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T-Hub, CCMB join hands to launch innovation challenge

CSIR -CCMB 31 March, 2020

Hyderabad: The state government-run T-Hub on Monday said it has joined hands with the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) as knowledge partner to launch a COVID-19 Innovation Challenge to empower students to conduct research to develop potential solutions to contain the spread of coronavirus. The Telangana ITE&C department's emerging technologies wing will help the T-Hub in curating problem statements for the challenge.

The programme is open to student innovators across colleges in Telangana. Students will be encouraged to develop a potential solution, idea or an application for reporting, curing or tracing the coronavirus pandemic or any other solution that can help curb the virus' spread and prevent future outbreaks.

The focus areas are easy detection of infected persons, solutions that are low cost and easy to implement, efficient tracking of infected persons and their contact with other persons as well as regular monitoring of the spread of the virus and predict outcomes.

As a part of the programme, the two most innovative projects and ideas will be shortlisted for advanced mentoring and support from all stakeholders to transform their ideas into a viable business proposition. Subject matter experts from CCMB, T-Hub, Q City and the emerging technologies wing will work with the students to help them transform their ideas into viable propositions.

The students shortlisted will be will get to be part of a curated mentorship programme by the T-Hub for student entrepreneurs and they will gain exposure to industrial experts from

Q City, Grace Cancer Foundation, CCMB and other corporate partners.

Commenting on the development, T-Hub CEO Ravi Narayan said the COVID-19 Innovation Challenge has been taken up to utilise existing resources and networks to explore possible solutions and innovations to tackle the current global crisis.

“Through this programme, we will encourage our student innovators, who are leveraging disruptive technologies, to find unique solutions to improve the management of the pandemic and contain further outbreaks. We hope that the new ideas that emerge will help us and our partners to step back and observe the changes and figure out ways of taking advantage of a horizon of innovative opportunities that are emerging,” Ravi Narayan said.

Published in:
Times Of India

CSIR-NCL to soon submit R&D of making raw material for drugs

CSIR -NCL 31 March, 2020

Pune: The CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory will help in making raw material (Key Starting Material) to make active pharmaceutical ingredients used to make many bulk drugs in the time of Covid-19.

The Indian pharmaceutical industry is the third-largest by volume, but is critically dependent on imports of raw material. The dependency, in some cases, extent to over 80%, particularly from China.

A senior researcher at National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) said, "If the lockdown continues for a longer duration, there may be a time in future when the pharmaceutical companies may face a shortage of raw material to make drugs. India has one of the largest number of Food and Drug Administration-approved manufacturing sites, outside the US. We supply the final drugs to a lot of countries, including China. But we need self-sufficiency. We at NCL will make the technology that helps create the Key Starting Material."

CSIR-NCL director Ashwini Kumar Nangia said, "We are hopeful that the CSIR-NCL will be able to soon release the research and development (R&D) reports to the government and chemical and pharmaceutical industry bodies. Each laboratory-scale process will be ready in the next few weeks and months to be taken up for manufacturing by the Indian drug companies. The capability and infrastructure for further synthesis of the final active pharmaceutical ingredients from the intermediate Key Starting Material largely exist in the country."

Another NCL researcher said, "Projects are already on for manufacturing 3-4 Key Starting

Material. For another 4-5 Key Starting Material, the process to manufacture it is already designed. This has been done keeping in mind the cost, safety and other parameters."

Published in:
Times Of India

Hyderabad-based CCMB starts coronavirus testing

CSIR –CCMB 30 March, 2020

Samples from suspected Covid-19 patients have been sent to CCMB for diagnosis and confirmation

The Empowered Committee for Covid-19 Response had allowed state-of-the-art laboratories of CSIR to start culture of the novel strain of coronavirus and serve as additional testing and validation sites for research

Hyderabad: The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) launched the novel coronavirus testing facilities from its laboratory on Monday. The samples that are being collected from suspected Covid-19 patients at Gandhi Hospital have been transported to CCMB for diagnosis and confirmation.

The CCMB laboratories have capacity to conduct clinical diagnostic tests of anywhere between 800 and 1000 samples at one go. Moreover, the trained genetic researchers at CCMB also have the ability to give the results of such large group of diagnostic tests within 7 to 8 hours.

