

Donations to CM's Covid Relief Fund

DIPR Imphal, April 9

Donations to CM's COVID-19 Relief Fund is coming from different sections of the society. Md. Abdul Nasir, MLA, Lilong A C donated Rs. 100,000, L. Rameshwar, MLA Keirao A/C donated Rs. 50,000, All Manipur Gazetted & Staff Nurses Association donated Rs. 50,000, Heikunjam Manoj Singh donated Rs. 100,000, The Royal Academy of Law, Oimam donated Rs. 101,000, Association of Retired Forest Service Officers donated Rs. 112,000, Dr. Ningombam Jiten Singh, Deptt. of ENT, RIMS donated Rs. 10,000, Dr. A. Ibomcha Sharma, IIS donated Rs. 10,000, S. Netrajit Singh, Lamsang donated Rs. 10,000, Romiyoi Laishram, Vistarak, BJP Manipur Pradesh donated Rs. 10,000, Ahongshangbam Robot, Thangmeiband Yumnam Leikai donated Rs. 10,000, Sorashiam Thoiba Singh, Sagolband Sayang donated Rs. 10,000, K. Anand Sharma, Khurai Kongpal Laishram Leikai donated Rs. 100,000, PWD Department donated Rs. 999,423, Manipur PWD Engineers Association donated Rs. 150,000, Most Rev Dominic Lumon, Archbishop of Imphal donated Rs. 200,000, Most Rev Dominic Lumon, Archbishop of Imphal donated Rs. 300,000, Mrig Mrinal Dhawan, Fama Marketing donated Rs. 100,000, Manipur Nursing Council donated Rs. 123,001, Manipur Tourism Forum donated Rs. 200,000, Inat Laining Punsinnaba Lup donated Rs. 17,000, FINGODAP, Manipur donated Rs. 100,000, High Court Employees Association donated Rs. 206,274, BJP Mahila, Sugnu Mandal Donated Rs. 50,000, All Manipur Medical Students Association donated Rs. 20,000, Cine Actors Guild Manipur donated Rs. 50,000, Bharatiya Majdoor Sangh, Manipur donated Rs. 50,000, Soma Laishram, Actress donated Rs. 30,000, Ima Leisham Inaat Loishang donated Rs. 35,000. Apart from all the individuals and organisations mentioned above, many have donated to the relief fund online as well. The Chief Minister has expressed profound thanks to all those who have contributed to the fund.

Cracks visible between Dy. CM and CM amidst hectic preparation to fight COVID-19

ITNews Imphal, April 9

Amidst hectic preparation to contain the pandemic COVID-19 from spreading in the state of Manipur, a crack emerges between Deputy Chief Minister Yuman Joykumar and the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. BJP MLA S. Rajen while reacting to a statement by Deputy Chief Minister Yuman Joykumar, who is also the legislature wing leader National Congress Party (NCP) today hit a slashing criticism over his mockery remark to the Chief Minister's announcement for distribution of 4 Kg of rice at free of cost from the NFSA rice quota of April month. Simmering tension between the Chief Minister and the

deputy chief minister was notice by the people after Yumnam Devjit Singh, son of the Deputy Chief Minister Yumnam Joykumar was arrested in connection with his statement against the Prime Minister of India which spread through social networking site. The matter was blanketed for some time until the Deputy Chief Minister yesterday openly called the assurance of 4Kg rice to each person 'a mad man promises'. The deputy Chief Minister was telling people that it is next to impossible of distributing rice to all the people as the rice is not sufficient. Clarifying to the statement of Yumnam Joykumar, by terming it as 'misleading', S. Rajen said that monthly quota under NFSA for Uripok Assembly

constituency is 1269.60 quintal. In this crisis time considering the Uripok Assembly constituency as urban area which is densely populated, additional 200 quintal of rice procured under market price has been allotted by the chief Minister to make sure that every persons get at least 4 kg of rice per head. "Total rice allocated was 1469.60 quintal and has been lifted from the godown by the Deputy Chief Minister on Monday" Rajen said adding that if the total rice is distributed 4kg per head then a total of 36,740 will get the benefit. He termed the statement of Deputy Chief Minister as irresponsible. MLA Suchindro (Yai) was also present while giving the clarification statement.

