

Medical Innovations
PATENT *mitra*
Patent and Technology Transfer Enabler

Launch Report

March 8th, 2025

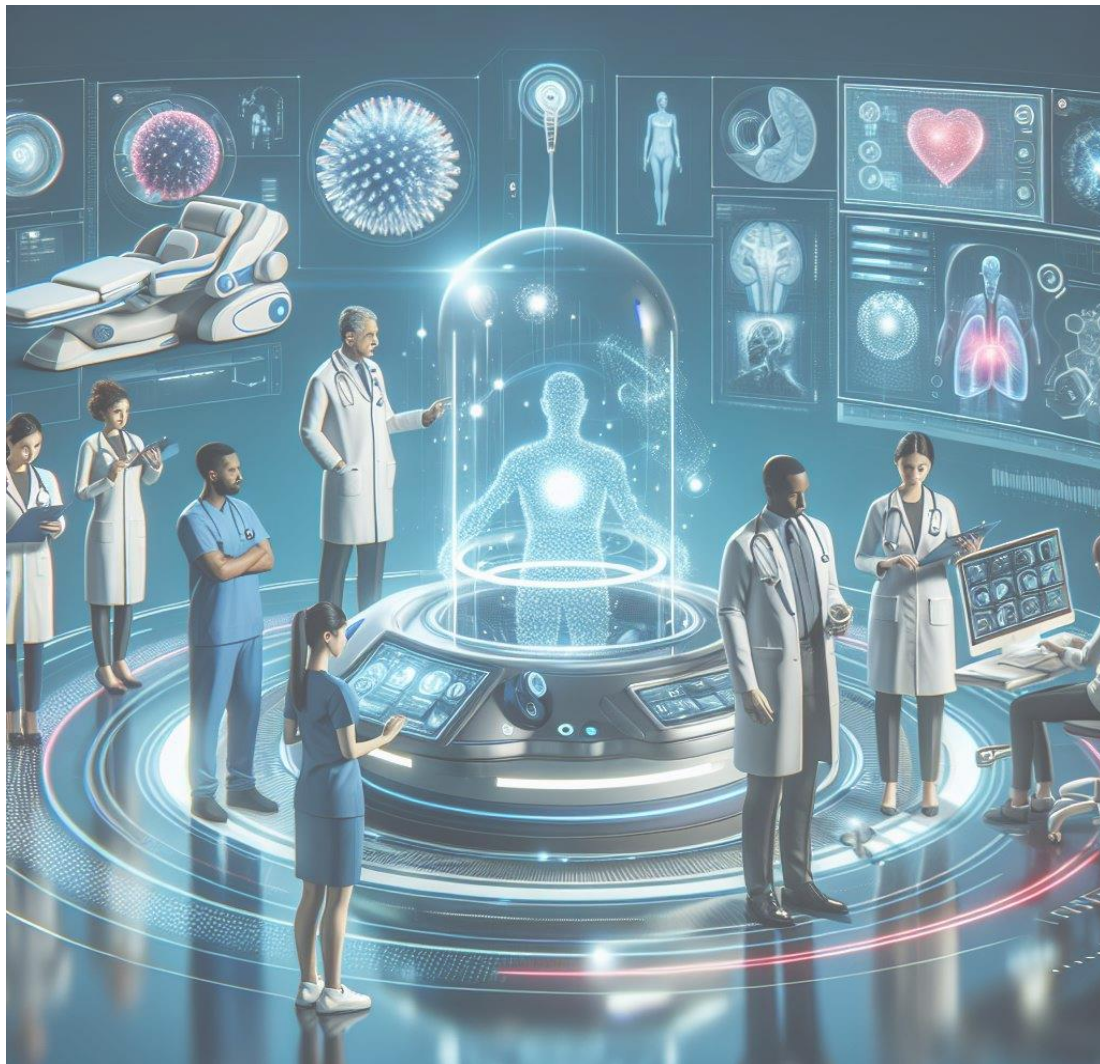


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1.Executive Summary

The launch of the Medical Innovations Patent Mitra initiative took place on March 8, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, marking a significant milestone in advancing medical innovation. The initiative was inaugurated by **J.P. Nadda, Honorable Health Minister**, highlighting the government's commitment to fostering medical advancements.

This initiative is designed to assist Indian innovators, particularly in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors, by simplifying the patenting process and providing crucial guidance on navigating intellectual property (IP) challenges. Medical Innovations Patent Mitra aims to foster a more accessible and efficient IP system, enabling innovators protect their intellectual property as well as successfully commercialize their inventions.

Medical Innovations Patent Mitra's Objectives and Impact:

The initiative focuses on creating a structured platform that offers innovators the tools and resources needed to navigate the complexities of the patenting process. By streamlining this process and offering support without concerns over any sharing of stakes or royalty, Medical Innovations Patent Mitra aims to empower healthcare innovators to protect their innovations and bring them to market more efficiently.

Medical Innovations Patent Mitra is a **no-cost, open-access platform**, ensuring innovators have the support they need to file patents and navigate the commercialization process. This transparency and accessibility make it an invaluable resource for innovators, particularly in the healthcare sector, where patenting can often be a complex and intimidating process for various clinicians and healthcare professionals who are time constrained with serving patients and creating innovations.

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** played a pivotal role in leading the Medical Innovations Patent Mitra initiative, ensuring that it addresses the specific needs of Indian innovators in the healthcare, med-tech and pharmaceutical sectors. Through this initiative, ICMR provides critical support in patent filings, legal guidance, technology transfer and commercialization strategies, helping innovators protect and maximize the value of their intellectual property.

Following the launch, a panel discussion was held to explore the challenges and opportunities within India's intellectual property landscape. The delegates shared their perspectives on how Medical Innovations Patent Mitra could support their efforts in navigating the patenting process. The panel also emphasized the importance of an accessible and supportive platform for IP protection, which Medical Innovations Patent Mitra provides.

Panel discussion explored strategies to enhance India's IP ecosystem and the role of public-private partnerships in fostering innovation. The insights shared during the discussion highlighted how initiatives like **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra** could drive India's growth as a global leader in innovation, highlighting the success of the panel discussion to enhance awareness, drive engagement and gather ideas for further improvement.

In conclusion, **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra** is positioned as a transformative initiative for India's innovation ecosystem, offering much-needed resources and support for innovators to protect and commercialize their intellectual property.

2. Introduction

The **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra initiative** has been launched to support Indian innovators, especially in the biomedical sector, by simplifying the patenting process and providing expert guidance on intellectual property (IP) challenges. Its goal is to create an accessible platform that helps protect innovations and accelerates their commercialization.

Inaugurated by **J.P. Nadda, Honorable Health Minister**, on **March 8, 2025**, at **Bharat Mandapam**, the initiative marks a significant milestone in strengthening India's innovation ecosystem. This launch underscores the **government's commitment** to fostering medical advancements and empowering homegrown innovators.

By streamlining patent procedures and offering vital resources, **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra** aims to position India as a leading hub for medical innovation. It is especially crucial for the healthcare sector, where navigating IP complexities can be a major hurdle for emerging entrepreneurs.



Figure 1: Honourable minister of health and Family welfare and chemical fertilizers of India at the launch event

Glimpse of Launch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJvjw0uuD0I>

The launch of Medical Innovations Patent Mitra marks a significant milestone in strengthening India's innovation ecosystem

3. Panel Discussion Overview

Following the launch of **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra**, the event included a comprehensive **panel discussion** addressing key issues within India's **intellectual property landscape**. The discussion focused on the **challenges faced by innovators** in the patenting process, **strategies for scaling innovations**, and ways to foster a more **robust innovation-driven economy**. Industry experts, **government officials**, and stakeholders engaged in dialogue on how India can better support its **innovators**.

The panel provided an informative platform, covering critical topics such as IP challenges, commercialization strategies, and how innovators can best protect and utilize their intellectual property. It highlighted how collaborations can deliver value to Indian innovators by offering the resources they need to succeed in a complex and evolving IP ecosystem.

