

Need to standardise pandemic best practices: PM Modi to vaccine companies

TNN | Oct 24, 2021, 02.31 AM IST



NEW DELHI: Two days after India crossed the landmark of 100-crore Covid jabs, PM Narendra Modi on Saturday met local vaccine manufacturers and exhorted the need to institutionalise the best practises learnt during the past one and a half years and also asked them to take 'Brand India' to the next level globally.

Modi stressed the need to ramp up vaccination to be able to cover all eligible population as quickly as possible, while underlining the need to help other countries in inoculating their population.

The vaccine manufacturers appreciated the vision and dynamic leadership of PM Modi in providing continuous guidance and support that helped in getting vaccines ready in record time. They also appreciated the collaboration between the government and the industry, and lauded the

regulatory reforms, simplified procedures and timely approvals and support from the Centre that ensured smooth delivery of vaccines from lab to land.

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“The Prime Minister went out of his way, made all regulatory people move very fast, they also cooperated and that is why India is where it is today in covering up such a huge population, which it would have otherwise not been able to do,” said Cyrus Poonawalla, CMD, Serum Institute of India.

Modi met seven vaccine manufacturers on Saturday. Apart from Serum Institute of India, representatives from Bharat Biotech, Dr Reddy’s Laboratories, Zydus Cadila, Biological E, Gennova Biopharma and Panacea Biotech were present at the meeting. Health minister Mansukh Mandaviya and junior health minister Bharati Pravin Pawar also attended the meeting. The PM said the world is looking up to India, in the backdrop of the success of the vaccination drive. Vaccine manufacturers should continuously work together to be ready to face future challenges, he added.



“PM Modi emphasised on how we can create our vaccine Maitri globally and take Brand India to the next level,” Panacea Biotech MD Rajesh Jain said. Bharat Biotech’s Dr Krishna Ella thanked Modi for having taken Covaxin, and for the continuous support during its development.