

IBSD teams up with Meghalaya Government for establishing Covid-19 testing at Tura, Shillong

In an effort to establish a Covid-19 diagnostics facility at Tura, Shillong, the Department of Biotechnology's autonomous centre, the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal has provided an RT-PCR machine, a refrigerated centrifuge and two deep freezers along with technical support and orientation for use of such equipment. The equipments have been handed over to the state team of doctors and laboratory technicians, who have also been trained to handle the equipments meant for Covid-19 testing at the Microbiology Department of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS).



The Tura facility is being made at Government Civil Hospital and it has come about by online and virtual co-ordination between the teams of Commissioner and Secretary, Health, Govt of Meghalaya and the Director IBSD. Dr Albert Chiang, Scientist at IBSD is coordinating with the Meghalaya Health Department in this matter. Most of the equipment have been delivered and installed at Tura over the last two weeks and the facility would be ready to start testing in a few days. The IBSD shared the essential equipment in the earlier interim period, to rapidly fill up the gap brought about by the global supply chain crisis of equipment and consumables during Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown.

Prof Pulok K Mukherjee, Director IBSD, has extended his appreciation to the Meghalaya Health Department for working tirelessly in their battle against Covid-19 and also assured full support from IBSD to the State for any other scientific endeavors in this current Covid-19 crisis. The DBT's IBSD has been working with the Meghalaya Health Department to setup this Covid-19 diagnostics facility at Tura, which is more than 300 km from NEIGRIHMS, Shillong, presently a lone Covid-19 testing center of Meghalaya.

In similar efforts, IBSD has been providing both equipment and consumables support to several Covid-19 testing facilities across the North eastern region, such as JNIMS, Govt of

Manipur; RIMS, Imphal, Govt of India; NEIGHRIHMS, Shillong, Govt of India; Zoram Medical College, Govt of Mizoram and Pasteur Institute, Govt of Meghalaya.

Link: <https://www.sentinelassam.com/meghalaya-news/ibsd-assisting-meghalaya-to-set-up-covid-testing-facility-in-tura-472106>

Link: <https://theoptimist.news/dbt-ibsd-teams-up-with-meghalaya-government-for-covid-19-testing/>