

## COVID-19 testing outreach effort - Upcoming graphic novel on COVID awareness at inStem, Bengaluru

To create necessary awareness with proper scientific backing about COVID-19, busting the myths and bringing in the ongoing research across the country, faculty at DBT's Institute of Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine (inStem), Bangalore has created an informative graphic novel which will be launched very soon.

Graphical narration (colloquially referred to as 'comics') has a rich history in our culture, with series such as Amar Chitra Katha demonstrating the trans-generational power of this medium. As a faculty at inStem with deep interests in cartooning and graphical narration, Arvind's effort in developing this comic is to create awareness in non-specialist readers, especially children, about the current health crisis.

The comic is based around two curious young children Bharath and Fatima who learn about COVID-19, the immune system and vaccines from their fictional uncle. We hope that this effort with anticipated translations into local languages will serve as a widespread platform for science education and communication. The inStem, Bengaluru along with the Bangalore Life Science Cluster (BLiSc) plans to launch this as an awareness campaign on social media very soon.



Here's a snippet of the cover page of the upcoming graphic novel titled 'Bharath and Fatima learn about COVID-19'

InStem is one of the founding partners of **COVID-Gyan**, a pan-institutional website that has been proactive in COVID-19 outreach efforts. The constant effort of COVID-Gyan since its launch has been to create necessary awareness with proper scientific backing about COVID-19 across the country.

**Link:** <https://instem.res.in/>

**Link:** <https://www.instem.res.in/content/COVID-19-testing-effort-bangalore-life-science-cluster>

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