

Lockdown relaxed tomorrow; shops and petrol pumps ordered to open in view of Easter and Cheiroaba Festival

IT News
Imphal, April 10

District administration of both Imphal East and Imphal West has relaxed the lockdown for tomorrow only and ordered all shops, market and petrol pumps to remain open tomorrow to enable the general public of buying essential commodities in connection with the celebration of the Easter and Cheiroaba Celebration which falls on April 12 and April 13.

A notification in the connection has been issued by both the district administrations of Imphal East and Imphal West. As per the notification of the Imphal East, shops, market and Petrol pumps are asked to open from 6 am to 11 am tomorrow however, no timing for opening of the said has been mentioned as per the notification of the Imphal West district administration. Market places that are supposed to be opened is also restricted in the notification by Imphal East

District Administration but for Imphal West district no time limitation is being mentioned for opening of the same. In both the notification, it is mentioned all public to strictly abide by the health advisory of maintaining social distancing by at least one meter while buying their needs. Petrol pump in urban areas are prohibited from selling of petrol/diesel in jerry cans or drums but allowed for rural area as it may be required for agricultural proposes.

IT News
Imphal, April 10

India is ready to do whatever is possible to help its friendly nations in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak. Responding to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who thanked India for delivering Hydroxychloroquine to his country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, the two nations have to jointly fight this pandemic. In a tweet, Mr Modi said, he is praying for the well-being and good health of the people of Israel. The Prime Minister also thanked Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. Mr Modi said, the

India ready to provide all possible help to friendly nations in wake of COVID-19 outbreak: PM Modi

India-Brazil partnership is stronger than ever in these challenging times. He added that India is committed to contribute to humanity's fight against this pandemic. Earlier, the Brazilian President had thanked Prime Minister Modi for facilitating export of raw materials to Brazil for production of anti-malarial drug Hydroxychloroquine,

seen as a possible cure for COVID-19. Meanwhile, The Central and State Governments are in a continuous combat mode against the Novel Corona Virus. Areas which are at higher risk of wider spread of the infection are earmarked as Hotspots to contain any further spread. Delhi added five new places taking the total

tally to twenty five, of such hotspots in the national capital. Bengali Market, Shashtri Market in JJ Colony, Sadar Bazar, B1 and B2 blocks in Paschim Vihar, Nizamuddin Dargah and Nizamuddin Basti were the new demarcated hotspot zones. Government has urged citizens to support the call of no movement in such areas.

BIPL helps villagers in interior part of the state at time of crisis

From our Correspondent
Cpur, April 10

Bharat Infra Project Limited ,BIPL, distributed food items like edible oil, potatoes, Salt ,Ngari (fermented fish), Dal and Sugar to 740 households from 11 villages situated in the interior areas of along the Guite Road (102B) which linked the state with Mizoram in Churachandpur district of Manipur.

The distribution was started from Maukot village and was handed over to the villagers by GB Sharma Senior Consultant Engineer BIPL .The BIPL officials has proceeded further and cover all the 11 village located at the Guite roadside .

The distribution was carried out from each village authority houses after all the villagers gathered.

Talking to this correspondent ,GB Sharma Senior Consultant said accused the district of refusing to grand permission for transportation of rice for people reeling under the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in this interior areas

He expressed about his surprise over the indifferent attitudes of the district administration because they were trying to provide rice for the people succour to the people from the BIPL expenses as the people are suffering so much due their inability to carry out their normal works of fetching

forest products to be converted into money and then purchase their daily needs

The BIPL has been engaged in the construction of Guite road connection which linked the state of Manipur with Mizoram since the year 2016 GB Sharma said the hardship of the people in this part of the country really is a cause of concern for them. Which is why they undertook the venture to atleast something atleast by way providing this foodstuffs

This is one way of supplementing the efforts put in by Government of India ,in it's fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic (Corona Virus).

KSA questions legality of the girl who return from China

IT News
Imphal, April 10

Student body Kangleipak Students' Association, (KSA) Manipur to raise question over the legitimacy to the trespassing of International boundary by the 23 years old girl from Singhat who reached Manipur in February 28 from China on land route by passing through Myanmar. The student body while questioning the government on whether the girl will let free without any penalty after quarantined said that whether the International border shared between India and Myanmar with Manipur's Churachandpur district is free for people to cross without having valid permit. Manipur share a total of 398 Km with Myanmar. On the other hand the KSA also questioned on why so many none locals are allowed to enter the state through trucks without having valid documents for entering the state. The state has stopped issuing of Inner Line Permit (ILP) which is mandatory for all none Manipuri to enter the state. The KSA expressed suspicion on whether some people are trying to sent Coronavirus to the state through the unknown persons smuggled in the state.

