From the Desk of President





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Let us celebrate ABLE@20 from November 16 onwards



It is a great pleasure to inform all our esteemed members that ABLE has completed 19 years of service to the Biotech community and we are all gearing up to celebrate the 20th Anniversary in March 2023. In a small way, the celebrations of ABLE@20 will begin on 16th November 2022 at 3.30 pm at Hotel Shangri La, Bangalore. More celebrations are planned in Pune, Hyderabad, Bhubaneshwar and the National Capital Region during Jan – March 2023.

While we will trace the journey of 19+ years of ABLE, the occasion on 16th November in Bangalore is mainly to plan for the next 20+ years and in a crisp 90-minute session, together will plan for the future. Please mark the date and time in your

calendar and more details will follow in the next few days. I would like to extend my invitation to all of you to participate and very much looking forward to having you all with us on this happy occasion.

ABLE has now spread its wings to the Eastern India. On October 21, at a simple ceremony in the presence of biotech students and industry, we have **launched the Eastern and North-eastern Regional Chapter of the Association at KIIT University, Bhubaneshwar**. This regional Chapter will seek to bring together the entire biotech ecosystem in the eastern and North-eastern parts of our country, link to their counterparts in other regions and ensure a smooth exchange of expertise and ideas and catalyse the growth of the biotech landscape.

It has been a hectic two months for Team ABLE we criss-crossed the country to conduct the four zonal rounds of the country's most popular public-speaking contest, the 'voice for BT' for students. This is the 10th edition of the event, thanks to our sponsor Novozymes for their continued support. We very much appreciate our knowledge partner institutions, Amity University (NOIDA, UP), DY Patil University (Mumbai), KIIT University (Bhubaneshwar) and Sastra University (Thanjavur, TN). Nearly 100 highly talented speakers from all the four regions enthralled the audience, put forward some innovative ideas to use biotech to tackle critical challenges facing the country. Now the Grand National Finale will take place in VIT University, Vellore in Tamil Nadu on November 2. Top 8 students' speakers will compete for the No 1 and No.2 all India biotech speaker prizes. I would request the member companies to come forward and generously contribute to encourage biotech talent in the future editions of the competition.

G S Krishnan President, ABLE

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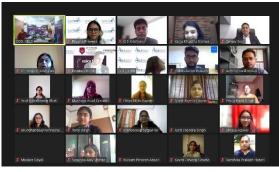
'voice for BT' National Finale at Vellore Institute of Technology on 2nd November, 2022











'voice for BT' Contest_is organized by ABLE with support from our Patron Gold member company, Novozymes South Asia. 'voice for BT', an Inter-Collegiate Public Speaking Competition, is currently India's only public-speaking contest on biotechnology for college students. The event is conducted for Biotechnology students from all the four regions in India to provide a platform for them to exhibit their knowledge and understanding of various aspects of biotechnology.

The four academic regional partners were Amity University for the North zone, Sastra University for the South zone, KIIT University for the East zone and DY Patil University for the West zone. The zonal rounds started off with the West zone on 23rd September via zoom platform online. On 30th September, the South zonal round was conducted at Sastra University in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu followed by the North zonal round on 14th October at

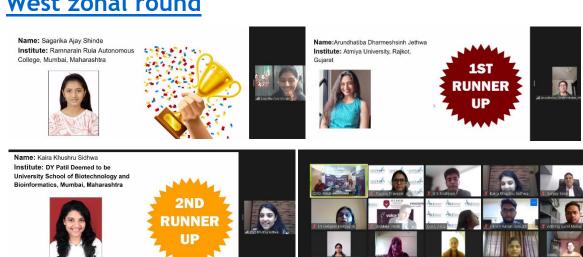
Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh and the East zonal round on 21st October at KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

All participants received participation certificates. The first, second and third positions were awarded with a cash prize of 20,000 INR, 15,000 INR and 10,000 INR respectively. They were also offered internship at major biotech companies

We are glad to announce the National Finale of the 10th edition of 'voice for BT' contest with the Winner and the 1st runner up of all the zones to compete in the final round for the All-India Winners position on 2nd November in Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

Eminent scientists/ academicians/ Industry leaders were a part of the jury to select the winners. The event is conducted at all the four regions in India.

