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## COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH ARRANGEMENTS FOR RATHAYATRA 2025

### District Health Administration Ensures Round-the-Clock Medical Support for Devotees

Puri/ Bhubaneswar, 23/06/2025

The Health and Family Welfare, Government of Odisha and District Administration, Puri, has announced extensive health and medical arrangements for the upcoming 'Ratha Yatra' to ensure the safety and well-being of millions of devotees expected to participate in the grand celebration.

The health infrastructure has been significantly strengthened with **265 additional hospital beds this year**, marking a substantial increase from last year's 140 beds. This enhanced capacity includes 100 additional beds at **Government ANMTC, Puri**, and **15 ICU beds at TB&IDH, Puri**. The District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) has reserved 68 beds including 50 general beds, **8 burn ward beds**, and **10 ICU beds**. Additionally, **200 units of blood** have been reserved at the DHH Blood Bank, and **two minor operation theatres** along with specialized dressing rooms have been established to handle any medical emergencies. A special team of doctors is to be stationed at the medical centres by AIIMS, Bhubaneswar for the first time to provide additional support during the festivities.

A comprehensive network of **69 First Aid Centres** will operate throughout the Ratha Yatra period, with 32 Government First Aid Centres functioning from June 27 to July 8, 2025, and 37 NGO-supported centres at strategic locations. Each centre will be staffed with qualified MBBS/AYUSH doctors, pharmacists, and support staff, operating round-the-clock during Ratha Yatra, Bahuda Yatra, and Sunabeshad**ays**. These centres are strategically located across key areas including 9 centres along Grand Road covering Lions Gate, Gundicha Temple, and Jagannath Ballav Parking, 8 centres on the Puri-Bhubaneswar Road, 5 centres at Sea Beach locations including Swargadwar and Light House, 4 centres on the Puri-Konark Road and 2 centre in Puri town (Railway Station). A specialized 10-bedded air-conditioned heat stroke centre has been established at Talabania to address weather-related health issues.

Emergency medical transportation will be ensured through an extensive ambulance network comprising **31 Government ambulances** positioned at strategic district locations and **43 NGO ambulances** distributed across the town, totalling **74 ambulances** available for immediate response. These ambulances will operate within dedicated ambulance corridors supported by NGO volunteers, while all **108 emergency ambulances will remain on high alert** at their respective health institutions and strategic points along NH 203.

The medical response capacity has been bolstered with **378 additional healthcare professionals** deployed from other districts. This specialized team includes 4 specialists comprising **2 Cardiologists** and **2 Neurosurgeons**, **98 General Duty Doctors**, **15 AIIMS Doctors**, **50 AYUSH Medical Officers**, **1 Epidemiologist**, **1 Microbiologist**, **50 Pharmacists**, **50 Medical Personnel**, **30 Nursing Officers**, **5 Food Safety Officers**, and **24 Drivers** for medical transport services.

Rigorous health monitoring and disease prevention measures are in place to maintain public health standards throughout the Ratha Yatra period. The administration has conducted 249 inspections of hotels, restaurants, and food establishments, resulting in the destruction of 494 kg of unhygienic food. Additionally, 84 food samples and 22 water samples have been collected for testing, while 10 stool culture tests have been conducted for disease prevention and 82 water analyses have been completed. **Two Rapid Response Teams have been deployed for outbreak control**, and the third round of disinfection of drinking water sources is ongoing by the Municipality and block CHCs.

An extensive Information, Education, and Communication campaign will promote public health awareness covering food safety, safe drinking water practices, hand washing and hygiene protocols, ORS usage, health programs, COVID-19 prevention measures, and AYUSHMAN Bharat Program awareness. The campaign includes the distribution of 3 lakh leaflets, erection of 38 hoardings across the city, display of 54 IEC banners at First Aid Centres, organization of 18 folk shows including Pala and Ghoda Nacha for community engagement, and establishment of 1 health exhibition stall at Badasankha.

A dedicated **Ratha Yatra Control Room** will operate round-the-clock throughout the Ratha Yatra period to coordinate all health-related activities and respond to emergencies. The control room can be reached at mobile number **+91 6370560247** and landline number **06752-222175** for any medical assistance or information.

In preview of the Ratha Yatra, a total of **8 Food Safety Officers** have been assigned for special duty to take all precautionary measures for food safety, with 3 teams working uniformly to cover all important and critical areas for testing food and water samples for surveillance purposes.

The entire Puri District is divided into **high, medium, and low-risk zones** based on public footfall hotspots. **High-risk areas** like Bus Stand, Badasankha, DigabareniChhaka to Chaitanya Chhaka at Sea Beach, Red Cross Road, Sarvodaya Nagar, Station Road, Women's College Road, Balagandi Square, Market Square, C.T. Road, and Medical Square are under second-round surveillance; **medium-risk areas** including Konark, Baliguali, Kadua, Panchamuhan, Nimapada, Gop, Pipili, Begunia, Mangalahat, KoilakhadChhak, RendhaChhak, and Rebenanugaon are also under ongoing surveillance; and **low-risk areas** such as Brahmagiri, Mirzapur, and Satpada continue to be monitored. Daily activities are carried out across all these areas to ensure food safety through surveillance, enforcement, and legal action, including licensing and registration of food establishments, hygiene and sanitation checks under Schedule 4 of the FSS Act, checks on the quality of food prepared and served to consumers, and surveillance of the portability of water served to the public.



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