



The e-newsletter for the Indian Biotech industry

www.ableindia.in

July 2025 | Issue 0021

ABLE Governing Body Members

Hon. Non-executive Chairperson
Dr. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Hon. President
Mr. G S Krishnan

Hon. Vice President
Ms. Deepanwita Chattopadhyay

Hon. General Secretary
Dr. Ezhil Subbian

Treasurer
Mr. Ravi Bhola

Governing Body members

Dr. Ashvini Shete

Dr. B N Manohar

Dr. Jayashree Aiyar

Mr. Krishna Kalyan T. D.

Mr. Sanjeev B Neelappa

Dr. S. Shriram

Ms. Sowmya L Balendiran

Dr. Vasan Sambandamurthy

Mr. Venkat K Bundla

COO
Mr. Narayanan Suresh

India's Biotech Momentum Grows Stronger



Dear Members and Friends of the Indian Biotech Ecosystem,

It gives me immense pleasure to reflect on the landmark participation of India at the **BIO International Convention 2025**, held in Boston, MA, USA. The **India Pavilion**, led by ABLE in partnership with **BIRAC, State Governments**, and a wide range of biotech stakeholders, drew global attention and appreciation. We were honoured to be joined at the inaugural by **Dr. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Dr. Jitendra Kumar**, and senior government officials, reinforcing India's growing stature as a global innovation hub.

A series of high-impact engagements accompanied the Pavilion this year-

- A **fireside chat** with top leadership highlighted India's strengths in synthetic biology, medtech, and biomanufacturing
- A **delegation visit to Manus**, a cutting-edge biofoundry, demonstrated India's interest in next-generation industrial biotech
- An **interaction session at Harvard Medical School** with Indian student innovators and diaspora entrepreneurs emphasized talent-driven collaboration across borders.
- **Startups delegation** on exposure visit to Boston & New Jersey with BIO 2025 as a centre point.

In recognition of the Pavilion's success and increasing interest from States and industry alike, I'm delighted to announce that **ABLE will have larger India Pavilion at BIO 2026 in San Diego**. The expanded space will offer exhibitors enhanced facilities such as dedicated zones for **private B2B meetings, and fireside discussions, Stronger country branding** with unified national storytelling, Seamless support for **startups, MSMEs, and first-time global participants**.

The Pavilion continues to be hosted on a **not-for-profit basis**, focused on amplifying India's voice on the world stage and enabling cross-border collaboration in research, regulation, and market access. As ABLE prepares to take India's presence even further in 2026, I invite more stakeholders—government bodies, academic institutions, startups, and industry leaders—to join hands in showcasing India's global biotech leadership.

On a special note, we extend our **heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Pankaj Patel**, Chairman of Zydus Lifesciences, on being conferred the **Padma Bhushan**—a recognition richly deserved for his decadeslong contribution to India's pharma and biotech industries.

We are also pleased to announce that we are discussing with the organisers of **SynBioBeta** for having a similar **INDIA Pavilion** to support our Bio Industrial companies participation. We are also exploring the **few BioPharma events in Germany** in October.

Let us continue to work together to build a stronger, sustainable, and inclusive bioeconomy.

G S Krishnan
Hon. President, ABLE

IN THIS ISSUE

- India Pavilion at BIO International Convention 2025
- Inauguration of the India Pavilion
- Release of the India Biotech Handbook 2025
- Fireside chat at the India Pavilion
- Networking reception organized by Government of Karnataka and ABLE
- Visit to Biofoundry-Manus
- Interaction Meeting at Harvard Medical School
- BIRAC presentation at Global Innovation Hub
- Whale Tank Biocatalyst Fund's invests into Utopia Therapeutics
- Vinayaka Missions Research Foundation (VMRF) at BIO 2025 – Strategic Partnership Strengthened with CancerFree, Japan

India Pavilion at BIO International Convention 2025

June 16-19 | Boston, MA, USA

ABLE was proud to lead the **India Pavilion** at **BIO International Convention 2025**, held in **Boston, MA, USA** from **June 16–19**. This year, the India Pavilion featured **30+ exhibitors**, including top Indian biotech companies, leading incubators, academic institutions and government agencies. A strong delegation of over **80+ members** represented India's growing biotech ecosystem on this global platform.