West zonal round



The west zonal round was conducted online via zoom platform on 23rd September, 2022. More than 20 biotechnology students participated in the contest. DY Patil University was the regional academic coordinator for conducting the west zonal round. Sagarika Ajay Shinde from Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, Mumbai, Maharashtra was the winner of the west zone 'voice for Bt' 2022 followed by the 1st runner up Arundhatiba Dharmeshsinh Jethwa from Atmiya University, Rajkot, Gujarat and the 2nd runner up Kaira Khushru Sidhwa from DY Patil Deemed to be University School of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, Mumbai, Maharashtra. It was a tough competition.

Mr G S Krishnan, President, ABLE, Mr Narayanan Suresh, COO, ABLE and Dr Balasubramanya S, General Manager, ABLE were the Jury for the contest. Dr Debjani Dasgupta, Head of Department of Biotechnology, DY Patil University was the chief guest for the event.

South zonal round













Sastra Deemed University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu was the host institution to conduct the south zonal round on 30th September, 2022. More than 25 biotechnology students participated in the contest. **Srijita Paul from Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore, Tamil Nadu** was the winner of the south zone 'voice for Bt' 2022 followed by the 1st runner up **Apoorvha JP, Rajalakshmi Engineering College, Thandalam, tamil Nadu** and the 2nd runner up was **Nimsha Kamala NS from M S Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, Karnataka.**

Mr G S Krishnan, President, ABLE, Mr Narayanan Suresh, COO, ABLE and Dr Balasubramanya S, General Manager, ABLE were the Jury for the contest. Dr Badrinath V, Dean of Sastra Deemed University was the Guest of honor for the event.

North zonal round



















Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh was the host institution to conduct the north zonal round on 14th October, 2022. More than 15 biotechnology students participated in the contest. **Devanshika Jha, Gautam Buddha University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh** was the winner of the south zone 'voice for Bt' 2022 followed by the 1st runner up Yashi, **School of Biotechnology, SKUAST-**

Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir and the 2nd runner up Akriti Bagchi, Amity University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Mr G S Krishnan, President, ABLE, Mr Narayanan Suresh, COO, ABLE and Mr Priyangshu Dutta, Head of Public Affairs and Relations- India, Novozymes were the Jury for the contest. Prof. (Dr). Balvinder Shukla, Vice Chancellor, Amity University Uttar Pradesh was the Chief Guest for the event.

East zonal round











KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha was the host institution to conduct the east zonal round on 21st October, 2022. More than 15 biotechnology students participated in the contest. Sucheta Sarangi, KIIT School of Biotechnology, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha was the winner of the south zone 'voice for Bt' 2022 followed by the 1st runner up Dyuti Mitra, National Institute of Technology, Durgapur, West

Bengal and the 2nd runner up R. Divya, Ramadevi Women's University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Mr G S Krishnan, President, ABLE, Mr Narayanan Suresh, COO, ABLE and Dr P M Murali, Cofounder & Chairman, Jananom Pvt Ltd were the Jury for the contest. Dr Mrutyunjay Suar, Professor & Director General, KIIT University was the Chief Guest for the event.

ABLE Regional Cluster News

How Pune's innovation cluster led India's fight against COVID19

- Interviewed and written by N. Ramakrishnan

When the Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE), an industry body of the biotechnology industry, decided to open its first regional chapter, it was the Western region that it chose. It was fitting that the chapter should be located in Pune and even more appropriate that Venture Center, a deep technology incubator, plays host to the western regional chapter.

Just consider these facts: Maharashtra was the largest contributor to India's bio-economy in 2021 with a 23 percent share; the State's contribution was \$18.6 billion; it registered a 9 percent growth over the previous year; and, Maharashtra has a 36 percent share in the bio-pharma sector. The total bio-economy in the country was about \$80 billion in 2021 and is estimated to go up to \$150 billion by 2025, according to Mr. G.S. Krishnan, President, ABLE.

Pune is home to quite a few biotechnology firms and is also home to Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd., a leading vaccine maker and which accounts for nearly 90 percent of the covid vaccines administered in the country. Pune is also home to Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd., another vaccine maker that has developed the country's first mRNA Covid vaccine which recently got emergency use authorization.

