



श्री चित्रा तिरुनाल आयुर्विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, त्रिवेंद्रम, तिरुवनन्तपुरम - 695 011, केरल, भारत

SREE CHITRA TIRUNAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY (SCTIMST)

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695011, KERALA, INDIA

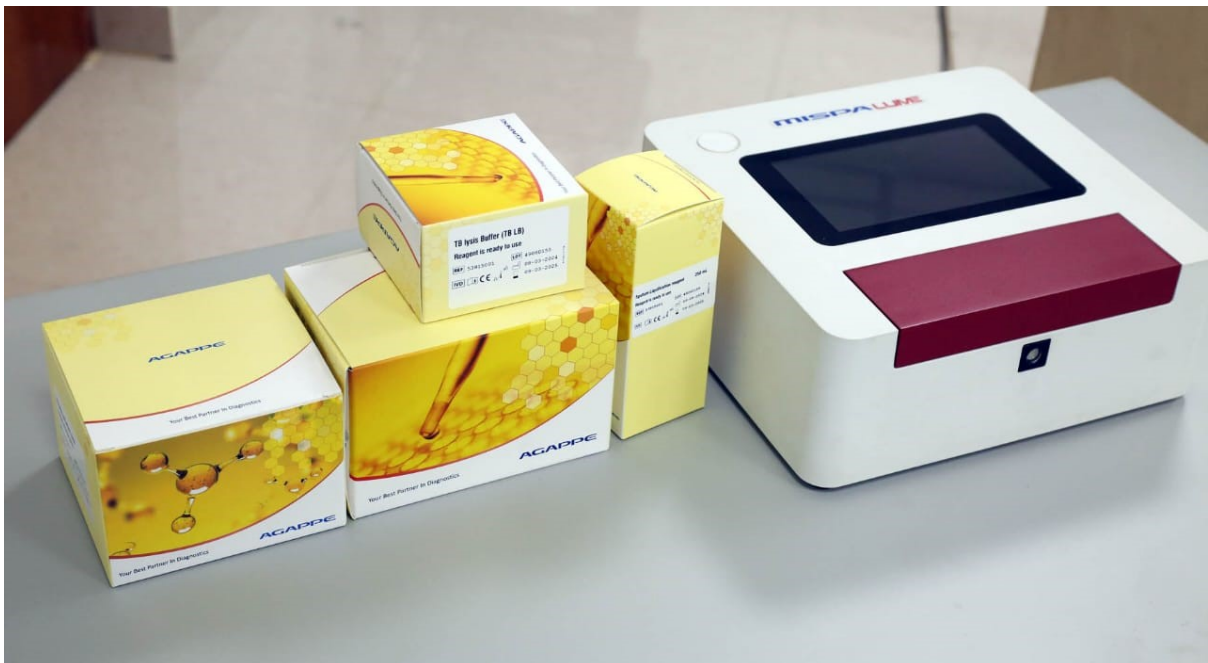
(An Institute of National Importance under DST; Government of India)

(एक राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, भारत सरकार)

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National Launch of AG Chitra Tuberculosis Diagnostic Kit

AG Chitra Tuberculosis diagnostic kit developed by Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Trivandrum was launched on 8th April 2024 at a formal function held at its Biomedical Technology wing campus. SCTIMST developed this kit as an open platform system to provide affordable, fast, and accurate diagnosis of pulmonary



tuberculosis. The technology has been licensed to M/S Agappe Diagnostics in Kochi. Following successful independent validation, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has approved the kit for manufacturing and commercialisation.

