

AI trims timelines to develop drugs; adoption patchy

Faster R&D contrasts with slower clinical stages

ANJALI SINGH
Hyderabad, 18 February

Global pharmaceutical multinationals are increasingly deploying artificial intelligence (AI) to shorten drug development cycles and speed up product launches, reshaping both research pipelines and commercial execution, senior industry leaders said on the sidelines of the BioAsia Summit in Hyderabad.

From early-stage discovery to regulatory documentation and launch readiness, AI is emerging as a central lever to scale innovation without proportionately increasing costs or timelines. Executives cautioned, however, that the gains remain uneven across the value chain.

At Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD), AI has been embedded across discovery and downstream functions, enabling the company to expand its pipeline while compressing time to market in parallel. The company plans to roll out more than 20 new drugs globally in the coming years.

According to Anton Groom, chief AI officer at MSD, AI-led discovery has doubled the company's global drug development pipeline over the past two years by speeding up target identification and enabling earlier assessment of safety and efficacy. Beyond research and development (R&D), MSD is deploying generative AI-driven "content accelerators" to overhaul regulatory, medical, and patient-facing documentation. These tools are cutting approval documentation timelines from weeks to days, allowing multiple products to move towards the market simultaneously while maintaining regulatory compliance, Groom said.

A similar strategy is unfolding at Takeda Pharmaceuticals, where AI is being embedded directly into R&D workflows rather than deployed as an add-on. Takeda's R&D leadership has described AI-native laboratories and redesigned discovery processes as central to improving productivity and raising the probability of technical success across its portfolio.

Sanjay Patel, senior vice-president and global head of data, digital and technology innovation capabilities solutions and services at Takeda, said India is emerging as a strategic capability hub in this shift. Takeda's Innovation Capability Center in Bengaluru is building enterprise-scale digital, data, and AI capabilities that support research, manufacturing, supply chains, and patient-facing functions globally, drawing on India's deep digital talent pool and innovation ecosystem.



ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA

The company added that capabilities developed in India are designed to scale globally through shared platforms, reusable intelligence, and a connected operating model. This enables faster execution and greater enterprise resilience. In this framework, India functions as a strategic capability hub within Takeda's global network, supporting the responsible adoption of AI and large-scale innovation aimed at improving decision-making and patient outcomes worldwide.

However, not all companies are seeing immediate reductions in costs or development timelines, particularly in clinical trials. Miltenyi Biotec offered a more cautious view during discussions on the sidelines of the conference. Founder Stefan Miltenyi said that while AI is being used widely in areas such as molecular design, imaging, and data analysis, its impact on products currently reaching the clinic has so far been limited.

"AI is really exciting, and we are using it in more and more areas," Miltenyi said, adding that many development processes still rely heavily on traditional, paper-based workflows. While AI is already outperforming humans in tasks such as analysing large volumes of imaging data and identifying complex biological patterns, its broader effect on clinical development costs and timelines is only beginning to surface.

According to Miltenyi, the biggest gains are likely to emerge over time, particularly in clinical trial protocol design, statistical planning, data management, and regulatory report writing. Wider adoption, he said, will also depend on how quickly regulators in Europe, the US, and India adapt to AI-supported development models.

Big plans on India, \$300 mn project investment soon: CMA CGM chairman

Q&A In February 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron visited the Marseille headquarters of CMA CGM, the world's third-largest container shipping company, and it developed a "strategic roadmap" for India to become a maritime power. Fast forward to a year later, **Rodolphe Saade**, the \$55 billion conglomerate's chairman and chief executive officer has arrived in India as part of Macron's delegation to seal the deal in a historic first, with a \$350 million contract signing with state-owned Cochin Shipyard for six dual-fuel vessels, along with plans to develop more ships and procuring containers from India. In an interview with Dhruvaksh Saha in New Delhi, Saade talks about these plans. Edited excerpts:



we are looking at will entail around \$300 million of additional investment. So, adding up our several plans of investments, we are talking big numbers here. We believe in the development and growth of India and we would like to be a part of it.

One of the pillars of the strategic roadmap for you was enabling GIFT City as a space for registration of vessels. What are the plans there?

■ We have four vessels that are Indian-flagged and we are looking at adding more. We are in the process of hiring 1,000 seafarers for our ships.

With only a few established countries dominating shipbuilding, is there a strategic need to have another supply base, and is the Cochin Shipyard order a test case for a larger plan on shipbuilding here?

■ Yes, there is room for a third country to build ships. We usually build ships in China or South Korea and this is the first time we are building in India. Now, the question is more for Cochin Shipyard on whether it will be in a position to build ships bigger than 1700 TEUs.

