

IIT-D launches most affordable COVID-19 detection kit

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Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' e-launched the world's most affordable RT-PCR based COVID-19 diagnostic kit Corosure developed by IIT Delhi and approved by the ICMR and DCGI in New Delhi.

Pokhriyal informed that the diagnostic kit developed by IIT Delhi, which will be now available for use by the authorised testing labs with this launch, will significantly bring down the cost of COVID-19 RT-PCR testing.

The base price of the RT-PCR assay is Rs 399. Even after adding the RNA isolation and laboratory charges, the cost per test will be considerably cheaper compared to currently available kits in the market.

The Minister further informed that IIT Delhi has given license to 10 companies to manufacture COVID-19 diagnostic kit using the technology developed by its researchers.

In April 2020, IIT Delhi became the first academic institution to obtain the ICMR's approval for a real-time PCR-based diagnostic assay. It was also the first probe-free assay for COVID-19 approved by the ICMR. The assay was validated at the government's medical research body with a sensitivity and specificity of 100%.