

PressRelease No.244

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As per the appropriate advice and directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Government of Tamil Nadu is making elaborate arrangements to contain and control the spread of COVID 19. The State has initiated firm action for control and containment of further spread. In order to control the spread, all areas within a perimeter of 5 km plus an extended three kilometre of an infected person's house, are disinfected. All the households, within the earmarked radius are continuously under surveillance.

Nine Committees have been formed under senior IAS officers to coordinate the strict implementation and supervision of various welfare measures. In continuation to the efforts, two more Committees under senior IAS officers, for ensuring the welfare of migrant labourers and students from other States and the welfare of the elderly, differently-abled and destitute and to ensure availability of essential commodities to these groups of population have been formed.

In all districts, Crisis Management Committees have been formed under the chairmanship of the District Collector, to arrest the virus spread.

A massive and aggressive campaign is being spearheaded On the directions of Hon'ble Chief Minister, by the State and everyone is asked to support it by ensuring – Social distancing, surface cleaning, hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene.

Even the world well known celebrities like Prince Charles of England, UK Prime Minister Mr. Boris Johnson, prince of Monaco Albert-2, Canadian Prime Minister's Wife and Spain Prime Minister's Wife are reported to be affected by the COVID-19.

In this context, Hon'ble Chief Minister has been fervently appealing to Tamil Nadu to strictly maintain a social distance of minimum 3 ft. everywhere and strictly adhere to the Doctrine of " Social Distance from people showing symptoms namely cough, sneezing, running nose, throat pain, fever and breathlessness. We request our beloved people to seclude themselves within their residence without mingling with people as pleaded by our Hon'ble Chief Minister.

In the recently held religious conference of Delhi about 540 persons of Tamil Nadu have been identified as having attended the conference. Out of them about 50 persons are being reported as Corona affected. Till the whereabouts of 300 persons are yet to be traced out. It is appealed to the beloved people of Tamil Nadu if they come aware of any person who have attended the religious conference, the details of the person may kindly be informed to the nearest Help Line or Government Officials so as to protect themselves and the community from the adverse effects COVID-19.

In the Rural areas Cleaning and disinfection practices in the public places are being undertaken intensively following the procedure as laid down by the Health department with special focus on the following on approval by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Cleaning and disinfection of places of public assembly as mentioned below are being done on daily basis, 24 X 7.

1. Public Distribution ration Shops
 2. Vegetable, Meat and Fish Markets & Shops
 3. Bus Terminus
 4. Public Fountains/Taps
 5. Bus Stops/Shelters
 6. Integrated Women Sanitary Complexes
 7. Milk Collection / Distribution centres
 8. Provision / Grocery shops
 9. Place of Worship – Temple, Mosque, Church & Others
 10. Any other place of public congregation / public assembly
1. Personal protection Equipment (PPE) such as mask, gloves, sanitizers have been provided to all sanitary workers, *ThooimaiKavalars*, OHT Operators and all others involved in the cleaning and disinfection activities.
 2. Sanitary materials like soap solutions, sodium hypochlorite, bleaching powder etc and disinfectants like hand sanitizers, cresol etc have been Procured in adequate quantity and sufficient stocks maintained in all local bodies always.
 3. All the public places have been installed with hand washing unit where soap and water made available. These hand washing units have been established in all Village Panchayat offices, Block Panchayat offices, PDS shops and other offices where public gathering is more.

4. All essential services to the public like properly chlorinated drinking water, burning of street lights, cleaning of drains and proper removal of garbage have been ensured.
5. The availability of staff for providing essential services to public like drinking water supply, street lighting and sanitation works have also been ensured.
6. Local Bodies have taken effective steps for social distancing while gathering in public fountains, Public Distribution ration Shops, Vegetable, Meat and Fish Markets & Shops, Bus Stops/Shelters etc
7. Local Bodies have been instructed to discourage the public in organizing of functions and assembly of people for the function and if functions are already arranged, minimum strength or limited gathering should be enforced.
8. Awareness has been created that aged people should not come out of their home to the public places unnecessarily and Social distancing should be insisted upon wherever people congregate on unavoidable circumstances like agricultural operations.
9. The state has taken efforts to ensure that the differently abled and old age pensioners are provided with assistance – economic and other support at their residence itself.

10. Farmers who were doing well in terms of exporting or marketing their agricultural produce outside their area of operation will face difficulties due to the disruption of the supply chains. As consumption locally is also not geared to absorb the supplies, the Government has made provisions to store the products for later use utilizing the cold storage and warehousing facilities. Flowers are being sent to perfume manufacturers to avoid loss.
11. Farmers have been provided with economic support to continue with their regular farming operations so that the next crop will be assured.
12. In terms of the unorganized labour – the Hon'ble Chief Minister has taken earnest efforts to provide social security – provided them with provisions free of cost and a cash assistance of Rs. 1000. We request the public to avoid rushing to the ration shops and by adhering to the token system introduced by the Government at the ration shops.
13. Thanks to the initiatives of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Government of Tamil Nadu has created various Help Line and Support Systems to support each and every citizen of the State so that no one is left hungry or left on the streets. Amma Unnavagams, Shelter homes are being made available to the homeless, migrant and pavement dwellers.
14. The Government of Tamil Nadu on directions by the Hon'ble Chief Minister have been taking urgent visionary, fiscal measures along these lines:

- Front Line Medical Services (financing and procurement)
- Extension of services of Doctors and all Para Medical personnel who are due to superannuated by two months.
- Urgent social support during lockdown period – migrant labour, immediate relief payment and support through PDS
- Financing for the entire State's operations upto the Gram panchayat and local bodies to manage the fund requirements to provide care of the same quality across the State as per the WHO norms.
- The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced postponement of loan repayment without interest for three months with regard to Crop Loan, Housing Loan and Handloom Loan.

15. Tamil Nadu will take efforts for Protecting vital supply chains (food, medicines, essential equipment, and maintenance) and Procurement of urgent needs

16. Tamil Nadu has taken various measures to address the concerns of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and other industrial units to protect them and withstand the fiscal shocks in the wake of COVID 19 lockdown.

People are requested to consume healthy diet so as to boost their immune systems. Since, smoking and consumption of alcohol reduces the immune power of the body, the people are

requested to not to resort to alcohol and smoking in the current Corona episode.

The State headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister will ensure the life safety and security of all citizens by arresting and eliminating adverse effects COVID-19. The Government has also initiated proactive measures to ensure the economic well-being of the State.

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