4. Key Highlights and Keynote Remarks

Dr. Rajiv Bahl (Secretary, DHR/DG ICMR)

- **Vision for Growth in IP:** The Secretary of the Department of Health Research (DHR)/ Director General ICMR outlined an ambitious target of **10x growth in intellectual property** within the next few years. This growth will be driven by strategic initiatives from key agencies such as the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), and others, with the aim to transform India into a global leader in innovation, creating significant value from intellectual property across multiple sectors.
- **MIDAC Launch:** A **Section 8 company, MIDAC**, is planned for launch to provide comprehensive support for the innovation ecosystem, particularly in healthcare. This company will facilitate the development of cutting-edge solutions and support various stakeholders.
- **MedTech Mitra and Medical Innovations Patent Mitra:** The **MedTech Mitra initiative**, in collaboration with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), will foster innovation in medical technology. Additionally, **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra**, backed by the DoP and DPIIT, will support patent filings and commercialization, specifically in the medical and pharmaceutical sectors.
- **Role of Government and Private Sector:** The **government's role** in supporting innovation was highlighted as a key factor in India's growth trajectory. The **Prime Minister's initiatives**, alongside support from the **Ministry of MSME**, aim to create a conducive environment for innovation, focusing on facilitating the commercialization of IP and nurturing partnerships across sectors.
- **Addressing Market-Entry Challenges:** Despite government initiatives, **market-entry challenges** and scaling concerns remain prevalent. The government plays a key role in **reducing market risks** but cannot guarantee scaling or procurement. Collaborations with the **DoP** and the **private sector** are ongoing to address these scaling issues.

Mr. Amit Agarwal (Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals)

- The **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP)** is dedicated to promoting the pharmaceutical and medical services sectors. Over the last four years, life sciences startups have doubled, and significant efforts are being made to increase the number of granted patents.
- **Strengthening India's Innovation Ecosystem:** The **DoP** emphasized the need for a **comprehensive approach** to innovation, targeting not only IP protection but also **venture capital (VC)** investment, commercialization, and scalability. With over **18% of the world's technical manpower** currently sourced from India, projections indicate this share will rise to **20%** soon. It shows scalable unbeatable advantage. The **PRIP initiative**, which aims to allocate **₹4,200 crores** to support startups and the pharmaceutical sector, further strengthens this vision.
- **India's Success in Health Innovation:** The COVID-19 pandemic was a turning point for India, demonstrating the country's capability to innovate at scale. India successfully developed **three vaccines**, conducted lab tests at **1/40th the global cost**, and showcased the potential for **scalable, cost-effective healthcare innovation**. This established India as a competitive player in global healthcare innovation. The **innovation cycle has been initiated**, and the number of innovations has **doubled** over the past four years.
- Both the **Prime Minister (PM)** and the **Ministry of MSME (MM)** play pivotal roles in driving the nation's innovation and industrial growth ambitions.
- In addition to supporting patents, the **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP)** is also committed to nurturing other aspects of the innovation ecosystem, including **venture capital (VC)**, ensuring a comprehensive strategy for fostering innovation.
- The fostering of collaboration through the exchange of ideas and resources between **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP)** and **ICMR** serve as a strong connecting link and supports the initiatives of mutual interest. These partnerships aim to enhance public health outcomes and advance pharmaceutical-based research, benefiting both organizations and contributing to the overall improvement of healthcare and innovation.

Prof. M. Srinivas (Director, AIIMS Delhi)

- **AIIMS currently handles over 15,000 OPD visits daily**, with significant investments made in **facilities and equipment**.
- **Challenges in Innovation at AIIMS:** The Director of AIIMS stated that while the institution is equipped with the **best resources, skilled personnel, and cutting-edge technology**, it still faces challenges in translating ideas into innovations. This has created **"valleys of death"** — barriers that hinder the transition from **research to IP to practical application: Bench to bedside**. These obstacles are largely due to a **lack of time, energy, and focus**, as **daily operational tasks** often take priority. Additionally, the **patent filing process** is particularly complex for medical professionals.

- **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra Initiative:** To address this, the **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra initiative** offers support to faculty and researchers at AIIMS, assisting in turning **ideas into patents and marketable solutions**, easing the innovation journey.
- **Retention of Innovators in India:** A few years ago, India experienced a **brain drain** as innovators left the country. However, the **current ecosystem** now enables researchers to **innovate without needing to go abroad**, fostering a more self-sufficient environment for innovation within India.

Dr. Unnat P Pandit (Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trademarks)

- **PM's Timely Intervention for Viksit Bharat:** The Prime Minister's timely interventions were highlighted as crucial for advancing India's journey toward becoming a **developed nation**, ensuring the country remains on track with its goals for innovation and growth.
- **Intelligence in Transformation and Optimization:** Achieving meaningful transformation or optimization, especially in technology and innovation, requires **intelligence** — both in understanding complex systems and in applying knowledge effectively to drive progress.
- **Health Innovation Patents:** Of the **1.05 lakh patents** filed, approximately **30% focus on health innovations**, underlining the critical importance of medical advancements and technological breakthroughs in improving healthcare outcomes.
- There is **no scarcity of funds** available for patent filing, ensuring that innovators have the financial support needed to protect their intellectual property.
- **Support for Institutions Involved in IP:** The government is committed to providing essential support to **institutions engaged in intellectual property**, ensuring that they have the resources and guidance needed to safeguard innovations and foster a robust IP ecosystem.
- **Strengthened Patent Office Infrastructure:** The **Patent Office** is ready to process IP applications efficiently, with improved infrastructure symbolized by the statement "**The aircraft can be on the Patent office runway**," which refers to a prepared and streamlined system for IP registration.
- **Expansion of Patent Examination Resources:** To meet growing demand, **500 new patent examiners** have been recruited across **14 specialized fields**. In 9 of these cases there is no pendency which significantly enhancing the capacity of the Patent Office to process applications more efficiently.
- **Capacity Building for Researchers and Innovators:** There is a growing need to invest in **capacity building** for researchers and biomedical innovators, empowering them with skills and resources to drive advancements in their respective fields.

- A variety of **platform technologies** needs to be made available to support innovation across different sectors.
- **Encouraging Collaboration and Respecting IP Boundaries:** A culture of **open discussion and collaboration** is essential, with an emphasis on respecting intellectual property rights to foster an environment of fair competition and innovation.
- **Building Technological Resilience:** To prepare for future challenges such as pandemics, it is crucial to establish a **strong technological foundation** that is protected and available to address critical needs, ensuring the country's readiness for unforeseen crises.

Ms. Padmaja Ruparel (President, Indian Angel Network)

- **Simplifying the Patent Process:** The importance of simplifying the patent process to foster innovation was emphasized. Streamlining the process will have a **positive impact** on the IP system and encourage more innovators to seek protection for their ideas.
- **Increase in Healthcare-related Innovations:** Since the pandemic, the number of healthcare-related innovations filed has **tripled**, with approximately **30% of investments** in IP directed toward the **pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors**. This reflects the sector's vital role in economic and technological progress.
- **Investment in IP:** There is growing investment from **sector-agnostic investors**, showing a broadening of interest in diverse industries, not just traditional sectors.
- There is a significant amount of private funding available to innovators and startups, and this investment is not limited to those with a healthcare or biotech background. The funding is coming from various sectors, indicating a broad interest in supporting innovation. So, innovators, take heart—there are investors who are willing to support your ventures across industries.
- **Monetizing IP:** IP must be linked to a **revenue-generating product** for it to unlock its true value. Functional experts are required for the same. A notable example of this is the adaptation of a **solar panel cleaner** into a ventilator into a ventilator, leading to **3,000-4,000 installations** and generating revenue.
- **Challenges in IP Adoption:** Despite advancements, the adoption of innovations remains a challenge. More **effective strategies** are needed to ensure widespread acceptance of innovations in the market.
- **Retaining Indian IP:** It is critical to ensure that **Indian IP** remains in India, especially when **IP-centric companies** are acquired. There is a concern that valuable IP often leaves the country in these cases, impacting India's innovation landscape.
- **Commercialization of IP:** The real value of intellectual property is achieved when it is effectively **commercialized**, turning innovations into successful market ventures. **Effective commercialization strategies** are key to transforming IP into viable businesses. To create a valuable startup, IP must be

translated into something that generates revenue and can be monetized effectively. Without that, it's a missed opportunity for both innovators and the nation.

