Sero-surveillance

Recently, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) conducted a sero-surveillance study for Covid-19 in New Delhi. NCDC is under administrative control of the Directorate General of Health Services in the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Sero-surveillance:

**Detects Specific Antibodies:** It seeks to assess the prevalence of disease in a population by detecting the presence of specific antibodies against the virus.

**Immunity Check:** It can also be conducted to check if a person has developed immunity to certain diseases.

**Past Infections:** It indicates past infections (and which triggered an immune response), and is not used to detect active infections.

**Tested Immunoglobulin G Using ELISA:** The Sera (a part of blood) of samples were tested for IgG antibodies and Covid-19 infection using Covid Kavach ELISA kits approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

- **IgG** (Immunoglobulin G) is a type of antibody which develops in most Covid-19 patients (infections) at around two weeks after infection and remains in the blood even after recovery.
- **ELISA** (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) is a test that detects and measures antibodies in blood.