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ICMR releases comprehensive guidelines for establishment of biorepositories

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An important step towards strengthening Indiaâ??s biomedical research ecosystem



The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released comprehensive guidelines to create a harmonised framework for biorepository governance across its institutes, building on the wide range of biological specimens available nationwide.

The guidelines provide a clear structure for setting up and managing biorepositories, with standardised practices for the collection, storage, management, and sharing of biological specimens.

It will focus on quality systems, biosafety and biosecurity, data management, and ethical and regulatory compliance, while allowing flexibility based on the type of specimens at each institute; Establish a uniform system for the use of biospecimen resources in India to support innovation; Develop biorepositories for systematic biospecimen collection, preservation, and long-term research use.

The objectives rely on standardising processes through integrated information systems for collection, storage, sharing, and use of biological materials across ICMR institutes; ensuring availability of well-characterised, high-quality biospecimens for research, education, and product development; building national capacity by strengthening expertise in biorepository management and operations.

These guidelines mark an important step towards strengthening India’s biomedical research ecosystem through consistent and high-quality biospecimen management.