

## India & Canada working jointly on anti-malarial drugs

26 June 2014 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau

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Referring to the wide scope of collaboration between the two countries, Dr Jitendra Singh, minister of science and technology (independent charge) told a Canadian delegation, led by its high commissioner, Mr Stewart Beck about the action plan envisaging collaboration in the areas of biotechnology, health, environment, energy, food security, nano-technology science, communication and industrial R&D.

Dr Singh also said that there will be an attempt to expedite ongoing projects between the two countries on 'PET-MRI Automatic Tumour Detection and Recognition' thus adding another dimension to non- invasive detection of tumour using PET and MRI images.

The science and technology minister also revealed that two joint international patent applications by India and Canada have been filed under a project at the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Delhi to develop new potential anti-malarial drugs.

Dwelling upon future vistas, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the India-Canada science and technology relationship has the potential for future growth. "The need to connect the best academic and R&D institutions from both countries will be important for facilitating new knowledge creation through joint research and exchange of personnel," he added.

A joint science and technology committee meeting of the two countries, according to Dr Singh, will be held in the first half of next year and it would aim at announcing new programs and initiating new awards for already existing programs.