



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH Department of Health Research

Press Release

Date: 26 June, 2021

India achieves milestone of 40 crores COVID-19 Sample Testing

- *Number of Covid-19 testing laboratories at more than 2600*

Indian Council of Medical Research [ICMR], the apex body at the forefront of formulating COVID-19 testing strategy in India has achieved the milestone of conducting 40 crores testing on 25th June, 2021. With average testing of more than 18 lakhs per day in the month of June, India has tested 40,18,11,892 samples across the country till 25th June 21 [Friday].

As on 1st June 2021, India had tested 35 Crores COVID-19 samples, it reached 40 crores mark on 25th June, 2021. This has been enabled by rapidly increasing testing infrastructure and capacity across the country. ICMR has been enhancing COVID-19 testing capability across the country by expanding and diversifying testing capacity by leveraging technology and facilitating innovation in affordable diagnostic kits.

Exponential rise in Covid-19 Samples Testing	
Testing in Crores	Date
40 crores	25th June 2021
35 Crores	1st June 2021
30 Crores	8th May 2021
25 Crores	6th April 2021
20 Crores	6th February 2021
10 Crores	23rd Oct 2020
1 Crores	7th July 2020

Prof (Dr.) Balram Bhargava, Director General, ICMR said, “We have effectively responded to the evolving epidemic through focused and collaborative efforts of the Centre, State/UTs government. Exponential increase in testing has led to early identification, prompt isolation & effective treatment of COVID-19 cases. These have eventually resulted in a sustained low fatality rate. This testing milestone are testimony to the fact that India has been successful in implementing strategy of 5T approach “Test, Track, Trace, Treat and use of Technology” efficiently, which will enable us to contain the spread of the pandemic.”

ICMR’s concentrated efforts towards augmenting and diversifying testing prepared the infrastructure which made it possible to deliver on India’s increased testing requirements in the wake of the second wave of coronavirus. Focus on reducing turnaround time made it possible to conduct record sample testing. ICMR has been enhancing COVID-19 testing capability across the country by leveraging technology and facilitating innovation in affordable diagnostic kits. Through our ardent efforts, it was ensured that a specific testing platform are made available

addressing general testing (RT-PCR), High-throughput testing (COBAS), testing at remotest places and PHCs (TrueNAT, CBNAAT), in containment areas (rapid antigen testing) and for large number & migrant population testing (pooled sample testing). The total number of diagnostic laboratories has reached 2675. Of which dedicated **government laboratories are 1676 and private laboratories number stands at 999**. ICMR has also approved India's first self-use Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) for COVID-19 and is encouraging self-test kits to reduce queues in laboratories, reduce costs, dissipate the burden on existing manpower for sample collection from homes, and provide results without delay.

About ICMR

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world. The ICMR has always attempted to address itself to the growing demands of scientific advances in biomedical research on the one hand, and to the need of finding practical solutions to the health problems of the country, on the other. The ICMR has come a long way from the days when it was known as the IRFA, but the Council is conscious of the fact that it still has miles to go in pursuit of scientific achievements as well as health targets. The Council's research priorities coincide with the National health priorities such as control and management of communicable diseases, fertility control, maternal and child health, control of nutritional disorders, developing alternative strategies for health care delivery, containment within safety limits of environmental and occupational health problems; research on major non-communicable diseases like cancer, cardiovascular diseases, blindness, diabetes and other metabolic and haematological disorders; mental health research and drug research (including traditional remedies). All these efforts are undertaken with a view to reduce the total burden of disease and to promote health and well-being of the population. For more information, please visit <https://www.icmr.gov.in/>

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