

MNNIT Allahabad inks MoU for Non Exclusive Technology Transfer for manufacturing and commercialization of Viralyser: A portable low cost UV-C sanitization device for home and office use

Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Allahabad Prayagraj (MNNIT Allahabad) is an Institute with total commitment to quality and excellence in academic pursuits. Keeping upbeat with strengthening India's efforts to combat COVID-19, MNNIT Allahabad signs a "non exclusive technology transfer and licensing agreement" for manufacturing and commercialization of Viralyser, a portable, low cost, UV sanitization device for home and office use. Given the prospective benefits and synergistic cooperation possibilities of translating science into technology, this small step will also pave future pathways for bridging the gap between academia and industry. Prof Rajeev Tripathi, Director MNNIT mentioned that the agreement will help in enhancing culture of innovation and startup in the Institute and help in commercialization of the product through an established company 'Garg Telecom Corporation' which will eventually bring out the product in market in upcoming days.

Dr. Sarvesh Kr. Tiwari, Registrar MNNIT Allahabad signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Garg Telecom Corporation, Allahabad. Prof. Rajeev Tripathi, Director MNNIT Allahabad, Prof. Geetika (Chairperson IPR and Dean Research & Consultancy), Mr Ravi Agarwal owner of Garg telecom Corporation and team members were also present on this occasion. All the participants were maintaining social distancing throughout the event.

In this event of COVID-19 pandemic where social distancing and self isolation have become new government regulations, people are wary of visiting crowded places and are locked in home. However, it has become challenging to avoid contracting COVID-19, as approximately 70000 cases have been identified positive till 10th May. Increasing number of COVID-19 cases pose a great threat to our daily routine. People at homes or working in offices, hospitals are always at risk of getting infected. To deal with such situations in the pandemic, an initiative under Design Innovation Project sponsored by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to fabricate Viralyser: a UV sanitization device, was taken by Dr. Sameer Srivastava, Dr. Ambak K. Rai, Dr. Ashutosh Mani, Dr. N.K. Singh and Prof. Shivesh Sharma from Department of Biotechnology, under the guidance and leadership of Prof Rajeev Tripathi Director MNNIT Allahabad. Viralyser is equipped with UV-C fluorescent lamps which is capable of killing variety of microorganisms including novel Coronavirus.

Prof. Rajeev Tripathi mentioned that that the present contribution from MNNIT Allahabad will serve as a weapon for India's battle against majority of microbes including novel Coronavirus and various organizations and stakeholders have approached Institute for providing this device. He also highlighted that it could be used to sanitize all types of inanimate items such as currency notes, postal letters, files, mask, groceries, vegetables, fruits, etc and also in homes, hospitals and offices at regular basis during this pandemic and beyond. Prof. Geetika, Chairperson (IPR cell) mentioned that prior to the signing of MoU, the team has also filed a patent to protect the intellectual property. In addition, she also highlighted that Institute has also filed a patent for Viroshield, an another initiative which is of great significance in present situation arising out of COVID19. Mr. Ravi Agarwal from Garg Telecom Corporation mentioned that the company has expertise in UV based products and ensured that speedy efforts will be made to manufacture the product and bring it to the common people as early as possible.

