



MedSpark in Kerala

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Why in News

Kerala is set to lay the foundation stone for **MedSpark**, one of the first **medical device** parks in the country, in **Thiruvananthapuram**.

- **Medical devices** include **surgical equipment, diagnostic equipment** like Cardiac Imaging, CT scans, X-ray, Molecular Imaging, MRI and Ultrasound-imaging, **life support equipment** like ventilator, etc. as well as **implants and disposables**.
- Medical devices, unlike pharmaceuticals, are **dependent on a mix of technologies** such as **engineering, electronics, material sciences and information technology (IT)**.

Key Points

- **Established By:**
 - **Technical Research Centre for Biomedical Devices Programme** of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India.
 - **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)**, an **autonomous institute of the DST**.
SCTIMST has made **substantial contributions to the biomedical devices sector** and is fully aligned with the vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
 - **Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (KSIDC)** which is the **industrial and investment promotion agency** of the Government of Kerala.
- **Fundings:**
 - **Funding from the state and central governments** will meet the capital expenditure and deficit in income against expenses during the initial stages.
 - The business model for the MedSpark is **self-sustaining** in which its **operational expenses will be generated from its revenue streams**.

- **Functions:** It will focus on the high-risk medical device sector:
 - It will provide a full range of services for the industry like **research and development support, testing, and evaluation** of medical devices.
 - Create an **enabling support system** for manufacturing support, technology innovation, and knowledge dissemination.
 - **High-risk medical device sector** deals with the category of high-risk devices which include **medical implants and extracorporeal devices** (mechanical organs used in blood purification).
 - For example, **implantable cardioverter-defibrillator** (a small battery-powered device placed in the chest to monitor heart rhythm and detect irregular heartbeats) **pacemakers, coronary stents, artificial heart valves, etc.**
- **Benefits:**
 - These services can be **utilised by the medical device industries** located **within the MedSpark as well from other parts of India.**
 - It will **benefit small and medium-sized medical devices industries**, which dominate the medical devices sector.
 - It can **leverage the existing advantage of Kerala in the high-risk medical device manufacture** and develop it into the most sought after destination for setting up the medical device industry in India.
 - It is expected that it would **provide direct employment to 1200 people** and generate up to **4000-5000 jobs through the supporting industries.**

Medical Devices Sector in India

- The medical devices industry in India is **valued at USD 5.2 billion**, contributing about **4-5% to the USD 96.7 billion Indian healthcare industry.**
- Medical devices sector in India is **very small in size as compared to the rest of the manufacturing industry**, though **India is one of the top twenty markets for medical devices** in the world and is the **4th largest market in Asia** after Japan, China, and South Korea.
- India's medical devices industry is **poised for significant growth in the next five years** and the market size is **expected to reach USD 50 bn by 2025.**
- India **currently imports 80-90% of medical devices** and the vast majority of which are **unregulated for quality and safety.**
 - The **USA, Germany, China, Japan, and Singapore** constitute the **five largest exporters** of high technology medical equipment to India.

Source: PIB