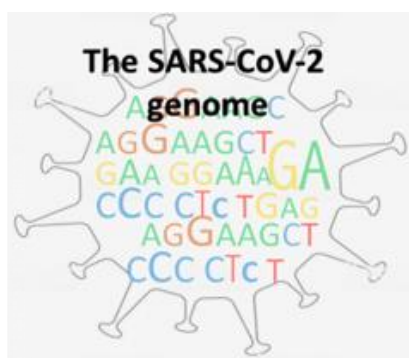
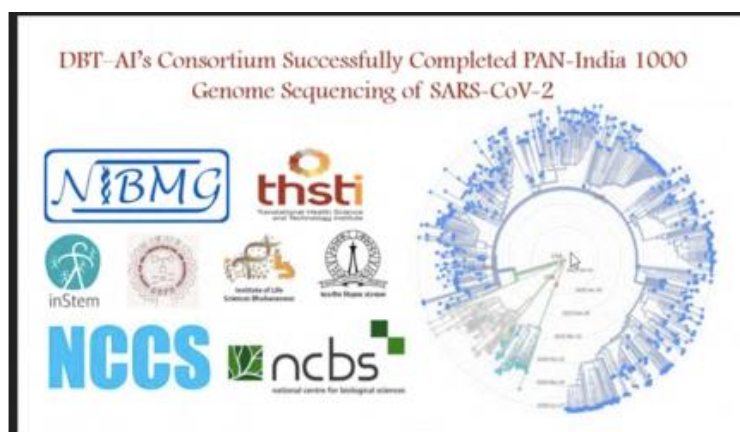


InStem's SARS-CoV-2 Genome sequencing efforts

Scientists at DBT' Institute for Stem Cell Science & Regenerative Medicine (inStem), and National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru have completed viral genome sequencing of close to 100 referral samples that were positive for the virus, at the joint COVID-19 testing centre in campus.



<https://www.instem.res.in/content/sars-cov-2-genome-sequencing-effort>



Multiple studies in the past have shown that members of the coronavirus family evolve by constantly mutating their genomes and multiple variations in the COVID-19 virus genome have been observed. A focus on capturing the viral genome and its diversity (if any) in the country is timely and important. To facilitate this effort, DBT' Institute for Stem Cell Science & Regenerative Medicine (inStem), NCBS and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) are part of a multi-institutional '*PAN-India 1000 SARS-CoV-2 RNA genome consortium*' effort – anchored by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India, to sequence more than 1000 SARS-CoV-2 viral genomes from around the country.

With the DBT-AI Consortium and their collaborating partners achieving its initial goal of completing the sequencing of 1000 SARS-CoV-2 genomes from nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs collected from individuals testing positive for COVID19 by Real Time PCR (RT-PCR).

It is expected that the findings and information will improve our understanding on how the virus is spreading, and ultimately help in interrupting the transmission chains, prevent new cases of infection, and provide impetus to research on intervention measures. Given the importance of this information for public health response initiatives investigating transmission of COVID-19, the sequence data will also be in the public domain (GISAID database).

An article on the sequencing effort may be accessed at <https://www.instem.res.in/content/sars-cov-2-genome-sequencing-effort>.

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