

# PRESS RELEASE

## An IIT Alumni Council initiative, India's first Covid 19 Test Bus Launched in Mumbai.

**Mumbai, May 4, 2020:** On Maharashtra Day , the first Covid19 Test bus was flagged off in Mumbai by Shri Aditya Thackeray , Minister of Tourism & Environment and Shri Rajesh Tope, Health Minister , Govt of Maharashtra. The Bus is an initiative by the C19 Taskforce of IIT Alumni Council that was brought to life with support from the Health Department of MCGM, Dr. Muffazal Lakadawala and Krsnaa Diagnostics Private Limited.

The Covid19 pandemic in India is throwing up challenges relating to detecting, preventing and treating the disease. In a country of 1.3 billion people, a pandemic such as this necessitates solutions that are affordable, accurate as well as scalable to millions. In the absence of any proven treatment, there is a desperate need for increased levels of testing, particularly in clusters or containment zones. Covid19 Test Bus facilitates access to affordable and rapid testing to people in dense urban areas whilst at the same time isolating doctors and facilitating large scale testing during the monsoons.

"The IIT Alumni Council has taken a pro-active approach to supporting the Government's efforts in fighting the Covid 19 challenge. We have acted swiftly and set up the IIT C19 Task Force to channelize the energies of the global IIT Alumni for this fight. The Covid 19 Test Bus is based on indigenous technology and to the best of our knowledge, is the first vehicle of its kind in the world with onboard genetic testing, AI based teleradiology and contactless sample collection. We chose Mumbai as the launch location given the relatively high number of cases in the city", said Ravi Sharma, President , IIT Alumni Council.

### About the Covid 19 Test Bus

The IIT C19 Test Bus is based on the indigenous Kodoy Technology Stack and executed by partner organizations led by IIT alumni. The Kodoy architecture involves E-vehicles for sample selection & telemedicine, algorithm based pooled genetic testing and indigenous megalabs capable of upto five million tests per month per lab. We expect this approach to facilitate a 80%+ reduction in costs and a 100x increase in testing capacity, hopefully within hundred days. The medical equipment on board M1 comprises of a low dosage digital Xray, real time teleradiology, contactless swab collection and instant RNA testing. The bus has been configured keeping for heavy

rains and has 384 sqft of lab space onboard. The M2 version will have a wireless robotic tele-operated ultrasound lung probe as well as a nanopore gene sequencer.

“Krsnaa Diagnostics, a leading venture capital funded diagnostic laboratory and teleradiology player in India with operations across 14 states and 1000+ locations, takes pride in partnering with IIT Alumni Council as the infrastructure and operations partner for the Covid 19 Test Bus. Krsnaa looks forward to working together with the IIT Alumni Council in India and other developing countries to leverage the indigenous technology and global knowledge pool of IITians to positively disrupt and radically transform healthcare in India”, said Ms Pallavi Jain, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Krsnaa Diagnostics Pvt. Ltd.

Explaining the standard operating procedures, Dr Muffazal Lakadawala, Chief Medical Officer and Mission Director at the NSCI hub added “We first carry out a digital chest X-ray which is immediately transmitted via the internet to doctors who use AI powered technology to determine the probability of the person being Covid positive using a High/ Medium/ Low scale. Then we collect the swab from the mouth and throat which is done across a glass screen whilst fully protecting the technician from any kind of contact with the patient. The swabs are sent to the designated test centers for the regular test”. The Bus has a sample collection capacity of 10-15 tests per hour. In addition to tests carried out on the bus, an end to end testing ecosystem has also been created for genome sequencing, antibody identification and gut biome mapping accessing remote labs through liquid nitrogen cooled cryoshippers.

### About IIT Alumni Council

IIT Alumni Council is the largest global body of alumni, students and faculty across all 23 IITs with 100+ city chapters. The IIT C19 Task Force was set up in February 2020 by the Global Board of the IIT Alumni Council. The objective of the Task Force is to rally the technological and venture capital prowess of alumni of all the IITs to launch a frontal attack on the Sars Cov2 virus that leads to the Covid19 disease. The IIT C19 Task Force is Chaired by IIT Kanpur alumnus Dr K Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Officer of the Government of India. It is financially supported by global foundations and Tier 1 social funds including the PanIIT Fund. The PanIIT Fund, which commenced operations in April 2020 is India's largest SEBI regulated domestic social philanthropic fund that brings together IIT Alumni, IIT faculty/students and industry to address technological challenges for urgent social challenges.

With over 20,000 active technologist participants and over one hundred city chapters, the IIT C19 Task Force set up by the IIT Alumni Council aspires to lead the fight against C19 by supplementing and complimenting the efforts of the central and state governments. The Council has rallied the considerable resources of the global IIT alumni to catalyze technological and financial interventions in Mumbai city, with a focus on south Mumbai.

For more information on IIT Alumni Council , please visit [www.iitalumnicouncil.org](http://www.iitalumnicouncil.org)

## C19 Test Bus (Exterior and Interior)

