



Task Force on Repurposing of Drugs (TFORD) for COVID-19

S&T Core Group on COVID19 constituted by PSA to GoI



सत्यमेव जयते
Office of Principal Scientific Adviser
to the
Government of India

TFORD-COVID19-India

Media Coverage by 24 May 2020

Compiled by Tejas Shah, Nerve Center Team, TFORD

Publisher: Times of India

Date: 14th May 2020.

City: Kolkata

URL: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/state-recommends-rheumatoid-arthritis-drug-to-fight-covid-19/articleshow/75726661.cms>

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Bengal government recommends rheumatoid arthritis drug to fight Covid-19

Sumati Yengkhom | TNN | Updated: May 14, 2020, 11:09 IST

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KOLKATA: Bengal government's health treatment protocol has recommended to re-purpose Tocilizumab, a drug traditionally used in the treatment of patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, to treat severe Covid cases. The protocol spells out the specific conditions, when this medicine can be administered as well as the dosage.

Representative image

According to reports, clinical trials for the administration of this drug on Covid patients have begun in several cities in India. This took place after the Task Force for Repurposing of Drug (TFORD) for Covid-19, constituted by the Centre, marked it to be the most ready and potential in the fight against the disease, doctors said.

WHAT A LEPROSY DRUG HAS TO DO WITH TREATING COVID-19

Publisher: Times of India

Date: 11th May 2020.

URL: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/what-a-leprosy-drug-has-to-do-with-treating-covid-19/articleshow/75668327.cms>

NOT ALL CANDIDATES HOLD EQUAL PRIOMISE

73% “drug potential score” of two drugs — favipiravir and tocilizumab — which is the highest for the 19 treatments analysed (results for several are awaited) by the Task Force for Repurposing of Drugs. They also have a 79% “drug readiness score” for how easily they can be manufactured and distributed. The same study scored hydroxychloroquine low on potential but high on readiness.



Publisher: Times of India

Date: 17th May 2020.

City: Pune.

URL:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/remdesivir-vs-favipiravir-other-repurpose-drugs-for-covid-19/articleshow/75783016.cms>

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NEWS / CITY NEWS / PUNE NEWS / REMDESIVIR VS FAVIPIRAVIR & OTHER REPURPOSE DRUGS FOR COVID-19

Remdesivir vs Favipiravir & other repurpose drugs for Covid-19

TNN | May 17, 2020, 04:22 IST

✉ 🖨 A- A+



India needs to urgently decide on a course of medicines for Covid-19 treatment. The virus is here to stay, at least in the near-term. A vaccine too, is a while away.

There are at least 50 different drugs, from HIV protease inhibitors to anti-virals to ACE inhibitors, anti-inflammatory, pneumonia, respiratory, malaria, TB, arthritis, leprosy, alcohol dependence, immune modulators, and anti-diarrhoea that are being tested.

But the Indian Council of Medical Research has approved a Lopinavir-Ritonavir fixed dose combination (FDC), that was originally prescribed for the treatment of HIV/AIDS, for Covid-19 patients. Clinical studies in drug repurposing and FDC, involve the testing of optimal dosage on limited number of patient cohorts. When time is of the essence, drug dosage and efficacy as well as side effects are clearly known for repurposed drugs. These drugs also offer the advantage of typically being off-patent (the older ones) and are already being manufactured by Indian generic pharmaceutical companies. The Task Force for Repurposing of Drugs ranked Favipiravir and Tocilizumab as the most promising to fight the disease.

Publisher: CNBC

Date: 11th May 2020.

City: Pune.

URL:


<https://www.cnbctv18.com/healthcare/expect-to-complete-development-of-favipiravir-in-few-weeks-says-laurus-labs-5836571.htm>

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Healthcare

Expect to complete development of Favipiravir in few weeks, says Laurus Labs

Updated : May 11, 2020 08:19 PM IST



CNBC-TV18

Laurus Labs is in the process of developing Favipiravir antiviral tablets, which have been touted to be effective against coronavirus, said Satyanarayana Chava, Founder and CEO of the company, adding that once they are developed, the firm will apply for manufacturing licence.

