

Person with positive coronavirus cases on the rise; Nos. reaches 85 in Manipur

IT News
Imphal, June 2:

The number of persons with novel coronavirus is on the rise here in the state of Manipur with 2 more positive cases reported today morning.

A statement from the State Health Directorate said that two more persons - a female and a male were tested with novel coronavirus late

yesterday evening at VRDL of RIMS. The total number of people tested positive with the virus here in the state of Manipur has reached 85. So far 11 persons with the virus has been recovered and thus the number of active positive case stands at 74.

The female, who happened to be from Imphal West district return from Pune and the male return from Delhi and are in quarantine center when they

were tested positive with the virus. Total number of confirm cases for novel corona virus across the world reached 6,189,879 as reported at 4.30 pm today.

So far 3,75,951 people have been killed by the COVID-19 and as many as 2,696,009 have been recovered.

In India the total number of confirmed cases with coronavirus reached 199,785.

Total number of active positive cases stands at 98,287 and as many as 5,612 were killed by the virus.

In the state of Maharashtra alone there are 70,013 confirmed cases with Coronavirus. out of this 30,108 has been recovered and thus the number of active positive case stands at 37,543. 2,362 people have been killed by the virus in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra, Gujarat braces up for cyclone Patients shifted from COVID-19 field hospitals

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, June 2:

The Cyclone "Nisarga" is likely hit Maharashtra, Goa and Gujarat due to a depression in the east-central and adjoining south-east Arabian Sea, with expected rainfall of 100 mm and the wind speed at 125 kmph in the next two days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) stated here.

A week after a raging cyclone wreaked havoc in West Bengal, the country is now bracing to face another cyclone which is headed towards the coastline of Maharashtra and Gujarat. While a 'yellow' alert has been sounded by weather department, as a precaution NDRF teams have already landed in Konkan coastal of Maharashtra. Two NDRF teams have been deployed in Palghar, three teams in Mumbai, one in Thane, 2 teams in Raigad and one team in Ratnagiri. The a cyclonic storm in 12 hours and then a severe cyclonic storm, with heavy rainfall in subsequent 12 hours has been forecast in neighbouring Pune till 4 June.

On Tuesday morning the trees were seen swaying due to heavy wind speed in Palghar and adjoining areas. The administration of these districts was in the process of evacuating and shifting the people along the shoreline to relief centres. The low lying areas in Mumbai are likely to be affected with gusty winds during the downpour. As a precaution in Mumbai, the administration shifted patients from the COVID-19 field hospital set up at a Bandra-Kurla Complex located in North West Mumbai on Tuesday. Besides, measures to prevent water logging at field facility at NSE, Goregaon in North Mumbai were on. Mumbai and adjoining areas has been receiving mild showers since Monday and the skies continue to remain overcast. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has requested fishermen to avoid venturing into the sea for the next two to three days as a cyclone is expected to hit the Arabian Sea. "Nisarga" currently lies as a depression 490 km from Mumbai, 280 km from Goa's capital city and 710 km from Surat district in Gujarat. It could be the first tropical

cyclone in 129 years to hit Maharashtra in the month of June. At the moment, the storm is brewing in the Arabian sea near Lakshadweep. The IMD had earlier issued an orange alert for Mumbai and Thane and a red alert for Palghar. This threat comes at a time when Maharashtra is already struggling with a dramatic rise in its number of coronavirus cases — already past the 70,000 mark.

"The depression over the east-central Arabian Sea which moved northwards with a speed of 11 kmph during past 6 hours, intensified into a deep depression and lay centred at 5.30 hours IST, near latitude 15.0 N and longitude 71.2 E about 280 km west-southwest of Panjim (Goa), 490 km south-southwest of Mumbai (Maharashtra) and 710 km south-southwest of Surat (Gujarat)" the IMD stated. Since the cyclone is expected to hit some parts of neighbouring Gujarat, the state government has put 6 districts on high alert and has asked people living in low lying areas of 159 villages of the coastal regions to shift to safer places.

