

## COVID-19 positive case in Manipur reaches 2, CM appeals not to be panic

ITNews  
Imphal, April 2

The number of positive COVID-19 case reached 2 here in the state of Manipur with a person from Lilong area tested positive early today morning. 10 (ten) persons who have attended the religious congregation held at Nijamuddin area in Delhi from March 12 to March 15 have come up voluntarily after report about people attending the gathering spread across the country with 6 people died in Talangana and as many as 200 of them including 13 from Assam tested positive till yesterday.

"We have received report from the Union Home Ministry saying that 105 persons from the state of Manipur have attended the gathering or were passing close to the place, but on further investigation we have learnt that 10 people who have joined the gathering have returned and 35 identified persons are staying outside", Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said in a recorded message sent to media houses.

He further said that among the 10 people two are suspected and when tested one among the two who is at JNIMS tested negative. The other 8 have also been tested negative however, they will be kept in quarantine as the window period is 14 days minimum.

"When we found our 23 years old girl tested positive we were worried but after confirming that there was no

community transmission from her as all her family members are tested negative we were somewhat relieved as her health was improving", The Chief Minister said adding that when the report about the religious congregation held at Nijamuddin area in Delhi reached with report about many people from Manipur attending the mass prayer we were worried", N. Biren Singh said. He further added that all the family members of the second COVID-19 positive case has been brought for quarantined at RIMS. Besides, the authority concern is taking history of the patient to make sure that that virus didn't go out. The Chief Minister appealed

the people to follow the social distancing by staying at home assuring the people that no person will remain hungry during the total locked down call.

"We will make every effort to make sure that each family gets minimum food supply", the Chief Minister assured. Meanwhile, following the report of one person from Lilong area tested COVID-19 positive on April, the district administration had contained the area under the Manipur Epidemic Disease, COVID-19 Regulations 2020.

In an order issued by the Thoubal district Deputy Commissioner, N. Bandana Devi, the geographical area of Lilong in Thoubal district has

been shield. All entry and exit had been restricted at the containment area. No individual including vehicular movement have also been banned and schools, offices and public gathering of any type have also been totally banned. On the other hand a shocking

post uploaded at Social networking site Facebook said that the affected person had admitted at a private hospital before he came for testing at RIMS. He reportedly stayed at the hospital from March 20 and discharged on March 22. The matter is however yet to be confirmed.

## Stop Communalising India's War Against COVID-19

ITNews  
Imphal, April 2

The Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has stated that the meetings of the Tablighi Jamaat in Delhi which spread coronavirus was an irresponsible on the part of the Jamaat leadership to have organized the meeting in mid-March when restrictions were already in place about size of gatherings. The left party also questioned on how the authorities allowed a second gathering on March 20-21. A statement said that the CPI (M) condemns the efforts and the campaign in social media to give this a communal color and to target a community. The Coronavirus does not differentiate on the basis of religion. All efforts to communalise the issue must be rebuffed. All big gatherings, social, religious and political, that have been held in many parts of the country after the March 13

order prohibiting assembly of more than 200 people must be investigated thoroughly. Those attending must be traced and tested. We must learn from South Korea and Singapore in meticulously tracing all those attending large congregations, isolating them after aggressive testing and containing the community spread of COVID-19. India today has a very low testing rate i.e. 241 times lower than South Korea. This must be rectified urgently.

This is India's war against COVID-19. All efforts to communalise this fight will only undermine our early triumph in containing the virus.

This would be self-defeating and all efforts must be made by the government to end the spread of such dangerous communal polarisation. The PB appeals to all not to fall prey to provocations and strengthen our united efforts to defeat this pandemic.

## RIMS included among the top 30 medical colleges in India

ITNews  
Imphal, April 2

Until recently, the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) has always been in the news for bad reasons. Today things have changed and the people of the state particularly the doctors' community as well as the government of Manipur has reason to celebrate even amidst fight against coronavirus pandemic.

A web portal – one among the largest student guidance portal, which published report of the best educational

institutions for guiding students, the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) is one among the top 30 Medical College in India. The Institution which has been in the news for wrong reason almost all the time in the past few years now is listed at Rank 28 of the best medical College.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, still is at top rank while Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh follows at 2<sup>nd</sup> rank. Christian Medical College, Vellore is at third rank.



