



THSTI: Part of Vaccine Assessment Project

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Why in News

The **Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness for Innovation (CEPI)**, a global initiative, has named **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)**, Faridabad as **one of the six laboratories for assessing Covid-19 vaccine candidates** that are under development.

Key Points

- **Six Laboratories:**

- The **CEPI network will initially involve six labs**, one each in **Canada, Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Bangladesh and India.**
- All the labs would use the same reagents (cause a chemical reaction) and follow a common set of protocols to **measure the immune response of multiple vaccine candidates** under development and trial.
- This will **greatly harmonise the vaccine trial process** and allow different vaccine candidates to be compared and speed up the selection of the most effective candidate.
- The **mandate of the THSTI** is to provide validated assays (analysis) for vaccine development on a par with global standards.

Bioassay is the determination of the relative strength of a substance (drug) by comparing its effect on a test organism with that of a standard preparation.

- **Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness for Innovation (CEPI):**
 - CEPI is a **global partnership launched in 2017** to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics.
 - CEPI was **founded in Davos (Switzerland)** by the governments of **Norway and India**, the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, the Wellcome Trust, and the **World Economic Forum**.
 - The **Department of Biotechnology**, Ministry of Science & Technology, and Government of India has been implementing the **IndCEPI mission** 'India Centric Epidemic Preparedness through Rapid Vaccine Development: Supporting Indian Vaccine Development'.
 - The **objectives of this mission** are aligned with that of CEPI and aims to strengthen the development of vaccines and associated competencies/technologies for the diseases of epidemic potential in India.
- **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI):**
 - It is an **autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**.
 - It is located in **Faridabad (Haryana)**.

Source: PIB