

# Manthan 2026

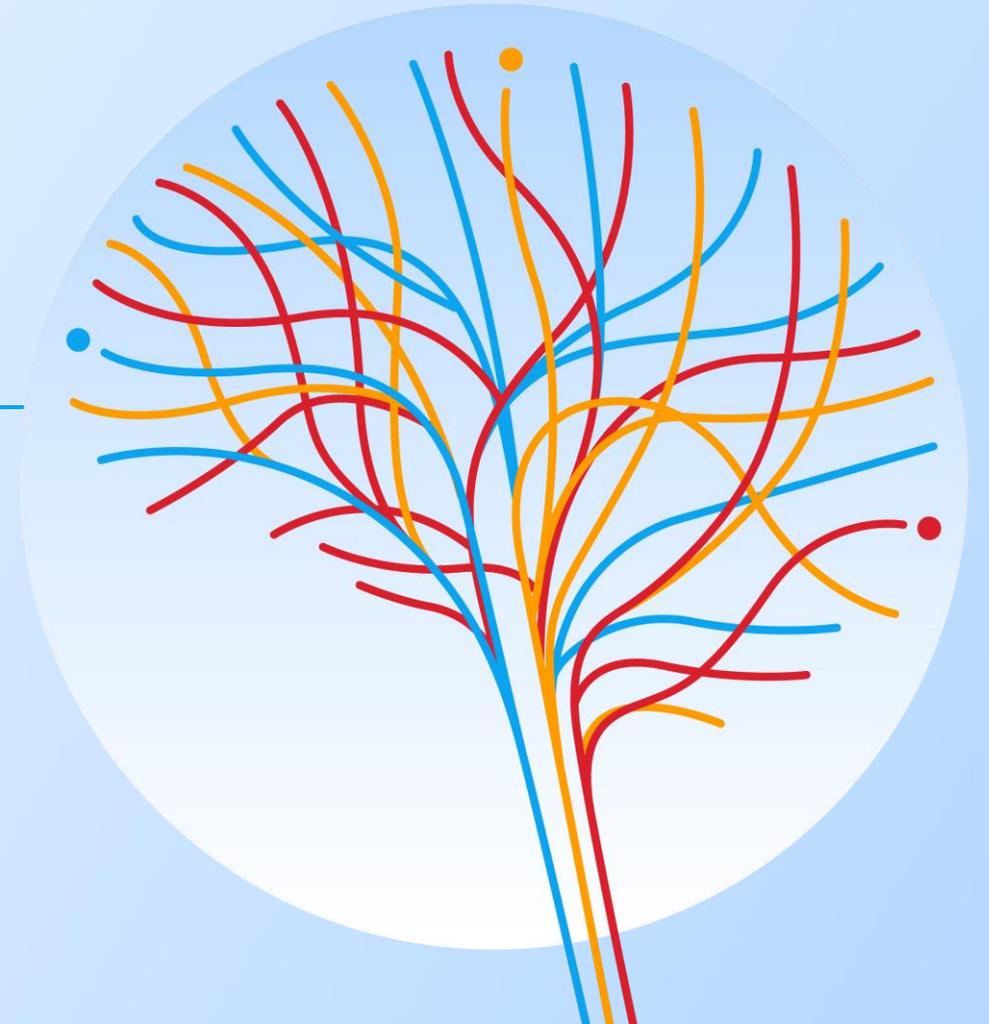
A Research and Development  
Leadership Symposium



Novotel Mumbai International Airport  
Metro Station, CTS 1359,  
Next to Airport, Marol, Mumbai



16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 | 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM



# Agenda for Manthan 2026

Time	Session Details
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome & Inauguration (Lamp Lighting)
09:15 – 11:00	Session 1: The Future of Life Sciences R&D in India: The Innovation Leap
11:00 – 11:30	 Networking Break
11:30 – 13:00	Session 2: Next-Gen Therapeutics: Unlocking the Future with mRNA, Cell, and Gene Therapy?
13:00 – 14:00	 Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:30	Session 3: Building the Roadmap for Research on Tropical Diseases including Neglected Tropical Diseases
15:30 – 16:00	 Networking Break
16:00 – 17:30	Session 4: Enabling Innovation: Building India's Life Sciences R&D Ecosystem of Talent, Infrastructure, and Collaboration
17:30 – 17:45	Closing Reflections



# Session Details

## SESSION 1

**The Future of Life Sciences R&D in India: The Innovation Leap**

## SESSION CURATORS

**Dr. Sanish Davis  
Mr. Saumil Mody**

## SESSION MODERATORS

**Dr. Sanish Davis  
Mr. Saumil Mody**

## SESSION DURATION: 105 MINUTES

- **Talks (3): Total 60 Mins**
- **Panel Discussion: 35 Mins**
- **Q&A: 10 Mins**

Name	Speaker Affiliation	Topic
<b>Dr. Renu Swarup</b>	Former Secretary to Government of India, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology	The Future of Life Sciences R&D in India: The Innovation Leap
<b>Dr. Habil Khorakiwala</b>	Founder & Chairman, Wockhardt Ltd.	The Journey to Global Leadership in Antibiotic Research
<b>Dr. Sanjay Singh</b>	CEO, Gennova, Biopharmaceuticals Ltd.	Innovative Solutions, Cutting-Edge Bio-Therapeutics, and Future-Forward Enterprises
<b>Mr. KG Ananthakrishnan</b>	Former Secretary-General, OPPI	Panel Discussion
<b>Mr. Sudarshan Jain</b>	Secretary-General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance	Panel Discussion
<b>Mr. Sanjiv Navangul</b>	MD & CEO, Bharat Serums and Vaccines Ltd. (A Mankind Group Company)	Panel Discussion