**In Manipur, all human area treated equally at time of crisis :**

When people from the North East are denied marketing and tease them by calling corona, at this time of crisis Mayang brothers from the mainland Indian states are being provided food free of cost in Manipur's Tamenlong district. – (Photo by Ramkung Panmei)

## PM Modi interacts with all Chief Ministers; Discusses challenges related to spread of COVID-19

ITNews  
New Delhi, April 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today held a video conference with all chief ministers to discuss ways to check the spread of coronavirus. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah

and top bureaucrats were present along with the prime minister.

This is for the second time the prime minister is holding a video conference with the chief ministers after the spread of coronavirus. He had interacted with the Chief Ministers on the 20th of March.

## Tamenglong in a war footing against COVID-19

From a correspondent  
Tml, April 2

The district administration of Tamenglong comprising the Deputy Commissioner, CEO/ADC, Superintendent of Police and the Chief Medical officer are in a war footing combating the dreaded COVID-19.

As of now a total of 119 persons are being kept under Home quarantine while 2 persons are under institutional quarantine. Out of these, 53 persons are from Tamlai Sub-division, 13 from Tamsui sub-division and 53 from Tamenglong sub-

division. Both the institutional quarantine persons are being kept at JNV Tamenglong. Some persons have been released after completion of the quarantine period. All entry points to the district have been sealed except for some exceptional cases, according to Dr. Chambo Gomnei, Chief Medical Officer Tamenglong. The district administration is providing free vegetables to the town dwellers by organizing villagers from different villages situated in the vicinity of the town. Today villagers from Tabanglong and Lamla brought home

grown as well as wild vegetables in mini truck loads during the curfew relaxation period. The same provisions were managed by the district administration to see that both local and non locals people are benefited without any distinction. Another supplies of vegetables are coming again tomorrow from Khangchulon, Chulon and Duigailong for free distribution to the public. Gaijilung Thaimai, EE/PHED Tamenglong is also doing his bits by distributing water using the water tanker as water could not be supplied through the water

pipelines due to water scarcity. The PHED also provided hand washing facilities in the town to facilitate people doing groceries during curfew relaxations. Rice under NFSA meant for the month of December 2019 were distributed in the district through the rationing agents. However, rice being the staple food of the people are running out in the district. All rice stocks have been shifted from the shops to the Deputy Commissioner's office so that sales may be regulated. Kajaigai Gangmei, CEO, ADC

Tamenglong who is also the ADM Tamenglong is leading an official team looking after the distribution of rice. There is no supplies of superfine or cheaper qualities now forcing the poor people to relish higher quality rice like Parnal and Andhra for Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1100 per 25 kilo packs. Armstrong Pame, DC Tamenglong has assured that enough foodgrain would be provided and appeal the denizens not to panic over food. He also appealed the public to remain calm, follow instructions and cooperate with the authority in the fight against the pandemic.

## Editorial

Thursday, April 2, 2020

### Ode to the silent angels

For long, despite the obvious virtues and sacrifices their work entails, the medical profession and professionals have been regarded as soft targets. Innumerable accounts of unfortunate incidents where aggrieved individuals and parties of the sick and the deceased have summarily held doctors responsible for the misfortunes to their dear ones are still rife the world over. In places such as ours, armed terrorists and banned extremist groups have been targeting the medical professionals for ransoms and monetary demands, often resorting to violent means to intimidate and frighten them into submission. These medical professionals have so far bore the brunt of such unwarranted and often violent intimidations with quite calm and dignity, instead focusing on the very responsibility of saving lives they have been trained and sworn to perform.