It was during the Covid-19 pandemic and the nation-wide lockdown that Pune's strengths in biotechnology and vaccine manufacture came to the fore. And, playing a key role in this was Venture Center, which was the nucleus for tech-driven response to the pandemic. Many start-ups that had some connection or the other to Venture Center came up with major initiatives, be they in diagnostics, bioreactors, vaccine carriers, defibrillators, oxygen enrichment systems, disinfection, PPEs, testing support for biologicals or masks and face shields. Venture Center, according to Dr. V. Premnath, Director, led several initiatives along with volunteers through the Pune Action Group on face shields, N95 masks, temperature scanners, oxygen concentrators, in arranging funding or as members of national expert committees.

How did all this come about? Says Dr. Sanjay Singh, CEO, Gennova Biopharmaceuticals, Pune has many things going for it. The city is cosmopolitan in nature, has ace infrastructure already in place in terms of Pune University, National Chemical Laboratory, National Centre for Cell Science, National Institute of Virology, Serum Institute, Gennova Biopharmaceuticals and MyLab Discovery Solutions.

As far as biotechnology is concerned, Dr. Singh feels Pune, like Bengaluru, is well poised to play a leading role mainly because of the simultaneous development of biotech and IT. The technology background in the city combined with the availability of skilled manpower makes Pune an ideal place for the biotechnology sector to grow. "Pune is going to the next level," he adds.

According to Dr. Premnath, Venture Center and its start-ups played a major role in the national efforts during Covid-19. Many of the start-ups either incubated at Venture Center or had got grants through it or associated in some way with the tech incubator had crucial

roles to play in areas such as diagnostics (MyLab), single-use bioreactors (OmniBrx), vaccine carriers (Blackfrog Technologies), defibrillators (Jeevtronics), oxygen enrichment systems (Genrich Membranes), disinfectant solutions (Welnnovate, Green Pyramid Biotech, PadCare Labs), PPEs (Zeroplast), ventilators (Aerobiosys, Gyrodrive), and analytical and technical support for vaccine development (Shantani Proteome Analytics Pvt. Ltd.). Venture Center supported startups working on COVID related innovations through different funding opportunities like DST CAWACH, CSR funds, Donations and Seed funding/ prototyping grants. The Venture Center team was also part of national committees like TFORD-COVID19 (Task Force on Repurposing Drugs for COVID) and the Vaccines Expert Committee.

Dr. Umesh Shaligram, Executive Director, Serum Institute, while talking about his company's efforts in developing Covid vaccines, says that Venture Center is part of this story. It was to one of the companies associated with Venture Center that Serum Institute turned to for characterization of a lot of its products. Serum Institute took the data generated at Venture Center to the regulatory body in the US. The data was critically and thoroughly evaluated and there has been great acceptance of the quality.

According to him, the ecosystem was already in place with the National Chemical Laboratory, Venture Center and other government organizations. "We were already interacting and using the support of some of the incubator companies. We, in fact, have already supported this activity for our projects such as HPV vaccine, malaria vaccine and Pertussis vaccines. Being fully aware about the commitment, dedication, knowledge and skills, it was easy to connect with them and use their services during Covid," says Dr. Shaligram. The collaboration, he adds, existed prior to the pandemic and during the pandemic, it was just easy to connect and execute.

Is there a model that can be replicated across the country so that the benefits are bigger? Dr. Shaligram says that it is critical that a model of collaboration that already exists should be part of the larger ecosystem of product development and delivery across India. The key for tackling any future health emergency is the skilled, educated and trained manpower coming back to the country and having their start-ups is a big support for the larger ecosystem and their in-depth understanding and execution of science. Mr. Shailendra Kawade, Co-founder and Chairman, MyLab Discovery Solutions, describes the efforts that went into self-diagnostic kits for Covid and recalls the help and guidance that his company got from many, including Serum Institute and Venture Center. As an ecosystem, he says, they are working on tools that will help them respond rapidly as and when something happens again. (EOM).

ABLE Eastern and North-Eastern Chapter Inauguration





On 21st October, 2022, ABLE launched the Eastern and North-eastern Regional Chapter in KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha in collaboration with KIIT - Technology Business Incubator, KIIT University and Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster (BCKIC).



