

CSIR in Media



News Bulletin
11 to 15 April 2020



NIIST on a mission to fight COVID-19

CSIR-NIIST

15 April, 2020

Process for producing drugs to fight pandemic on at the institute

The National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) here at Pappanamcode has begun work on developing new processes for producing certain drugs which could prove vital in the battle against COVID-19.

NIIST scientists are working on developing the process chemistry of three drug molecules as part of a pan-CSIR activity to repurpose/develop drugs for the treatment of COVID-19. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has selected, in all, 14 drugs which are under clinical trials for other diseases to see whether they can be of use in the current crisis.

“A specific cure for COVID-19 is yet to be found anywhere. We are part of a CSIR initiative which is looking at a clutch of drugs, which have been distributed among the different CSIR labs across the country. Research will take time, but it will also be valuable for the long term,” NIIST Director Ajayaghosh A. said.

Many drugs which are being repurposed are either approved for use against different ailments or are in clinical trials, an NIIST scientist involved in the research said. “The idea is that if one of these drugs prove effective in fighting COVID-19 anywhere, India will be ready for mass production,” the scientist said.

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ready for mass production,” the scientist said.

The CSIR had pointed out in a communique to research institutes under it that ‘repositioning’ of launched or even failed drugs to viral diseases “provides unique translational opportunities, including a substantially higher probability of success to market as compared with developing new virus-specific drugs and vaccines, and a significantly reduced cost and timeline to clinical availability.”

Other activities

NIIST is working on a number of other research areas as well as part of the CSIR mission against COVID-19. This include the development of antiviral materials and coatings for use in personal protection equipment and surfaces and preventive medicines and immunity boosters for geriatric health care. The institute is also looking at how common face-masks and surgical masks can be modified.

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[The Hindu](#)

‘More testing will help us know COVID-19 spread’

CSIR -CCMB

15 April, 2020

COVID-19 may have peaked in United States or Europe, but here, it is only after two weeks that one can understand if the virus is hitting the plateau or still climbing. “We are still in the danger zone and although the lockdown seemed to have had some effect, the extent of virus transmission will be known only through more testing,” asserted CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) director Rakesh Mishra on Wednesday.

An all-time high of 20,000 samples in a day was tested yesterday, but this is not enough, he added.

“You may have noticed that cases are spiking as we are testing more samples. It is only by testing more that we can know how far we have been efficient in controlling the virus spread. We can enhance the testing capacity multi-fold by pooling in samples; the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has already recommended to the government to allow five samples to be tested in one go,” he explained.

CCMB, which currently has a testing capacity of 350 samples a day, is very much capable to doing the pooling samples testing to enhance this capacity to over 1,000 where multiple samples of a particular cluster is tested in one go, thereby saving time, resources and effort. A lesser percentage of positive cases will indicate the novel coronavirus transmission has been contained.

Next course of action

“Once we increase the testing multiple-fold, it will help governments formulate the next course of action on where restrictions can be eased, to what extent and other measures

needed at the identified hotspots. We should be doing testing on a mass scale in the next two weeks, also because it is not practical to shut down everything for an indefinite period,” Dr. Mishra pointed out. The silver lining is that scientists have, so far, not found any great variation in COVID-19 strain within the country. “We have found virus isolates are from China or Europe. Genome sequencing efforts being done in coordination with CCMB and Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology will help us study the genome variations and allow us to know how the virus is changing, how the infection is spreading and where the medicines can be targeted. We have about 30 genomes of Indian isolates known and more are in the offing,” he said.

Regulatory approvals are now quicker, yet an effective vaccine should not be expected for a year or more. “After all, we are going to introduce a foreign material and we have to see how the human body reacts. However, research is on worldwide and if we are lucky, we may get a breakthrough in treatment in three-four months,” Dr. Mishra said.

CCMB now has the licence to validate new indigenous testing models and is currently scrutinising offers to provide testing kits. “Only a few firms are making testing kits globally. If our firms can conform to certain standards, we can give them the nod. It will unleash the local entrepreneurial spirit and will help us avoid dependance on imports as the demand is high in other countries too. We are seriously looking at a couple of products and in a week’s time, they may get the approval if all necessary criteria are met,” he added.

CSIR-IITR

15 April, 2020

लेसा को मिला 150 लीटर सैनिटाइजर

■ एनबीटी, लखनऊ : कोरोना से बचाव के लिए लॉकडाउन के बीच बिजली आपूर्ति बनाए रखने के लिए इयूटी पर मुस्तैद लेसाकर्मियों के लिए सीएसआईआर व आईआईटीआर ने मंगलवार को 150 लीटर सैनिटाइजर

सीएसआईआर व आईआईटीआर ने उपलब्ध करवाया

दिया। मध्यांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम के एमडी सूर्यपाल गंगवार ने सभी डिवीजन कार्यालय में

सैनिटाइजर पहुंचाने का निर्देश दिए हैं।

सैनिटाइजर की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करवाने के लिए लेसा के रेजीडेंसी डिवीजन के एसडीओ आशीष शर्मा को नोडल प्रभारी बनाया है। मध्यांचल एमडी के अनुसार हॉट स्पॉट घोषित इलाकों में कार्यरत कर्मचारियों की सुरक्षा को लेकर विशेष सतर्कता बरती जा रही है। अमीनाबाद, ठाकुरगंज, अपट्रॉन डिवीजन के बिजलीघरों को प्राथमिकता के आधार पर सैनिटाइजर उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है।

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Customizable face shields developed

CSIR -CSMCRI

14 April, 2020

Ahmedabad: Anticipating a growing need for personal protective equipment (PPE) for the thousands of health workers involved in Covid-19 sampling and isolating in cities, villages and small towns, the Bhavnagar based research laboratory CSIR-Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSIR-CSMCRI) have developed face shields to safeguard the face of paramedics from sputum of the patients while they sneeze while taking samples. The shield is light weight that can be worn very easily through the elastic band and the whole shield weighs just 30 grams.

The first 100 pieces are already in use at Bhavnagar Medical College (BMC) for opinion of doctors and paramedics who are on the front-line in providing Covid care. The best part of the shield is that it is made of polylacticacid (PLA), which is completely biodegradable and will not cause plastic pollution. Also the shield is 100 microns thick with clear visibility. Right now some 100 pieces of the equipment is being use by the Bhavnagar Medical College and that many doctors and paramedics are already fining it useful.

“The shield extends and covers beyond the neck portion, so if a doctor is examining the patient while the latter is asleep and during this examination the patient coughs or sneezes , the micro droplets may get through the space between the neck and the chin, it could be a problem. Our shield provides enough protection,” says a senior scientist at the institute. He also adds that most of the technology or equipment made by the institute for Covid-19 control or protection will not be patented and will be available for any Indian citizen to replicate.

Protective shields that are available in the market today are of 800 microns to 300 microns thickness. “The present (CSIR-CSMCRI) face shield was made using 3D printing and can be

customised for doctors and paramedics who are constantly working in Covid care centres immediately. For those in field who collect nasal and throat swabs a standard mould is being manufactured that can help the manufacture of the shield on a mass scale and be made available to those in field,” says the senior scientist.

