

Some MU authority violates government advisory for office attendance to contain COVID-19 pandemic

IT News
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Manipur University is once more in the news, and this time it is not for any agitations or uprising but for conflicting orders issued by the Registrar and none implementation of the same by Finance department authority of the University. According to government advisory to contain the coronavirus pandemic, it is being ordered to make the staff attendance by 33% of the total staffs either at state or central government offices. The advisory has been endorsed by the Manipur University authority and an office order by the registrar

Manipur University dated April 17, 2020 stated that following the extension of the nationwide lockdown by the Union Ministry till May, the University will remain close till May 3, 2020. Among others the order stated that during the lockdown the office of the University will however function with 100% attendance of the Assistant Registrar and above level officers. However staffs below the rank of Assistant Registrar are to attend on roster basis and the number should not exceed 33%. The office order also sharply written that only a minimum number of Officers and staffs below the level of Assistant registrar, as per weekly roster

and preferably those residing in the University Campus, shall attend duty with immediate effect. However, some staffs of the Finance department of the Manipur University while informing to Imphal Times said that the office of the MU Finance section is not following the advisory nor follow the office order by the registrar. As per source with the Imphal Times total staff strength is 40 to 45. The Finance officer verbally ordered all staffs to attend the office during the lockdown and as per source staff attendance at the Finance Office is nearly 100%. Those who cannot attend the office during the

lockdown are ordered to apply leave application and they were allegedly threatened to deduct their salary if fail to attend. However, talking to Imphal Times, Registrar MU, W. Chandrabu said that the MU is strictly following the government advisory to contain the pandemic corona virus. Only 33 percent are attending the office. The question arises here is how could the Finance Officer of the MU order all staff to attend when there has already been an office order issued by the Registrar that only 33% should attend the office during this lockdown to contain COIV-19 Pandemic.

Biswajit joins video conferencing with Nitin Gadkari

Highlights issues regarding movement of construction material for highway projects

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Public Works Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh today apprised Union Minister (Road, Transport & Highways) Nitin Jairam Gadkari about the issues faced during commodity transportation and implementation of highway development projects in the State due to the ongoing lockdown.

The Union Minister today held a video conferencing with Minister of PWD/Transport of all States and Union Territories to review various Highway/Transport Sector issues. Taking part in the video conference, Biswajit highlighted several issues of the State regarding transportation and movement of commodities. He asserted that the transportation of goods for



the State is undergoing smoothly in the State under the Chief Minister's leadership. However, the State is also facing some issues regarding movement of construction materials for Highway projects and other Non essential commodities while passing through some neighbouring States, he apprised the Union Minister. Stating that the Manipur government will get in touch

with the concerned States on the issue, Biswajit also urged that it would be better if the concerned States receive instruction about the same from the Union Ministry also. It may be mentioned that during the video conference, Biswajit was accompanied by Principal Secretary Transport Vaiphei, Works Commissioner RK Dinesh and other officials of PWD and Transport department.

Ujjwala Yojana: feeding the family during lockdown

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Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana relief package, the Government of India has introduced many schemes to help the weaker sections of the society to battle economic disruption caused by COVID-19. Ujjwala Yojana under this package plays a very important role in ensuring that the hearths of the poor section of the society remain burning. Under this feature, gas cylinder is provided free of cost to 8 crore BPL families that come under Ujjwala Scheme for the next three months.

Many women from across the state have already started receiving benefits under this feature of PMGKY. L. Shantibala from Wangoo Sandangkong, Kakching District, Manipur is one of the many beneficiaries in Manipur. She has received Rs. 891/- under Ujjwala Yojana for purchasing cylinder. She is very grateful to the Government for extending such support during this difficult time.

G. Premalata Devi from Singjamai, Imphal West, Manipur also received a sum of Rs. 891/- under the scheme and Skgs of rice under PMGKY. Similar are the stories of G. Monica from Singjamai, Imphal West District and Smt. K. Chandrajini Devi from Mahabali Road, Imphal West, Manipur. They have also received the sum of Rs. 891/- in their accounts and are extremely grateful for this effort of the government in ensuring that no one goes hungry during the lockdown.