Speaking on the occasion G S Krishnan, Hon. President, ABLE said "the need for establishing the regional chapter to support the growth of the biotech sector in this part of the country by undertaking various activities was felt and we are happy that now it is in place."



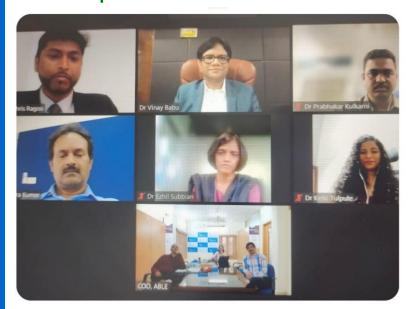
Dr Mrutyunjay Suar, Professor & Director General, KIIT University who agreed in establishment of the eastern and north-eastern chapter said "regular lectures and mentorship programs alongwith seminars and conferences will be organized to bring academia, industry and policy makers to make eastern and north-eastern region a Bioeconomic hub of India."





Dr P M Murali, Co-founder & Chairman, Jananom Pvt Ltd; Narayanan Suresh, COO, ABLE and Ravi Bhola, Partner, K&S Partners were also present on this occasion.

Webinar on "Life Science Infrastructure in Bengaluru: Building Capacities for Start-ups and Scale-ups



Bengaluru has been described as one of the world's fastest-growing tech hub.

Biotech/Lifesciences is one of the key sectors where increased start-up activities are seen in recent years. The need for bigger space and facilities to support growthstage start-ups in and around Bengaluru is being heard more nowadays.

The webinar was held on 23rd

September and was supported by Rx Propellant and K-tech Biotechnology Facilitation Cell Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society.

This webinar aimed to bring the different growth stage start-ups and ecosystem enablers to one platform to have a meaningful discussion on how they can be supported.

The Speakers for the webinar were Dr Ezhil Subbian, CEO, String Bio; Dr Jitendra Kumar, MD, Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC); Dr Vinay Babu, Founder & MD, Bioneeds India; Dr Prabhakar Kulkarni, CEO, NeoDx Biotech and Dr Ketki Tulpule, VP, Rx Propellant. The webinar will be moderated by Mr Satesh Ragoo, Senior Manager Marketing, Rx Propellant. Attendees were not only from different states in India but also from the UK & France.

Here is the link for the webinar recording https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jK 6TOOxewA

ABLE day at Sastra Deemed University and Amity University



ABLE day was conducted both in Sastra Deemed University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu on 30th September and Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh on 14th October.

Mr Narayanan Suresh, COO, ABLE shared Insights into India's Biotech Industry with the audience. Mr G S Krishnan, President, ABLE spoke on various Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Biotech Industry.

Mr Krishna Mohan Puvvada, Regional President & Senior Director- Consumer Biosolutions, Novozymes India joined us online at Sastra Deemed University to give an overview of the Emerging Opportunities in Industrial Biotechnology as well as Ms Neha Srivastava, Partner, Remfry & Sagar discussed on Understanding Effective IP Management in Biotech. At Amity University, Mr Priyangshu Dutta, Head of Public Affairs and Relations-India, Novozymes discussed on the Importance of Carbon credits & Sustainable solutions.

Smart Protein Summit 2022

- "India's bioeconomy is valued at 80 billion dollars today, and at ABLE we estimate that this will become 300 billion by 2030", said by Mr G S Krishnan, President, ABLE



ABLE President Krishnan G S spoke at the Smart Protein Summit 2022, organized by The Good Food Institute India in partnership with FICCI and with support from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India!

Over the last 2 years, India's smart protein sector has grown at an exponential rate from just a handful of stakeholders to a thriving sunrise sector with 50+ startups, 80+ supporting companies, investments

poised to grow exponentially, and policy advancements beginning to take clear shape. The Smart Protein Summit has been critical to making this happen.

'From Bench to Billions: Nurturing biotech to mega-scale' on October 13, Mr GS Krishnan was a part of the panelist to discuss about the current technical landscape powering the smart protein sector, hear from pioneers in the space on how they think we can address key levers for product innovation and build a roadmap towards commercialization of bioenabled solutions, particularly cultivated, fermentation-derived, and hybrid smart proteins.