These face masks that use new tech could actually kill virus

CSIR -CSMCRI

14 April, 2020

Rajkot: Scientists at the Bhavnagar-based Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI) have developed a special mask using membrane technology that can give enhanced protection against any pathogens, including virus and bacteria.

The mask can actually kill the virus and bacteria that get attached on the outer surface that is made from a special material, scientists told TOI.

If this breakthrough research is medically validated, it could prove to be a boon for not just the common people but the entire medical fraternity, especially health workers who are in the forefront of battling the coronavirus pandemic.

Dr V K Shahi, head of membrane science & separation technology division of CSMCRI, told TOI, “This is a novel idea. The outer coating of the mask is made from material that is anti-virus, anti-bacterial and anti-fungal. This means that any pathogen attached on the outer surface will be killed. These are much superior to the N95 masks that are considered the best at present.”

“The outer porous film is made from modified polysulfone material having a thickness of 150 micro metre. The material can kill any virus having a size of 60 nano metre (NM) and above. The coronavirus has a diameter of 80-120 NM,” he explained.

At the same time, these masks are cost-effective, the production cost being just about Rs 25 to Rs 45 as compared to Rs 100-Rs 300 of the best available in the market at present. The institute has developed five different variants of the masks having different kind of membranes and coated fabrics with multiple layers in them.

CSMCRI plans to distribute these indigenously developed masks for free under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) activity.

The mask was developed in just about a week and the medical validation is expected in a couple of days. The samples have been sent to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Ahmedabad and microbiology department of Bhavnagar university for validation.

CSIR's CCMB trying new drugs, possible new therapies for Coronavirus

CSIR -CCMB

14 April, 2020

The Hyderabad based CSIR Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) is trying new drugs and possible new therapies by Cell Culture System for Coronavirus. Director of the premier laboratory, Dr Rakesh K Mishra informed AIR News that the Cell Culture System which is in advance stage at the laboratory, gives the researchers In Vitro Assay System for testing new drugs and possible therapy for Coronavirus.

Dr Rakesh further informed that the Cell Culture System also will enable the researchers to save a few lives by adopting serological based treatment, by using antibodies of the recovered patients. He added that the method has its own limitations.

IHBT to conduct Covid tests

CSIR -IHBT

14 April, 2020

The Institute of Himalayan Bio-Technology (IHBT), CSIR, Palampur, is prepared to conduct tests related to Covid-19. The IHBT has equipped its lab with the latest instruments.

Earlier, these tests were being conducted in the labs of Tanda Medical College, Kangra, IGMCH, Shimla, Lal Bahadur Medical College, Mandi, and the Central Research Institute, Kasauli, and the IHBT lab will be the fifth in the state.

Dr Sanjay Kumar, Director, IHBT, told reporters that the institute was ready to serve the country in the hour of crisis. He said as per directions of the government, the IHBT had facilitated requisite technical knowhow to its team to meet the challenges posed by the virus. The IHBT authorities were in touch with the health department following its guidelines. OC

CCMB to validate coronavirus testing kits

CSIR–CCMB

14 April, 2020



“This new responsibility of kit validation will now enable us to support the healthcare and life science industry sector to bring all stakeholders together in this fight against Covid-19,” he said.

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has been selected by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as one of the five Centres for Excellence in the country for validation of COVID-19 testing kits.

According to a notification issued by ICMR on Sunday, the CCMB has been selected as a validation centre for non-US FDA and non-

EUA/CE-IVD approved kits for COVID-19 testing through qRT-PCR diagnostics.

Speaking to Express, CCMB Director Dr Rakesh Mishra said that the CCMB has already received kits from a few companies for getting their testing kits validated, including a kit developed in-house by researchers from the institute.

“This new responsibility of kit validation will now enable us to support the healthcare and life science industry sector to bring all stakeholders together in this fight against COVID-19,” he said. The CCMB is the only non-ICMR lab in the country to have been designated as a validation centre. It has already started conducting tests for COVID-19 on samples sent from all districts in Telangana. The other four centres are NIV and NARI in Pune, NIP in New Delhi and Niced in Kolkata.

New responsibility

ICMR selected it, along with four others, as a validation centre for non-US FDA and non-EUA/CE-IVD approved kits for novel Coronavirus testing through qRT-PCR diagnostics

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IIP produces hand sanitiser for use by staff, frontliners

By OUR STAFF
REPORTER

DEHRADUN, 13 Apr: CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, is the premier CSIR laboratory working in the field of Petroleum and Energy. Dr Anjan Ray, Director of the Institute, has taken the decision to fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic by constituting a team for the preparation of hand sanitiser under the leadership of Dr Umesh Kumar. The team was constituted well before the crisis.

The team members are Dr Umesh Kumar, Dr T Senthil Kumar, Shiv Singh Rawat and Sanjay Maurya. Till date, the hand sanitiser team has prepared 2000 litres of hand sanitiser.

Out of this, the team has served the institute by providing 600 litres to the staff members for better hand sanitisation in the office premises. More than 100 litres have been provided to security at IIP for hand sanitisation of persons entering the institute. Another 40 litres of hand sanitiser have been provided to the CSIR-IIP Dispensary for the hand sanitisation of every visitor.

The institute had also provided 400 litres of hand sanitiser as a service and free of cost to the Doon Hospital COVID-19 Isolation Ward. As much as 160 litres of hand sanitiser has also been provided



to the State Disaster Relief Force (SDRF) and 80 litres to the Intelligence Bureau. A demand from the local Police Department was also received and the Institute has supplied 400 litres to them. The team has also handed over the required amount of sanitiser to the local SBI branch.

The team has provided 600 litres to the staff members to have better hand sanitization in the office premises.



IIT-G develops affordable antimicrobial spray-based coating for PPE

GUWAHATI, 13 April (IANS): Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-G) on Monday said its researchers have developed affordable antimicrobial (antiviral/antibacterial) spray-based coating for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) along with 3D-printed 'Ear Guard' for comfortable use of face masks by healthcare workers.

PPE that are being used are designed to protect the wearer from infectious microbes/aqueous virus droplets acting as a barrier.

The research group developed an affordable antimicrobial (antiviral/antibacterial) spray-based coating

for PPE kits to kill and prevent the spread of microbes once they come in contact with the coated PPE surface.

The strategic association of metal nanoparticle cocktail, such as copper, silver and other active ingredients, present in the spray acts as an antimicrobial agent.

This ensures limited penetration and accumulation of microbial contaminants on PPE.

According to the research team, the coating has the potential to reduce the risk of secondary infection by limiting the transmission of the microbes.

It can be spray/dip-coated onto any kind of surface including

textiles and other medical device surfaces to get rid of microbial load. This will allow reusability of PPEs and easy containment of the microbes.

"Effective yet affordable technologies are the need of the hour for India. We at IITG under the leadership of our Director, Professor T.G. Sitharam, are committed to contributing to the nation's immediate need at this hour of COVID-19 crisis," said Dr Biman B. Mandal, Professor, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT Guwahati.

The research team also developed 3D-printed 'Ear Guard' prototype for face masks.

Enough testing kits here, consignment from China on way: ICMR

NEW DELHI, 13 April (IANS): The Indian Council of Medical Research on Monday said that there was no need to worry about testing capacity of the country and the country can test for next six weeks with the stock available in the country.

