

<u>"DISHA": DIagnostic Services in Healthcare: Availability & Geo-mapping of Laboratory services in India</u>

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Robust diagnostic healthcare services lay the foundation of an efficient, high-quality healthcare system. Up to 60-70% of all critical healthcare decisions are based on the evidence provided by laboratory services. Access to the information regarding the location and availability of the diagnostic tests is a critical necessity. In a country as vast as ours, we require the necessary resources to locate the laboratories which provide the required tests.

ICMR- National Institute of Pathology, New Delhi is in the process of cataloguing diagnostic public healthcare facilities throughout the country and construct a user friendly and comprehensive dynamic online map to showcase the availability of relevant laboratory services .

To enhance accessibility to essential information, we've implemented Geographic Information System (GIS) due to its resource integration capabilities. This enables us to develop solutions for identifying and locating diagnostic healthcare services more effectively.

It is a free public resource for locating the nearest diagnostic health facilities enabling increased utilization of public health services. Areas with an imbalance between population densities and diagnostic facilities can be identified. The data would enable the public health experts and government policy makers to consolidate the diagnostic healthcare system by empowering the existing labs or creating new facilities where necessary. This web portal is a dynamic platform which is being updated with new data points as and when we have the access to required data.

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