

S&T institutions of India collaborate to fight the COVID-19

The Government of India has set up a 'COVID-19 Task Force' for mapping the COVID-19 related technology capabilities in start-ups, academia, research and development labs and industry and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) being its part among others, have been entrusted with number of responsibilities. Task Force has identified over 500 entities in the areas of diagnostics, drugs, ventilators, protection gear, disinfecting systems, etc. The solutions identified include masks and other protective gear, sanitizers, affordable kits for screening, ventilators and oxygenators, data analytics for tracking, monitoring, and controlling the spread of outbreak through AI and IoT-based solutions.

The DBT and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), have also announced COVID-19 Research Consortium Program and are seeking proposals from industry, academia, industry-academia partnership with a focus on affordable diagnostics, vaccines, novel therapeutics, repurposing of drugs or any other intervention for control of COVID-19. Many research groups among DBT organizations/institutions are focusing on basic science and other social aspects of this pandemic like virus morphogenesis & development, sequencing of local strain, virus-host interaction, genetic variants linked with virulence, evolution and transmission pattern, pathogenesis studies and collection of epidemiological data. These studies are very much necessary for development of vaccines and therapeutic drugs against COVID-19.

Source: <https://www.biovoicenews.com/indias-st-institutions-raise-their-game-against-covid-19/>