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CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR

PRESS RELEASE

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**Sonowal asks DCs and SPs to enforce lock down in their jurisdiction  
Asks them to make essential commodities available and ensure no hoarding takes place**

**Dispur, March 23:** Chief Minister Sarbanadna Sonowal today held a video conference (VC) with the deputy commissioners and superintendents of police to review the situation in the state arising out of Covid 19 outbreak and asked them to closely monitor the situation in their respective districts to check transmission of corona virus infection in the state and complete adherence to lock down declared by the government.

Chief Minister Sonowal during the VC asked the deputy commissioners and superintendents of police to enforce the lock down in their respective jurisdiction and put a close monitoring system in place to make all the essential commodities available to the public. He also asked the functionaries to keep a watch on the traders so that there is 'no hoarding' of essential items and making use of the extraordinary situation the prices of essential commodities do not spike.

Considering the looming threat of the Covid 19 on the humanity, Sonowal said that the people should maintain self-quarantine. He also emphasized that the golden protocol to check the transmission of this virus is observance of 'social distancing' and 'avoidance of all kinds of social gathering'. He however said that with cooperation from the public at large, the virulence of the novel corona virus and its fatality can be minimized to a great extent.

Sonowal, therefore, asked the DCs to take the help of *gaon burahs*, line sardars in the tea garden areas and other organizations to generate awareness among the public and make them understand in details the severity of the virus and the rate at which the virus spreads from one infected person to others.

The Chief Minister also caught the attention of the DCs and SPs and said that since Covid 19 pandemic is a new health hazard that has affected as many as 197 countries, one should try to fight with this pandemic following practices such as good health and hygiene and restrain oneself from social gathering and follow social distancing. He, therefore, urged upon the people of the state to adhere to the health advisories issued by the State government. He also asked the DCs to use their men and machinery to educate those people in general and those who visit hospitals to follow cough etiquette by covering the nose and mouth using masks or handkerchief while sneezing or coughing and do frequent hand washing with soap. He also informed them that Rapid Response Teams have been constituted in all the districts and asked the DCs to depute his senior officers to have round the clock surveillance on every potential development which may affect the novel corona virus situation in the state.

Chief Minister's Media Adviser Hrishikesh Goswami, his Legal Adviser Santanu Bharali, Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna, DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, Principal Secretary Health and Family Welfare Samir Kumar Sinha, Chief Minister's Principal

Secretary Sanjay Lohiya, Commissioner Secretary Secretariat Administration Department M. Angamuthu were present during the video conference.

SD/ March 23, 2020.