PUNJAB RAJ BHAVAN, CHANDIGARH

**V. P SINGH BADNORE REVIEWS CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS**

**ALL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN CHANDIGARH CLOSED TILL MARCH 31**

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 13: The Punjab Governor and Administrator, UT, Chandigarh, Shri V.P. Singh Badnore held the meeting with the Health Secretaries of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory, Chandigarh along with Deputy Commissioner, Chandigarh, Dr. Jagat Ram, Director PGIMER, Dr. B.S. Chavan, Director, GMCH, Sector 32 and Director Health Services, UT, Chandigarh to review the preparedness of tricity regarding Coronavirus disease (COVID – 19).

       The Chandigarh Administration as a special measure of preparedness has approved the notification under Epidemic Diseases  Act 1897 under Section 2, 3 and 4 to enforce the preventive steps for control of COVID 19.

       The preparedness of Punjab, Haryana along with UT Chandigarh was appreciated by the Hon'ble Governor for containment of COVID – 19.  The residents of Chandigarh have been provided with a Helpline No 9779558282  on 24 X 7 for any type of queries related to COVID – 19 and a dedicated Ambulance is available 24 X 7 for shifting and screening of patients thereof. Adequate arrangements have been made for isolation beds in all the three govt hospitals of Chandigarh and an adequate space is made available for quarantine of patients, if required, at any stage.

       The Chandigarh Administration has identified Infosys Sarai adjoining PGIMER with a provision of 262 beds for quarantine of patients especially for asymptomatic patients travelling from the COVID- 19 affected countries.

       The Chandigarh Administration  is keeping a close watch on the suspects and till now none have tested positive. Currently 142 travellers are under home surveillance in Chandigarh.

       The appeal is hereby made to the residents that there is no need to panic and the use of masks is not required in case of healthy persons.

       The teams of SDMs along with the area DSP and Drug Inspectors have been constituted to ensure that there is no hoarding of any medicines, masks, sanitizer etc. and the vendors found to be involved in this malpractice will be dealt with seriously under the provisions of Drug and Cosmetic Act and other Acts as applicable.

      The Chandigarh Administration as a precautionary measure hereby appeal to all the residents to avoid mass  gatherings and as a precautionary measures all the Government and Private Schools are hereby closed till 31st March, 2020. No new session for any school shall begin before April 1, 2020, however schools can continue with their scheduled Board Exams. Parents of school children are advised to ensure that school children do not indulge in mass gatherings especially during the holidays.

      According to the Punjab Raj Bhawan, the upcoming outside engagements are hereby restricted as a precautionary measure.