Seva Bharati Donated Medical essential items to RIMS



IT News
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Seva Bharati Manipur has donated medical essential items to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal today at Administrative Block in view of the prevailing COVID 19 pandemic outbreaks.

A team of Seva Bharati led by Ashok Singh handed over mask, OT cap, gown etc to the Director, RIMS, Imphal Prof. A. Santa Singh and officials of RIMS, Imphal. The representative of the team Surjit Singh said that such help will continue till the outbreak is completely stop. He also thanks the doctors,

nurses, paramedical staff and other frontline workers of the institute. The Director Prof. A. Santa Singh also appreciated such gesture during the need of the hour and the institute also will extend all possible helps to the NGOs and other organizations who helped the institute.

Lifting of PDS rice almost completed for most of the assembly constituencies

IT News
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Lifting of PDS rice allocated to several Assembly Constituencies (A/Cs) of the State for the month of April, 2020 had almost come to completion as most of the A/Cs had completely lifted their allocated quantities from several FCI godowns located in the State. The lifted rice is for distribution to the beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna

Yojana (PMGKAY) and Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS). Churachandpur District too had completely lifted its allocated quantity of rice under PMGKAY for its Churachandpur A/C done today. 396.60 quintal under OMSS was also lifted for Saikot A/C of the District. Nungba A/C of Noney District reported lifting of 150 quintal of OMSS rice from Sangaiprou

FCI Godown completing its allocated quantity. Distribution of PDS rice was carried out at Imphal West District today covering a total of 7853 households. The distributed rice included 987.5 quintal under PMGKAY and 10.5 quintal under OMSS. 5761.39 quintal of rice under PMGKAY and 45.5 quintal under OMSS was also distributed yesterday covering 25,016 households. There was also lifting of 300 quintal of OMSS rice for the

District yesterday. It may be mentioned that the State Government's initiative to distribute the PDS rice, still continues, to ensure uninterrupted supply of food grains during the ongoing lockdown to contain outbreak of COVID-19.

Children in South Asia could face health crisis amid COVID-19: UNICEF

Agency
New Delhi, April 28

South Asia could face another health emergency and children across the region were likely to miss out on life-saving vaccinations due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the UNICEF warned on Tuesday. The region is home to some 4.5 million unimmunized or partially immunized children and most of them, or 97 per cent, live in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, the UN body said in a statement.

"With lockdowns in place as a part of the novel coronavirus response, routine immunizations have been severely disrupted, and parents are increasingly reluctant to take their children to health centres for routine jabs," Efe news quoted the statement as saying. The agency warned that sporadic outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles and diphtheria, have been detected in parts of Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal. The region is also home to two

of the last polio-endemic countries in the world, Afghanistan and Pakistan. "Vaccine stocks are running dangerously low in some countries of the region as supply chains have been disrupted with travel bans and canceled flights. The manufacturing of the vaccines has also been disrupted, creating additional shortages," said Paul Rutter, Regional Health Advisor for the Kathmandu-based UNICEF's Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA).

In two days police arrest 1,658 in Manipur for violating lockdown

Agency
Imphal, April 28

Manipur Police arrested 1,658 people for violating curfew and the lockdown norms over the past two days and have collected fines amounting to Rs 1.99 lakh.

L. Kailun, the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) in-charge of law and order said in all, 889 violators were held with 731 vehicles on Sunday and 769 curfew violators with 762 vehicles were held on Monday. The curfew violators were

produced before the concerned magistrates. A total fine of Rs 91,200 was collected on Sunday and Rs 1,07,800 on Monday. Police said they will continue to take strict action against those who violate the restrictions.

