



unfolding challenge before it wreaks irreparable damage. Important measures have been put in place to take on the threat on multiple fronts. To begin with, the Institute tapped into the unstinted support of the state authorities and, in accordance with all relevant guidelines, mobilized its resources to screen all susceptible employees for infection and to ensure proper sanitation of the premises. This timely action has provided a safe workplace for its staff and scores of patients for whom the expertise the Institute offers in clinical super-specialities and sub-specialties has been a timeless benediction. Having achieved that, efforts have been made to provide uninterrupted high priority services to patients, including emergency surgeries and adequate care of those attending the outpatient units. The Institute has initiated telemedicine consultation for those seeking review for cardiac and neurological ailments.

In quick time, two laboratories have been set up and are functional at the Institute to screen people suspected to have contracted the infection.

The Achutha Menon Centre at the Institute is actively involved in supporting the State in the containment of COVID-19 through the COVID Cell at the Institute and the State Health Department. A number of new initiatives and proposals are being prepared for the State Health Department in order to assist the state government in dealing with the problem.

To counter the pandemic comprehensively, the Biomedical Technology Wing has commenced work on several technologies related to the rapid diagnosis of COVID-19, face shielding, automated respiratory support using a simple device, ventilator sharing kit, hospital bed partitions, biomaterials, molecular biological solutions to tackle COVID-19 and many others. The development of relevant devices and accessories would help overcome the imminent shortage of these critical tools that are required to combat the affliction and ensure their easy availability at affordable costs.

Needless to say, all of these are cost-intensive but the situation beckons us to urgently shore up resources as we cannot back down when we face an unanticipated threat on an unprecedented scale. We have all it takes to rise to the demands of these testing times and we need to scale up and sustain our activities at the Institute because the ultimate beneficiary of our well-meaning endeavours shall be our fellow citizens. We greatly appreciate, and are immensely grateful to, **Shri Thomas John Muthoot, Chairman and Managing Director, Muthoot Fincorp**, who has thoughtfully volunteered to make a generous donation from the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Funds of the Company. Let us all get together at this hour of anguish and win this battle. We have no choice but to win.

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