



COVID-19 PR No-36

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## PRESS RELEASE

**Bhubaneswar 17/04/2020,**

Sri Subroto Bagchi, Chief Spokesperson of Govt. of Odisha on COVID-19, 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 offered rich tributes to Biju Pattnaik, great soul, renowned leader and statesman on his Death Anniversary today. Hon'ble Chief Minister said that living with people and working for their welfare and development were the principles of Bijubabu that has inspired us to serve the people.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister appreciated the District Administration for making a 200 bed COVID-19 Hospital ready at Puri in a very short time to strengthen our fight against COVID-19. It has been financially supported by Odisha Mining Corporation.
- In view of 46 number of cases out of total 60 cases, reported from Bhubaneswar, State Government has made a special action plan for combating COVID-19 in Bhubaneswar. Accordingly, Government has decided to intensify testing and tracing in Bhubaneswar. It has been decided to test 5000 sample in next one week. It would be highest per million testing amongst the cities of India. As per ICMR protocol, Health & Family Welfare Department of Odisha has made priority category for testing depending on vulnerability.
  - a) As a result of the action plan, Bhubaneswar has been divided into 3 administrative zones and 2 Senior IAS Officers have been designated to oversee intensive sampling of primary and secondary contacts, contact tracing, household survey by the surveillance team in the containment zone and supervising the achievement of the above testing target in Bhubaneswar.
  - b) Chief Secretary Sri Asit Tripathy has appealed to the people of Bhubaneswar to come forward voluntarily for sample testing.

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- c) He has also requested to the office bearers of various RWA (Residents Welfare Association), Puja Committees and leaders of localities to cooperate in such a drive.
  - d) Legal action may be taken against those not cooperating in sample testing.
- State Government has made a regulation under Indian Epidemic Act 1897 making spitting in public place a punishable offence and fine shall be levied for any violation. Block Extension Officers, Additional Tahasildars, Municipal Ward Officers and Police Officers have been declared as enforcement officers.
  - 'Ama Krushi' live call centre no-18001025166 has been made operational by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, to provide assistance to the farmers and bring solutions to problems in agriculture which will work everyday (Monday to Saturday) from 12 Noon to 8PM. At other times, the farmers can record their issues in the call centre and 'Ama Krushi' team will reach out to them within 24 hours.
  - Food and accommodation along with health facilities have been provided through 2583 camps for around 77,500 '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, 3,36,601 destitute and helpless persons have been provided with food in 5411 Gram Panchayats. Similarly, in 113 ULBs 36,418 persons have been provided with food.
  - From 16th April morning to 17th April morning, 122 no of cases have been registered by the Police in the state for violation of different regulations and guidelines related to COVID-19 of which 117 no. of cases for violation of lock down, 1 case for rumour mongering and 4 cases have been registered for other related issues. 252 persons have been arrested by police for different violations.

### **Health Update**

- Up to midnight of 16th April, 7577 samples have been tested.
- Number of Positive Cases stands 60.
- 19 persons have already been recovered/ discharged.
- No. of Death case 1.
- No of active cases are 40.
- 104 persons are in hospital isolation.

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Information Officer

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