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CSIR signs MOU on chemoinformatics

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The memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between CSIR and the United Kingdom based Royal Society of Chemistry, is meant to build a community of researchers in India on cheminformatics, which will support drug discovery efforts of OSDD for Tuberculosis (TB), Malaria and other neglected diseases that predominantly affect India. Cheminformatics is an emerging discipline that supports drug discovery.

The MoU contemplates scientific partnership through activities such as building an online repository of real and virtual molecules, jointly developing free, cutting edge level software tools, etc. OSDD is focused on drug discovery with TB as the first target disease, and has taken up Malaria as an additional target for the 12th plan. Research collaboration in cheminformatics is expected to help OSDD's drug discovery efforts on TB and Malaria.

Drug discovery is a long and risk prone endeavour with gestation period of 12-15 years. Therefore it is difficult to fix timelines of delivery particularly considering the fact that many established pharmaceutical companies have failed in their effort to find new drugs for TB for the past forty years.

Since TB and Malaria are diseases that are of serious national concern, CSIR through the OSDD programme is making a concerted effort to discover new drugs for the benefit of TB and Malaria patients particularly on patients with drug resistant infections. These drugs will be made available at affordable costs. OSDD has shown promising results in its short span of five years of existence.