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Serum Institute of India joins CEPI to boost production of affordable outbreak vaccines

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CEPI is investing up to $30 million to build upon SIIâ??s proven track record of rapid response to outbreaks of infectious disease



Pune-based vaccine manufacturer Serum Institute of India (SII) is joining a growing Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) network of vaccine producers in the Global South to support more rapid, agile, and equitable responses to future public health disease outbreaks.

The addition of SII to the Norway-based CEPI manufacturing network will be a significant boost to vaccine production efforts in Global South regions and will mean the world is better prepared to achieve the 100 Days Mission to develop new vaccines against known or novel infectious diseases within three months of a pandemic threat being recognised.

To prepare for such a scenario, CEPI is investing up to $30 million to build upon SII's proven track record of rapid response to outbreaks of infectious disease, expanding the company's existing ability to swiftly supply investigational vaccines in the face of epidemic and pandemic threats.

This would then enable CEPI-backed vaccine developers to quickly transfer their technology to SII within days or weeks of an outbreak to begin rapid production and equitable distribution of affordable vaccines to affected populations.

Created by CEPI to expand the global footprint of vaccine production, the manufacturing network focuses on vaccine makers in the Global South near areas at high risk of outbreaks caused by deadly viral threats like Lassa Fever, Nipah, Disease X, and other pathogens with epidemic or pandemic potential prioritised by CEPI. Given SII's already proven production capabilities, in the event of an outbreak the company may be called upon to promptly supply investigational vaccines for preclinical and clinical testing as well as large-scale supply.

With CEPI's funding, SII will also support the development, stockpiling and licensure of new vaccines against CEPI's priority pathogens. CEPI and SII are exploring which CEPI-backed vaccines SII will support.