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Ask the right questions, and nature will open the door to her secrets.

- Dr. C.V. Raman, The Nobel Prize in Physics 1930

50,000 samples to be tested in CSIR's new generation kit

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed a new generation testing kit that would help in testing about 50,000 samples at one go. The new testing kit is accurate and faster than the pooled RT-PCR testing kits, wherein any positive sample among the thousands of samples can be identified without testing all the samples separately as opposed to RT-PCR testing, where the samples, if mixed, then all the samples have to be examined separately.

NRDC to promote technologies designed to fight COVID-19

The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has prepared a compendium of 200 technologies developed by different laboratories, IITs, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) etc. in the last few months in order to fight COVID-19. The NRDC has also launched a funding scheme to promote projects developed by various institutions, whereby INR 2 lakh would be granted under techno-commercial support and INR 10 lakh for some priority projects.

Assam university develop fungal powder to boost immunity

In Assam's Bodoland University, scientists have pioneered a fungal powder cultivated by freeze-drying a super-mushroom called Cordyceps. According to the University, a weekly dosage of 150 mg of the powder will make the system strong enough to resist viral attack.

Herbal inhaler from NBRI helps soothe irritation caused by mask

A nasal inhaler spray made by National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) has been manufactured to help relieve the uneasiness and choking sensation that many people feel whilst wearing the masks to protect themselves against COVID-19. The essential and herbal oils in the Ayurvedic spray relieve frayed muscles and make one feel easy.

CCMB's work towards COVID-19 vaccine development

Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)'s ability to culture the virus in the lab has enabled the research establishment to work towards vaccine development and testing potential drugs to fight COVID-19. CCMB is also a potential donor of the culture to other authorized centres. Using the Vero cell lines to grow the coronavirus, CCMB is now in a position to isolate and maintain viral strains from different regions. CCMB has also started testing potential drugs with other partners, such as DRDO, using this viral culture.

Microsoft India funds two IIT Delhi projects on COVID-19 detection

Microsoft India supported two projects of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi that focuses on research to tackle the COVID-19 crisis. The first project pertains to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) approved *probe-free Real-Time PCR-based COVID-19 detection assay* developed at the Kusuma School of Biological Sciences, IIT Delhi. This probe-free technology will be more affordable and easily scalable. IIT Delhi is the first academic institute successful in offering a test that has been approved by ICMR. The other project is a collaboration between IIT Delhi and National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, and aims to develop an *ELISA based diagnostic serological assay* against COVID-19. Microsoft India will assist in the commercialisation of the probe free detection assay developed at IIT Delhi and also fund research on examining the possibility of creating an ELISA like assay for COVID detection.

Special Update: National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal

The National Dairy Research Institute as country's premier Dairy Research institution has developed considerable expertise over the last five decades in different areas of Dairy Production, Processing, Management and Human Resource Development. Information generated at the Institute and the services offered have contributed to the growth of Dairy Industry as a whole and well-being of millions of milk producers and consumers of milk and milk products. Realizing the challenging need of global Dairy Trade, the Institute is continuously working to develop its R&D and human resource development programmes to better serve the nation in terms of food security, employment generation, poverty alleviation and economic prosperity.

The National Dairy Research Institute undertakes research, teaching and extension activities towards dairy development in the country. Being the National Institute, it conducts basic and applied research with the objective to enhance animal productivity and also to develop cost effective technologies for the benefit of the teeming millions. Further, the Institute provides high quality manpower to meet the human resource requirements for the overall dairy development in the country. The Institute also undertakes extension programmes for transferring the know-how from the laboratory to the farmers' fields.

The R&D activities of the Institute mainly focus on three fundamental facets of Dairying i.e. production and management of dairy animals for better productivity, innovating suitable milk processing technologies and equipments, and providing the dairy farmers and entrepreneurs with information about existing market demands and practical management inputs for making dairying a self-sustaining, profitable business. Research, both in basic and applied aspects, in various disciplines constitute the core activity of the Institute.

Further details can be found at:
<http://www.ndri.res.in/ndri/Design/index.html>