On its 84<sup>th</sup> foundation day today, Odisha has reasons to cheer, even as anxieties and uncertainties around the Corona outbreak scale a new high.

Of the 1,564 people across India who have so far tested positive for the virus, only three cases– or less than 0.2% -- have been reported from Odisha. That's encouraging for an economically backward state -- home to some 46 million people or 3.4% of the national population -- where healthcare facilities are not so developed and people's vulnerability to such a pandemic is rather high.

It is also heartening because the third and the last case, a 60-year-old banker who had traveled from Delhi, came in almost a week ago. No one has since tested positive although the number of tests keeps rising with each passing day, giving hope that a health crisis of the magnitude feared elsewhere in the country might just be averted here.

How has Odisha managed dobetter? Will it be able to carry through its early success? Does it the run the risk of squandering away this success?

Before I explore answers to these questions, some caveats are in order: These are still early days. More importantly, the number of people tested is still very small; coverage has been uneven given that there is only one testing facility – in Bhubaneswar, the state capital; the containment challenge will likely get worse as migrant workers continue to return home from different parts of the country. As I write, a hunt is on for 12 people who are believed to have attended

That said, lets return to factors contain the Corona outbreak

; a lockdown it ordered 10 days ago – one of the first states in the country to do so – has met with good compliance; authorities have so far done well in preventing any disruptions in supply of essential goods and services

Odisha has a reason to celebrate

, Odisha has reasons to cheer, and celebrate, even as anxieties and uncertainties around the Corona outbreak

it enters the 10th day of a lockdown enforced to contain the Corona outbreak.

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Subrat Kumar Pradhan, associate professor of community medicine at VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research in Burla, added that early intervention seemed to have helped the state be at an advantage. "However, testing more samples for at least another week will give us a clearer picture of where the state is headed," he said.

## LATEST COMMENT

*Are we testing enough??? Till then dont bask in glory*
**Jitesh**

The state had on March 13 asked anyone who arrived from abroad on or after March 4 to register on a portal (covid19.odisha.in) or call helpline 104 and undertake home isolation. The government announced Rs 15,000 as incentive for those registering on the site and pasted the dates of quarantine on the houses of people being monitored. The government also roped in around 15 hotels in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar to double up as paid quarantine centres. The government has so far booked 61 people for violation of quarantine.