"We are in the development stage on Favipiravir right now. We expect to complete our development in few weeks' time and then we will apply for manufacturing licence with DCGI soon," said Chava.

Antiviral drug Favipiravir and immune-modulator drug Tocilizumab are the most promising drugs in terms of their readiness for use and potential against COVID-19, the government task force for repurposing of drugs (TFORD) recently said in its first such assessment.

Favipiravir is an anti-viral drug and it is approved in Japan for treating influenza. It is currently being tested in 18 clinical trials for COVID-19 and results from two studies have shown a positive outcome while data from other trials is awaited.

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Publisher: News18


Date: 1st May 2020.

URL: <https://www.news18.com/news/india/remdesivir-race-hots-up-to-find-coronavirus-cure-a-look-at-potential-treatments-for-the-pandemic-2600457.html>

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As Race Hots Up to Find Coronavirus Cure, A Look at Potential Treatments Being Tested for the Pandemic



While there is a race to create a vaccine against the infectious disease, countries across the globe are also conducting clinical trials on 'repurposed drugs'.

Nikhil Ghanekar

NEWS18.COM
LAST UPDATED: MAY 1, 2020, 1:44 PM IST

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What is the assessment of Indian government of these drugs?

The government's task force on repurposing of drugs did a first-of-its kind assessment last week on the drugs that have potential for Covid-19 treatment. News18 was the first to report this assessment which showed that Antiviral drug Favipiravir and immune-modulator drug Tocilizumab are the most promising drugs in terms of their readiness for use and potential for Covid-19 treatment.

The task force has said that this assessment, based on scientific literature available globally, will be dynamic in nature. As and when information and findings of clinical trials get updated, the assessment and scoring of drugs will reflect the change. Favipiravir is an anti-viral drug and it is approved in Japan for treating influenza. It is currently being tested in 18 clinical trials for Covid-19 and results from two studies have shown a positive outcome while data from other trials is awaited.

The task force is also evaluating the patent barriers in the event an effective drug has to be produced in India on an urgent basis.

Publisher: Times of India

Date: 30th April 2020.

City: Pune.

URL:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/favipiravir-tocilizumab-hold-most-potential-in-covid-19-fight/articleshow/75438783.cms>

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NEWS / CITY NEWS / PUNE NEWS / FAVIPIRAVIR & TOCILIZUMAB HOLD MOST POTENTIAL IN COVID-19 FIGHT

Favipiravir & Tocilizumab hold most potential in Covid-19 fight


Ardhra Nair | TNN | Apr 30, 2020, 04:57 IST



PUNE: The Task Force for Repurposing of Drugs (TFORD) for Covid-19, which has been constituted by the Union government, has ranked Favipiravir and Tocilizumab as the drugs that show the most readiness and potential in the fight against the disease.

ASSESSMENT OF 19 DRUGS

- The analysis of the drugs was done by the Task Force for Repurposing of Drugs. Each drug was tested for potential & readiness against Covid-19
- Favipiravir is an antiviral drug being used to treat influenza
- In China, scientists claimed Covid-19 patients treated with favipiravir tested negative for the virus after a median of four days. In another study in Wuhan, patients taking the drug reportedly recovered from fever two days earlier than those who did not take the medication
- Researchers said favipiravir stopped replication of viral genes within infected cells
- Tocilizumab is a drug that's being used to treat arthritis
- Studies have shown the drug has been able to prevent extreme inflammation in gravely ill Covid-19 patients
- Researchers said the drug might be able to stop a deadly immune response known as cytokine storms. This phenomenon occurs when the body's reaction to a foreign body such as a disease or chemical creates acute inflammation
- Cytokine storms are life-threatening and occur in severely ill Covid-19 patients





(Sources: Media reports)

Publisher: BioVoice

Date: 28th April 2020.

