



COVID-19 PR No-33

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PRESS RELEASE

Bhubaneswar 14/04/2020,

Sri Subroto Bagchi, Chief Spokesperson of Govt. of Odisha on COVID-19, Sri Saurabh Garg, Principal Secretary, Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment and Sri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, 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 reviewed COVID-19 situation in the State today in a high level meeting and has given some important directions.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister has expressed his heartfelt thanks to all the people involved in the fight against COVID-19 in the State for their selfless and sincere service.
- Reviewing the COVID-19 Testing facilities in the State, Hon'ble Chief Minister Appreciated testing capacity enhancement by ICMR-RMRC and commencement of testing in MKCG (Berhampur) and has directed to prepare a comprehensive Roadmap to ramp up the testing facilities in the State.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister has reviewed the availability of medicines and equipments like 3 layer mask, personal protective gears and Oxygen cylinders etc. in COVID-19 situation and has directed to ensure enough stock of required medicines and equipments. He has also instructed for a balanced distribution of all these medicines and equipments among exclusive COVID-19 Hospitals, Testing Centres and other Government Health Institutions.
- In the light of COVID-19 situation, Hon'ble Chief Minister has emphasized on proper training of human resources deployed in COVID-19 activities. So far 1.53 lakh people out of 1.83 lakh people including doctors and health service personnel have been given special training to fight COVID-19 in the State.

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- Hon'ble Chief Minister has reviewed on the status of exclusive COVID-19 hospitals in the State and has directed to ensure functioning of 35 COVID-19 Hospitals in all 30 districts of the State, within a time frame of one week. As of now, 20 exclusive COVID-19 Hospitals are operational in the State.
- Reviewing on the Containment Zones, Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed to prepare SOP in this regard for a more co-ordinated and structured approach.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister reviewed the law and order situation in the State during the Lock Down period and has directed the DG, Police to have special attention on domestic violence and take strict action on incidents of domestic violence.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister has instructed to give special attention to ensure unrestricted movement of vehicles transporting goods.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed to reach out to the migrant workers from Odisha stranded in other States, by taking necessary action through coordination with Senior Officers of the concerned States.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister has extended his heartfelt thanks to lakhs of people engaged in cleaning and sanitation services during this extraordinary situation of COVID-19 who have done their work with sincerity and dedication.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana of Government of India, the beneficiaries under NFSA, Antyodaya Anna Yojana and State Food Security Scheme will be provided 5 Kg of rice per head and 1 Kg Arhar Dal per Card per month free of cost for the month of April, May and June. As a result 2,86,06,239 beneficiaries of 80,26,375 families under NFSA, 38,64,260 beneficiaries of 12,59,181 families under Antyodaya Anna Yojana and 3,78,829 beneficiaries of 1,16,007 families under State Food Security Scheme will be benefited by the above scheme of Government of India.
- Strengthening its preparedness to contain spread of COVID-19, Odisha has made 20 COVID-19 Hospitals operational. 18 districts have been covered. These hospitals are functioning with 3420 beds and 197 ICU beds. Further additional 15 hospitals will become functional very soon in rest of the districts with 2282 beds and 38 ICU beds.
- More than 700 Self Help Groups of Mission Shakti have registered their overwhelming presence in running 707 dry ration and vegetable shops

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including 130 mobile vans to continue supply due to the lock down and to ensure the delivery of essentials at the door steps of the people.

- The agricultural activities like harvesting of crops, transportation of harvested produce, transport of agri-inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides etc have been allowed during the Lock Down period. .
- The outlets for sale of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides have been allowed to remain open for specific period in the day. They have been advised to ensure availability and sale of inputs by maintaining social distancing.
- The ware housing facilities for agri-inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides have also been exempted from the purview of restrictions.
- The movement of farm machineries relating to harvesting and other agricultural operations has been allowed. The workshops of repairing of farm machineries have been allowed to remain open.
- To facilitate use of farm machineries the Custom Hiring Centres have been permitted to remain open.
- State has taken steps for procurement of Rabi produce like Green Gram, Black Gram, Groundnut, Sunflower etc for which Procurement Centres have been opened. Farmers have been advised to enroll their name in e-Samrudhi portal of NAFED.
- Manufacturing unit, Storage Houses, Wholesalers/ Retailers of dealers of different farm equipments have been allowed to remain open.
- Inter and intra state movement of vehicles carrying critical agri-inputs and agri-produces have been exempted from restrictions.
- There is no need of pass for effective transportation of agri-produce.
- The Vegetable growers (specifically Watermelon, Tomato, Brinjal etc) are advised to dispose off their produce in nearby markets in consultation with local Horticulture officials (in case of any problem).
- To overcome the problem of human labour, the farmers are advised to engage combine harvester for timely harvesting of paddy except the farmers enrolled under seed production programme.
- Farmers should avail the crop loan facilities for taking up kharif cultivation.

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- The farmers should take advantage of crop advisory provided through "Ama Krushi" and M-Kisan. The farmers may get themselves enrolled in "Ama Krushi" service by giving a missed call to 0674-6667171. They can also get responses to their queries by recording their questions on this number also.
- Food and accommodation along with health facilities have been ensured through 2553 camps for around 77,000 '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, 3,44,994 destitute and helpless persons have been provided with food in 5515 Gram Panchayats. Similarly, in 144 ULBs 33,688 persons have been provided with food.
- From 13th April morning to 14th April morning, 130 no of cases have been registered by the Police in the state for violations of different regulations and guidelines related to COVID-19 of which 129 no. of cases for violation of lock down and 1 cases for rumour mongering.

Health Update

- Up to 9AM today, 4734 samples have been tested. Number of Positive Cases stands 60. 18 persons have already tested negative and recovered.
- No. of Death case 1.
- No of active cases are 41.
- 115 persons are under Hospital Isolation today in different hospitals.

Surya Mishra
Information Officer

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