

NSF condemns assault to doctor

IT News
Kohima, April 4

The Naga Students' Federation condemns the unfortunate incident of April 3 at Dimapur wherein Dr. Nesozol, Quarantine Team Member, Dimapur was physically assaulted and his vehicle vandalised by the few police personnel on duty.

While appreciating the yeomen service being rendered by the state police force towards ensuring the proper enforcement of the nationwide lockdown in our collective bid to contain the spread of Corona virus (Covid-19), it is one off incident like this that takes away the shine from their selfless sacrifices. The Federation appreciates the gesture of DGP Nagaland, T. John Longkumar, IPS who publicly apologized for the incident and assured not only the medical brethren but also the general public that strict 'action will be taken against those found guilty' after an impartial enquiry. Such prompt acceptance of his men's mistakes and the subsequent apology on their behalf is a vindication of our belief that the state police force is in safe hands.

The Federation, further, would like to place on record, our sincere appreciation towards the medical fraternity, who are putting their own life and the lives of their near and dear ones at risk, in their sincere attempt to keep the people of the state safe from the deadly Covid-19, this, despite the utter lack of protective gears and other medical equipments required to combat the virus. The NSF hereby appeals to the medical fraternity who are at the forefront of the fight against the pandemic not be disheartened by the April 3rd incident. Instead, take heart in the fact that the Naga Students' and youths in particular and the entire populace of the state in general are banking on you all to keep the state free from Covid-19. Furthermore, the NSF appeals to all the essential service providers for more co-ordinated efforts between themselves so as to ensure that another 3rd April like incident is averted in the near future.

At time of crisis, Cargo flight that is supposed to airlift essential commodities landed with bundles of betel leaves

IT News
Imphal, April 4

At a time when the whole world is in state of crisis, when government of each country affected by the pandemic COVID-19 are worrying, when people are advice to stay indoor by imposing total lockdown called as such measures is the only means to prevent the spread of the deadly virus and when government air lifts essential commodities using Cargo flight, a special SpiceJet Cargo plane today landed here in Bir Tikendrajit International Airport, Imphal with bundles of betel leaves.

According to source from the airport, the SpiceJet Cargo flight landed at Imphal airport at around 12.30 pm today. When unloaded the items the flight was packed with bundles of betel leaves. The source said that the betel leaves ferried by the flight (SpiceJet boeing 370)



weigh around 6,500 kilogram. The Flight reportedly boarded from Kolkata. At a time when any essential item could be transported without proper valid documents from the government authority, one wonder how the SpiceJet Cargo flight is allowed to ferry betel leaves which is not even essential items. The source further said that two

other Cargo Flight – one Air Asia and another Indigo Flight also landed carrying medicines and other essential items. Both the flight departed Imphal Airport after dropping the essential items at around two pm. Reliable source said that another AirForce IL 76 Cargo Flight will be landing with essential commodities.

NEFIS releases helpline number; demands strict action against incidents of racism

IT News
Imphal, April 4

North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS) today launched helpline numbers to help the students and common people from North-East who have been stranded in various cities across India during the lockdown.

A statement by the student Forum said that the lockdown has led to many instances of discrimination and racism across the country. Following the lockdown, NEFIS had written to the Union Ministry for Home Affairs regarding the problems being faced by the people of North-East in various cities and had demanded that strict action be ensured against people engaging in racist acts. It had also demanded that district administrations across the country be directed to ensure the well-being of the people from

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for Students & Working People of North-East

STUCK, STRANDED, HARASSED OR ATTACKED during #CoronaLockdown

for International Solidarity (NEFIS)

the North-East. "Since the Covid-19 pandemic, it should be noted, people of the northeastern states of India, have been called with slurs such as 'Coronavirus', etc. While the phenomenon of racist slurs had

been prevalent, with the pandemic the racist slurs and attacks have had a drastic increase. There are many people from North-East who have been stranded in various cities across the country and thus are prone such racist attacks in the times of panic due to Covid-19 pandemic", the statement said.

Taking cognizance of the prevailing atmosphere in the country, NEFIS, has launched helpline numbers so as to provide much needed help to the people facing such incidents. The helpline numbers would ensure that those in need of help and assistance are provided the same, while under compulsory lockdown. NEFIS also demands that the Central government should compulsorily ensure that the North-East people do not become victims of racial abuse and discrimination under the pretext of implementation of lockdown measures.