URL: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/favipiravir-tocilizumab-hold-most-potential-in-covid-19-fight/articleshow/75438783.cms>



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Mapping potential drugs for COVID-19: Task Force constituted by PSA releases its assessment

The Task Force for Repurposing of Drugs (TFORD) for COVID19, constituted by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Dr K VijayRaghavan, has released its first assessment of several drug candidates and their readiness for use in India

New Delhi: The Task Force for Repurposing of Drugs (TFORD) for COVID19, constituted by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Dr K VijayRaghavan, has released its first assessment of several drug candidates and their readiness for use in India. The TFORD developed an evidence-based scoring mechanism to assess drug candidates for their potential as COVID-19 therapy in India.

This Task Force was constituted to track the latest and continuously evolving information on drug candidates, carry out an inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional assessment of drug candidates, anticipate and strengthen a translation ecosystem for drug development and to support informed decision making.

Publisher: New18 India

Date: 27th April 2020.

URL: <https://www.news18.com/news/india/coronavirus-treatment-update-covid-19-cure-medicines-favipiravir-tocilizumab-hydroxchloroquine-2595057.html>



The screenshot shows the News18 India website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'NEWS 18 INDIA' logo, a language selector set to 'English', and buttons for 'WATCH LIVE TV' and 'DOWNLOAD NEWS18 APP'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with categories: HOME, CORONAVIRUS, POLITICS, INDIA, ENTERTAINMENT, TECH, AUTO, BUZZ, VIDEOS. A 'Trending Topics' section shows '#Coronavirus'. The main article headline is 'Govt Task Force Ranks Favipiravir, Tocilizumab as Most Promising Drugs Against Covid-19'. To the left of the text is a photo of two healthcare workers in full PPE attending to a patient in a hospital bed. To the right, a short paragraph discusses Hydroxchloroquine. Below the text, there's a byline for 'Nikhil Ghanekar' with a Twitter icon, and a 'LAST UPDATED' timestamp of 'APRIL 27, 2020, 9:44 PM IST'.

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Govt Task Force Ranks Favipiravir, Tocilizumab as Most Promising Drugs Against Covid-19



Hydroxchloroquine, the anti-malarial drug that was recommended by ICMR for use among health care workers, did not score high on drug potential parameter even as it scored well on the readiness index.

Nikhil Ghanekar

NEWS18.COM

LAST UPDATED: APRIL 27, 2020, 9:44 PM IST

Publisher: New18 India

Date: 30th April 2020.

URL: <https://www.cnbctv18.com/healthcare/coronavirus-cure-govt-task-force-ranks-favipiravir-tocilizumab-as-promising-drugs-against-covid-19-5805311.htm>



Healthcare

Coronavirus cure: Govt task force ranks favipiravir, tocilizumab as promising drugs against COVID-19

Updated : May 12, 2020 08:52 AM IST

► The 19 drugs under consideration for repurposing are; Chloquine, HCQ, Remdesivir, Lopinavir/Ritonavir, Baloxavir Marboxil, Darunavir, Ribavirin+IFN betam Galidesivir, Oseltamivir, Umifenovir, Camostat mesylate, Ruxolitinib, Interferon beta, Tocilizumab, Ustekinumab, Nigericin, Teicoplanin and Ivermectin.



Publisher: CNBC

Date: 12th May 2020.

URL: <https://www.cnbctv18.com/healthcare/coronavirus-cure-govt-task-force-ranks-favipiravir-tocilizumab-as-promising-drugs-against-covid-19-5805311.htm>

Publisher: One India Telgu

Date: 28th April 2020.

URL: <https://in.news.yahoo.com/govt-task-force-ranks-favipiravir-153340860.html>

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ఆ రెండు డ్రగ్స్.. కరోనా వైరస్పై యుద్ధంలో చిగురిస్తున్న ఆశలు..