★ Editorial

Some few are taking advantage in crisis time

While everybody around the world is praying for a positive change from the present depressing and alarmingly dangerous situation, the grim reality is constantly reminding us of the preparations we need to make for more than probable worsening situation. We have witnessed the unfortunate outcome of a few countries which took the threats of the present epidemic with less attention and seriousness than it deserves. Our state is at a crucial juncture, and so far things are evidently under control. God forbid, if we let our guards down for a moment and make way for the dreaded virus in our state, the dangers and ultimately the outcome would be nothing less than catastrophic. This is the time when our collective resources and attention should be focused on the grave task at hand, and mutual understanding and cooperation have never been more important or necessary. Given the difficult geographical location of the state and the hindrances to smooth transportation both physical as well as political, the need for effective and logical utilization of our available resources which are dwindling with every passing day has become a challenge.

Unfortunately, a series of recent developments in the state is threatening to derail the all important effort and focus on warding off the Corona virus epidemic from the state. First off, the curious case of plane loads of betel leaf brought into the state during the lockdown amidst eager anticipation and requests for PPEs and other emergency medical requirements to be requisitioned from outside the state, although not illegal, has been swept under the carpet with the arrest of a few individuals. The lure and greed for profit is still evidently a greater priority than the threat to life. The blatant outburst of the Deputy Chief Minister against the Chief Minister is another interesting albeit unfortunate development. The fallout of this ugly public tirade can still destabilize the political atmosphere of the state government, as the present coalition government is not without infighting while the opposition who had the majority mandate during the last general election must surely be mulling its opportunity to change its fortune. If the state government is to assure the public of its expressed intent of making essential commodities available to everyone, its functioning, especially with regards to the public distribution system should be more transparent and stepped up at the same time. Another challenge that is threatening to expose the people of the state to the epidemic is the increasing reports of smuggling of illegal immigrants from outside the state. While the practice may very well be lucrative for those transporters engaging in such dangerous activities, this poses a serious problem that needs to be checked immediately. The security personnel guarding the entry points clearly need to step up their vigil and alertness. Those who are involved in such smugglings should be brought to book and exemplary punishment applicable under law should be meted out without delay to deter further attempts.

Developing and implementing a smooth online ordering and delivering mechanism for goods will go a long way in easing public congestion and movements. Sports and other informative and entertainment items need to be made available for online order and delivery as this will keep boredom at bay for the energetic children who are getting increasingly frustrated and unmanageable within the confines of their homes. The bottomline is that promoting social distancing and reducing social gathering through promotion of online and telephonic transactions as well as removing hindrances to the delivery system will certainly ensure compliance by the public.

Serum Institute to start production of Covid-19 vaccine within two to three weeks

IT Correspondent
Mumbai: April 28

The Pune based Serum Institute of India Private Limited (SIPL) has stated that it is planning to start production of the Covid-19 vaccine developed by Oxford University in the next two to three weeks and hopefully bring it in market by October if the human clinical trials are successful. SIPL has partnered with Oxford University as one of the seven global institutions manufacturing the vaccine. Scientists at the University of Oxford have already promised to make available one million doses of the super fast vaccine by September. As per the WHO's report of 11 April, over 70 vaccine candidates are in various stages of trial and UK has already

started human trials with SIPL as partner.

"Our team has been working closely with Oxford professor Dr Adrian Hill and we are expecting to initiate production of the vaccine in 2-3 weeks and produce 5 million doses per month for the first 6 months, following which, we hope to scale up production to 10 million doses per month," SIPL chief executive Adar Poonawalla said. SIPL had collaborated with scientists at Oxford University for a malaria vaccine project in the past and can say with certainty that they are some of the best scientists, Poonawalla said and added that "We expect the COVID-19 vaccine to be out in the market by September-October, if the trials are successful with the requisite safety and assured efficacy".

SIPL will be manufacturing the

vaccine in anticipation of clinical trials succeeding by September-October in the UK, Poonawalla said and added that following that, SIPL would initiate manufacturing at own risk. The decision has been taken to have a jump-start on manufacturing, to enough doses could be made available, if the clinical trials prove successful. We plan to initiate the trials in India for the vaccine with necessary regulatory approvals, which are at present underway.

"In keeping with current situation, we have funded this endeavour at a personal capacity and hopefully will be able to enlist the support of other partners to further scale-up the vaccine production," Poonawalla said. The vaccines will be manufactured at the company's facility in Pune. Building a new facility for Covid-19 vaccine would

have taken around 2-3 years. The Indian regulatory authorities are working with the company to ensure smooth procedural functioning. "We are in touch with the Department of Biotechnology and ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)," Poonawalla said.

