



The e-newsletter for the Indian Biotech industry

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## India making waves @ BIO Boston 2023



Our biotech industry got a great opportunity to show case its strengths and capabilities in the sector to a global audience at the world's largest industry event, the BIO International Conference that opened in Boston in USA on June 5. More than 25 companies and organizations, states such as Karnataka, Kerala are part of the India Pavilion, set up yet again at this prestigious global event in the USA, by the Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) after a gap of three years, due to pandemic.

The India Pavilion got off to a grand start when Dr Rajesh S Gokhale, secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, officially inaugurated the India Pavilion on Monday, June 5. Dr Gokhale had the opportunity to interact with the Indian delegation and talked to all participants at length, when he visited their stalls.

More importantly, ABLE arranged interaction for the official delegation led by Dr Gokhale with the international audience at a lively session driven by ICBA, on how to improve Biological Manufacturing capabilities in all corners of the world. After the Covid pandemic that hit the world for more than two years from 2020, the world has realized why it is important to have reasonable manufacturing capacities of vaccines and other biotech therapeutics in as many countries as it is possible to improve access to these critical products to as many people as possible quickly to tackle similar situations like the pandemic.

The world got to know from our interactions that India produced more than 2.3 billion doses of covid vaccines in 2021, vaccinated more than 4 million people daily throughout the year, conducted 1.2 million covid tests every day. All these efforts helped to keep covid under control in India. And India exported more than 500 million doses of covid vaccines on priority to countries desperate for the vaccine.

I am happy to note that the India Pavilion of receiving large stream of visitors and participants are getting large number of serious business enquiries. In the four-day conference, we expect hundreds of business meetings to take place in the India Pavilion and other forums within the conference area.

ABLE also brought its annual India Biotechnology Handbook 2023 to give an overview of India's growing \$93 billion BioEconomy, details of key players, notes on India participants and activities at BIO Boston and other relevant details for a global audience. The India presence is strong with more than 150 participants in the conference and exhibition. Dr Gokhale released this publication.

The next edition of BIO will take place in San Diego, California, from June 3-6, 2024 and we at ABLE look forward to even greater participation from India's biotech ecosystem to make the world engage with our companies even more in the forthcoming years and placard Indian Biotech capabilities.

**G S Krishnan**  
**President, ABLE**

# DBT Secretary Dr Rajesh Gokhale inaugurates India Pavilion @ BIO Boston 2023

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*Panoramic view of the India Pavilion*

**As the 2023 edition of world's largest Biotech event, the BIO International Conference started at Boston, USA, India's biotech industry was in full strength to show case its capabilities to the world yet again.**

**The India Pavilion, set up by Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE), with support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and industry members was inaugurated by Dr Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, DBT and Chairman, BIRAC in the presence of the large Indian delegation at the exhibition center.**

**Dr Gokhale interacted with all companies participating in the event through the India Pavilion and spent a lot of time talking to all. Dr Gokhale was received at the India Pavilion by Mr G S Krishnan, President, ABLE; Dr P M Murali, President, ABLE Council of Presidents; Mr Narayanan Suresh, COO, ABLE and Dr S Balasubramanya, GM, ABLE.**

**Dr Gokhale was accompanied by his DBT colleagues, Dr Alka Sharma, Senior Director, DBT and MD, BIRAC; Dr Sanjay Mishra (DBT), Dr Dhananjay Tiwary, S&T Counsellor in India Embassy in Washington DC; Dr Manish Diwan, Head (Strategy), BIRAC and other colleagues.**

ABLE and its member companies have been participating in the convention since 2005. And since 2012, ABLE has been handling the India Pavilion with support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

The BIO International Conference is taking place at the Boston Convention Center from June 5-8, 2023. The next edition of this event will be held in San Diego from June 3-6, 2024.

