

## Drug peddlers arrested

IT News  
Imphal, June 7:

A team of Kakching police comprising of women police personnel arrested two women drug peddlers from Laimangai Chingjin near Forest Gate Pallel at around 10.30 pm of June 6. Police source said, 250 grams of Brown Sugar and a Canda bike was seized from their possession. The arrested drug peddlers have been identified as Vahneing Bolsom (32) @ Thingneimoi @ Mangung Chinnething Haokip D/o (L) Janglet Haokip of Moreh Ward No. 9 and Nengneikim (38) yrs @ Martha Nengeikim Haokip D/o (L) Janglet Haokip of Moreh Ward No. 9. Both women along with the seized drug were handed over to Kakching Police station.

## AR apprehends one KNF(N) cadre

IT News  
Imphal, June 7:

Troops of Assam Rifles in an operation apprehended a cadre belonging to KNF(N) non SoO group near Leikop village in Kangpokpi district of Manipur on Thursday. Based on specific information regarding the presence of a cadre, the troops launched an operation and apprehended the individual from the area. The apprehended cadre has been identified as Mr Lunghogin Kipgen, age 36 yrs, s/o Henlam Kipgen, r/o Leikop village in Kangpokpi district of Manipur. The apprehended person has been handed over to Kangpokpi Police Station for further investigations.

## Somorendro's death anniversary

IT News  
Imphal, June 7:

The proposed Observation of the Death Anniversary of Late Arambam Somorendra on the 10th June 2020 will be drastically reduced both in Manipur and outside due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A statement said that only 'Heikat Leikat' and two minutes silence will be observed 9.30 am to 11.30 at Salanthong Khurai by maintaining Social Distancing

## Schools will reopen after August 2020: HRD Minister

Agency  
News Delhi, June 7:

Union HRD Minister Ramesh Nishank Pokhriyal in a June 3 interview revealed that schools and colleges which have remained closed since around March 16 will reopen after August 2020. Around 33 crore students have been waiting for school reopening news to dispel their doubts. As per reports in the end of May, it was thought that schools and colleges would reopen in July with 30% attendance and with younger students till class 8 remaining at home. It also stated that Green and Orange zones would reopen their educational institutes first and that to maintain social distancing norms and a smaller attendance, school would take place in two shifts. But the Coronavirus scene in India wasn't stable and in a week, the ministry came out with an official statement within a week that stated that no decision of this sort had been taken yet. After weeks of confusion

from students, teachers and parents, HRD Minister Ramesh Nishank Pokhriyal in an interview finally revealed that schools and colleges would be reopened after August 15, 2020. "We are trying to get declared all the results from the examinations this session by August 15," said the HRD Minister. "This means those exams which have already taken place before and those which are taking place now," Pokhriyal added in the interview. The anchor asks again if that meant that schools and colleges would re-open after August, to which the HRD minister replied with an enthusiastic "absolutely". While CBSE board exams would be held from July 1 to July 15, ICSE/ISC exams will begin from July 1 till July 12. NEET and JEE are also taking place in July while NEET will take place on July 26, JEE will take place from July 18 to July 23. Safety guidelines are a must for education institutions to resume work again in the

Covid-19 circumstances. Thus, while UGC was deciding on safety guidelines for reopening colleges and universities, NCERT was doing the same work for schools. The guidelines, which would be different in all three cases, will help students and teachers ensure safety while schools reopen amidst a coronavirus pandemic. As per reports, teachers would need to wear masks and gloves, thermal scanners would be installed in schools, only two students would sit on three-seaters, CCTVs would observe if social distancing rules are being followed. Moreover, the safety guidelines would be printed and put up in several locations in each school and the SDM and DM of each concerned area would further fine-tune the Covid-19 safety guidelines as required. It remains to be seen what the updated guidelines would be if schools reopen after August.

## CORCOM condemn intimidation to media houses

IT News  
Imphal, June 7:

The proscribed CORCOM has condemned the threat to a media house by the volunteers of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) on June 2 terming it as autocratic act. As stated by M.Sak-hen, Media Co-Ordinator of Publicity committee CORCOM said that on June 2, volunteers if the youth wing of Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) - the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) forcibly entered to the office of a Electronic Media based in Imphal.

The statement said that media is the forth pillar of democracy and the freedom of press has been violated by the BJP showing its autocracy habit. The intrusion to the media houses and intimidation to the staffs challenges the media freedom ad expression. Media institute is included among essential service and right to freedom of opinion and freedom of expression according to Universal Declarations on Human Rights (UDHR) article -19 clearly indicates that it should be protected. The CORCOM statement

said that such attitude showed that the BJP want to suppress the media houses and convert it into their mouthpiece. The statement further said that according to the world press freedom index 2020, India stands at 142 position in terms of Press Freedom among the 180 countries. The Corcom further said that it recognize the role of media in the war for freedom. The rebel body also appreciated the media personnel for disseminating information to the people during this crucial juncture of covid-19 pandemic.

