

## **Rs. 19,891.60 crore budget proposal adopted for 2020-21**

Today the state adopted a budget worth Rs. 19,891.60 for the financial year 2020-21. It is noteworthy that the state finance minister Jishnu Dev Varma presented the budget proposal on the first day of this Assembly session today that proposal was adopted at the Assembly.

## **Tripura Industries (Facilitation) (Amendment) Bill passed**

The Tripura Industries (Facilitation) (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (The Tripura Bill No. 2 of 2020) has been passed at the Tripura Legislative Assembly today. The chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb presented the bill at the Assembly.

## **Tripura under lockdown till 31 March except emergency services**

In a bid to prevent the spread of COVID-19 the state government has decided to enforce lockdown throughout the state from 2 pm tomorrow to continue upto 5 pm. of March 31. Today in a press conference at the state secretariat the chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb told the media about this decision. He said already

from March 13 the state government had enforced 144 in the state and appealed to the people of the state to comply with the 144 guidelines. Additionally he has urged the people to stay at home except in emergency. He said, during the period of lockdown there will be no public transport facility, but daily commodities will be available and offices and institutions associated with emergency services will remain open.

The chief minister also informed, the Pradhan, Upapradhan, BDO, Panchayat Secretary, and elected members of the panchayats having border area have to be vigilant so that nobody slips into the state through the Indo-Bangladesh border. If somebody takes shelter in the borders area the matter should be immediately reported to the police, else the concerned family will be liable to legal action. He said, the government has taken utmost measures to keep the state safe from this epidemic. No negligence in this regard will be tolerated. He has appealed to all in border areas to observe Janta Curfew for the next one month.

During the period of lockdown, emergency services will be operational as usual. Grocery shop, medicine shop, vegetable, fruit, fish, meat shops, public distribution system, banks, ATM etc. services will also remain operational. Taking advantage of the situation, if any traders tries to extract higher prices or resorts to black-marketing of essential commodities stern action will be taken against him.

The education minister Ratan Lal Nath speaking at the press meet detailed about the measures taken to combat corona menace. He said, 15 days ration will be given to 5.86 lakh families of Antyodaya Anna Yojana and priority household families. 2.66 primary students studying in government and government –aided schools will be given 15 days’ mid-day-meal quota of rice and dal (18 kg rice and 500 gm. Dal). In upper primary section 25 kg rice and 750 gm dal will be given to each student of 1.65 lakh such students. Similarly, 15 day’s ration quota will be supplied to the homes of Anganwadi children. Social security pension holders will get their pension of April and May together next month for which an amount of Rs. 72 crore will be required. All facilities like food, accommodation and

treatment in quarantine centres will be given free of cost.

Further, the family of a death from COVID-19 and the family of anybody associated with the treatment of COVID-19 patient will be given Rs. 4 lakh in case of death. Ten days work will be given to MGNREGA job card holders. Employment will also be given under PDF in rural areas and under TUEP in urban areas. For this purpose Rs. 5 crore has been earmarked in each case. Adequate measure will be taken to maintain social distance in the workplace. Mask and sanitiser will be given to the labourers for their protection.

The chief minister has already requested the central government to sanction Rs. 73 crore for payment of wages of MGNREGA workers. The Government of Assam will be requested to allow the lorries carrying goods for Tripura. The Central Government will be requested to allow to give Rs. 1000 to each of Ujjwala Yojana beneficiary families from State Disaster Response Fund. To ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities a facilitation centre will be opened by the health and food department. Among others present in the press conference were the forest minister Mewar Kumar Jamatia, chief secretary Manoj Kumar and additional DIG Rajeev Singh.