Addressing a press conference, ICMR's Chief Scientist Dr.Raman Gangakhedkar said: "There is no need to worry about the pace with which we are conducting tests. We have a stock with which we can conduct tests for the next 6 weeks easily."

He also said that 206,212 tests have been done so far, while the first consignment of coronavirus testing kits will arrive in India from China on April 15.

About Covid-19 infection among the health workers, he said it is not easy to find out the reason for infection among them as there was no solid data to prove the reason for it.

Joint Secretary, Health, Lav Agarwal, who was also present at the press briefing, said: "Most health professionals are getting infection due to their travel or contact history. There is only a minuscule population of healthcare service providers who have got infection while providing service to COVID patients. There are at least 39 domestic manufacturers who are providing PPE material... I would urge all healthcare workers to follow the protocol of using the PPEs."

CSIR-CMERI

14 April, 2020

CSIR-CMERI for providing scientifically-proven but cost-effective facemask to masses

Kolkata, Apr 14 (UNI) CSIR-CMERI, a premier R&D laboratory of CSIR-India, has initiated multiple steps to address aforesaid issues of public safety related to the use of proper facemask during the present time of crisis.

Facemask fabric has been selected considering its hydrophobic property and pores size which are required to prevent the penetration of the targeted microorganisms. The selected materials have been scientifically tested in the laboratory for its effectiveness.

The institute has also set-up an Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) facility for bulk sanitization of the produced facemasks before sending the same to the end-user organizations. Considering the distributed demands, local NGOs and rural entrepreneurs are being involved by the institute for the bulk production of the facemasks to meet the raised requirements.

Recently, a number of states including the government of West Bengal have made the wearing of facemask mandatory in public places to contain spread of COVID-19.

However, in absence of proper awareness, the careless use of facemask itself can be proved as an agent of disaster in the society. Thus, it is imperative that the people may need to be educated for the effective use of facemask during the outbreak of COVID19.

Worth to mention here that the facemask requires a sanitisation process after completion of its production. Moreover, since most of the facemasks in the developing nations are being used multiple times by the common user, it is mandatory that such masks must be properly sanitised before each use and disposed of cleanly once it gets damaged.

In absence of proper sanitisation facilities at home, air-drying/ sun-drying after proper soap-wash of the mask can be an effective mechanism before re-using the same. Thus, it is utmost necessary that each person should possess multiple (at least 4) re-usable masks for effective prevention of infections.

In light of recent announcement of West Bengal government, organizations like State Bank of India, Durgapur Steel Plant, Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum, Vivekananda Hospital and other local pharmacies/ daily need stores sent their requirements of facemasks to CSIR-CMERI for supplying the scientifically-proven facemasks for the use of their respective staff members.

To meet this requirement, the institute started imparting training to needy persons of local NGOs for the production of the mask of requisite specifications. The institute also opened up multiple setups for sanitisation and packaging of the masks for uninterrupted supply. As the mechanization of the manufacturing process is an essential step for mass production in the most cost-effective manner, the effort has also been initiated in the Institute towards the development of low-cost machines for facemasks production.

Prof. Harish Hirani, the Director of CSIR-CMERI reiterated his commitment for reduction of effective cost of a scientifically proven face-mask to a bare minimum of Rs. 5 so as to reach the poorest of the poor segment in the society.

He further stated that the Institute will extend all possible scientific/ technological services to the government/ non-governmental organisations of the country who are endeavouring towards fighting against COVID19 as Corona warriors.

Targeting the local entrepreneurship, the Institute has recently floated an Expression of Interest (EoI) on its website (www.cmeri.res.in/covid19) for inviting Companies/ Businesses/ MSMEs/ NGOs to join hands in its effort to develop a cost-effective mass-production mechanism for the facemasks in the country.

Institute also opened up a temporary enquiry channel for the facemask at 9123190501 /

Published in:

[Uniindia](http://uniindia.com)

CFTRI's 'immunity' boosting foodsto Bengaluru's migrant workers

CSIR-CFTRI

13 April, 2020



The Mysuru-based CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute has joined hands with the Income Tax Department (Karnataka and Goa) to provide relief food to migrant labourers affected by the COVID-19 lockdown.

So far, the institute has supplied five tonnes of fruit bars, 500 kg of Spirulina Chikki and five tonnes of flavoured water to the IT Department which is feeding nearly 10,000 migrant workers daily in Bengaluru and surrounding areas.

The food items supplied sustain for a longer time as they are long shelf-life foods that are supplemented with some essential nutrition.

“Foods also need to provide micro-nutrients that aid in boosting immunity. This may not be possible in case of mass feeding and hence supplementing with essential nutrients becomes necessary when the beneficiaries are locked in one place for extended periods. This has been taken care by us,” said Dr. K S M S Raghavarao, Director, CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru.

CSIR-CFTRI claimed that it has put together a few food items that would provide one or other supplement needed to maintain the immune system in times of distress.

The nutri-mango fruit bars supplied contains essential nutrients like carbohydrates, carotenes and also added Vitamin C and Zinc which are known to improve the immunity. The mango bars provide nearly 75 percent of Vitamin C and 30% of Zinc required by a

person daily. Also, the nutri-mixed fruit bar is similar to mango bars and both the products last up to six months, according to the CFTRI.

By supplying cardamom flavoured water, the institute was using it as a vehicle for providing flavoured oils from traditional herbs which are again known immune boosters. A total of 10,000 bottles of water had been supplied for distribution, the CFTRI announced here on Monday.

Spirulina chikki, a snack that provides good micronutrients from spirulina as well as the tasty, nourishing groundnut proteins, provides the bio-available micronutrients such as Vitamin A, Beta Carotene and easily digestible algal proteins. As many as 15,000 chikki bars have been distributed so far, the institute said in its release.

The relief food preparation was a private-public enterprise where CSIR-CFTRI used its knowledge to formulate foods and some of its licensees provided their facilities for manufacturing the food in a short time. “In times of lockdown when manpower and movement are curtailed, this model gave us a workable solution,” the director explained.

“CFTRI’s offer to provide immunity boosting foods gave a boost to our efforts. Such foods are imperative for our target population to sustain themselves in good health in these times,” said Mr Zakir Thomas, Principal Income Tax Commissioner, Karnataka and Goa, in the note.

Mr Nishanth, Joint Commissioner (IT), Bengaluru, said: “It’s admirable that in this urgent hour, CFTRI is providing nutrient foods to the needy. CFTRI is making use of its technologies to make sure that kids, women, police and health workers are not devoid of essential nutrients. Spirulina Chikkies and mango bars are being enjoyed by kids. This partnership will continue in the coming days of lockdown.”

The foods were distributed in Sampigehalli, Airport area, Bagalur, Kottanooru, Annapurneshwari Nagar, Nagarabhavi, Jnanabharathi, Amrutha Halli, Mallathahalli, Chandra Layout, Kamakshipalya, Hennur, Chikkakbasti, Yelahanka Amarajyothinagar and Byatarayanapura areas of Bengaluru.

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IICT, ICMR expediting approval process for COVID-19 drugs

CSIR -IICT

13 April, 2020

Pharma giant Cipla soon to be handed over the API to further develop Favipiravir

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) in association with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is trying to accelerate the regulatory approval processes for the prospective anti-viral drugs to combat COVID-19.

