



## Press Release

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020

# India achieves the milestone of 10 crores COVID-19 Sample Testing

- Last 5 crores sample testing was achieved in a record time of 45 days.
- Number of Covid-19 testing laboratories reaching 2000

Indian Council of Medical Research [ICMR], the apex body at the forefront of formulating COVID-19 testing strategy in India has achieved milestone of conducting 10 crores testing on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020. With average testing of more than 10 lakhs per day in last 17 days. Till now, 74000 tests per million population have been conducted.

**India has conducted last five crores sample testing in only 45 days.** As on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 India had tested 5 Crores COVID-19 samples, and in less than 50 days it has reached 10 crores mark on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2020. 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
10 Crores	22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 2020
9 Crores	13 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2020
8 Crores	5 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2020
7 Crores	25 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2020
6 Crores	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2020
5 Crores	7 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2020
4 Crores	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2020
3 Crores	16 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2020
2 Crores	2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug 2020
1 Crores	6 <sup>th</sup> 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 along with effective contact tracing. These have eventually resulted in a sustained low fatality rate. This testing milestone is 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.”*

Ramping up of testing facility across India was at the core of increased testing per day. Through our ardent efforts, it was ensured that a specific testing platform is made available addressing general testing (RT-PCR), High-throughput testing (COBAS), testing at remote 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 laboratory has reach 1989. Of which dedicated government laboratories are 1122 and private laboratories number stands at 867.

#### **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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