



Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches Phase-III of "Biomedical Research Career Programme" (BRCP) with collaborative funding by Department of Biotechnology, Govt and the London based Wellcome Trust, UK

With a total outlay of ₹1,500 crore, including ₹1,000 crore from the Department of Biotechnology and ₹500 crore from Wellcome Trust UK, BRCP Phase-III will ensure continued support for fellowships and research grants for nurturing a globally competitive biomedical research workforce: Dr Jitendra Singh

The next industrial revolution will be driven by biotechnology, and India is prepared to lead it: Dr. Jitendra Singh

India's Bioeconomy Set to Reach USD 300 Billion by 2030 as Government Strengthens Globally Competitive Biomedical Research Workforce: Dr. Jitendra Singh

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Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today launched Phase-III of the Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP) with a total outlay of ₹1,500 crore, including ₹1,000 crore from the Department of Biotechnology and ₹500 crore from London based Wellcome Trust, UK.

Launching the programme, Dr Jitendra Singh said, biotechnology is set to become the defining force behind India's next phase of economic growth, scientific advancement and global competitiveness, asserting that the country is no longer a participant but an emerging leader in the biotechnology revolution.

The Minister said India's bioeconomy has expanded nearly twenty-fold, from USD 10 billion in 2014 to over USD 195 billion in 2025, and is projected to touch USD 300 billion by 2030, reflecting the rapid transformation of the sector under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He said India today hosts nearly 12,000 biotechnology startups, has emerged among the world's leading vaccine manufacturers, and is steadily strengthening its position as a global biotechnology hub.

The Minister launched the flagship programme jointly implemented by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, and Wellcome Trust, UK, through the DBT-Wellcome Trust India Alliance, at a function attended by Prof. Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Director General, BRIC; Prof. Dame Fiona Powrie, Deputy Chair, Board of Governors, Wellcome Trust, UK; Dr. Apurva Sarin, CEO, DBT-Wellcome Trust India Alliance, members of the Board of Trustees, Strategic Advisory Council, eminent scientists, heads of research institutions, biomedical researchers and nearly eighty BRCP awardees. The programme included the ceremonial launch of Phase-III, interactions with researchers whose careers have been shaped through the initiative, and presentations showcasing the programme's scientific achievements and long-term impact.

Describing biotechnology as one of the most significant drivers of the emerging global knowledge economy, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the discipline has moved beyond scientific laboratories and is now influencing economic policy, industrial growth and national development strategies. He said biotechnology is increasingly being recognised as the foundation of the next industrial revolution, placing India in a strong position to lead global innovation through scientific research, entrepreneurship and advanced manufacturing.

The Minister said the Biomedical Research Career Programme has evolved far beyond a fellowship initiative and has established itself as one of India's most respected scientific career platforms. Referring to interactions with several programme beneficiaries during the event, he said the initiative has strengthened researchers not only through financial support but also by enhancing their scientific credentials, international visibility and professional opportunities. Over the past eighteen years, he said, the programme has developed into a prestigious institution that continues to attract and nurture scientific excellence.

Dr. Jitendra Singh described the partnership between the Government of India and Wellcome Trust as a model of sustained international scientific collaboration and philanthropy. He said the programme demonstrates how long-term partnerships can accelerate scientific discovery, develop world-class human resources and build research ecosystems capable of addressing national as well as global health challenges. He also called for greater participation by philanthropic institutions and industry, observing that while India possesses abundant scientific talent and innovative ideas, sustained financial partnerships remain essential for translating research into technologies, diagnostics and affordable healthcare solutions.

Referring to India's scientific transformation over the past decade, the Minister said the country has undergone a remarkable journey from a time when its healthcare capabilities received limited global recognition to becoming a trusted leader in preventive healthcare and vaccine development. He attributed this progress to sustained investments in research, strong policy support, vibrant startup ecosystems and increasing collaboration between government, academia and industry.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved Phase-III of BRCP with a total outlay of ₹1,500 crore, including ₹1,000 crore from the Department of Biotechnology and ₹500 crore from Wellcome Trust, ensuring continued support for fellowships and research grants. The programme, he said, seeks to nurture a globally competitive biomedical research workforce comprising basic scientists, clinician-researchers, public health experts, science communicators and research managers while creating greater opportunities for interdisciplinary and collaborative research. He added that the initiative would also attract new philanthropic and international partnerships, multiplying the impact of India's investments in biomedical science.

The Minister said the Government has consistently created an enabling policy environment for frontier scientific research. Referring to recent reforms, he said India has expanded opportunities for private participation in strategic research areas, including nuclear medicine, which will significantly strengthen

future healthcare innovation. He emphasised that closer integration of research institutions, industry and startups from the earliest stages of scientific development would accelerate the translation of laboratory discoveries into products and technologies benefiting society.

Prof. Dame Fiona Powrie, Deputy Chair, Board of Governors, Wellcome Trust, UK, described the eighteen-year partnership between DBT and Wellcome as an enduring example of how international collaboration can strengthen science and improve global health. She said science advances through collaboration across disciplines, institutions and countries, while meaningful health outcomes depend upon solutions tailored to local realities. She said Phase-III places greater emphasis on interdisciplinary and team-based research capable of addressing complex biomedical challenges and translating discoveries into practical healthcare applications. She also appreciated the programme's contribution in supporting hundreds of researchers and training thousands of young scientists who are now contributing to globally recognised institutions.

Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Director General, BRIC, Prof. Rajesh S. Gokhale said the Biomedical Research Career Programme has emerged as one of the Department's flagship international partnerships since its inception in 2008. He said the programme has played a transformative role in building scientific leadership, strengthening research institutions and creating globally competitive biomedical researchers. He also said that the long-term approval framework for Phase-III provides continuity and stability to the programme, enabling sustained investments in scientific talent and research excellence aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Launched in 2008, the Biomedical Research Career Programme has supported more than 500 researchers, strengthened biomedical research across over 200 institutions, trained thousands of students and early-career scientists, and generated globally recognised scientific contributions. Phase-III will expand support for outstanding researchers across different career stages, promote collaborative and translational research, strengthen India's biomedical innovation ecosystem and accelerate the development of technologies, diagnostics and healthcare solutions that address national priorities while enhancing India's global scientific leadership.





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