



**JANASANYOG, ASSAM**  
**CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR**

**PRESS RELEASE**

No. 186/2020

**CM takes stock of COVID-19 preparedness of Udalguri district**

**CM directs Agriculture officials to interact with farmers**

**Dispur, April 18:** Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today directed the Agriculture Department to engage its field officials to interact with progressive and other farmers to motivate them to engage in farming with complete adherence to the norm of social distancing. The Chief Minister also asked the Agriculture Department to keep adequate stockpile of fertilizer and pesticides to facilitate farm activities.

Chief Minister Sonowal while visiting Udalguri district today to take stock of COVID-19 preparedness, asked the district administration to maintain strict vigil at the already sealed Indo-Bhutan international border and Assam-Arunachal inter-state border adjoining the district to halt movement of all vehicular traffic without permission. Udalguri Deputy Commissioner Prakash Ranjan Gharphalia apprised the Chief Minister about various steps taken to deal with COVID-19 outbreak in the district and measures for providing succour to the lockdown affected people.

Further directing the district administration to ensure seamless supply of essential commodities, Chief Minister Sonowal instructed the DC to hold discussions with wholesalers to stop any spike of such commodities in the district. He also asked the officials to regularly interact with the Minister in-charge of the district alongwith MPs and MLAs.

Moreover, stressing on the need to keep a 24x7 active control room in the district, the Chief Minister directed to engage staff in shifts so that swift action on any query from public can be addressed. He also directed to take adequate measures for children, elderly citizen and pregnant women at these difficult times. He also instructed to take urgent steps for repairing of electric poles damaged in the recent storm and also to ensure uninterrupted supply of power in the district to APDCL officials.

PHED Minister Rihon Daimary, MLAs Bimal Bora, Kamali Basumatary, Charan Bodo, Maheswar Bodo, Principal Secretary of BTAD Robinson Mochahary, IGP (BTAD) Anurag Agarwala, DC, SP and other senior officials were present in the review meeting.

Earlier, Chief Minister Sonowal visited a quarantine centre set up at Sonai gaon camp in Udalguri and interacted with the health personnel.

Chief Minister Sonowal also addressed the media persons at DC office premises after the review meeting. He said that people of Assam have successfully observed the 21-day lockdown announced by the Prime Minister and thanked the people for their support. He further informed that the State government has taken all measures to ensure continuous supply of essential goods during the extended lockdown period.

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The Chief Minister also informed that he had already interacted with Chief Ministers of several States of the country over telephone to ensure shelter, food and security of the stranded people of the State. He also said that Assam government has taken adequate steps for the stranded people of other States. Chief Minister Sonowal also appreciated media's role in spreading awareness among people about COVID-19 and urged them keep people more cautious and informed about the precautionary measures.

BB/BG/April 18, 2020