

Dated: 18.03.2020

## **PRESS NOTE**

The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration today convened a meeting of the Secretaries of A&N Administration in the conference hall of the Secretariat at 03.30 PM to review implementation of restrictions imposed to contain spread of COVID-19 in the Islands. The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary (Health), PCCF, DGP, Principal Secretary (Revenue/ DM&RR), along with other Senior officers of Secretariat. Dr. Avijit Roy, NO (COVID-19) briefed the Cluster Containment Plan of the Administration to contain any community outbreak of the COVID-19 in these Islands. The Chief Secretary asked the officials to implement the restrictions and ensure legal actions against the persons who are violating the restrictive orders. He directed Deputy Commissioner's (DC's) and Superintendents of Police (SPs) to beef up surveillance to reduce gathering in markets etc. It was further suggested that the empty quarters at the new ANIIMS campus may be used for quarantine of contacts if needed. He also suggested to find out the possibilities to port 112 help line number with help line of COVID-19.

Thereafter, a meeting of State Level Advisory Committee (SLAC) for Outbreak Control was held under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary (Health) 04:30 PM in the conference hall of the Secretariat to review the action of preventive measures taken on COVID-19 in A&N Islands. All Deputy Commissioners and other members of the committee attended the meeting. The Principal Secretary (Health) was appraised of the background of the disease and steps taken by A&N Administration and future plan of action to combat the COVID-19 by Dr. Avijit Roy NO (COVID-19). Principal Secretary (Health) requested all 03 (Three) Deputy Commissioners to implement restrictive orders

effectively and ensure that no undesired inconvenience caused to citizen.

In the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, 396 persons were/are under home observation among them 249 Passengers completed observation and 147 Passengers are under Surveillance. Till date 17 Samples have been sent for testing, out of which results of all the sample are negative.

During the meeting discussion was held on various other possibilities for importation of virus and containment plan for A&N Islands. Principal Secretary (H) directed the concerned to augment the intensive IEC activities in these Islands for threat perception through various media. Also, requested to Public not to get panic and all the essential items, food and ratio items are adequate in stock and Administration has no plan to stop any essential services.

He further directed Department of Shipping, Port Management Board to increase the frequency of Ship/ferry for Inter-Islands and also established extra counter in the ticketing Counter so that there is no crowd at counters.

The Chair also raised concern about unavailability of disinfection items in the market and also directed the Officials to take up the matter with concerned Ministry for supply of the same.

Further, State Level Advisory Committee has approved the Containment Plan for Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

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