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Sikkim's Fight against COVID-19



Corona Virus also known as COVID-19, is an infectious disease which causes severe acute respiratory syndrome. The outbreak of this virus was first identified in Wuhan City in Hubei Province in China in December 2019. Subsequently, the disease started spreading to the rest of the world and was declared as Pandemic by the World Health Organisation on March 11, 2020. In India, the first case of Corona Virus was reported on January 30,

2020.

With its declaration as the Pandemic by the World Health Organisation and the threat of COVID-19 to the global population, the State of Sikkim under the able guidance and leadership of the Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang also joined the fight against this virus.

The state government was well prepared to tackle the challenges and was comfortably able to contain the infected

individuals in various COVID Care Centres following all the necessary protocols and sealed the containment areas across the State. The asymptomatic patients were segregated from the symptomatic patients and isolated at different centres. Asymptomatic patients were kept at designated COVID Care Centres in Gymnasium Hall Paljor Stadium, Himalayan Pharmacy Boys Hostel, SICUN, Chujachen COVID-19 care centre, Namchi

Government College, Samdruptse, etc in the State and symptomatic patients were admitted at Sir Thuthob Namgyal Memorial Hospital (STNM) COVID-care ward.

The outstanding effort and discipline showcased by the people of the state in the fight against COVID-19 has been commendable. The five-fold strategy i.e. Testing, Tracing, Treatment, COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and Vaccination was

encouraged and implemented in the state. People wholeheartedly participated in the lockdown imposed and with the participation of the community, the virus was controlled to a considerable extent. The Government of Sikkim did an exceptional work in taking the COVID-19 situation into consideration and reviving the economic state of Sikkim side-by-side.

Summary of Good Practices and Innovative Approaches of the Government of Sikkim to Tackle COVID-19 Pandemic

The Government of Sikkim responded to the COVID-19 crisis much ahead of other States. The proactive approach of the Government can be summed up in the following points:

* Before the Centre announced total lockdown in the entire nation, the State of Sikkim had started thermal screening of travellers in Rangpo check post from the month of January 2020 itself, much before all the other States.

* To take precautionary measures and to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the State, the Governor, Chief Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Chief Secretary made frequent visits to the Checkpost and to the identified Quarantine Centres, Isolation Units.

*The Chief Minister convened a high-level meeting in the second week of March, 2020 wherein the Office Memorandum on Restriction on International passenger traffic through land check post was issued.

* For safety of both travellers as well as the citizens of Sikkim, the State Government suspended the issuance of Inner Line Permit to all foreign nationals including nationals from Bhutan.

* Notification on suspension of domestic tourists, closure of all educational institutions, casinos, cinema halls, gym etc was issued.

* Closure of Reshi, Rambam and Uttarey checkpoint, suspension of entry of new labourers, setting up of State Task Force and District Task Force etc. were issued by the Chief Secretary on March 16, 2020.

*The State Government announced partial lockdown on March 20, 2020 even before the Central Government decision on the lockdown.

*The Secretaries/HODs were instructed to ensure that half of the Group C and D staff only were required to attend office every day, while others were asked to be available for any exigencies.

*Restriction on Inter and intra state movement was implemented.

*To prevent overcrowding, the movement of all vehicles, two wheelers and taxis in the districts, only odd and even numbers were allowed to ply on alternate days beginning from March 23, 2020.

*All shops restaurants, commercial establishments, hotels, private offices, factories, workshops and godowns were asked to close the operations from 6:00 am on 25th March 2020. Shops for PDS, groceries, vegetables, fruits, meat, fish, bread and milk and medicines and the service for storage and transportation of required items. (These shops to be opened from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm).

*Complete ban on inter-state movement through Rangpo Check post of private vehicles, buses, taxis, two-wheelers except vehicles engaged in law enforcement, emergency services/cases and supply of essential commodities (food grains, ration, medicines, milk etc). Complete ban on movement of all private vehicles, two wheelers and taxis in the districts were implemented from 6:00 am on 25th.3.2020

*As the state was gearing up with the order of partial lockdown announced by the State Government, the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi announced for complete lockdown in the country from the midnight of March 24.3.2020 till April 14, 2020. Complying with the order given by the Prime Minister the State

Government also announced for complete lockdown till April 14.

*A communication strategy in the form of upto date news, e-news, instagram, miking, facebook, posters etc were charted by IPR Department to carry out public relation activities to make people aware and informed of the developments on a daily basis.

* The daily COVID-19 Health Bulletin (in video form) was issued by the Director General-cum-Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, every evening to update the media and the general public of the latest status of COVID-19 in the State.

*The State Government identified and designated the 8th and 9th floor of STNM hospital Sohayagang as COVID-19 isolation ward and treatment Centre.

*District Control Rooms were set up in all four districts with the helpline numbers. 24x7 Emergency Helpline Contacts were also identified.

*All porous borders especially along river banks were sealed through barb fencing, and round the clock police patrol was ensured.

*The Government took a zero-tolerance stance against any illegal entry of unauthorized persons through the two borders of Melli and Rangpo.

*The State Government prepared a centralized web portal www.covid19sikkim.org to serve as the single platform for all online services regarding COVID-19.

*Simultaneously, the District Task Force headed by the District Collectors in all the four districts ensured that adequate quarantine facilities were created. Hotels and resorts were notified as paid quarantine centres while government establishment, mostly educational institutions were converted into free facility quarantine centres.

*The Chief Minister also announced a one-time lump-sum monetary incentive of ₹ 3000/- to Sikkim Police, Health and Family Welfare Department, Transport Department, Urban Development Department.

*The Chief Minister announced free ration to the needy families in rural areas (over and above their PDS entitlements) and additional incentive wage of ₹ 300 per day to all the workers of Temi Tea who report for work during the lockdown period.

