

# US-India Bio-Pharma Summit in Boston

SUMAN GUHA MOUZUMDER  
in New York

Kapil Sibal, minister of science and technology, will keynote the 2008 annual US-India Bio-Pharma Summit in Boston, Massachusetts, June 13 that will explore as part of an ongoing dialogue among different stakeholders about the future potential.

The summit is expected to be attended by top bio-pharma executives, policy makers, investors and academics and several academics and deans of prestigious schools like the Harvard Medical School, Tufts Medical School, Harvard School of Public Health, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University.

"We are seeing a very high level of interest and participation from across the nation and other countries. It has become *the* bio pharma event of the world focused on US-India life sciences and healthcare," said Karun Rishi, president, USA-India Chamber of Commerce.

Other keynote speakers at the conference include Dr Surinder Singh, Drug Controller General of India; and Dr Joshua Boger, CEO, Vertex Pharmaceuticals and Chairman of the Biotechnology Industry Organization.

There will be discussions covering drug discovery and development, clinical research, in and out licensing, finding innovation and cross border M&A trends. The summit theme is 'Delivering Affordable Innovation through Cross Border Partnerships.'

"One of the things that we look forward to is what could be done next as far as pharma is concerned although India is on a high growth path," Rishi told *India Abroad*. "We want to bring all the stakeholders, including policymakers,

industrialists and investors under one umbrella (*to discuss this*)," he said.

He said the conference was looking forward to getting new ideas and to understanding how to execute them. "The conference would explore at the highest level as to what the roadblocks are and how to overcome them," he said.

"India has become an attractive destination for clinical research and trials not just for the big global pharma companies, but also for emerging bio pharma companies," Rishi said, adding that the Drug



■ Indian Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal

Controller General of India is very bullish about the opportunities in this area.

Dr Surinder Singh said that world-class IP regime in compliance with TRIPS has made India an attractive destination for global healthcare and life sciences companies. Noting that India is becoming a global hub for innovation, drug discovery and collaborative research, he said in a statement that diverse genetic pool, large patient pool, drug naive population, competent medical professionals and high quality hospitals have stimulated the flow of clinical research to India.