



Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Why in News?

Recently, **Asia's first pre-clinical network facility for health research** was established at the [Regional Centre of Biotechnology](#).

- It is under the [Translational Health Science & Technology Institute \(THSTI\)](#) in **Faridabad**, as part of the [Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations \(CEPI\)](#).

Key Points

- **CEPI has selected BRIC-THSTI** as a pre-clinical network laboratory based on its capability to handle [BSL3 pathogens](#).
- It is the **9th network laboratory** and will be the first in Asia, joining others in the USA, Europe, and Australia.
- The Animal Facility is one of the largest in the country, housing about **75,000 mice as well as immune compromised mice, rats, rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs**.
- The "[Genetically Defined Human Associated Microbial Culture Collection \(Ge-HuMic\) Facility](#)" was also inaugurated to act as a "repository" for **providing microbial cultures to research institutes, universities, and industries for research and development**.
 - The facility will function as a **Nodal Resource Center to facilitate collaborations** between academic institutions, hospitals, and industry at national and international levels.
 - It will also **store genetically characterized specific pathogen-free** animals, including cryopreserved embryos and sperm, for researchers in the country.

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)**.

Biosafety Levels (BSL)

- BSL is used to **identify the protective measures** needed in a laboratory setting to protect workers, the environment, and the public.

- Activities and projects conducted in **biological laboratories are categorized by biosafety level.**
- The four biosafety levels are BSL-1, BSL-2, **BSL-3**, and BSL-4, with BSL-4 being the highest (maximum) level of containment.

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