- **Government Support for Innovation:** The government plays a crucial role in helping innovators pilot and refine their products, particularly through public hospitals and healthcare centers. There is a need for greater support in procurement and market access, allowing startups to validate their products in real-world conditions. While private companies often take longer to adopt such innovations, corporate cultures must evolve to embrace young innovators and startups more openly.
- **Challenges in Adoption of Innovation:** One of the key challenges in the industry is the **adoption of innovation**. Transitioning new technologies from concept to widespread implementation can be slow and difficult, impeding their full potential.
- **Need for Handholding Support:** Innovators and startups require **handholding support** to navigate the complex processes of innovation and commercialization. This support is essential to help them understand market dynamics, overcome hurdles, and move their products forward effectively.
- **Importance of Business Expertise:** For any IP or technology to successfully evolve into a startup, the **business side** is critical. Innovators are often focused on creating their technologies but may lack the business acumen necessary to scale them into sustainable businesses. A strong business team is essential to monetize innovation and turn it into a viable product.
- **Global Competitiveness with Initiatives like Medical Innovations Patent Mitra:** With initiatives like **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra**, Indian innovators have the potential to compete on a global scale. Such initiatives provide the framework and support to help innovators protect their IP and enhance their market viability, enabling them to succeed internationally.

Dr. Unnat P Pandit (Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trademarks)

- **Commercialization of Innovations:** At IIT Kanpur, the commercialization rate of innovations increased from under 0.7% to 14% during his tenure, marking significant progress.
- **Role of IIT Incubators:** Institutions like IIT Kanpur's incubators are crucial in bridging the gap between innovation and commercialization, providing essential support for faculty and innovators to bring their creations to the market.
- **Liberal Approach to Biomedical Innovation:** A liberal approach is needed to nurture India's emerging biomedical innovation ecosystem, as the country is still in the early stages of this transformation.
- **Early Patent Protection:** Early patent protection for startups is important to secure innovations while seeking funding and market access. The cost of applying for a patent is minimal compared to the potential commercial returns.
- **Enabling Innovation:** A focus on enabling and facilitating innovation, allowing technologies to mature and develop, is essential, rather than constraining them too tightly with control.

- **Filing Patents:** Patents should not be filed indiscriminately for free, as this could overwhelm the system. A financial or technical barrier should be in place to ensure only serious and viable innovations are pursued.
- **Government Support for Innovation:** The government plays a crucial role in helping innovators pilot and refine products, particularly through public hospitals and healthcare centers. More support in procurement and market access is needed for startups.
- **Challenges in Adoption of Innovation:** Transitioning new technologies from concept to widespread implementation is slow and difficult, which impedes their full potential.
- **Need for Handholding Support:** Innovators and startups need handholding support to navigate the complexities of innovation and commercialization, helping them understand market dynamics and move products forward effectively.
- **Importance of Business Expertise:** A strong business team is essential for turning IP or technology into a sustainable startup. Innovators often lack the business acumen necessary for scaling their innovations.
- **Global Competitiveness with Medical Innovations Patent Mitra:** Initiatives like Medical Innovations Patent Mitra offer Indian innovators the opportunity to compete globally by providing the framework and support needed to protect their IP and enhance market viability.
- For a strong patent filing under a system like Medical Innovations Patent Mitra or any patenting process, both technical and financial barriers play important roles in ensuring that the patent has a high chance of success. These barriers help protect intellectual property and ensure that the invention is well-grounded in its industry.
- **Quality over Quantity:** IP protection should not be free without proper screening, as it may flood the system with low-quality filings. A robust evaluation system like Medical Innovations Patent Mitra ensures only inventions meeting strict technical or financial barriers are filed.
- **Patentability Assessment:** Early-stage inventions failing patentability or inventive step criteria should be refined before proceeding. This ensures we focus on patents with market potential and commercialization opportunities.
- **Expedited Examination (Rule 24C - 2017 Amendment):** The introduction of Rule 24C expedites the patent process, enabling startups to secure granted patents within 8-9 months, speeding up global filings (e.g., PCT) and protecting innovations earlier.
- **Strategic Filing:** Filing patents early provides protection, with later decisions on whether to maintain, license, or commercialize based on market conditions. It's better to file more patents initially and evaluate their value later than to miss the opportunity to protect potentially valuable inventions.
- **ROI and Patent Protection:** In research, often there is no **calculation of ROI**, which leads to missed opportunities in **protecting innovations**. It is essential to **protect patents** and make informed decisions about whether to keep protection for **20 years**.

- **Prior Art Search:** Conducting a **prior art search** is crucial to ensure that the innovation is novel and avoid any potential issues with patent claims.
- **Patent Examiners:** Patent examiners play a critical role, similar to **air traffic controllers (ATC)**, guiding patent applications smoothly through the system.

Dr. Shirshendu Mukherjee (Managing Director, Wadhvani Innovation Network/ Ex MD-BIRAC)

- **Patents as a Tool for Healthcare:** Patents are vital for transitioning from the **bench to the bedside**, particularly in healthcare.
- **Grant Writing & Innovation:** In my role at a funding agency, I conduct grant writing workshops and run a program called **Hunt and Fund**. The key to winning grants is telling a compelling story—similar to a fairy tale, starting with "Once upon a time" and ending with "happily ever after." Applicants should be passionate, and this drive is something I've learned from mentors like the late Dr. Bhan. This passion is crucial when working with funding agencies.
- **Identifying Innovation:** One of the challenges researchers face is distinguishing between a discovery and a true innovation that can be patented. Medical Innovations Patent Mitra plays a crucial role by helping researchers identify whether their work is truly innovative and if it meets patentability criteria. Researchers are busy doing science; thus, expert guidance (like prior art searches) is essential to determine if an innovation is patentable.
- **Educating Innovators:** The first step in the innovation process is **educating innovators** on what constitutes a discovery to avoid confusion early in the process.
- **Provisional Filing as a Starting Point:** In India, researchers can file a **provisional patent** to protect their innovation early, even if it's not fully developed. A provisional patent acts like a "boundary wall" around the innovation, safeguarding it while providing 12 months to complete the full patent application. After 12 months, Medical Innovations Patent Mitra can help assess whether the innovation is ready to move forward and if it is worth the investment of filing a complete patent. The Indian system allow **provisional filing** for **₹4,000 INR**, followed by a 12-month period to submit a complete application. After provisional filing, there's an additional **18 months** for **PCT filing**.
- **Patent Filing:** Filing a patent in India costs approximately ₹40,000 to ₹50,000. This is considered a worthy investment for securing intellectual property in the country. If you're considering international protection through the **Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)**, the costs range from \$2,000 to \$3,000 USD. After filing, you will have **18 months** to complete the process and **30 months** to secure technology partners and decide on the commercialization strategy.
- **Commercial Valuation:** After filing a provisional patent, Medical Innovations Patent Mitra can assist in the **commercial valuation** of the innovation. It will

help innovators evaluate whether their invention meets all patentability criteria and if it is ready for further international filings (such as **PCT**). This assessment will help in deciding whether to pursue a technology partner for commercialization.

