

DBT-ILS establishes in-vitro culture facility for coronavirus



New Delhi, July 20: The Department of Biotechnology's Bhubaneswar-based Institute of Life Sciences has established an in-vitro culture facility for coronavirus. The cultures are from patient sources using vero cells. Seventeen virus cultures have been established from swab samples with varying virus loads. Dr Soma Chattopadhyay and Dr Gulam Syed at the Institute are taking the lead in establishing and maintaining these culture units. This measure will be of great importance for COVID related research in the country. In addition it will aid industry for appropriate testing and validation of various antiviral products thereby contributing to diagnostics, pathological intervention as well as management of the disease. This facility is in addition to a biorepository facility at ILS, which is aimed at collecting and storing clinical samples for furthering research and development related to coronavirus. ILS is the fourth lab to set up such an in-vitro culture facility in India.

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