

DBT-NCCS crosses its first landmark with over 5000 samples tested for COVID

With growing COVID-19 cases, the Department of Biotechnology's National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune, has started receiving huge number of Covid-19 samples from Pune and other districts of Maharashtra. Undaunted by this task, the team at DBT-NCCS accelerated and doubled its testing efforts, and are now testing about two hundred samples per day. Within less than one and a half of having started sample testing, this centre has crossed its first landmark by testing over 5000 samples. This has been possible only due to the tireless and diligent efforts of several scientists and technical and other staff who have been working long hours and seven days a week. A short video shared on the NCCS social media and website offers a glimpse into the activities of the diagnostics team.



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The DBT's NCCS, Pune began testing samples for SARS-CoV-2 at the end of April, 2020, to facilitate the ongoing COVID-19 surveillance. Institute has repurposed some of the laboratories to serve as a testing centre, with extensive and speedy preparations made soon after it was approved as a diagnostics facility by the DBT, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Maharashtra State Government. Initially, fewer samples were sent to this centre from within the Pune district of Maharashtra. However, with Maharashtra being the worst affected state in India, a large number of samples are required to be tested every day.

Link: <https://youtu.be/ICgBoPiZNu4>