- **Partnering & Licensing:** Medical Innovations Patent Mitra can also help innovators connect with potential **technology partners** within 30 months of filing. This will ensure that innovations are not just protected, but also developed for commercialization, either through licensing or starting new ventures.
- **Handholding Support:** Medical Innovations Patent Mitra will act as a **handholding mechanism** for researchers, guiding them through the entire innovation process—from identifying patentable ideas, filing, and creating an exit strategy. This support ensures that researchers can navigate the IP landscape effectively and move their innovations forward.
- **Long-term Value:** The goal of patenting is not just to secure a document, but to create a **business strategy**. A well-managed patent can lead to revenue generation and contribute to the **innovation ecosystem**. This will benefit both the individual researcher and the broader Indian innovation landscape, helping the country become more competitive globally.
- **Capacity Building:** To ensure the success of Medical Innovations Patent Mitra, there needs to be a parallel focus on **capacity building**. Researchers need to be educated on the patenting process to approach Medical Innovations Patent Mitra with the right mindset, ready to take their innovations forward.
- **Final Thoughts:** Medical Innovations Patent Mitra's role is pivotal in transforming research innovations into commercially viable technologies, ensuring that patents have a long-term impact and contribute to India's innovation economy. I look forward to seeing this vision grow and thank the DGICMR and ICMR teams for their support in this important initiative.

The closing remarks highlighted the following key points:

- **Nimble Approach:** The success of the initiative will depend on our ability to quickly adapt and learn, ensuring swift progress and agility in decision-making. This nimbleness will allow us to respond effectively to challenges and continuously improve the process.
- **Simplifying Processes for Innovators:** The objective is to make the process simple for innovators by offering expert guidance on patentability and commercialization without burdening them with unnecessary complexities.
- **Providing Service:** The approach is to offer a **service-oriented model** where innovators are guided through the entire process. They will receive **support in patentability, commercialization, and monetization**, without financial barriers. The focus is on providing value-added **professional services** at every stage of the innovation cycle.
- **External Collaboration:** If **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra** proves successful, institutions like **IIMs (Indian Institutes of Management)** can play a crucial role in supporting the business side of innovation. **IIMs** can contribute by providing **business strategy, market analysis, commercialization expertise, and entrepreneurship**

guidance to help innovators transition from research to a commercially viable product. Their involvement can help bridge the gap between **technology innovation** and **market readiness**, ensuring that innovations not only get protected but are also aligned with **market needs** and **business models** for sustainable growth.

- **Screening Process for Innovation:** A three-step process will be used to evaluate the patentability, commercial viability, and potential for market transfer of innovations. This system aims to eliminate financial barriers and ensure a streamlined approach.
- **Integration with Government Initiatives:** The plan is to combine the efforts of various stakeholders such as ICMR, DBT, CSIR, and other government agencies to create a cohesive ecosystem for supporting innovation from research to market launch.
- **Focus on Commercialization:** Emphasis will be placed on not just securing patents but also ensuring the successful commercialization of innovations. Building industry partnerships and business models will be essential for this step.
- **Efforts in Regulatory Approvals:** There is ongoing work to make the regulatory approval process more efficient, ensuring smoother pathways for Indian innovations to reach both national and global markets.
- **Usability:** The goal is to make the process so simple and intuitive that anyone, from a 3-year-old child to a 93-year-old, can use it effortlessly. Drawing inspiration from Steve Jobs, the focus is on creating solutions that are accessible and user-friendly, ensuring that innovation is impactful and can reach a wide audience without complexity.
- **Supporting Product Scaling:** Ensuring innovations can be scaled successfully is crucial. Public procurement systems and collaborations will help increase production and distribution capabilities for innovations.

Comments by Audience:

- **(Soham Mukherjee, IIT Bombay):** Experts suggest creating a system to view adjacent patents and a mechanism to assess the market uptake of innovations. These steps can help ensure innovations have a better chance of gaining traction and reaching the market.

5. Q&A Session

1. Can patents be used as collateral with banks?

- **Answer:** While patents can technically be used as assets to secure funds, banks are currently more inclined to accept trademarks rather than patents as collateral. The practice of using patents as collateral is underdeveloped, though patents are commonly used in the US for this purpose.

2. Are patents being used for raising funds in India?

- **Answer:** Yes, patents have been used by startups to raise funds, particularly through IPOs. The Patent Office is involved in about 6-7% of these IPO cases, indicating growing usage of patents in fundraising.

3. Why are patents difficult to use as collateral in India?

- **Answer:** Patents are considered negative rights, meaning they prevent others from using the innovation. This makes them harder to leverage as collateral because they are not easily accessible to potential users or investors.

4. What are the challenges in product innovation approval in India?

- **Answer:** The CDSCO focuses more on process-based innovations rather than product innovations. This creates a bias towards approving non-innovative products, potentially limiting support for innovative solutions.

5. What are the challenges of scaling innovations in India?

- **Answer:** Scaling innovations from small production to global demand is challenging due to the need for careful planning and significant resources. The government is collaborating with the private sector, but no clear solution has been found yet for overcoming market-entry barriers.

6. What role does the government play in scaling up innovations?

- **Answer:** The government plays a supportive role by reducing market-entry risks, but it cannot eliminate all risks. Assured procurement cannot be guaranteed, but collaborations with the private sector are being pursued to aid in scaling innovations.

7. What is the "Art of Possible" in innovation?

- **Answer:** The "Art of Possible" refers to the realistic goals and outcomes that can be achieved based on current resources and capabilities, emphasizing the need to focus on feasible solutions with available support.

8. How does Medical Innovations Patent Mitra integrate with other government initiatives to create a seamless process for innovations to reach the market and become viable?

- **Answer:** It was highlighted that Medical Innovations Patent Mitra aims to bring together various government initiatives to create a cohesive innovation ecosystem. By combining research support, patent protection, and regulatory frameworks from agencies like ICMR, CSIR, and other departments, it helps streamline the process from innovation to market. He emphasized that this collaborative approach enhances the chances of successful commercialization and product approval. He also discussed ongoing efforts to assist Indian regulators in gaining international recognition, especially in sectors like vaccines, and the role of public procurement in scaling up innovations.

9. What is the importance of considering the business and user aspects of a product at the beginning of a project?

- **Answer:** He stressed that many projects in India overlook the business and user aspects until later in the development process. From his experience reviewing over 20 projects, he noted that many failed due to a lack of focus on defining the user base and business model upfront. He argued that considering these aspects early in the project is crucial for successful commercialization and to avoid creating non-performing assets. Focusing on the business side at the outset allows for better alignment between the product and market demand.

10. Why does the industry often overlook opportunities like Paytm, and what can be done to improve this?

- **Answer:** It was pointed out that despite having significant opportunities, such as Paytm, many industries in India fail to capitalize on them. He attributed this to a narrow focus on technology without giving sufficient attention to the business model and end users. He emphasized that a shift towards considering the user and business aspects from the start could help industries identify and seize such opportunities more effectively.

11. How can assured sales help startups, and what can be done to guarantee this?

- **Answer:** By shared an example of a startup involved in developing a national security-related product. Although the company had been promised the sale of 5,200 devices, no one ended up purchasing the products despite their functionality. He argued that for startups to succeed, there needs to be a mechanism in place to ensure assured sales after a product is developed and tested. He called for more robust systems that guarantee market acceptance for innovations once they have proven to be viable.

Dr. Rajiv Bahl added that this can be viewed from a lense possibilities to support growth and patenting culture in the bio-medical industry. Although, there is not said promise or guarantee for considering the same.

12. What is the importance of scaling innovations, particularly in terms of funding and production?

- **Answer:** Dr. Mukherjee emphasized the significance of scaling innovations once they have been developed. He was appreciative of the making of Medical Innovations Patent Mitra and hopeful of this tool turning around the patenting landscape in India. He acknowledged that for a startup, securing funding and the ability to scale production are critical for success. He provided an example of a product that successfully met the demand for a small number of units (100–200 devices) but faced challenges when scaling up to larger volumes (5,000 units or more). He stated that ensuring scalability is vital for the widespread adoption of innovations and that the industry needs mechanisms to support the scaling process, especially for large-scale production and global market entry.

6. Conclusion

The launch of the **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra** initiative has been **received with overwhelming support**, marking a pivotal moment in India's journey toward becoming a global leader in medical research and innovation. This transformative initiative is more than just a program—it's a step towards creating an ecosystem where ideas can flourish and turn into impactful healthcare solutions.