After disqualification of Th. Shyamkumar, portfolios hold by him allocated to CM and Dy. CM

IT News
Imphal, April 4

After the disqualification of MLA Th. Shyamkumar, who was a cabinet Minister in the N. Biren Singh led government holding the portfolio of Forest and Environment and Climate Change, Science and Technology Department, and MAHUT to Deputy Chief Minister Y. Joykumar while Horticulture and Soil Conservation has been allocated to Chief Minister N. Biren

Singh and Deputy Chief Minister Y. Joykumar Singh. A notification issued by the Governor of Manipur on the advice of the Chief Minister has re-allocated Forest and Environment and Climate Change, Science and Technology Department, and MAHUT to Deputy Chief Minister Y. Joykumar while Horticulture and Soil Conservation has been allocated to Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in addition to other portfolio.

NEC Sanctions Rs. 3 Crore to Manipur to tackle COVID -19 outbreak

IT News
Imphal, April 4

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) held detailed review meeting on 27/03/2020 through Video Conferencing. The meeting was attended by officers of Ministry of DoNER and North Eastern Council (NEC). The meeting among others deliberated in length the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and measures being taken to meet the challenges arising out of it in the North Eastern Region. In the meeting it was decided that DoNER/ NEC will provide support of Rs. 25 Crore to the North Eastern States in support of their efforts to fight the outbreak. Minister, DoNER shared that concerted efforts is already happening and all efforts will be made to ensure that the North East States are supported in this hour of need, particularly related to medical

needs and essential commodities. Accordingly on 03/04/2020, NEC has released Rs. 3 Crore, being the normative share, to the Government of Manipur to fight the COVID-19 outbreak effectively. This release is in the nature of an untied fund, which can be utilized as gap funding on activities relating to COVID-19 pandemic not covered under existing Central packages. The flexibility of untied funds would enable the State to respond effectively in a timely manner as per the situation on the ground. This release would be in addition to the funds otherwise allocated by the Ministry of DoNER/NEC to the State of Manipur under existing schemes. The present primary focus of both Central and State Government is to effectively deal with the serious threat posed by COVID-19 and ensure that it is brought under control with the active participation of the whole Society.

RCC appeal for help in distress time from people

IT News
Imphal, April 4

Due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus Pandemic and the subsequent "Lockdown" The Realize Rehabilitation Centre (RRC) located at Mongmang Chingun under Heimgang constituency is facing acute hardship in terms of procurement of daily necessities like food and medicines. The RRC is at the moment catering to the requirement of many drug users and supporting staff and is a Centre dedicated to the cause of

Rehabilitation for People Who Use Drugs (PUDs). The RCC appealed to the general populace to provide whatever help is possible from your end either in cash or kind for which kind act we shall ever be grateful and remain in our prayers. The RCC also appealed to people all across the state and beyond to help us to cope with the immediate crisis at hand by donating at Bank Account no: 29970110094525, IFSC Code no: UCBA0002997, UCCO porompat Branch.

Navy designs low cost temperature gun to screen people

By Raju Vernekar

In view of "Covid-19", Naval Dockyard, Mumbai has designed and developed its own handheld infrared (IR) based temperature sensor, through in-house resources, for undertaking screening of large number of personnel at the entry gates of the yard, to reduce the load on the security sentries at the gate. The instrument has been manufactured under Rs. 1000/-, which is fraction of the cost of the temperature guns in the market. The dockyard has the capability to scale up production of these if required towards which sourcing of the components is in progress. Since the outbreak of coronavirus, the non-contact thermometers or temperature guns have become

scarce in the market and are being sold at a very high cost. To overcome the scarcity the Naval Dockyard, has developed, this sensor with accuracy of 0.02 deg celsius. The non-contact thermometer has a, IR sensor and an LED display integrated with a microcontroller which runs on a 9 volts battery. This initiative has provided a tool for undertaking screening of large number of personnel at the entry gates. Commander Mehul Karnik said and added the temperature can be checked without touching a person. Naval ships continue to remain mission deployed during COVID-19 crisis and the deployments are being planned without any port visit to the extent possible or with at least a gap of 14 days at sea from the last port visit prior return.

The 285 year old Naval Dockyard of Western Naval Command (WNC) has an average influx of around 20,000 personnel entering its premises every day. In view of Covid-19, initial screening of the personnel entering the dockyard was essential to prevent the spread of the virus within the yard and the Western Fleet. The most preliminary method to screen a probable patient is to check for body temperature by a non-contact means. Although there is a lock down across the country, the work of shipping building and research is going on and there is constant in and outflow of officers, sailors and civilians at Naval Dockyard. In another development, the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam has designed an innovative 'Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold

(MOM)' using a 6-way radial header fitted to a single cylinder. This would enable one oxygen bottle to supply six patients concurrently thus enabling critical care management to a larger number of Covid 19 patients with the existing limited resources. The entire set up was made operational by manufacturing a fine adjustment reducer and specific adapters of requisite dimensions for connecting the Oxygen cylinder and the portable MOM.