Let's fight and win the war against COVID-19 : CM

ITNews Imphal, April 9

Chief Minister N. Biren appealed to the people of the State to fight collectively and win the war against coronavirus. This was stated by him in a video message to the people of the State today. Seeking the support and cooperation of the people, Chief Minister said that saving the lives of people is the top priority of the government at this hour of pandemic. The government is fully prepared to fight the coronavirus, he added. He maintained that the government has enough stock of medical equipment such as PPEs, 3-layer masks, N-95 masks, hand sanitizers, hand gloves, non-contact thermometers, sodium hypochlorite etc. Considering the current situation of the disease in the country, Chief Minister hinted that the ongoing nationwide



lockdown must be extended for some days to check the spread of COVID-19 in the country. He opined that as the disease is highly contagious, we must take utmost precautionary measures to stop further spread of the disease. Till now, the State has received four consignments of medical equipments and essential medicines from the Ministry of Health and family Welfare, Government of India under the supervision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, he added.

Acknowledging the talents and potential of the doctors, nurses and paramedical staffs of the State, Chief Minister appreciated the team of the JNIMS, Imphal who have treated the first COVID-19 patient of the State successfully. He expressed his gratitude over the team for their tireless work and announced that the government would give a cash reward of Rs. 35 lakhs to the team. He thanked Dr. Uthan, Dr. Manojkumar who volunteered and led the team to treat the patient at JNIMS. Chief Minister also stated that the government is actively considering to provide cash incentives or awards to those who are working at the frontline.

Clarifying about the proposed construction of a quarantine center at Langthabal, he stated that the government had called off the construction as many clubs and individuals have raised their discontent over the construction at the site. He assured that the government is committed to construct a dedicated quarantine center at an undisputed land.

Stating some of the recent measures taken up by the government, he mentioned that the State Cabinet has decided that upto Rs. 25 lakhs can be used in each Assembly Constituency under MLALAD fund for COVID-19 related expenses as one time measure for supply of essential commodities, protective gear like mask, sanitizers, drinking water etc. Under the fair price shop system, 2-3 shops in each district will be identified for district level supply of PDS rice, he added.

The Chief Minister informed that ex-gratia for around 62,000 beneficiaries under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme amounting to around Rs. 310 lakhs has been released. Manipur Old Age Pension Scheme for 12 months amounting to around Rs. 11 crores and Manipur Old Age Pension selected through 'Go to Village' amounting to around Rs. 2.5 crores will be released soon. CMST scholarship for 110 students with disability for a duration of one year will be released. CMST-caregiver allowance to 4,879 persons with disability amounting to Rs 5.85 crores has been released by the government.

N. Biren Singh also appealed to the people to stop posting any message or videos on social media which can incite communal tension in the State at this hour of grief. On the occasion, Chief Minister informed that the Centre has given its nod for the setting up of a State Medical College at Churachandpur.

Hospital still provide treatment to non COVID-19 patient ; For Shija patient have to registered at 6033 834 723 before coming to the hospital

ITNews Imphal, April 9

Panic over the pandemic COVID-19 has almost shut down all hospitals including government run hospital in the state for non-COVID-19 related disease. Even as government hospitals like RIMS and JNIMS are open for emergency patient, not many attended due to fear of getting infected by COVID-19 as both the hospitals are treating COVID-19 positive patient. Moreover, those visited to are also facing difficulties as hospital management are busy preparing to deal COVID-19 related patient.

When enquired at both RIMS and JNIMS authority, it is confirmed that both the hospitals provide health care service and treatment to emergency patient but not so

many came as the OPD has been closed. On the other hand Shija Hospital and Research Center, is putting all effort to provide health care service to emergency and needy patients by subsiding the risk of landing the entire hospital into quarantine. Talking to Imphal Times Superintendent of SHRI, Dr. Jugendro said that they have already provided a telephone number (+91 6033 834 723) for registering of patient in need of medical care. However, only emergency patient are registered after taking his or her history. "As for normal patient we give advice, if possible with mild medicine which are available after proper enquiry", Dr. Jugendro said. Dr. Jugendro further said that SHRI management is

frequently I touch with Psychiatrist from RIMS to study the mental impact of the lockdown due to the pandemic COVID-19. Emergency Conditions which can be entertained at Emergency Department, Shija Hospitals are