Cut to the present- the world is in the midst of an unprecedented crisis and people the world over are bracing for the worst which is yet to come. While the frantic rush to find a cure is on, these silent angels are at the frontline of a war whose enemy is unseen and hitherto unknown. Many of these medical professionals have already lost their lives while many more are fighting for their lives. Amidst the chaos and already overstretched capacity for equipments, provisions and manpower, these brave souls are standing as a bulwark against the onslaught of COVID 19 with nothing much more than their unshakable moral strength and professional courage. The scenario in the state at present is slightly better, but tension is already mounting and there is a growing sense of concern with one more confirmed case of the dreaded Coronavirus infection. The unfortunate development which could have been prevented points to the fact that even with the strictest and most severe steps by the authorities, the ultimate decider of our own fates are ourselves. The present lockdown is expected to be imposed more severely and stringently, and should be so as some of us have failed to perform or neglected our social responsibilities in this time of great crisis thereby putting others at grave danger.

There is however a silver lining to the dark cloud of fear and uncertainty hovering over the state with proactive measures being taken up by the state government as well as the heads of the medical institutions. For instance, at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) which is one of the premier medical institute in the NE region, with the arrival of 15 ventilators which are a necessity in the treatment of COVID 19 patients during the later stages, the total number of ventilators have been pegged at 35, with another 35 arriving within a couple of days. A new ICU, SICU and new Trauma Centre have also been completed as well as a new dialysis unit while a new Dental College building and a new Nursing College has also been completed construction. Various essential and improved state of the art equipments like X-ray machines, neurosurgical equipments, Ultrasound, MRI etc just to name a few have been procured. New premier and special wards have been prepared while new course in DM Nephrology and MD in Sports Medicine has been added. MBBS seats have been increased by 25%. A large number of Personal Protection Equipments (PPEs) which are vital in the treatment process of COVID 19 infected patients are already with the state authorities and provisions for procuring additional quantities to meet any eventualities are already made. In addition, the Chief Minister has announced the construction of a dedicated hospital for treatment of COVID 19 patients.

While the proactive steps taken up by the state government and the medical professionals have helped ease the rising concern to an extent, these should not be cause for neglecting personal hygiene or disregarding the lockdown which is in effect at present. Meanwhile, regarding social distancing, in the USA and European countries, the distance between two individuals have been revised to be two metres as per recommended by experts. We should therefore keep in mind the dos and don'ts and follow them strictly as the outcome of the ongoing war against this deadly and highly contagious unseen enemy will ultimately depend upon the diligence and discipline of each and every one of us. We will be contributing to the fight by remaining indoors and keeping social distancing strictly. Let us show our respect and appreciation for the tireless efforts of the silent angels and others who are out in the streets so that the rest of us can be safe from harm's way.

# KSA donates to encourage CM in fighting COVID-19; distributes edible items to students

IT News  
Imphal, April 2

Encouraging the government decision for construction of a quarantined center, students' body Kangleipak Students' Association (KSA) donated a sum of Rs. 51,150 which they contributed from among the members of their association. The amount was handed over to Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today morning.

The student body appreciated the effort of the Chief Minister while trying to break the chain of coronavirus pandemic. They assured to extend every possible help to the government while taking up any work to contain the spread of the deadly virus.

Earlier, the KSA had extended all possible help, who have been staying indoors at rented room or hostel due to the lockdown called by the government to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 at different places of Imphal area. As those



students were found out of money due to loss of connection with their family, the KSA volunteers distributed edible items to such students. Yesterday the KSA distributed edible items at Thangmeiband Hijam Leikai, Uripok Hijam Leikai, Manipur University Ladies Hostel, Thangmeiband Lourel Pural Leikai, Kwakeithel,

Chingmeirong, Keisamthong, Langhabal Kunja, Kyamegi and Khumbong.

While distributing the edible items to the students the KSA found to family who have been deprived of all facilities provided by the government at Mayang Imphal Beggone and Haobam Marak Chingtham Leikai. One rice bag along with vegetable were handed over to each of the family.

Meanwhile more and more colleges extended support to the Government in fighting the spread of the corona virus.

