

DBT ties up with A.P. MedTech Zone to augment critical medical equipment production

New Delhi, May 12: The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has joined hands with Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ) to develop a strategy to address the shortage of critical medical equipment in India and move progressively towards a stage of self-sufficiency.

Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ) at Vishakapatnam is an established medical equipment manufacturing ecosystem and is a pioneer department within the Government of India to promote the medical technologies sector in the country. It is Asia's first medical equipment manufacturing ecosystem, uniquely dedicated for Medtech. The new collaboration named DBT AMTZ COMManD [COVID Medtech Manufacturing Development] strategy would be supported under DBT's National Biopharma Mission.

The strategy has 3 focal points.

1. Helping startups and innovators supported by DBT/BIRAC and AMTZ in the area of medical technologies with subsidised infrastructure for testing and validation, facilities for prototyping, adequate startup space and facilitation of market access.
2. Provision of financial assistance for investment in plant and machinery so that there is a rapid scale-up of infrastructure and production capabilities. Many medical device manufacturers have the potential to make critical equipment like ventilators and diagnostic kits, thermal scanners or medical textiles, which is much needed in COVID context as well post-COVID period. However, to rapidly scale up the manufacturing, it would require huge investments in plant and machinery. The new tie up will fill the gap.
3. Drafting of appropriate standards and safety norms, and validation protocols for medical technologies such as Ventilators, and N95 masks. This would be an important area of support to ensure that quality and safety are upheld.



The outcome of COMManD Strategy would be:

10,000 kits (RT-PCR) per day increasing upto 40,000 kits per day by May 30th

10,000 units (antibody) per day increasing to upto 60,000 units per day by May 30th

3000 ventilators per month from the month of May

1000 infra red non touch thermal scanner per day

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