What new projects are you looking at as part of your India growth plan?

■ We are looking at logistics platforms in India. I can't specify which one, but we are looking at a big one not very far from the Mumbai area. We are also looking at ports, because what is missing is deep sea ports. India is growing in exports and imports, so they need ports which can handle bigger ships.

Are there any particular port projects that you are eyeing?

■ Yes, Vadnavan Port is one, and there are other projects on the east coast of India as well. There are many which we are looking at, but we are in early stages as of now. We need a bit of time.

Another global executive of CMA CGM had said that you're eyeing operations in inland waterways, which is a sector that is still nascent. How do you plan to move forward and do you foresee any issues?

■ Yes, we are looking at waterways operations in India. The issue remains the same - getting financial support from the government and also making sure, in the case of waterways, that there is sufficient draft to allow barges to operate. I think this will come as there is a strong need for waterways to develop and grow. We just have to be patient.

What kind of investment plans are there along the multiple verticals?

■ In a very short period of time, we

«ADDING UP OUR SEVERAL PLANS OF INVESTMENTS, WE ARE TALKING BIG NUMBERS HERE. WE BELIEVE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF INDIA AND WE WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF IT»

have already invested around \$350 million with the order for six 1700 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent units, a standard container size) ships. The logistics platform near Mumbai that

EPAM repositioning India as co-innovation hub for life sciences, health care

ANJALI SINGH
Hyderabad, 18 February

EPAM Systems is repositioning India from a cost-led delivery base to a global co-innovation hub for life sciences and health care, as multinational clients increasingly seek data- and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven capabilities beyond traditional outsourcing, a senior company executive said on Wednesday.

Speaking on the sidelines of BioAsia, Greg Killian, who leads EPAM's global life sciences and healthcare business, said India has emerged as the company's fastest-growing region for the sector and one of its most strategically important global locations. EPAM's India headcount has crossed 10,000 employees, making it the

company's largest delivery hub worldwide, he added.

Killian said the expansion in India has been almost entirely organic, driven by direct hiring rather than acquisitions, and closely aligned with where global pharmaceutical, biotech, and medtech clients are directing their investments. "Clients are moving to India not just for information technology (IT) delivery, but for integrated development and innovation," he said, adding that EPAM's growth has tracked this shift in demand.

According to Killian, India is playing a growing role in early-stage drug discovery and development, particularly in biologics, where data analytics, high-performance computing, and AI are becoming central to identifying

and advancing new therapies. While small-molecule chemistry is relatively mature, he said the next phase of biologics innovation is increasingly "digitally powered", creating opportunities for India's data and AI ecosystem to contribute earlier in the drug development lifecycle.

He noted that clinical trials will continue to be conducted on a global basis. However, India's competitive advantage lies in its digital infrastructure, AI talent, and domain expertise, which are not uniformly available in other trially-intensive regions.

This positions the country to play a larger role in integrating, analysing, and operationalising clinical and scientific data, even if patient recruitment remains geographically diversified.

CMA CGM signs 1st Indian vessel order, plans container entry

DHRUVAKSH SAHA
New Delhi, 18 February

French container carrier CMA CGM on Wednesday signed the final shipbuilding contract with state-owned Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) for six state-of-the-art LNG-powered container ships of 1700-TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) capacity.

The letter of intent for this order - the first global one of a container vessel for an Indian shipyard - was signed at the India Maritime Week last October.

On Wednesday, the group announced further plans of growth in India while signing the contract. "Building on this strategic milestone, the CMA CGM Group is actively exploring opportunities to partner with key stakeholders across India on initiatives designed to strengthen the country's container manufacturing capabilities, promote sustainable ship recycling and support the development of domestic container shipping," a company statement said.

THE SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government Company)
Regd. Office: Kothagudem-507101, Telangana.

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Tenders have been published for the following Services/Material Procurement through e-procurement platform. For details, please visit <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> or <https://scclm.com>

NIT/Enquiry No. - Description - Subject - Last date and time.

EST2500176 - Procurement of Linear Heat Sensing (LHS) cable to STPP, Jaipur, Mancherla, Telangana - 02.03.2026-12.01 PM.

EST2500178 - Procurement of CCDR cable to STPP, Jaipur, Mancherla, Telangana - 04.03.2026 - 12.01 PM.

EST2500180 - Procurement of Fire hose RRL "A" type 15M with SS coupling required for firefighting purpose at STPP, Jaipur, Mancherla, Telangana - 02.03.2026 - 12.01 PM.

