Chief Secretary Chairs State Task Force Meeting

Date: 18-Apr-2020

Gangtok, April 18:(IPR) Chief Secretary Shri S.C. Gupta chaired the Covid-19 State Task Force Meeting today to review the activities of each department and to deliberate on future course of action in line with the revised guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The meeting was attended by Heads of concerned departments, DC East, and was joined through video conferencing by Resident Commissioner, Sikkim House, New Delhi, Shri Ashwini Chand, and the District Collectors of South, West and North Districts. The Chief Secretary directed the Health Department to ensure immediate supply of Rapid Test Kits. Likewise, he directed for completion of the Viral Laboratory at STNM Hospital by 15th May, 2020. The Food & Civil Supplies Department informed that the first round of distribution of all commodities have been completed, and the commodities for second round will be despatched by today evening. The department also shared the figures of the total number of beneficiaries. The meeting discussed in detail the adjustments to be made after 20th April to resume certain essential services, as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The following broad decisions were taken:

1. Transit facility to be created for interstate drivers.
2. West Bengal drivers should be encouraged to return the same day after off loading.
3. Only some identified vehicles of Sikkim registration will be allowed to ply.
4. Aarogya Setu mobile application to be downloaded compulsorily by every individual. This will be a prerequisite for travel permits.
5. Anybody who will be entering Sikkim after likely relaxation after 3rd of May, 2020, should invariably have Aarogya Setu mobile Application downloaded and activated on their mobile phones.
6. Vehicles carrying Pharmaceutical company goods should enter the State in the morning, unload, and return back the same day.
7. There should be strict compliance of the guidelines issued by Home Department, Government of Sikkim on 17th April, 2020. Lock-down guidelines and precautionary measures should be strictly complied with.

In conclusion, the Chief Secretary said that there will be a separate meeting to discuss the strategy for the decisions to be followed after 3rd of May, 2020.