

COVID-19 outreach efforts at DBT's inStem

The third session of the COVID-Gyan WebGyan series was done by Dr. Manu Prakash of Stanford University. Dr. Prakash started his talk with the classic example of the 1815 volcanic eruption of Mt Tambora and its aftermath that prompted the invention of bicycle. Institute for Stem Cell Science & Regenerative Medicine (inStem) is one of the founding partners of [COVID-Gyan](#), a pan-institutional website that has been proactive in COVID-19 outreach efforts.



The COVID-19 pandemic has thrust the world into a global public health crisis. He elaborated on how scientists can navigate their new roles and responsibilities in these trying times. He also presented anecdotes from the global contribution and collaborative efforts at his laboratory, Prakash Lab, for combating COVID-19. He stated that as a conventional lab focused on developing frugal science-based solutions for medical problems in resource-constrained environments using open source platform, his lab members are now, putting their efforts to explore innovative ways of tackling the nuanced requirements in face of COVID-19 emergency.

Furthermore, he spoke about 'pufferfish' (an open source to design simple, easy to assemble, cost effective ventilators for COVID-19) pnuemasks and N95 mask packaging. Further, he explained how a cotton candy machine working on simple rules of physics is used in his lab to create special fabric for N95 masks. The audience actively engaged in the session as Dr. Prakash enthusiastically addressed their questions with gusto.

The 90 minutes' session was live streamed on COVID-Gyan YouTube channel, with nearly 180 participants from India and across the globe. The session was moderated by Prof. Rajesh Gopakumar, ICTS- Bangalore and Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya, TIFR-Mumbai. This session was recorded on May 28, 2020 and can be watched [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XumUfL5CZ4M): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XumUfL5CZ4M>.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XumUfL5CZ4M>