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ShanMukha Innovations scales up â??Lab on Wheelsâ?? for COVID-19 testing

08 July 2021 | News

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ShanMukha Innovations, a startup incubated at the Society for Innovation and Development (SID) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), has scaled up deployment of its Mobile Infection Testing and Reporting (MITR) Labs. As of now, 12 such labs have been deployed across Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh where 1.5 lakh people have been tested so far.

Along with its operating partners, Shanmukha is supporting the testing needs required for COVID-19 across India. ShanMukha delivered its MITR Labs to Tata MD customised for their test process. Two of its labs were also deployed at Uttarakhand with operational partners for supporting the state government testing efforts at Kumbh Mela in April 2021.

MITR Labs enables access to highly accurate tests in remote areas and reduces the turnaround times between sample collection and final reports. The first set of MITR labs were facilitated by the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor and supported by Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) donors and NGO partners. During that phase, the first three mobile labs were handed over to Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute in August 2020 followed by the fourth deployment at AIIMS, New Delhi.

Arun B, Director, ShanMukha Innovations, said, “Mobile labs are playing a crucial role by reaching remote locations and enabling a reduction in turnaround time. We are in discussions for further scale-up plans and are interacting with multiple state governments and private labs as a preparedness solution for future waves.”