"Yes, we have already started receiving samples from Gandhi Hospital. Our team of researchers and laboratory technicians are ready to start the tests. We should be able to start releasing the results at the earliest," CCMB director Dr. RK Mishra said.

All tests are free

The entire process of conducting the coronavirus tests including the diagnostic kits are being offered free of cost by the top research institute. "There is no money involved because this is a Centre and State Government initiative. All the tests will be conducted free of cost," Dr. RK

Mishra said.

Earlier, for quick and accurate diagnosis of Covid-19, the Empowered Committee for Covid-19 Response had allowed state-of-the-art laboratories of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to start culture of the novel strain of coronavirus and serve as additional testing and validation sites for research.

Following a request from Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, the researchers at CCMB had come forward to offer diagnostic facilities for coronavirus.

Two weeks crucial

The CCMB director made it clear that the next two weeks would be crucial for the country. "I urge people not to take the lockdown lightly. It has been ordered for a reason and it is everyone's responsibility to follow social distancing. The next two weeks are crucial," Dr. Mishra said.

No scientific basis

At the same time, Dr. Mishra said there was no scientific basis for claims that the Indian coronavirus was less virulent.

"Assertions that Indian strain of novel coronavirus is less virulent are scientifically not valid and such claims are more of individual's imagination than anything else. There is no scientific basis for such claims. More data has to come in before comparing the strains of coronavirus," he said.

Published in:
Telanganatoday

Indigenous tests kits likely to be available in 2 weeks: IGIB Director

CSIR–IGIB 30 March, 2020

Indigenous tests kits likely to be available in 2 weeks: IGIB Director

New Delhi, March 30 (IANS) The Director of the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Anurag Aggarwal, claimed on Monday that indigenous tests kits for diagnosis of COVID-19 are likely to be available in the next two weeks.

Speaking to IANS, Aggarwal said, "Indigenous technology has been approved and is very effective, comparable or better than the rest. The only problem is the supply chain, these are young companies which have to import some of the materials."

"There are some issues in imports, especially because the whole world is trying to make kits. But we expect that within next two weeks these companies promoted by CSIR and other departments will be able to push things into the market and make things available by the middle of April," he said.

When asked what would be the shortest goal in the fight against coronavirus, he said, "The shortest goal is to reduce transmission because cure of no virus is perfectly known. In fact, you can barely think of any viral infection of which has perfect cure, unlike bacterial infections. So reducing transmission is by far the most important goal."

The IGIB Director suggested that there is a three-step method to reduce transmission -- firstly, you do distancing; secondly, you find out people who have been affected fast so you can separate them effectively; thirdly, you find people who may have been exposed or have minor symptoms.

Earlier in the day, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan held a meeting with the scientists and officials of ICMR, CSIR other government department. These people are from the team which is assisting in combating COVID-19.

The objective of the meeting was to review the sampling and testing strategy of India in order to control the pandemic.

According to official data, there are 123 functional labs provided by ICMR and 7 are in the pipeline. The testing capacity is 13,000 per day.

Published in:
Outlookindia

CSIR-IHBT

30 March, 2020

प्रवासी श्रमिकों के लिए आई.एच.बी.टी. ने उपलब्ध करवाया रैडी टू ईट फूड

पालमपुर, 29 मार्च (भृगु): प्रवासी श्रमिकों के लिए हिमालय जैव संपदा प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान राहत लेकर आया है। पालमपुर उपमंडल में इन श्रमिकों को संस्थान द्वारा विकसित रैडी टू ईट भोजन उपलब्ध करवाया गया है।

भरमात पंचायत में ये प्रवासी श्रमिक लॉकडाऊन तथा कर्फ्यू के कारण अटक गए हैं। जिस पर पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों द्वारा इसकी सूचना संस्थान को दी गई। ऐसे में संस्थान ने आगे आते हुए इन श्रमिकों को रैडी टू ईट भोजन उपलब्ध करवाने का कार्य किया। पैक्ड भोजन को पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों को सौंपा गया, ताकि इन श्रमिकों को उपलब्ध करवाया जा सके।

संस्थान के निदेशक डा. संजय कुमार ने बताया कि रैडी टू ईट फूड को भरमात पंचायत के उपप्रधान अजय कपूर, वार्ड सदस्य दवेंद्र गुड्डू, हरमेश तथा पूनम बाली को सौंपा गया है। उन्होंने बताया कि संस्थान अपने सामाजिक दायित्वों की कड़ी में इस प्रकार के कार्य करने को कटिबद्ध है।

