

**Report on Launch of
National Biopharma Mission
An Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission for Accelerating Discovery Research to
Early Development for Biopharmaceuticals
Innovate in India (I3)**

The first ever Industry-Academia National Biopharma mission was formally launched by the Hon'ble Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan on 30th June 2017. The National Mission on Biopharma program, also named as 'Innovate in India' (i³) is a collaboration between the World Bank and the Government of India contributing equally to the overall mission's budget of US\$250 million. This mission aims to accelerate India's position as a leading biopharma hub through focused programs on vaccines as well as medical technology including devices and diagnostics.

The aim of the mission is to enable and nurture an ecosystem for preparing India's technological and product development capabilities in biopharmaceutical to a level that will be globally competitive over the next decade, and transform the health standards of India's population through affordable product development. The program will specifically focus on the development of new vaccines, bio-therapeutics, diagnostics and medical devices to address the rising burden of diseases in the country. It will also bring isolated centers of excellence together, enhance regional capabilities and strengthen the current bio-clusters network in terms of capacities as well as quantity and quality of output

The launch was attended by senior dignitaries from the Government, industry and academia including Prof K VijayRaghavan (Secretary DBT), Dr Renu Swarup (Senior Adviser, DBT & MD BIRAC), Dr Soumya Swaminathan (DG ICMR and Secretary DHR), Dr Girish Sahnni (DG CSIR), Dr GN Singh (DCGI) and Mr. John D. Blomquist, Acting Director, World Bank India .

The welcome address was given Dr Renu Swarup, who highlighted the role of the Government support in biopharma sector as well as the journey of this collaboration. She thanked the stakeholders who contributed to this formal collaboration including the support from the World Bank team and other Ministries.

Mr. John D. Blomquist, Acting Director, World Bank India mentioned that World Bank is pleased to partner with the Indian Government in its endeavour to build biopharma and medtech capacity through the i3 program. This is the first time that World Bank has partnered

with a country for a Healthcare innovation research program. He opined that this program will contribute to developing solutions that will impact not just India but other countries too. Prof VijayRaghavan, Secretary, DBT and Chairman, BIRAC commented that the biopharma mission has the power to transform the landscape of innovation in the country and the focus is to bring 6-10 cutting edge products to the market as well as create high-skilled employment.

The Hon'ble Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan mentioned that the Biopharma Mission will contribute to Make in India, an 'Ideas Economy' will boost India's transition from being an 'imitator to an innovator' in healthcare and transform people's lives positively. Besides, India will become a major hub for biopharma product development globally.



The Biopharma Mission promises to boost the growth curve for domestic biopharma in India by accelerating the translation of research concepts into viable products, enabling sustainable networks for collaboration between industry and academia, and supporting entrepreneurial ecosystem amongst many others. The program has a great potential to take it further & move the idea of Make in India to Innovate in India.