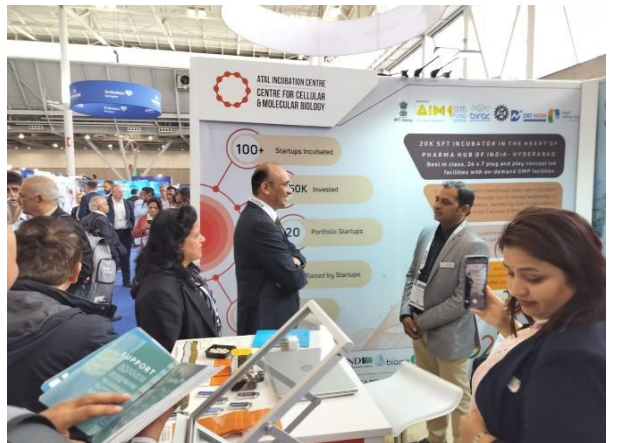
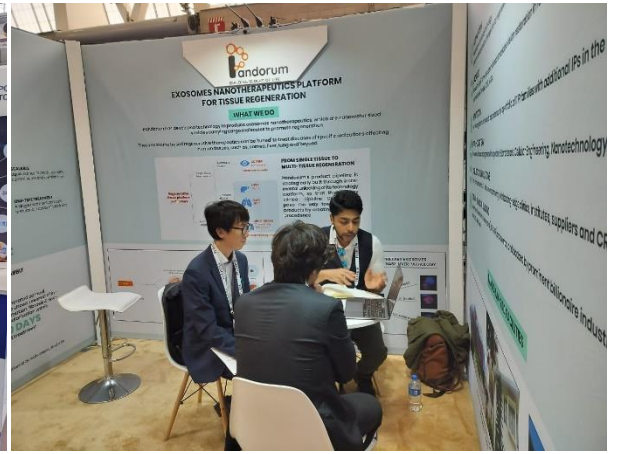
The India Pavilion this time is built with a total space of 1600 SQFT. A high-level Indian delegation comprising senior Government officers from the Centre and State, CEOs of leading Biotech companies, Academic Heads, and Startups, are participating.

The India Pavilion (Booth No. 3545) features Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society, (K-tech) Government of Karnataka, TICEL Bio Park Ltd. (TIDCO Centre for Life Sciences), Government of Tamil Nadu, KSIDC, Government of Kerala, Biocan Biologics, Pandorum Technologies, Vipragen Biosciences Pvt Ltd, Biological E. Limited, IKP Knowledge Park, DSK InnoSciences Atal Incubation Centre - CCMB, Rx Propellant, Clonz Biotech Pvt Ltd, Embio Limited, Euprime Consulting, Radiant Research Services Pvt Ltd, Satya Pharma Innovations Pvt Ltd, Skanda Life Sciences, Sparity Inc and Stempeutics Research Pvt Ltd as Exhibitors.

Standalone exhibition booths are set-up by Ami Polymer Pvt. Ltd. (Booth No. 1885) Aurigene Pharmaceutical Services Limited (Booth No. 3443) CBCC Global Research (Booth no. 2666) HiMedia Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. (Booth No. 3187) Kemwell Biopharma (Booth No. 595) Premas Biotech (Booth No. 2945) Stelis Biopharma (Booth No. 2676) & Syngene International Limited (Booth No. 265).

This apart 65+ Indian biotech /life sciences companies are seen participating Business Forum (One-on-One BioPartnering) or attending the convention.