1. Trauma (Road Traffic Accidents/ Assault/ fall from height/ drowning/ burns)
2. Heart Attack (Chest pain)
3. Acute Stroke
4. Seizure
5. Altered Mental Status
6. Patient came with unconscious state
7. Severe headache
8. Acute abdominal pain
9. Loose motion
10. Multiple vomiting
11. Accelerated HTN
12. Uncontrolled DM
13. Anaphylaxis (Allergic reaction)
14. Shortness of breath

15. Asthma Attacks/ COPD
16. Hemoptysis (blood in cough)
17. Hemetemiasis and Malena (blood in stools)
18. Pancreatitis
19. Cholelithiasis (gall stone) and cholecystitis
20. SAIO (Subacute Intestinal obstruction)
21. Acute Appendicitis
22. Lacerated wound
23. Amputation
24. CKD(Chronic Kidney failure) with fluid overload/ Emergencies in renal failure and dialysis patients
25. Urinary tract infections
26. Hematuria (blood in urine)
27. Urinary retention (esing chatpa yadaba)
28. Poisoning
29. Dog bite
30. Snake bite
31. Acute Anal Fissure
32. Thrombosed or prolapsed piles

FIR against 8 Myanmarese staying at mosque in Maharashtra

By Raju Vernekar Mumbai, April 9

An FIR was registered by Nagpur police against eight Myanmar nationals, all members of the "Tablighi Jamaat" organisation, for allegedly violating self-quarantine rules and staying at a mosque in Nagpur, in Maharashtra, without informing the local police, on Wednesday. These persons did not attend the religious congregation by Tablighi Jamaat at Nizamuddin in Delhi last month, which has emerged as a major coronavirus hotspot in the country. However they have been staying in mosque in violation of regulations, official sources said. The eight persons, all hailing from Yangon city of Myanmar, arrived in Nagpur on March 7. After staying at a mosque in Gittikhadan area till March 21, they shifted to another mosque

building in Tehsil area without informing the police and flouted the self-quarantine rules. They were staying at a mosque in Nagpur without informing the local administration, which also amounts to violation of the Foreigners Act. Acting on a tip-off, the police recently conducted checking at the mosque where they found the foreign nationals and informed the health authorities. As a precaution all the eight persons, have been quarantined at an MLA hostel in Nagpur. They have been booked under IPC Sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life). They have also been charged under provisions of the Foreigners Act 1946 and

the Disaster Management Act 1897 (as amended in 2005). In similar incident the Navi Mumbai Police on Sunday registered an FIR against three Philippines nationals and six Indians, including a trustee of a mosque in Vashi, in Navi Mumbai. The case was filed against the foreign nationals for violating visa norms and entering Navi Mumbai illegally, while the mosque trustee was accused of hiding the foreign nationals in the wake of Covid-19 spread. One of these accused Filipinos died of Covid-19 infection recently. The patient who initially tested positive for novel coronavirus, was under treatment at the BMC run Kasturba Hospital in North Mumbai. Then he was shifted to a private hospital after his test report came out to be negative. However, he died at the private hospital late night on March 23. A person from the Noor Masjid

in Vashi tested positive for novel coronavirus. Some locals had pointed out about some foreigners staying in the mosque. However, when police reached the spot, those at the mosque refused to talk and also opposed to get themselves tested. They told police that their religion forbids such testing. Later, police sent a doctor to convince them, following which, they agreed for the test. The test results were positive for the trustee of the mosque, his one-and-half-year-old grandchild, daughter-in-law and one other family member. In total, six out of those from the mosque, who were put in isolation, were confirmed with Covid 19 infection. According to police, the trustee had invited the people from the Philippines belonging to Tablighi Jamaat. The foreign nationals travelled, met people and gave sermons. The trustee had hidden these

foreigners in the mosque when the novel coronavirus started emerging in India. These people stayed in the Mosque between March 10 and March 16. A case was filed against the trustee and foreign nationals under Sections 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), Section 269 (Negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) and Section 270 (Malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) of Indian Penal Code (IPC), Section 3 and 4 of Epidemic Act 1897, Section 14 of Foreigners Act 1946 and Maharashtra Covid-19 rule recently brought into force. As of now, the administration is trying to find all those people who came in contact with these infected persons so that the spread of Covid-19 could be curtailed.

Govt. employees holding NSFA ordered to surrender the Card

ITNews Imphal, April 9
District Administration of Bishnupur has order all government employee of the district possessing beneficiary card issued under National food security Act, 2013 to surrender to the DC, Neeta Arambam within 7 days. An order has been issued by the Deputy commissioner Bishnupur district today.

