

CSIR Institutes develop important technologies to combat COVID-19

New Delhi, May 12 (India Science Wire): On the occasion of National Technology Day, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director of CSIR-IHBT, who is also holding the additional charge of Director CSIR-CSIO, Chandigarh, delivered the National Technology Day lecture through video conferencing (VC). The VC was attended by scientists and staff of both the institutes. In his lecture, Dr. Sanjay Kumar focused on the challenge posed by COVID-19 and roles of CSIR-CSIO and CSIR-IHBT for combating this deadly disease.

The highly infectious virus SARS-CoV-2 is basically a +ve sense 30 Kb RNA genome, which codes for 16 non-structural and four structural proteins. To combat this deadly disease, both the institutes have developed and transferred important technologies. He described the technologies developed by CSIR-CSIO lab, which include electrostatic disinfection machine, non-contact IR thermometer, aerosol-retracted canopy for dental procedure, foot-operated water dispenser, portable ventilator, Thermo UV germicidal system, intubation aerosol protective canopy, robotic hospital logistics cart, face shield and banknote decontamination box.

Regarding CSIR-IHBT technologies, he mentioned setting up a testing centre for diagnosis and molecular surveillance of COVID-19 in Himachal Pradesh, screening of bio-active molecules from the Himalayan medicinal plants against COVID-19 virus for development of herbal-based antiviral drug, production and supply of alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing natural aromatic oils and tea extracts through our technology partners and advanced techniques for disease surveillance.

He expressed that CSIR-CSIO, being instrumentation lab, and CSIR-IHBT, being bioresource-based lab, jointly can do wonders to combat COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Every year the Nation celebrates National Technology Day on 11th May as a symbol of quest for technological creativity and scientific empowerment for integration of society and industry with science and technology. The day commemorates India's victoriously test fired nuclear missile at the Pokhran in 1998 and become the sixth nuclear state of the world. (India Science Wire)

Keywords: COVID-19, CSIR-CSIO, CSIR-IHBT, National Technology Day