The IICT is all set to hand over the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) to further develop the drug, Favipiravir, to Indian pharma giant Cipla and it has now tied up with a multi-national firm to provide API for another anti-viral drug, Arbidol.

“We are expecting faster regulatory approvals as Favipiravir has been used successfully in coronavirus patients in China, Japan and South Korea to bring down the viral load. Arbidol has also been extensively used and we have already made excellent progress in making the API,” informed IICT Director S. Chandrasekhar on Monday.

In fact, directors of various institutes made in charge of CSIR’s five verticals to combat COVID-19 made presentations to Union Health Minister Harshvardhan and Director General Shekar C. Mande updating them on the ongoing research activity via video conference on Sunday night.

The Minister was informed that Cipla is likely to come for approvals from the Drug Control Authority (DCA) in a few weeks for regulatory approvals. Since Arbidol is not in patent, it could take up to eight weeks for the pharma company to develop the drug after necessary testing and approvals. It was found that the Chinese had given this medicine along with an

unknown herbal decoction.

Mr. Chandrasekhar also told Dr. Harshvardhan that the institute has been conducting research in alternate anti-parasitic drugs too. This has helped a breakthrough in the making of anti-parasitic drug Hydroxychloroquine, which India is already supplying in bulk to various countries, including the United States.

This could reduce our dependence on China for the API to this drug as IICT scientists have sourced the two key chemical raw material compounds of acetyl butyrolactone and dichloroquinoline for making Hydroxychloroquine. “This is a very important development towards maintaining the supply chain of the HCQ drug,” he pointed out.

The novel coronavirus has presented a fresh set of challenges to scientists, Mr. Chandrasekhar acknowledged and said: “We have drugs successfully treating HIV, Hepatitis-C, etc., so we will surely come out with an effective treatment and vaccine too. It is just a matter of time.”

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Indian Researchers Work Round The Clock In Quest To Contain Coronavirus

CSIR–CCMB

13 April, 2020

The biggest hurdle to amping up testing has been a shortage of test kits and laboratories with skilled technicians capable of conducting these tests — which is where an institute like the CCMB comes in.

Kolkata, WEST BENGAL — Over four days in March this year, a group of postdoctoral researchers, postgraduate students working towards their PhDs, and medical personnel from elsewhere in Telangana gathered in the quiet laboratories of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, or CCMB, in Hyderabad.



Their mission: To assist in India's quest to contain the march of the novel coronavirus by quickly and safely setting up a facility for testing samples gathered from patients suspected of COVID-19, the illness caused by the new virus.

As India enters the third week of a national lockdown, Chief Ministers from across the country have urged the Union Government to consider extending restrictions until there is clear evidence that the virus has been contained. Public health experts, in the meantime, have stressed the urgent need to test as many people as soon as possible to ensure those infected can be treated and kept from unknowingly infecting those around them.

On the 9th of April, the Indian Council of Medical Research, or ICMR, said that India had

for the novel coronavirus in samples gathered from 130,792 people — a relatively small number in a country of 1.3 billion people.

Thus far, the biggest hurdle to amping up testing has been a shortage of test kits and laboratories with skilled technicians capable of conducting these tests — which is where an institute like the CCMB comes in.

On March 22, CCMB received the necessary formal clearances to begin processing testing samples for COVID-19 — but first the centre needed to ensure they were ready for the task. This account of how CCMB geared up to this task shows how young researchers in India are throwing themselves into the country's efforts to contain COVID-19, and reveals the successes, and the challenges, of quickly ramping up testing for a highly contagious virus in a country with an overstretched public health system.

“I wasn't going to pass up on the chance to be even slightly useful in fighting a pandemic,” said Annapoorna P K, a postgraduate student in CCMB.

“There are about 12 people for RNA isolation and 28 for RT-PCR. There are specialised domains and we have enough back up,” said Dr Rakesh Mishra, CCMB's director, who has led the team in concert with faculty members Dr Archana Siva, Dr H H Krishnan, biosafety officer Raghunand Tirumalai, and Principal clinical geneticist Karthik Tallapaka.

Testing For Coronavirus

Institutes like CCMB test for the presence of the novel coronavirus, technically called SARS-CoV-2, using a process called a Real Time - Polymerase Chain Reaction, RT-PCR. The test takes between two and three hours to prepare, following which the reaction takes about 1.5 hours. Once set up, each RT-PCR Machine can process 48 samples at a time, significantly

speeding up the testing process.

Given how contagious the coronavirus is, each stage of the process — from the isolation of the virus’s genetic material, to running the RT-PCR machines, must be conducted in biosafety environments of varying degrees. So when CCMB’s experts began their training, they started with a day of theoretical lectures followed by hands-on-training the following day.

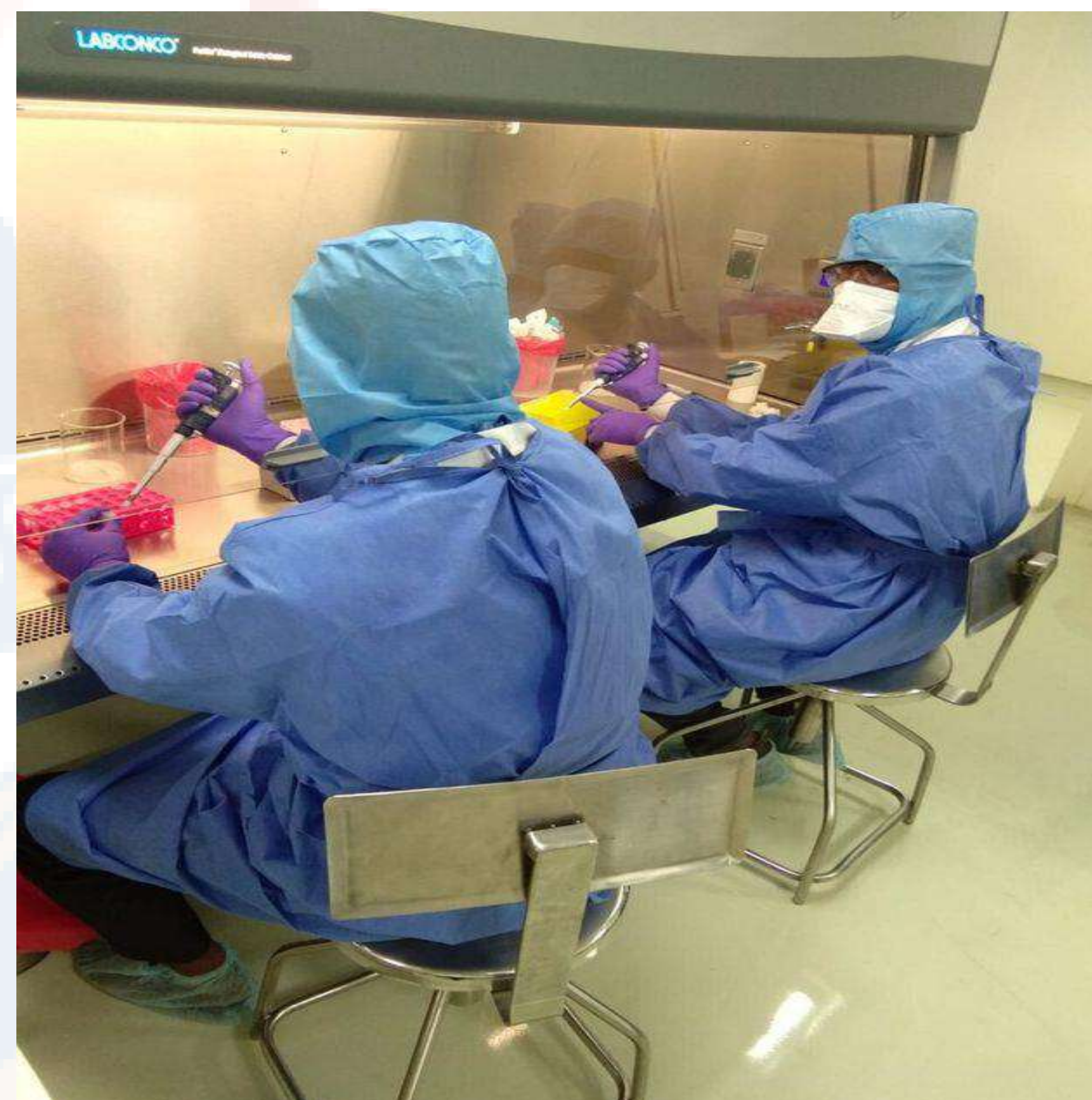
“On the first day, we gave theoretical lectures on the biosafety measures and the RT-PCR process, following the official two-step protocol given by the ICMR,” said Divya Gupta, a virologist at CCMB currently in the fourth year of her PhD. The ICMR, or Indian Council of Medical Research, is the nodal body for India’s response to the coronavirus.

