

## **Infectious Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratories**

The Indian Council of Medical Research is in the process of establishing “Infectious Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (IRDLS)” in State/Central Govt run institutes and medical colleges with functioning Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs), with the view of strengthening the verticals of diagnostic Bacteriology, Mycology and Parasitology. These institutes shall serve as Regional Referral level labs for diagnosis and research on infectious diseases, and shall be supported by ICMR with funding for equipment, infrastructure, manpower and consumables. These institutes shall have the following mandate:

- Quality assured advanced diagnostic testing of infectious diseases, including outbreak investigation
- Syndromic surveillance of infectious diseases
- Role as bio-repositories/bio-banks with well characterized relevant microbe strains and clinical samples
- Role as certified PT panel providers for infectious disease testing
- Role as accredited in-vitro diagnostics evaluation centers

ICMR has shortlisted and identified seven (07) VRDLs for establishment of IRDLs in the pilot phase through rigorous internal and external review, including on-site assessment. The seven identified sites are as follows (Table 1):

**Table 1: Proposed IRDLs in the pilot phase**

Region	IRDL	Funding status
Central India	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	Funded in August 2024
North India	King George’s Medical University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Funded in August 2024
South India	Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru, Karnataka	Funded in August 2024
North India	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi	Awaiting funding
Central India	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Awaiting funding
Western India	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur, Rajasthan	Awaiting funding
Eastern India	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Awaiting funding

ICMR intends to establish at least 10 IRDLs by early 2025 to significantly strengthen the diagnostic capacity of the country.