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State BJP gets New President

IT News
Imphal, June 2:

Professor S. Tikendra Singh has been appointed as the new president of the BJP Manipur Pradesh. National President of the BJP, JP Nadda had officially appointed Prof. Tikendra as the president of the BJP Manipur Pradesh.

Hill journalists lauds CM

IT News
Imphal, June 2:

Manipur Hill Journalists' Union has lauded the Chief Minister of Manipur for announcing ex-gratia of Rs. 5 to 10 lakhs for media persons who succumb to COVID-19 in line of duty.

A statement by the Union expressed sincere gratitude to the Chief Minister for recognizing the works of media fraternity at the frontline in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

Landslide at Imphal-Jiri road: Hundreds of Passenger and goods ferrying vehicles stranded

IT News
Imphal, June 2:

Large number of vehicles that were transporting people of the state who have return from outside and various trucks ferrying essential commodities were stranded today on the Imphal Jiri Highway landslide occurred at various places along the route. Report reaching here said

that heavy landslide occurred at Siblong area following heavy rain yesterday had slides down a makeshift hut and a shop blocking the road. Around the similar time another mudslide occurred inbetween Onamlong and Noney. At Sinam village area too landslide occurred due to heavy rain also block the Imphal - Jiribam road.

Officials of the state government and the High way maintenance group are trying hard to clear the road , however till the filling of this story the road could not be clear. On the other hand the water level of Barak River is reported to be alarming. Villagers staying at the bank of the river have been warned to evacuate the place to safer place.

IBSD sent scientist to cope up COVID testing facilities

IT News
Imphal June 2:

Institute of Bioresearches and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Takyeipat has been supporting the COVID testing facilities at RIMS and JNIMS by sending various scientists and researchers to cope up with the shortage of trained manpower.

A statement by the Senior Administrative Officer of IBSD, Imphal said that the institute has been working to support the testing facilities at RIMS and JNIMS under the guidance of its Director, Prof. Pulok Kumar Mukherjee with available resources and expertise. One Scientist fellow, one post doctoral fellow and one research scholar under the

guidance of Dr. Indra Devi, Scientist -D has been helping to VRDL and MDRU of RIMS Imphal. The statement also added that the IBSD , Imphal have already lent one RT-PCR and RNA Extraction equipment to RIMS, Imphal to reduce the testing load at their center. Another RT-PCR was also lent to JNIMS testing center earlier the statement said.

DGCA asks airlines to keep middle seats empty in flights

IT Correspondent
Mumbai/Delhi, June 2:

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked airlines to allot seats in flights in such a manner that middle seats between two passengers are kept vacant to the extent possible, as per new guidelines released in the wake of coronavirus outbreak in the country.

Airlines shall set the air-conditioning system in such a way that the air gets replaced at the shortest possible intervals, DGCA ordered. From now on, no meals or drinking water shall be provided on board except in extreme circumstance, the aviation regulator said

If an airline has to allot middle seat due to high demand, then it must arrange "additional protective equipment" for the flyers, the DGCA said. The airline regulator asked the airlines to provide a three-layered face mask, face shield and a "wrap-around gown" (Ministry of Textile approved

standards) to those occupying the intervening seat in an airplane.

India resumed the domestic flight operations after a gap of nearly two months due to nationwide lockdown. The international flight services will be resumed before August, civil aviation minister said.

The entry and exit in a flight shall be sequential. The passenger should not rush towards the exit as soon as the flight lands. Airlines must ensure the orderly entry and exit of the travellers, the regulator said.

Airlines shall set the air-conditioning system in such a way that the air gets replaced at the shortest possible intervals, DGCA ordered. The inventories in the airplane shall be cleaned and sanitised during the journey. All aircraft shall be sanitised after end of each sector when there is no passenger on board. On transit flights, airlines can sanitise those seats that have been vacated. Seat belts and all other contact points must

be thoroughly cleaned. At the end of the day, each aircraft must be deep cleaned, the regulator advised. Airlines must carry out health check-up of all crew on a regular basis. All the cabin crew members shall be provided full protective suits.

