

## DATE: 22.04.2021

In continuation to our drive against hoarding/ black marketing of COVID essentials, in the last 24 hours, the Joint Flying Squads comprising Drug Inspectors, officials of Crime Branch, Special Task Force and local Police conducted verification in various pharmaceutical firms at College Square, Cuttack and one Hospital at Bhubaneswar. Verification was also carried out in various medical stores / stockist / depots / oxygen filling centres at Subarnpur, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Balangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi and elsewhere. The records and stocks of entry and supply of COVID medicines and related items were verified. Distribution details were collected and the medical firms/hospitals were directed to submit daily up-dates on the distribution of COVID-19 drugs.

To prevent hoarding and black marketing of COVID medicines in the State, the State Level Committee comprising ADGP, Crime as Chairman and Joint Secretary, Health Department and Drugs Controller as Members, has been formed by the Government of Odisha. The Committee has constituted 07 Flying Squads in Cuttack-Bhubaneswar and 15 in rest of the State.

ADGP, Crime reviewed the enforcement drive. During the next phase, verification of utilization will be done by cross verifying the records of Hospitals and contact with beneficiaries. Strong action under Criminals laws will be taken against anyone indulging in hoarding, black marketing or any illegal acts.

Jary 27/1/27