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Scheme for promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector (PRIP)

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Why is in news? Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launches National Policy on Research and Development and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector in India and Scheme for promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector (PRIP)

“Today is a historic day, an inflection point in the journey of "Atmanirbharta" in the pharma & medical devices sector. We need to transform Indian Pharma & MedTech sectors from a cost-based to a value-based & innovation-based industry.” This was stated by Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of Health & Family Welfare at the launch of **National Policy on Research and Development and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector** in India and **Scheme for promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector (PRIP)**

India can only **achieve self-reliance in pharmaceuticals and medical devices** by strengthening its research and development infrastructure that would drive the expansion of access to life-saving medicines and drugs and help India become a global pharmaceuticals and medical exports hub.

Reiterating the slogan of ‘**Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan and Jai Anusandhan**’, India prioritizes growth and innovation in brain power and manpower, wherein Covid is an example where we stood the testimony of the time. We need to do mass production of our pharmaceutical products and medical devices.

India have made **three bulk drug parks** in **Himachal Pradesh, Vizag and Gujarat** and **four medical device parks** in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, which will help in strengthening this sector.

Focus on transforming India into a **high-volume, high-value player** in the global market of pharmaceuticals, meeting the quality, accessibility, and affordability goals.

The policy will help to **create an ecosystem of skills and capacities** including the academia and the private sectors, and give impetus to new talent among the youth through start-ups.

This is a **transformative stage in the Indian drugs and med-tech sector**, stressed where synergies are being created between various Government institutions and agencies such as Pharma Deptt., ICMR, DST, DBT, NIPER etc.

About PRIP:

Indian pharmaceutical industry is the **3rd largest pharmaceutical industry in the world** by volume with current market size of around USD 50 billion.

The industry could potentially grow to USD 120-130 Billion over the next decade; one of the key drivers for this growth to be expansion of the industry’s presence in the innovation space.

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At present a major component of Indian exports are **low value generic drugs** while a large proportion of the demand for patented drugs is met through imports. This is because the Indian Pharmaceutical sector **lacks in high value production along with world class pharma R&D**.

In order to incentivize the global and domestic players to **enhance investment and production** in these product categories, a well-designed and suitably targeted intervention is required to incentivise specific high value goods such as biopharmaceuticals, complex generic drugs, patented drugs or drugs nearing patent expiry, cell based or gene therapy drugs.

The medical device sector is also an essential and integral constituent of the healthcare sector.

Govt of India has acknowledged the need for pharma innovation and made **announcement in the Budget 23-24** that” A **new Programme to promote research and innovation** in pharmaceuticals will be taken up **through Centres of Excellence**. We shall also encourage industry to invest in research and development in specific priority areas.”

Accordingly, **Department of Pharmaceutical** has proposed PRIP (Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector) scheme with a budget outlay of Rs. 5000 crores notified through Gazette notification on 17th August 2023.

The objective of the scheme is to **transform Indian pharmaceuticals sector from cost based to innovation-based growth** by strengthening the research infrastructure in the country.

The aim of the scheme is to **promote industry-academia linkage for R&D in priority areas** and to inculcate the culture of quality research and nurture our pool of scientists. This will lead to sustained global competitive advantage and contribute to quality employment generation in the country.

Two components:

Component A: Strengthening the research infrastructure by establishment of 7 Centre of Excellence (CoEs) at NIPERs-These CoEs would be set up in pre identified areas with a financial outlay of Rs 700 Crores.

Component B: Promoting research in pharmaceutical sector by encouraging research in **six priority areas** like New Chemical Entities, Complex generics including biosimilars, medical devices, stem cell therapy, orphan drugs, Anti-microbial resistance etc., wherein financial assistance will be provided for the Industries, MSME, SME, Startups working with government institutes and for both in- house and academic research. The component has a financial outlay of Rs.4250 Crores.

Benefits of the scheme:

Development of Research Infrastructure- The scheme would help in building a world class research atmosphere at NIPERs and other institutes and help in creating talent pool of qualified trained students.

This scheme will **promote industry-academia linkages** by promoting collaboration between Private sector and Govt. institutes.

Focus on certain priority areas which will help India’s pharma industry leapfrog and radically strengthen its position in the world market as innovation accounts for 2/3rd of global pharmaceutical opportunities.

The scheme would help in **launching of commercially viable products** which will accelerate the growth of Indian pharmaceutical sector by increased revenue and creating employment opportunities.

The scheme would **help in the development of affordable, accessible solution** for primary area of health concern thus reducing health care burden.

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