# DBT Secretary releases India Biotech Handbook 2023



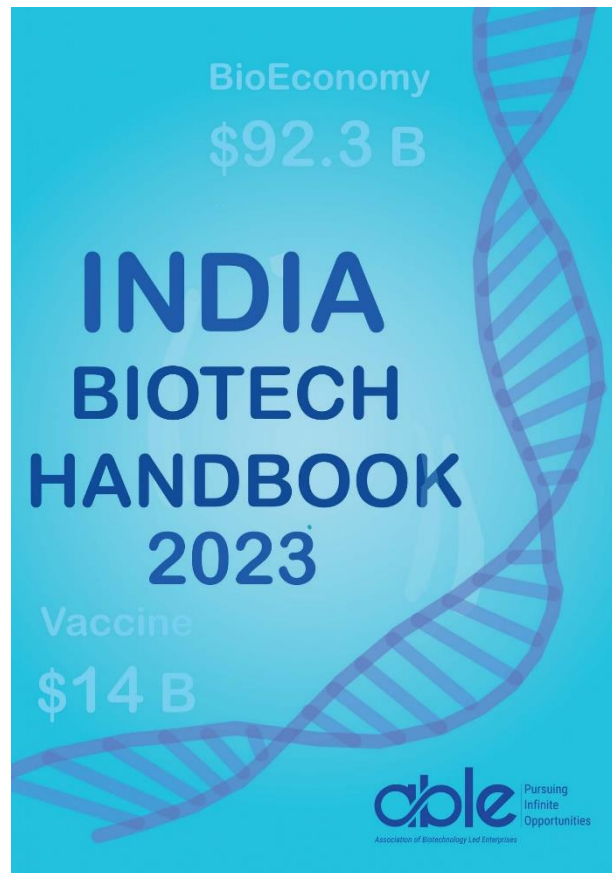
After inaugurating the India Pavilion @ BIO Boston Convention on June 5, Dr Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, DBT, released a special publication, **India Biotech Handbook 2023**, brought out for this event by ABLE (Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises). ABLE COO, Mr Narayanan Suresh, handed over copies of the Handbook to all on the occasion.

Releasing the publication, Dr Gokhale underlined the need to showcase India's biotech capabilities to the world in a concerted manner. The India Biotech Handbook, brought out by ABLE every year is an important step to let the world know about our biotech infrastructure and capabilities, he said.

"This special publication, India Biotech Handbook 2023 is an attempt to showcase the works of some of our country's top companies and institutions that have played a stellar role in providing a wide range of biotech solutions during the critical phase of Covid pandemic and at all other times," said Mr G S Krishnan, President, ABLE.

The Handbook gives an overview of India's \$93 billion BioEconomy, the key players and details of all Indian participation at BIO Boston.

The Handbook has been supported with sponsorship by Immuneel, Curadev, Skanda Life Sciences, Remfry & Sagar, Avidinvent, CSIR-CDRI, Gujarat Government (GSBTM), SOI Design and Crest, BIRAC and Bioneds.



**Get Your Copy of the India Biotech Handbook 2023: [Download Now!](#)**

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# Round Table session on 'Biomanufacturing for Health: Advancing Healthcare and Global Preparedness' @ BIO Boston

## India calls for sustainable biological manufacturing strategies at global meet

By Narayanan Suresh



India's top biotech policy maker, Dr Rajesh S Gokhale, secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) stressed the importance of global biological manufacturing networks moving to sustainable environmental mode and improve access to affordable products to all citizens.

Speaking at a special global Round Table on 'Biomanufacturing for Health: Advancing Healthcare and Global Preparedness', organized by Europa Bio as part of the International Council of Biotech Associations (ICBA), at the BIO Boston 2023 conference, Dr Gokhale, highlighted how India vaccinated more than 4 million people daily in 2021 with Covid vaccines made in the country and conducted 1.2 million covid test daily. Without our biomanufacturing capabilities, we would not have succeeded in tacking the pandemic he said.

Dr Claire Skentelbery, Director-General, Europa Bio chaired the Round Table session.

The Round Table offered a great opportunity to focus on biomanufacturing ambitions from different places around the world, finding common challenges and asks and including this in our work and collaborations.

Regulators from EU, UK, USA, and industry representatives from around the world participated in the discussion.