A typical oxygen providing facility at hospitals comprises a cylinder feeding only one patient through a Venti-mask arrangement. During the ongoing pandemic, ventilator support is required for about 5-8% of patients with symptoms and a large number of patients require oxygen support.



IT News
Khongjoml, April 4

Fatherland Patriots' Memorial Club, Khongjom today distributed 5 kg of rice, potatoes and dal etc. to around 300 families of Khongjom area in Thoubal district to make sure that those families find relief during their stay at home during the 21 days lockdown underway since March 24 midnight. For Manipur,

the lockdown started 2 days ahead before Prime Minister's announced 21 more days total lockdown after successful observance of Janata Curfew on March 22. Essential commodities particularly edible items are main challenges and many Samaritans persons, clubs and CSOs are distributing at their capacity to make sure that no person in the state remain hungry.

★ Editorial

Yes we can fight COVID-19 invasion

Among the 2 confirmed case of COVID -19 in Manipur, the first patient, who was tested positive on March 24 has been reported recovered. The Nijamuddi Markus incident, which alerted and panics the entire state, has also been normalized after family members of the 2nd positive case which was confirmed at RIMS were tested negative. The government is somehow relieved as there are no findings of any community transmission happening in the state. The good news is that all the other persons who had attended the religion congregation have also been tested negative, which means that the fear of community transmission still is not happening. With these certain development, fear psychosis among the people has been somewhat minimized. This containment to the spread of the deadly virus should not only be credited to the Chief Minister or his entire team but also to the people who have been co-operating to the measures being taken up by the government. While saying so are we people of the state secure from the pandemic COVID-19? Does the government of Manipur needs more stringent measures to make sure that Manipur remains safe un-infected from the invisible enemy of human kinds?

To be precise we the people in particular and the government in general have a lot of tasks ahead. The government needs to take more stringent measures to prevent spreading the virus as Manipur has already 2 positive cases (no matter one have been reported recovered). Health advisory issued earlier during initial stage of the COVID-19 pandemic needs to be reviewed. For example, the state government under the directives of the Union government have advice to people to maintain a distance of at least one metre while buying essential commodities and to use mask approved by the government. The strictures also appealed to stay indoor all persons at home but allowing only those in need to come out. Today, Scientist have started studying the characteristic of the Novel Coronavirus and find many more development day after tomorrow. Initial findings says people to distance only one metre when new findings says that the virus can travel two meters and can survive for three hours.

According to Manipur borne scientist serving at a decorated at US the virus can spread more parameters in rooms – where people enjoy party. The whole of the room may have been filled with the virus if someone affected cough or speak loud with sprinkling his saliva.

In view of the recent development Manipur Government needs to review the health advisory while continuing the total lockdown.

Importance of Online learning during lockdown Period

By - Parthajit Borah

The entire world during lockdown period is now struggling with the infectious Covid19. Our country is not different from it. The entire country encounters with the life threatening Covid19. The whole country has been locked down due to its rapid transmission among people in various parts of our country. India has to face innumerable problems and specially its economic sector. It also interrupts heavily on students' studies and their forthcoming examinations. Therefore the significance of online learning over the internet can play a pivotal role in imparting quality education during lockdown period.

Online learning came into force in 1982, when the Western Behavioral Science Institute in La Jolla, California opened its school of Management and strategic studies. The school employed computer conferencing to deliver a distance education programme to business executives. In 1989, the University of Phoenix began offering education programmes through internet. In 1993 with the debut of the first internet web browser created by the University of Illinois, online education began to flourish. In 1998, the first fully online programmes were founded. New York University online, Western Governor's University, the California Virtual University and Trident University International.

But the term 'Online Education' is not older in India's educational ambience. It emerges with the rapid development of technology. With the population of more than 1.3 billion, the availability of high speed

of internet and smartphones, India has the most number of technologically driven persons. The rise of Internet transforms India into a digital country as people tend to shop online, learn online.

At the bounteous courtyard of science and technology, we can adequately utilize our electronic devices as the educational technology. Due to sudden growth of Covid19, our common life is abruptly changing. As a result the demand of using electronic devices is raising.