Jiribam District Police issues volunteers' Identity card, Provides drinking water to the localities

By - Mahin Laskar
Jiribam, April 10

To assist law enforcing agencies in order to curb infiltration of migrants into Manipur through inter-State porous borders, the Jiribam District Police issued volunteers Identity card. The Identity card were issued to the volunteers of Islamabad village; Champanganar village; Ningthembam village who came forward to assist Jiribam police to petrol the porous river banks bordering Assam round the clock to check and stop infiltrators from crossing over to Jiribam side. Altogether 125 volunteers'

identity cards along with masks and torch light have been distributed.

While speaking with the media persons, the SDPO of Jiribam District Police K. Gitchandra Singh said that during this present situation of pandemic COVID-19, the Jiribam District Police has issued volunteers identity card to the volunteers of different villages which is adjacent with the porous border areas of Jiribam District.

He added, the volunteers were deployed along with the police personnels at their respective villages, so as to restrict the flows of infiltrators from neighbouring

State of Assam through the extensive porous waterways of Jiribam District.

On behalf of frontline police personnels who were fighting against COVID-19 under the lead of Superintendent of Jiribam District, the SDPO of Jiribam District Police praised the volunteers for extending their utmost support to Manipur Police in safeguarding the porous border of Jiribam District.

On the otherhand, In order to heal some of the scarcity of drinking water during this lockdown and curfew, Jiribam District Police and 7th IRB have distributed drinking water to the needy public.

Racial Discrimination in times of COVID-19 increased manyfold - RPF

IT News
Imphal March 10

Racial discrimination among the people of WESEA region has increased considerably during this COVID-19 pandemic said a press release by proscribed group Revolutionary Peoples Front. The statement said , intellectuals and others of mainland India has never consider people from WESEA or Northeast India to be part of India and still during this time of COVID-19, the racial attitude towards the people of WESEA region is imminent. Many crimes have been committed to the people of this region since the last 30 years and in 9th January 2008, MLAs and an MP from Manipur urged the then CM of Delhi Sheila Dixit about the issue but fails to intervene on the matter. After this, a booklet entitled "Security Tips for North East Students/Visitors in Delhi" was published and circulated by Delhi Police which advised women from Northeast India to dress appropriately and not to cook any foul smelling items.

The statement by RPF further add that this dictate by the

Delhi Police over dressing and eating habit of the NE people is nothing but a way to suppressed the people of WESEA region.

Also, it is evident from the fact that India doesn't recognise people from NE India as fellow citizens in the 2015 Delhi Assembly election where the BJP vision document clearly terms the people from WESEA region as immigrant.

Act of racial discrimination has increased manyfold during the lockdown of COVID-19 pandemic in India. People from WESEA region who has physical appearance similar to that of China are targeted mainly as Coronavirus its first outbreak in China. People from this region are referred and called as Corona by mainland Indian and recently, a Delhi University student hailing from Manipur was spit with Paan on March 22, and many other cases in India where people from this region are targeted.

Many other atrocities like molestation, eviction of tenants, refusing to enter Grocery shop and hate crimes are being committed by people of India to the people

of WESEA in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi mainly.

The press release signed by Roben Khuman, Secy Publicity of RPF further said " All these incidents of racial discrimination to the people of WESEA region is because of being under India's colonial rule. It is an act of the colonial master to suppressed the people of this region and is evident from these recent incidents. This colonial mentality is also evident on the citizens of mainland India and is akin to the racial discrimination by the White to the Africans by terming them as Black or Negro. Despite all such discrimination by mainland India, it is quite surprising that students and other working in different parts of the country continue to term themselves as Indian and not foreigner, continuing their act of dependency to India. "

And lastly, RPF appeals that only when Manipur attains sovereignty, then such act of discrimination and atrocities can be stopped. As long as we remain under the colonial rule of India, such hate crimes and atrocities will continue.

IT News
Imphal, April 10

Showing solidarity with people facing hardships during the Lockdown period, L. Inunganbi Devi, Corporator, Imphal Municipal Corporation Ward No 18 distributed Dal, Onion and Ngari (Fermented Dry Fish) to 3200 household families within the jurisdiction of

Imphal Municipal Corporation Ward No 18 today . N. Imochabi Singh, ward member and RK. Monorama Devi ward member also attended the distribution. During the Lockdown period, L. Inunganbi Devi initiated to organise disinfect programme within the jurisdiction of Imphal Municipal corporation ward no 18. She further assured to render her helping

hands near future.