The next day, Gupta said, everyone was kitted out in Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE, and taken to the labs.

Training people in just two days was hard, Gupta said, but the researchers tried to maximise the time spent in the lab.

“It was hectic,” said Annapoorna, a postgraduate student in CCMB, after the first day of training, on being asked how it went.

Once the training was complete, the institute had to prepare itself to handle medical samples containing the live virus. Testing for the novel coronavirus requires researchers to



isolate the virus RNA — a delicate step that requires great caution. Preparation of the reagents used for testing and running the machines requires coordination and planning. All of this must be done even as researchers follow the protocols of physical distancing.

The students now work in three shifts: morning, day, and night. The samples usually arrive in the afternoon. There is a demand to submit the results quickly, but the students have been extremely careful. All samples that are tested positive, go for a second round of confirmation test.

“I feel taken care of by CCMB,” said Gupta, the virologist. “Sometimes the deadlines are short. For example, yesterday we worked from 5 PM to 11 AM. Till now work has been going on smoothly. At least a 100 samples can be done per day.”

In the first two days of diagnostics, 39 and 80 samples had been tested respectively, and the number had increased to 120 on the third day. In the coming few days, the work may increase.

The demand for test results may sometimes take a toll on the researchers.

“I’ve been doing COVID-19 diagnostics for just 2 nights now, and I’m significantly stressed,” said Annapoorna. “I worked for over 12 hours only to find out we have more positive cases coming up. It’s unsettling. And then there’s news about doctors being abused, patients running away. It’s hard to see light at the end of the tunnel. But I guess we keep trying.”

Waiting For Govt’s Permission

On April 10, ICMR published a request for applications and detailed guidelines for government and private medical colleges setting up COVID-19 testing facilities in their

laboratories.

If enough institutes with the right resources and facilities apply, this could allow for significantly more testing.

“Being a young researcher, I feel very disappointed because I am not contributing to the COVID-19 situation. I wish to volunteer for the COVID-19 testing process in Navi Mumbai. I have an experience of required techniques,” Pratik R. Chaudhuri from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, wrote on Twitter.

Others have written to the Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan, asking for permission to access the laboratories they do all the year, and diagnostic samples be sent to them.

“We are waiting for the permission by the GoI since receiving more than 500 volunteers’ requests from the research scholars who want to work on the COVID-19 situation at their corresponding laboratories, but are stuck at hostels or home,” Research Scholars of India (RSI), a group of research scholars across India, told *HuffPost India* over email.

The researchers seem to be ready, now it is down to their institutes and the government.

Coronavirus: CMERI develops disinfectant walkways

CSIR-CMERI

13 April, 2020



The walkways use air compressor/high velocity air pumps to ensure optimum mist formation while disinfecting, a CMERI spokesman said on Monday.

The CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) in Durgapur has developed 'disinfection walkways' aimed at preventing community transmission of COVID-19 at one spot. The walkways use air compressor/high velocity air pumps to ensure optimum mist formation while disinfecting, a CMERI spokesman said on Monday.

These walkways can be installed in critical locations such as isolation/quarantine facilities, mass transit system entry points, medical centres and any other location with a considerable amount of footfall, he said.

Embedded sensors of the walkways are activated once people step in and the operational time of the system can be varied within a range of 20 seconds to 40 seconds, the spokesman said. One such walkway has been installed on the CMERI campus in Durgapur, he said. The CMERI is a laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

"The disinfection walkway can be considered to be one of the most comprehensive disinfectant delivery systems available. The walkway ensures maximum target coverage with minimum shadow area occupied by an individual," the spokesman said. The institute has come up with two variant prototypes of the walkway.

One variant deploys “six bar pressure air compressor” to ensure optimum mist formation and the initial cost is relatively higher, but the operating cost is much less, owing to optimum usage of disinfectant in this system. The second variant deploys 1 horse power pressurised motor high velocity pump to ensure optimum mist formation. The initial cost of this variant is relatively lower, he said. “The exact cost of installing either of the variants is being assessed,” the spokesman said.

Published in:

[Financialexpress](https://www.financialexpress.com)

CSIR-IITR

13 April, 2020

आनंदीबेन ने हैण्ड सेनेटाइजर वितरण का किया शुभारम्भ



लखनऊ, 11 अप्रैल(वार्ता) उत्तर प्रदेश की राज्यपाल आनंदीबेन पटेल ने शनिवार को सीएसआईआर-भारतीय विषविज्ञान अनुसंधान संस्थान (आईआईटीआर) द्वारा निर्मित हैण्ड सेनेटाइजर को वृद्धाश्रम, अनाथालय एवं जरूरतमंद व्यक्तियों को निःशुल्क प्रदान किये जाने के अभियान का शुभारम्भ किया।

इस अवसर पर संस्थान के निदेशक प्रो० आलोक धावन, प्रधान वैज्ञानिक डॉ० रामा कृष्णा पार्थासार्थी,

लखनऊ रोटरी क्लब के अध्यक्ष श्री मनीष मेहरोत्रा, मेघदूत ग्राम उद्योग सेवा संस्थान के विमल शुक्ला मौजूद थे।

इस अवसर पर श्री विमल शुक्ला ने राज्यपाल को पी०एम० केयर्स फण्ड में दान के लिये पांच लाख रुपये का चेक भेंट किया।

Published in:

Univarta

CSIR-CMERI

13 April, 2020

सीएसआइआर-सीएमइआरआइ रोड सैनिटाइजर सिस्टम से निगम क्षेत्र होगा विषाणु मुक्त

कोलकाता. सीएसआइआर-सीएमइआरआइ द्वारा विकसित रोड सैनिटाइजर यूनिट एक रोड सैनिटाइजिंग सिस्टम है, रोड सैनिटाइजर 16 फीट लंबा है, जिसमें 10 से 15 बार्स का प्रयोग किया गया है, जो सैनिटाइजेशन प्रक्रिया के समय अधिकतम दबाव को बनाये रखने में भी मदद करता है. इस रोड सैनिटाइजर यूनिट का प्रयोग हाइवे, टोल प्लाजा आदि स्थानों पर किया जा सकता है, जहां ट्रैफिक अधिक होती है और कोरोना के जीवाणु के फैलने की आशंका अधिक होती है. इसका प्रयोग हाउसिंग कॉम्प्लेक्स, ऑफिस कॉम्प्लेक्स, स्पोर्ट्स एरेनास, अपार्टमेंट बिल्डिंग आदि पर भी किया जा सकता है. यह प्रोडक्ट कम से कम समय में अधिक से अधिक सैनिटाइजेशन करता है. इस संबंध में सीएसआइआर-सीएमइआरआइ के निदेशक डॉ हरिश हिरानी ने कहा कि संस्थान द्वारा



बनाया गया यह प्रोडक्ट सोमवार से आसनसोल नगर निगम के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में सैनिटाइजेशन का कार्य करेगा. संस्थान की ओर से आसनसोल नगर निगम को इस प्रकार के चार सिस्टम की आपूर्ति की गयी है. बताया गया है कि नगर निगम द्वारा आसनसोल के बिग बाजार, डीएमसी एंट्रेंस गेट, जंक्शन मॉल, हेल्थ वर्ल्ड हॉस्पिटल, एंट्रेंस गेट और दुर्गापुर स्टील प्लांट के आसपास के क्षेत्रों में इसका प्रयोग किया जा सकता है. डॉ हिरानी ने बताया कि

मशीन से निकलने वाले द्रव कणों के प्रवाह की दर 110 मिलीलीटर प्रति मिनट है. हालांकि, इसकी प्रवाह दर में बदलाव भी जा सकता है. दूसरी मशीनों के मुकाबले यह मशीन बेहद छोटे और समान आकार के द्रव कणों का छिड़काव करने में प्रभावी पायी गयी है. छिड़काव के दौरान मशीन से निकलने वाले द्रव कणों से सतह पर किसी वायरस या संक्रमण के बचे रहने की संभावना लगभग न के बराबर रह जाती है.

Published in:

Prabhat Khabar

Dr. Harsh Vardhan appreciates efforts of CSIR and its constituent labs in countering COVID-19

CSIR- CCMB,IGIB,IIIM,IMTECH,IHBT,NEERI,IICB,CDRI,IITR,NEIST,CLRI,NIIST,NIO

12 April, 2020



New Delhi: Minister for Health and Family Welfare and S&T and ES Dr. Harsh Vardhan today reviewed the steps undertaken by CSIR and its constituent 38 labs towards mitigation of Corona Virus outbreak in the country. He met all the CSIR lab directors and DG CSIR, Dr Shekhar C Mande through a video conference.

Dr Shekhar C Mande apprised the Minister of the recent initiative of setting up of Core Strategy Group (CSG) and the five verticals under which the COVID-19 related activities are being carried out. The five verticals namely: Digital and Molecular Surveillance;

Rapid and Economical Diagnostics; New Drugs / Repurposing of Drugs and associated production processes; Hospital Assistive Devices and PPEs; and Supply Chain and Logistics Support Systems are being reviewed. Dr Mande also mentioned that CSIR is working in close partnership with major Industries, PSUs, MSMEs and other departments and ministries at this time of crisis in the country.

The Minister was happy to note that many CSIR labs are engaged in testing of patient samples with CSIR-CCMB, CSIR-IGIB, CSIR-IIIM and CSIR-IMTECH already testing and CSIR-IHBT, CSIR-NEERI and CSIR-IICB having just received approval. With few more CSIR labs like CSIR-CDRI, CSIR-IITR and CSIR-NEIST getting ready for testing and CSIR-CLRI, CSIR-NIIST and CSIR-NIO supporting State Governments with RT-PCR machines, 14 CSIR labs are contributing to Corona Virus diagnosis. He appreciated the efforts of CSIR-IGIB which has

developed rapid and cheap Paper based diagnostic test and CSIR-IICB for initiating plasma based therapy for coronavirus patients. Dr Rakesh Mishra, Director CSIR-CCMB, informed that nearly 500 sequences of Corona Virus are expected from CSIR in the next 3-4 weeks and Dr Anurag Agrawal, Director CSIR-IGIB informed that CSIR is working closely with TCS and Intel and others in developing a digital platform which will help in surveillance of corona outbreak in the country.

Director, CSIR-IICT, Dr. Chandrashekhar apprised the Minister of the recent developments in the synthesis of the repurposed drugs and small Molecules and APIs including Remdesivir, Favipiravir, Arbidol, among others and that CSIR was closely working with Pharma Industry. The Minister appreciated that CSIR is working closely with Ministry of AYUSH for Preventive and Preventive and prophylactic, symptom management and add-on interventions to the modern medicine treatments. Dr Ram Vishwakarma, Director CSIR-IIIM informed the Minister that CSIR and Ministry of Ayush have planned jointly to take up four botanicals *Withania somnifera*, *Tinospora cordifolia*, *Glycyrrhiza glabra* and Ayush-64 for development.

Director, CSIR-NAL highlighted CSIR initiatives under the vertical Hospital Assistive Devices and PPEs, where in CSIR labs are working with BHEL and BEL on Ventilators, Oxygen Enrichment Devices and CSIR labs are also developing 3-D printed face shields, face masks, gowns and other protective equipment.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan also appreciated that many CSIR labs are helping the frontline workers, police and other citizens by preparing and distributing safety items and devices in large quantities. He emphasized on the need for scientists across CSIR and other ministries to work together and come up with S&T based solutions to tackle the challenge thrown by the current pandemic. He expressed that India has high expectations from its scientific community and he is sure that the community will rise up and deliver in this time of need.

Published in:
[Orissadiary](#)

Indian Researchers Work Round The Clock In Quest To Contain Coronavirus

CSIR-CFTRI

12 April, 2020

About 200 litres of sanitisers were prepared and packaged.

CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI) has supplied sanitisers for its field workers in Mysuru to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The institute has prepared sanitisers based on the formulations prescribed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

About 200 litres of sanitisers were prepared and packaged.

A total of 2,000 bottles of sanitisers had been handed over to the district administration to distribute among the field staff.

V. Baskaran, chief scientist, and colleagues handed over the sanitisers to Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar on Sunday.

Earlier, CSIR-CFTRI had provided two PCR machines and one RNA extraction unit to the COVID-19 testing unit at K.R. Hospital.