From **"Make in India"** to **"Innovate in India"**, this initiative reflects our commitment to not just manufacturing but also **driving groundbreaking medical innovations** that can transform healthcare globally.

It serves as a **key enabler for medical colleges**, empowering institutions to transition from traditional research settings to vibrant hubs of innovation. By providing streamlined support for patenting and intellectual property (IP) management, it encourages academic researchers and budding entrepreneurs to translate their discoveries into commercially viable products.

As a **strong partner for key stakeholders**, including the healthcare industry, academic institutions, pharmaceutical companies, and government bodies, the initiative fosters collaboration across the entire innovation ecosystem.

The **Intellectual Property Office (IPO)** has been **very supportive**, driving capacity building through workshops, training programs, and resource sharing, ensuring innovators are well-equipped to navigate the complexities of IP laws both domestically and globally.

Moreover, the **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP)** has recognized Medical Innovations Patent Mitra as a **key enabler for the Pharmaceuticals and Related Innovation Promotion (PRIP) scheme**, highlighting its strategic role in advancing India's pharmaceutical landscape and boosting indigenous R&D.

This initiative signifies a **paradigm shift** in India's approach to medical innovation, moving beyond conventional research to actively foster a culture of entrepreneurship, commercialization, and global competitiveness.

As we move forward, this initiative aligns with the vision of **"Viksit Bharat"**—an India driven by innovation, resilience, and sustainable growth.

7. Visual Recap of the Medical Innovations Patent Mitra Launch and Panel Discussion



Figure 2: Launch by Honourable minister of health and Family welfare and chemical fertilizers



Figure 3 Honourable minister of health and Family welfare and chemical fertilizers of India at the launch event



Figure 4: Medical Innovations Patent Mitra Launch



Figure 5: Panel Discussion Glimpse



Figure 6: Medical Innovations Patent Mitra Discussion Team

8. Press Release & Social Media

8.1 Official Social Media Posts

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)

