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IIT forms 3 teams to help beat crisis

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Bhubaneswar: IIT Bhubaneswar has formed three teams to study coronavirus in its bid to help the government beat the life-threatening respiratory disorder.

RV Rajakumar, director of the institution, said he has formed the teams to find ways to carry out waste treatment and sanitisation during this pandemic. They can also explore how to make sanitisers, disinfectants and ventilators to help the government.

The first team comprising three members of the biology faculty will conduct research on finding out the different characteristics of the coronavirus. The team will do so in collaboration with other national institutions. "We know that it is a new virus and we have to deeply understand its behaviour in order to control it," he added.

The second team of five members will consist of the faculty of mechanical engineering. They will work on fogging machines, disinfectant sprayers and creation of ventilators.

The third team comprises the faculty of the civil and environment engineering departments and will work on waste treatment, sanitisation methods and preparedness.

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> **RV RAJAKUMAR**
> IITBBS director

"In the worst scenario, patients will be isolated in their houses. For this, they need to take necessary precautions to prevent others from getting infected," Rajakumar added.

He said the disinfectant idea will help municipal authorities. "In future, we are planning to collaborate with other institutions to study drug designing. These studies will help researchers understand the virus," said Rajakumar.

The IIT director said he had put forth these research ideas and information about the formation of teams before the Union human resource development minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' during a review meeting on Wednesday.

Rajakumar said the institution is also collaborating with the Nabakrishna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies (NCDS), Bhubaneswar, to create an information dissemination model that can be used during a pandemic.