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Sun-ICGEB alliance to develop dengue drug

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 4 May

Sun Pharma has inked a pact with International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) to develop a novel botanical drug for the treatment of dengue, which could hit the market in four years.

"Today, we have signed an agreement for the development of Cissampelos pariera (Cipa), a botanical drug, in collaboration with ICGEB. Usually any drug development takes around four to eight years, but since we have done some pre-clinical work already, we expect the drug to hit markets in the next four years," Sun Pharma senior vice-president, business development and portfolio management, Mr Kirti Ganorkar, said.

Once developed, the company plans to register the drug across various global markets, he added.

The agreement permits Sun Pharma access to all the intellectual properties of the drug across 17 countries.

When asked about the pricing of the product, Mr Ganorkar said: "We are still at a very early stage and it is difficult to say about the pricing, but one thing I can say right now is that our target is to make it very affordable."

Sun Pharma will fund the entire development programme and pay royalty following commercialisation of the drug.

ICGEB, on the other hand, will provide the technical know-how and pre-clinical expertise.

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