In case of COVID-19 emergency on board, airlines must disinfect all the affected and adjoining seats. DGCA asked the airport authorities and airline companies to explore possibility of having a disinfection tunnel to ensure safety of passengers. The health implication of a disinfection tunnel must be evaluated before the implementation.

The guidelines previously prescribed by the regulator and the civil aviation ministry shall remain applicable with these additional directions, the DGCA mentioned. The new rules will come into effect from 3 rd June, DGCA said. Earlier, the Supreme Court had also raised questions on allowing bookings for the

middle seats on Air India's "Vande Bharat" flights. "How can you say it will not affect anyone? Outside (aircraft), there should be a social distancing of at least 6 feet. Will the Virus know it is in the aircraft and is not supposed to infect?," the top court questioned.

Travellers need to reach airport at least two hours before the scheduled departure. Only flyers with confirmed web check-in will be allowed to enter an airport terminal. The civil aviation ministry added that there will be no physical check-in at counters. Passengers must compulsorily walk through a thermal screening zone before entering the airport terminal building. Masks and gloves are mandatory for all.

Only the asymptomatic will be allowed to travel. All the flyers must install Aarogya Setu app on their phones except the children below the age of 14 years. Only one check-in bag will be permitted.

More PDS rice for distribution to people lifted by respective MLAs

IT News
Imphal, June 2:

Assembly Constituencies (ACs) of the State continue lifting of PDS rice allocated for June 2020 from certain godowns located at various parts of the State. The lifted PDS items are for distribution to the beneficiaries of the ACs.

Andro AC of Imphal East

District had completely lifting its allocated quantity of 1,554.65 quintal of rice under National Food Security Act (NFSA) for June 2020. Karong AC of Senapati District too lifted 2,018.14 quintal of rice under the same scheme.

In Thoubal District, there was lifting of 2,506.35 quintal of NFSA rice for the Khangabok AC allocated for the month

of May on 30th May, 2020. It may be mentioned that the State Government has been distributing PDS items to every household in all the districts of Manipur under NFSA, PMGKAY and Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to ensure none to suffer on account of non-availability of foodgrain due to the ongoing lockdown in the State.

Webinar on RCCE and Combating Stigma Related to COVID-19 held

IT News
Ghy, June 2:

A webinar on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) and Combating Stigma Related to COVID-19 through partnership in North Eastern States was jointly organised and supported by Assam Don Bosco University, UNICEF, World Health Organisation (WHO), USAID and Piramal Swasthya. 125 participants from various institutions across North-eastern states participated in the webinar. The programme was inaugurated by Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavely, Vice Chancellor, Assam Don Bosco University.

Dr. Ashoke Roy, Director, Regional Resource Centre for North East States, Branch of NHRF, MoHFW, was invited to delivered the key note address on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) related to COVID-19. Dr. Madhulika Jonathan, Chief, Field Office, UNICEF, Assam & North East, Dr. Subhaji Bhattarcharjee, Sub Regional Team Leader for NE States, World Health Organisation, Sudeshna Mukherjee, Vice President, Social and Behaviour Change Communication, Piramal Swasthya, Dr. Ritu Singh Chauhan, National Professional Officer, WHO, Dr. Vivek Singh, Health

Specialist, UNICEF, Laxminarayan Nanda, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF, Suresh Parmar, C4D Officer, UNICEF, Dr. Riju Sharma, Assam Don Bosco University participated as key resource persons of the programme.

The key themes of the webinar include- National perspective: COVID-19 – challenges and issues in North-eastern context, combating stigma related to COVID-19, psychological support to adolescents and youth during COVID-19 pandemic, Risk communication and community engagement, importance of partnership in Northeast SBCC alliance, etc.