"We will not patent Serum's vaccine for Covid-19 and will make it available for all to produce and sell, not just in India but across the world. Whosoever makes and develops the vaccine will need multiple partners to manufacture the vaccine, he said and added that "I hope that whichever company develops the vaccine does not get it patented and makes it available based on royalties or a commercial understanding to as many manufacturers across the world to make billions of dosages at a fast pace".

Regarding the eviction of three houses at Macheng We are sadden to the inhumane act of state Government

By - James Haokip
General Secy, ATRPFM

All Tribal Rights' Protection Forum Manipur (ATRPFM) is saddened the inhumane act of the State government for eviction of 3 (three) houses of Macheng Village, Lamlongei, Mantripukhri, Imphal East District, Manipur on 24th April 2020 during the ensuing lockdown. As per the press release dated 24.04.2020 of the Forest Department, Govt. of Manipur, the houses were constructed during the lockdown, however, when we contacted the village, the houses were constructed in 2017. The allegation of constructing houses during lockdown is shameful claims of the State Government and DFO, Central Division, Forest Department. There is no compulsion to demolish any house during the lockdown, the government can evict them after the lockdown if the occupancy is illegal. In fact, it is the duty of the State Government to provide shelter to the residents of the State at least during such a horrible and difficult time. The DFO, Central Division just took the decision for

eviction on Facebook after going through a comment / post of an individual in violation of the lockdown guidelines and orders of the Government. In his Facebook comments, DFO, Central has written that taking advantage of the forest burning and lockdown, the houses would be demolished which is extremely inhumane on his part and without application of mind just because the occupants belong to tribal community.

It may be mentioned here that the Macheng Village was established under dereservation of 275 acres out of the Langol Forest Reserve for the rehabilitation of the villagers of Nagaching and the Under Secretary to the Government of Manipur has written a letter to that effect and all of them have land pattas issued by the State Government.

In every State, there are many illegal and unregularized occupants but the governments give best effort to regularize them and provide shelter homes with all facilities. However, in case of Manipur, the Government is always ready to demolish and left the residents homeless, even during national lockdown which is inhumane. Almost 2,000 informal settlements in Delhi were set to be legalized that would give more than 4 million

residents the right to own their homes in India's capital and the decision of the government was published in newspapers on October 24, 2019 under a headline "Four million slum dwellers in Delhi to win property rights". India's cabinet passed a bill to regularize 1,797 unauthorized slums in the country's most populous city, giving residents ownership rights at "minimal rates" that would enable them to build and sell properties and take loans. "It will transform the lives of more than 40 lakh (4 million) residents who came to Delhi in search of a better life and livelihood but were forced to live in squalor," said Housing Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. "Besides providing a legitimate claim to the property, the decision will encourage property holders to invest in safe structures, thereby improving living conditions in these colonies substantially," he said at a press briefing. Most inhabitants are migrant workers from other parts of India who cannot afford regular housing in the city of more than 18 million people. Authorities have built roads and drains in some settlements, but many lack basic facilities and residents face the constant threat of eviction, according to housing

rights activists. "It must ensure equal access to basic services, adequate housing, and protection from demolition and eviction," it was observed. In 2012, as many as 895 colonies were regularised by the then Congress government led by Sheila Dikshit. In other States, the Government gives its best effort to provide equal shelters and facilities to the illegal occupants equal to regularized households. However, in Manipur even the land patta holders with Dag No. are evicted during the national lockdown and social distancing due to Covid-19 disease epidemics.

Whenever the issue pertaining to eviction of tribal forest dwellers come, the provisions of the Forests Rights Act, 2006 shall be reflected, however, the State government only mentioned the Forest Act, 1927 and 1971 which is illegal. And the Commissioner of Director of the TA&Hills shall be made a part in decision making. However, the State Government has failed to do so. The eviction notices were served on 21st and 23rd April respectively and the eviction was done on 24th April which is extremely inhumane and also violate right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution and Human Rights.