सैनिटाइजर राज्य और बाहरी विभिन्न एजैंसियों एवं अधिकारियों को वितरित किया

आई.एच.बी.टी. पालमपुर द्वारा विकसित हैंड सैनिटाइजर राज्य और बाहरी विभिन्न एजैंसियों एवं अधिकारियों को वितरित किया जा रहा है। कल सैनिटाइजर को डी.सी. राणा विशेष सचिव राजस्व व विनाशकारी प्रबंधन के माध्यम से मुख्यमंत्री को सौंपा गया। आई.एच.बी.टी. के निदेशक डा. संजय कुमार के अनुसार सैनिटाइजर सिविल अस्पताल पालमपुर को दिया गया है। इसे एस.डी.एम. और डी.एस.पी. पालमपुर के कार्यालयों तथा हिप्र. विधानसभा के स्पीकर को भी दिया गया है।

Published in:

Uniindia

CSIR-CCMB

29 March, 2020

CCMB have BSL3 facility to handle virus, trained 25 medical staff to handle infected material

Hyderabad, Mar 29 (UNI) The Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB),which has "bio Safety Level three" to handle virus, can test hundreds of samples a day.

CCMB Director Rakesh K Mishara while in an interview to electronic media here Sunday, said the CCMB trained 25 medical staff from hospitals on how to handle the infected material and state-run Gandhi hospital and other hospitals are only authorized to provide samples.

With regard to isolation of the Coronavirus, the CCMB Director said that the institution can isolate the RNA of the Corona virus (COVID-1) and tested at cellular level.

The laboratory has the safety mechanism to handle such virus, he said all the staff engaged in this.

The institute, which can test hundreds of samples a day, can also stretch till 1000 samples day, the Director said.

There is no scientific evidence that drugs used for other viruses or diseases can be used for this, he said that some are being recommended as these are desperate times and no guarantee that any of these are the cure.

We should not depend on drugs or vaccines as those will take time, the Director said and made it clear that the only way to restrict the spread of the virus is to stay isolated and to maintain social distancing.

In a separate interview, Padma Bhusan awardee and Chairman of Asian Institute of Gastroenterology, Dr Nageshwar Reddy suggesting to take vitamin C,D and zinc tablets which can help in preventing the virus infestation.

Keep an eye out on various symptoms of cold, along with short breathing or losing taste and smelling capabilities, he said for now, we are able to treat patients with various antibiotics under ICU's and ventilators.

There are tests being run in USA and China for an accurate vaccine and medicine, he said this will take at least 2 months for developing.

Italy has suffered the most as there was a mutation in the virus that reached. Italy and considering the age and there being so many smokers and diabetic patients the spread has gone out of control, Dr Nageshwar said.

However, the mutation in Indian virus has made it weak to attach to the cells of the body, he said there is research being conducted to prevent this connection between cells and virus in our labs.

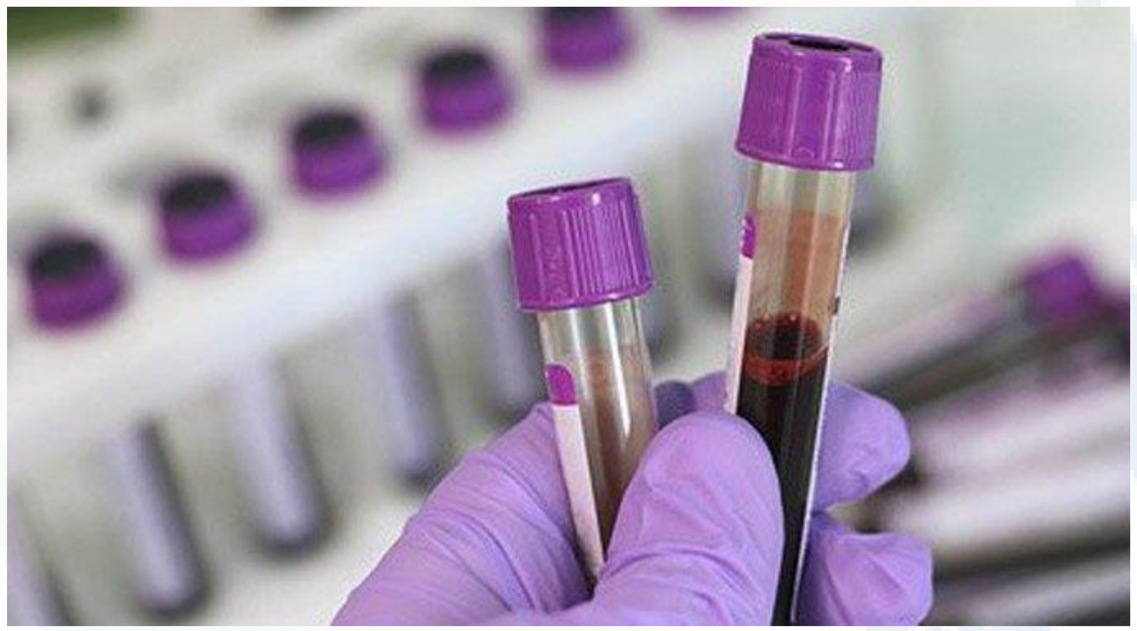
Not so dangerous, we need to stay positive with the knowledge we have, he said. We will soon get medicines and vaccines and we will get over this soon enough, the famous gastroenterologist added.

