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CTRI files patent for purer solanesol

Our Bureau

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THE Central Tobacco Research Institute has filed for a patent for the cheaper technology developed by it to produce more than 95 per cent pure solanesol, which has a huge potential in the pharmaceutical industry.

Solanesol, extracted from tobacco, is used in treatment of heart, cancer and liver diseases.

Announcing this here on Tuesday, Dr K. Deo Singh, Director of Central Tobacco Re-

search Institute (CTRI), said that though there were technologies and processes that could yield solanesol, the one developed by them was cheaper.

The institute awaited the go-ahead for transferring the technology for commercial use. "Commercialisation is very important in proliferating its use," he said.

Dr Singh said efforts were on to reduce tar content in cigarettes to 10 mg (9-13 mg). The tar content, which used to be in the range of 30 mg a cigarette, was brought down to 15 mg.