



COVID-19 PR No-40

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PRESS RELEASE

Bhubaneswar 22/04/2020,

Sri Subroto Bagchi, Chief Spokesperson of Govt. of Odisha on COVID-19, Sri Deorajan Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, Panchayatiraj and Drinking Water Department 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.

- Today, on the occasion of Earth Day, Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik has said that COVID-19 pandemic reminds us about vulnerability of human race and our Earth. "Let us pledge to keep our planet healthy and green by reducing our carbon footprint. Let us stay home and appreciate the bounty of our only Earth, our home", he added.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik, in a Video Conference held today administered oath to the Sarpanchs of 6798 Gram Panchayats in the State to discharge their duties with complete dedication in combating COVID-19. They have taken oath to arrange quarantine accommodation, fooding and treatment of persons returning from other States to the villages and not to let Corona enter into their village. Sri Pratap Jena, Hon'ble Minister, Panchayatiraj and Drinking Water, Sri Asit Tripathy, Chief Secretary, Sri D. K. Singh, Principal Secretary, Panchayatiraj and Drinking Water, Sri V. K. Pandian, Secretary to Chief Minister and other Senior Officers were present in the programme from Lokseva Bhawan while the Sarpanchs from Panchayat Samitis.
- It is anticipated that around 5 lakh Odias may return from other States to their villages after relaxation of Lock Down. Keeping it in view, a special portal will be made operational and registration on this portal will be started from 24th April. The registration is compulsory for all the returnees. The relatives and family members of the returnees can register on this portal. The BDOs will constitute a 5 member monitoring team for every Panchayat and a Nodal Officer will be there for every Panchayat. The returnees have to undergo health check up in the temporary health camp opened in the

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Panchayat and they have to remain in compulsory quarantine for 14 days in the centre specified for the purpose. They will not be allowed to go home without quarantine under any circumstances.

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik launched Odisha Govt's WhatsApp Info Desk - 9337929000. One can type "Hi" or click <https://t.co/cHuShnv3lh> to get the latest information on Odisha Government's COVID19 containment measures at his fingertip to keep him & his family safe.
- Government of Odisha has deployed Government Employees, Private persons, Volunteers, Urban and Local Bodies and Professional Agencies to perform COVID-19 related duties. Government of Odisha has decided to pay a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs to the spouse/next of kin of any person drafted by the State Government who succumbs to the disease in his/her active line of duty. The Health & Family Welfare Department will issue detail guideline to implement this. It is to be noted that Government of India has already announced to provide an insurance cover of Rs. 50 lakh for 90 days to public health care providers.
- An exclusive COVID-19 Hospital with 200 bed capacity has been dedicated to the people of Odisha today in Sambalpur. With this, the no of Special COVID-19 Hospitals and capacity of beds have increased to 31 and 5176 respectively.
- Health and Family welfare Department has urged people who have returned from other States recently to come forward voluntarily for testing of COVID-19. Since about 80% of positive cases do not have any symptoms such people must come forward for testing to protect themselves and their families. Testing and treatment are provided free of cost by the Government.
- About 5542 nursing students across the State have been trained online on the management of COVID-19 cases between 15th and 20th April. Experts from State Institute of Health & Family Welfare (SIHFW), Directorate of Nursing and SCB Medical College have imparted training to these nursing students in order to empower our health services to fight against COVID-19.
- During the Lock Down period, advance PDS ration for the month of April, May and June has been distributed among 82,09,042 Ration Card Holders. As announced by Hon'ble Chief Minister, 877 crore 77 lakh 96 thousand rupees has been distributed so far to 87 lakh 77 thousand 796 PDS Ration Card Holders @ Rs. 1000/- each as cash relief in COVID-19 situation. Similarly, 77,762 new individual beneficiaries of 28,492 families have been

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included under State Food Security Scheme. Further inclusion of eligible beneficiaries is in progress.

- Department of School & Mass Education has taken steps to provide Text Books at the door step of the students. With prior permission of the District Collectors, the Teachers shall distribute Text Books to the parents either in School or in their house. The distribution of the Text Books will not be done in Hotspots/Containment Zones/Buffer Zones. Protocols regarding social distancing, safety and security will be strictly followed.
- Food and accommodation along with health facilities have been provided through 2586 camps for around 84,000 '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, 3,50,847 destitute and helpless persons have been provided with food in 5502 Gram Panchayats. Similarly, in 114 ULBs 41,938 persons have been provided with food.
- From 21st April morning to 22nd April morning, 58 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 55 no. of cases for violation of lock down, 1 case for violation of Home Quarantine and 2 cases for other issues. 70 persons have been arrested by police for different violations.
- Till date 81 cases have been registered in the state for rumour mongering.

Health Update

- Up to midnight of 20th April, 11775 samples have been tested.
- Number of Positive Cases stands 83.
- 32 persons have already recovered/ discharged.
- No. of Death case 1.
- No of active cases are 50.
- 145 persons are in hospital isolation.

Surya Mishra
Information Officer

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