

Speech of the Hon'ble Governor for COVID-19 on 30th March 2020

Namaskar,

Honourable Chief Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal ji, Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna ji, DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta ji, Chairman Red Cross Society Assam T.Y. Das ji and all other dignitaries present here. Good Morning to all of you. You all know, we have all assembled here to discuss and assess the prevailing extraordinary situation arose due to the outbreak of novel corona virus throughout the globe. India with its huge demography is not an exception as the country has already borne the brunt of the virus with the number of active cases rising very rapidly. Against this backdrop and against the shimmering tension pervading everywhere in this country, there is a positive aspect that our State Assam is still free from Covid 19 infection. Yet, there is no room for complacency, as all of you are working day in and day out to keep the state away from this highly infectious virus. And what more needs to be done is known to all.

It is needless to reiterate before you that till now there is no antidote to fight against the virus. Therefore, social distancing is regarded as the golden principle at this juncture. Considering the status of the pandemic in other advanced countries and the number of infected persons that is rising very alarmingly with every passing day in those countries, the

situation in India till today presumably is very controlled. Yet sensing the imminent danger that the disease might pose on every strata of our country, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has already ordered for a complete lock down for 21 days to keep the people of the country at bay from social gathering.

I am happy that in Assam, the State machinery has been very categorical in enforcing the lockdown and perhaps this is the reason, till now no positive cases have been reported from any part of the state. Though, there are reported violations of lockdown here and there, we have to be very particular in ensuring total lockdown as per the guidance of our Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Hon'ble President of India Ram Nath Kovind ji has had a video conference with us on 27th March, where he categorically mentioned that when there should be complete adherence to national lockdown, essential services including health services should be made available to the people. I understand the medical fraternity of the state has been working on a mission mode to give primary, secondary and tertiary health services to the people. However, we have to add more capacity to our machinery if there is an outbreak of the virus in our state. At the same time considering mammoth task we have in our hands to provide health and hygiene to all, we should utilise the services of Assam Red Cross Society, Bharat Scouts and

Guides, NCC etc. after following all protocol prescribed to deal with COVID-19.

Gentlemen, this is just my introductory observation and I want this meeting to discuss and set a pragmatic and proactive roadmap so that our state stands out in its fight against novel corona virus.

Thank you.