"We are immensely grateful to the state government for coming forward to help us and make available essential commodities in this taught time", said L. Inunganbi while appreciating Chief Minister N. Biren Singh lead Government in tackling this Pandemic situation our Committee assured in extending our helping hand in any possible manner.

Essential commodities distributed in Thoubal and Bishnupu

IT News
Thoubal, April 10

Essential commodities were distributed in different parts of Thoubal district to ease the difficulties faced by the people due to the lockdown imposed in the country to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Councillor of Ward no.15 of Thoubal Municipal Council, Yumnam Santi Devi distributed the essential items to around 800 houses including those staying in rented house.

Councillor Santi said, to curb the spread of COVID-19 localities in Thoubal have been disinfected and potable water were distributed taking in view of the difficulties faced by the people due to scarcity of water. After this, essential

items were distributed today at Babu Bazar, Lathikhoh, Khong Ahanbi, Heibong Leirak and Khundongbam Leikai which is under Ward no 15.

Santi appeals the people of the land to stay in their respective home to prevent the spread of COVID-19, which is creating a havoc in different parts of the world.

Also, Ward Member of Thoubal Municipal Council (TMC) Ward no.1 N. Nanda along with volunteers of YDO, SARU, SSAWA and OYC Club distributed essential items like Vegetables, Edible Oil, Salt, Potatoes and grains were distributed at Thoubal Okram, Wangmataba Sorok Makha and Doctor Maning.

Pradhan of Khangabok Part-I Gram Panchayat Ningthoujam

Mala Devi, Councillor of Thoubal Municipal Council (TMC) Ward no.4 Ak.Chandrajini, Councillor of Yairipok Municipal Council (YMC) Ward no.9 Longiam Kamala Devi, Laishram Domen, Social worker of 32-Wangkhem AC Ward no 9, and Kelimakhong Development Organisation (KDO) Thoubal Leishangthem also distributed essential items to their respective localities.

Ex-minister Th. Shyamkumar along with Sacrifice Youth Development Organization (SYDO) distributed essential items at Yairipok Tulihal Ward No 1 and Ward no 2. In Bishnupur district, Senjam Aboy Meetei of Yairipok Top Chingtha distributed essential items at Toubul Kabui Khul.

★ Editorial

Stop meddling with other people's business Dr. Rajo

At this time of crisis, criticism to the authority who has been taking up measures to protect the people should not be criticized for pity matters. Deputy Chief Minister's irresponsible comment in public sphere defaming Chief Minister by terming him as a mad man in connection with the promises of distributing 4 kg rice from NFSA, is indeed most unfortunate for the state at this time of crisis. The statement now ignites another crisis, which may create a stumbling block to sabotage the state government measures to tackle the pandemic COVID-19.

Why and how and from where the cracks ignite, which prompted the Deputy Chief Minister to make such statement is not what we in the Imphal Times wants to draw the attention of our reader. It is all about the need for unity not only among the people but also among all legislatures irrespective of which political party they belong to. Ironically, the Congress legislatures which used to criticize the ruling this time showed full solidarity to the government measures to contain the disease.

Congress MLA Khumukcham Joykishan had stated that at this time of crisis all should work together irrespective of differences in political ideology. He said as a legislature he will support what the government has been taking up to contain the deadly virus and even spend money from his own pocket to make sure that every person in his constituency (Thangmeiband AC) get adequate food during lockdown.

Another Congress MLA Th. Lokeshwar, while appealing to his people at Khundrakam Assembly constituency appealed people not to waste food as every piece of food is important for our survival at time of crisis that the world is facing today.

K Ranjit, another Congress MLA had also shown support to the measures being taken up by the Chief Minister saying that he will spend money by any means to make sure that no person in his constituency (Sugnu AC) remain hungry.

When legislatures are taking so much concern about the safety of their people from COVID-19 invasion and when they are very seriously working to make sure that people should not remain hungry, one wonders why an important government employee heading the most important job to fight the COVID-19, to name – Mr. Rajo, Director Health Services Manipur telling people not to take importance on food.

WHO advisory is to stay healthy by consuming healthy food. And at time of crisis it is important that every citizen gets proper food as assured by the government.

One question is why Mr. Rajo who should be confined to his duty of providing health care service is joining the politics of food distribution.

