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PRESS RELEASE

Bhubaneswar 25/08/2020,

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik requested Union Minister, Education Dr. R. P. Nisank to postpone the JEE (Main) and NEET, 2020 Examinations which are scheduled to be conducted in the 1st fortnight of September to ensure safety and security of the students in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a letter given to the Union Minister, Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that whenever NTA holds these tests, it may be directed to open centres in all the 30 districts of the State to ensure maximum participation of the students in these tests.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister said that with an objective of ramping up COVID-19 testing across the State, Odisha Government has tested nearly 2 Lakh samples over the last 3 days. The increased rate of testing has brought down positivity rate and ensured 'test, track, trace' goals are achieved, he added.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister expressed happiness that Krushi Bhawan inspired by 'Sambalpuri Ikat' has become Odisha's first building to be featured in 'Dezeen', widely acclaimed International Architecture magazine. He further said that the building with inclusive design, emulating 'Sambalpuri Ikat', chronicles Odisha's rich agricultural heritage and was constructed with prize money of Krishi Karman Awards to symbolize our farmer's empowerment.
- Government has re-fixed the maximum price of RT-PCR COVID-19 test @ Rs 12,00/- (inclusive of GST and all other incidental charges) by the ICMR approved Private laboratories for private individuals desirous of testing. Health & Family Welfare Department has issued a notification to this effect.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) has been signed today for setting up Space Innovation Centre. In the virtual conference held today Dr. K. Sivan, Chairman, ISRO and Prof. Atal Chaudhury, Vice-Chancellor, VSSUT signed the MoU. Dr. P.V. Venkitakrishna, Director, Capacity Building Programme, ISRO, Sri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Secretary, Skill Development and Technical Education, Government of Odisha participated in the programme.

"STAY HOME, STAY SAFE"

- Transport Department has planned to open Transport Seva Kendras (TSK) on the lines of Jana Seva Kendras in Urban areas to de-congest the RTO Offices and assist people to avail transport related online services.
- 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. 127,79,09,000/- has been paid so far. This amount is given from Chief Minister's Relief Fund.
- From 24th August to 25th August morning, 7 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 3 cases are for violation of Lock Down and 4 cases are related to other issues. 11 persons have been arrested.

Health Update

- With the recovery of 2546 Covid patients today, Odisha achieves a record number of recoveries for three days in a row.
- Up to midnight of 24th August, 14, 21,958 samples have been tested.
- Number of Positive Cases stands 84,231.
- 59,470 persons have already recovered/ discharged.
- No. of Death case 428.
- No of active cases are 24,280.
- 26,826 persons are in Hospital isolation.

Pathani Rout
Information Officer

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