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## DBT Secretary meets CEOs from US at Lunch meeting organized by ABLE, Biocom California



*By Narayanan Suresh*

India's top biotech policy maker, Dr Rajesh S Gokhale, secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, met with a group of top dozen CEOs of biotech companies on June 5. The meeting was on occasion to show case India's biotech capabilities to them and facilitate more investments from the US to India.

The meeting was organized by Biocom California, leading biotech Association of California and ABLE (Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises), India. Dr Gunjan Bagla, founder, Amritt Inc, an ABLE member company and advisor to Biocom California, moderated the discussions along with his colleague, Mr Umesh Damle.

The participants from US included Mr Tim Scott, CEO, AustinPX and Chairman of Biocom California, Dr Joe Panetta, President and CEO, Biocom California, Mr Cliff Emmons, President, Accelerated Healthcare Innovations, Dr Jugnu Jain, CEO and Co-founder, Sapient Biosciences, Ms Alyssa Huffman, CEO and Founder, Allumin8, Mr Patrick Johnson,

President, Sydnexis, Dr Sajan Joseph, director, Novartis, Dr Veena Krishnappa, venture capitalist, Mr Srinu Palluri, VP, ThermoFisher Scientific, Dr Sesha Thakur, ThermoFisher Bio Innovations.

From India, besides Dr Gokhale, Dr Alka Sharma, senior advisor, DBT, Dr Sanjay Mishra, DBT, Dr Dhananjay Tiwari, S&T counsellor at Indian Embassy in Washington DC, Mr G S Krishnan, President, ABLE, Dr P M Murali, President, ABLE Council of Presidents and Mr Naryanan Suresh, COO, ABLE, participated.

In his opening remarks, Dr Panetta, explained how Biocom's engagement with India began two years ago when the organization decided to set up relationship with leading bioscience ecosystems in the world. India was identifying as one of the best to engage, along with Korea and Japan. A Biocom delegation visited India for 10 days in 2023 and ABLE had arranged very productive meeting with key biotech players in the country. He was emphatic that India's bioscience excellence in many areas will help increase collaboration with California's leading companies for mutual benefits.

Dr Gokhale highlighted India's biomanufacturing capabilities demonstrated during the Covid pandemic when the country delivered daily more than 4 million doses of covid vaccines, made in the country to all citizens. India also conducted over 1.2 million covid tests daily throughout 2021 using home-made kits. Indian companies were provided technology and knowhow to produce a range of antivirals and other therapeutics during the pandemic by top global companies to reach out to these markets.

He welcomed more engagements and investments into India from the USA and emphasized that the government regulatory processes are becoming faster and aligned to the global standards and US companies will have no difficulty in accessing the Indian markets.

Many participating CEOs talked about their many successful collaborations with Indian companies and some of them talked about some procedural issues that delay procurement and handling of various key materials into and out of India. And they requested Dr Gokhale to simplify some of these processes.

ABLE President Mr Krishnan, informed members about the great interest in California companies setting up their development and production units for smart proteins in India. Dr Murali highlighted the need for more Indian biotech startups to access growth capital and how they are flipping to the US to access funds here.

Participants agreed to engage with each other continuously over the next few years and deepen the relationship between companies and institutions.

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# ABLE as an Association Partner in the 3rd Edition of India Biopharma Leaders Conclave

30 - 31 May, Hyderabad



The 3rd Edition of India Biopharma Leaders Conference, one of the most highly anticipated events in the biopharmaceutical industry, took place on 30th & 31st May 2023 at the prestigious Novotel Convention Center Hyderabad. The conference brought together key stakeholders, industry leaders, researchers, policymakers, and experts from various domains to discuss and exchange insights on the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities in the biopharmaceutical sector.

Engaging panel discussions were held throughout the day, featuring experts from different sectors of the biopharmaceutical industry. These discussions delved into critical subjects such as personalized medicine, emerging technologies, regulatory challenges, market access, and the role of digital transformation in healthcare.

