



Press Release

Date: 17th September 2020

India crosses 6 crores Covid-19 sample testing

- *Last 2 crores sample testing was achieved in only 20 days*
- *Number of Covid-19 testing laboratories stands at 1751*

Indian Council of Medical Research [ICMR], the apex body at forefront of formulating COVID-19 testing strategy in India has crossed 6 crores testing mark on 16th September 2020. With average testing of more than 10 lakhs per day in last 20 days, India has tested 6,05,65,728 samples across the country till 16th September 2020. As on Wednesday, 11,36,613 sample testing was done in a single day.

India has conducted last two crores sample testing in only 20 days. As on 28th August, 2020 India had tested 4,04,066,09 COVID-19 samples, which crossed 6 crores mark on 16th September, 2020. This has been enabled by rapidly increasing testing infrastructure and capacity across the country, the total number of diagnostic labs has reach 1751. Of which dedicated government laboratories are 1059 and private laboratories number stands at 692.

ICMR has successfully responded to the evolving epidemic through focused and collaborative efforts of the Centre, State/UT government. India has been aggressively implementing “**Testing, Tracking & Treating**” strategy efficiently across the country. Recently, increasing number of cases has been reported from states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Naidu. ICMR is enhancing testing capacity in these states.

ICMR has been regularly assessing the situation and responding by revising testing strategy. In its latest advisory on COVID-19 testing strategy ‘Testing on Demand’ for individuals has been allowed. The State/UT governments have been allowed to simplify the modalities to facilitate testing on demand.



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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