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ICMR achieves milestone of conducting 10 Cr COVID-19 tests

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ICMR has been enhancing COVID-19 testing capability across the country by expanding and diversifying testing capacity

Exponential rise in Covid-19 Samples Testing	
Testing in Crores	Date
10 Crores	22nd Oct 2020
9 Crores	13th Oct 2020
8 Crores	5th Oct 2020
7 Crores	25th Sept 2020
6 Crores	16th Sept 2020
5 Crores	7th Sept 2020
4 Crores	28th Aug 2020
3 Crores	16th Aug 2020
2 Crores	2nd Aug 2020
1 Crores	6th July 2020

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 10 crore tests on October 22, 2020. With average testing of more than 10 lakh per day in the last 17 days. Till date 74000 tests per million population have been conducted.

India has conducted the last five crore sample testing in only 45 days. As on September 8, 2020 India had tested five crore COVID-19 samples, and in less than 50 days it has reached 10 crore mark on October 22, 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.

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 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 laboratory has reached 1989. Of which dedicated government laboratories are 1122 and private laboratories number stands at 867.