



सत्यमेव जयते

Speech of the Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh

**Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan**

on status of steps taken by the Government

to prevent spread of Covid-19 pandemic

through video conference

with Chief Secretary and Addl. Chief Secretary, Medical & Health

Smt. Nilam Sawhney, Chief Secretary, Sri K. Jawahar Reddy, Spl. Chief Secretary, Medical & Health, other officials of the state government. Good morning to you all.

I am aware of the steps taken by the state government to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in the state. All officials of the state government connected with the subject and doctors, para-medical staff, sanitation workers are rendering yeoman service in the treatment of Covid-19 patients, as frontline warriors.

Members of NGOs and other voluntary organisations have also swiftly responded to the crisis and are also playing an important role in coordination with the state government machinery in creating awareness among the people as well as distribution of face masks, sanitisers etc.

However, after the unlock period has started and with the opening of businesses and movement of people across the state, the number of Covid-19 positive cases is going high at an alarming rate with 50,000 positive cases now.

As observed from the data as of 19<sup>th</sup> July, East Godavari district is topping among the 13 districts with more than 6000 cases, followed by Kurnool, Anantapur, Guntur and Chittoor. However, when it comes to testing, AP is doing much better as compared to other States, which I appreciate.

As can be seen from the data of past one week, the number of Covid-19 positive cases are going up steadily. I would like to know from the officers about the reasons for such a situation.

I am also aware that the state government is gearing up to do more and more testing and is in the process of deploying 22 Nos. Sanjivini mobile testing units fully equipped for collection of samples from all over the state.

I would like to specifically understand from the officers on the steps taken to contain the areas where more number of Covid-19 positive cases are reported. Steps taken to ramp up facilities for institutional quarantine, supply of medicines and nutritious food to patients in hospitals, coordination with private hospitals for admission and treatment of Covid-19 patients.

It has been reported that the time taken for getting result for the RTPCR test is taking several days, resulting in missing out on the essential treatment as required for symptomatic patients during this crucial period.

Another issue is regarding the availability of beds in the covid hospitals. People appear to be facing problems finding beds in covid hospitals both public and private.

We should be able to provide information to the public in an open digital platform about the availability of beds in different public and private covid hospitals, so that the public doesnot have to run around looking for vacancies of bed.

It should also be monitored that private hospitals providing treatment to Covid-19 patients do not charge over and above the rates fixed by the government from hapless patients by taking advantage of the situation. Arogyasri scheme benefits should be extended to all eligible persons in the treatment of Covid-19 patients.

It is necessary to keep track of the people coming from other States and from foreign countries by keeping them under either institutional quarantine or home quarantine as the case may be as per guidelines.

People under home quarantine should be monitored and they should not be allowed to move out of their homes.

As prevention is the only key to curtail spread of the Covid-19, movement and gathering of persons should be restricted as far as possible more particularly in the districts where more number of cases are reported.

I feel that strict adherence to the principle of 4Ts - `Tracing, Tracking, Testing and Treating appears to be the only solution available to us right now till such time a vaccine is found for the Covid-19 virus.

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