

**RAJ BHAVAN  
KOHIMA**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**March 20, 2020**

**My dear brothers and sisters of Nagaland,**

Fast spread of COVID 19 across the World has created a major global crisis of unprecedented scale. For some countries it has been devastating. The virus has come to our Country also though the pace of its growth here is so far slow. Since the Medical Science has not yet created any medicine or vaccine against this virus, its spread is all the more worrisome.

The only way to contain and defeat COVID 19 is by preventing its spread. We are thankful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji for closely monitoring the situation since its very first reported outbreak in China and initiating timely preventive measures. Government of India and the State Governments are taking various preventive measures. The international community including the W.H.O. have praised India for effectively containing the virus so far.

The address to the Nation by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on March 19 has been immensely re-assuring to the people. I urge you all to respond to his appeal in full measure.

Friends, the next few weeks are very crucial for all of us. According the experts, our Country is still at Stage-II of COVID-19. We have to prevent it from exploding into Stage-III which, if not stopped, would go virulent through community contact. It can be done by the resolve and restraint of our people. Each of us has to exercise social restraint which is being popularly called as social distancing. Except

for the health workers and those engaged in maintaining essential supplies as well as members of law-enforcement agencies, people should stay home for the next few weeks unless it is absolutely essential to go out. Gathering of people must be avoided. Elderly people, especially those above 60 years and children below 10 years must stay at home. I urge our people to sincerely respond to Hon'ble Prime Minister's appeal and observe the Janta Curfew from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM on March 22, 2020.

Friends, I have reviewed the overall preparedness of the State Government. Though there is no positive case reported in Nagaland so far, keeping the nature of the outbreak, arrangements are being made and improved upon regularly.

Besides the State Level Task Force, district task forces have been constituted in all districts, vigorous screening of passengers at entry points are ongoing, isolation beds have been identified, border screening is being done at 14 entry points, 24X7 help line numbers are in operation. There is enough stock of essential commodities. I urge the people to stay calm and not to resort to panic buying or hoarding.

I urge people to sincerely follow the advisories of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and also those of the State Government of Nagaland being issued from time to time. I appeal the Church leaders and leaders of other faith based organisations to create awareness and disseminate required preventive information and advisories to the people at the grass root level.

Our health workers are at the frontline of the battle. They are doing excellent work. I appeal to the people to applaud them and help them by avoiding visit to the hospitals for routine check-ups for the next a few weeks or panic testing.

I appeal to you to stay calm and follow the preventive measures.

**Together we shall defeat the virus.**