By Srinivas Mittapalli | Updated: Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 11:38 [IST]

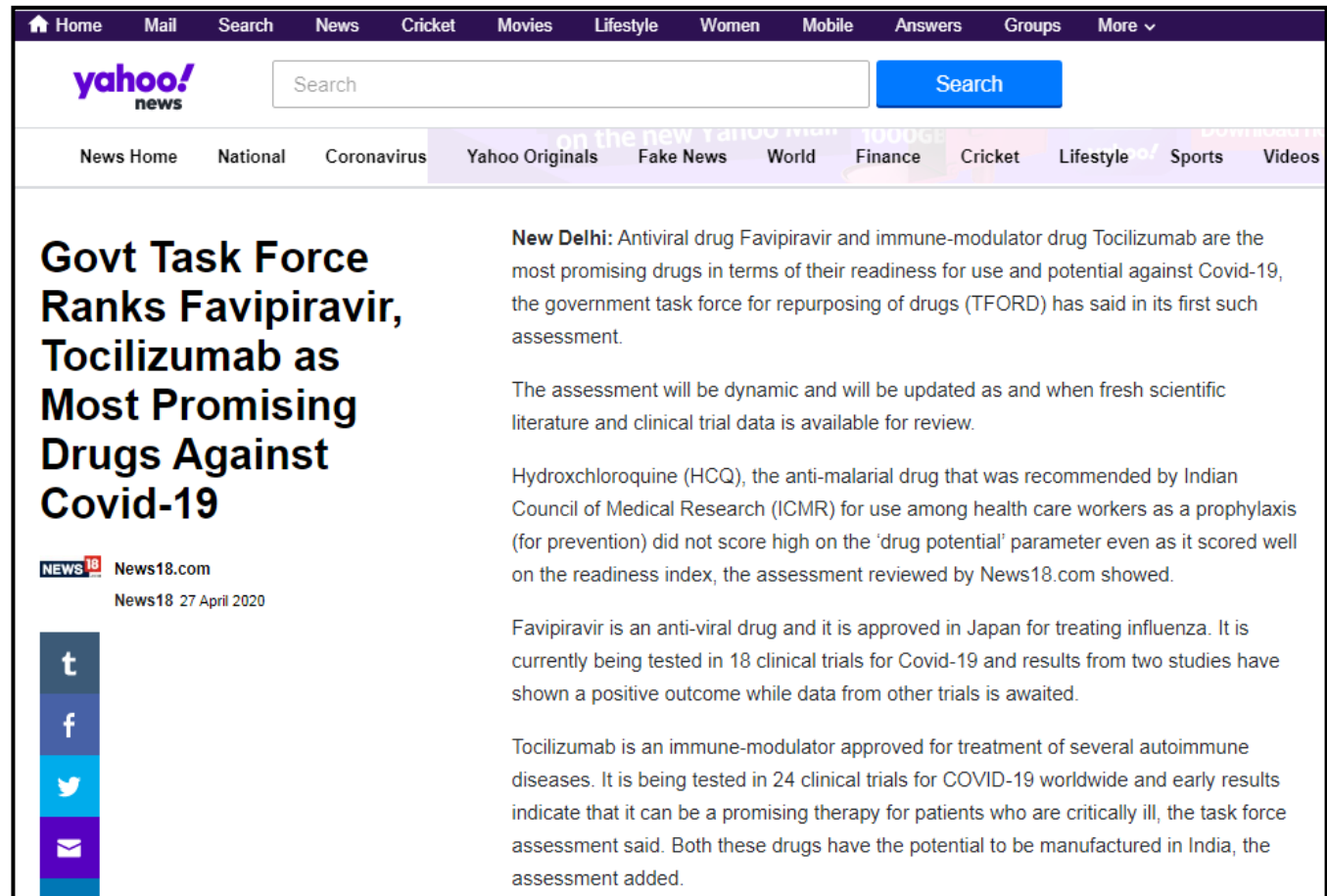


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కరోనా వైరస్కు వ్యాక్సిన్ కనిపెట్టేందుకు ప్రపంచవ్యాప్తంగా అనేక దేశాలు తలమునకలయ్యాయి. ఈ క్రమంలో ఇప్పటికే ఆయా చికిత్సల్లో వాడుతున్న డ్రగ్స్ను సైతం కరోనా వైరస్పై పరీక్షించి చూస్తున్నాయి.

