

RAM MANDIR BOOST TOURISM

The construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya has indeed been a significant and historic event in India.

MedTech Mitra: a facilitation highway for development, validation, authorization and uptake of made-in-India MedTech products

VINOD K PAUL



The central government has recently launched an initiative, namely, MedTech Mitra, on handholding innovators for clinical evaluation, regulatory facilitation and uptake of new medtech products.

The journey of a new medtech product (e.g. medical device or diagnostic) starts as an idea of an inventor who demonstrates its proof concept (PoC) in a lab.

The inventor then needs a partner to manufacture prototypes for further testing.

Ultimately, human studies are required to be carried out following strict regulatory and ethical guidelines, and employing robust research methods.

The difficulties faced by them are related to their lack of understanding of and opportunities for regulatory requirements, testing and validation, industry grade production, animal studies, clinical evaluation/trials, technology assessment imperatives, among others.

To address the above problems faced by scientists, innovators and startups, the union government has now created a facilitation and handholding highway to help innovators in their journey of medtech product development and uptake.

On 25th December 2023, the Good Governance Day, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched the MedTech Mitra initiative in partnership with NITI Aayog and the Central Drug Standards and Control Organization (CDSCO) of the ministry of health and family welfare.

A portal has been operationalized on ICMR website coordinated by the Medical Device and Diagnostics Mission Secretariat at ICMR (https://medtechmitra.icmr.org.in/).

An applicant innovator / startup fills in online details of the product and stage of its development, and requests guidance. An ICMR-CDSCO team examines the case and identifies area(s) of help required, conduct individualised interactions and handhold individual applicant for specific facilitatory steps.

Pre-clinical and clinical studies are a big challenge - you need collaborating teams and funds. MedTech Mitra team will connect the innovators with researchers of the ICMR's pre-clinical and clinical trials network and other research institutions.

Funding would be offered to institutions that conduct pre-clinical and/ or clinical studies on novel medical technologies, selected by a scientific review process.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), department of pharmaceuticals, the INTENT network of research institutions and Kalaam Institute of Health Technology, and the two programs at the Department of Health Research (namely, Health Technology Assessment in India and Centre for Guidelines) are the core partners of this highway for development, validation, authorization and uptake of made-in-India medtech products.

In a short time since its launch, over 80 innovators have connected with MedTech Mitra indicating the largenummet need for such a handholding system. The potential scope of this system in future is immense.

MedTech industry is a sunrise sector currently valued at 11 billion USD, and poised to reach 50 billion USD by 2030. India's innovation ecosystem is shining brighter and brighter.

The country has over 1 lakh startups (compared to 500 just a few years ago), with a significant proportion of them focused on medical technologies.

India has a huge demand for medical devices, including diagnostics, but we import 80% of them. The indigenous medtech products are quite often of low-end technology.

This must change - not only to cater to nation's present and future needs, but also to meet the global demand. It is India's destiny to be a super hub of medical technologies.

(The writer is Member, NITI Aayog).

Modi's Call from Dev to Desh and Ram to Rashtra

OMKAR DATTATRAY

The Ram temple and the consecration of Ram Lalla will now pave the way for developed India as Viksit Bharat will become possible.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a clarion call of from Dev to Desh and from Ram to Rashtra and it is will be a big leap forward for the inclusive development of the country.

Modi's speech after the consecration of the Ram Lalla idol at Ayodhya's Ram temple was a call for nation building, a nation which is "Samarath, Saksham, Divya, Bhavya (capable, empowered, divine, and grand)."

He said the cycle of time has moved

and a new epoch is starting. God to nation and Ram to the expansion of national consciousness. PM Modi delivered a powerful speech in Ayodhya, blending raw emotion, political messaging and references to mass prospect.

In his 36-minute address, Modi masterfully conflated devotion for Lord Ram with an appeal to build a stronger India. He said extend your consciousness from Dev Se Desh, Ram Se Rashtra (from deity to country, from Ram to nation).

Hailing the significance of the moment, Modi said, "January 22, 2024 is not just a date on the calendar. It marks the beginning of a new cycle of time. Today, we have been rewarded for centuries of patience.

Even a thousand years from this date, people will discuss this date, this moment. It is a great blessing of Lord Ram that we are witnessing it happen. This time is not ordinary.

These are indelible memory lines inscribed on the wheel of time with eternal ink. "Ram is not fire but energy. Ram is not conflict but resolution. Modi projected the Ram temple as a symbol of national, consciousness. "Dev Se Desh Aur Ram Se Rashtriya Chetana Ka Vistar(God to nation and Ram to the expansion of national consciousness)."

