



Fungal Powder to Boost Immunity

Why in News

The **Bodoland University (BU)** of Assam has developed a fungal powder to help people boost their immunity to [Covid-19](#) disease.

Key Points

- The fungal powder is from a parasitic but rare “**super mushroom**” called ***Cordyceps militaris***.
- The super mushroom was powdered through **lyophilisation** (freeze-drying) at -80°C . The outcome was a potent pinch of *C. militaris*.
 - Lyophilisation, also known as freeze-drying, is a dehydration method applying low temperatures and reduced ambient pressure.
- ***Cordyceps*** is a genus of parasitic fungi that grows on the larvae of insects. There are more than 400 species of it present. *C. militaris* is one of them.
 - Often referred to as a super mushroom, it is known for its anti-ageing, anti-viral, energy and immunity-boosting effect.
- Apart from the fungal powder, the team at BU has also developed a membrane mask that costs less than Rs. 4 per unit, herbal and alcohol-based sanitisers, laser and LED-assisted unmanned sanitisation tunnel, a low-cost physical-cum-chemical sanitisation box and a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kit with an aquarium aerator.

[Source: TH](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/fungal-powder-to-boost-immunity>