EST2500181 - Procurement of Cable Joint Kits & Cable End Termination Kits for 3.3kv and 11kv Cables at STPP, Jaipur, Mancherla, Telangana - 02.03.2026 - 12.01 PM.

EST2500182 - Procurement of seal kits for Nucon make pneumatic cylinders installed for Hot Air Gates at STPP, Jaipur, Mancherla, Telangana - 05.03.2026 - 12.01 PM.

EST2500183 - Procurement of Plate Heat Exchangers (PHE) plates installed in condenser vacuum system of Main turbine at STPP, Jaipur, Mancherla, Telangana - 05.03.2026 - 12.01 PM.

EST2500184 - Procurement of different sizes of Pre-filters installed at different areas of HVAC system at STPP, Jaipur, Mancherla, Telangana - 05.03.2026 - 12.01 PM.

EST2500186 - Procurement of pneumatic cylinders installed for opening Hot Air Gates at STPP, Jaipur, Mancherla, Telangana - 04.03.2026 - 12.01 PM.

EST2500187 - Procurement of Rotax make solenoid valves installed for various pneumatic applications at STPP, Jaipur, Mancherla, Telangana - 04.03.2026 - 12.01 PM.

EST2500188 - Procurement of I to P converters for SADC and Burner Tilt applications at STPP, Jaipur, Mancherla, Telangana - 05.03.2026 - 12.01 PM. GM (E&M) PC&S, STPP

EO42500361 - Procurement of five sizes of W Straps - 06.03.2026 - 17:00 Hrs. GM (MP)

PR/2026/ADVT/STPP/MP/19 DIPR R.O. No. : 1182-PP-CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26, Date: 18-02-2026.

NACL Industries Limited
CIN: L24219TG1986PLC016607

Regd. Office : Coromandel House, 1-2-10, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500003 |
Corporate Office : Pranava One, 17th Floor, Commercial Block, Plot No. 6-3-654/1 to 9 and 6-3-654/A, Somajiguda, Hyderabad, Telangana-500082 | Email Id: investors@nacl.murugappa.com | Website: www.naclind.com | Tel No.: 04024405100

NOTICE

Special Window for Re-Judgement of Transfer Requests of Physical Shares
Pursuant to SEBI circular No. SEBI/HO/38/13/11 (2)2026-MIRSD-POD/1/3750/2026 dated January 30, 2026, the Company is pleased to offer special window for investors to submit re-judgement requests for the transfer of shares. This special window is open from February 05, 2026, to February 04, 2027 and is specially applicable to cases which were lodged prior to deadline of 1st April 2019 and the original share transfer was rejected / returned / not attended due to deficiencies in documentation or were not processed due to any other reason. The shares re-lodged for transfer will be processed only in dematerialized form during this window period.

Eligible Investors may submit their transfer request along with the requisite documents to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA) at XL Softech Systems Limited, 3, Rd Number 2, Sagar Society, Sri Nagar Colony, Kamalapur Colony, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana 500034. Tel No: 040 23545913, Email : ccare@xlsoftech.com within the stipulated period. The shareholders are requested to refer to said Circular for further details.

Note: All Shareholders are requested to update their E-mail ID(s) with Company / RTA / Depository Participants.

Satish Kumar Subudhi
Sd/-
for NACL Industries Limited
Place : Hyderabad Sr. Vice President - Legal & Company Secretary
Date : 17-02-2026 FCS 9085

R.P.P INFRA PROJECTS LTD.
CIN: L45201TZ1995PLC006113
Registered Office: SF No. 454, Raghupathyaikena Palayam, Railway Colony Post, Poondral Road, Erode-638002
EMAIL: secretary@rppl.com WEBSITE: www.rppl.com

POSTAL BALLOT NOTICE AND REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 108 and 110 of the Companies Act 2013 read with Rule 20 and Rule 22 of Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended read with relevant circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on Postal Ballot and e-voting ("MCA Circulars") and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the following agenda item is proposed for consideration and approval of the Members of the Company by means of Postal Ballot by voting through electronic means only ("remote e-voting");

- Appointment of Mr. K Nandhiswaran (DIN: 07232259) as an Independent Director

The Company has completed the dispatch of the Postal Ballot Notice, by electronic means only, on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 to those members of the Company whose names appeared in the Register of Members/List of Beneficial Owners 'as maintained by the Company/ Depositories, respectively, as at close of business hours on Friday, February 13 2026, (the "Cut-off date") and whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company/Depositories.