**Mr. Venkat Kamalakar Bundla, ABLE governing body member & Angel Investor and MD of Garphi Biosciences**, was one of the panelists for the panel discussion on "Innovations and Opportunities in the Biologics Market". He shared valuable insights, enriching the discussion. The discussion shed light on emerging trends in biologics, such as the use of gene and cell therapies, antibody-drug conjugates, and other novel therapeutics. The speakers also emphasized the current and future states of the international biologics market, and India's role within it. They also discussed the evolving regulatory landscape for biologics and determining pricing and access for biologics. The panelists also provided a comprehensive overview of the product portfolio, current pipeline, and an outlook for the next five years. The panelists acknowledged the complexities of globalizing biologics, emphasizing the need for collaboration and strategic partnerships. Overall, the event provided a comprehensive overview of the industry's advancements, opportunities, and hurdles.

# Bio Connect Kerala 2023 | Industrial Conclave on Life Sciences

25 May 2023



The Bioconnect Industrial Conclave, organized by KSIDC (Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation), Kerala Lifesciences Park, and the Kerala Government, was a three-day program aimed at promoting and strengthening the life science industry in Kerala. The event featured panel discussions, plenary talks, sessions by venture capital investors, and showcased ten selected startups. The Minister of Industry also attended the event and expressed the government's commitment to provide support to current and future programs.

**Mr Narayanan Suresh, COO, ABLE** was the moderator for the panel discussion on Strengthening the Life Science Industry in Kerala. **Dr. P. M. Murali, President, ABLE Council of Presidents** was also a part of the panel. The discussion featured experts from pharmaceuticals, medical devices, nutraceuticals, and biotech sectors, who highlighted the challenges and opportunities for bringing the life science industry to Kerala. They stressed the need for creating a supportive environment and infrastructure, including specialized parks, research centers, and manufacturing facilities. The government's role in developing policies and fostering collaboration was also emphasized to attract and nurture life science companies in the region.

A diverse range of panel discussions enriched the event, covering key areas of focus in the biotechnology industry. These included insightful sessions on "Genomics, Translational Research, and Industry-Academia Collaboration". The panel on "Attracting Investors" highlighted the perspective and criteria of investors when considering life science projects Kerala must showcase the potential, viability, and scalability of startups and create an investor-friendly ecosystem. Discussions on establishing an "Apex Body for Biotechnology" aimed to oversee the progress of biotechnology in the state, provide strategic guidance, and foster collaboration between various stakeholders. The "Bioeconomy Opportunities Study" panel delved commissioning a comprehensive study to understand the bioeconomy opportunities in the state that will help identify potential areas of growth, investment, and development. Additionally, panels on "Policy Creation and Promotion" and "Participation in Overseas and National Events" emphasized creating a clear and well-defined policy for the life science industry and selecting flagship overseas exhibitions and meetings relevant to the life science industry and having Kerala participate will help showcase the state's capabilities on a global platform.

## At 3, NEODX Biotech Labs Launches seven RT-PCR KITS for Infectious diseases to enable Healthcare services improve their testing capabilities

NeoDx Biotech Labs has come out with 7 Real-time PCR Based Kits for infectious diseases including Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV to ease the burden of testing by diagnostic centers and hospitals

**[Bengaluru, Karnataka]** – NeoDx Biotech Labs, a 3-year-old Bengaluru-based start-up incubated at Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre, has launched 7 Infectious Realtime-PCR Technology-based IVD Kits to empower Healthcare Services to Improve their Testing Capabilities.

The Seven Kits are designed to detect and quantify the presence of infectious agents for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV, and can help Diagnostic Centres and Hospitals ensure accurate and reliable results.

Real-time PCR tests can be expensive, and not all laboratories have the budget to perform these tests regularly. The sensitivity and Specificity of the kits are other problem areas that afflict diagnostic centers. In tests that deal with diseases of importance, like Hepatitis B and C, & HIV, Kit performance is non-negotiable. Sensitivity and Specificity become crucial in determining health outcomes.