Spanning **1,600 sq. ft.** across **Booth Nos. 973 & 1065**, the India Pavilion was officially **inaugurated on June 16**, followed by the release of the **India Biotech Handbook 2025**. Throughout the convention, the pavilion hosted expert talks, fireside chats and networking sessions to foster global collaboration, innovation and knowledge sharing. The Indian delegation will also engaged in site visits to leading biotech organizations in Boston. In parallel, a startup delegation curated in partnership with **Carve Startups** also travelled to **New Jersey** and **Canada** to explore cross-border innovation and investment opportunities.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the exhibitors and delegates who participated in the India Pavilion: Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Government of Karnataka, Government of Kerala, Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (KSIIDC), Invest Kerala, Kerala Life Sciences Industries Park, Bio 360 Life Sciences Park, TICEL Bio Park, Guidance Tamil Nadu, Biocon Biologics, Azooka Labs, Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC), Bioagile Therapeutics, Biological E, Clinixel, CuraTeQ Biologics, CyGenica, ICBio Clinical Research, IKP Knowledge Park, Indian Immunologicals, Khurana & Khurana, Pharmaffiliates, PopVax, Prescience Insilico, Provis Biolabs, Shilpa Biologicals, SRM Institute of Science & Technology (SRMIST), SynSmart, Whale Tank Biocatalyst, Vinayaka Mission's University, Vipragen Biosciences and Yashraj Biotechnology.



IN THIS ISSUE

- International Roundtable on Biotech Supply Chain Resilience
- India Delegation to USA and Canada
- Survey for preparing a Compendium of Biotechnology & Lifesciences Companies and R&D Centres in Gujarat
- Applications Open for 'voice for BT' & BEST 2025
- Zydus Chairman Pankaj Patel honoured with Padma Bhushan
- Biocon Biologics secures multiple market access agreements in US for Yesintek
- Avammune Therapeutics Raises INR 100 Crore in Series A



Inauguration of the India Pavilion

The Pavilion was formally inaugurated on June 16th, in the presence of key dignitaries from India's innovation and biotech ecosystem **Sri. Sharath Kumar Bachegowda**, Chairman, KEONICS & Hon'ble MLA, Karnataka; **Dr. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, Hon. Non-Executive Chairperson, ABLE; Executive Chairperson & Founder, Biocon & Biocon Biologics; **Dr. Jitendra Kumar**, Managing Director, BIRAC; **Dr. Ekroop Caur, IAS**, Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT, BT, and S&T, Government of Karnataka; **Dr. P M Murali**, President – Council of Presidents, ABLE; Chairman, Golden Jubilee Biotech Park; CMD, Jananom Pvt. Ltd. and **Mr. G S Krishnan**, Hon. President, ABLE.



Release of the India Biotech Handbook 2025

The inauguration also featured the release of the India Biotech Handbook 2025, a comprehensive guide that highlights India's biotech landscape, sectoral growth, emerging startups, global partnerships, and investment opportunities.

The Soft copy is available here: <https://bit.ly/3GgsQKM>



Fireside Chat at the India Pavilion

A Fireside Chat followed the inaugural ceremony, featured an engaging discussion on India's position in the global biotech arena. The session highlighted innovation-led development, policy support, and international partnerships. The panel included **Sri. Sharath Kumar Bachegowda**, Chairman, KEONICS & Hon'ble MLA, Karnataka; **Dr. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, Hon. Non-Executive Chairperson, ABLE; Executive Chairperson & Founder, Biocon & Biocon Biologics; **Dr. Jitendra Kumar**, Managing Director, BIRAC; **Dr. Ekroop Caur, IAS**, Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT, BT, and S&T, Government of Karnataka.