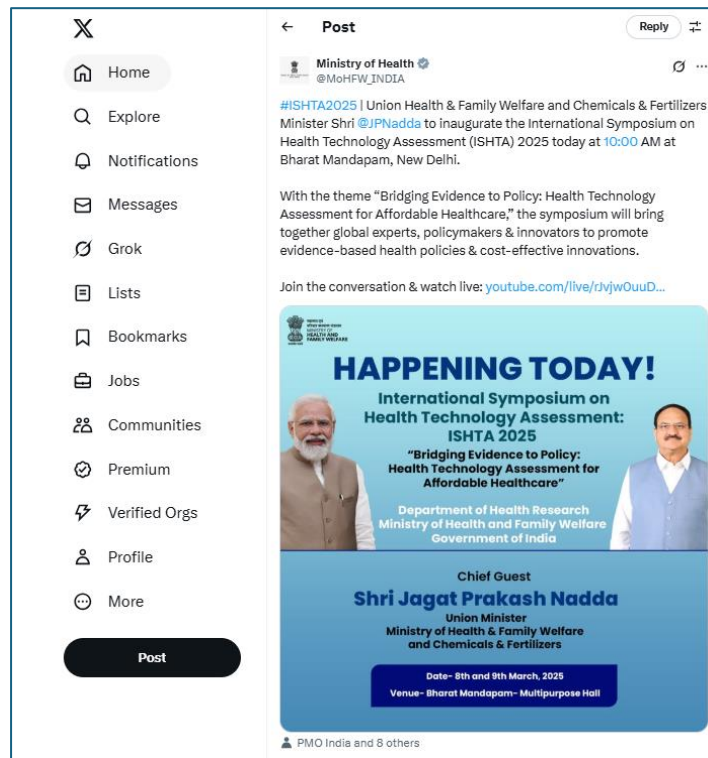


Figure 7: Twitter Post by MoHFW

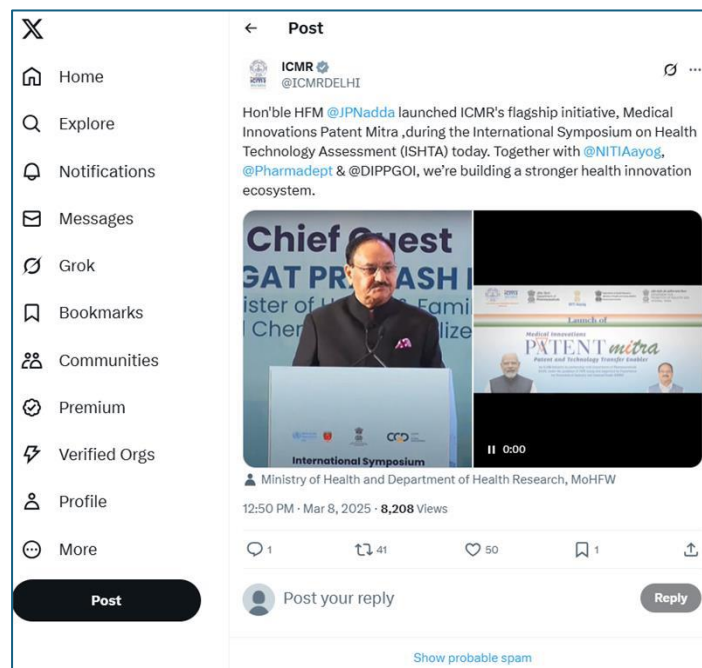


Figure 8: Twitter Post by ICMR

- **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**

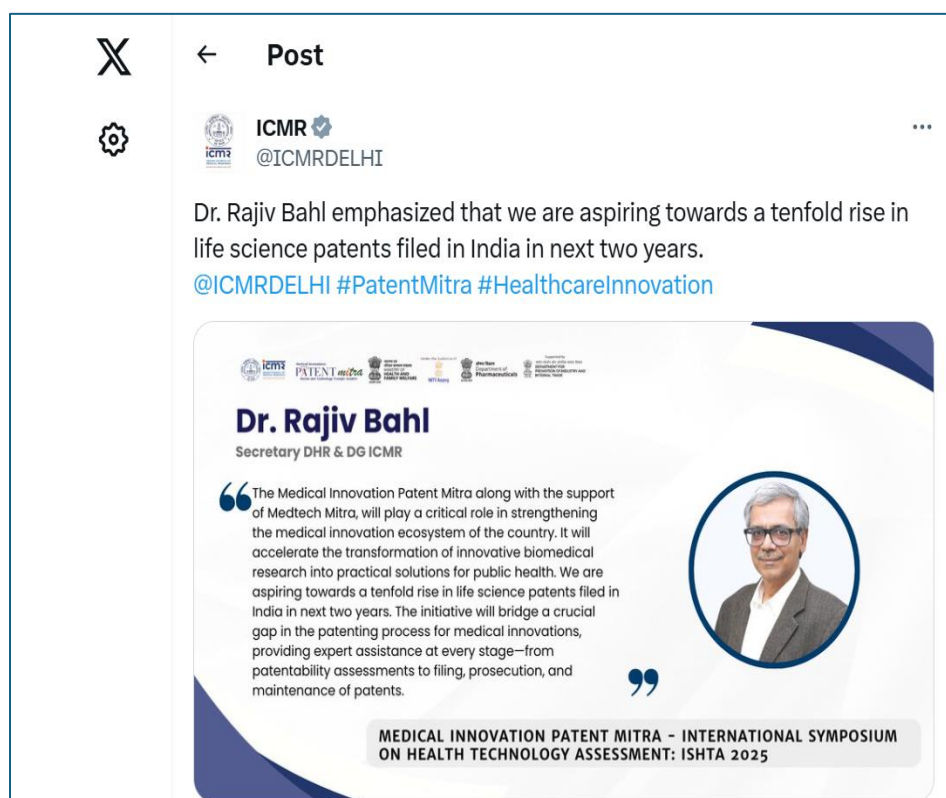


Figure 9: Dr. Rajiv Bahl Testimonial

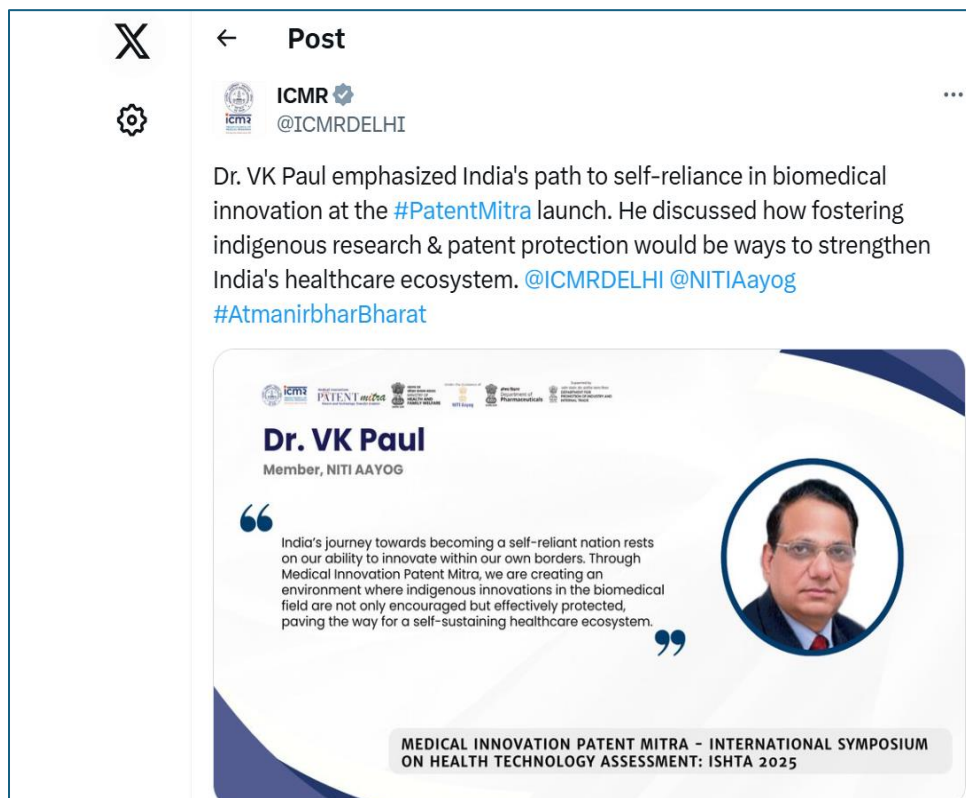


Figure 10: Dr. VK Paul - Testimonial

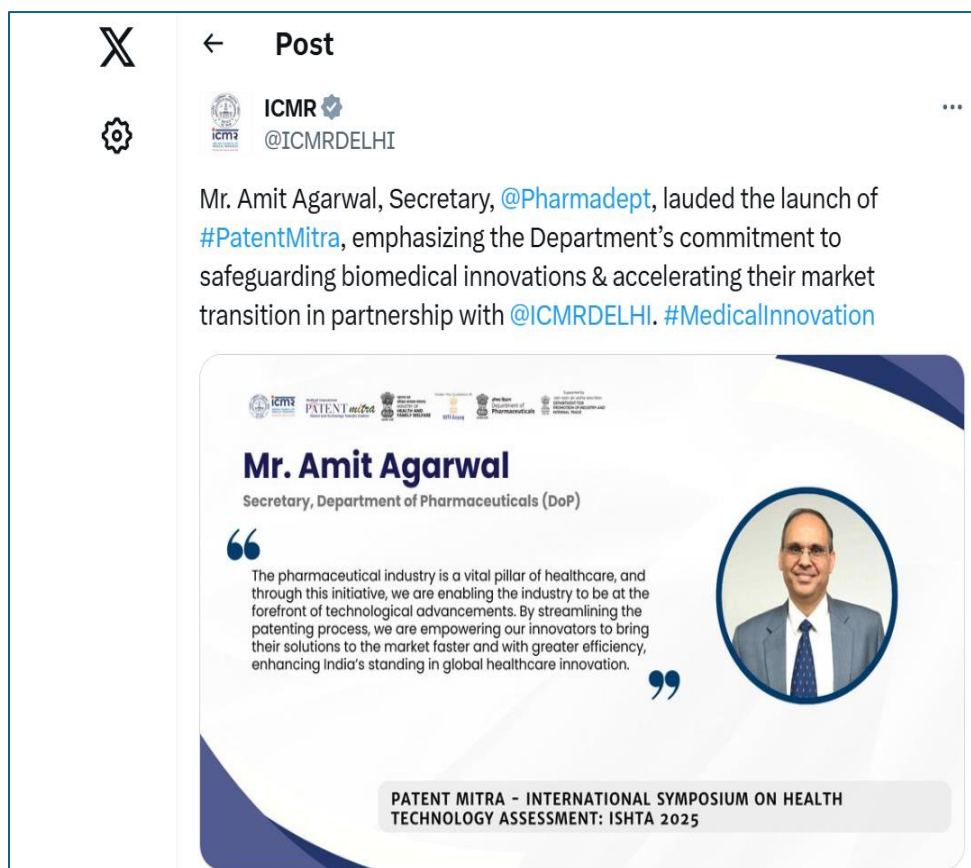


Figure 11: Mr. Amit Agarwal Testimonial

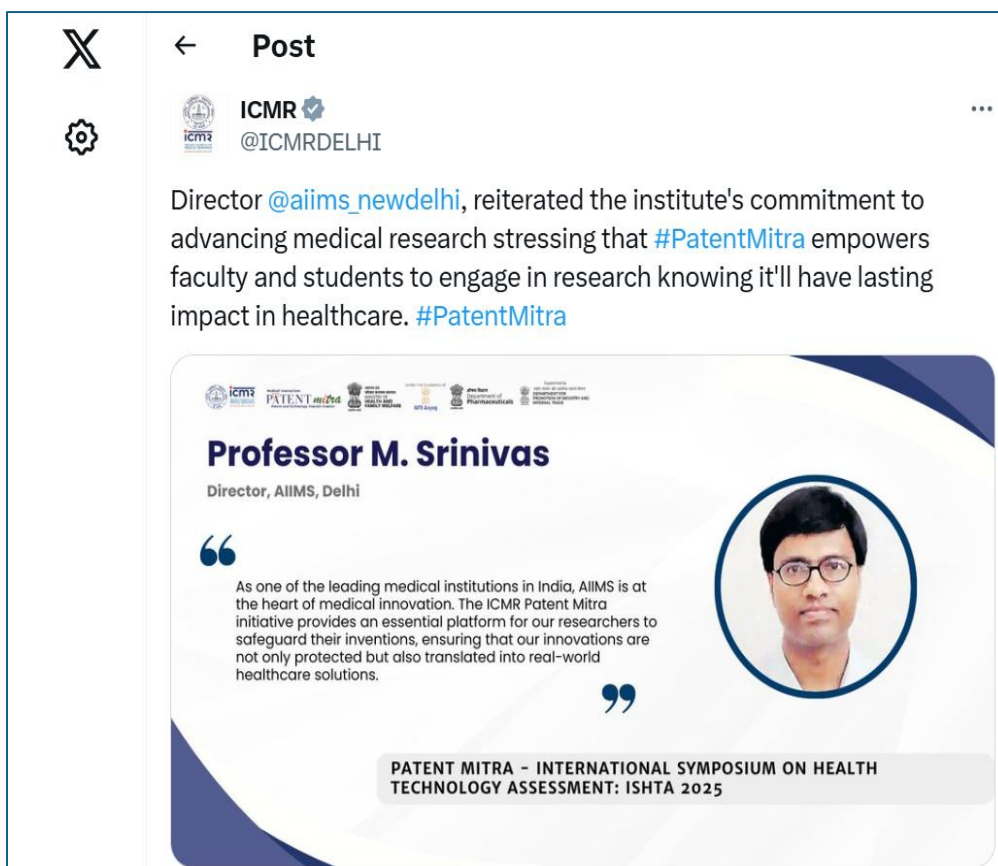


Figure 12: Prof. M. Srinivas Testimonial

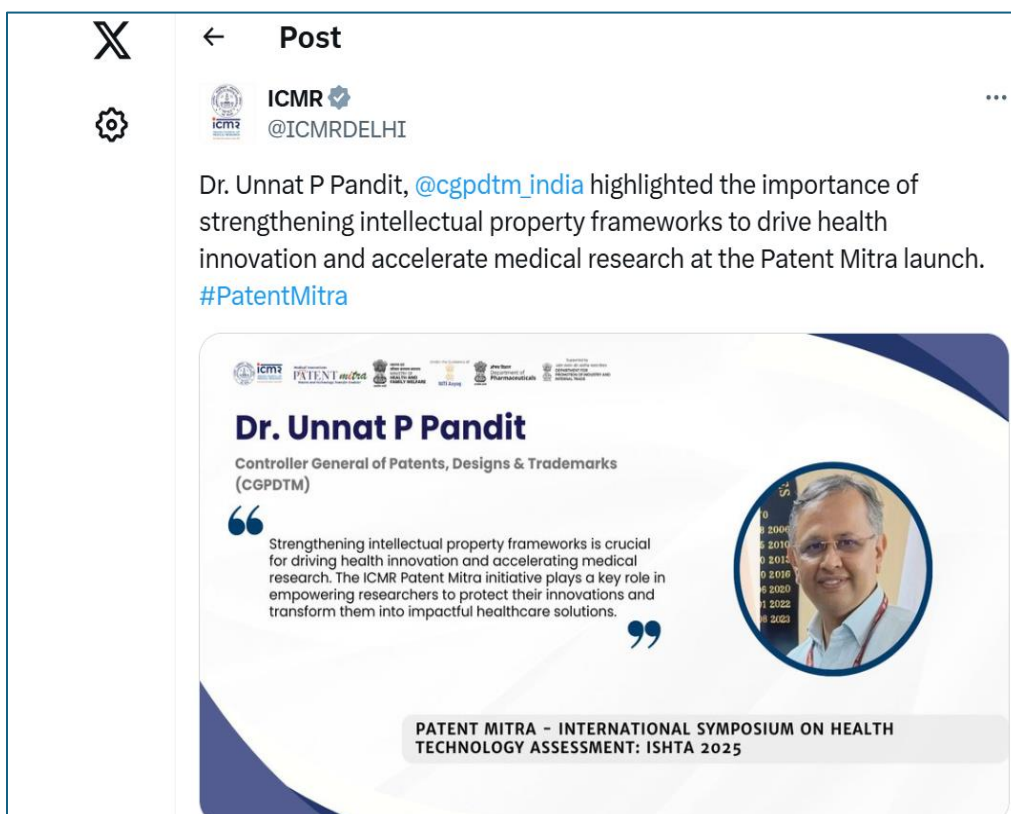


Figure 13: Dr. Unnat Pandit Testimonial

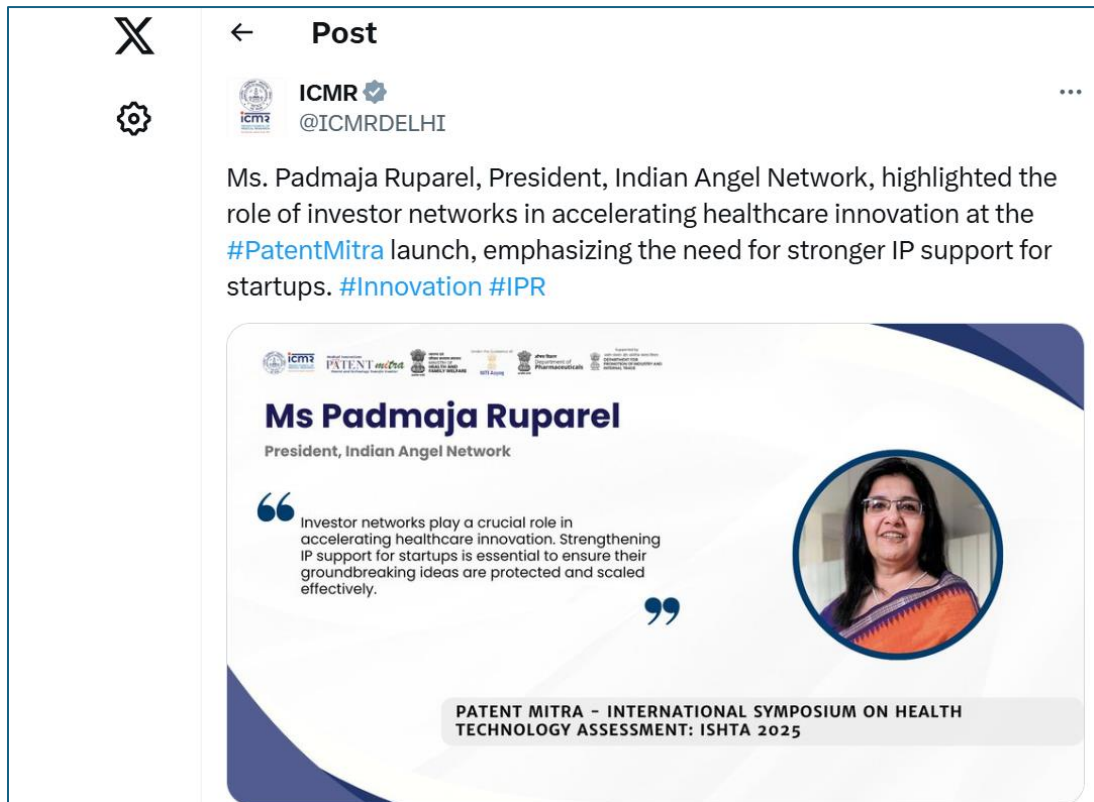


Figure 14: Ms Padmaja Ruparel



Figure 15: Dr. Shirshendu Mukherjee Testimonial

2. Facebook Posts:

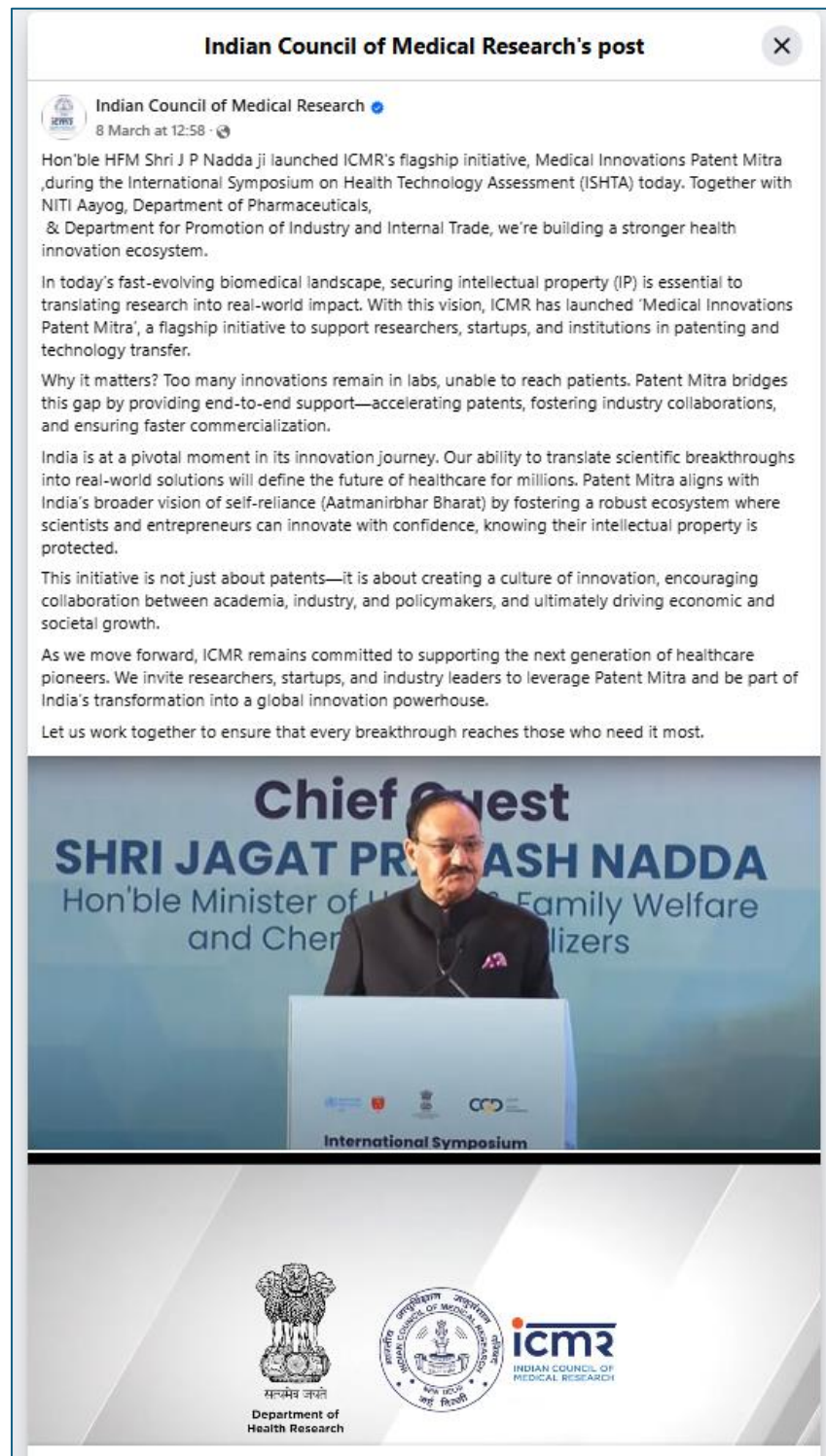


Figure 18: Facebook post by ICMR



Figure 19: Facebook post by ICMR

3. LinkedIn Posts:

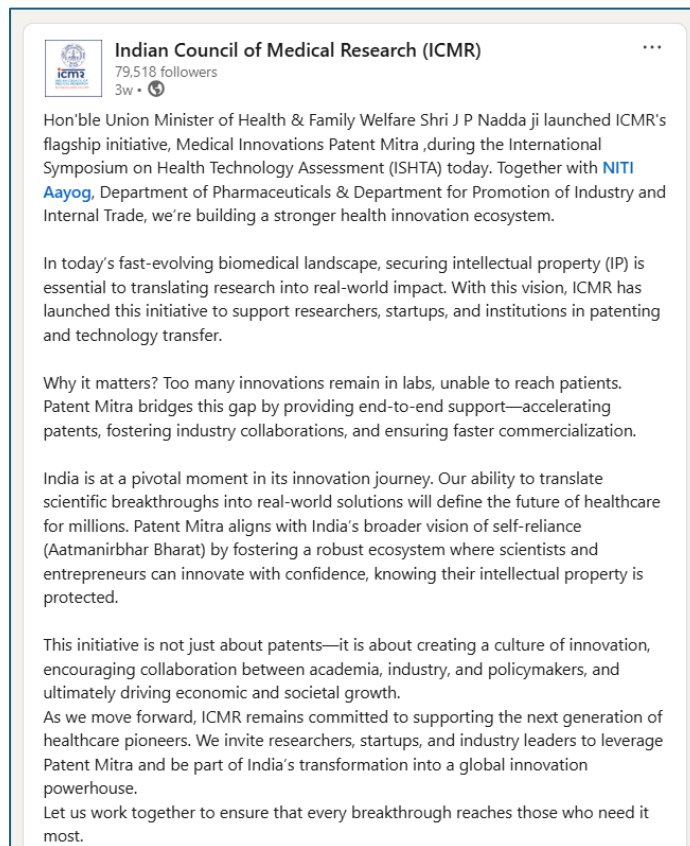


Figure 20: LinkedIn post by ICMR



Figure 21: LinkedIn post by ICMR

8.2 News Coverage

- ETV Bharat:

ETV Bharat / Health

ICMR Launches 'Medical Innovations Patent Mitra' To Boost Healthcare Innovation And Technology Transfer

The initiative offers guidance and support for patent filings and technology transfer of medical innovations, developed with NITI Aayog, the Department of Pharmaceuticals, and DPIIT.



Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda (Etv Bharat)



By ETV Bharat English Team
Published : Mar 8, 2025, 10:16 PM IST

f X 3 Min Read

New Delhi: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Saturday launched the Medical Innovations Patent Mitra initiative during the International Symposium on Health Technology Assessment (ISHTA) here to enhance India's healthcare innovation ecosystem.