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Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamnag unveiling the plaque of Viral lab at STNM.



COVID test being conducted.



Citizen receiving COVID vaccination



SIMFED vans delivering essential commodities



Chief Minister's Relief packages being distributed



COVID Care Kit being handed over



Sikkimese people being brought back home from various places



Sanitization drive



Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang visiting COVID Unit



Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang inspecting COVID Care Centres



High Level virtual meeting on COVID -19 with Prime Minister of India



Thermal Screening being conducted



Miking for COVID awareness



War Room in Namchi



Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang presenting Appointment Orders to Health Care Volunteers



Oxygen Cylinders being brought to the State

“Dawai Bhi Kadai Bhi”

**STAY HOME
STAY SAFE**

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Summary of Good...

*Students and working professionals from Sikkim stranded in different parts of the country were advised to stay put wherever they were. The Government came in touch with the respective State Heads and the administration, as well as the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to ensure that they receive the required facilities.

*Financial incentive of ₹ 5000 from the Government of Sikkim was also provided to such students to help them sustain this difficult time.

*Contractors/employers of migrant/casual labourers were directed to make payment of the wages of their workers at their work places on the due date without any deduction for the period of closure of their establishments during the lockdown.

*Landlords of the properties where labourers are living in rented accommodation were advised to waive off the house rent for a period of one month.

*Onetime grant of ₹ 2000/- to each registered construction worker to compensate them during the period of lock down due to COVID -19 pandemic was sanctioned.

*One-time medical relief amounting to ₹ 30000/- to the patients from Sikkim stranded in different parts on the country were also provided. In addition, all ASHA workers were provided with an honorarium of ₹5000/- in view of their role in the ongoing efforts to contain spread of COVID-19 during the initial phase of COVID-19 outbreak.

*In recognition of noteworthy service by journalists based in Sikkim, the Chief Minister gave away financial incentive to journalists.

*The Chief Minister announced a special financial incentive of ₹ 5000/- to Safai Karmacharis throughout the State.

*Installation of AarogyaSetuApp in Smart phones was made mandatory.

*Transit camps were setup in all four districts to facilitate the accommodation of drivers and helpers engaged in transportation of essential commodities from outside the State.

*The State Evacuation Cell was constituted headed by a Nodal Officer in order to facilitate and bring back the person, patients of the State stranded outside.

*The State Control Room was further extended as the Evacuation Cell with increased manpower. The focus was laid on creating an IT-enabled service to facilitate the process of mass evacuation of Sikkimese people stranded in other parts of the country.

Since Sikkim fell under the green zone and with zero cases of COVID -19, the State Government adopted some relaxation measures to help revive the economy.

*Commercial establishments were allowed to open from 9:00 a.m to 4:00 pm,. Vehicles were allowed to ply in odd and even registration number basis. These relaxations were in line with the national guidelines issued by the Government of India.

*An Economic Revival Committee was constituted to help in reviving the economy of the state due to the pandemic.

*Under Sikkim Public Health and Safety (COVID-19) Regulation 2020 preventive measures like wearing of mask, maintaining of social distancing were made mandatory and anybody found violating it were liable for penalty.

*The State set up Viral Research and Diagnosis Laboratory in mid-May. The RTPCR machine for the State Viral Laboratory also reached Gangtok by a Special Indian Airforce Flight on May 14, 2020.

Sikkim took tight pro-active steps and was able to control the virus with zero cases in the state. However, the second wave of COVID-19 was reported throughout the country with the state too being affected. The state government nevertheless has been working diligently in its fight against the pandemic.

*The state government has been distributing the COVID CARE KIT in the doorsteps of COVID-19 positive asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic patients throughout the state free of cost as an initiative from the government.

*One of the ways to defeat COVID-19 is by timely testing. Therefore, the state government started mass RAT testing drive throughout the state. Apart from this, mobile testing team is also deployed on priority for testing in areas, where the infection rate is relatively high.


*One time financial assistance of ₹10,000 was provided to ASHA workers as a reward for their relentless and selfless service during the second wave of pandemic.

*Oxygen cylinders were provided by the Government of India and the supply of oxygen cylinders is being monitored at highest level. Oxygen concentrators is being provided to all the district hospitals, CHC, PHC and even upto the PHSC level.

*With the launch of the vaccine in the country, mass vaccination drive for 18+ is being carried out. Special vaccination drive has also started for people without ids.

*A COVID-19 control/war room is also established at the COVID wing of STNM Covid building and at Namchi. This is being done to ease out the communication between the doctors and the COVID-19 infected patient parties through a system of CCTV cameras.

*76 Health Volunteers who have been rendering their services to the health sector during the COVID 19 pandemic were handed appointment orders by the Chief Minister.


Government of Sikkim
Department of Information & Public Relations


"I appeal to everyone to get vaccinated for the safety of oneself and others against COVID-19"
- Ganga Prasad
Governor of Sikkim

Do not believe in rumours being spread about the vaccine

Focus on the 5 fold strategy

Follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour

GANGTOK



I got my COVID 19 Vaccine

I did not hesitate

#SikkimFightsCorona

#VaccineSavesLives

#Unite2FightCorona

Let's come together to make the Hon'ble Prime Minister's initiative "Dawai Bhi Kadai Bhi" successful and beat COVID-19


Government of Sikkim
Department of Information & Public Relations



Testing



Tracing

LET'S FOLLOW THE 5 FOLD STRATEGY



Treatment



Vaccination



Covid Appropriate Behaviour

FOLLOW THESE GOLDEN RULES



FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING



WEAR A MASK



WASH YOUR HANDS



ADOPT HEALTHY IMMUNITY BOOSTERS

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