Published in:

[The Hindu](#)

IRS officers feed poor, homeless in Bengaluru

CSIR-CFTRI

12 April, 2020



BENGALURU: Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers in the Karnataka-Goa region have been distributing cooked meals to thousands of migrant labourers and the homeless in Bengaluru. with the help of the police, BBMP and some non-profit organisations. “We started distributing 500 food packets on March 31, but the queues kept getting longer. We now distribute 12,000 food packets a day where the government has lodged migrant workers in Bengaluru,” said Sarvanan, Additional Director, Income Tax (Investigation).

institute (CFTRI), Mysuru, is contributing nutritional supplements and immunity boosters for vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women and lactating mothers which are distributed along with food packets,” he said, adding that CFTRI has also contributed mineral water for distribution, he said.

The Director General of Income Tax (Investigation), Karnataka and Goa, Patanjali Jha, and Principal Director, Income Tax (Investigation) Ravichandran, are heading the initiative which includes 25 IRS officers.

“We take help from BBMP officials to locate people who need food. Friends, families, well-wishers have all chipped in to send food to various localities such as Sampigehalli, Bagalur, Kothanur, Yelahanka, Nagarbhavi, Hennur, ChandraLayout, Marathahalli, and Kamakshipalya in the city,” said Sarvanan.

Published in:

[Newindianexpress](https://www.newindianexpress.com)

“The Central Food and Technological Research

Produced by Unit for Science Dissemination, CSIR, Anusandhan Bhawan, 2 Rafi Marg, New Delhi

CSIR-IITR

12 April, 2020

IITR hands over 1,800 liters of sanitizer to UP

Lucknow, Apr 12(UNI) CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR) prepared 1800 Litres of hand sanitizer and handed over to Uttar Pradesh governor Anandiben Patel. This batch of sanitizers will be distributed to people working on the frontline, volunteers working in orphanages, care of cancer patients, and old age homes.

UP Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Finance and Medical Education, Suresh Kumar Khanna appreciated the efforts of CSIR-IITR and suggested to provide support to health workers and district hospitals.

Rotary Club of Lucknow Baradari, and Meghdoot Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, Lucknow supported the effort of CSIR-IITR as part of CSR. Around 100 litres of hand sanitizer have already given to the district administration of Rai Bareilly to distribute to the district hospital.

UNI MB PS 1533

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[Uniindia](http://uniindia.org)

CSIR-CMERI

12 April, 2020

Asansol Municipal Corporation order Tractor Operated Road Disinfection Spray System to CSIR-CMERI

Asansol, Apr 12 (UNI) Asansol Municipal Corporation on Sunday ordered Tractor Operated Road Disinfection Spray System to fight against coronavirus.

The CSIR-CMERI Road Sanitizer Unit is a tractor-mounted Road Sanitizing System. The Road Sanitizer has a span of 16 feet, which uses 10 to 15 bars of pressure to ensure effective delivery of the sanitizer. 12 nozzles are used to ensure optimum radial coverage of sanitizer.

The system utilizes a 2000-5000 litre tank with a pump of 22 LMP which can be used to sanitize a road stretch of upto 60-100 kms.

This Road Sanitization unit can be effectively deployed in long stretches of highways, vicinity of toll plazas etc, where there is a massive volume of traffic and good chance of infection spreading. It can also be deployed in Housing Complexes, Office Complexes, Sports Arenas, Apartment buildings etc.

This product will ensure maximum sanitisation coverage within minimum possible time, which is the need of the hour. There is also an in-built provision of two extendable hand spraying systems with a reach of 30 feet on both sides of the Vehicle. This provision can be used to reach remote nook and corners on any given site.

Asansol Municipal Corporation after Inspection of the Unit has placed an order for four such systems, of which one has already been delivered.

CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur, delivered the 2nd of the four placed orders of the Tractor Driven Disinfection Spray Unit to Asansol Municipal Corporation today.

The Unit was also used to Comprehensively disinfect the areas of Big Bazar, DMC Entrance gate , Junction Mall , Health world Hospital , Entrance gate and peripheral area of Durgapur Steel Plant of Durgapur.

On this occasion Prof. Dr. Harish Hirani, Director, CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur, stated that the Tractor Driven Disinfection Spray Unit is equipped with technology to ensure comprehensive Disinfection of a particular area and its extendable hand held operability will also ensure that the effect of the disinfectant reaches the inaccessible nooks and corners of a given site.

Maximum coverage of Disinfection is the need of the hour in the country.

Prof Herani also added that Durgapur Municipal Corporation has also expressed interest for the Unit and procedural negotiations are under progress. Some MSMEs and Small Business Clusters have also expressed interest for the Unit and interactions are underway for the same.

UNI BM SJC JW2327

भारतीय विष विज्ञान अनुसंधान संस्थान ने उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को उपलब्ध कराया मुफ्त में हैंड सैनिटाइजर

सैनिटाइजर फ्रंट-लाइन कर्मियों सफाई कर्मचारी, पुलिस व अस्पताल के कर्मचारियों को दिया जाएगा



मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ को हैंड सैनिटाइजर प्रस्तुत करते हुए प्रोफेसर आलोक धवन (दूसरे चित्र में) लखनऊ मंडलायुक्त मुकेश कुमार मेश्राम दायें से दूसरे प्रोफेसर आलोक धवन दायें से प्रथम हैंड सैनिटाइजर के साथ

सीताराम मेवाती
(विशेष संवाददाता)

कोरोना वायरस पुरे देश में तेजी से फैल रहा है, इसे फैलने से रोकने हेतु लोग अपने हाथों को साफ रखने और किटाणु से बचाव हेतु हैंड सैनिटाइजर का प्रयोग कर रहे हैं। इसी कारणवश हैंड सैनिटाइजर की मांग काफी बढ़ गई है। इसकी उपलब्धता एक दम कम और दाम आसमान को छू रहे हैं।

उत्तर प्रदेश प्रशासन ने इस बात का ध्यान रखते हुए महामारी से लड़ने वाले फ्रंटलाइन कार्यकर्ताओं के स्वास्थ्य के बारे में सोच कर लखनऊ स्थित सी.एस.आई.आर.- भारतीय विषविज्ञान अनुसंधान संस्थान (सी.एस.आई.आर.- आई.आई.टी.आर.) को हैंड

सैनिटाइजर बनाने के लिये कहा गया। संस्थान के निदेशक ने इस जिम्मेदारी को सहर्ष स्वीकार कर युद्ध स्तर पर इसका निर्माण शुरू किया और बना कर तैयार भी कर लिया। लखनऊ के मंडलायुक्त मुकेश कुमार मेश्राम के अनुरोध पर ही सैनिटाइजर को प्राथमिकता से निर्मित किया गया था। सी.एस.आई.आर.- भारतीय विषविज्ञान अनुसंधान संस्था के निदेशक प्रोफेसर आलोक धवन ने अपने अधिकारियों समेत उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ को हैंड सैनिटाइजर प्रस्तुत किया। इस समय प्रदेश के आला अधिकारी भी उपस्थित थे। इसके पश्चात हैंड सैनिटाइजर को लखनऊ के मंडलायुक्त श्री मुकेश कुमार मेश्राम को भी प्रस्तुत किया

गया। ज्ञात हो की सीएसआईआर - आईआईटीआर द्वारा निर्मित हैंड सैनिटाइजर उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को मुफ्त में दिया जाएगा। यह हैंड सैनिटाइजर को फ्रंट-लाइन श्रमिकों जैसे सफाई कर्मचारी, पुलिस कर्मी, अस्पताल के कर्मचारियों और राशन की दुकान पर रखा जाएगा। राशन की दुकानों पर जनता बड़ी संख्या में राशन लेने आते हैं, वो इसका इस्तेमाल कर सकेंगे।

