



## Test Positivity Rate

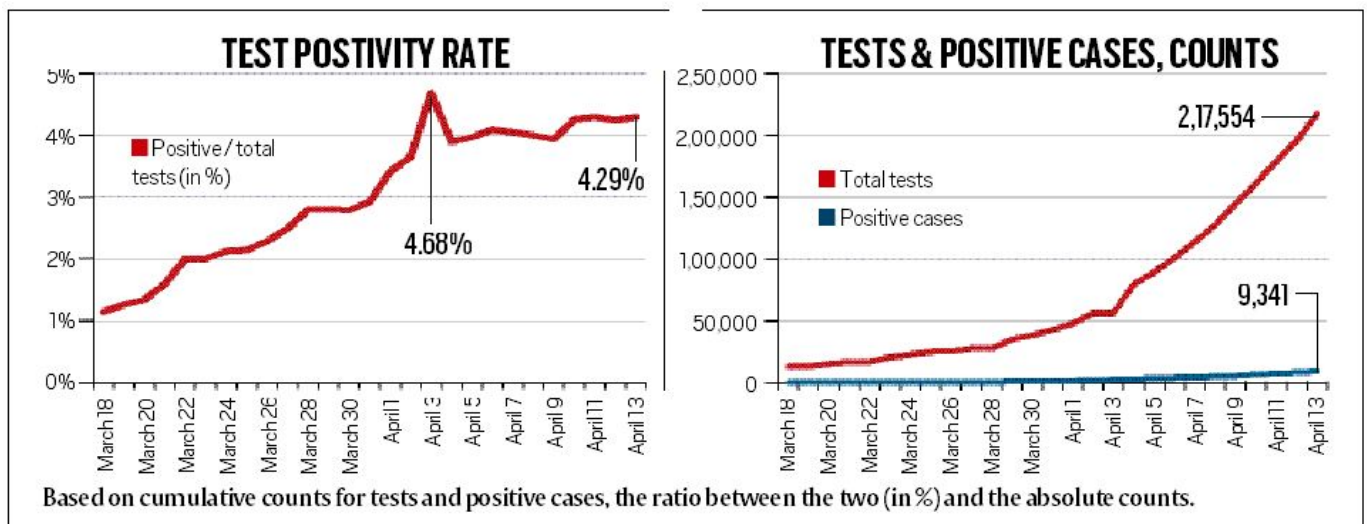
 [drishtias.com/printpdf/test-positivity-rate](https://drishtias.com/printpdf/test-positivity-rate)

### Why in News

Recently, the **Indian Council of Medical Research** (ICMR) has observed that the **test positivity rate** had **not changed substantially** over the last one to two months, **maintaining between 3% and 5%**.

### Key Points

- **Test Positivity Rate:**
  - It is the **proportion of positive cases among all tests done**.
  - It is taken to be a useful indicator if a substantial section of suspected cases has been tested.
  - It is **one among the measures for assessing the spread of an infection**.
- From data on tests for **Covid-19** and positive cases between 18<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> April, it emerges that the test positivity rate in India has been between 1.1% and 4.3% (ratios based on cumulative counts until any date).
- If **more people are tested** and the **positivity rate remains the same**, it's a **clue that the infection is where it was and is not expanding**.
  - A sudden spike in the infection spread would be an alarming concern.



### Indian Council of Medical Research

- It is the **apex body** in India for the **formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research**.

- Its mandate is to conduct, coordinate and implement medical research for the benefit of the society, translating medical innovations into products/processes and introducing them into the public health system.
- It is **funded by the Government of India through the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.**

**Source: IE**