Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology - Wikipedia

Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology is a research institute in India, exclusive devoted to research in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. It is located at Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), the capital city of the state of Kerala in India. This centre is an autonomous institute under the Department of Biotechnology of the Govt. of India. Previously, it was an R&D centre under Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment which is a funding agency for research Institutes and centers in Kerala.

The centre was inaugurated on 18 November 2002 by then President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. The institute has highly focused research departments working on different areas of biological sciences under following areas.

- Cancer Research
- Cardiovascular Disease & Diabetes Biology
- Pathogen Biology
- Regenerative Biology
- Plant Biotechnology & Disease Biology
- Neurobiology
- Reproduction Biology
- Transdisciplinary Biology

The Center has a regional facility for Genetic Fingerprinting, which provides DNA analysis services for forensic & criminal investigations, paternity disputes, identification of wildlife remains, authentication of plants and seeds besides a battery of molecular diagnostics for genetic and infectious diseases. RGCB is also a major provider of laboratory and infrastructure services to other academic and research institutions. RGCB has a strength of 25 scientists, 120 Ph.D. students and around 100 research project staff. The centre has good infrastructural facilities for carrying out research in the field of Biotechnology. Financial support of Rs. 100 crores sanctioned by the Govt. of India in 2008, for a period of 3 years, apart from the yearly allocation of Rs. 25 crores, aims at making RGCB a world class research centre in the near future. RGCB is set to expand further into a second campus at Aakulum shortly. It would focus on R & D and also provide a unique"TEST & PROVE " facility to encourage biotechnology. BioSpectrum magazine ranked Bio-Technology course at RGCB as second best in the country only after Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai.[1]

RGCB started setting up a BSL4 lab in 2020.[2]

Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB)

Former name	Centre for Development of Education, Science and Technology (C-DEST), Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Development of Education, Science and Technology (RGC-DEST)

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Motto	Discoveries for better tomorrow
Established	1990
Parent institution	Ministry of Science & Technology (Department of Biotechnology)
Academic affiliation	University of Kerala, Regional Centre for Biotechnology, Manipal Academy of Higher Education
Director	Professor Chandrabhas Narayana
Academic staff	45
Administrative staff	27 + 54
Address	Thycaud Post, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014, Kerala, India , Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Campus	Urban
Website	https://rgcb.res.in/

RGCB also provide Medical Laboratory Services, Regional Facility for DNA Fingerprinting, Research Consultancy Services & Molecular Platforms, Laboratory Medicine and Molecular Diagnostics (LMMD)

Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), Department of Biotechnology, Government of India

Laboratory Medicine & Molecular Diagnostics

The only Laboratory under Govt of India with NABL ISO 15189-2012, ILAC accreditation, and NABH certification for Molecular Diagnostics.

Laboratory Medicine and Molecular diagnostic (LMMD), established as an ICMR Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) Grade 1 laboratory in 2011 at RGCB, is one among the 6 Grade 1 laboratory in India handling more than 220 infectious and non-infectious disease diagnostics. LMMD is the only lab in India under the Dept of Science and Technology, Govt of India with NABL ISO 15189-2012, NABH, and ILAC accreditations since 2016. By adhering to the stringent standards of the accreditation agencies, the reports generated by LMMD are honoured worldwide. LMMD has been at the forefront of pandemic surveillance, which has been proven time and again during different disease outbreaks, including SARS CoV-2, Dengue, H1N1, etc. The team comprises of highly trained professionals, who are also auditors for accreditation agencies, working round the clock, year in year out during these testing times. LMMD offers over 69 different viral disease tests, all bacterial infection testing inclusive of genetic analysis for antibiotic resistance, early prediction of lifestyle diseases, disease progression, and survival analysis using sequencing in diseases like cancer & cardiovascular diseases, and pharmacogenomic analysis for personalized medical care.

LMMD utilizes state-of-the-art in-vitro diagnostic (IVD) certified machines and reagents for all diagnostic parameters. The IVD certified machine ranges from stand-alone qPCR systems to fully automated high-throughput PCR workstations. The Department, in addition, utilizes next-generation sequencing (NGS) combined with top-of-the-line analysis pipelines and dedicated servers to perform genetic variant detection in pathogens and human diseases alike. The NGS facility is backed by a dedicated, professionally trained bio-informatics team.

This Department is a compulsory MCI recognized molecular diagnostics rotation Centre for various medical post-graduates. LMMD is recognized by ICMR, DBT, CDSCO, and DCGI as authorized testing centre for testing and reporting on the efficacy of newly developed test kits and devices designed to neutralize/eliminate pathogens including COVID-19 virus. LMMD is a participating centre with WHO's antibiotic resistance surveillance group. LMMD is an active member and contributor in Indian SARS-Covid-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), where the different variants of COVID-19 virus is sequenced and analysed for variant detection and reporting.

LMMD, through its efforts in translational research, has developed, prototyped, and bought to the market different technologies in the detection of transmissible diseases along with detection kits for snake envenomation, most of which are developed for the first time in the world. LMMD has got research and development partnerships with various governmental and private establishments alike both in India and abroad.