

Corona Virus : As of now no case recorded; result for 2 suspected case awaiting—Health Minister

IT News
Imphal, Feb 18

The state of Manipur having porous border with Myanmar and its proximity with China which is currently haunted with the outbreak of Corona Virus (2019-nCoV) has been taking up various measures to prevent the spread of the virus from reaching to Manipur.

Replying to a question by congress MLA Okram Surjakumar during question hour today, Health Minister L. Jyankumar said that since the outbreak of the deadly virus total number of people living in China either for study or working who had returned to Manipur is 248 as on February 17. Of the total 248 people 9 persons were suspected to have been infected by the virus however result of the test samples of 7

person that was sent on February 14 were found negative. Test result for 2 case which were sent on February 17 are still awaiting, the Health Minister said.

In connection with a question on the measures taken up to fight the spreading of the epidemic in the state, L. Jyankumar said that even as there is no specific budget in the medical directorate for tackling of Coronavirus issues expenditure for taking up the measures are being taken up from available fund and will be utilized from the available fund under the head of the office/ contingency/ office expenditure.

He further added that screening of passengers arrived at Imphal Airport has been started from January 18, 2020. He also added that Medical team had been alerted at Indo Myanmar Border town

Moreh and concern department had even restricted edible items from Myanmar side.

He added that two referral hospitals with isolation wards and ventilators identified as RIMS and JNIMS and the sample collection and testing is done as per standard operating procedure of the government of India.

Rapid Response Teams at both state and district level are on alert besides Information Education and Communication on Print and electronic media by directorate of health Services are being underway.

However, such media education through advertisement have never been received by Evening daily newspaper base in Imphal which is popular among the workers and hand to mouth earners

NE students at TISS allege racial discrimination

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb 18

Amid the global panic over the novel Coronavirus [COVID-19], students hailing from the North Eastern states, studying at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences [TISS], located at Deonar in North East Mumbai, have complained of racial discrimination in and around campus in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

In a letter to the institute, the Northeast Students' Forum of TISS alleged racial profiling of some members of the forum as potential carriers of the virus (Covid-19), which originated in China, owing to their facial features. "Many students from TISS have recently been subjected to racial treatment due to their distinctive identities and features," the letter said.

The letter also said that students from north-eastern states have faced name-calling, such as "corona" and "coronavirus". Around 200 of 2,900 students at TISS are from

the North-East.

"We would like to bring this matter to the notice of concerned authorities of TISS to adopt adequate measures to ensure safety of students from North-East who are vulnerable to racial discrimination. We request the general student body, faculty, and staff to deter any practices of casual and structural racism and promote a sensitive approach towards students. We also request the concerned government bodies to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of people from north-east states in Mumbai and to deter cases of harassment and racial discrimination," read the letter.

A student from Nagaland said, "I was travelling in a share cab when I coughed and suddenly the fellow passengers started discussing the virus. Nothing was directed to me per se but it just

showed a complete insensitivity."

"In the midst of the ongoing global health crisis due to an outbreak of Coronavirus, purportedly originating in the Wuhan province of China, we have seen a disturbing trend of discrimination and racial profiling across the world towards people of China origin and other Asian nations bearing Mongoloid features. It is a grim reminder of inherent racial prejudices and stereotyping of particular peoples based on their physical features and perceived cultural inferiority, manifested by subjecting them to various forms of hostilities, slurs, and suspicions which is now being played out in the pretext of health concerns. We condemn this form of discriminatory behaviour and call for a sensitive approach for addressing the outbreak without racial profiling of people. This is especially to

bring to light the increasing instances of racial discrimination within India being faced by people from the North Eastern states due to distinctions in socio-cultural traits and physical features," reads the NESF statement.

The group also had a meeting with the institute authorities regarding the insensitive behaviour. "The Dean of Students' Affairs at the institute gave us a patient hearing and has assured that specific steps will be taken to create awareness and to ensure safety of students from north-east," a research student from the institute who also hails from northeast said.

