

## COVID-19 testing effort at inStem – 10,000 samples and counting...

Institute for Stem Cell Science & Regenerative Medicine (InStem) and National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru have responded promptly to the unprecedented and urgent public health crisis by setting up a testing laboratory that contributes to almost 10% of Karnataka's COVID-19 testing capacity.



The testing laboratory started on Apr 13, 2020 and reached a milestone of 10,000 on May 29, 2020. About 500 or more samples from various districts of Karnataka are being tested at the laboratory on daily basis. The level of commitment and support from the campus community has been outstanding. Faculty, young researchers, technical and administrative staff and laboratory support services have come forward to volunteer at all levels to implement the measures, working relentlessly for 14-16 h a day throughout the week.

The rapidity with which the COVID-19 pandemic engulfed the entire world is alarming, to say the least. Understanding spread by extensive widespread testing along with other measures, emerged as an important step in the management of the pandemic. COVID-19 testing is the need of the hour. Since state healthcare systems are severely overburdened, research institutions have stepped in to fill this gap by offering available infrastructure, skilled researchers and resources.