The star product of this launch is **PathoPlex HIV, HBV & HCV Qualitative RT-PCR Detection Kit**, a multiplex single tube assay that detects Hepatitis Virus B and C and HIV 1/2 in a single tube and gives results in 90 minutes.


Developed under the Start-up India Seed Fund Scheme, *NeoDx has launched* PathoPlex HIV, HBV, and HCV Qualitative RT-PCR Detection Kit, a game-changer product that can help healthcare professionals test for individual and co-infections using one product, and treat patients with co-existing infections more effectively.

*“We recognize the urgent need for accurate and reliable testing in the fight against ending the Hepatitis and HIV Pandemic. We bring these infectious kits to the market to ensure that the Indian healthcare sector does not compromise on test quality and performance, while also benefitting the end user. NeoDx believes in providing high-quality products that are affordable, accessible, and delivers the best performance.”* said Dr. Kulkarni, CEO and Co-Founder, NeoDx Biotech Labs.

The kits have undergone rigorous testing and performance evaluation & are shown to be highly sensitive and specific, along with being compatible with most commercially available RT-PCR platforms. These kits come with all the necessary reagents and controls to perform the tests. NeoDx Biotech Labs also provides technical support and training to ensure that healthcare services can effectively use the kits.

NeoDx Biotech Labs is committed to improving global health by developing innovative biotechnology solutions. With the launch of these seven new RT-PCR kits, the company hopes to continue contributing to the fight against Hepatitis and HIV/AIDS, this will aid in achieving the national aim to eliminate hepatitis by 2030 and support healthcare services in their efforts to provide accurate and reliable testing.


To learn more, go to [www.neodx.in](http://www.neodx.in)



## PathoPlex RT-PCR

HIV, HBV & HCV Qualitative Detection Kit

For Specific Detection of HIV, HBV and HCV in a single tube, multiplex format & detection of Co-infection of HIV, HBV & HCV.






### FEATURES:

- Kit Format:** Multiplex, single-tube: Multiple detections in a single reaction
- Chemistry:** TaqMan probe-based.
- MasterMix:** Increased Inhibitor Tolerance, Enhanced Thermostability, Efficient PCR Amplification, and supports reverse transcription.
- Internal Control:** RnaseP
- PCR Run Time:** 90 minutes.
- Sample Compatability:** Whole Human blood, Serum, & Plasma
- RT-PCR Instrumentation:** Open platform kit compatible with 4 channels and above Instruments

### ORDER INFORMATION

Cat No	Product Name	RxN
NDXIVD010	PathoPlex HIV, HBV & HCV Qualitative RT-PCR Detection kit	100

**WHO International Standard**

- 4th WHO International Standard for HBV DNA for NAT (NIBSC code: 10/266)
- 6th WHO International Standard for Hepatitis C virus RNA (NIBSC code: 18/184)
- 4th WHO International Standard for HIV-1 RNA (NIBSC code: 16/194)
- 2nd WHO International Standard for HIV-2 RNA for Nucleic Acid Amplification Techniques (NIBSC code: 16/296)

**LoD /Analytical sensitivity**

- HIV- 20 IU/mL, 34.8 Copies/mL
- HBV- 32 IU/mL, 179.2 Copies/mL
- HCV- 85 IU/mL, 374 Copies/mL

Target Genotypes	Target Genes	Detection Channels
HIV: 1 & 2	gag protein	Cy5
HBV (A-J)	Spike Protein	FAM
HCV (1-8)	Poly Protein	HEX

**Developed & Manufactured By:**  
**NeoDx Biotech Labs Pvt Ltd.**  
 SR4, 4th floor, Pragathi Plaza, opp. Blocon, Hebbagodi, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560100

Call for more info

1800 270 9020

## FOCUS AREAS



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