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PRESS RELEASE

Bhubaneswar 22/07/2020,

Sri Asit Trapathy, Chief Secretary briefed the Press about steps taken by Government of Odisha for prevention of COVID-19.

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, today over a Video call, spoke to Shri Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute regarding progress of Covid vaccine. He applauded the philanthropic activities carried out by Shri Poonawalla and his foresight in tying up with various research institutions across globe to develop vaccine for Covid. Among others, Chief Secretary, Chief Advisor to CMO, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister (5T) were present.
 - Hon'ble Chief Minister sought his cooperation to keep Odisha as a priority for vaccination once necessary clearances are obtained. The State Government will be in touch with Serum Institute for this purpose, he added.
 - Shri Poonawalla appreciated Hon'ble Chief Minister for getting in touch with Serum institute for knowing about the progress of vaccine and the results published in Lancet. He further said that Serum institute and state government can be in touch with each other and carry forward the collaboration once the vaccines are cleared and ready.

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, reviewing the Covid management scenario in Sundargarh and Jajpur district through Video Conference today, made some important announcement to strengthen the containment strategy.
 - An amount of Rs. 10 Crore has been sanctioned from Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for Sundargarh and Jajpur district @Rs.5 Crore each for Covid management.
 - Expressing his satisfaction on the result of Plasma Therapy, Hon'ble Chief Minister announced to enhance the number of beds in the Covid Care Centres operating at Rourkela from 700 to 1700. A Plasma Bank in IGH, Rourkela will be established to facilitate the treatment of Covid patients in Western Odisha. He also emphasised on house to house surveillance and testing in the containment zones, focusing on slums and crowded areas.
 - Hon'ble Chief Minister thanked the District Administration and Covid Warriors for their uninterrupted service and effort in brining the recovery rate upto 85% in Sundargarh district. He also thanked Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Mahanadi Coal Fields

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Ltd. (MCL) and Odisha Cement Ltd. (OCL) for their cooperation for Covid Care Homes and Covid Care Centres.

- Hon'ble Chief Minister appreciated District Administration of Jajpur for achieving 86.5% recovery rate and containing the spike although more than 26 thousand migrants have come to the district. He also announced that 250 additional beds will be readied in Covid Care Centres of the district.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister called upon the voluntary, religious and social organisations and Corporate Bodies to come forward for establishment of more Covid Care Homes and Covid Care Centres in both Sundargarh and Jajpur districts.

➤ An important meeting of Council of Ministers has been held today under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister. Detail discussion was made regarding State's fight against COVID-19 and management arrangement. Chief Secretary Sri Asit Tripathy highlighted the discussion points:-

- In view of COVID-19 situation, there will be rationalisation of expenditure at the Government level.
- Expenditure relating to health, social security, employment generation, livelihood, agriculture, horticulture, animal resources development sectors will be given priority. Especially, there will be no compromise for required expenditure in health sector.
- The ongoing projects will not be stopped. There will be restriction on new investment in non-priority sector. After due deliberation, Government may go for low cost borrowing.
- Online service will be given priority and Government work will be done in digital mode.
- Keeping in view life above rest, Government has been providing quarantine facility, treatment, food etc. to the COVID-19 patients free of cost out of own fund. In order to meet such expenditures the rationalisation of expenditure in other sectors has become a necessity.
- 8023 Doctors, 4014 Ayush Doctors, 8296 Staff Nurse, 8296 Laboratory Technician/ Pharmacist, 135820 ASHA/AWW/ANM/NHM Volunteers, 11,144 MBBS/Ayush/Nursing Students, 7236 Clinic Staff, 4900 Ambulance Driver and support staff, 500 Counsellors, 753 Veterinary Doctors, 136 Veterinary Paramedics and 2471 Volunteers are engaged in fight against COVID-19 pandemic in the State.
- Essential supports such as PPE, Oxygen Cylinder, Mask, Hand Sanitizer, medicine and critical health equipment have been supplied to concerned establishments by the Government.

➤ Hon'ble Chief Minister deeply condoled the demise of Gajapati ADM Sri Karunakar Raika. He said that Sri Raikia was a very able administrator and

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greatly helped the district scale up its fight back against COVID-19. He also spoke to Mrs Raika.

- In order to ensure the safety of the journalists who are the frontliners in the battle against COVID-19, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) today conducted free antigen test of media persons, mostly the reporters, photographers & cameramen at Kalyan Mandap, Saheed Nagar.
- 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. 99,38,99,000/- has been paid so far. This amount is given from Chief Minister's Relief Fund.
- As of now, 6575 Covid Care Homes are operational in 6,798 Gram Panchayats of the State. In all these Centres, total no. of 65,569 beds have been arranged to provide COVID-19 health services.
- As of now, 1386 number of Cluster level TMCs have been completed with 65,308 beds in the State.
- From 21th July morning to 22th July morning, 36 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 34 cases are for violation of lock down and 2 cases are related to other issues. 42 persons have been arrested so far.

Health Update

- Up to midnight of 21th July, 4,10,921 samples have been tested.
- Number of Positive Cases stands 19,835.
- 13,750 persons have already recovered/ discharged. (Recovered today-440)
- No. of Death case 108.
- No of active cases are 5,946.
- 6,386 persons are in Hospital isolation.

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Information Officer

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