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PRESS RELEASE

Bhubaneswar 11/01/2021,

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik through a Video Conference today, presided over Kenduleaf Welfare Board meeting. He announced bonus and other assistance of Rs. 92.37 Crore for the welfare of Kenduleaf pluckers and other workers.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister also announced that ex-gratia in case of death or permanent disability of a Kenduleaf worker shall be increased to Rs. 2 Lakh from Rs. 1 Lakh.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister further said that during Covid pandemic, more than 60 Lakh mandays were created by the Department and 7,54,631 Kenduleaf pluckers along with 18,223 binders and 16,533 casual workers have been benefited. During the year 2020, Rs. 250 Crore has been deposited in the Accounts of the beneficiaries through Direct Bank Transfer.
- Hon'ble Minister, Forest and Environment, Parliamentary Affairs Sri Bikram Keshari Arukha, Hon'ble Minister, Steel and Mines, Works, Sri Prafulla Kumar Mallik, Chief Secretary Sri Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest & environment Dr., Mona Sharma, Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister (5-T) Sri. V.K. Pandian, Principal Chief Conservator (Kenduleaf) Sri Pravakar Behera along with senior officers of the Department were present in the meeting.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister said that State Government has made extensive arrangements for a mega vaccination drive for COVID-19, starting from January 16th. He said that 162 vaccination sites have been identified across districts and necessary infrastructure has been established for this purpose.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister said that Sambalpur will conduct over 7,500 free cataract surgeries across 9 blocks in next one year to help poor patients residing in remote areas of the District. The surgeries will be conducted under the 'Cataract Free Sambalpur' initiative, he added.

"WEAR MASK, STAY SAFE"

- Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated all women crew of Air India for scripting history by completing longest direct flight from San Francisco to Bengaluru, covering a distance of 16,000 km and flying over North Pole. Hon'ble Chief Minister said that it is truly inspiration for millions and indeed a glorious moment for the nation.

Health Update

- Up to midnight of 10th January, 72,01,736 samples have been tested.
- Number of Positive Cases stands 3,32,106.
- 3,28,043 persons have already recovered/ discharged.
- No. of Death case 1892.
- No of active cases are 2,118.
- 2,118 persons are in Hospital isolation.

Manas Ranjan Khuntia
Information Officer

"WEAR MASK, STAY SAFE"