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CEPI board meeting with a focus on identifying disease priorities and future strategy

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The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) will be partnering in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovations (CEPI) which is a new global alliance among governments, industries, academia, philanthropy, inter-governmental institutions, World Health Organization and civil society. Identifying disease priorities, future strategy and setting of Permanent Secretariat for CEPI was the main focus of the meeting.

Commenting on this coalition, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences said, "I am confident that the coalition has a dream to make the world free of epidemics and the determination to succeed and hence will do so. I from the government of India pledge all the support for this movement".

CEPI came into existence on August 31, 2016 in London and there is an interim Board currently chaired by Prof. K. VijayRaghavan, Secretary DBT which has supreme decision-making authority for all funding, policy and product development aspects of CEPI's operations. It is currently being steered by five founding partners. They are: Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, GOI; Government of Norway; Wellcome Trust; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and World Economic Forum.
Dr. Jeremy Farrar, Director, Wellcome Trust said, "Coalitions like CEPI were necessary to eradicate epidemics,"

Dr. John-Arne Rottingen, CEO, CEPI said, "Timely vaccine development needs prioritisation of diseases, preparedness for emergency".