It aims to provide end-to-end guidance and handholding support to innovators for patent filings and technology transfer of medical innovations to the industry. This programme developed under the guidance of NITI Aayog and in partnership with the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), is supported by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

"The launch was followed by a panel discussion that brought together bureaucrats, industry leaders, investors and public health experts to explore the challenges, opportunities and strategies for enhancing patent filing and technology transfer in the context of translational research and medical innovation," an official said.

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda launched this pioneering initiative. "Medical innovation Patent Mitra is a testament to ICMR's commitment to advancing medical innovation. With

Figure 22: Nes article by ETV Bharat

- The Hindu Business Line:

SCIENCE

ICMR launches patent filing support initiative to boost biomedical innovations in India

Medical Innovations Patent Mitra aims at providing end-to-end guidance and handholding support to innovators for patent filings and technology transfer of medical innovations to industry

By PTI

Updated - March 08, 2025 at 07:36 PM. | New Delhi



Medical Innovations Patent Mitra, developed under the guidance of NITI Aayog and in partnership with the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), is supported by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

Union Health Minister J P Nadda on Saturday launched the **Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR)** flagship initiative 'Medical Innovations Patent Mitra' to enhance India's

businessline.

The BusinessLine delivers the best of portfolio and stock

Figure 23: News article by The Hindu Business Line

- Hindustan:

नट्टा ने मेडिकल इनोवेशन पेटेंट मित्र की शुरुआत की

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जेपी नट्टा ने 'मेडिकल इनोवेशन पेटेंट मित्र' योजना की शुरुआत की। इस पहल का उद्देश्य भारत के स्वास्थ्य सेवा नवाचारों को बढ़ावा देना और नवोन्मेषकों को पेटेंट दाखिल करने में...