ఇందులో భాగంగా చైనా,జపాన్ వంటి దేశాలు 'ఫవిపిరవిర్' అనే యాంటీ-వైరల్ డ్రగ్ను కరోనా వ్యాక్సిన్గా అభివృద్ధి చేయడంపై ఫోకస్ చేశాయి. భారత ప్రభుత్వం నియమించిన టాస్క్ ఫోర్స్(TFORD) సైతం ఫవిపిరవిర్ యాంటీ వైరల్ డ్రగ్,ఇమ్మ్యూన్-మాడ్యులేటర్ డ్రగ్-తోసలిజుమాబ్ కోవిడ్-19 చికిత్స విధానంలో ఆశాజనకంగా కనిపిస్తున్నాయని తాజాగా పేర్కొంది.





Publisher: Yahoo India

Date: 27th April 2020.

URL: <https://in.news.yahoo.com/govt-task-force-ranks-favipiravir-153340860.html>

Publisher: The Economic Times

Date: 19th April 2020.

URL:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/can-coronavirus-crisis-change-indian-science-for-good/articleshow/75224904.cms>

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Can coronavirus crisis change Indian science for good?

It's unlike software. Vaccines, drugs and medical devices cannot be churned out overnight.

By Malini Goyal, Ishani Duttagupta, ET Bureau | Last Updated: Apr 19, 2020, 09:43 AM IST

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Covid-19 has brought India to a halt.

But for Anita Gupta, it has kicked off a frenetic race against time. For the bureaucrat — the associate head of innovation and entrepreneurship, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India — the day typically begins at 6 am and ends well past midnight. “I am working two shifts,” she says.

Publisher: NavoDay Times

Date: 18th May 2020.

URL:

<https://www.navodayatimes.in/news/khabre/indian-govt-made-task-force-who-decides-drug-will-be-effective-prsgnt/144662/>

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भारत सरकार ने कोरोना के इलाज के लिए बनाई टास्क फोर्स, बताएगी कौनसी दवा होगी कारगर

Updated on 4/30/2020

नई दिल्ली/टीम डिजिटल। भारत में कोरोना वायरस के खिलाफ लड़ी जा रही जंग में कौनसी दवाएं काम कर रही हैं और कौन सी कर सकती हैं इसके लिए भारत द्वारा बनाई एक टास्क फोर्स परिक्षण कर रही है। यह टास्क फोर्स उन दवाओं का भी परिक्षण कर के देखेगी जो पहले से कोरोना के लिए इस्तेमाल कि जा रही हैं।

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इसी परिक्षण के अंतर्गत काम करते हुए टास्क ने पता लगाया है कि एंटीवायरल दवा फविपिराविर (Favipiravir) और टोसिलीजुमाब (Tocilizumab) कोरोना के इलाज में काफी कारगर साबित हो सकती हैं। हालांकि यह अभी एक आंकलन भर ही होगा। इसकी पुष्टि तब होगी जब इनके ट्रायल लिए जायेंगे।

Coronavirus Cure: All eyes on the trials of these drugs as global race for treatment of COVID-19 intensifies



Updated: Fri, 01 May 2020 01:24 PM IST



Remdesivir, Lopinavir/Ritonavir, Lopinavir/Ritonavir with Interferon beta-1a and Chloroquine or Hydroxychloroquine are the options selected for the trials.

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Date: 1st May 2020.

