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Karnataka looks to global partnerships to accelerate AI-led biotechnology and life sciences innovation

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Global Innovation Alliance roundtable identifies biotechnology, life sciences and joint research as priority areas for international collaboration, with Karnataka planning focused innovation corridors under GIA 2.0



The Government of Karnataka is looking to deepen international partnerships in biotechnology and life sciences by leveraging artificial intelligence (AI), joint research, institutional exchanges and technology transfer. At the Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) Roundtable held during the 29th Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026 on November 18, 2026, Karnataka identified biotechnology and life sciences among the priority areas for focused collaboration with international partners.

Chaired by Priyank Kharge, Minister for Home, Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and E-Governance, Government of Karnataka, the roundtable brought together representatives from nearly 30 countries, including 10 ambassadors, consuls general and senior diplomats. Discussions centred on moving beyond conventional international partnerships towards joint innovation, research and co-creation of technology solutions.

For Karnataka's biotechnology and life sciences ecosystem, the proposed approach could create opportunities for international research partnerships, collaborative laboratories, researcher exchanges, startup linkages and commercialisation of technologies. The emphasis on AI also opens avenues for collaboration in areas such as AI-enabled drug discovery, healthcare innovation, computational biology, diagnostics and precision medicine.

GIA 2.0 to prioritise focused innovation corridors

A key outcome of the roundtable was Karnataka's proposal to identify two or three priority areas with each international partner and develop focused innovation corridors around them. Biotechnology, life sciences, AI, agriculture, cybersecurity, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing and digital public services were among the areas identified for potential collaboration.

The proposed corridors are expected to connect universities, research institutions, incubators, Centres of Excellence, startups and industry through joint research programmes, institutional partnerships, technology transfer and talent mobility.

Priyank Kharge said the Global Innovation Alliance had expanded from partnerships with 10 countries to engagement with nearly 45 countries through memoranda of understanding, with active collaboration extending to several others.

"As we move into GIA 2.0 – the Global Innovation and Growth Alliance, our focus is on making these partnerships more meaningful, outcome-oriented and mutually beneficial. Rather than spreading our efforts across multiple areas, we want to identify two or three priority areas with each partner and build focused innovation corridors around them," he said.

He added that collaboration between universities, research institutions, incubators and Centres of Excellence, alongside talent mobility and market access, would be important to translating international partnerships into tangible outcomes.

AI and research collaboration create opportunities for life sciences

The roundtable also examined how AI could be deployed to address practical challenges across public services, social security, urban development and other areas of governance. Participants emphasised the importance of responsible AI adoption, including data protection, transparency, cybersecurity, accountability and human oversight.

For biotechnology and healthcare, these discussions have wider implications as AI adoption increasingly intersects with research, clinical applications and healthcare delivery. International partnerships could help Karnataka-based institutions and companies access global expertise, research infrastructure and technology platforms while developing solutions relevant to domestic and international markets.

Participants also highlighted the importance of connecting universities, research institutions and industry through joint laboratories, fellowships, researcher exchanges and technology transfer. Such mechanisms could strengthen the movement of scientific discoveries from academic research into commercial applications.

From international engagement to commercial outcomes

An important aspect of the proposed GIA 2.0 framework is its focus on translating institutional partnerships into market opportunities. The roundtable identified startup ecosystem linkages, researcher and talent mobility, and two-way market access as important components of future collaborations.

Karnataka aims to position itself not merely as a destination for international technology investments but as an active partner in developing and scaling innovations with global institutions and companies. For the state's biotechnology and life sciences sector, this approach could strengthen international connections across biopharma, healthcare technology, agricultural biotechnology and emerging research-intensive areas.

The Department of Electronics, IT and Biotechnology will engage with partner countries to develop focused collaboration roadmaps and identify suitable initiatives under the Global Innovation Alliance. The proposed shift towards GIA 2.0 signals an opportunity for Karnataka to use its research institutions, startup ecosystem and technology capabilities to build deeper international partnerships in biotechnology and life sciences, with greater emphasis on joint innovation, technology transfer and global market access.