Networking Reception

As part of India's strategic engagement at **BIO International Convention 2025**, the **Government of Karnataka** and **ABLE** jointly hosted a high-impact **Networking Reception** on **June 16** at Hyatt Place Boston Seaport District, Boston. The event aimed to strengthen global partnerships, highlight Karnataka's biotech and innovation ecosystem and attract cross-border collaborations witnessing participation from industry leaders across the United States.

Dr. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, in her address, emphasized Karnataka's position as a global biotech and technology hub. She noted "With over 2.5 million software engineers and nearly

1 million professionals in biology and life sciences, a total of 4 million+ skilled minds are powering innovation in a city of 14 million". This concentration of talent has made Karnataka one of the world's top technology and biotech hubs. The state is seeing rapid growth in next-generation biotech Cell & gene therapies, Synthetic biology, Rare disease research and Integrated drug discovery models.

On behalf on Government of Karnataka, **Shri. Rahul Sharanappa Sankanur, IAS**, Director, Dept. of E, IT and Bt, GoK and Managing Director, Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society, GoK highlighted Karnataka's leadership in India's biotech and tech-driven economy. He emphasized that Karnataka contributes nearly one-third of India's biopharma investments and exports, and is home to 60% of India's biotech companies. Bengaluru, with over 18,000 AI startups and 40% of India's unicorns, stands as the AI and innovation capital of the country. The state boasts world-class R&D institutions, a strong startup ecosystem, and a robust education and skilling infrastructure with over 230 engineering colleges and 1,700 ITIs. Karnataka's Global Innovation Alliance has facilitated international collaborations impacting over 500 startups. Dr. Rahul also noted the government's flagship initiatives such as DIPUNA skilling, Kipin venture funding, and the BT policy, which offers comprehensive incentives across CapEx and OpEx. He invited global partners to collaborate in areas like biofuels, AI, medtech, and biomanufacturing to further strengthen Karnataka's position as a global biotech hub.

The event fostered a valuable platform for international biotech leaders to understand emerging opportunities in Karnataka's bioeconomy, explore investment and partnership avenues and build strategic linkages with Indian startups, incubators, and research institutions.



Visit to a Biofoundry - Manus

The India delegation, including BIRAC, visited Manus, a synthetic biology company based in Waltham, Massachusetts. Known for its fermentation-based platform, Manus focuses on sustainable, nature-derived products. The delegation was welcomed by Dr. Ajikumar Parayil, CEO and Dr. Joe Shaw, SVP of R&D of Manus. They shared insights on leveraging biotech platforms for scaling and commercialization of bio-based products. The visit included a tour of their Boston BioFacility, a hub for research in cell factory engineering and bio-based innovation.



Interaction Meeting at Harvard Medical School

On June 17, ABLE co-hosted an Interaction Meeting with **Nucleate** and the **GSAS Harvard Biotech Club** at **Harvard Medical School, Boston**. The session provided a platform for dialogue between Indian biotech leadership and the Indian student diaspora in the U.S. The featured speakers were **Mr. G S Krishnan**, Hon. President, ABLE; **Dr. Jitendra Kumar**, Managing Director, BIRAC; **Dr. P M Murali**, President – Council of Presidents, ABLE and **Dr. Sridevi Khambhampaty**, CEO, Shilpa Biologicals Pvt. Ltd. The interaction sparked engaging conversations on global biotech trends, collaboration, and innovation-driven entrepreneurship.



BIRAC presentation at Global Innovation Hub

On June 17, **Dr. Jitendra Kumar, Managing Director of BIRAC**, delivered a presentation titled **"India: The Global Destination for Biomanufacturing and Bioinnovation"** at the Global Innovation Hub. The session showcased India's strengths in biotech manufacturing, policy support, and BIRAC's role in fostering a globally competitive bioeconomy.



