

# UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN

IISER THIRUVANANTHAPUAM AISHE – U-0254

*Efforts made by IISER during the pandemic.*



**Website: [uba.iisertvm.ac.in](http://uba.iisertvm.ac.in)**

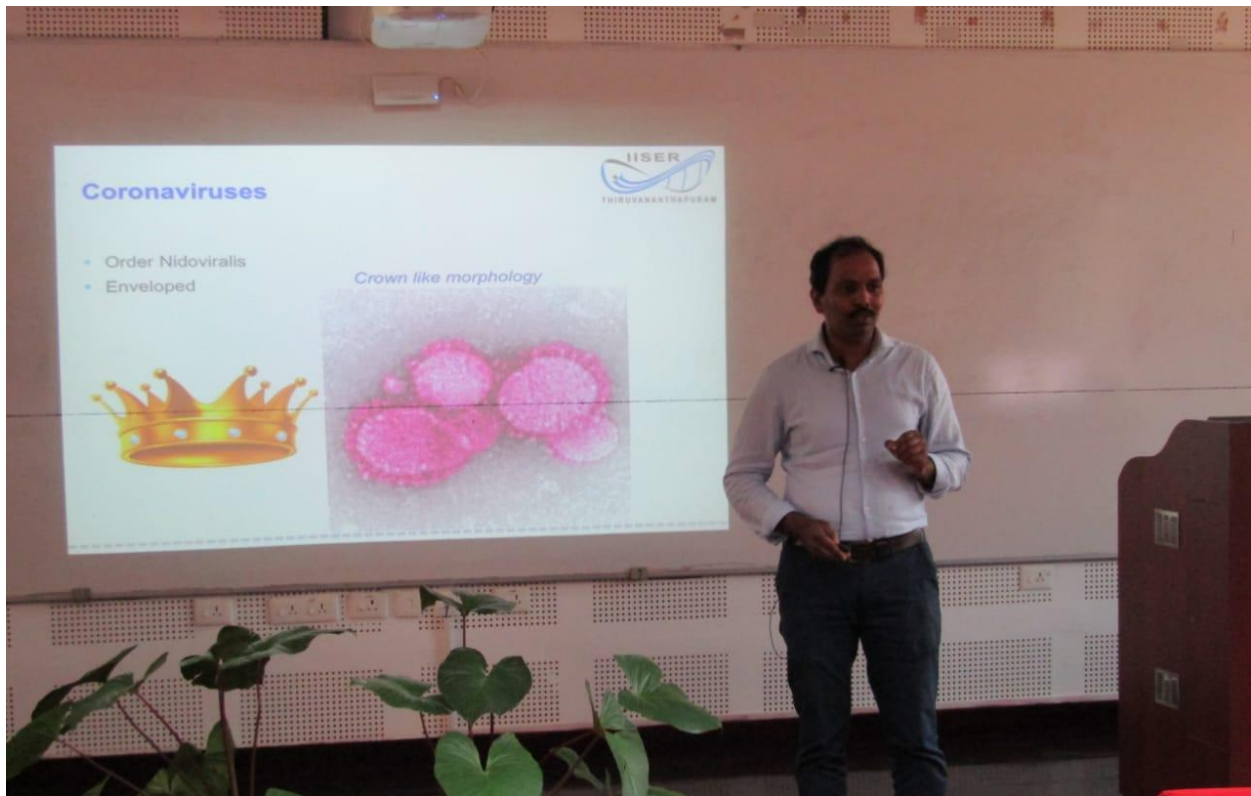
Email :  
[ubarci@iisertvm.ac.in](mailto:ubarci@iisertvm.ac.in)

Nodal Officer: Prof. M P Rajan

Email: [rajanmp@iisertvm.ac.in](mailto:rajanmp@iisertvm.ac.in)

## Initiatives by IISER Thiruvananthapuram (AISHE: U-0254) during the Pandemic.

The recent outbreak of novel coronavirus has created a widespread tension in India. After recovering from the contagious Nipah virus and the floods the COVID-19 was beyond what the state could imagine. All three cases reported in India was from Kerala which made the state under pressure and withholds all the development activities to be more prudent in providing medical assistance for the corona affected people and the people who are living in isolation. Starting from three positive cases to a rapid increase in the number day after day, the state would start to flatten the curve. The active engagement of all the workforces from bottom to top has helped the state to stop the community spread of the virus. The excellent work of the state has already been held up globally. "The Kerala model" started by building a strong baseline and the state investment in its human capital has also eventually helped the state to get mass support from the people.



