ICMR approves TB machines for Covid-19 testing

Part of: GS Prelims and GS-III- S&T

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has given its nod to Diagnostic machines used to test drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) for conducting Covid-19 tests. In this regard, *Truenat beta CoV test* on Truelab workstation will be used for screening test of COVID-19. A total of 800 truenat machines are available in India.

- Currently India is using real time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) testing approved by United States and Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

**About Truenat:**

- It is a battery operated small machine that requires minimal training and gives the result between 30-60 minutes.
- The sample of the throat and the nasal swab is collected by the trained technicians wearing personal protective equipment.
- There are two-way and four-way Truenat machines. Four-way Truenat machines can run 32 to 48 samples of multiple diseases – COVID19, HIV and TB, while two-way can handle 16 to 24 samples.
- The cost of a test on Truenat machines will be of Rs 1000-Rs.1500.

**ICMR**

- ICMR is India’s apex scientific body for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research.
- It was established in 1911 as Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) making it one of oldest and largest medical research bodies in the world.
- The ICMR functions under Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- Its Governing Body is presided over by Health Minister.
- It is assisted in scientific and technical matters by Scientific Advisory Board comprising eminent experts in different biomedical disciplines.
- ICMR’s research priorities coincide with national health priorities such as control and management of communicable diseases, fertility control, maternal and child health, control of nutritional disorders, research on major non-communicable diseases like cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and mental health research and drug research (including traditional remedies) and developing alternative strategies for health care delivery.

**Headquarter**– New Delhi

**Director General**– Prof. Balram Bhargava