Whale Tank Biocatalyst Fund's invests into Utopia Therapeutics

Utopia Therapeutics has secured **\$1.5 million** in seed funding from **Whale Tank Biocatalyst Fund**, a leading early-stage venture firm dedicated to breakthrough life science innovations. This investment marks a major milestone in our mission to transform metabolic health. The funding will accelerate the preclinical development of UT009 - a flagship one-shot vaccine candidate for obesity and fatty liver and propel it toward safety studies, regulatory approvals, and Phase I human trials. This achievement was proudly announced in the India Pavilion at BIO International Convention 2025 in the gracious presence of Dr. Jitendra Kumar, MD, BIRAC and with the support of other key leaders from India's vibrant biotech ecosystem.



Vinayaka Missions Research Foundation (VMRF) at BIO 2025 - Strategic Partnership Strengthened with CancerFree, Japan



Vinayaka Missions Research Foundation (VMRF) signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with **CancerFree**, a pioneering oncology-focused company from Japan marking a significant step toward a long-term and impactful partnership in the India Pavilion at BIO Boston

2025. VMRF is recognized as one of India's premier research institutions, with a strong interdisciplinary focus and a growing global footprint. As part of their commitment to fostering international research and academic collaborations, the management team from CancerFree will be visiting the Puducherry campus during the first week of August 2025. This visit will serve as a platform to explore partnership opportunities, align strategic goals, and build momentum for future joint initiatives.

International Roundtable on Biotech Supply Chain Resilience

At a high-level **International Roundtable on Biotech Supply Chain Resilience** at BIO International Convention 2025, **Narayanan Suresh, Chief Operating Officer of ABLE**, emphasized a critical need for global cooperation in ensuring uninterrupted biotech production worldwide.

He proposed the establishment of a global agreement to exempt any legal or administrative barriers restricting the free movement of biotech and pharmaceutical ingredients between biomanufacturing sites across borders.

As the biotech industry continues to expand and evolve globally, such frameworks are essential to prevent disruptions, accelerate innovation and strengthen collective preparedness for future healthcare challenges.

India Delegation to USA and Canada

As part of a strategic international engagement, **ABLE** in collaboration with **Carve Startup Labs**, successfully led an Indian Delegation to **Boston & New Jersey in USA** and **New Brunswick in Canada**. The program spotlighted India's health innovation ecosystem while building key cross-border relationships and market access opportunities.

Highlights from the Delegation Program

1. Boston & Massachusetts

- **BIO International Convention 2025**: A strong Indian presence at the India Pavilion.
- **New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) Pavilion visit at BIO**: A strategic discussion on NYC's integrated approach to fostering global life sciences innovation through real estate, capital, and institutional support.
- **Harvard University**: Insightful visit to Harvard Innovation Labs and Pagliuca Harvard Life Lab (PHLL) — showcasing how science meets entrepreneurship.
- **Portal Innovations**: Delegates explored venture creation, lab infrastructure and scale-up support for biotech startups.
- **Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives (MBI), Worcester**: Showcased flexible lab infrastructure and startup-focused support services.
- **ABI-LAB**: An immersive experience in a dynamic biotech incubator offering lab, office space, and collaborative resources for scaling ventures.
- Delegates also engaged with officials from the **Life Sciences & Innovation Department, City of Philadelphia** at BIO, to discuss on soft-landing opportunities and city-level partnerships in the U.S. life sciences sector.





2. New Jersey

- **New Jersey Bioscience Center (NJEDA):** Delegates toured a 50-acre biotech campus and learned about HELIX, NJ's future innovation hub.
- **Institute for Life Science Entrepreneurship (ILSE):** Highlighted a university-anchored venture-building model, including a visit to Kean University.



3. Canada – New Brunswick

- **University of New Brunswick:** Academic-industry research collaboration
- **NBCC (New Brunswick Community College):** Innovation through applied research
- **RPC (Research & Productivity Council):** Provincial-level R&D infrastructure
- **Planet Hatch:** Science & tech startup accelerator
- **Venn Innovation:** Startup incubation and business validation
- **Université de Moncton – Precision Medicine Centre:** Advancing patient-specific therapies



Survey for preparing a Compendium of Biotechnology & Lifesciences Companies and R&D Centres in Gujarat



Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM), Government of Gujarat, has assigned ABLE the task of preparing the Annual Gujarat BioEconomy Report and a Compendium of Biotechnology & Lifesciences Companies and R&D Centres in Gujarat. This compendium aims to capture the impact of biotechnology on Gujarat's economy and provide a comprehensive listing of biotech companies operating in the state.