Dr Stalin taking session on the pandemic.



Primary level meeting conducted by UBA cell on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 to discuss the activities needed to be taken to control the spread of COVID19. Mr Manoj Kumar S the officer in charge of UBA IISER TVM, Dr Anju Kanmani Public health in charge of Taluk hospital, Dr Hemalatha Medical officer of IISER TVM, Dr Sasi Medical officer in charge of Taluk hospital Vithura and Mr Vishnu T U manager UBA attended the meeting.

When the first cases of COVID19 spotted in Kerala, the UBA cell has decided to act immediately by mobilizing the people and giving them awareness on coronavirus. The UBA cell of IISER Thiruvananthapuram has called an immediate meeting with the medical officers from the nearby Taluk hospitals and decided to conduct an awareness program on the pandemic. Dr V Stalin Raj an Associate professor of the School of Biology at IISER TVM who is actively researching on corona since the 2011 outbreak and Dr Anju K Kanmani is the public health in charge of Taluk hospital Vithura has led the program. Dr Stalin has provided information on the virus and the latest update on the outbreak, at the same time Dr Anju has discussed the precautions that have to be taken for resisting corona. The program conducted on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at IISER Thiruvananthapuram campus. Later the institute has also circulated images and documents over social media, basically through instant messengers like whatsapp to give awareness on coronavirus.



Dr Anju Kanmani taking session on COVID19 and the preventive measures.



Posters designed and distributed by the students of IISER Thiruvananthapuram.

## Hand sanitizer production



When the number of positive cases started increasing in the state, the government has decided to go for state-wide shut down to prevent the community spreading of the virus. This later has led to the unavailability of basic materials like sanitizers PPE kits and face masks. Next to the healthcare services by the state, no other materials have proved more essential than sanitizers, PPE kits and cloth masks. After having discussions with the state and district medical workers the team got to know about the importance of producing sanitizers locally to maintain the demand and supply balance of hand sanitizer and by producing the maximum amount of sanitizers to support the medical workers who are engaged in fighting the virus. The medical workers of IISER TVM with the support of the faculty members prepared hand sanitizer and distributed to the district authorities. After discussing with the state officials the institute decided to develop PPE kit since it is found that 80% of kits imported from china are faulty or failed in the quality check. For the production of reusable cloth masks, the team has mobilized the cloth bag manufacturing unit found by the UBA cell and submitted a proposal to the National Coordinating Institute. The UBA cell is planning to make 10000 reusable cloth masks once I get approved by the NCI. This initiative would bring a major impact on the environmental issues related to the disposal of single-use masks.

### **Supply of essential food grains.**

Amidst the lockdown in Kerala, the state government has introduced a community kitchen model to support the families of daily wage labours and migrant labours in the state, as most of the migrant labours living in the state with their scanty belongings it is necessary to support these people to survive the pandemic and lockdown. IISER Thiruvananthapuram is located in a place where most of the population are being marked below the poverty line and have a sizable tribal population living in the foothills of Western Ghats.



To support the initiative IISER Thiruvananthapuram has provided food grains to the nearest community kitchen runs by the Vithura gram panchayat. Panchayat President Shri. Krishnakumari and Secretary Mr Anusachethanan and Educational standing committee chairman Mr Shahul Ahammad Khan collected the materials from the institute. Prof. M P Rajan (UBA Nodal officer), Mr Manoj Kumar S (UBA, Officer-in-charge) Prof. Murthy and Prof. Anil Shaji distributed the materials.

### **Provided food kits to the people of Bonacaud**



The staffs and faculties of IISER TVM have provided food kits to the people living in Peringammala village.

### **Additional Supports provided by IISER Thiruvananthapuram.**

- Emergency ambulance service for the households and communities adjacent to the institute.

### **Challenges**

- As mentioned earlier the Institute is located in the foothills of Western Ghats most of the communities are facing issues with the lack of mobile network connectivity. This has made it difficult to communicate with the people and to circulate information over the phone.
- Lack of basic transportation facilities.

