

MedTech Mitra

An Initiative to Empower Young Medical Technology Entrepreneurs

THE 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights serves as timeless evidence, illuminating the intrinsic right of every individual to health and well-being. With this global commitment as our guiding light, India's Constitution delineates the "Right to Life with an attainable standard of health and well-being" as a cardinal right. This is not merely a constitutional provision but a sacred pledge that every Indian has the unequivocal right to the pinnacle of health and well-being. Navigating the vast expanse of India's diverse healthcare landscape, we recognise that universal health coverage is not just a dream but necessary. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with their pivotal Target 3.8, amplify this vision, emphasising our collective resolve to ensure that healthcare facilities resonate with the norms of accessibility and affordability. But how do we realise this ambitious objective, especially in a diverse and dynamic nation? The answer lies in harnessing the transformative potential of the Medical Technology (MedTech) sector.

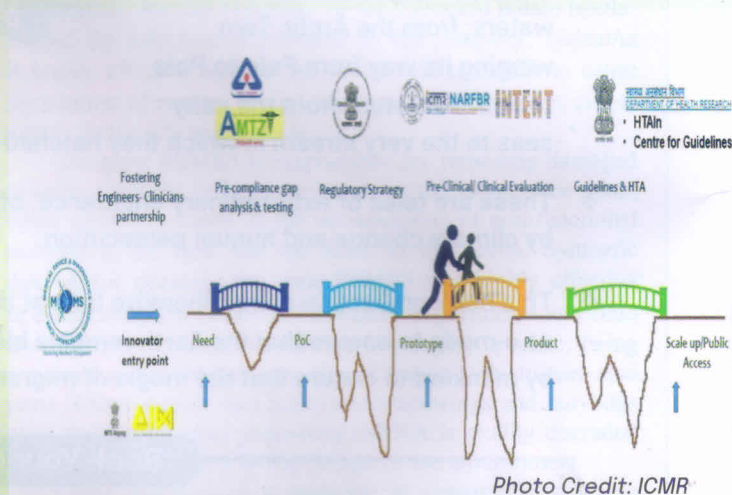
As a burgeoning segment of the Indian economy, MedTech promises not just innovation but also democratisation of quality healthcare. However, the sector's potential remains largely under-realised, messed up in challenges like fragmentation and an undue reliance on imports. While addressing immediate needs, such dependencies unintentionally risk our long-term vision of a self-reliant healthcare ecosystem anchored in pillars like availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality. When we talk about self-reliance in the field of medical technology in India, more than just a policy directive, Atmanirbhar Bharat encapsulates India's dream of emerging as a global epicentre for medical technology innovation. The scaffolds of this dream are constructed with initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) and the Promotion of Medical Devices Parks Scheme. These are not only schemes but catalysts designed to stimulate indigenous manufacturing, research and development and cultivate an ecosystem where innovation thrives.

Yet, as with any transformative journey, challenges abound. The MedTech sector's evolution demands a holistic approach — one that combines the resources and expertise of government, academia, industry, and startups. The lack of technical guidance, awareness of evolving regulations,

funding opportunities, suitable testing labs, manufacturing partner(s) and sporadic information dissemination are not mere roadblocks; they are rallying points, urging us to recalibrate our strategies and intensify our efforts.

MedTech Mitra: A Participatory Initiative

Recognising this complex web of challenges and opportunities, the collaborative alliance of NITI Aayog, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) brought out the MedTech Mitra. This is not only a facilitation cell but a movement



A diagrammatic representation of Handholding support MedTech innovators, encompassing support throughout the clinical evaluation process, regulatory facilitation, and uptake of new products

designed to nurture, guide, and amplify the voices of innovators working in the medical technology sector. Through strategic interventions, regulatory guidance, technology evaluations, and comprehensive Health Technology Assessments, MedTech Mitra aspires to be the fulcrum around which India's MedTech revolution revolves. MedTech Mitra's vision extends beyond transactional support. By fostering partnerships with stakeholders, ICMR, through the Medical Device & Diagnostic Mission Secretariat (MDMS) along with Nationwide Clinical Site Network INTENT and knowledge