

01 – 05 – 2023

News: National Medical Devices (NMD) Policy, 2023

- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the National Medical Devices (NMD) Policy, 2023.

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- National Medical Devices (NMD) Policy, 2023 lays down a roadmap for accelerated growth of the medical devices sector to achieve the following missions viz, Access & Universality, Affordability, Quality, Patient Centred & Quality Care, Preventive & Promotive Health, Security, Research and Innovation and Skilled manpower.

Key Features of NMD Policy 2023

- **Regulatory Streamlining:** To make it easier to do research and business while balancing patient safety and product innovation, a "Single Window Clearance System" for licensing medical devices will be created.
- This system will involve all relevant departments and organizations, such as MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology), and DAHD (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying).

- **Enabling Infrastructure:** Large medical device parks with world class infrastructure facilities will be established, near economic zones.
- It will be done as envisioned under the National Industrial Corridor Program and the proposed National Logistics Policy 2021 under the ambit of PM Gati Shakti, and in collaboration with state governments and the industry, to improve convergence and integration with the medical device industry.
- **Facilitating R&D and Innovation:** The policy aims to promote Research & Development in India, complementing the proposed National Policy on R&D and Innovation in the Pharma-MedTech sector.
- It also aims at establishing Centres of Excellence in academic and research institutions, innovation hubs, 'plug and play' infrastructures and support to start-ups.
- **Attracting Investments:** The policy encourages private investment and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to complement existing schemes such as Make in India, Ayushman Bharat program, Heal-in-India, and Start-up mission.
- This includes funding from venture capitalists to support the growth of the medical device industry.
- **Human Resources Development:** The policy aims to ensure a skilled workforce in the medical device sector by providing skilling, reskilling and

upskilling programs through the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

- It will also support dedicated courses for medical devices in existing institutions to produce skilled manpower for futuristic technologies, manufacturing and research.
- **Brand Positioning and Awareness Creation:** The policy envisages the creation of a dedicated Export Promotion Council for the sector which will be an enabler to deal with various market access issues.

Significance of the Policy

- The policy is expected to provide the required support and directions to strengthen the medical devices industry into a competitive, self-reliant, resilient and innovative industry that caters to the healthcare needs of not only India but also of the world.
- It can place India's medical devices sector on an accelerated path of growth with a patient-centric approach to meet the evolving healthcare needs of patients.
- It envisions an accelerated growth path with a patient-centric approach and to emerge as the global leader in the manufacturing and innovation of medical

devices by achieving 10-12% share in the expanding global market over the next 25 years.

- With the new policy in place, the Centre aims to reduce India's import dependence to nearly 30% in the next couple of years; and become one of the top five global manufacturing hubs.
- Policy is expected to help the Medical Devices Sector grow from present USD 11 Billion to USD 50 Billion by 2030.