Diesel distributed

ITNews Imphal, April 9
President of the BJP Kisan Morcha State Manipur Pradesh, Kh. Nabakumar distributed 300 liter of diesel oil for double cropping farmers and other farmers of the Kumbi AC under the supervision of the Relief committee BJP Manipur Pradesh.

★ Editorial

Besides COVID -19 , Mental health issue and other diseases should also be provided health care access

Fighting Coronavirus invasion is a top priority for all the countries across the globe with the number of fatalities reaching 88,528 and as many as 1,519,066 infected by the deadly virus. The number of fatalities in India alone reached 183 due to COVID -19 with active positive case of 5228 as recorded till today noon. Like every country, India too is gearing up every possible measure to contain the virus from spreading in the country and leaving no option the country has been put under complete lockdown.

For the state of Manipur, the kind of initiative taken up by the state government in compliance with the directives of the Central government is commendable. This newspaper yesterday reported that the state is prepared to face any challenges of COVID-19 if in case the number rises. And with the dedicated service of the health workers under the strict surveillance of the Chief Minister and his team, one among the two COVID -19 positive patients has been recovered. The recovery of the first COVID-19 case who has been undergoing treatment at JNIMS shows sign of relief to the people. Now the state recorded only one COVID-19 positive case and he is undergoing treatment at the RIMS isolation ward. Persons who have been speculated to have been communicated with the virus through the 2 positive cases were all under quarantined and what is important to note down is that no person who was closed to these persons was not affected by the virus. Still, then all those suspected are under quarantined. Besides, there are over 200 suspected persons who have a travel history of visiting the affected countries are being quarantined and so far no report of the positive case has been found.

Now, it is 18 days, that the state of Manipur has been put under complete lockdown freezing all movement and business transaction except for the essential commodities. Whether some people satisfied or not the state government is working with extreme seriousness to make sure that every citizen does not remain hungry during the lockdown period.

But one thing that the government seems to have forgotten is that before the invasion of the Coronavirus almost all hospitals including the private hospitals were packed many times. These people who visited hospitals either at RIMS or JNIMS or any other private hospitals have some kind of illness and for that matter, they came for treatment.

Why did all the hospitals bore with much fewer patients in these hospitals? Does that mean that after the Coronavirus there are no other illnesses in the state? Or is it because those patients in need of consultation from doctors do not know where to go as most private hospitals have been close for outpatient treatment.

Well, state health department authority under the supervision of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and his team is doing well to deal with the COVID19 cases. While doing so they should plan alternative measures for common people's health service excess that are not related to the COVID-19 cases.

Except for one private hospital - the Shija Hospital and research center, even the hospital run under the state government seems to have taken up measures to provide health service facilities to patients who are not related to the COVID-19 case. This newspaper today reported on how the Shija Hospital and research center has been taking up a measure to make sure that patients unrelated to COVID -19 case could be treated in the time of need. But the management of these private hospitals is taking the matter with extreme seriousness. For those emergency patients, they provide a phone no. +91 6033 834 723 for registering a patient first so that they make sure that people in their hospital complex are safe from the virus if in case. Those with mild problems were advised through the phone.

The state health department authority should immediately take up measures to provide health care service which are not related to COVID-19 case. It's better than the government authority makes no mistake even at the time of crisis.

Another serious problem that the state needs to prepare is to face the mental health problem of the people due to the prolong lockdown. Some country including India and states like Manipur seem to have forgotten about the impact on mental health due to the lockdown and social distancing. In New South Wales in Australia Psychiatrists and mental health-related consultants are working out to face the probable impact on the mental health of the public either during the lockdown period.

This part of the health issue should not be let down. Remember we are living in a society and lockdown is only a short term measure and the world will run again as soon a cure for the virus is invented. And people's mental health status is an important issue in the running of society.

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Disability on Betel Leaves

By-Birendra Laishram

The talks of betel leaves would have not been there had the incident occurred prior to the pandemic by COVID-19 leading to imposition of lockdown and curfew everywhere because there is no legal loophole in transporting these goods in the state. If the government wants to take action as demanded by the people from different sections, careful steps should be taken up as per Manuals of Disposal of seized/confiscated goods without any legal departure to avoid any consequential loss of money from government account/tax payers money.

