

## AITC PRESS RELEASE

### National General Secretary and Diamond Harbour MP Shri Abhishek Banerjee's interaction with officials from South 24 Parganas regarding COVID-19 situation

#### Steps being taken by District administration –

- Across the district, testing has been amped up
- Miking is being done in public spaces like market areas, bus stands and stations
- All officials are ensuring that people in public spaces are wearing masks at all times; in certain cases, people are also being fined for failing to adhere to COVID-19 protocols
- So far, 1.2 lakh masks have been distributed in the recent past
- We have also partnered with local artists, influencers and public representatives for spreading awareness at the very grassroots
- With the help of ASHA & Anganwadi workers, we have taken up door-to-door surveys and increased awareness among people regarding health and hygiene
- We have also helped people with availing ration, cooked meals for those in home isolation; special care has also been taken of destitute people and transgenders
- We have boosted vaccination drive through unique initiatives like 'Vaccination on Wheels' – in this regard, **we have achieved 100% vaccination for first dose** and are soon to complete 100% in second dose as well
- One more unique initiative to boost vaccination was the introduction of Chat Bots – through WhatsApp people reached out and booked slots for availing vaccines; we also took up Vaccination on Boats whereby we could reach out to the remotest areas and ensure that everyone received the COVID-19 vaccine
- For students, we have a target of nearly 3.5 lakh students and **we have already vaccinated more than 1 lakh students**
- As per government instructions, ex-gratia has also been issued to those who succumbed to COVID-19
- Across the district, we have successfully reduced the fatality rate
- We have also set up several safe homes and have adequate preparation when it comes to oxygen supply and availability
- Our police personnel have also worked round the clock to increase awareness – from meals to mask distribution as well as naka-checking, police have been extremely active in fighting the pandemic
- We also have other unique measures like control rooms at block level, tele-consultation facilities, availability of the tele-medicines facility

#### Key inputs and suggestions from Hon'ble MP Shri Abhishek Banerjee –

- We have to start an initiative called **Doctors-on-Wheels** whereby a team of doctors, nurses and health professionals will be available at all times to interact with patients and provide guidance and all medical assistance at all times
- This team will visit people door-to-door and help patients who are in home isolation
- Tele-consultation services to be made available at all hours
- Testing needs to be amped up – in this regard, we can train ASHA & Anganwadi workers, SHG members and help them to take RAT tests

- We have to **use self-testing kits more proactively** – this does not take a very long time and can help detect cases as well; on 12<sup>th</sup> January, Swami Vivekananda’s birthday, our target should be to achieve 30,000 tests
- Our goal should be increased testing, increased awareness
- A **control room must be established at each Ward and at each Gram Panchayat** – these control rooms will function at all times and help people with anything they require
- Each control room should also have one WhatsApp number whereby any consultations can be done by video-calling as well – solutions must be provided within 10 minutes – and we have to work towards achieving this in mission mode
- We also have to **increase awareness about isolation centers and safe homes** – a lot of people are in home isolation but without maintaining proper COVID-19 protocols, they can end up affecting those around them. To this end, we have to help people understand the importance of isolation centers and ensure that they visit the same and stay there for 4-5 days if necessary. Once cured, they can again return home
- We have to take people in confidence and explain that this is for their welfare
- We have to break the stigma around isolation centers and ensure that more and more people visit the same and get cured
- We have to make **Double Mask mandatory** – till 15<sup>th</sup> January we can spread awareness about the need of the same and start enforcing at ground level; from 16<sup>th</sup> January it will be mandatory to wear double masks in all public spaces – every official, public representative and police personnel will need to ensure that no one goes in public spaces without two masks
- Business Samitis can have a meeting to put this method in place whereby all buyers and sellers will have to wear two masks
- Markets should ideally be closed for two consecutive days instead of alternative days; we could avoid closing markets on Saturdays and Sundays
- 100% vaccination needs to be completed in mission mode
- **No political, religious gatherings till the end of February** for the greater interests of the people
- Miking and awareness needs to be increased
- **District administration will take up a press meet every single day** to share in detail the steps we have taken to curb the spread of COVID-19
- Our aim should be reducing positivity rate below 5% within the next 7-10 days
- We have to stay united in our efforts towards fighting the pandemic, together we can win this and ensure that all our people are well-protected