Namchi, 24th May (IPR): Following the confirmation of the first Corona virus positive case in Sikkim from South district, the District Administration has taken crucial and timely steps of contact tracing as well as assessing the management of the quarantine centres set up under the district.

As informed by District Magistrate South Shri. Ragul.K a total number of 129 samples including samples from various quarantine centres (73) and samples from all frontline workers (56) deployed at Melli screening centre has been sent to North Bengal Medical College and Hospital (NBMCH) for testing. He also informed that the samples of those 17 people travelling from Delhi to Siliguri with the COVID-19 positive patient belonging to East district have all tested negative. Additionally, the samples of people from West and South district travelling with him from Melli to the quarantine centre have also been sent for testing. Furthermore, the DC stated that the results of all the samples are likely to be out by tomorrow. He also addressed the reports of mismanagement of JNV Ravangla quarantine centre and clarified the conjectures regarding the fooding and lodging facilities provided to the ones being quarantined there. Similarly based on distorted notions doing the rounds on social media, it was also informed that the blanket used by the Corona positive patient was not reused by any other person after his departure from the quarantine facility. Further, disinfection of place used by the positive patient in the room had been already carried out. Also, adding to this the DC informed that a total of 12 people are being currently accommodated in a room having a capacity of 24 to ensure the norms of social distancing.

The District Administration team consisting of DC (South) Shri. Ragul.K, ADC (South) Shri.Satyen Pradhan and SDM (HQ) Shri.Chiran Rizal also visited JNV Ravangla and took stock of the quarantine centre today. The team also interacted with the people quarantined at the facility and assured full support and cooperation to them. The quarantined people were also advised to remain optimistic during their stay at the centre and refrain from posting any content that incites fear and panic amongst the public.

The District Administration has also appealed to the public to extend their cooperation towards fighting the stigma and prejudices related to COVID-19. Besides, anyone willing to volunteer during the crisis can get in touch with South District Administration for further details. It may be pertinent to add here that, two levels of Containment Zones are made in JNV Ravangla quarantine centre. The first level of containment zone is the building where the returnees are lodged. This level is accessible only by the medical team, the catering team and the saafikarmachari. The second level of containment zone is the entire JNV Ravangla premises where outsiders are strictly prohibited from entering.