Asha Banu, dean, student affairs, confirmed that students approached her office to discuss the matter adding that the administration is mulling ways to spread awareness within the campus and in nearby areas.

Youth Congress staged protest against price hike on LPG Cylinder

IT News
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The Protest was held with the members of Youth Congress and Mahila Congress of Uripok led by Ms Sarifa Rahman, Secretary IYC in charge Manipur, i Amir Hussain, President Manipur Pradesh Youth Congress, Ng Dilipkumar Meitei, VP MPYC, N Mahananda Singh, Gen Secy MPYC, Sh Tonton Iromcha, President, City DYC, AYC President of Uripok, Keishamthong, Yaikul.

The protester demanding to roll back immediately the price hike on LPG with placards and raised voices against Modi BJP Govt. with many placards and Gas Cylinder.

The placards with slogans against the government and price hike of LPG were displayed during the protest. Speaking to media persons member of youth congress



Sarifa Rahman said that with steep hike in LPG prices, Modi government has attacked the budget of India's women. Modi government with one stroke of pen has increased the price of gas cylinder by Rs. 149 taking the price of non-subsidised gas cylinder to Rs. 858.50. when Congress demitted power on 16th May 2014 a non-subsidised gas cylinder price was only Rs. 414. It is Rs. 858.50 today i.e. an increase of over 100% in less than 5-1/2 years.

The negative impact of PM Modi's harebrained, visionless policies are becoming more and more evident every passing day. Economy of our country is going to dogs, GDP growth is consistently dropping, while inflation is touching the sky.

Earlier today it has been announced that LPG prices have been hiked by about Rs. 149 in different states across India. Prices of essential commodities too keeps increasing.

Draft of National Cyber Security Strategy 2020 soon be sent to key ministries for comments

IT News
New Delhi, Feb 18

The draft of National Cyber Security Strategy 2020, that envisages creating a secure cyberspace in India, is ready and will soon be sent to key ministries for comments before seeking the Cabinet approval. National Cyber Security Coordinator Rajesh Pant said this during an Assocham event in New Delhi yesterday. Mr. Pant said that there is need to create separate cadre of cyber security specialists from IT personnel because those who roll out IT infrastructure are generally unable to detect the flaws. He said that trials are also going on to use face or iris recognition before processing of payments through mobile phone. The officer said, India is actively walking towards a National Cyber Security Policy which is imperative for the goal of a 5 trillion dollar economy.

CMHT card holders reaches 6,95,601; spent Rs. 10 crore in 2018-19

IT News
Imphal, Feb 18

Answering the question being asked by MLA K. Ranjit Singh in the ongoing Manipur Legislative Assembly budget session, Health and Family Welfare Minister L. Jyankumar said that The number of card holders of Chief Minister's Health Scheme (CMHT) and of AYUSMAN

Bharat have reached 6,95,601 and 2,14,121 respectively and the State Government has spent Rs. 10 crore in 2018-19 for treatment under the Chief Minister's Health Scheme (CMHT).

The CMHT Scheme assisted upto Rs 2 lakh to its card holder for the treatment in a year. Some private Hospitals like Advanced Speciality Hospital And Research

Institute, Iboyaima Hospital and Research Centre, Jivan Hospital, Maipakpi Maternity And Child Hospital, Raj Medcity, Shija Hospitals And Research Institute and Sky Hospital And Research Centre Pvt Ltd and Narayana Super Speciality Hospital which is at Guwahati are given privileged for all card holders to do their treatment in these mentioned hospitals.

Over two lakh Muslim pilgrims to proceed on Haj pilgrimage without Govt subsidy

IT News
Mumbai, Feb 18

For the first time after Independence, over two lakh Muslim pilgrims will be proceeding to Mecca-Medina in Saudi Arabia without government subsidy, on more than 500 flights and from 21 embarkation points across the country for Haj pilgrimage this year, Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said here on Monday.