★ Editorial

Lockdown phobia

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the first lockdown in the entire nation on March 24 as a preventive measure to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus appreciations pour from all sections of people irrespective of the differences in political ideology. When the second and the third lockdown was announced, sensible people across the country considered it as a wise decision as lockdown is the only means left to counter the spread of the novel coronavirus. The step taken up by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was appreciated by many socio-political observers from across the world. But when the fourth lockdown was announced people started questioning the chemistry behind the lockdown as the number of people tested with novel coronavirus increased like a flash flood.

When the 5th lockdown was announced it was coined as 'Unlock -1'. For three months live across the country has been put to a standstill. And unlocking of the lockdown perhaps is the need of the hour as people will die more not because of the virus but because of hunger if the lockdown continues. Even as there is no cure for the COVID-19 till today, people have to live and for that people should be now equipped with all knowledge, equipment, and practice to live with the virus.

What concerns this newspaper is the extension of the lockdown till June 30 by the government of Manipur. New Delhi which has a large number of people affected by the virus have now started unlocking almost all necessary sectors, Kerala, which once has the largest number affected people in the country now had formulated measures to make sure that life continues amidst the attack by the novel coronavirus and Maharashtra, which have the largest number of affected people to have decided to open up its factories. However the state of Manipur, even after knowing that those affected by the virus are from those which return from outside the state, cannot make any decision to open the lockdown to run the society. Moreover, some medical expert had already questioned the Manipur government on the kind of preventive measures that the government had taken up to counter the spread of the novel coronavirus during the prolong lockdown. The loopholes in the management of running the quarantine center has already been brought to the lime light even by an MLA of the ruling BJP. Today people are fed up and want to resume life as done in other part of the country. Already voices to open market had come up and more voice may likely come if the government takes no measures to unlock the lockdown.

We cannot run away from the virus, but have to live with it.

PM SVANIDHI scheme to provide affordable loans to street vendors

PIB Feature

Union Government has launched PM SVANIDHI - Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi - a special micro-credit facility scheme for providing affordable loan to street vendors. The scheme is aimed at enabling the street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to COVID-19 lockdown. Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launched the scheme in pursuance of the announcement made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month. Street

vendors play significant role in ensuring availability of the goods and services at affordable rates at the door-step of the city dwellers. The scheme targets to benefit over 50 lakh street vendors, who had been vending on or before 24th March this year, in urban areas. The duration of the scheme is till March 2022. The street vendors belonging to the surrounding peri-urban or rural areas are being included as beneficiaries under the urban livelihoods programme for the first time. The vendors can avail a working

capital loan of upto ten thousand rupees, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year. On timely and early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy at the rate of seven per cent per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on six monthly basis.

As per the provisions of the scheme, if the vendor will repay the instalments in time or earlier, they will develop his credible credit score that makes him eligible for higher amount of term loan to 20 thousand rupees and so on. Urban

Local Bodies will play pivotal role in the implementation of the scheme. The lending institutions under the Scheme include Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, Cooperative Banks, NBFCs, Micro Finance institutions and Self Help Group banks.

In order to ensure fast implementation of the scheme with transparency, a digital platform with web portal and mobile app is being developed to administer the scheme with end-to-end solution. The IT platform will also help in integrating the vendors into the formal financial system.

A Good Samaritan in the form of KSO Mumbai

By- T S Haokip

The Special Shramik Train that left Mumbai for Jiribam, Manipur on the 1st of June has its passengers with all smiles. It was not just the feeling of delight to finally go home amidst #NationalLockdown which have confined them to the four walls of their rooms devoid any source of income; KSO Mumbai in collaboration with InSIDE - North East distributed food items, water, face mask and sanitizers at the Railway Station that would last for the 4-days' long journey.

Mention may be made that, this trip home from Mumbai is the 2nd phase arranged by Manipur

Government in collaboration with concerned authorities. 'We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and utmost appreciation towards the relentless efforts of Manipur Govt., Maharashtra Govt., Mumbai police, BMC Indian Railways, Nodal officer Anurag Bajpai (IFS) in successfully arranging the much-needed exodus,' said a press release issued by the Info and Publicity Secy ,KSO Mumbai, Mr. Seigunlien Khongsai.