## No delimitation based on 2001 census – UPF

IT News  
Imphal, June 7:

United Peoples' Front (UPF), Manipur has expressed strong opposition to delimitation conducted based on the 2001 census report, the organization however welcome the delimitation based on fresh census report. A press release of UPF, Manipur said that, the delimitation which is on process currently will be the fourth delimitation after India got independent. The first delimitation was conducted on 1952, second on 1963 and third on 1973. The statement further said that as per provisional census report of 2001, the decennial growth rate of population in the densely populated Imphal West and Imphal East

districts is 15-19 percent while in less populated areas like in hill region, the decennial growth rate of population is 41-169 percent. So, process of delimitation according to the above census report will be unacceptable as the 2001 census is not based on factual account, the UPF said. Delimitation is conducted for convenience of administration and it should be based on Central Government Unique Identification Number based on Aadhar card. Under Delimitation Act 2001 based on 2001 census data, the Delimitation Commission of India has completed the process of delimitation in other states and Union Territories in the year 2008 but four north eastern states of India namely Manipur,

Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam has been kept in freeze till 2026 by the then President of India because it can effect in law and order situation of the four states, it stated. Suddenly amid this critical Covid-19 pandemic, the President of India issued a Gazette notification to commence the process of delimitation in four NE states also which has created Commission comprising of five sitting MLAs and 2 MPs and formed Delimitation Commission and waiting the delimitation should be conducted based on true census report in the interest of the entire citizens of Manipur if not the relationship can come in a worst situation between hill and valley which has been living with peace and for years.

## COVID-19 : Total cases reached 172 in Manipur, Active case in India reached 1,20,406

IT News  
Imphal, Jun 7:

The number of people infected by the novel coronavirus in the state of Manipur has reached 172 today with 15 more detected late yesterday night. So far 52 people have been recovered leaving the number of active positive cases to 120. According to a released from the state health department the 15 new active cases were detected last night, at both VRDLs of RIMS and JNIMS. In neighbouring Assam, as many as 92 new COVID-19 positive cases have been reported in the last 24 hours, said Assam minister Himanta Biswa

Sarma. Total cases in the state now stand at 2,565. However, 27 more patients were also discharged, taking the total number of those discharged to 615 and the number of active cases stands at 1,943. There are 1,20,406 active COVID cases across the country and all are under active medical supervision. During the last 24 hours, a total of 5,220 COVID-19 patients have been cured in the country. So far, a total of 1,19,293 patients have been cured taking the recovery rate to 48.37 per cent. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has further ramped up the testing capacity for detecting the novel

Coronavirus. A total of 759 testing facilities exist in the country as on date with 531 government and 228 private labs. On the other hand the worldwide death toll from COVID-19 has surpassed 4,00,000, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University that health experts say is still an undercount because many who died were not tested for the virus. Worldwide, at least 6.9 million people have been infected by the virus, according to Johns Hopkins. The US has seen nearly 110,000 confirmed virus-related deaths and Europe has recorded over 175,000 since the virus emerged in China late last year.

## Senior artists to be on the bench due to the new guidelines for shooting

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, June 7:



As a sequel to Maharashtra Government's decision not to allow the artists above the age of 65, to participate in the shooting of film and TV serials, as a precaution against COVID-19, many senior artists, including megastar Amitabh Bachchan are in a fix, since the decision will adversely affect their career and will also stall many projects. The Maharashtra Government on May 31 permitted the media fraternity to resume shooting of films, advertisements, TV and web shows with immediate effect. However according to the new guidelines, no person above the age of 65, pregnant women can come on the set. It is necessary to have doctors, nurses and ambulances on every film set

to treat any suspected/corona positive patient. Besides no one is allowed to say hello by shaking hands, kissing or hugging on the set. At the same time, heavy make-up should be avoided. The sets should be sanitised. Not more than 5 people can stay in a tent at one time and shooting the scenes like marriages in movies or serials is forbidden. An elaborate dance scene cannot be shot. Apart from this, everyone has to strictly follow social distancing.

With these guidelines many artists above 65 years, who are still active in the industry will be rendered jobless. The session 12 of the "Kaun Banega Crorepati", a quiz show, hosted by Amitabh Bachchan was slated to start shortly. However now under these new guidelines, it is doubtful whether or not Amitabh Bachchan, who is 78 years old, will be able to host the show. Besides this Bachchan is also involved in a sizable number of ad films and feature films. The Indian Film and Television Directors' Association (IFTDA), Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association (IMPPA) and other bodies have urged Thackeray to modify the guidelines. They have also shared the guidelines issued by the Karnataka Government which they find more practicable.