The Department of Chemistry, Oriental College (Autonomous), Takyel, Imphal has prepared Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizers under the sponsorship of Department of University & Higher Education, Govt. of Manipur and distributed the sanitizers to the local clubs and Member of Zila Parishad as a part of sanitisation fight the spreading of COVID -19 in Manipur

## In response to Lin Laishram's irresponsible statement

By - NGAMKHEINGAKPALUWANG  
Secretary General  
KANGLEIPAKKANBALUP

It is with a heavy sense of disappointment that we are coerced to issue this Statement. It pertains to the recent statement issued by Ms Linthoinambi Laishram aka Lin Laishram daughter of Laishram Chandrasen Singh of Palace Compound, Wangkhei, Imphal. In a film event hosted at Pune recently she had stated that the Manipuri Meiteis are also "Racists" by their own right. With this one statement she has justified the over 70 years of Cultural subjugation and racial attitude of the Indian Mainlanders towards not only the Manipuris but to the people of the entire North Eastern region of India. Her assertion was that the Meiteis are "Racists" because they use the term "Mayang" to describe "Mainland Indians".

It is most unfortunate that she not only failed to understand the term Mayang but went further to misinterpret the meaning to heap insult upon the entire race into which she was born into.

For the kind information of Ms Lin Laishram Mayang is a collective term used by the Meiteis of Manipur to describe any Indian Mainlander be it a Tamil from South India or a Sikh from the North or a Maharashtrian from the West or a Bengali from the East. The term applied by the Mizos of Mizoram is "Vhai" to connote the same meaning. The individual reference to a "Mayang" or a "Vhai" in person is Bhaiya or brother

What connotes racism is the fact that the "Mayangs" ranging from Bangalore to Delhi has been constantly using the term "Chinky", "Momos" and more recently "Corona" to describe the North-easterners. Perhaps if she had read the Newspapers she would have realised that a Manipuri Lady studying in Delhi University was spat upon with Pan (Kwadang) by a Mayang calling her Corona.. Will she justify this insult on the collective body of the North Easterners because she believes that we are "Racists".

Racism as understood by sociologists is a specific cultural ideology invented to justify slavery and other forms of systematic institutionalised inequality. It's a very powerful instrument to frame a particular cultural group of race as superior to others. E.g., framing of Aryan race as superiority to others such as Hitler's Nazis upon the Jews in Germany, the Dravidians or Mongoloids in India. Racism manifest in a variety of ways differences in culture perceived as superiority and inferiority, imperialism and political subjugation of a community in the name of law and order. E.g., AFSPA Act in North East India.

We would like to inform Ms Lin Laishram that the Manipuri Society although conservative in nature is indeed very tolerant and that is the reason that no one murmured a word of protest when she exhibited her body almost full naked on the ramps of her modelling shows and silently we were proud of the fact that she got two supporting roles in the Bollywood productions of "Mary Kom" and "Rangoon". But that doesn't mean that she can cross the line. It is akin to the Blacks of South Africa being termed as "Racists" or that of the Jews six millions of which were killed by the Hitler and his Nazis trying to establish Aryan Supremacy over them as also being Racists.

Having failed to get a response from her, we would like to inform Ms Lin Laishram that she should give an Unqualified apology to the people of Manipur and the rest of the North Eastern region within a week from now, failing which we regret to inform her that she would not be allowed to return to Manipur again till further notice. And she should also be prepared for a possible Police case to be filed against her for her demeaning an entire race of people, namely the Manipuri Meiteis and the entire North Eastern people of the region as a whole.

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## Covid-19 infection cases rise in NE, Positive cases reach 16 with 2 in Manipur

By Our Correspondent  
Imphal/ Ghy, April 2

With stringent measures being taken up by almost all government of the North East Indian states people of the entire region finds somewhat relief with no case of positive COVID -19 reported till March 23. The entire region was shocked after 2 (two) persons coming from abroad were tested positive, but luckily in both the case doctors and medical experts found no community transmission and the fear of adding the number was subsided with the Prime Minister of the Country announcing a total lockdown in the entire country for 21 days started from March 24 midnight.

The entire region once more is shocked with the exposure religious congregation on day 5 of the total locked down which was held from

March 13 to 15 at Nizamuddin area in Delhi as mobile tracker suggested 465 people from North East including 85 from Manipur and 7 from Meghalaya either attended the religious gathering or loitering around the area.