This year, a total of two lakh Indian Muslims will perform Haj (between July-August). About 1.23 lakh Muslims will go through Haj Committee of India and remaining through Haj Group Organisers, he said. This year over 2100 Muslim women will go to Haj without Mehram (male companion).

and the Haj pilgrimage has become affordable. Making the Haj process 100 per cent digital/online has removed middlemen ensuring Haj pilgrimage becomes affordable in comparison to the cost incurred in last several decades, he said. Even after removal of Haj subsidy, no additional financial burden has been put on the pilgrims, Naqvi said. India has become the first country to make the entire "Haj 2020" process 100 per cent digital. Online application, e-visa, Haj mobile app, E-MASHA health facility, E-luggage pre-tagging providing information in India itself regarding accommodation/transportation in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina have been provided to Indian Muslims going for Haj, he said. For the first time, facilities have been provided for digital pre-tagging of baggage of Haj pilgrims. Linking SIM card to the mobile app ensures Haj pilgrims immediately get the latest information regarding Haj in Mecca-Medina on their mobile phone.

Haj Group Organisers (HGOs)

have also been connected with the 100 per cent digital system which has ensured transparency in their functioning and has led to better facilities to Indian Haj pilgrims. A portal (<http://haj.nic.in/pto>) for Haj Group Organisers has been developed. It contains details of HGOs and their packages. India in coordination with Saudi Arabia is working to ensure safety and better medical facilities for the pilgrims during Haj 2020, he said.

A total of 650 trainers participated in the training programme. They will train Haj pilgrims in their respective states regarding the pilgrimage, accommodation in Mecca and Medina, transport, health facilities and safety measures. The trainers included a large number of women trainers. Officials from the Haj Committee of India, Customs, Air India, BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation, various banks and disaster management agencies guided the trainers.

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Bharti Airtel pays Rs 10,000 crore AGR dues to DoT

IT News
Mumbai, Feb 18

Even as an imbroglio over payment of pending AGR dues worth Rs 1.47,686 crore, by 15 entities, including three major telecom companies continued, Bharti Airtel on Monday said it has paid Rs 10,000 crore to the telecom department towards statutory dues.

"The amount of Rs 10,000 crore has been paid on behalf of Bharti Airtel, Bharti Hexacom, and Telenor," the Sunil Mittal-led company said in a statement. As much as Rs 9,500 crore has been paid on behalf of Bharti Airtel (including Telenor India which merged with the company), and another Rs 500 crore for Bharti Hexacom. As per the government's assessment, Airtel owes nearly Rs 35,586 crore in statutory dues, including licence fee and

spectrum usage charge.

On Monday, the company rushed to make part payments and said, "we are in the process of completing the self assessment exercise expeditiously and will duly make the balance payment upon completion of the same, before the next date of hearing in the Supreme Court. The company said it will also submit supporting details at the time of making balance payment.

In another development Vodafone Idea Limited in a letter to PM and telecom minister of India, stated that it has no plans to leave India and that Vodafone was engaged in talks with the government. Vodafone Group's CEO Nick Read reaffirmed that the company would stay in India and apologise to Indian government saying that his earlier remarks were misquoted

by media. Earlier he had said that Vodafone's India venture is in a perilous state and could see a shutdown. Vodafone Idea Ltd is confronted with the dues worth Rs 53,000 crore - its liabilities add up to Rs 24,729 crore of spectrum dues and another Rs 28,309 crore in licence fee.

A bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra, Justice S Abdul Nazeer and Justice M R Shah of Supreme Court, last week directed the managing directors and directors of telcos and other firms to explain why contempt action is not taken against them for non-compliance of its order to pay adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues to the DoT. In all, 15 entities owe the government Rs 1.47 lakh crore — Rs 92,642 crore in unpaid licence fee and another Rs 55,054 crore in outstanding spectrum usage charges.