



News ID-IPR/COVID-19(Eng)/1468/18-03-2021

PRESS RELEASE

Bhubaneswar 18/03/2021,

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik attending the virtual meeting of CMs with Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the current response to COVID-19 and vaccination drive, said that we in Odisha are affected by disasters like cyclones almost every year and our administrative machinery is well prepared to deal with crisis situations.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister said that it was a difficult year for every human being as the COVID-19 virus spread to all parts of the world. Families and societies have been affected not only in terms of health crisis but also severe impact on the economy and livelihoods as well, he added.
 - Hon'ble Chief Minister further said that our health staff and administrative system have been working continuously throughout this crisis period. Thankfully, with the cooperation of people of Odisha, we have been able to control the pandemic and limit its damage to a large extent, he added.
 - Hon'ble Chief Minister said that the vaccine roll out has been helpful in providing hope to our citizens that the end of the pandemic is nearing. We are ever grateful to the scientific community for developing vaccines at such short notice. It's a matter of pride that India is a leader in vaccine manufacturing, Hon'ble Chief Minister said.
 - Hon'ble Chief Minister also said that we need to involve further the private sector in expediting the vaccination programme. We need to be careful, as multiple surges of COVID-19 spread is the reality in many countries and in many states in India as well. We cannot go back to the era of lockdowns, he stated.
 - Hon'ble Chief Minister said that at the same time we need to ensure that the virus is also contained through renewed efforts. As a country with huge population, achieving herd immunity will be a long process and we all need to

"WEAR MASK, STAY SAFE"

be extremely careful. We will continue to extend all support to the Government of India in this fight, he said.

- Hon'ble Chief Minister called upon to welcome Olive Ridley turtles as they arrive in large number for the annual arribada along Odisha coast. Hon'ble Chief Minister urged everyone to make collective efforts to protect nesting habitats and conserve the endangered species.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated Odisha boy Atish Kumar Sahoo on becoming state topper in Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) examination by securing All India Rank of 13. Hon'ble Chief Minister wished him and all the successful students successful career ahead.

Health Update

- Up to midnight of 17th March, 87,12,117 samples have been tested.
- Number of Positive Cases stands 3,38,489.
- 3,35,857 persons have already recovered/ discharged.
- No. of Death case 1918.
- No of active cases are 661.
- 661 persons are in Hospital isolation.

Manas Ranjan Khuntia
Information Officer

"WEAR MASK, STAY SAFE"