As part of this initiative, we are conducting a Survey to gather comprehensive information on Biotechnology & Lifesciences companies and R&D centres in Gujarat to develop a compendium that maps the sector's growth, capabilities, and contributions. Your responses will help facilitate networking, investment opportunities, and robust policy development. Please click on the link given below and kindly participate in the survey.



Survey Link: <https://ableindia.in/survey>

We sincerely appreciate your time and inputs in shaping this significant industry resource.

Applications Open for 'voice for BT' & BEST 2025

ABLE is pleased to announce two prestigious national contests for college students in 2025 — 'voice for BT' and the 'BEST' (Biotechnology Entrepreneurship Student Teams) Program. These competitions are designed to showcase your talent, knowledge and entrepreneurial spirit in the field of biotechnology.

 **Voice for BT** – India's only public-speaking contest on biotechnology for college students.
 Learn more & apply: www.ableindia.in/voicebt

 **BEST Program** – A platform to present innovative biotech-based business ideas and get mentored by industry leaders.
 Learn more & apply: www.ableindia.in/best

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to shine and build your future in biotech!



ABLE is excited to announce 'voice for BT' & BEST program for college students



'voice for BT', an Inter-Collegiate Public Speaking Competition, is currently India's only public-speaking contest on biotechnology for college students. This event is conducted for Undergraduate Final Year B. Tech/ BE- Biotechnology, Food technology and Chemical engineering students or First Year Post graduate students. The contest is held in all the four zones in India where colleges can nominate ONE of student to represent their institution and participate in the 'voice for BT' 2025 contest.

Visit the website for more details www.ableindia.in/voicebt/

APPLY TODAY

Biotechnology Entrepreneurship Student Teams - BEST program is to encourage young graduate, post-graduate and doctoral students in developing their entrepreneurial skills by exposing them to issues involved in commercialization of biosciences and bringing out an idea to present in front of an eminent jury. Form a Team of 3 & Shape your bright innovative business ideas into a Concept Note and send it to us.



Visit the website for more details www.ableindia.in/best/

REGIONAL ACADEMIC PARTNERS



KALINGA INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY (KIIT)



D Y PATIL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY & BIOINFORMATICS

MEMBER COLUMN

Zydus Chairman Pankaj Patel honoured with Padma Bhushan



Ahmedabad-based drug maker Zydus Lifesciences chairman Pankaj Patel has been honoured with Padma Bhushan, country's third highest civilian award for his contributions towards trade and industry.

Zydus was founded in the year 1952 by Ramanbhai B. Patel and under the leadership of his son Pankaj Patel the company undertook a restructuring exercise

in 1995 that helped the company to leapfrog its ₹250 crore annual turnover in 1995 to over ₹19,500 crores in FY- 24.

The drug maker is a listed entity in the capital market with a market cap of around ₹89,900 crore. Globally, the group has a strong presence in the regulated markets of the US, Europe (France & Spain) and drives a major chunk of its annual revenue from these markets. Besides pharmaceuticals, the company has also expanded its presence across several other healthcare business sectors including medical devices.

Source: ET Pharma

Biocon Biologics secures multiple market access agreements in US for Yesintek

Biocon Biologics Ltd has secured multiple market access agreements in the US for its biosimilar, Yesintek, that has been approved for the treatment of Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, plaque psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Yesintek (ustekinumab-kfce), is biosimilar to Stelara (ustekinumab).