लखनऊ के मंडलायुक्त श्री मुकेश कुमार मेश्राम ने हलचल पंजाब से बात करते हुए बताया की जब हमने महसूस किया कि स्थानीय बाजार में हैंड सैनिटाइजर गायब हो गए हैं और महंगे हो गए हैं, तब हमने भारतीय विषविज्ञान अनुसंधान संस्थान के निदेशक

प्रोफेसर आलोक धवन से संपर्क कर, हैंड सैनिटाइजर बनाने की अनुषंशा जाहीर की, उन्होंने सामाजिक प्रतिबद्धता के रूप में हैंड सैनिटाइजर उत्पादन का फैसला लिया। अति शीघ्र, उन्होंने हैंड सैनिटाइजर बनाने का कार्य तेजी से शुरू कर दिया।

श्री मेश्राम ने आगे यह भी बताया की भारतीय विषविज्ञान अनुसंधान संस्थान में, विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (डब्ल्यूएचओ) के मानक के अनुसार हैंड सैनिटाइजर का निर्माण किया जाता है। अब तक वे हमें लगभग 700 लीटर हैंड सैनिटाइजर विभिन्न मात्रा की प्लास्टिक बोतल में भर कर दे चुके हैं और आवश्यकतानुसार समय समय प्रदान करते रहेंगे।

CSIR-IITR

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Standing apart: Punjab's no to disinfectant tunnels

CHANDIGARH: Punjab has been decided not to recommend use of disinfectant spray - comprising of sodium – hypochlorite - on any human being. The decision was taken in a meeting of the state health department on Saturday. The practice was initiated recently across the country with many district administrations setting up disinfectant tunnels to provide safe access to public facilities. In Chandigarh, a similar tunnel was set up to provide safe access to the wholesale vegetable and fruits market in Sector 26. "The concept came after we knew it was being practised in southern India. The idea was mooted by the MC commissioner," said UT adviser Manoj Parida.

However, the World Health Organisation recommends use of this chemical solution only for inanimate objects. The chemical used in disinfectant tunnels is 1% sodium hypochlorite, which may cause irritation on skin or mucous membrane.

The spray of this chemical in a mist form is not considered suitable for living beings and is commonly used to mop floors as a disinfectant. "I would not recommend even 1% of this chemical composition. If there is a person who goes through this spray in a tunnel and is exposed more than once, it might have some toxicity. It depends on the immunity and other conditions of the person," said Alok Dhawan, director, Indian institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow.

"In some places they are spraying ethanol. This can cause dehydration if the concentration is more. I'm not aware of that. If a person who walks through the tunnel with hypochlorite spray many times a day and has low immunity, he can be vulnerable. Unless there is no data to support the efficacy, no such sprays should be done on humans," Dr Dhawan said. Even Tamil Nadu's director of the public health and preventive medicine issued directions in Chennai on Saturday not to install these disinfectant tunnels as "they will create a false sense of security and people may be diverted from hand wash to disinfection tunnel. In addition, the spraying of alcohol/chlorine/lysol on human being is not only harmful but also ineffective."

The tunnel spray is for a few seconds. but doctors do not recommend any direct contact with the chemical. Prof Davinder Parsad, dermatologist at Chandigarh's PGIMER said, "The solution can cause irritant reaction in some and thus is not advisable."

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आईएचबीटी परिवार की नारीशक्ति भी आई आगे

कार्यालय संवाददाता- पालमपुर

कोविड-19 के समय में अपने विभिन्न उत्पादों के साथ लोगों की मदद में जुटे पालमपुर स्थित हिमालयन जैवसंपदा प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान की टीम के साथ अब वैज्ञानिकों व कर्मचारियों के परिवार भी आगे आ रहे हैं।

मुश्किल के इस दौर में जहां आईएचबीटी के वैज्ञानिकों ने रसायनमुक्त हैंड सेनेटाइजर बाजार में उतारा है, वहीं कोरोना वायरस से बचाव को लेकर दवाई तैयार करने में भी वैज्ञानिक तत्परता से जुटे हैं। संस्थान द्वारा तैयार किया गया रेडी टू ईट फूड आवश्यकता के आधार पर भेजा जा रहा है। उधर,

सीएसआईआर-लेडीज क्लब की सदस्यों ने रिचा कुमार की अगवाई में 2.61 लाख रुपए की राशि एकत्रित कर पीएम-केयर्स फंड में भेजा है।

इसके साथ ही संस्थान के वैज्ञानिकों व कर्मचारियों ने अपने एक दिन का वेतन इस फंड में दिया है, जो कि छह लाख रुपए के करीब है। आईएचबीटी के निदेशक डा. संजय कुमार कहते हैं कि इस समय संस्थान बहुत कम स्टाफ के साथ काम में लगा है। कोरोना वायरस की दवाई तैयार करने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। संस्थान के कर्मचारियों व लेडीज क्लब ने करीब नौ लाख रुपए की राशि पीएम-केयर्स फंड में भेजी है।

CSIR-IHBT

09 April, 2020

सीएसआईआर-आईएचबीटी ने राहत कोष में दिए 6.13 लाख

संस्थान के कर्मचारियों ने अपना एक दिन का वेतन पीएम केयर फंड में दान किया

पालमपुर, 9 अप्रैल (जसवंत कठियाल): सीएसआईआर-हिमालय जैवसम्पदा प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान आईएचबीटी पालमपुर कोविड-19 महामारी के खिलाफ लड़ाई में अपने निदेशक डा. संजय कुमार के गतिशील नेतृत्व में समाज के हित के लिए अपना पूरा दायित्व निभा रहा है। संस्थान अनुसंधान द्वारा ड्रग व डायग्नोस्टिक टूल विकसित करने तथा हैंड सैनेटाइजर, हार्बल साबुन और रेडी टू इंट खाने के वितरण में जुटा है। जहां संस्थान के कर्मचारी अपने अपने तरीके से कार्य में व्यस्त हैं, वहीं मैडम ऋचा कुमार के नेतृत्व में संस्थान की लेडीज क्लब व अन्य महिलाओं, तथा संस्थान के स्टाफ ने कोरोना संबंधी

विभिन्न राहत-कोष में अपना योगदान दिया है। अभी तक महिलाओं और कर्मचारियों ने प्रधानमंत्री नागरिक सहायता और आपातकालीन स्थिति (पीएम-केयर) और मुख्यमंत्री राहत कोष राहत राशि में 2.61 लाख रुपए का योगदान दिया है। इसके अलावा, संस्थान के कर्मचारियों ने अपना एक दिन का वेतन पीएम-केयर फंड को दान कर दिया है। अब तक विभिन्न राहत कोष में कुल योगदान राशि 6.13 लाख रुपए दिए जा चुके हैं। संस्थान के निदेशक डा. संजय कुमार ने कहा कि इस आपदा से निपटने के लिए यथासंभव तरीके से जन-कल्याण हेतु संस्थान कटिबद्ध है और अपना दायित्व निभा रहा है।

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