



PRESS RELEASE

Bhubaneswar 20/03/2020

Sri Subroto Bagchi, Chief Spokesperson of Govt. of Odisha on COVID-19 has informed regarding issues relating preparedness, awareness along with vigilance and monitoring of Corona related issues in a press meet held today in Geeta Govinda Sadan.

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik has expressed his gratitude to the religious institutions for adhering to advisory issued by the State Government on COVID-19 and has also conveyed his thanks to the medical officers and health workers for rendering their services day and night.
- Government has issued a directive to the effect that no meeting shall be held in the government offices other than those related to COVID-19 or regarding maintenance of basic services. However in such meetings, the norm of 2 metre social distance will be strictly followed. Wherever possible video conferencing shall be held for interaction.
- All official functions including commemoration and garlanding of statues are suspended until further orders.
- As COVID-19 has become a global pandemic, Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi has appealed the people to observe utmost vigilance in such a difficult situation and called upon to join 'Janata Curfew' and to remain in house from 7AM to 9PM on 22nd March.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik has given support to this call of Prime Minister and said that extraordinary circumstances demand extraordinary response. COVID-19 has been a challenge for the entire human race. In this context Chief Minister Sri Patnaik has requested the people of the State to remain in house on Sunday in order to create awareness and has sought all cooperation in this regard.
- All the ST/SC Hostels will be closed from 25th March to 15th June 2020.
- All the students will be given three months' pre-Matric scholarship as an advance.
- The girl boarders will get Rs. 2400/- and boys will get Rs 2250/-. All the boarders will be given money in cash and signatures of parents/guardians will be taken.
- Second Corona positive case has been detected. A 19 year old person who had reached Bhubaneswar on 18th after returning from UK is in hospital isolation from 19th. His family members have been directed to remain in home quarantine.

- Information on 46 persons having contact with the patient has been collected while communication with 43 persons has already been made and efforts are on way to communicate rest 03.
- 8 Monitoring teams have been entrusted with task of communication.
- Total number of 2935 persons has been registered through help line.
- Till now, 66 of samples have been tested, 60 found negative and 02 positive. Reports of 4 samples are awaited.
- All stand-alone restaurants, bars, coffee shops, canteens, eateries of all kinds where large number of people dine and congregate are to be closed immediately until further orders.
- Further, all hotels are directed to maintain a social distance of 2 metres among guests in their in-house restaurants.
- All public transports including taxi and auto rickshaws on hire inside the city limits of all Urban Local Bodies will be regulated to allow them on alternate days. Concerned authorities will ensure it.
- Cabinet and the Empowered Group of Ministers' Meetings shall be held through video conferencing.
- All markets, shopping complexes, village hats etc. will be regulated to allow only sale of food items including groceries, vegetables, meat, chicken, fish, egg and other essential conveniences and daily need items.
- If somebody who is in isolation and medically recommended for return to his/her house, the neighbours/villagers or anybody should not oppose for his or her return, which is socially not correct. In the State of Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu and Santhakabi BhimaBhoi, who have dedicated their lives for the sake of humanity such behaviour is not expected. If such things come into notice, it will be viewed seriously. Similarly, the foreign tourists/guests should not be misbehaved on the ground of Corona. Stringent action will be taken for such behaviour.

Surya Mishra
Deeptimayee Mohapatra
Information Officer