The government of Manipur needs to properly investigate on why Dr. Rajo is interfering to matters which are not of concern to him or his profession. Or is Dr. Rajo expecting of becoming a lawmaker taking advantage of COVID-19 crisis? A matter to ponder upon..

HTTCO thanks DC I/E

IT News
Imphal, April 10

Hill Tribal Tenant's Committee Imphal (HTTCI) has expressed its gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner, Imphal East and its subordinate officials for swift action in providing Rice and Dal 757 beneficiaries (Rice 2 Kgs and Dal 250 Gram per head) Dewahland area 347, Tangkhul Avenue area 98 beneficiaries, Checkon area 117, Mantripukh area 195.

These relief goods provide sustained support to the vulnerable and deserving section of Tenants strangled in Nationwide lockdown to some extent. It is also heart breaking to see many deserving left empty hand that we promised to extend whatever possible way in near future in consultation with the concern authority. Seeing the mood of Nationwide lockdown extension we are at a critical situation in the state response to COVID-19 we need every one to get involve in this massive effort to keep our people safe from hunger and coronavirus disease.

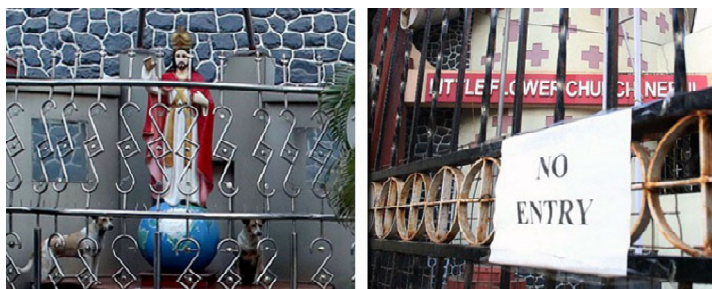
"We can't ignore the fact that this is truly global problem one that requires truly global solutions and our individual contribution will make huge difference", a statement by Momo Tantanga, Secretary, HTTCI said.

Hand Sanitizers and Mask distributed

IT News
Imphal, March 10

Mask and Hand sanitizers were distributed by United Pharmacy, Nagamapal and Navaratra Pharmacy, Thangal Bazar to P. Achouba, OC of Imphal West Commando. Also, masks were distributed to commuters who came along without wearing mask. Awareness was also given to people who came along without wearing mask.

COVID-19: Maharashtra to deploy SRPF in Mumbai to ensure strict lockdown



By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, April 10

With a view to arrest the fast spreading COVID -19, the Maharashtra Government has decided to deploy State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) in congested areas, including thick slum pockets, to ensure total enforcement of the lockdown.

In a meeting on Thursday, the Maharashtra cabinet focused on four important aspects — strict enforcement of lockdown, surveillance, sanitation and rapid tests.

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope in a video address said total number of COVID-19 positive cases in Maharashtra stood at 1,346, and out of which 746 came from Mumbai, the financial capital of the country. Maharashtra reported 25 deaths and 229 new cases in the 24 hours on Thursday.

"All ministers stressed the need to enforce strict lockdown and deploy SRPF as there is no option. Similarly, surveillance of crowds through drone technology was also necessary apart from installing CCTVs," he said.

He said that the administration is doing all it can to enforce the lockdown but now it's necessary to bring in SRPF and deploy them in congested areas to ensure people follow lockdown strictly. On surveillance, he said CCTV cameras are being used to monitor roads and ensure that people don't crowd there. Besides, the state plans to use drone technology to ensure people don't gather in congested areas, he added.

Tope also expressed concerns on the issues of sanitisation of public toilets in congested areas like Dharavi, the Asia's largest slum, in Central Mumbai. He said the administration is planning to use power jets belonging to fire brigade units to clean public toilets. He added that drones could also be used to sanitise public toilets. The sprawling slum colony of Dharavi has so far reported 17 COVID-19 cases and three deaths.

He said that the state government has decided to open municipal schools to temporarily accommodate the people who live in densely packed homes. "We have observed that those who live with 10-15 others in small rooms come out on the streets. As such the

available school buildings, which have been closed down temporarily, will be made available for nearby dwellers so that proper social distancing could be maintained.

The minister said that health department has asked for 1 lakh rapid random test kits and once these kits are received, tests will be carried out for all front liners like medical professionals and others involved in the battle against COVID-19.

Earlier he said that private medical practitioners have been asked not to close their clinics during the ongoing curfew, since the medical clinics have been exempted from the purview of the curfew as they are part of essential services. "I have come to know that some private practitioners have closed down their OPDs, which is not expected from them. OPDs are exempted from the curfew...they should keep their dispensaries open". In the meanwhile since most of the churches are closed due to coronavirus pandemic, devout Christians have decided to offer "Good Friday" prayers at home or through websites offering online service.

