

DBT-RCGB sets out research goals for new diagnostics and therapeutics for COVID-19

COVID-19 outbreak has triggered novel study initiatives by major research centers of India. Department of Biotechnology's Thiruvananthapuram-based Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), has set out research goals to understand Corona virus fully with a translational approach so as to bring out novel rapid diagnostics and therapeutics as fast as possible.

Currently, the only test available for early detection of the disease is based on a technology called Polymerase Chain reaction (PCR). However, this can be done only in specialized laboratories and is costly. RGCB has taken up a project to develop a new diagnostic test which will be fast (it should not take more than 15 min to get the results), cheaper and usable in the hospital ('point of care') even by less trained laboratory staff. The work is nearing the last stages of completion.

Another focus is on therapeutics. Currently there are no specific drugs available against this virus infection. The Centre is establishing rapid assays that can be used to identify the inhibitors for the virus.

Institute Website: https://www.rgcb.res.in/corona_alert_new.php

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