Among those attended in the religious congregation 13 are reported affected by COVID-19 while one is reported affected in the state of Manipur. 9 persons who had reportedly attended the gathering have been reported negative but they are under quarantine.

Till yesterday, the State reported only a positive case as a middle-age individual from Barak valley was diagnosed with the deadly virus. State health minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma confirmed, "A 52-year old man from Badarpur in Karimganj district in south Assam has been found positive for Covid-19. This is the first positive case of Covid-19 in

Assam. He is undergoing treatment at Silchar Medical College Hospital." The individual, reportedly a cancer patient, was suffering from high fever for some days after returning from New Delhi. The attending doctors at Srigouri PHC near Badarpur sent his blood sample to Silchar Medical College Hospital, where it was found positive for the virus.

Later the Pune-based National Institute of Virology confirmed the report. Earlier, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal asserted that norms of the 21-day nationwide lockdown declared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi till 14 April have not been relaxed in the State. The State government has taken only some measures to ensure availability of essential items & services to the people, added Sonowal asking everyone to strictly follow the norms of social distancing and make the lockdown a success.

## Rama Navami celebrated on subdued note

By Raju Vernekar

With rising graph of active Covid 19 cases, the Rama Navami, a Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Rama on the ninth day of the Hindu month of Chaitra, was celebrated on subdued note in Maharashtra on Thursday.

The 109th Rama Navami was celebrated at famous Saibaba shrine in Shirdi in Ahmednagar without "Gangajal abhishek" and in absence of devotees since the temple has been closed for devotees since 17 March. A few trustees and priests were present. The Ram Navami is being celebrated at Shirdi shrine since 1911.

At Kalamandir in Nashik, the pooja and other rituals were performed only by four priests. The

temple is dedicated to Lord Rama, enshrined inside the sanctum sanctorum in the form of a black stone idol. Besides, the idol of Lord Rama, are those of Sita Mata and Lord Lakshmana, both of them sandy black and adorned with ornaments. 90 year ago Dr. B R Ambedkar had launched a satyagraha for the entry of Dalits into the Kalamandir temple.

A Mahaabhishek was offered to Lord Ram in Sri Sri Radha Rasabihari Temple at ISKCON, Juhu in North West Mumbai in presence of limited number of devotees.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted people on the occasion of Rama Navami on Thursday. "Heartiest greetings to the countrymen on the occasion of Ram Navami. Jai Shri Ram!" the Prime

Minister wrote on Twitter.

The number of active Covid 19 cases rose up to 335 with 19 death in Maharashtra on Thursday. The positive cases included a mother with her newly born child. The tally of active coronavirus cases stood as : Mumbai 181, Pune (city and rural) 50, Sangli 25, Thane circle 36 (2), Nagpur 16, Yavatmal 4, Ahmednagar 8, Buldhana 4, Satara 2, Kolhapur 2, Aurangabad 1, Ratnagiri 1, Sindhudurg 1, Gondia 1, Jalgaon 1, Nashik 1, Outside Mah (Guj) 1=335/12 deaths.

In the meanwhile Jaslok Hospital located in South Mumbai, has suspended OPD services and cancelled new admissions for a few days after one of the nurses and a patient, who had come for treating bladder cancer, tested positive.

## Surviving in the time of COVID-19

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Coronavirus which emerged from the city of Wuhan the Hubei provinces of China has been named by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as COVID-19 the global pandemic became one of the most tragic global health crises in the history of mankind after world war-II. The pandemic has spread worldwide bringing the entire globe into confusion, chaos and suffering. Almost every nation has been affected by this pandemic causing the loss of many innocent lives affecting the entire global economy. The outbreak of the deadly global health crisis led many countries to go for complete lockdown to avoid further spread of the deadly virus. No doubt sudden lockdown due to the COVID-19 has brought many lives of the people specially the daily wage earners left without job, money and food; made homeless compelled to migrate as health workers, doctors, nurses have been risking their own lives to save people from this deadly virus. Therefore, considering the gravity of the pandemic every individual also needs to play an equally important role with utmost responsibility to combat this deadly virus from further spreading.

