

**MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF NAGALAND ON COVID-19 BY SHRI R.N. RAVI,  
HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF NAGALAND ON 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020**

**My dear Brothers and Sisters of Nagaland,**

As you are aware, mankind is in the midst of an unprecedented crisis. COVID-19 is spreading across the World without discrimination. The most resourceful and powerful countries are looking helpless. It has taken a heavy toll on human lives and upended the lives and workplaces around the World.

With no evidence that available medicine can prevent or cure the disease and no vaccine or specific anti-viral medicine as yet against COVID-19, the fight against this pandemic is likely to be a long one, though we pray to God for not to be so.

Although the first COVID-19 positive case in our Country was detected at the end of January, its growth over the next month remained slow. However, of late, there is a sudden increase in the spread and pace of its growth. A recent religious congregation in Delhi in utter violation of the lockdown and social distancing norms and guidelines has given a serious setback to our containment efforts. Suddenly, the pace of growth of Corona in our Country has increased.

Until a week ago, there was no positive case in our neighbouring Assam. Today, there are more than 20 positive cases, all related to that religious congregation. Such reckless and irresponsible acts put the lives of our Countrymen in jeopardy.

Although there is no reported COVID-19 positive case in our State, the unfolding scenario in our neighbourhood is a sufficiently compelling reason for us to be on our utmost guard. We cannot afford to remain complacent and unprepared.

The State Government with continuous support of the Government of India under the leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji, has taken all possible preventive measures to ensure prevention and suppression of this virus. All efforts are being made to track and trace possible COVID-19 suspects, quarantine them and conduct tests.

The State healthcare sector is gearing up to treat COVID-19 patients. District hospitals in few districts have been designated as COVID-19 Hospitals. Protective gears for health workers like Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), N-95 Masks have been procured and distributed to all district hospitals and other healthcare service providers across the State.

COVID-19, being a respiratory disease, all available ventilators – Government Hospitals, Army Hospital and Private Hospitals have been mobilised and more are being procured.

I have been closely monitoring the COVID-19 preparedness in the State and guiding the Government functionaries from time to time.

At present, we do not have a testing facility for COVID-19 in our State. We have to send samples of suspected cases to Guwahati. As a result, we have not been able to do required number of tests to have an objective assessment of the COVID-19 situation in the State.

We are in the process of setting up a testing laboratory in our State. I am in touch with the Ministry of Health, Government of India and the ICMR and getting required assistance. I am hopeful to have it ready and functional soon.

I want to reassure you that all possible measures have been taken to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19 virus in the State. However, in the unfortunate event that we encounter some positive cases, I assure you that the State Government is well equipped to tackle it.

Experts across the world are unanimous in their opinion that containment of COVID-19 virus is enormously successful through social distancing combined with multiple testing. Its core strength is its high intensity contagiousness. Its fatal weakness is that it dies if it does not find a host. Social distancing is necessary to deny it a host. However, for social distancing to be successful, the unstinted cooperation of our people is a must.

I am pleased to inform you that Nagaland was one of the few States that announced complete shutdown before the nationwide lockdown announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, which came into effect on March 25, 2020. Such a lockdown is crucial to contain the virus. However, I am also aware that it creates a lot of humanitarian issues. I assure you all that the Government remains committed to mitigating the hardships to the people and taking all possible measures in this regard.

I am myself monitoring the situation on daily basis.

Let us remember that while we remain confined in the comfort of our homes, many of our brave brothers and sisters are at the frontline of the battle against Corona, working tirelessly and risking their lives. They are our health workers – Doctors, Nurses and Hospital Staff. Under normal circumstances, 10-15% of them are on leave. Today, over 95% of them are on duty. We salute their dedication. They are our angels. We also applaud the brave policemen and women and all those engaged in supplying essential services to our people during this trying times. We also applaud the voluntary services being rendered by our academic institutions and non-Government organizations – be it for production of sanitizers, three layered masks or the volunteers of the Nagaland Red Cross Society in assisting our district task forces in relief and humanitarian assistance.

I appeal to you all to continue maintaining social distancing and not to indulge in any such activity that may endanger the precious lives. Our fight against this unknown and invisible enemy can succeed only with the support and co-operation of each individual.

Today, I appeal to you all, to strictly follow the social distancing and observe recommended preventive guidelines.

I urge the Church leaders and leaders of other faith based organizations to continue to pray and lead the people in this unprecedented time. Your role as moral leaders is crucial.

The yeomen service of our civil society organisations is also crucial at this juncture. I appeal all of them to come forward and help the State in overcoming this pandemic.

I urge the young people not to think that they are immune to it. Remember, this virus does not spare anyone.

Friends, we shall defeat Corona with our collective resolve and restraint. Since the lockdown is also a time of psychological stress, we must periodically demonstrate our collective

resolve against COVID-19 to decisively defeat the enemy. No one is alone in this fight. We are together.

Hon'ble Prime Minister has appealed to our countrymen to demonstrate this collective resolve at 9 PM on April 5, Sunday. I urge you all, one and all, my friends, to make it a resounding success!

**Together we shall win!**

**Jai Hind!**