Betel Leaf is perishable in nature may require special arrangements for their preservation and storage. Else may be disposed of immediately after seizure by the Custodian with due notice to the owners and obtaining orders from the Competent Authority. If at a later stage, goods are ordered to be released to the lawful claimant, they would get the sale proceeds realized by the department after deducting the duty liability and other liabilities. Further, if the goods in this category have been seized and have to be destroyed because they have become unfit for disposal or for consumption on account of delay, the AC/DC in charge of seizing unit would be responsible for the lapse. In case any compensation happens to pay to the party by the government due to lapses/wrongful actions of government servants then, responsibilities must be fixed under existing Personal Liabilities Act and payments should not be made from taxpayers account.

What are the charges to be labeled?

1 If the case is to be taken up for violation of curfew whether the police stationed at the Airport has the right to cease the goods transporting through the flights within the Airport itself before violation of curfew was taken place? If not, the case reported to and taken up under Singjamei Police Station will it be correct? Only the violator is to be booked for violation of curfew, lockdown and non-compliance of government orders. Please see whether FIR is lodged against the person who is not in the case. The arrestees were not arrested from the public places to substantiate the violation of curfew.

2 It is said that some of the consignments were lifted to the nearby Storage located at Changangai during the curfew hour but there is not report of arrest of the violator/the driver at the spot.

3 Any lot of confiscated/



seized perishable goods of value exceeding rupees five lakh shall not be sold directly to the cooperative societies/federation (functional for at least 10 preceding years) and shall be sold by e-auction or auction-cum-tender basis. Delay in disposal will attract legal actions from the party and other charges from the Airport Authority of India. Government may consult law department. It may be interesting that even some cases reached Supreme Court disputing Tomato as Fruit or as Vegetable; Coconut a Dry Fruit or Fresh Fruit, sugarcane as vegetable, betel leaves a vegetable or medicinal herbs thereby taking years to decide thus if it once reached the Hon'ble court, it may take some time.

In common parlance:

It is said that betel leaves contain many curative and healing benefits and vitamins like vitamin C, thiamine, niacin etc. Water is good with its own and also has good qualities if with honey and bad qualities if with Alcohol. Betel leaf is despoiled as *Jarda pan* only after mixing with tobacco. Whatever it may be, it is not yet declared as vegetable or food items or essential commodities.

Everybody knows that betel leaves means betel leaves to make *Jarda-pan* by mixing with tobacco and now for sales at higher price. This is known from the local dailies that the prices of *Jarda-pan* is 4/5 times higher than the price before this pandemic hence, importing betel leaves during this pandemic is with profiteering motive and also leading to intentional violation of ban of tobacco in Manipur. Moreover, all the passenger flights were suspended at this juncture and only the cargo flights are put to work only for ferrying essential commodities thus, bringing of non-essential items tantamount to misusing the cargo flight. Decide the charge to be framed carefully and the case be handed over to the CBI (to tone-down the voice of the CSOs in the state) to nab the persons involved for violation of government orders.

Everybody wants behind tobacco to save household economy, to save health to avoid family problems but legally we are handicapped.

Communist Party Of India , Central office Roykutty office secretary condemns belligerent attitude of US

ITNews Imphal, April 9

The national secretariat of the communist party issued the following statement on April 8, 2020 condemning the belligerent attitude of US President Donald Trump and the Modi government's succumbing to the US pressure. The National Secretariat of the communist party of India condemns the belligerent attitude of US President Donald Trump and Modi government's succumbing to the US threat to retaliate. There is no wonder in the behaviour of the US as it has been a friend indeed of neither India nor any developing country.

Now at a time when the whole world is passing through a very difficult period, fighting COVID-19. The US administration which does not believe in mutual cooperation is showing its true colour of

arrogance and language of threats . Trump's threat of retaliation if hydroxychloroquine drug is not supplied to the US exposes its policy of arm twisting . The most distressing shameful act is that Modi government has succumbed to the pressure.

The party is committed to international co-operation among the Nations and welfare of humankind as a whole. The Modi government may export drugs and other PPE items to any country, only after ensuring that there will be no dearth of the same domestically. The Party reiterates its understanding that the US assumes courage to insult India and India's only after Modi government reduced India as a junior partner of the US. We are certain that the people of India will not tolerate such attack on their dignity and will rise against such insults in appropriate time.

