

## SWEDEN DELEGATION VISIT

On December 5th, we hosted a delegation of Swedish S&T (Science & Technology) innovators to discuss potential partnerships that could produce tangible S&T outcomes. In keeping with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India's mandate to foster cooperative growth in S&T, the two groups exchanged ideas and considered shared goals in the areas of mutual interest. Representatives from Swedish tech start-up companies, including iMetrics, Viking Analytics, Smartcare Analytica, GX Consulting, and Worldish, were also part of the delegation.

They want to encourage sustainable growth by encouraging innovation and assisting demand-driven research. Those in attendance were Fredrik Larsson of Linköping Science Park, Jenny Strömberg of Ignite Sweden, Ulf Borbos of the SISP (Swedish Incubators & Science Parks), and Erik Stedt (International Innovation Partnerships Manager) from the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation. A general agreement was reached at the meeting's conclusion on prospective long-term partnerships between our team and Swedish S&T innovation leaders.



From right to left 1st row: Dr. Neha Pankow (Head of Strategy and Business Development, BeST cluster), Dr. Sreeparna Samanta (Program Manager, BeST cluster), Mr. Ravi Tennety (BeST cluster), Fredrik Larsson (Digital Strategist & Communications Manager), Malin Petersen (Vinnova, Sweden's Innovation Agency), Mari Ahlquist (iMetrics)

From right to left 2nd row: Anette Bystedt (Linköping Science Park), Naveen Sasidharan (Worldish), Prof. Ambarish Ghosh (co-PI, BeST cluster), Dr. Taslim Arif Saiyed (co-PI- BeST cluster, CEO CCAMP)

From right to left 3rd row: Mr. Krishna Kumar (Head Programs SID), Mr. Rajet Krishnan (Viking Analytics), Jinesh Prajapati (Gx consulting), Henrik Uddén (SmartCare Analytics), Jenny Strömberg (Ignite Sweden, SISP), Anjali Bhola (Head of Government Affairs), Nilesh Jamunpane (Consultant), Ulf Borbos (SISP), Erik Åstedt (Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation)

## NEW HIRINGS - Our team is growing!



Dr. Neha Pankow

We welcome and congratulate Neha Pankow, Ph.D., as our new Head of Strategy and Business Development. Dr. Pankow came to BeST cluster with several years of experience in scientific research and science policy. For the last few years, she has worked on developing and managing data-informed policymaking for basic science research and education at the National Science Foundation (NSF), USA. Her primary responsibilities included ROI reporting, management of diversity initiatives, and facilitating site visits for a facility funded at 100 million USD/year. In addition, she was assigned to handle an 18 million USD cooperative agreement for a sea-level rise project on coastlines and people. Her cross-disciplinary academic research spans 11 years with flavors of engineering, single-molecule biophysics, and cancer cell biology. A prestigious science policy fellowship from the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Sciences) facilitated her transition from bench science to policy. Prior to this, she was an American Cancer Society post-doctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her publication in Nature Chemical Biology on light-activated enzymes offered a novel way to study the role of specific enzymes in signaling mechanics. Dr. Pankow performed her doctoral research on changes in single-molecule kinesin mechanics in response to microtubule modifications at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. In her role as the Head of Strategy and Business Development at the BeST cluster, Dr. Pankow hopes to facilitate cross-sector synergies for achieving tangible science & technology research outcomes for the public's welfare.

## BCIC MEETING – 16th December 2022

We met with BCIC to discuss our shared areas of interest, including skill development, mentorship, smart healthcare, and semiconductors. Our sincere thanks to BCIC leadership for their generous hospitality at their headquarters. Through this preliminary meeting, we discovered our shared goals, which we are now actively working towards in our collaboration with BCIC. Our co-created solutions will emphasize world-class solutions for domestic problems, with an intentional effort to support the needs of rural communities. Specific to urban infrastructure, BCIC expressed an interest in the 'urban mobility' project.



From left to right: - Dr. L. Ravindran (President, BCIC), Dr. Neha Pankow (Head of Strategy and Business Development-BeST cluster), Mr. A. Murali (VP, BCIC), Mr. Ravi Tennety (BeST cluster), Mr. A. Gururaj (MD, Winstrom)