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<https://english.jagran.com/lifestyle/coronavirus-cure-all-eyes-on-the-trials-of-these-drugs-as-global-race-for-treatment-of-covid19-intensifies-10011351>

Publisher: Lokmat

Date: 28th April 2020.

URL:

<https://www.lokmat.com/national/coronavirus-govt-task-force-ranks-favipiravir-tocilizumab-most-promising-drugs-sss/>

Coronavirus : कोरोनाविरोधातील लढाईत आशेचा किरण, देशात 'ही' औषधं देत आहेत व्हायरसला टक्कर

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By ऑनलाइन लोकमत | Follow  | Published: April 28, 2020 01:37 PM | Updated: April 28, 2020 01:40 PM



A⁺ A⁻



Publisher: One India Tamil

Date: 27th April 2020.

URL:

<https://www.lokmat.com/national/coronavirus-govt-task-force-ranks-favipiravir-tocilizumab-most-promising-drugs-sss/>

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By Shyamsundar I | Published: Monday, April 27, 2020, 22:07 [IST]

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Publisher: One India Hindi

Date: 28th April 2020.

URL:

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सरकार द्वारा गठित टास्क फोर्स का दावा, कोरोना के इलाज में फेविपिरवीर, टोसीलिज़ुमाब सबसे कारगर दवा

By Ankur Singh | Updated: Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 6:22 [IST]



नई दिल्ली। कोरोना वायरस के इलाज में एंटीवायरल ड्रग फेविपिरवीर और इम्यून-मोड्यूलेटर ड्रग टोसीलिज़ुमाब सबसे कारगर दवा हैं। सरकार द्वारा इस दवा के प्रयोग के लिए आंकलन करने के लिए टास्क फोर्स का गठन किया गया था। इस टास्क फोर्स ने अपने पहले मूल्यांकन में कहा है कि यह दवा कोरोना के इलाज में सबसे कारगर दवा है। इसकी समीक्षा के बाद इसपर वैज्ञानिक दस्तावेज तैयार जाएगा, क्लीनिकल ट्रायल किया जाएगा और फिर इसके बारे में अपडेट दिया जाएगा कि इसका इस्तेमाल कब किया जा सकता है। बता दें कि आईसीएमआर ने हाइड्रोक्सीक्लोरोक्वीन जोकि मलेरिया के इलाज में इस्तेमाल होती है उसे तमाम स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों को कोरोना के इलाज में इस्तेमाल करने की सलाह दी थी, लेकिन इसका कोई खास असर होता नहीं दिख रहा है।

India Panel Favors Favipiravir, Tocilizumab As It Assesses COVID-19 Treatments

Strides Begins Favipiravir Exports, Glenmark to Start Trials

30 Apr 2020 | ANALYSIS



by Vibha Ravi

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Executive Summary

In a preliminary assessment of repurposed COVID-19 treatments by a government-appointed panel to assess the readiness and potential of a drug to be used in India, favipiravir and tocilizumab have emerged as front-runners. With Strides Pharma exporting the antiviral and Glenmark set to begin clinical trials, even the industry is supporting favipiravir, which is already in studies in Japan and China.

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BUSINESS

From Disruptive Covid Chaos, Comes an Opportunity for India's Pharmaceutical Industry

The sector faces the challenge to transition from being pharmacy of the world to a global research laboratory.



Representative image. Credit: Reuters



Vaishali Basu Sharma



BUSINESS 22/MAY/2020

COVID 19 has brought to the fore and fused the subjects of science, sustainability, and social issues. On May 14, 2020 the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) **announced that it would partner** with the World Health Organization (WHO) on the Global Solidarity Trial for Treatment of the COVID-19 disease and fast-track trials to help in finding an effective treatment.

25% or 1.69 million of the 4.64 million people affected by the virus have been cured. According to the WHO, there are currently no drugs licensed for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19. Vaccines and treatment options for COVID-19 are currently being investigated around the world. Researchers are performing randomized controlled trials in humans before potential vaccines and other treatments become available.