# Session Details

## SESSION 2

**Next-Gen Therapeutics:  
Unlocking the Future with  
mRNA, Cell, and Gene Therapy?**

## SESSION CURATORS

**Dr. Pawan Singh  
Dr. Seema Pai**

## SESSION MODERATORS

**Dr. Pawan Singh  
Dr. Seema Pai**

## SESSION DURATION: 90 MINUTES

- **Talks (3): Total 45 Mins**
- **Panel Discussion: 30 Mins**
- **Q&A: 15 Mins**

Name	Speaker Affiliation	Topic
<b>Dr. Shridhar Narayanan</b>	Founder Director, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for Neglected Disease Research (FNDR)	Use of AI and ML for development of new drug therapeutics
<b>Yogananth Rajendran</b>	VP, Global Regulatory Affairs, Kashiv Biosciences	Navigating the CMC and GMP challenges for the approval of CAR-T products in India
<b>Dr. (Prof.) Vijay Patil</b>	Professor – Medical Oncology – P.D. Hinduja Hospital and Professor at SunAct Cancer Institute Pvt. Ltd.	Who benefits from CAR-T therapy- Cancer type and eligibility?
<b>Dr. Taruna Madan Gupta</b>	Scientist G & Head, Division of Development Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, Delhi	Panel Discussion
<b>Prof. Bikash Medhi</b>	Professor & Head, Pharmacology, PGIMER	Panel Discussion



# Session Details

## SESSION 3

**Building the Roadmap for Research on Tropical Diseases including Neglected Tropical Diseases.**

## SESSION CURATORS

**Dr. Chirag Trivedi  
Dr. Manisha Ginde  
Dr. Kavita Singh**

## SESSION MODERATOR

**Dr. Chirag Trivedi**

## SESSION DURATION: 90 MINUTES

- **Talks (4): Total 55 Mins**
- **Panel Discussion: 25 Mins**
- **Q&A: 10 Mins**

Name	Speaker Affiliation	Topic
<b>Dr. Kavita Singh</b>	Independent Director, Genova Biopharmaceuticals & Social Alpha	The Canvas of Neglected Tropical Diseases with Focus on Research in India
<b>Dr. Neena Valecha</b>	President National Academy of Vector Borne Diseases	Malaria – Introspect on R&D today for solutions tomorrow
<b>Dr. Shivaprakash Rudramurthy</b>	Professor, Medical Microbiology, PGIMER	Fungal Diseases, is this in our thoughts?
<b>Dr. Hira Nakhasi</b>	Director, Div of Emerging & Transfusion – Transmitted Diseases, USFDA	India’s R&D journey towards elimination of Leishmaniasis
<b>Dr. Taruna Madan Gupta</b>	Scientist G & Head, Division of Development Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, Delhi	Panel Discussion (The Future Roadmap for R&D in Tropical Diseases)
<b>Dr. Prasad S Kulkarni</b>	Executive Director, Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd.	Panel Discussion (The Future Roadmap for R&D in Tropical Diseases)
<b>Dr. Kavita Singh</b>	Independent Director, Genova Biopharmaceuticals & Social Alpha	Panel Discussion (The Future Roadmap for R&D in Tropical Diseases)



# Session Details

## SESSION 4

**Enabling Innovation:  
Building India's Life Sciences R&D  
Ecosystem of Talent, Infrastructure,  
and Collaboration.**

## SESSION CURATORS

**Suneela Thatte  
Dr. Anirban Roy Chowdhury  
Dr. Santosh Jha**

## SESSION MODERATOR

**Suneela Thatte  
PANEL MODERATOR  
Bharath M**

## SESSION DURATION: 90 MINUTES

- **Talks (2): Total 50 Mins**
- **Panel Discussion: 30 Mins**
- **Q&A: 10 Mins**

Name	Speaker Affiliation	Topic
<b>Dr. Raj Kumar Shirumalla</b>	Mission Director – National Biopharma Mission, BIRAC	National Missions fuelling India Life Sciences, Innovation Engines and Capacity Building
<b>Dr. Sadhna Joglekar</b>	Sr. VP and Head Global Development India Hub, Novartis	Shaping Up Next Gen R&D Work Force: Building competencies for Digital, Translational & Inter Disciplinary Sciences
<b>Bharath M</b>	Vice President, Everest Group	Panel Discussion (Collaborate to Innovate : Integrating Academia, Industry and Start ups for Transformative R&D)
<b>Dr. Shridhar Narayanan</b>	Founder Director, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for Neglected Disease Research (FNDR)	Panel Discussion (Collaborate to Innovate : Integrating Academia, Industry and Start ups for Transformative R&D)
<b>Suneela Thatte</b>	Vice President & Head – Healthcare R&D India, Merck KGaA	Panel Discussion (Collaborate to Innovate : Integrating Academia, Industry and Start ups for Transformative R&D)
<b>Dr. Vinod Mattoo</b>	Executive Director, DiagnoSearch Life Sciences	Panel Discussion (Collaborate to Innovate : Integrating Academia, Industry and Start ups for Transformative R&D)



# Welcome to Manthan 2026

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Together, we are building a future where science, collaboration, and innovation create lasting global impact