The Company has offered e-voting facility through Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) to enable the members to cast their votes electronically

The detailed procedure and instructions for remote e-voting are enumerated in the Postal Ballot Notice. The e-voting commences on Thursday, 19th February 2026 at 9:00 AM (IST) and ends on Friday, 20th March 2026 at 5:00 PM (IST). During this period, members holding shares as on cut-off can cast their vote electronically. The E-Voting module shall be disabled by the CDSL for e-Voting thereafter and e-voting shall not be allowed beyond the said date and time.

The Board of Directors of the Company has appointed Ms. Swetha Subramanian, a partner of M/s. Lakshmi Subramanian and Associates, Practising Company Secretaries, as the Scrutinizer for conducting the postal ballot in a fair and transparent manner

The Postal Ballot Notice is also being made available on the website of the Company at www.rppl.com, the website of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and on the website of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) at www.evotingindia.com

In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evotingindia.com or call on: 1800225533 or send a request to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com.

For R.P.P INFRA PROJECTS LIMITED
Sd/-
A Nithya
Whole Time Director and CFO
Place: Erode
Date: 18.02.2026
DINL: 00125357

HARISH TEXTILE ENGINEERS LIMITED
CIN: L29119MH2010PLC201521
2nd Floor, 19 Parsi Panchayat Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069.
Tel: 022 66490251, E-mail: investor@harishtextile.com, Website: www.harishtextile.com

NOTICE OF EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING AND E-VOTING INFORMATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the Members of Harish Textile Engineers Limited ("the Company") will be held on Wednesday, 11th March, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. through Video Conferencing ("VC")/Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") to transact the business as set forth in the Notice of the EGM.

In compliance with the applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("Circulars"), the Company has completed the dispatch of the Notice convening the EGM through electronic mode to all those eligible shareholders whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Registrar and Share Transfer Agent or with their Depository Participants (DP), whose names appear in the Register of Members/ Register or Beneficial Owners as on Friday, February 13, 2026.

Further, in compliance with the above Circulars, the EGM of the Company will be held through VC or OAVM without the physical presence of members at a common venue. Members may note that the Notice of EGM is available on the website of the Company at <https://www.harishtextile.com/> and on the website of the stock exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and on the website of Bigshare Services Private Limited at <https://www.bigshareonline.com/>

In terms of the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 (as amended from time to time) and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and the Secretarial Standard on General Meetings (SS-2) issued by the Institute of the Company Secretaries of India read with the applicable MCA Circulars, the Company is providing the facility of e-voting to its Members to enable them to cast their votes on the resolutions set forth in the Notice of the EGM, by electronic means ("e-voting") by using electronic voting system provided by vote either by (a) remote e-voting system prior to the EGM or (b) remote e-voting during the EGM.

The Company has fixed Wednesday, March 04, 2026 as the "cut-off date" to determine the eligibility of Members for voting by remote e-voting or e-voting at the EGM. Voting rights of the Members shall be in the same proportion to their shares in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on the cut-off date.

The remote e-voting period commences on Sunday, March 08, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. (IST) and ends on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. (IST) and the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by Bigshare for voting thereafter. Members may please note that once the vote on the resolution is cast by a Member through remote e-voting/e-voting, he/she shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.

Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice of the EGM and holding shares as on the cut-off date i.e. Wednesday, March 04, 2026, may view the Notice of the EGM on the website of the Company at <https://www.harishtextile.com/> or on the website of Bigshare Services Private Limited at <https://www.bigshareonline.com/>.

For detailed instructions of e-voting, Members may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") available at <https://vote.bigshareonline.com>, under the download section or you may email at ivote@bigshareonline.com or call at: 1800 22 54 22, 022-62638338

For Harish Textile Engineers Limited
Sd/-
Priya Gupta
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Place: Mumbai
Date: 17/02/2026

Business Standard Manthan
in association with **adani**

India's Premier Thought Leadership Summit

INDIA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL MINDS.
February 24, 25 | Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Smoothing the EV transition

Tapan Ghosh
CEO
VinFast India

Akash Gupta
Co-founder & CEO
Zypp Electric

Mahesh Babu
MD
Olectra Greentech

Raghav Bharadwaj
CEO
Bolt earth

Saurav Kumar
Founder & CEO
Euler Motors

Banking Partner: **المشرق mashreq**

HJT Solar Partner: **BECSA**

Co Sponsors: **SBI, AMD, RYZEN, NTPC, niqey, Pramerica, LIC**

Webcast Partner: **FRAMES DIGITAL**

Business Standard Insight Out

businessstandard | bsindia | business.standard | business-standard.com

