**INTER-MINISTERIAL COOPERATION FOR**

**PROMOTION AND FACILITATION OF INNOVATIVE RESEARCH ON PHYTOPHARMACEUTICALS**

**SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) AMONG CSIR, DBT AND ICMR**

**DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**CSIR SCIENCE CENTRE, NEW DELHI**

India has strong traditional systems of medicine for health careand has been a front runner in use of medicinal plants for centuries. However, the quality of commercially available formulations based on traditional texts has many a times raised questions on the standard of preparation and validation. The Gazette of India notification of guidelines for phytopharmaceutical drug development offers opportunity to leverage traditional knowledge for drug development based on modern science and modern medicine principles.

The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for inter-ministerial cooperation for the promotion and facilitation of innovative research on phytopharmaceuticals.

**About the MoU**

The MoU amongst CSIR, DBT and ICMR is for mutual collaboration to develop phytopharmaceutical products for therapeutic uses following international standards and norms for establishing safety, quality, standardization and efficacy. The effort would beto take forward the leads already existing with CSIR, DBT and ICMR and develop specific collaborative projects in the domain aiming at rigorous modern scientific testing and development of standard products to maintain global competitiveness.

The role of each party has been defined in the MoU. CSIR will be responsible for proposing leads (both with short term & long term translational period), which can be taken forward for phytopharmaceutical product development following DCGI regulatory guidelines; pre-clinical pharmacology; CMC and IND enabling studies; and safety and regulatory toxicity studies. DBT would be responsible for proposing leads based on its extra-mural research, providing funds for R&D projects taken under the MoU and preparation of respective sections of IND dossier in mutual collaboration with ICMR. Preparation of IND dossier and its submission to DCGI, preparation of clinical trials protocols, obtaining regulatory clearance for clinical trials and conducting trials with compilation of results etc. would be the responsibility of ICMR.