



News ID-IPR/COVID-19(Eng)/222/17-8-2020

PRESS RELEASE

Bhubaneswar 17/08/2020,

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik presided over a high level meeting today, through Video Conference for elaborate discussion on implementation of Ekamra Kshetra Project for peripheral development of Shree Lingaraj Temple Shrine in Bhubaneswar. Hon'ble Chief Minister directed to complete various developmental works that include beautification of Bindu Sagar, provision of substantial space and facilities for devotees, establishment of orientation centre, parking, food plaza, Bhajana Mandap etc. within a year.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister said that Ekamra Kshetra Project is another significant step after Puri Shreemandir Heritage Project under 5T Programmes of State Government. He directed to take steps in order to include festivals such as Maha Sivaratri, Ashokastami, Ratha Yatra and Sitala Sasthi in the National Calendar of Festivals.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister also mooted a proposal to work out plans to accord UNESCO recognition for heritage city of Bhubaneswar. Hon'ble Minister Sri Ashok Chandra Panda, Chief Secretary Sri Asit Tripathy, DC-cum-ACS Sri Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister (5T) Sri V. K. Pandian along with senior officers attended the meeting.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister expressed satisfaction on the fact that Odisha Government has conducted more than 1 Lakh Covid tests within last 2 days, further strengthening our fight against the pandemic. The positivity rate has drastically come down while fatality rate is among the lowest in the country, he added.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister further said that with intensive contact tracing and enhancement of testing capacity, COVID-19 positivity rate has drastically declined in Odisha from around 10.78% in July to 5.2% in August. He said that Government has focused on further augmentation of care and testing facilities.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister conveyed happiness over addition of Odia translation by Microsoft to its MS-translator. Saying that with this Odia became 12th commonly used Indian language to be added, Hon'ble Chief Minister hoped that it will facilitate access of global information in Odia and promote inter-language interactions.

"STAY HOME, STAY SAFE"

- The shut down orders in Sambalpur have been withdrawn for 22nd and 23rd August in order to facilitate celebration of Nuakhai. This has been stated by Sambalpur District Administration.
- Chief Secretary Sri Asit Tripathy today, through a Video Conference, reviewed situation of heavy rainfall in 10 districts namely Malkangiri, Bolangir, Deogarh, Baragarh, Subarnapur, Boudh, Dhenkanal, Kendrapara, Jajpur and Bhadrak between 13th-17th August. Malkangiri District recorded the highest rainfall i.e. 463.2 mm while other districts recorded more than 100 mm of rainfall. Chief Secretary directed the Collectors of these districts to have close watch on the situation in the above districts.
- Additional Chief Secretary-cum-Special Relief Commissioner Sri Pradeep Jena after review meeting by Chief Secretary informed details of block-wise rainfall in the above districts. He said that highest rainfall has been recorded at 610mm in Korkunda Block of Malkangiri District and more than 400mm recorded from 6 other Blocks of the District. He also directed the Collectors to assess the preliminary loss caused due to the heavy rain.
- As per direction of Hon'ble Chief Minister, persons who have successfully completed institutional quarantine are being given incentive of Rs.2000/- each. A sum of Rs. 123,54,36,000/- has been paid so far. This amount is given from Chief Minister's Relief Fund.
- From 16th August to 17th August morning, 5 no of cases have been registered by the Police in the state for violation of different regulations and guidelines related to COVID-19. Out of which 4 cases are related to violation of Lock Down and 1 case is related to other issues. 31 persons have been arrested.

Health Update

- Up to midnight of 16th August, 9,58,929 samples have been tested.
- Number of Positive Cases stands 62,294.
- 43,779 persons have already recovered/ discharged. (Today's Recovery-1503)
- No. of Death case 353.
- No of active cases are 18,109.
- 19,612 persons are in Hospital isolation.

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Information Officer

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