

DBT-THSTI's Bioassay lab expands COVID-19 testing to three districts of Haryana



New Delhi, May 15: The Bioassay Laboratory of the Department of Biotechnology's, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (DBT-THSTI) has tested 5,039 COVID-19 samples as of 12th May 2020 with samples coming from districts of Palwal (Civil Hospital), Gurugram (Civil Hospital), and Faridabad (ESIC Hospital). Following ICMR's approval, the THSTI's Bioassay Laboratory was designated a COVID-19 testing laboratory last month. The Faridabad-based institute is the only DBT funded lab designated for COVID-19 testing in Haryana state.

The team led by Dr. Guruprasad Medigeshi, Professor at THSTI and Bioassay Laboratory Director, has also trained staff from Faridabad's ESI hospital and Hasan Khan Mewati General Medical College, Nalhar, Nuh to enable them to test samples in the respective diagnostic departments. ESI hospital has been assisted for infrastructure development. The team from THSTI helped to operationalize a lab for COVID-19 diagnosis at ESI hospital to handle the increased number of tests to be conducted in Faridabad. A total of eight researchers from ESIC and HKMGMC, Nuh have been trained to carry out testing, RNA extraction, running Real Time-PCR assays, analysing data and final reporting.

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