KSO Mumbai expressed their heartfelt gratitude to three Mumbai based NGOs namely Ghar Bhejo, Madras Dairies, and Khanna Chahiye lead by their founders Neeti Goel, Ruben Mascarenhas and their team for

their concern and partnership with us in our hour of need. 'Through their generous contribution, we could sponsor food items for the strong 1700 passengers today,' said the statement.

It also acknowledged the wholehearted contribution and assistance given by other sister organizations of North East India and also to Kuki Welfare Association, Mumbai. The KSO Mumbai also acknowledged in no small measures the selfless contributions of the Proprietor InSIDE-North East in providing them the Network with the said NGOs without which the noble work would not have been possible. The same gratitude is expressed to Radio Mirchi in

providing them Media coverage. While there were alleged reports of passengers boarding the 1st phase train which left for home on 23rd May 2020, facing shortage of foods on their way, this initiative of the KSO through their humble efforts will at least ensure that the stranded brothers and sisters traveling home will not be starving on the way anymore. 'It is our endeavor always to serve and we are fortunate that we could be a reason for the smiles in the faces of a few people, who have been rendered jobless, alone and broke by the pandemic,' said the press release as it wished all the 1700 strong passengers and crew members of the train including the police a very safe journey.

An Open Letter to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur

New Delhi, India | The 2nd June, 2020

Dear Sir,

This is with special reference to the earlier news item published in many local dailies of the State dated 30th May 2020, under the title, "Letter to Governor claims 'blatant abuse of power' in IPS Gonglin's case".

That, we seek your kind intervention to ensure that Shri Faumei Gonglin's promotion is acted upon at the earliest without further delay.

The Rongmei Chamnac Phwam Delhi (Rongmei Students' Organization, Delhi) want to point out strongly that All India Services such as IAS or IPS is guided by Service Rules/Promotion Rules and bypassing these prescribed rules is against the rule of law of the country.

The Students' Body also would like to bring to your kind notice that delay in giving promotion to a deserving officer like him is a clear violation of established rules which will not only hamper his career growth but will leave a precedent extremely rare and harmful for the Manipur State.

The people of Manipur are aware of Shri Gonglin's contribution during his time as SP in many hill districts when social unrest and ethnic conflicts engulfed the State. His sharp vision, efficiency and timely decision have resolved many issues and even today his expertise in the field is still unmatched to many Officers of the State. Not only, Shri Faumei Gonglin is the pride of our community but the true son of the soil.

Therefore, we submit our kind (but firm) petition to you, Sir if he is innocent consequential relief, including promotion, may be immediately given.

We are also aware of your serious effort to building new Manipur of peaceful co-existence and communal harmony and for that we sincerely appreciate the steps. However, such effort will only bear fruit if all communities of the State become the strong pillars of society. Therefore, as we appreciated all the good efforts of yours, we also appeal to you that Shri Gonglin's promotion related case be settled once for all.

Looking forward to your immediate and positive intervention, Sir.

Yours
Rongmei Chamnac Phwam Delhi
(Rongmei Students Organization Delhi)

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List of Reputed Essay Competitions in India for Writing Lovers

By- Mousumi

Let's face it - even in the world of technology, people still hesitate to put all of their trust in online platforms. Essay competitions in India have always been a physical event when visualizing through the lenses of rural India and traditional writers. Partly, it may be true, because finding really authentic writing contests organizers is bit difficult. Essay writing is actually good for not just the students, but the creative writers as well; as it will help stimulate their brains while honing the writing skill. A lot of online essay contests have cropped up for people. Here are the list of five trustworthy competitions based on the google reviews, longevity, and organizer's reputation.

