

VNIT Hands over PPE Ultra Violet Sanitization Units to AIIMS for Fight Against COVID-19

Nagpur, 05 May 2020

Today at 4pm, in a small function conducted at the board room of VNIT Nagpur, Professor P. M. Padole Director, VNIT formally handed over two models of ultra-violet sanitizer USANIT_1 and USANIT_2 to Major General Dr Vibha Dutta, Director, AIIMS, Nagpur. Prof. Pramod Padole and Maj Gen (Dr.) Vibha Dutta signed the extended Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the handing over ceremony at VNIT Nagpur. The MOU signing was followed by the live demonstration of the equipment.

It may be remembered that Dr Padole declared on Saturday 25th April 2020 that, a team of professors and engineers of Electronics and Communication Engineering department has started working on the UV- sanitizer models. The work was completed on the war footing on Sunday 04th May 2020 and the models were designed, implemented and tested in a short span of only 8 days during lock down to facilitate the fight against COVID-19.

It is a known fact that washing clothes and PPE kits of the health workers and patients put the lives of the washer men at risk. The ultra violet sanitization units use the ultraviolet radiations for disinfecting the personal protection kits, masks, gloves and aprons used by the healthcare personnel involved in the treatment and care of COVID-19 patients. The items to be disinfected are to be hanged in the UV sanitizer units for designated time for expected 99.5% sanitization. The operation of the unit is automatic and user friendly so that they can be operated even by semiskilled workers. The designed equipment are technically at par with the commercially available sanitizers in national and international markets. However due to lock down it has become difficult to make them available due to import restrictions. The team comprising of Prof. Kishor Bhurchandi, Dr. Prabhat Sharma and Dr. Deep Gupta from Electronics and communication Engineering department has designed the systems technically. The systems were implemented and lab tested by the team of professors and engineers Mr. Sudhir Kumar Singh and Mr. Shrawan Kumar at the departmental laboratory. In the days of lock down, the team received help from HINDALCO officers Mr. Raveesh Kumar Verma and Mr. Manoj Hote in making the aluminium lining material available. Most of the material used in the design were other domestic items. The representatives of AIIMS present during the ceremony expressed that the equipment are going to be very useful for sanitization of PPE kits. VNIT and AIIMS teams are further going to collaborate for performance evaluation of the equipment in the actual practice.

The MOU was signed in presence of Prof. V. B. Borghate (Dean R&C), Prof Jatin Bhat (Associate Dean, Industry Interaction) of VNIT, Professor K M Bhurchandi HOD Electronics and Communication Engineering and the other team members of VNIT. Prof. Dr. Mrunal Phatak, Dr. Sanjeev Chaudhari and Dr. Prathmesh Kamble of AIIMS were present on the occasion. All the participants were wearing mask and social distancing was maintained throughout.



Prof. Padole and Dr. Vibha Dutta exchanging the MoU