Covid19 has undoubtedly changed our common life style and working habits. It adversely affected students and on their academic growth. At the global standstill moment, e learning and virtual classes are the most affordable means to educate our students as like Western countries. Online education can prepare students for competitive examinations like IIT, JEE, CEE, NDA, UPSC, NET, SLET and other important examinations. Through e-learning and you-tube our students can drive benefits. Here is the list of some of the top online education websites in India -- India education.net, Khan Academy, Coursera, Edx, gdx.org, WZ School, Academic earth, Meritnation, Code Academy, Open Yale Courses. Through proper use of our smartphones and computers, we can flourish our lives during lockdown period. Apart from these our students through WhatsApp and messenger can communicate with their class teachers and subject teachers for course related problems.

****The author, Parthajit Borah, is working in a teacher education institute as a teacher educator.

Why some people will not be switching their lights off on 5th April at 9PM!

By: TS Haokip

The honourable PM in his address to the nation on the 19th of March 2020 has said, "On March 22, at 5 pm stand on your doors and windows for 5 minutes and clap, ring a bell to salute people who are serving the nation tirelessly." Oh! How they'd wished to oblige the request and stand at their doors and ring those bells. The only problem was that all their doors and windows were no more.

When on the 24th of March the PM declared National lockdown and issued #SocialDistancing and #isolation norms and advised people to stay home, Chassad villagers could not oblige the same because their homes were no more. The possibility of maintaining #SocialDistancing by villagers whose 150 houses were burnt down and who are now housed in temporary camps is near to zero. But what is more dreadful than Coronavirus to them is this virus of homelessness. When people missed going to malls, restaurants, and workplaces, the villagers of Chassad missed sleeping on their own beds at home, eating home-



cooked foods and using their Toilets.

But when the PM, yet again, urged people to switch off lights of their homes at 9 pm for nine minutes on April 5 and light up lamps, candles and mobile flashlights to display the nation's collective spirit to defeat #Coronavirus, Chassad villagers must have hung their heads in shame because for the 3rd time after their village was gutted to flames on 16th April by the neighbouring villagers of Kanjong and Sampui, they will not be able to oblige the PM's request again. More than the cries of the women and children

who long for the comfort of their homes, the thought of them not being able to follow those advisories must have upset them more.

Believe me; they have full faith in the Party and the present Government. In fact, they have unanimously voted for BJP during the last Lok-sabha elections. Unfortunately, their candidate could not secure a win in the outer Manipur seat but the party's performance overall filled them with a sense of optimism and hope; a hope for peace and development. Thence they have every reason to

enthusiastically follow what the PM says, but for their present plight. The State Government has initiated the process of rebuilding Chassad. The villagers have no doubt in the capacity of the Govt. to rebuild Chassad and ensure that the people are resettled and secured.

On 5th April 2020 at 9 PM, Chassad villagers will not be switching their lights off as all their light bulbs, together with all their belongings in their houses have been reduced to just ashes. While the Nation is in the process of observing 'staying at home' for 21 days, they have completed more than 21 days of staying outside their homes. It must be their sincere prayer that while the nation fights this highly contagious disease and are self-isolating at home, any next initiative of the PM if it does not involve staying in tents in groups and walking over burnt remains of houses while children and women walk inconsolably, should excuse them from observing it at least until they got homes to observe the #lockdown. Until then, messages off #StayHome and #StaySafe could only remind them more of their homelessness! ■

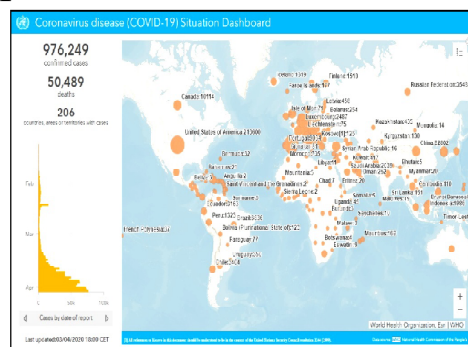
Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic

By - Dr. Rimnei Longmei
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COVID-19 is affecting more and more nations in each passing day. According to World Health Organization data, as of 25 March 2020, there are 198 countries, territories or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths. In terms of death toll, Italy, China, Spain, Iran and France top the list. In many other countries the coronavirus curve has spiked up. Now coronavirus deaths passes 50,000. In India, as of 2nd April 2020, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), coronavirus pandemic has affected more than 2000 people including 55 foreign nationals and caused more than 53 deaths. After the Prime Minister's announcement on 24 March 2020, a complete ban is being imposed on people from stepping out of their homes. Hospital isolation of all confirmed cases, tracing and home quarantine of the contacts is ongoing. According to a report of an international team of scientists, India may face up to 13 lakh cases of COVID-19 by mid-May, if the current trend in the growing number of coronavirus pandemic cases continues.

Regarding the virus as we have seen it, World Health Organization Country Office in China first got the information about it on 31st December 2019. On 30th January 2020 WHO declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Then on 11th February 2020 it announced a name for the new coronavirus disease – COVID-19.