Developer's family violates curfew...top official sent on compulsory leave

By our Correspondent
Mumbai, April 10

The family members of a Mumbai based developer, accused in multi crore rupees scandal of "Yes Bank" and "PMC Bank" have been detained, along with their aides, by the Maharashtra police and kept in quarantine for violating lockdown rules, even as the Maharashtra Special Principal Secretary (Home) Amitabh Gupta has been sent on compulsory leave for giving travel permission to the family. In all 23 members of the Wadhwan family of DHFL and HDIL group, were detained by police as they reached Mahabaleshwar Hill station on Wednesday evening. The family entered Mahabaleshwar from the Pune end of the National Highway No.4. The family carried a letter dated 08 April, 2020 issued by Gupta, carrying instructions "To whomsoever it May Concern", to cooperate with the family during its travel from "Khandala to Mahabaleshwar". Basically the Wadhwan family resides at Pali Hill in Bandra West in North West Mumbai. It also has a bungalow near Ganesh Nagar society in Mahabaleshwar in Satara district. The family had been staying in another bungalow at Khandala near Pune for the last few days. Now all the members have been kept



Members of the Wadhwan family in police custody (Photo by Raju Vernekar)

in isolation at Panchgani Hospital and have been booked under section 188 of IPC for violating lockdown norms. Satara Superintendent of Police (SP) confirmed that the Wadhwan family, allegedly violated the lockdown rules. Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said that it will be inquired as how they got the permission to travel. "It will be inquired that how 23 people of Wadhwan family got permission to travel from Khandala to Mahabaleshwar," he tweeted. Kapil Wadhwan and Dheeraj Wadhwan are co-accused in the Yes Bank money laundering case. The ED on March 16 had issued fresh summons to them to appear before the agency on March 17. However, citing the reasons of the coronavirus pandemic, they did not appear. Now the CBI and ED has sought their custody. The Satara Police have locked down the Wadhwan's bungalow.

In the meanwhile Opposition BJP has demanded resignation of Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, after the blatant violation of lockdown rules by members of the Wadhwan family, who were seemingly allowed by the Maharashtra Government to travel to Mahabaleshwar. BJP leader and former MP Kirit Somaiya demanded the resignation of Deshmukh asking 'who' gave the orders to give extend 'VIP treatment' to the Wadhwan family.

25% spike in cyber crimes during lock down in Maharashtra

IT News
Mumbai, April 10

After a lockdown was clamped from 25 March onwards in view of the Covid 19, cases of phishing and scamming of account have increased nearly by 25 percent in Maharashtra, as per officials of cyber crime department in Mumbai. Phishing comes in various forms. Such messages try to induce recipients to enter passwords or other sensitive information on websites controlled by the hackers, who then use the data to take control of bank, email or other

IT News
New Delhi, April 10

Amidst the global pandemic of COVID 2019, All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS) has issued its operational guidelines for the safe practice of ophthalmic services at this juncture of time in order to help protect eye health providers and in response to the growing needs of our global eye health community.

Following precautionary measures as advised by the Government of India, all the patients entering the hospital must wear a mask and wash their hands and follow the social distancing measures.

"Advisory has been issued to avoid any nasal endoscopic procedures or any procedure that will otherwise

have a bearing on loss of vision, eye or life. While all OPD's will have thermal screening desks, patients, doctors and staff are always advised to wear masks. Routine outpatient consultations and elective surgeries have been asked to postponed by at least 4 weeks, AIOS has also recommended all the ophthalmologists to provide urgent and emergent care only." Said Dr Mahipal Singh Sachdev, President AIOS

As Ophthalmologists and eye health teams work in close proximity to their patients as part of the eye examinations and treatment, and they are at particularly high risk of being exposed to the virus and contracting COVID-19, and hence AIOS has advised its members that only emergency eye care services

shall be provided in case of need.

"While the healthcare workers involved in the care of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 are highly vulnerable to infection, AIOS recommends the use of hydroxy-chloroquine for prophylaxis of SARS-CoV-2 infections for them. The protocol recommended by the National Task Forces has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India for restricted use in emergency situations. Their protection and that of patients is critical due to the rapid spread of corona virus. The AIOS stands with the recommendations regarding public health safety related to COVID-19 issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India." Said Dr Namrata Sharma, Hon'y, General Secretary, AIOS.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail : imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.