Published in:
Uniindia

CCMB capable of 1000 COVID-19 tests a day, says Director

CSIR–CCMB

28 March, 2020



CCMB Director Rakesh K Mishra says that the CCMB has completed the formality of conducting some preliminary tests for approval from ICMR

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) is ready to take up 1000 samples a day for diagnostic tests to confirm coronavirus, but it needs ICMR approved kits for taking up the tests, according to the CCMB director Rakesh K Mishra here on Saturday.

The CCMB was permitted by the Centre to conduct diagnostic tests of the samples sent by

Telangana government earlier following a suggestion made by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The CCMB Director Rakesh K Mishra said that the CCMB has completed the formality of conducting some preliminary tests for approval from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). "But the main problem is shortage of the kits or regents used in the tests. There are substitutes available but we need the ICMR approved kits to undertake tests," he said.

He added that the Telangana government, which was instrumental in seeking the help of CCMB, is also pursuing the matter and trying its best to get the ICMR approved kits. He was confident that the kits might be available within a day or two.

Exuding confidence over the technical know how of the premier institute Rakesh Mishra said that the institution has multiple copies of

the equipment required for the tests and such experiments are conducted on day to day basis in the institution. He said that CCMB can join hands with other central institutions such as CDFD to increase the number of tests in the coming days.

CCMB can Isolate Coronavirus

With regard to isolation of the Coronavirus, the CCMB Director said that the institution can isolate the RNA of the Corona virus from the throat swabs and the laboratory has the safety mechanism to handle such as experiment. "We have now agreements with hospital like Osmania for samples. We have isolated the virus and preparing many other experiments," he said. He said that the CCMB laboratory has "Bio Safety Level Three" certification and can handle the extraction process.

The CCMB director, however, made it clear that the only way to restrict the spread of the virus is to stay isolated and to maintain social distancing. "Many people who were infected might not show any symptoms but they can transmit the virus to the old and sick persons. Telangana government has done the best thing by announcing the lockdown even before the centre did," he observed.

Mishra, who is also a member of the Telangana government's Expert Committee on Covid 19, said that the committee that has been meeting regularly has urged the authorities to provide best protective gear for the paramedical staff and the doctors who are in direct touch with the patients. He said that the CCMB had so far trained 25 medical staff from five medical colleges in the state on the safe ways of handling the samples and on precautions in case of an accidental spill out.

Published in:
Telanganatoday

Trying Three Existing Drugs To Treat Coronavirus': IICT

CSIR–IICT

28 March, 2020

Scientists at Indian Institute of Chemical Technology are trying to re-purpose existing drugs for Covid-19

Scientists at Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad are fighting against time to develop a drug to treat Covid-19 even as the country stays under a lockdown till April 14.

IICT director **Dr Srivari Chandrasekhar** tells **M S Shanker** in an interview that all efforts are on to 're-purpose' existing drugs to find the right cocktail. Excerpts...

Is IICT ready with any molecule formulations which can help cure the coronavirus infected patients?

There are no approved drugs for Covid-19 treatment and also no vaccine as of yet. Balaxovir was discovered for influenza and in re-purposing this has shown promise. Favipiravir was discovered for antiviral or RNA viruses. Remdesivir was developed by Gilead for Ebola. Now Remdesivir is re-purposed to do clinical trials for coronavirus and trials are currently going on.