## Wesea should not be in India – KCP

IT News  
Imphal, June 7:

Rebel group Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) has stated that people of WESEA region can never be part of India. The rebel group stated this in connection with the series of racial slur towards the people of the WESEA region by the Indians. A statement signed by S. Mangal, Secretary-in-Charge- Information and Publicity, KCP, said that even as COVID-19 pandemic is bringing a major changes in the socio-economic and governance across the globe and simultaneously calls for behavioural changes, India still stands firm with its earlier atrocious attitude. "During this time of crisis

that arises due to the COVID-19 pandemic Indian community are having racial discrimination towards the people of the WESEA. The attitude shows that people of the WESEA are never included to the idea of India", the KCP statement said. People from the WESEA region are not allowed to buy essential items during times of COVID-19 crisis at major Indian cities like Delhi, Mumbai etc.. This means that the people of the region are never treated as citizen of India and if that is the condition why this region should be in India, the KCP asked. The outfit also questioned the reason for exodus of people of the region

during the COVID-19 pandemic. The KCP also asked the people to ponder on why the cases of COVID-19 cases are on the rise in the state. It is due to the exodus of the people from Delhi, Mumbai and other main cities of India and it is happening because the people cannot consider Indian cities as their own places. The KCP also questioned on the reason for released of a person whose mother had died due to COVID-19 at a Mumbai hospital without following the World Health Organisation advisory. At the series of happening why the WESEA region should be in India, the KCP questioned.

# PEMS

## “Quarantine Dilettante”



By: Mandakini

All my bags are unpacked,  
All my things are scattered,

It's time to pick up a paint brush,  
Affirmative & paint under languish!

It's not just a paper that will swing and fly by,  
Where dear one may not ask why?

It's a memoir that forever going to be treasured,  
That no other means and ways could measured!

To the one Melophile!  
You've old tracks medley in a file'

To the one acoustic standing!  
You've guitar strings and banjo waiting'

To all Vocalist be freeway!  
Let the medley relay'

To all Baker!  
You've Charlotte to assay'

To all knitters!  
You've weave to shaped in'

To all Gardener!  
Fertilize & cultivate your prolific for better tomorrow'

And yes! Not to forget  
To all the writers in brye,  
Your Journal has been on Standby!

Waiting for a while,  
An indigenous Chronicles reaching aisle!

High cheers to all dilettante!  
Amateur in Quarantine

It's not Adieu to your creativity  
It's a new beginning for an end

## Compassion and cooperation amidst the Covid gloom

By- Jeet Akoijam

Even though the public seem to have come to terms with the reality of the still surging Covid-19 pandemic that has reached every district of the state, the evident lack of social discipline and disregard for the Standard Operating Procedures or SOPs is a very serious cause for concern, one which needs a new approach of implementation given the fact that the relentless and almost annoying- though necessary, bombardment of announcements on basic public safety measures in all the available forms of media and even the mobile phones have not been able to prevent a huge number of the people from crowding up without any caution or concern. Along with the surge in the positive cases of Covid-19 infection in the state, there is also a growing suspicion that community transmission might have taken place in the state- a situation which will render the pandemic uncontrollable. Though the state authority has yet to make an official announcement on the matter, if the insensitivity of the public on the present situation continues, it would not be long before the dreaded possibility becomes a reality.

However, amidst the emerging picture of gloom, one incident from the recent past will remain as a beacon of hope for every one of us in the state, a glaring example of what can be accomplished in such difficult and dangerous times, each one of us come together and contribute to the fight against the dreaded scourge. A few days back, in a first of its kind after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the state, a young woman from Sagang Village, Samulamlan Tehsil in Saikot Constituency of



Churachandpur District returned from Chennai and reached Churachandpur on May 24 and was put up at the district level institutional quarantine centre at Sielmat Christian Higher Secondary School early morning. She talked to her father at around 3 am and was looking forward to meeting them after her mandatory quarantine period after almost three years away from home but a heart wrenching tragedy struck and at around 6 am the same day she was informed that her 67 year old father suffered a heart attack and passed away. When she expressed her utmost desire to pay her last respect and bid her final farewell to her father, the Village chief got in touch with the government authorities. What followed was indeed a tale of triumph of humanity over adversity.