In India, the Government has called for one-day Janata Curfew on 22nd March 2020 and after banning all flights announced for country lockdown from March 26 till April 14, 2020. According to WHO representative to India, Dr. Henk Bakedam WHO Country Office for India has been working closely with MoHFW on preparedness and response measures for COVID-19, including surveillance and contact tracing, laboratory diagnosis, risk communications and community engagement, hospital preparedness, infection prevention and control and implementation of containment plan. He said WHO stands together in solidarity with India and its people and is committed to providing all the support that is needed. In his latest



address to the nation on 3 April 2020, Prime Minister Modi urged the people of India to light up candle on 5 April 2020 at 9 PM. For 9 minutes to use light to challenge the darkness spread by corona. He also said no one should breach the 'Lakshman Rekha' of social distancing which is the only possible way to stop the spread of coronavirus.

There's currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 yet although many claim to have developed some vaccines. As of now we only have many do's and don'ts to protect ourselves and help prevent spreading the virus to others. People are being asked to know the basic safety measures against the coronavirus to protect self, family, community, nation and humanity. Any epidemic outbreak causes understandable panic. But the Covid-19 has caused overwhelming fear everywhere in the world particularly as the world is counting the number of coronavirus infections and deaths ever since the World Health Organization declared it to be a global pandemic. The global situation is still precarious amid speculation about a possible second wave of infections.

The primary effect of COVID-19 is psychological and this psychological impact is even stronger than the physical effect. In part the widespreadness of COVID-19 and the overwhelming fear of it is due to the dramatic nature of the reports and updates of the coronavirus cases, especially as shown on television news and in social media. COVID-19 also gains attention because of the randomness of victims. As of now, although the global toll from coronavirus pandemic topped 50,000, the number of deaths

continued to soar in many countries triggering a massive fear that tens of millions of people around the world would soon be infected and would eventually be killed by the virus. It has caused death anxiety everywhere. Perhaps, Shock, Fear and Sadness grip all humans all over the world.

On the other side, although there is a growing global consensus that efforts to protect public health in the face of the coronavirus pandemic demand temporary sacrifices of some individual freedoms, the United Nations Human Rights experts have urged countries to ensure their emergency responses to the coronavirus must be proportionate, necessary and non-discriminatory. They said "while we recognize the severity of the current health crisis and acknowledge that the use of emergency powers is allowed by international law in response to significant threats, we urgently remind States should not abuse emergency measures to suppress human rights".

This is because as novel coronavirus lockdowns have been expanded globally, billions of people have found that they are now faced with unprecedented restrictions. Police across the world have been given license to control behavior through teargassing, beatings, and bleaching on people. Concerns are growing that police forces around the world are using grueling and humiliating punishments to enforce quarantine on the poorest and most vulnerable groups who live hand-to-mouth and risk starving if they do not defy lockdowns and seek work. Human Rights Watch has said that freedom of expression and access

to information should be protected by governments. While some restrictions on rights such as those limiting freedom of movement could be justified, transparency and respect for human dignity is a must.

In India, with the Government calling for one-day Janata Curfew on 22nd March 2020 its fight against the deadly virus has started but 'coronavirus' has become a racist slur against people from Northeast India ever since. Many people from Northeast took to social media platforms and said that they have been called 'coronavirus', attacked, beaten, abused, spat on and even denied entering the shops. All these actions of our fellow Indians are nothing but 'the resurgence of racism and xenophobia' in India. Punitive and preventive actions taken by the Government so far are highly appreciated but what is more important is to erase off racism and xenophobia from the minds of those who have already become racists and xenophobic in the country. Also India needs to fight to keep the pandemic from becoming communalized.

As regards the issue of dealing with the lockdown or curfew violations in India, while the government's action to enforce preventive and safety guidelines during the 21-day countrywide lockdown is understandable, what the opposition leaders are saying right after the PM Modi's latest address to the nation on Friday is also considerable in so far they are calling for the government to focus on key issues during the ongoing lockdown and focus on real issues to fight effectively against the coronavirus pandemic. What they are saying is that empty symbolism and curating a feel-good moment without announcing concrete economic measures is of no use or will do no good. They wanted to know how the government will protect poor workers and the venerable poorest of the poor. On the lighter note the opposition welcomed the government's economic package worth Rs. 1.7 trillion to ease the impact of the 21-day lockdown to stop the spread of COVID-19 pandemic but did not give full marks saying it is too little and inadequate. As long as the opposition and the concerned citizens feed the government with good suggestions, the government will do well for the good of the people. ■

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