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## **PRESS RELEASE**

Bhubaneswar 02/02/2021,

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik on World Wetlands Day 2021, said that wetlands act as carbon sink, pollution filters, sources of fresh water and play vital role in our ecosystem. He called upon all to take pledge to protect our wetlands and preserve our precious Ramsar Convention sites: Chilika and Bhitarkanika.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister expressed happiness that Odisha has reached at a defining moment in the fight against COVID-19 with hard work of the Covid Warriors and efficient management. All districts are now in Green Zone and active cases have fallen below 1000 while fatality rate is one of the lowest in the country, he said.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister said that it is the first budget in post COVID-19 scenario and there are lot of new challenges which this budget is expected to address. The positive points in Budget 2021 include: Focus on capital investment to push growth, reintroduction of developmental financial institution, he added.
  - Hon'ble Chief Minister said that other positive points include allocation for COVID-19 vaccine, bold decision to expand fiscal deficit to provide growth impetus, a medium and long term vision for 'Self-reliant India' and industry and sector specific interventions. These offer hope, if matched with allocation, he added.
  - Hon'ble Chief Minister said that Odisha would be hit by drastic reduction of share in central taxes by about ₹10,840 Cr. for the current year and as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, the horizontal share will decrease from 4.629% to 4.528% for coming 5yrs, which will seriously impact Odisha.
  - Hon'ble Chief Minister said that further capital investments is very much required in Odisha both in railways and highways sectors, as it has been planned for other states. There is a need to increase allocation in social assistance programmes and quantum of transfer of funds for local bodies, he added.

**"WEAR MASK, STAY SAFE"**

- Hon'ble Chief Minister said that centralisation of revenue by introduction of Cess in petrol and diesel will weaken the centre-state fiscal balance. Banks have to be made accountable to extend credit to women, farmers and MSMEs. He expressed happiness that Budget 2021 has turned Green with digital budget like Odisha.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister expressed happiness that Mission Shakti appears in Budget 2021 focusing on women empowerment. After Odisha's Mamata scheme was adopted by Government of India from 2011-2012, replication of our flagship women empowerment initiative, Mission Shakti clearly shows that Odisha sets benchmark for the nation, he said.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister hoped that after Mamata Scheme and Mission Shakti, the next logical step towards women empowerment would be reservation for women in Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies. He reiterated State's fight for this.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated District Administration, Puri as four Urban Health Centres of the district have been awarded ISO 9001: 2015 certification in terms of quality standards. This will further ensure high quality healthcare services to people and help in realising the vision of 'Sustha Odisha Sukhi Odisha', he said.

## **Health Update**

- Up to midnight of 1<sup>st</sup> February, 77,51,480 samples have been tested.
- Number of Positive Cases stands 3,35,211.
- 3,32,239 persons have already recovered/ discharged.
- No. of Death case 1906.
- No of active cases are 1,013.
- 1,013 persons are in Hospital isolation.

Pathani Rout  
Information Officer

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