"The market access agreements from numerous plans represent over 100 million lives in the United States," Biocon said in a regulatory filing. "Yesintek represents an important milestone for Biocon Biologics, as this is the first product we have launched in the United States as a fully integrated biosimilars company," Biocon Biologics CEO & Managing Director Shreehas Tambe said. He further said, "the strong adoption of Yesintek... in the US reflects their confidence in our science, supply reliability, and commercial capability. The listing of Yesintek on multiple formularies is another validation that payors in the US are committed to broaden access to affordable treatment options." Biocon Biologics said Express Scripts has added Yesintek to the National Preferred Formulary (NPF) effective March 21, 2025, while Cigna has added the biosimilar to its commercial formulary beginning on March 21, 2025.

Similarly, UnitedHealthcare has added Yesintek to several formularies, including commercial beginning May 1, 2025; managed Medicaid beginning March 1, 2025; and Medicare beginning June 1, 2025. CVS Health and Optum Rx have added Yesintek to their premium

and select formularies beginning July 1, 2025. The company further said Yesintek has also been selected on several other formularies, including Navitus, Costco Health Solutions, MedImpact, Priority Health, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), and several other regional health plans. Additionally, it has been selected as the exclusive Ustekinumab by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM), Florida Healthcare Plan, and several closed-door health systems, it added. "The company is also finalising formulary agreements with other commercial carriers," it added.

Yesintek is approved for the treatment of Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, plaque psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, increasing patient access to more cost-effective treatment options for use in the treatment of common chronic autoimmune diseases, Biocon Biologics said. It is available in all the same formulations currently provided by STELERA in presentations of 45 mg/0.5 mL PFS, 90 mg/mL PFS (prefilled syringe), 45 mg/0.5 mL vial, and 130 mg/26 mL vial, it added.

Source: Economic Times

Avammune Therapeutics Raises INR 100 Crore in Series A

Avammune Therapeutics, a bengaluru-based healthtech startup, has raised INR 100 crore (\$12 million) in a Series A funding round co-led by Capital 2B, Shastra VC, and Kotak Alternate Asset Managers' Life Sciences Fund I. The round also saw participation from IvyCap Ventures, 1Crowd, and other investors, underscoring growing interest in Indian biopharma innovation.

Founded in 2020 by Arun B Papaiah, Srinivasan Namala, and Aditya Kulkarni, Avammune focuses on developing small molecule medicines that modulate the immune system to treat cancer and autoimmune disorders. The new capital will be used to strengthen the company's intellectual property portfolio and support both the clinical development of its lead drug candidate, AVA-NP-695, and the preclinical pipeline of other molecules.

"This funding validates our extensive preclinical datasets and empowers us to accelerate the development of our lead program into the clinic for addressing critical unmet needs in oncology," said Papaiah, co-founder of Avammune.

AVA-NP-695 is an ENPP1 inhibitor that has shown promising anti-tumor results in preclinical studies across multiple cancer types, including osteosarcoma, Ewing's sarcoma, and breast cancer. Highlighting its potential, chief scientific officer, Aditya Kulkarni noted, "The best-in-class profile of AVA-NP-695 combined with its strong antitumor activity in veterinary cancers in 'compassionate use' settings demonstrates a differentiated dataset in the field."

For example, companies like Boltzmann and immunitoAI are leveraging artificial intelligence to accelerate molecule screening and target identification. Global players are also taking notice. Danish pharma major Novo Nordisk, maker of the weight-loss drug Wegovy, partnered last year with 10 Indian AI startups to streamline various processes, from document summarisation to data analysis.

The momentum is evident across the ecosystem. In another key development, biotech firm Ahammune Biosciences raised INR 41 crore (\$5 million) in a Series A round last year to fund phase II clinical trials for its vitiligo treatment candidate.

The country recently introduced its first indigenous macrolide antibiotic, Nafithromycin, a sign of its maturing R&D capabilities. Simultaneously, healthtech and biotech startups are pushing innovation, especially in AI-led drug discovery and development. Avammune's raise adds to the growing list of Indian biotech firms pushing the frontier of drug discovery, with global ambitions and increasingly validated science.

Source: www.entrepreneur.com

**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