

# New Discovery Track for Startups and MSMEs with Financial Assistance upto ₹50 cr under PRIP Scheme announced

## Portal Goes Live for Submission of Applications

## Second Call Invites Applications for Pharma and MedTech Innovation

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The screenshot shows the 'Scheme for Promotion of Research & Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector' portal. It features a header with the scheme name and a circular image of scientists. A 'FUNDING' section indicates 'Upto ₹100 Cr. per Project' and '₹5000 Cr. Total scheme outlay'. A prominent 'Apply Now' button is visible. On the right, a 'WHO CAN APPLY?' section lists 'Pharma/MedTech Companies', 'MSMEs', and 'Startups'. Below this, a section titled 'Second call for applications - Open now' provides details about the application process, including a two-step process for early-stage applications and a continuation of the existing process for late-stage applications. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Apply Now (Concept Note)' and 'Apply Now (Detailed Application Form)'.

In order to encourage discovery, development and commercialisation of new medicines and to support Start-ups and MSMEs, the Department of Pharmaceuticals, has announced a **New Discovery track** under the **Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma & MedTech (PRIP) Scheme** for undertaking **Pharma Innovation projects**. The objective is to encourage and enable start-ups and MSMEs to venture in to high-risk innovation ecosystem for discovery of new drugs and therapies.

This new track seeks to address a critical funding gap in early-stage novel drug discovery. Financial assistance of upto **₹50 crore per company/project/portfolio of projects will be provided, subject to a minimum co-funding of 25% of the project cost(s) from bona fide institutional investors.**

This will act as large-scale risk capital to startups/ MSMEs and catalyse participation of institutional investors at an earlier stage of drug development, enabling more indigenous New Chemical Entities and New Biological Entities assets to progress from discovery towards clinical development and help build a globally competitive drug innovation pipeline.

Start-ups and MSMEs undertaking NCE/NBE projects at Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 1, 2 or 3 are eligible to apply under this new exclusive track. The Department would support such projects to progress to higher TRLs not beyond TRL 6. The online PRIP portal is now open for submission of applications under the **second call of the scheme**. With a financial outlay of ₹5,000 crore, the Scheme aims to strengthen India's **pharmaceutical and MedTech research and development ecosystem** by supporting startups, MSMEs and large companies to move up the innovation value chain.

### **Second Call Invites Applications Across the following three Priority Areas:**

1. **New Medicines** - including New Chemical Entities (NCEs), New Biological Entities (NBEs) and phytopharmaceutical drugs
2. **Complex Generics and Biosimilars**
3. **Novel Medical Devices**

Apart from the New Discovery track, applications are invited under the following two tracks:

**Early Stage:** Startups and MSMEs undertaking projects at TRL 1, 2 or 3, with the objective of progressing them to higher TRLs not beyond TRL 5, will be eligible. Financial assistance of up to ₹5 crore per project will be provided. Where the approved total project cost is up to ₹1 crore, no co-funding from the applicant will be required. Where the project cost exceeds ₹1 crore, half of the project cost exceeding ₹1 crore will be co-funded by the applicant.

**Later Stage:** Industry, startups and MSMEs undertaking projects at TRL 4, 5 or 6 to higher TRLs will be eligible. Financial assistance of up to ₹100 crore per project will be provided, subject to a **maximum of 35%** of the approved total project cost, with the remaining amount to be co-funded by the applicant.

Application forms and supporting guidance are available on the **PRIP Portal**: [PRIP Portal](#).

Applicants can refer to the Scheme and Scheme Guidelines, Guidance for Concept Note, Guidance for Application Form, Milestone Descriptor Catalogue, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and the Application Support Toolkit for further details.

Under the **first call** of the PRIP Scheme, **41 projects** have been approved for around ₹1,600 crore in financial assistance. Evaluation of the remaining applications under the first round is underway, with further results to be announced over the coming month.

*Applicants who had submitted projects under PRIP Round 1 have been advised not to resubmit the same project. For queries and additional guidance, applicants may write to [support-prip@pharma-dept.gov.in](mailto:support-prip@pharma-dept.gov.in).*

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**PC/PM**

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