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Assam Rifles organises sanitisation drive

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In continuation to its several efforts against COVID-19, Mantripukhri Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised a Sanitisation Drive at Vaiphei Veng village of Imphal West district this week. The same was also previously conducted at villages of Nagaram and Koirengi. In a wake of lockdown due to the outbreak of COVID-19, and with an aim to prevent spread of COVID-19 so as to assist the local population, the Civic Action Team of the battalion organised a Sanitisation drive. As part of the drive, the team carried out spraying of chemicals / disinfectants and decontamination of the Market

area and other common usage areas of Vaiphei Veng village.

During the event, the locals were also educated regarding various precautionary measures like regular hand washing, maintaining basic hygiene and sanitation, maintaining social distance and other precautions to be taken to prevent spread of COVID-19. Troops of Assam Rifles are continuously assisting and contributing in the fight against the pandemic COVID-19 by conduct of such initiatives and spreading awareness amongst the local population.

On the other Chandel Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) also distributed safety Kits and items like sanitisers, masks and gloves, further providing Sewing machines

to Women of All Tribe Women Organisation (ATWO), Nungrouk village, Pallel yesterday.

Due to the nationwide spread of COVID-19 pandemic, there is increased requirement of masks as a precautionary measure to curb spread of pandemic. In order to fulfill the shortages of masks, women part of ATWO requested for the provisioning of sewing machines to Assam Rifles so that they can extend their support by stitching the masks which can be further distributed in villages. To support the idea Assam Rifles provided two sewing machines to ATWO in order to start work immediately. These homemade masks will help in ensuring the implementation of the precautions and fulfilling the acute shortage of masks in the remote villages upto some extent. Women of ATWO overwhelmed with the support of the Assam Rifles, conveyed their gratitude for the support provided during this crucial period.

Ways to eliminate boredom and revive our lives amid lockdown

BY - Marina Seyie Narendra

Boredom is the state of feeling disinterested in one's surroundings and having nothing to do or feeling that life is dull. Boredom is also an emotional and occasionally psychological state experienced when an individual is left without anything in particular to do or not interested in their surroundings and feels that a day or period is dull or tedious. Too much time is often worse than no time at all. It can be difficult to adjust to the boredom when you suddenly have a schedule vacuum. Boredom isn't the same as exhaustion but it occurs when you have an abundance of one form of energy but are exhausted in the energy you would find useful.

1. What causes boredom?

(a) Procrastination - Figure out what tasks you are putting off and nuke the procrastination.
(b) Inadequate rest or nutrition.
(c) Lack of useful energy.

(d) Sudden change in schedule and don't have the flurry of busyness to protect you anymore.
(e) Low levels of mental stimulation.

(f) Lack of choice or control over your daily activities.

(g) Lack of diversified recreational interests.
(h) Poor perception of time.
(j) Lack of motivational tricks.

2. Following ways will eliminate boredom to revive our lives and bring happiness:-

(a) One hour exercise or yoga in morning.
(b) Helping hands to family members in households work. Be a role model for kids by doing households

work.

(c) Discussion with family members on various topics including steps taken by state government and central government.

(d) Taking care of pets by giving food and bathing them.

(e) Gardening or watering plants in evening for one hour.

(f) Walk in evening for one hour and listen to latest songs.

(g) Create a task for yourselves on daily basis like reading novel, story book, autobiography, listening music etc

(h) Engage kids in gardening, indoor games, drawing & painting etc

(i) Speak to relatives and friends through normal/video call on daily basis.

(k) Anyone from family is going out to buy essential commodities, he/she must follow guidelines given by state and central government strictly for safety of himself/herself and family members.

(l) Do a family prayer everyday and pray for everyone living on this earth.

3. Following suggestions for helping needy ones of our society:-

(a) Give helping hands to needy ones by providing free ration & water.

(b) Donate old clothes including bed sheets and blankets.

(c) Generate work for poor people to stand on their feet.

STAY SAFE AND GOD BLESS OUR COUNTRY

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