Dhai Akhar Letter Writing Competition 2020

Dhai Akhar is an annual letter writing competition, put forth by India Post. There are some rules one has to follow in order to participate in this contest. Anyone can participate in the competition, with two categories allotted to the groups - the letters are supposed to be in the limit of 1000 words, under envelope category, or an ILC (Inland Letter Card), with the limit being 500 words in this category. The theme for 2019's competition was 'Dear Babu, you are Immortal' and is conducted on National level as well as circle level. Winners will get a cash prize.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Level Essay Writing Contest

The Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Level Essay Writing Contest has been

successfully conducted for three years by the Institute of Finance and International Management (IFIM) College. The contest is conducted with two categories, one of them comprising of 10th to 12th standard, whereas the other being for UG and PG students, including all Medical & Engineering Students too. The first prize is of INR50,000, while the second and third places, as well as 7 concept prizes get some good amount of cash prize too. The theme of Season 3 was 'Education Ecosystem for 21st Century'. No plagiarism, the essay should be of 800 words and in MLA format, are some of the rules for the contest.

Vikram Sarabhai Competition for Concept - Essay Writing

On the occasion of Dr. Sarabhai's birth centenary year, Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) conducts a pan India level essay writing competition. Students of grade 8 to 12 can take part in the contest, from the two different categories provided, where the first one is 8th-10th standard and 11th-12th standard. Word limit is 3000 words, written in MLA format and the essay is to be sent in PDF format. The judgement will be carried out in two phases. The topic for 2019 was 'Innovative experiments for space station' and the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and additional 5 prizes would be getting cash prizes.

Monomousumi Monthly Essay Writing Competition

The essay writing competition, put forth by www.monomousumi.com, is a monthly one, where prompts/topic are handed out by the start of the month through their website. Open for all, this competition is being organized since May 2018 every month

without any break and fetched attention from various school, college goers and creative writers across the country. There are two categories, namely above and below 18 years old. The reward for the below 18 years old category is a trophy, a printable certificate and a physical educational prize, while the above 18 years old category get the trophy, printable certificate and a book/novel every month. The most attractive point about this contest is that all the eligible participants get participation certificate signed by the president organizing committee and renowned personality.

Pan India Online Essay Contest 2020

UNESCO New Delhi, in collaboration with Takhte, writers and publishers, has come up with a fun Pan India Online Essay Contest 2020, which will be conducted in two categories, i.e. for Children (aged 11-14) and Youth (aged 15-24). The topic is 'Year 1 AC (After Coronavirus)'. Entries are welcome even now and best entries from the categories mentioned will be promoted and highlighted on the UNESCO New Delhi and Takhte's websites and social media profiles. The winning entries will later be published in a book by the same name as the topic, and all the 100 published essayers will be getting certificates for their contribution.

The above-mentioned platforms are more than just authentic; they have, in fact, successfully conducted competitions before, with a large amount of people enthusiastically responding to them. You can, therefore, surely opt for these essay contests and just stimulate your brain!

Country to receive a normal monsoon this year

AIIR

In a good news to farmers, the country will receive a normal monsoon rainfall this year. Sharing details about the Second Stage Long Range Forecast for Southwest Monsoon Season Rainfall from July to September, Secretary of Ministry of Earth Sciences Dr M Rajeevan said that conditions are becoming more favourable for a good monsoon. He said, in view of this condition, quantitatively, the monsoon rainfall between June to September over the country would be 102 per cent of its long period average which means 88 centimetres. He also said, there is a good distribution of monsoon rainfall in the country. He said, quantitatively, it will be 107 per cent of long period average in North West India, 103 per cent in Central India, 102 per cent in South Peninsula and 96 per cent in North East India which is less than normal. Dr Rajeevan also said, in July, there will be a good rainfall as it is very crucial for agriculture. Dr Rajeevan said, however, the month of August will also witness good rainfall but it will be little less than the normal monsoon.

On onset of monsoon, Dr Rajeevan said, the Southwest monsoon has arrived in Kerala and it has covered most of the state.