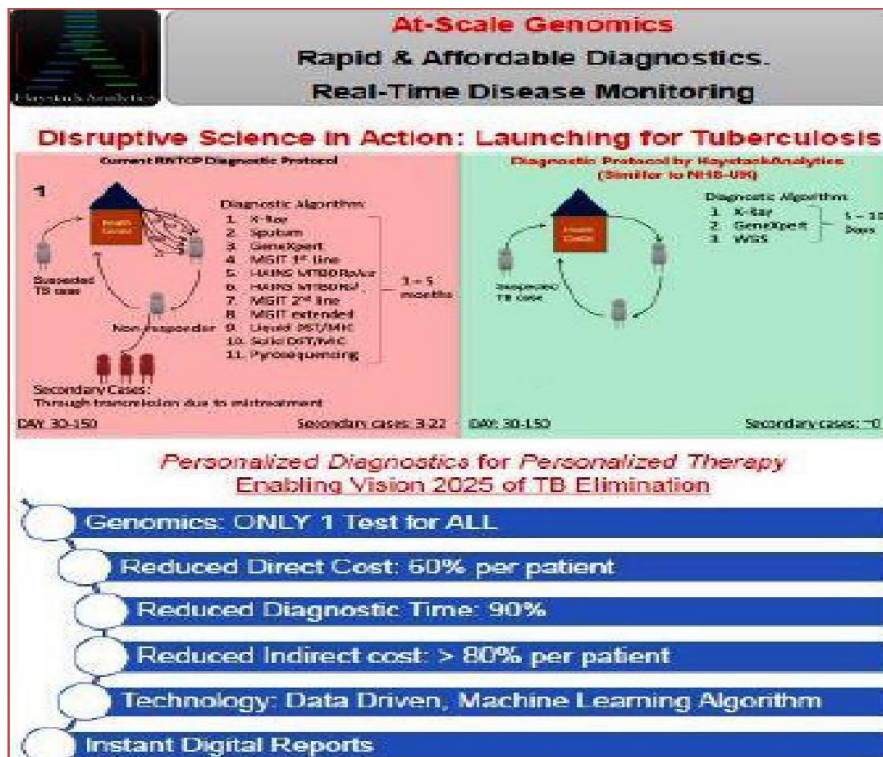


DBT-BIRAC supports solution for diagnosing, mapping infectious diseases

New Delhi, July 29: Two persons die every three minutes due to tuberculosis (TB) in India. Despite having more than 10 antibiotics for treating TB, there has been a rapid increase in the number of TB cases because of the problem of severe drug resistance. There is now a need to perform whole genome sequencing, which is the only technology available for providing comprehensive drug resistance testing within 7 days. Using this, the government TB programme can provide personalized diagnostics, which is essential for achieving the TB elimination target by 2025.



A solution for at-scale genomics for diagnostics and real-time mapping of infectious disease developed by Haystack Analytics Pvt Ltd supported by the Department of Biotechnology's BIRAC is a genomic diagnostic for drug susceptibility testing of tuberculosis, which is essential for early and correct personalized treatment. The genomic analytical platform can be rapidly expanded to all future drugs and other infectious diseases, which is essential for controlling antimicrobial resistance. This test also has the potential to be made available to other countries with a high load of drug resistant TB, such as sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia. Haystack Analytics has been the Winner-Maharashtra Startup Week and NASSCOM Most Innovative Startup 2019 and have already sold around 100 tests through this technology.

Contact details: Dr Shirshendu Mukherjee (mdpmubmgf@birac.nic.in), Dr Hafsa Ahmad (bm9@birac.nic.in) and Ms Ginny Bansal (pmubmgf6@birac.nic.in)

Link: <https://www.birac.nic.in/>