ABLE Pavilion at Bengaluru Tech Summit

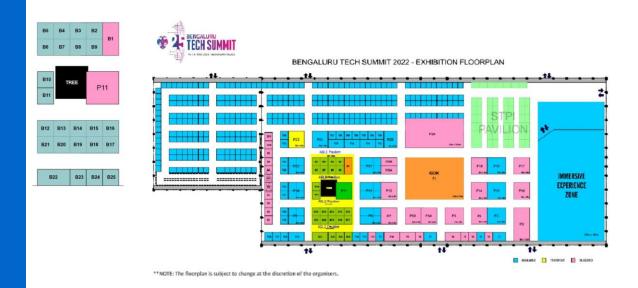
 Special discounted Exhibition and Sponsorship offer at 25th edition of Asia's Largest Tech Fest - Bengaluru Tech Summit 2022

The 25th edition of Asia's Largest Tech Fest - **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2022** is being organized by the Dept. of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T, Govt. of Karnataka which is scheduled from 16th to 18th November 2022 at the iconic Bangalore Palace. Join us as we celebrate the Silver Jubilee Edition of the summit with the theme 'Tech4NexGen'.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi ji has in principle consented to inaugurate the Summit. World Leaders from Government, Business, Research & Startups across countries like USA, Canada, the UK, France, Germany, Netherland, Finland, Switzerland, Israel, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and the Middle East countries would also be participating in the Summit.



BTS 2022 summit is a convergence of conferences, International exhibitions, Product Launches, Awards and Felicitations, IT & Bio Quiz, Biotech Posters, B2B Meetings, and much more. While the conference would deep-dive on ITE & Deeptech, Biotech, Start-up's verticals along with Global Innovation Alliance and India US Tech Conclave, the exhibition would be an amalgamation of Country & State Specific Pavilion, Start-ups, MNC and MSME, each showcasing their innovative products and services.



On the occasion of the 25th anniversary, a Special program is organized to felicitate Top 25 Global Contributors to the ecosystem and Top 25 GCCs in India alongside the CEO Conclave which will have an ensemble of Business Leaders.

We are expecting participation from over 50+ Countries, 350+ domain experts, 75+ Sessions, 5K+ delegates, 2000+ Startups, 400+ Exhibitors attracting 50K+ expo visitors. A Metaverse experience zone and Lab2Market will be an added highlight of the expo this year. We take pleasure in inviting you to be the Sponsor and invest in your brand at this power-packed International Summit with excellent branding and business networking opportunities.

A separate ABLE Pavilion is planned and a special discount has been provided to the ABLE members. The details of the same are attached for your reference and action. For more information, please feel free to call or write to **Dr. Balasubramanya S**, General Manager, ABLE (Email gm@ableindia.org.in Mob. 99000 48833)

KEY BIOTECH EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER 2022

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- DBT announces the scientific completion of India's first qHPV vaccine 'CERVAVAC'
- Biocon Ranks at No. 8 in 'Global Top Employers' List by the U.S. Science Magazine

Dr. Pramod Chaudhari and ICT to launch CoEI for Biopolymers



India will have first of its kind "Center Of Excellence & Innovation" (CoEI) for Biopolymers. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed between Dr. Pramod Chaudhari, Founder Chairman of Praj Industries (Praj) and Mr. Aniruddha Pandit, Vice Chancellor of ICT today in Mumbai. Praj Industries is ABLE Gold member.

The CoEI will be known as "Parimal And Pramod Chaudhari Centre Of Excellence and Innovation For Biopolymers". It will undertake research, promote academic pursuit and explore newer applications.

Biopolymer, an important element in Renewable Chemicals and Materials (RCM), is produced from agricultural resources and can be used as sustainable alternative to plastic. Being biodegradable in nature, it helps conserve environment.

The CoEI will have State of the Art laboratory for developing novel methods and standards for biopolymers characterization, processing and modification. Besides enhancing existing usage of biopolymers in medical and cosmetic field, CoEI intends to expand its application in other sectors. These include industries such as packaging, food service, consumer goods, agriculture, textiles, electronics, energy storage etc.

