



## Quasi-subspecies of Covid-19

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### Why in News

According to the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** a mixture of three quasi-subspecies of SARS-CoV-2 is in circulation in India.

However, scientists are yet to classify a **SARS-Cov-2** variant as an Indian strain.

### Key Points

- These imported variants of SARs-CoV-2 showed no differences from how they behaved in the place of origin.
  - India's COVID-19 cases were mainly from people with travel history and their immediate contacts, which is to say that this virus was brought in from outside.
- The government has also constituted a **Science and Technology Empowered Committee to** coordinate among science agencies, scientists, industries and regulatory bodies **for Covid-19 response.**
- The Committee will work with the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Institute for Science (IISc) to **take speedy decisions on research and development** keeping in view of the critical need to increase the testing facilities for COVID-19 disease.

### Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research.
- It was founded in **1911** with the name of Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) and **renamed as ICMR in 1949.**
- It is **funded** by the Government of India through the Department of Health Research, **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.**

**Source:TH**