We are working on three drugs based on clinical data available and under Cipla's initiative. This disease is rather new, only a few months old. So, the drug discovery was not done for this problem before. Any normal process of drug discovery takes 8-10 years. Hence, all efforts are on to try existing drugs (re-purposing) for this problem.

How quickly can the drugs be developed and made available in the market?

The drugs can be launched in India as soon as FDA approvals are given in the US as clinical trials are done there. If the Chinese agency approves, then India can take a decision on when to make it available.

Many scientists across the globe claim that the coronavirus can survive on some surfaces or in the air for several days...

Yes, the survival of the virus on various surfaces is being reported widely. It is always good to keep ourselves away from exposed surfaces.

What about the claims of alternative medical practitioners like homoeopathy and Ayurveda of having the capability to treat Covid-19?

I am not an expert on Ayurveda or homoeopathy.

Published in:
Outlookindia

Indore: IIT Indore gets grant for Artificial Intelligence

CSIR–CEERI

28 March, 2020

Under this Consortium, there are four partner institutions. IIT Indore is partnering as co-principal investigator with IIT Jodhpur & IIIT Allahabad and CSIR CEERI Pilani as chief principal investigator.

Indian Institute of Technology Indore will be working on “Resource Constrained Artificial Intelligence”, one of the 10 projects, which have been approved under the Consortium project on "Development of Application oriented Artificial Intelligent Systems" from Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

Dr Aruna Tiwari, associate professor in the Discipline of Computer and Science Engineering who is leading this project, said that this is the first consortium project for IIT Indore in the area of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Under this Consortium, there are four partner institutions. IIT Indore is partnering as co-principal investigator with IIT Jodhpur & IIIT Allahabad and CSIR CEERI Pilani as chief principal investigator.

The aim of the project is to develop two technology solutions i.e. Novel optimized resource constrained implementation schemes for emerging deep learning architectures and Development of optimal edge analytics platform to facilitate embedded implementations for emerging deep learning architectures.

“The project addresses major challenges in the development of resource constrained algorithms

and hardware architectures for optimizing power, bandwidth, latency, and memory for AI systems in Internet of Things (IOT) space, as IOT applications are being increasingly impacted by the infusion of AI algorithms and architectures," said Tiwari.

The total cost of the project is Rs 2.44 crore and the timeline is 3 years.

Published in:
Freepressjournal

CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology presents alcohol based sanitizer to Chief Minister

CSIR -IHBT 28 March, 2020

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur was presented an alcohol based formulation of hand sanitizer developed by CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (IHBT) Palampur by Special Secretary to Chief Minister, Revenue and Disaster Management Committee Duni Chand Rana here today on behalf of Director CSIR-IHBT Sanjay Kumar. The alcohol content in this hand sanitizer is as per World Health Organization guidelines. While appreciating the efforts of the Institute, Chief Minister said that the preparation would go a long way in facilitating the people to ensure adequate supply of sanitizers during the corona epidemic. He said that the formulation would also help the general public for personal sanitization in wake of COVID-19 outbreak. According to Director CSIR-IHBT Sanjay Kumar the results of formulation had showed more effective results in terms of sanitization as compared to several other brands. He said that the formulation has natural oils and tea constituents which offer sanitization in human friendly way.OSD to Chief Minister Mahender Dharmani and Principal Private Secretary to Chief Minister Vinay Singh were also present on the occasion.

Published in:

5dariyanews

‘Share innovative ideas to develop novel solutions for Covid- 19 problems’

CSIR–NBRI,CDRI

27 March, 2020

The students of AKTU are encouraged to share ‘Innovative Ideas’ to develop innovative solutions to the problems posed by covid-19 pandemic in order to join the hands of Government of India and state government of Uttar Pradesh to help the society in this unprecedented the situation.

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU), Lucknow in collaboration with National Botanical Gardens Research Institute (NBRI) and Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow is organizing ‘Online COVID-19 Challenge Ideathon’ from March 26 to April 2.

“The students of AKTU are encouraged to share ‘Innovative Ideas’ to develop innovative solutions to the problems posed by covid-19 pandemic in order to join the hands of Government of India and state government of Uttar Pradesh to help the society in this unprecedented the situation,” said AKTU vice-chancellor, Vinay Kumar Pathak in a press the conference addressed via webcast.

