

Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited CDFD, Uppal

The Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited DBT's Uppal based Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) on 1st May 2020. The five-member team was led by Sri. Arun Baroka, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. Dr Debashis Mitra, Director, CDFD briefed the team about the actions taken by the institute to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Mitra informed the visitors that CDFD is conducting RT-PCR based diagnostics of nasopharyngeal samples received from different districts in Telangana. Presently, the institute is testing samples for the presence of both the E gene, which is present in all coronaviruses, and the SARS-CoV-2-specific RdRP gene based on the kit made available to them by the state.



Inter-Ministerial Central team visited CDFD laboratories involved in Covid-19 testing

The Telangana government has generously supported the efforts of CDFD with timely supply of testing kits and personal protective equipments (PPEs). Institute has the capacity to test 150-200 individual samples per day, and is ready to undertake testing of pooled samples as well. CDFD is gearing up to take part in an inter-institutional collaborative effort initiated by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India to sequence Indian isolates of SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Dr M D Bashyam, Dr Ashwin Dalal, Dr Rashna Bhandari and Dr. R. Harinarayanan are actively involved in the COVID-19 testing activities at CDFD. The inter-ministerial team members visited the COVID-19 diagnostics lab, where Dr. Mitra and the volunteers explained testing protocols to the visiting team.

Contact Person:

Varsha, Staff Scientist & Head-Science Communication

E-mail: scom@cdfd.org.in