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Dr. Vijay Kumar Datla, Chairman and Managing Director, Biological E passed away today. He was one of the early pioneers of the Indian vaccine industry, responsible for the operations of the company that has been one of the largest suppliers to the nation's Universal Immunization Programme. He was 67 years old.

Biological E Limited was established over 50 years ago. It is the first private sector biological products company in India and the first pharmaceuticals company in South India. Dr.Datla, a doctor by profession has been with Biological E for 43 of those years. His daughter, Ms.Mahima Datla is currently the senior vice-president, Biological E.

Biological E has been making great strides in developing new vaccines in the past year. It had launched a Japanese Encephalitis vaccine last year, and recently entered into a JV with GSK for the development of a hexavalent vaccine as well.

The company website stated that Dr. Vijay Kumar Datla, the man behind management's thrust, strongly believed in individual learning and development at Biological E.