“This would be a weekly challenge, whereby, the new set of challenges shall be posted every week. Three best ideas would be awarded and acknowledged,” he said.

As COVID-19 has now become a public health emergency, therefore, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow (AKTU) under the chairmanship of vice chancellor, Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak in collaboration with Prof SK Barik, director, NBRI and Prof Tapas Kundu, director, CDRI, Lucknow is organizing Online COVID-19 Challenge Ideathon.

The challenge is starting on March 26 and last date of the challenge is April 2, 2020, he said. The challenge is available at erp.aktu.ac.in

HIGHLIGHTS:

Ideas have been invited in these areas

For developing cheaper and effective new drugs and vaccines without any adverse side effects

For developing suitable technological interventions to discourage and mitigate false news as only accurate information can help to make informed decisions

For developing suitable solutions to discourage negative behaviour like hoarding and black marketing of essential items.

Developing suitable supply chain procedures to ensure smooth supply of essentials like food, medicine and utilities

Developing cheaper and effective diagnostic kits and mobile diagnostic kits

Supporting and protecting front-line healthcare staff and their families

Published in:
Hindustan Times

Coronavirus in Mumbai: CCMB may soon come up with diagnostic kits

CSIR –CCMB,IICT 26 March, 2020

Mumbai: The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) is working overtime on the development of cost-effective and accurate diagnostic kits for wide distribution.

This is in response to the WHO call wide scale "testing, testing, and testing" is the key as early diagnosis may help save lives from the pandemic.

"We are helping our incubating companies; they have come out with ideas and we are supporting them.

We are testing and validating the diagnostic kits proposed by them. We may come up with some good kits and it may take at least 2-3 weeks if everything goes well.

Quality and accuracy of the kits are the most important things. If the kits give 100 percent results, then only they will be approved," said Dr R K Mishra, Director, CCMB.

The organisation is also keeping in mind the cost. "Our estimate is that the test should be less than Rs 1000. We are also thinking of kits which are as cheap as 400-500 rupees, but at present we cannot assure that, as it is a different route and all this needs more standardisation", said Dr Mishra.

Further, CCMB is also planning to culture the covid-19 virus. Dr Mishra said that the institution has facilities for this, and they have got the approvals from the government too, they are yet to receive sample and kits to initiate the culture.

"In the meantime, our facilities are set, and we are actually training people who are going for

the testing in other recognised places in the city" he said.

There are 5 govt-designated testing centres in Telangana state. CCMB has trained 25 people so that they can go and do the testing in these centres.

Some labs where the virus testing will be done include Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) Hyderabad, Gandhi Hospital, Osmania General Hospital, Sir Ronald Ross Institute of Tropical and Communicable Diseases or Fever Hospital and Warangal Hospital.

The Centre for DNA Finger Printing and Diagnostics (CDFD) is also likely to be added to this group.

Vaccine and drug development are another aspect of fighting the virus. But as of now CCMB is neither working on the vaccine nor on the drug development. "We have no expertise for working on this.

However, when the virus is being cultured, we will try to set up a system as it can be used for screening" said Dr Mishra. He told that may be CCMB's sister organisation Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) is working for repurposing of drugs as making a new drug is a long-term process

Published in:
Freepressjournal

CSIR-IITR

29 March, 2020

आईआईटीआर के निदेशक ने मंडलायुक्त को सैनिटाजर सौंपा।

आईआईटीआर ने 350 लीटर सैनिटाइजर बनाया

लखनऊ। आईआईटीआर ने कोरोना वायरस से जरूरी सेवाओं में लगे कर्मचारियों के बचाव के लिए बुधवार को 350 लीटर सैनिटाइजर का निर्माण करके मण्डलायुक्त मुकेश मेश्राम को सौंप दिया है। गुरुवार को 150 लीटर सैनिटाइजर और सौंप दिया जाएगा।

निदेशक प्रो. आलोक धवन ने बताया कि संस्थान के प्रधान वैज्ञानिक डॉ. आर. पार्थसारथी के नेतृत्व में रिसर्च स्कालर सुष्मिता तिवारी, अंशिका गुप्ता, मिताली सिन्हा, अभिषेक मिश्रा व अंकित कुमार ने दिनरात परिश्रम कर यह सैनिटाइजर बनाया है।

Published in:
Hindustan

COVID-19: Hyderabad's CCMB aims to make tests cost-effective

CSIR–CCMB, IMTECH, IIP, CDRI, IICB

25 March, 2020

Apart from CCMB, Hyderabad, Institute for Integrative Genome Biology (IIGB), Delhi and the Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh have been permitted to conduct testing **(Reuters)**

India has so far tested over 23,000 samples and government continues to expand the network of government and private laboratories conducting the tests.