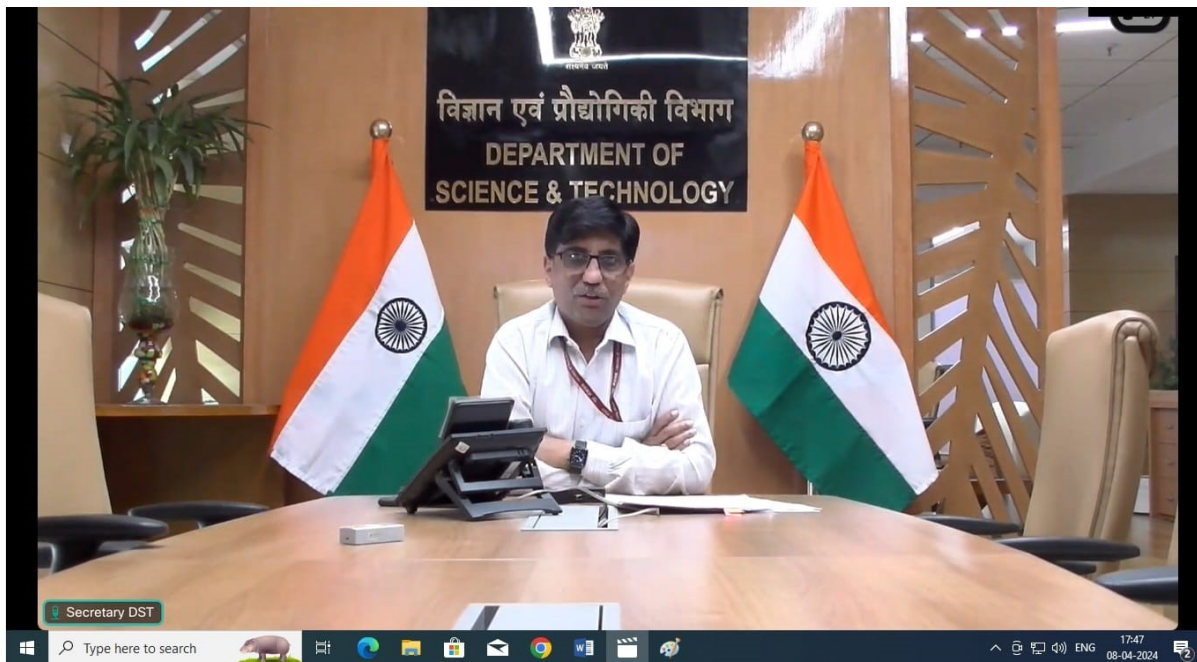


Dr. V.K. Saraswat, President, SCTIMST, officially launched the tuberculosis screening kit. He highlighted the significance of having a kit that can screen a vast population for suspected tuberculosis. The TB kit developed by SCTIMST can be used in any qPCR machine, which



means that the existing Covid-19 testing infrastructure established during the pandemic can be utilized for tuberculosis screening on a large scale. He emphasized the remarkable contributions of SCTIMST in priority areas for the country.

During his speech, Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, praised SCTIMST for its outstanding track record in developing medical technologies. He particularly appreciated the institution's unique collaboration between scientists, engineers, and clinicians, which sets it apart from other institutions in the country. He expressed his hope that the AG Chitra Tuberculosis diagnostic kit, developed by SCTIMST, would soon be included in the National Tuberculosis Control Program. He believed that the kit could make a significant difference in screening the population for tuberculosis.



Dr Anoop Thekkuveetil, Scientist G and team leader of the AG Chitra tuberculosis kit development spoke about the team's efforts in creating a diagnostic kit for the disease. He highlighted the unique features of the kit, such as its high accuracy in identifying the disease at an early stage, easy transportation without the need for an ultra-low cold chain facility, and its open platform design. He also thanked the team from the State TB Centre, the WHO India office, and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for providing the necessary help in implementing the program.



Mrs. Meena Thomas, Director, Agappe Diagnostics, emphasized the fruitful collaboration between SCTIMST and the industry. She pointed out that SCTIMST's socially relevant research inspires Agappe to leverage the industry's knowledge and expertise to produce highly successful products for the market.

Prof. Sanjay Behari, Director, SCTIMST, underscored the significance of tuberculosis diagnosis in the Indian population in his welcome address.

Dr. Harikrishna Varma, Head of the BMT Wing, delivered the vote of thanks. The personnel of SCTIMST and Agappe team have participated in the program

