

Govt to set-up two genomic sequencing labs in J&K

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It will enhance the healthcare capacity manifold in the UT: Vivek Bhardwaj (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary, Department Health & Medical Education



Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Health Department has decided to set-up two genomic sequencing labs in the UT. These labs will be set-up at Medical colleges Jammu and Srinagar to ensure better healthcare management specially during the COVID like situations in the respective regions.

The purchase order for the Next Generation DNA sequencing system has been placed with M/S Life Technologies Holdings Pvt Ltd and the labs are expected to be functional by March 2022. Cost of one lab is approximately Rs.1.25crore.

The Next Generation Sequencing system will enable sequencing of SARS COV2 genome for the Viral surveillance and epidemiology research. The system can also be used in future for clinical research in other infectious diseases as well as in Oncology and Reproductive Health. This technology is used by various research institutes, hospitals and molecular labs around the world.

As part of the agreement, the experts from the supplier multi-national company will operationalise the lab and trains the staff for 6 months period on genome sequencing. Presence of genomic sequencing labs in the UT will reduce dependence on labs based outside Jammu & Kashmir and also help in detecting any disease at the preliminary stage.