He said effectively pitching what is seen by critics as a communal and dividing issue as a factor that unites India as well as inspires nation -building and fosters unity. Modi said, "Ram Sabke Hain (Ram belongs to everyone), while also pointing out that the constitution of India also draws inspiration from Ram.

Modi gave a clarion call to extend the Ram temple project to the project of nation building". From this moment, we take a pledge to build an India that is not just self-reliant but resonates with grandeur and divinity". According to him, this is the moment to lay the foundation for 1000 years of national development. Modi underlined the political importance of Ram Mandir, saying that India has been able to untangle a complex historical knot which many nations have found difficult to do or ended up making the situation worse while trying.

Historical Perspectives of Climate Change: The Global Status

DR. RAJKUMAR SINGH

The history of climate change encompasses scientific discovery, public awareness, and policy responses over many years: a. Early Scientific Discoveries 19th Century: Scientists like Joseph Fourier, John Tyndall, and Svante Arrhenius laid the foundational understanding of the greenhouse effect and how gases like carbon dioxide (CO2) can trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, potentially influencing the planet's climate.

b. Mid-20th Century Developments 1950s: Charles Keeling began precise measurements of atmospheric CO2 at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii, leading to the Keeling Curve, which showed a clear upward trend in CO2 concentrations over time.

c. 1960s-1970s: Scientists increasingly linked human activities, especially the burning of fossil fuels, to potential changes in the Earth's climate. The term "global warming" began to be used to describe this phenomenon.

d. Rising Public Awareness and Policy Response 1980s: Climate change started to gain significant public and political attention. The establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988 marked a major step in coordinating international scientific research and synthesizing knowledge on climate change.

e. 1990s: The first assessment report by the IPCC in 1990 laid the groundwork for international negotiations on climate change, leading to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, which set legally binding emission reduction targets for participating countries.

f. 2000s-2010s: Increasingly severe weather events and environmental changes, along with advancements in climate science, heightened the sense of urgency around global climate action.

The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, marked a significant international commitment to limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, aiming for 1.5°C.

g. 2020s: Climate change remains a critical global challenge, with efforts focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to renewable energy sources, and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Climate change and ecosystem Climate change significantly impacts ecosystems around the world, altering habitats, species distributions, and ecosystem functions.

These changes can disrupt the delicate balance of ecological interactions and lead to profound consequences for biodiversity and the services ecosystems provide to humanity:

a. Temperature Changes Shifts in Species Ranges: Many species are moving toward higher latitudes or elevations in search of cooler environments. This can lead to mismatches in ecological interactions, such as pollination and predation, and can disrupt existing communities.

b. Phenological Changes: The timing of natural events, such as flowering, migration, and breeding, is shifting. This can cause mismatches between species that rely on these cues for survival and reproduction, impacting food webs and ecosystem services.

c. Precipitation Pattern Altered Hydrological Cycles: Changes in rainfall patterns can lead to droughts in some areas and increased flooding in others, affecting freshwater availability and ecosystem health. Wetland and Aquatic Ecosystems: Altered precipitation patterns can impact the health of wetlands, rivers, and lakes, which are critical habitats for many species and provide essential ecosystem services like water filtration and flood protection.

d. Oceanic Changes Ocean Acidification: The absorption of CO2 by the ocean is causing the water to become more acidic, affecting marine organisms, particularly those with calcium carbonate shells or skeletons, like corals and some plankton species, which are foundational to marine food webs.

e. Rising Sea Levels: As glaciers and ice caps melt, sea levels rise, leading to coastal erosion, loss of habitat for species such as birds and marine life, and increased salinity in estuaries and fresh-

water habitats, affecting the species that rely on these environments.

f. Ocean Warming: Increased ocean temperatures can lead to coral bleaching, disrupt marine food webs, and affect fish distributions, impacting fisheries and the communities that rely on them. d. Extreme Weather Events Increased Frequency and Intensity: More frequent and severe storms, wildfires, heatwaves, and other extreme events can directly destroy habitats, decimate populations, and disrupt migration patterns.

g. Ecosystem Services Food Security: Changes in climate affect agriculture and fisheries, potentially leading to reduced yields and food insecurity.

h. Water Regulation: Altered precipitation patterns and melting glaciers affect the availability of fresh water for drinking, agriculture, and energy production.

i. Biodiversity Loss Extinction Risks: Many species may face an increased risk of extinction if they cannot adapt quickly enough to changing conditions or if suitable habitats become too fragmented or scarce.

j. Invasive Species: Climate change can favour invasive species that are more adaptable to changing conditions, further threatening native species and biodiversity. In conclusion, climate change poses significant challenges to ecosystems and biodiversity. In this situation, these impacts requires global efforts to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting management strategies to protect and restore vulnerable ecosystems.