Multi-Tasking Role of Hibiscus in Keeping Sound Health

By-Lata Sundari IPR Department, Govt. of Manipur

Many of us are quite familiar with the hibiscus plant. Name any place : they are seen growing almost everywhere in the nearby orchards, gardens ,courtyard and far-away farms and fields. The flowers come in a variety of colors. They can be red, yellow, white, or peach-colored, and can be as big as 6 inches wide. Belonging to the Malvaceae family, this evergreen plant has strong branches and trunk with dark green, shiny, smooth, and oval-shaped leaves. Apart from having a bright, colourful appearance, hibiscus flowers have medicinal properties like controlling cholesterol and blood pressure levels, treating cancer, heart disease and obesity. The calyxes of the plant is the basic composition of the herbal drinks containing hibiscus. Going back to history, it is believed that the Egyptians used hibiscus tea to treat fever, heart and nerve diseases. It is also used in certain patients as a diuretic to increase urine production. The anthocyanins present in hibiscus is the key ingredient giving the plant its anti-cancer properties. Reports found that the hibiscus extract might have an effect on metabolism, preventing obesity and fat buildup in the liver. Hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa sinensis*) is a wonder plant when it comes to beauty treatment for hair and skin. It is the basic composition of all hair cosmetics like oil, tonic, shampoo and conditioner. It is believed that hibiscus promotes hair growth and prevents premature hair greying by reducing excessive body heat, stimulating blood circulation

to the scalp and increasing the supply of essential nutrients to the hair follicles. In addition to making the hair smooth, silky and soft texture, hibiscus is a good treatment for alopecia and hair fall too.

Hibiscus flowers are widely used in the treatment of pimples and bleeding disorders due to their pitta-pacifying action and anti-hemorrhagic properties. It also comes to the rescue for relieving painful menstruation, hemorrhoids, urinary disorders e.g. UTI, insomnia and skin disorders. As hibiscus has a cooling, diuretic effect on the body, it is normally prescribed by doctors as a natural remedy for hormone balancing, hypertension and better body metabolism. Aqueous extracts of hibiscus also appear to exert a slight antibacterial effect.

Components of hibiscus have shown potential as a chemopreventative agent against tumor promotion in laboratory and animal studies. These components also possess anti-inflammatory properties. Apart from the hibiscus plant been used as a mild laxative, research have been carried out relating to its use in preventing renal stone formation, as well as its respiratory and sedative effects.

Summing up, we find that the hibiscus is a wonder plant that has a multi-dimensional use when it comes to medicinal and health benefits. It is a boon when it comes to countering numerous diseases ranging from the very severe cancer to the lightest skin and hair ailments.

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RIMS Hospital complex sprayed with solution of sodium hypochlorite

ITNews Imphal, April 9

In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital, Imphal has been disinfecting hospital premises such as Doctors' Duty Room of COVID Hospital, Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL), Isolation Ward, approach road to Incinerator etc. using sodium hypochlorite, considering the large number of people who visit

these places with the support of Manipur Fire Service, Government of Manipur. Further, it will be disinfecting other locations that see crowds by using the fire brigade.

The program was initiated by Prof. A. Santa Singh, the Director, RIMS and under the supervision of Medical Superintendent of RIMS Hospital, Prof. Ch. Arunkumar Singh. The program was participated by the members of The Non-Teaching Employees Welfare Association of RIMS, Imphal.

Letter to the Editor

On distribution of essential commodities

Sir,

Distribution of essential commodities (either from govt. or from private individuals) by volunteers in almost all localities poses a great risk in view of the highly contagious nature of Covid-19. So, the state government may be requested to devise a protocol to effectively distribute items to public without risk.

Suggestions:

- 1) At least 4-5 young volunteers from each registered Local club may be officially identified, given proper instruction, provided identity cards, and entrusted with home delivery services in the respective localities - for all kinds of essential items - from whoever donor or govt side. They should be made responsible for strict compliance of Social Distancing norms.
- 2) The elected local body (Panchayat or Municipal Corpn or ADCs) members may be entrusted to ensure that essential items meant for distribution reach the doorsteps of needy families, and the also to ensure that nobody gets out of home for availing such distributed items.
- 3) By involving the officially identified volunteers of Local Clubs and elected local body members, we can ensure strict compliance of Lockdown protocol. Otherwise, the scenario is also highly risky every locality is not only chaotic and festive, but also each and every

With regards,
Seram Neken
Singjamei kshetri Leikai, Imphal