

Biotechnology & Health:

Key Highlights:

Epigenic Therapeutics Secures \$60M in Funding: Epigenic Therapeutics, a clinical-stage biotechnology company, announced the completion of a \$60 million Series B financing round. The funding will be used to accelerate the clinical development of its epigenetic medicines for chronic hepatitis B and hypercholesterolemia. The company's proprietary EPIREG™ platform, which utilizes epigenome regulation for gene silencing, offers a new and safer approach compared to traditional gene-editing methods.

Biotech Companies Present at Investor Conferences: Several biotechnology companies are participating in major investor conferences. Sana Biotechnology and TRexBio are both presenting at the Morgan Stanley 23rd Annual Global Healthcare Conference in New York City. These conferences provide a platform for companies to share updates on their clinical pipelines, business strategies, and technological advancements with investors.

India's Biotechnology Sector Growth: India is making strides in its biotechnology sector. A new initiative on "High Performance Biomanufacturing Platforms" aims to accelerate biomanufacturing and reduce reliance on imports. This effort, supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), aligns with India's goal of becoming a global bioeconomy leader.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Updates: The ICMR has released several recent publications and announcements. These include studies on a new needle-free COVID-19 vaccine, the efficacy of TB treatments, and a comprehensive model for care for PCOS. The ICMR also announced a "Call for proposals for Fellowships for North Eastern Region" to promote health research in emerging fields.

Rising Biotech Stocks: Biotech stocks, as measured by the XBI index, have seen a recent increase. This rise is attributed to key industry developments, including new recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) regarding RSV vaccines and positive updates from major pharmaceutical companies like Gilead Sciences.

Ethical Considerations in Health and Biotechnology: Discussions on ethical issues in the field continue. This includes the debate on India's path to Universal Health Care (UHC), with critics arguing that the insurance-driven model reinforces for-profit healthcare and neglects public health infrastructure. The development of a "first bioengineered human embryo" also raises ethical debates while advancing infertility and genetic research.

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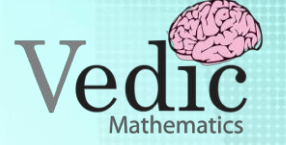
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MCQS

1.What is the primary purpose of the \$60 million Series B funding for Epigenetic Therapeutics?

- A) To launch a new line of medical devices.
- B) To build new research facilities.
- C) To accelerate the clinical development of its epigenetic medicines.
- D) To acquire a smaller biotechnology company.

Answer: C) To accelerate the clinical development of its epigenetic medicines.
The text explicitly states, "The funding will be used to accelerate the clinical development of its epigenetic medicines for chronic hepatitis B and hypercholesterolemia."

2.Which Indian government department is supporting the "High Performance Biomanufacturing Platforms" initiative?

- A) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- B) The Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- C) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- D) The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Answer: B) The Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

The article mentions, "This effort, supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), aligns with India's goal of becoming a global bioeconomy leader."

3.According to the text, what is one of the recent studies or announcements from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)?

- A) A new vaccine for malaria.
- B) A study on the efficacy of TB treatments.
- C) A model for treating heart disease.
- D) An initiative on biomanufacturing.

Answer: B) A study on the efficacy of TB treatments.

The text lists several ICMR updates, including "studies on a new needle-free COVID-19 vaccine, the efficacy of TB treatments, and a comprehensive model for care for PCOS."

4.What is one of the ethical debates mentioned in the text regarding health and biotechnology?

- A) The use of artificial intelligence in healthcare.
- B) The development of a "first bioengineered human embryo."
- C) The cost of new drugs.
- D) The use of animals in clinical trials.

Answer: B) The development of a "first bioengineered human embryo."





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The provided information states that the development of a "first bioengineered human embryo" raises ethical debates, in addition to discussions on India's Universal Health Care model.

5.What is the purpose of companies like Sana Biotechnology and TRexBio presenting at the Morgan Stanley 23rd Annual Global Healthcare Conference?

- A) To recruit new employees.
- B) To find new partners for research.
- C) To share updates with investors.
- D) To announce a new product launch.

Answer: C) To share updates with investors.

The text clarifies that these conferences "provide a platform for companies to share updates on their clinical pipelines, business strategies, and technological advancements with investors."



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