cancer therapies and gene therapies that are tailored to specific genetic mutations, as well as an increased use of genomics in drug development.”

Another area of focus for the industry will be the development of new therapies for rare diseases. These diseases often have a small patient population and are therefore less attractive to pharmaceutical companies, which means that patients with rare diseases often have limited treatment options. However, advances in genomics and gene therapy have made it easier to identify and target the genetic causes of rare diseases, and we expect to see more therapies developed specifically for these conditions in the coming year.

“We also expect to see continued growth in the field of regenerative medicine, which involves using stem cells and other techniques to regenerate damaged tissue or organs. This field has already seen significant progress in recent years, with clinical trials underway for therapies that use stem cells to treat conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and spinal

cord injury. We expect to see more clinical trials and potentially even approved therapies in this area in the coming year.”

Dr. Reddy's successfully completes clinical studies of its rituximab biosimilar for filing in the U.S., Europe



ABLE Member, Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, announced that it has successfully completed the full set of clinical studies of its proposed rituximab biosimilar candidate, DRL_RI, for filing in highly regulated markets such as the United States, Europe and other regions.

DRL_RI is being developed as a biosimilar of rituximab, a cluster of differentiation 20 (CD20) directed cytolytic antibody for approval in the United States, European Union and other regions for various indications including treatment of adult patients with rheumatoid arthritis, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, pemphigus vulgaris, granulomatosis with polyangiitis and microscopic polyangiitis.

Dr. Reddy's rituximab biosimilar has already been approved for marketing in India and over 25 emerging markets. The company undertook further clinical development to meet regulatory requirements of highly regulated markets. With the successful completion of these clinical studies, Dr. Reddy's is now preparing to file Biologics License Application (BLA) / Marketing Authorisation Application (MAA) dossiers with various regulatory authorities globally.

Dr. Reddy's is currently collaborating with its partner Fresenius Kabi to commercialise its proposed biosimilar of rituximab in the US. The company intends to commercialize the product in Europe and other geographies directly.

ASSOCIATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY LED ENTERPRISES (ABLE)

Comments and
questions are welcome
and should be
addressed to:

Email
coo@ableindia.org.in

Website
www.ableindia.in

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

Address
No.123/C, 16th Main
Road 4th Block, 5th
Cross, Koramangala,
Bangalore-560 034,
India

Tel.:
+91-80-41636853



FOCUS AREAS



www.ableindia.in