

## **DBT supported programme helps set up COVID-19 testing lab in Aizawl**



New Delhi, July 06: The Mizoram Government has set up a COVID19 testing lab at Zoram Medical College in Aizawl. The faculty and research scholars involved in the Department of Biotechnology-sponsored Biotech Hubs in Mizoram played an important role in providing infrastructure and other support for this endeavour.

Biotech Hub coordinators and research scholars from Mizoram University (MZU), Pachhunga University College (PUC), Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Sciences (RIPANS) and Central Agricultural University (CAU) also offered technical support by holding demonstration and training to the Medical College faculty and staff on how to use the covid-19 test kit obtained from ICMR, New Delhi.

The four Biotech Hubs had transported the ABI Real-Time PCR, BioRAD RT-PCR and Roche RT-PCR machines, micropipettes, hot bath, and other minor equipments and consumables for use in the COVID-19 testing laboratory at the Medical College.

Mizoram University has also set up a Molecular Biology research lab at Zoram Medical College through the DBT-North East Region MDR-TB project and its facilities - autoclave, cooling centrifuge, deep freezer, consumables and glass wares are also used by the Zoram Medical College for the COVID-19 testing.

So far, the Zoram Medical College has tested more than 12,000 suspected samples and is conducting tests routinely. Now, during the movement of stranded people into the Mizoram state, more than 1000 samples are tested per day. Earlier, the samples from Mizoram were sent to Guwahati Medical College and Silchar Medical College for testing.

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Link: DBT NER Programme: <http://dbtindia.gov.in/schemes-programmes/promoting-biotechnology-north-east-region/about-ner-programme-ner-bpmc>