However recent emergence of panic buying in the state where people were seeing gathered in a crowd without maintaining the social distance prompted us to question as to how people are so irresponsible. As the COVID-19 being considered as a virus transmitted from human to human contact, such type of absolutely careless and irresponsible behavior raises the risk of explosion of the virus in the state. A single person's irresponsible actions may bring the lives of the entire community into

the danger. It is very surprising to note that highly educated people with high status in society, even so-called 'Holy' people, seem to have been ignoring the government instructions and orders.

The guidelines that have been provided by WHO such as maintaining social distance, avoiding mass gathering should be strictly being put into practice. When the entire community is strictly adhering to government order of 21 days lockdown of the country by quarantining themselves in the home; such practices going on in the state where people were seeing violating the precautionary measures. Rampant gathering in the market, panic buying the essential commodities is very dangerous and harmful to society. We as an individual must take serious concern over the ongoing outbreak by following the lockdown called by the government. Good amount of evidence of violations of the precautionary measures of the COVID -19 by people made us wonder about their childish behavior.

Prevention is better than cure. As before the situation goes out of the hands and turns absolutely hostile we must wake up from deep slumber. Nizamuddin in Delhi has now become a hotspot of COVID-19 infection. 2000 people were gathered at one Islamic congregation organized at the Markaz or the international headquarters of Tablighi Jamaat (an Islamic organization) without having any concern about their own safety and the safety of others. It is learned that those who were part of that convention were highly educated people however, the number of participants in gathering has become what many call a 'Super Spreader', leaving a trail of infection and death from Kashmir to the Andamans. As a result of that

gathering hundreds of Covid-19 infected people have suddenly cropped up which not only threatened government machinery which has been working day and night to battle the corona pandemic but also the common people of India who are also fighting an epic battle against virus from their homes. Such people who brought health, safety and life of the entire country in the danger zone must be dealt with the harshest possible way within the legal system of India. Social distance as a non-pharmaceutical infection prevention and control intervention to avoid contact between those who are infected with a disease causing pathogen and those who are not, so as to stop or slow down the rate and extent of disease transmission in a community. Proper practice of this directive will help to reduce further spread of the virus.

It is better to stop our irresponsible acts to combat the deadly virus than to see the thousands of lives fall from this outbreak. Many of us are under complete lockdown, quarantining ourselves in the home yet such mindless, cruel, inhuman actions of some people and communities which has already nicely facilitated spread of pandemic compels us to worry about what it might mean for ourselves and our loved ones.

A campaign, 'Together At Home' should be sincerely called for action to support the fight against COVID-19. Current outbreak of the pandemic is a serious issue in the world today. Many governments, organizations, Non-governmental organisations and concerned citizens have been courageously stepping out bravely to fight to contain the virus from further spreading. Individuals at the same time must also play a vital role by adhering the directives of lockdown called

by the government. As many normal lives have been affected by this outbreak, especially the daily wage earners, poor people, homeless people, beggars have been the first and direct victims of it. We cannot ignore them thinking that they are habitual to such situations. No it is not true. Poverty is something different and the inhuman situation in which they have been trapped due to 'lockdown' where they have no access to food-water-shelter and sanitation facilities is different. I and you are sheltering ourselves comfortably within the walls of our houses. Many of us are having air-conditioners in our houses with kitchens full of food, snacks and drinks and who knows- cupboards full of Bundle of currency notes. We are safe and secured. Hundreds of daily laborers in Dimapur who contributed a lot to make our lives better and comfortable are on streets now, if we are not going to help them then who will? By following government instructions and orders, by following & respecting 144 CrPc, by protecting ourselves properly with glasses, masks, hand gloves, cap and full sleeve shirt and trousers we can still help those poor, destitute, stranded people suffering in inhuman conditions at Dimapur railway station, adjacent areas, stadium and other parts of Dimapur through proper government channels.

Our helpless friends on the streets need food, not money, my friends. They need water, not money, my friends. They need care, compassion and a bit of love, not money my friends. It is time for You and I to work for humanity by sharing our love to the needy people who can't afford to survive. Happiness is found in helping others. Service to the needy is worship to God. Do not let helpless people die. They need life, NOT money my friends.