

# ITRI Pulse

Last Month in India's Translational Research Initiative (ITRI)

November 2025

## About ITRI

**India's Translational Research Initiative (ITRI) is a nationwide, collaborative philanthropic initiative to catalyse innovation and create impact through foundational science and translational research.**

### ITRI Hosts a Meeting with All Its Core Partners

India's Translational Research Initiative (ITRI) brought together its core partners - Centre for Process Innovation (CPI) - UK, Renaissance Philanthropy, Sattva Consulting, Boston Consulting Group (BCG), and The Convergence Foundation for an in-person meeting to reaffirm their shared commitment to advancing India's translational research movement.



The session emphasised ITRI's mission to translate scientific excellence into tangible industrial, economic, and societal outcomes by connecting research institutions, industry, government, and donors through a structured ecosystem. This collective alignment sets the stage for the next phase of ITRI's journey, where science moves from discovery to deployment, driven by collaboration and national impact

### ITRI team meets Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Former Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India

Dr Abdur Rub, CEO of ITRI, and Mirik Gogri met Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru. The discussion revolved around identifying strategic priority sectors for channeling philanthropic capital.



*Mirik Gogri and Dr Abdur Rub with Prof. K Vijay Raghavan at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru*

### ITRI at the FICCI Bharat R&D Summit 2025

ITRI participated in the FICCI Bharat R&D Summit 2025, where Dr Abdur Rub, CEO - ITRI, moderated the closing session on "Enabling Innovation." The discussion focused on translating research into real-world outcomes, highlighting challenges such as limited academia-industry collaboration, slow funding and weak infrastructure, and commercialisation barriers despite strong research talent.



Participants also shared positive perspectives on the way forward, including the need to strengthen translational infrastructure, foster multi-stakeholder partnerships, and build sustainable funding pathways to bridge the gap between discovery and deployment. The session concluded with a shared recognition that India's growing research capacity, when supported by collaboration and strategic investment, can unlock transformative innovation.

### Strengthening Collaboration with the Mumbai Biocluster

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen India's translational research ecosystem, ITRI reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Mumbai Biocluster at the Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Mumbai, one of the proposed Translational Research Centres (TRCs) focused on advancing biopharma innovation. The Centre for Process Innovation (CPI) team from



from the UK visited the Mumbai Biocluster to engage with ICT's leadership and explore collaboration in mRNA technologies, biologics manufacturing, gene therapy, and smart, affordable biologics. The upcoming facility at ICT has the potential to become a hub for high-impact translational research and bioindustrial partnerships, fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and startups. Through such collaborations, ITRI seeks to strengthen India's biopharma research ecosystem and accelerate lab-to-market innovation.

### ITRI at IKMC 2025 Roundtable on "CGT Convergence: Science, Scale & Access

As part of the 19th International Knowledge Millennium Conference (IKMC) hosted by IKP Knowledge Park, a roundtable on "CGT Convergence: Science, Scale & Access" chaired by Dr. Jitendra Kumar (BIRAC) and co-chaired by Dr. Satya Prakash Dash (bigtec Private Limited & Blockchain for Impact) brought together experts to discuss how India can become a global leader in cell and gene therapy (CGT). Attended by Dr Abdur Rub, CEO - ITRI, the session highlighted BIRAC's efforts to establish decentralised biofoundries for collaborative incubation and scalable CGT manufacturing. Experts noted that effective CGT deployment depends on personalised care, affordability, efficient logistics, and adaptive regulation to accelerate innovation.