NEW DELHI: India's premier research organization Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) is preparing diagnostic kits to test COVID-19, which has so far infected 562 people and claimed 11 lives across the country.

"We are providing support to our incubating companies and testing and validating the diagnostic kits proposed by them. We may come up with some good kits," said RK Mishra, director, CCMB, Hyderabad. He added that the process may take at least two weeks, since quality and accuracy would be a key concern.

India has so far tested over 23,000 samples and government continues to expand the network of government and private laboratories conducting the tests.

The testing is largely done using the RT-PCR probes for diagnosis of COVID-19 which were procured from US by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune and distributed across the country. To cater to the increasing demand, ICMR also opened its doors for validation of new testing kits which

have not been approved by US FDA or EUA-CE as yet.

“The kits are being evaluated for their performance and efficacy by ICMR and given a go ahead only when they give 100% results. These are then recommended to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) which take the final call," said a senior official from ICMR.

Since, an RT-PCR test costs around ₹5,000, the government-run Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratory is focusing on developing cost-effective and faster diagnostics which can address India’s increasing need for testing as infections rise.

“Our estimate is that the test should be less than ₹1,000. We are also thinking of kits which are as cheap as ₹400-500, but at present we cannot assure that, as it is a different route and all this needs more standardization," said Dr Mishra.

CCMB also plans to culture SARS-CoV2, following approval from the Empowered Committee on COVID-19 Response, which allowed all national laboratories to do clinical testing of COVID-19 and share the results. This would help in screening of suspected patients.

“We are yet to receive sample and kits to initiate the culture. In the meantime, our facilities are set and we are actually training people who are going for the testing in other recognized places in the city" he said. So far, 25 people have been trained.

Apart from CCMB, Hyderabad, Institute for Integrative Genome Biology (IIGB), Delhi and the Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh have been permitted to conduct testing.

The Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research

Lucknow and Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat, Assam and Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata have also requested similar testing facilities and are expected to come on board soon.

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'क्लीन हैंड जेल' नाम से आया सैनिटाईज़र

- कीटाणुओं को मारने में सक्षम है ये प्राकृतिक रोगाणुरोधी
- सीएसआईआर-एनबीआरआई ने बनाया हैंड सैनिटाईज़र

लखनऊ। सीएसआईआर-एनबीआरआई लखनऊ ने विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुरूप सीएसआईआर एरोमा मिशन के तहत कोरोना वायरस के प्रसार की रोकथाम के लिए अल्कोहल आधारित हैंड सैनिटाईज़र बनाया है। इस हर्बल हैंड सैनिटाईज़र में हर्बल घटक के रूपमें तुलसी का तेल, जोकि कीटाणुओं को मारने में सक्षम एक प्राकृतिक रोगाणुरोधी है, और 60 प्रतिशत आइसोप्रोपिल अल्कोहल का प्रयोग किया गया है। इस उत्पाद को इसकी रोगाणुरोधी गतिविधि के लिए वैज्ञानिक रूपसे परीक्षित किया गया है।

सीएसआईआर-एनबीआरआई के निदेशक प्रोफेसर एसके बारिक ने बताया कि हर्बल हैंड सैनिटाइजर की तकनीकी को मैसर्स सद्गुरु बायोलॉजिकल प्राइवेट लिमिटेड लखनऊ को हस्तांतरित किया गया है। वैज्ञानिक डॉ बीएन सिंह और उनकी टीम ने बताया कि कोरोना वायरस को फैलने से रोकने के लिए हैंड सैनिटाइजर की बढ़ी हुई मांग को देखते हुए यह हैंड सैनिटाईज़र अगले सप्ताह तक बाज़ार में उपलब्ध हो जाएगा। हैंड सैनिटाईज़र बाज़ार में 'क्लीन हैंड जेल' के ब्रांड नाम से उपलब्ध होगा।

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