



COVID-19 PR No-29

04.30PM

PRESS RELEASE

Bhubaneswar 09/04/2020,

Sri Subroto Bagchi, Chief Spokesperson of Govt. of Odisha on COVID-19, Chief Secretary Sri Asit Tripathy and Sri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Information & Public Relations Department briefed the Press about steps taken by Government of Odisha for prevention of COVID-19.

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik has expressed his heartfelt thanks to the people of the State for their support and cooperation in implementation of different measures taken by the Government to contain COVID-19.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced the extension of the period of ongoing Lock down till April 30 in the State. This decision has been taken considering the precious lives of our people which is the top most priority at this juncture. Government of India has also been requested to suspend all Rail and Air Services till then.
- Government of other States have been requested by Government of Odisha to take care of stranded Odia workers in different States. Government of Odisha also is providing all sort of facilities to the guest workers of other States stranded in Odisha.
- Under the direction of Hon'ble Chief Minister agricultural operations will continue during the lock down period.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed that programmes under MNREGS will be carried on to enable poor people to earn. Social distancing will be strictly followed.
- Stating food security as important to the Government, Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed to take all necessary steps for transportation of goods without any restriction during lock down period.
- Various steps are being taken for testing and treatment of COVID-19 patients. Odisha will have 1 lakh rapid testing facility very soon.

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- Hon'ble Chief Minister has extended his thanks to the Doctors who have registered themselves voluntarily to provide Telemedicine Service. In the meanwhile Telemedicine Services have already started and more than 500 Doctors have already registered to provide their services.
- All schools and colleges in the State will remain closed till 17th June.
- Cabinet has approved a proposal to purchase ICMR recognized COVID-19 Rapid Testing Kit. In this connection 1 Lakh Rapid Testing Kits will be purchased so that more COVID-19 test can be conducted.
- Cabinet has approved a ratification proposal in Epidemic Act-1897, through an ordinance. As per the ordinance the amount of punishment has been enhanced in the Act. Every offence shall be considered cognizable and bailable while maximum punishment will be 2 years of imprisonment or a fine of Rs. 10000/- or both.
- With Cabinet approval of a ratification in Odisha COVID-19: 2020 regulations, wearing masks in public places has become compulsory and fine upto Rs. 500/- shall be imposed for not wearing the mask.
- As Covid-19 pandemic has become biggest challenge, in the interest of public service the corpus of the contingency fund has been increased to Rs. 2000 crore from Rs. 400 crore to meet the urgent and emergent needs for containment management and preventive measures. It has been approved in the Cabinet Meeting held under Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister. An ordinance will come into force in this effect as Odisha Legislative Assembly is not in session.
- A 100 bedded COVID Hospital has started functioning today in the Hostel of Centurion University in Gajapati District, with joint collaboration of Odisha Hydro Power Corporation and Hi-tech Medical College. Along with this no of beds in COVID Hospitals at Cuttack, Jajpur, Keonjhar (Joda), Puri, Rourkela along with 2 hospitals in Bhubaneswar have reached 1597.
- Food and accommodation have been ensured through 2007 camps for around 68,000 'Guest Workers'. These workers are from various states of the country. Any complaint received through Shramik Sahayata Call Centre-18003456703 is being addressed promptly.
- Today, 3,31,635 destitute and helpless persons have been provided with food in 5314 Gram Panchayats. Similarly, in 114 ULBs 32,419 persons have been provided with food.
- From 8th April morning to 9th April morning, 251 no of cases have been registered by the Police in the state for violations of different regulations

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and guidelines related to COVID-19 of which 239 no. of cases for violation of lock down, 5 cases for rumour mongering and 7 for other issues. 258 persons have been arrested for different violations by the Police.

- Till date 60 cases have been registered in the state for rumour mongering.

Health Update

- Up to 9 AM today, 2841 samples have been tested. Number of Positive Cases stands 44. Two persons have already been cured and discharged from Hospital.
- No. of Death case 1.
- No of active cases are 41.
- 106 persons are under Hospital Isolation today in different hospitals.
- Tracing as well as surveillance is being carried out on the contacts of 2 COVID-19 positive patients tested today.

Surya Mishra
Information Officer

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