

Need to create network of bio-manufacturing facilities: DBT secy

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Department of bio-technology (DBT) secretary Dr Rajesh Gokhale has stressed the need for the creation of a sector-specific robust network of bio-manufacturing facilities specifically for monoclonal antibodies in India.

He shared his vision for creation of the sector during the first meeting of the Sectoral Expert Committee on Bio-manufacturing of Precision Bio-therapeutics, specifically focusing on monoclonal antibodies organised by the department of bio-technology, ministry of science and technology (MST), Government of India lately at IIT Indore.

The meeting was attended by more than 60 participants, including 20 scientists and industry professionals.



Participants of Sectoral Expert Committee pose for a group photo at IIT Indore

At the meeting, Dr Alka Sharma, senior adviser, DBT, discussed the relevance of the objectives and outcomes anticipated from the meeting.

It provided a platform for leading scientists, industry professionals and regulatory representatives to share their insights to define a strategic direction for bio-manufacturing of monoclonal antibodies in India.

Dr Jayanta Bhattacharya, chairman and Dr Dhananjay Patankar, co-chairman of the committee outlined a cohesive strategy for the advancement of the sector and proposed a strategic roadmap for the future of monoclonal antibody production in India.

During the meeting, several industry experts and scientists shared insights into the current global and

Indian landscape of the sector, process technologies, monoclonal antibody selection and regulatory challenges.

IIT Indore director Professor Suhas Joshi and the institute's department of bio-sciences and bio-medical engineering Prof Avinash Sonawane were also present in the meeting and emphasised the importance of precision manufacturing in the area of bio-

similar and monoclonal antibodies.

Monoclonal antibodies have a wide range of application in therapeutics and diagnostics of different types of diseases due to their specificity and selectivity for particular antigens. During the meeting, expert members and participants deliberated on the importance, gaps and challenges of establishing monoclonal antibody bio-manufacturing facilities in India to boost clinical research and bio-pharmaceutical industries to gain a competitive edge in the global market.

'This meeting proved to be a significant platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration and charting a strategic course for the advancement of bio-manufacturing in the field of precision bio-therapeutics,' a press release issued by IIT Indore said.