Climate change and civilization Climate change has profound implications for human civilization, affecting nearly every aspect of life, from health and safety to economies and infrastructure. Its impacts are diverse and far-reaching, with both direct and indirect consequences for societies around the globe:

a. Health Increased Heatwaves: Rising temperatures and more frequent heatwaves can lead to heat-related illnesses and deaths, particularly affecting vulnerable populations like the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions. Spread of Diseases: Warmer temperatures and changing precipitation patterns

of peace, patience, mutual harmony and coordination of the Indian society. We are seeing that this construction is not giving birth to any fire, but to energy," he said. This is the temple of national consciousness in the form of Ram. Lord Ram is India's faith, foundation, idea, law, consciousness, thinking, prestige and glory. Modi said, "I feel with a pure heart that the cycle of time is changing. It is happy coincidence that our generation has been chosen as the architect of this critical path. "We have to lay foundation of India for next one thousand years. We have to expand our consciousness from Dev to Desh, Ram to Rashtra. The grand temple will be witness to rise of a magnificent India. This is India's time and we are moving forward. The PM said emphasizing that joys and festive mood of the entire nation was on constant rise since the Boomi Pujan of Ram Janamboomi temple and the progress of the developmental works enthused new energy into citizens."

Today we have received the heritage of centuries of patience, today we have got Shri Ram's temple. From sea to the Saryu river, the same festive spirit of Rama's name is prevalent everywhere," he continued "Lord Ram is connected to every particle of the soul of India. Ram resides in the hearts of Indian's.

He further added that the feeling of oneness can be found within everyone's conscience anywhere in India and there could not be a more perfect formula for collectiveness. In short from God we have the nation and from Lord Ram there is revival of Rashtraiya and Rashtra follows from it and we should be inspired by the life and teachings of Lord Ram.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist).

YOUR COLUMN Barring entry of senior Hindi poet into Akhil Bharateey Hindi Kavi Sammelan organised by JKAACL

Dear Editor, Through your esteemed daily, I would like to highlight an incident in which a senior Hindi poet was barred from entering JKAACL. The incident of barring entry of senior Hindi poet Sheikh Mohammad Kalyan into Akhil Bharateey Hindi Kavi Sammelan organised by JKAACL is unfortunate and is criticised.

Prof. Ashok Kumar Senior Hindi poet and critic. APOLOGY

Dear Editor, "Right actions in the future are best apologies for bad actions in the past", says Tryon Edwards, an American theologian, minister of the Second Congregational Church in New London, Connecticut from 1845 to 1857. It is literally true. Oxford Dictionary defines apology as "a regretful acknowledgment of an offence or failure or a formal expression of regret". It also includes "justification or defence". The word 'apology' is commonly used for expression of regret. Apology is tendered by saying 'sorry' also. The disturbed state of mind can be soothed and the anger can be defused when a wrong done intentionally or unintentionally is undone.

not want apologies, and the wrong sort take a mean advantage of them". There can be no occasion for anyone who has not apologized in his life either voluntarily or under compulsion. Mistakes happen. Apology is not needed when a mistake done does not affect the other. If the mistake affects the other, the matter ends with apology tendered to the affected person or with a punishment to the offender. If both of them do not happen, bitterness takes the seat between the two parties. Courts accept the apologies tendered to court and to the other party resulting in the closure of the case. Many cases have been closed in the courts when apologized for the mistakes done by one against the other. Benjamin Disraeli, British Statesman and two times Prime Minister of UK says "Never apologize for showing feeling. When you do so, you apologize for truth". Apologizing for truth is like apologizing to God. Everybody is subordinate to truth. Apology comes when truth is hidden and when the hidden truth comes out. "The truth is not always beautiful nor beautiful words the truth", says Lao Tzu, an ancient Chinese philosopher and writer. It is said half-truth is whole lie. An apology without change is manipulation or an attempt to hoodwink the person to whom the apology is tendered. "Changed behaviour is only apology", says Maranda Pleasant, Founder/Editor of 4 National Magazines. The bottom line is that apology in deeds carries more weight than apology in words.

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