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**T**he plan to double the public and private R&D expenditure in the 10th Five Year Plan period is a move in the right direction to sustain the tremendous momentum achieved in the past decade in various fields of science and technology. The sterner agencies have been in the forefront of promoting scientific excellence through proactive policies and schemes for achieving the desired positive impact on the society.

### Modifications that can be addressed as we go forward

Without doubt it is a visionary and aspirational document, however, the plans outlined by the funding agencies which are by and large a continuation of their ongoing mission to promote science and technology in the country with modifications going forward will make it formidable.

- There is a need to address issues such as how to attract, retain and enhance teaching capabilities in the universities, where majority of the scientific talent is going to come from.
- There is a need to correct regional imbalances by incorporating proposal to open new centres of Higher education and national institutions in new regions where the local educational institutions can draw benefits in addition to the existing knowledge clusters.
- We need schemes to recognize scientific talent in private R&D, considering private R&Ds are in the forefront of innovation; selection in private R&D are not treated by agencies for their fundamental work unlike their academic counterparts.

• There is redundancy in the new institutions proposed by the different public agencies, this needs to be closely studied before new institutions are set up.

• A monitoring and assessment mechanism on how the deliverables expected from the different institutions outlined in the proposed grant schemes needs to be included.

• The regulatory authority (a single entity) should have permanent staff scientists of various disciplines (similar to that of ICMR and ICMR) dedicated to providing constructive criticisms, feedback and inputs for rapid regulatory decisions of the industry driven projects; temporary members recruited from the academic institutions into various regulatory committees are short on knowledge, commitment and further aggravate the bureaucratic processes required for clearance.

• A separate road map and visionary statement is mandatory for the vaccine industry that is plagued by the lack of innovation, weak business through tender-based institutional sales, not a single agency has outlined a plan for the vaccine industry to offer competition in unregulated markets as well as to counter competition from MNCs.

Even though there are certain intrinsic problems, programs like SUPRE (DST), SBAP (DST) and Public-Private Partnership Policy (Initiative of Scientific Advisory Committee of Union Cabinet (Dr Chakrabarti)) are full-steam forward heading to our Scientific Policy Decision during this five years.