



PRESS RELEASE

ICMR-DHR establishes “ICMR at IITs” for fostering Medical Device and Diagnostics Innovation and Product Development in a Mission Mode under its Flagship Initiative Medical Device and Diagnostics Mission Secretariat (MDMS)

New Delhi, November 3rd , 2021: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) joins hands with IITs to establish “ICMR at IITs” by setting-up Centres of Excellence (CoE) for strategic Make-in-India product development and their commercialization in the medical device and diagnostics sector. The thematic areas under the CoE have been strategically designed to ensure that the products/ technologies so developed by CoEs synergize with the requirements of the National Health Mission, Ayushman Bharat and Public Health Programs of the Government of India for their potential deployment.

The ICMR-DHR CoE have been set up at six IITs to begin with viz., IIT Bombay, IIT Guwahati, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur and IIT Madras. The setting-up of the “ICMR at IITs” will bridge the gap in the technology development and commercialisation cycle for a larger public health impact. The Medical Device sector in India is currently valued at \$7-8 billion and is expected to grow to \$50 billion - by 2025 as per industry estimates. Since the Indian healthcare sector is heavily dependent on imports for its medical device needs and imports about 80% of the medical devices, the setting-up of ICMR at IITs under the ambitious Medical Device and Diagnostics Mission Secretariat set-up at ICMR Headquarters will help address this gap by fostering development of robust, state-of-the-art, ‘Make in India’ Medical device and diagnostics by partnering with IITs. The ICMR-DHR CoE at IITs will in turn collaborate with the medical institutes to develop need driven, affordable and inclusive healthcare solutions for their wider adoption.

Prof. Balram Bharagava, Secretary, DHR and Director General, ICMR formally addressed the Directors and Deans of the IITs at ICMR Headquarters at New Delhi and offered ICMR’s support and commitment for this initiative. The setting-up of ICMR-DHR CoE at IITs will create a pipeline of innovative medical devices, start-ups and will incentivize and motivate local manufacturing in India and provide holistic support to the technologies/ products nearing commercialization. As most of the medical devices available in India are not affordable, the philosophy behind the scheme is to develop “more for less for more” to ensure wider product outreach with a mandate to promote “Global Affordable Need Driven Healthcare Innovation” (GANDHI). This will have significant impact on improving access to affordable

quality healthcare, particularly for middle and lower income segments of the Indian population.

The council will ensure the large scale implementation of the program in contributing towards economic growth by import substitution and will also look forward to take these technologies for scale-up and commercialisation in Public Private Partnership through involvement of industries.

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About ICMR: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world. ICMR's research priorities align with the National health priorities. These efforts are undertaken with a view to reduce the total burden of disease and to promote health and well-being of the population. ICMR promotes biomedical research in the country through intramural as well as extramural research. Visit us at <https://www.icmr.gov.in>

Contacts

Dr Suchita Markan

Scientist E

Indian Council of Medical Research

Email: suchita.markan@icmr.gov.in

Dr Lokesh Sharma

Scientist E & Media Coordinator

Indian Council of Medical Research

M: +917567311014

Email: sharma.lk@icmr.gov.in