Newswrap • हिन्दुस्तान, नई दिल्ली

Sun, 9 March 2025 12:49 AM

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नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जेपी नट्टा ने शनिवार को भारतीय चिकित्सा अनुसंधान परिषद (आईसीएमआर) की प्रमुख योजना मेडिकल इनोवेशन पेटेंट मित्र की शुरुआत की। इस पहल के जरिये भारत के स्वास्थ्य सेवा नवाचार पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को बढ़ाना है। इसका उद्देश्य पेटेंट दाखिल करने के लिए नवोन्मेषकों को संपूर्ण मार्गदर्शन और सहायता प्रदान करना है। इंटरनेशनल सिम्पोजियम ऑन हेल्थ टेक्नोलॉजी असेसमेंट (आईएसएचटीए) में इस योजना की शुरुआत की गई।

Figure 24: News article by Hindustan

- Devdiscourse

India's Medical Innovation Leap: Launch of Patent Mitra Initiative

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has introduced the Medical Innovations Patent Mitra initiative to boost India's healthcare innovation and patent ecosystem. It offers comprehensive support for medical innovation patent filings and technology transfers, enhancing the transformative potential of biomedical research and fostering a self-reliant healthcare sector.

Devdiscourse News Desk | Updated: 08-03-2025 20:17 IST | Created: 08-03-2025 20:17 IST



Representative image. Image Credit: ANI

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In a landmark push to elevate India's healthcare innovation landscape, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) unveiled the Medical Innovations Patent Mitra initiative. Launched during the International Symposium on Health Technology Assessment, the program is crafted in collaboration with NITI Aayog and the Department of Pharmaceuticals, with backing from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

Figure 25: News article by Devdiscourse



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