The CoEI will take up application development of bio plastics like PHA and PLA as its first collaborative project. As a sustainable climate action company, Praj has been developing and deploying innovative process solutions in Bioeconomy since past four decades. BioMobilityTM platform of biofuels for decarbonatization of transportation sector and Bio-PrismTM portfolio of technologies for production of RCM for carbon recycling are Praj's flagship offerings in Bioeconomy.

ABLE Member Eyestem bags Top Innovator award

Eyestem, which aims to treat "incurable" eye diseases won the **2022 ET Startup Top Innovator Award**. The mission of this Bengaluru-based company is to democratize access to cell therapy products that cost more than \$450,000 per injection globally. The treatment approach to bringing the cost down to less than a 50th of that won it the Top Innovator Award at the ET Startup Awards 2022.



Eyestem's aim to treat "incurable" eye diseases. Its lead product Eyecyte-RPE is aimed at treating people with age-related macular degeneration, which causes blindness in people above 60 years of age. Its proprietary iCelldiff protocol allows Eyestem to create any cell of the body through a process that is repeatable, scalable and hence affordable. EyeCyte-RPE executes the cure through replacement of retinal pigment epithelium cells.

"We are excited, honoured and humbled that we received this award," said Jogin Desai, cofounder and chief executive at Eyestem. "We still have a long way to go but this will help us move further along. What matters most is if we can figure out how to make our patients' lives better. The funding ecosystem for biotech startups is not as mature as tech and an award like this is a huge recognition which will certainly help. ET is doing a great service in highlighting good deep science." With investors like Kotak Private Equity, Endiya Partners, Natco Pharma, Alkem Laboratories, and Biological E, Eyestem has raised Rs 51 crore in a Series A round with a total fundraise of Rs 76 crore so far.

DBT announces the scientific completion of India's first qHPV vaccine 'CERVAVAC'

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State of the Ministry of Science and Technology announced India's first indigenously developed Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine 'CERVAVAC'. This vaccine is an outcome of a partnership between Serum Institute of India (SII), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) along with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



Announcing the scientific completion of the quadrivalent Human Papilloma Virus (qHPV) vaccine 'CERVAVAC' in presence of Mr. Adar Poonawalla, CEO, Serum Institute of India and other prominent scientists and dignitaries, Dr. Singh said, "this affordable and cost-effective vaccine marks an important day for DBT and BIRAC as it takes India a step closer to PM Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat".

Serum Institute of India (SII) had deferred HPV vaccine production by two years due to the focus on COVID, and it expects to start supplying small quantities of the dose to the Indian government in early 2023. According to Adar Poonawalla exports will have to wait till 2024 as the company has to build a scale of manufacturing to over 150 million for that.

Giving an update on Covishield vaccine, Adar Poonawalla, said that SII stopped the production of the Covishield vaccine since December last year. "Since December 2021, we have stopped the production of the Covishield vaccine. We had a stock of a few hundred million doses at that time and of that 100 million doses had already expired," Poonawalla told the reporters on the sidelines of the annual general meeting of the developing countries Vaccine Manufacturers Network in Pune.

He further said that some vaccines are allowed to be mixed with others for booster doses, "Now Covovax should be allowed be mixed soon in two weeks, So I think they will and should probably have the policy to mix boosters," he stated.

Biocon Ranks at No. 8 in 'Global Top Employers' List by the U.S. Science Magazine



ABLE Gold member, Biocon Ltd, has been named among the **Top 10 employers in the global biotech, pharma and biopharma sector** by the prestigious U.S.-based Science magazine. Biocon has been ranked 8th on the list this year for three key attributes: 'innovative leader in the industry', 'is socially responsible' and 'has loyal employees.'

Employees across Biocon and Biocon Biologics participated in the Top Employers Survey conducted by Science magazine. This marks the tenth consecutive time that Biocon has been included in the journal's prestigious annual global ranking. The Company ranked ahead of pharma & biotech majors such as Vertex, Merck, Genentech, GSK, Abbott, Roche, Novartis, etc. this year.

For the companies that emerged in the Top 20, remarks from survey respondents reflected that scientists positioned passion as a top metric for their choice of employers. The survey also revealed that an investment in human resources development is often the one that produces the biggest return on investment.

ASSOCIATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY LED ENTERPRISES (ABLE)

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