The SDO of Samulamlan, after receiving the request, went out of his way and immediately got down to discussing the possibilities in consultation with the experts, the village chief as well as the volunteers at the centre numbering around 90, who have incidentally been given a three day intensive training and sensitization course prior to opening the centre. Given the delicate and dangerous nature of the issue which is unprecedented, the SDO took a

huge professional and personal risk by granting permission for the young woman to finally have a final glimpse of her departed father albeit for only a few minutes, even though the strictest SOP was maintained during the whole exercise with each and every one involved following the guidelines to the letter. This incident paved the way for the authorities to develop a protocol for people under such restraining circumstances to fulfill such emotional and psychological needs which are as necessary, if not more, than our physical requirements. This incident also showed that there still are people in position of authority and power

who would rise beyond their call of duty to perform extraordinary acts of kindness and humanity. The Chief of Sagang village also showed exemplary leadership by not only motivating but also preparing and equipping the volunteers with the right knowledge and equipments to successfully fight the pandemic and do their bit with determination and vigour. It is these acts of humanity and cooperation that is sorely needed in the society even more at this present times of uncertainty. And the best we can help and contribute to the noble cause of these brave souls is by following the social norms of wearing and keeping our masks on at all times in public places, washing our hands frequently with soap and using hand sanitisers whenever necessary, social distancing of at least three feet or one metre which, incidentally has been increased to 2 metres in most European and other western countries which are worst hit by the pandemic. These simple exercises will make life much easier and safer for everybody. Every single one of us matters so let us all mindfully do our part to defeat this pandemic.



### Letter to the Editor

## An exemplary act of SBI Dispur Branch

Dear Sir,

Kindly allow me to share one of my sweetest experiences during lockdown period which relates to Dispur Branch of SBI as follows. I am a super senior citizen of 80 plus and presently home confined since March last because of lockdown declaration, on 25<sup>th</sup> of May last month I needed an amount of Rs 15,000/- urgently in case to meet an exigency and was in great problem as about how to meet the requirement since I was not supposed to go out of home to attend Bank or ATM because of lockdown.

Finding no way out I rang up the AGM of my Bank SBI Dispur Branch and requested him to consider if he can help me under the situation. After hearing me patiently he agreed to consider my request and asked me for time to examine my request. Accordingly few minutes later, another Bank Official contacted me over phone and asked me certain information relating my account with their branch and then asked me to keep a self cheque ready to receive the required amount at my home.

To my great satisfaction, a Bank Messenger visited me with the amount within an hour and handed over the money at my home against the self cheque and thus the bank branch obliged me to my fullest satisfaction within about two hours of my contact. I consider that this act of providing home service to an aged depositor under crisis condition by the Dispur Branch of SBI away from their scheduled service procedure is exemplary, laudable and worth sharing. Kindly allow me to share it through your esteemed daily with you valued readers and also to help express my gratitude and thankfulness to the Dispur Branch of SBI for taking care of little deposits with them and helping me out during critical need as mentioned above.

Yours etc,  
**Binil Kumar Sarmah**  
Guwahati  
23, Lakhimi Path, Beltola, Guwahati,  
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## COVID-19 Economic Package: Impact on agriculture and rural economy

By-Dr. Maisnam Bobo (Chinglen Maisnam)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent months long national lockdown, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a mega COVID-19 fiscal relief package of Rs. 20 lakh crore (\$263 billion), equivalent to 10 % of GDP to turn the COVID-19 pandemic into an opportunity to achieve a goal of a self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat). The Modi government's Rs 20 lakh crore 'Self-Reliant India' package, which was announced in five-part policy reform and fiscal incentive last month, initiated a number of new reforms, particularly in commodity producing sectors which are fundamental to achieve a goal of a self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat).

The agricultural segment of the 'Self-Reliant India' package includes measures such as creation of an agriculture infrastructure fund (0.5% of GDP), liberalisation of agriculture produce marketing, raising allocation to MGNREGS by 0.2% of GDP, and extension of Kisan credit cards (by 1% of GDP). These measures come at a time when agrarian crisis is worsening due to Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing national lockdown. At a time when our agriculture and rural sectors require greater economic safety net, these measures will lead to go a long way in transforming the agrarian economy. In another landmark

reform, Modi government has approved amendments to the Essential Commodities Act and brought an ordinance that removes all regulations over the pricing and availability of key agricultural commodities. These measures are part of the Rs 20 lakh crore lockdown relief package. These proposals, by removing all restrictions and providing "barrier free inter-state and intra-state" sale of agricultural produce will ensure barrier-free trade in agriculture produce. "The ordinance will create an ecosystem where the farmers and traders will enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri produce. It will also promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce outside the physical premises of markets notified under State Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations," a government statement said. The official statement further added that "It has been provided in the amendment, that in situations such as war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity, such agricultural foodstuff can be regulated. However, the installed capacity of a value chain participant and the export demand of an exporter will remain exempted from such stock limit imposition so as to ensure that investments in agriculture are not discouraged".

The government is predicting that agriculture sector could be a key driving force for the Indian economy as it is projected to grow at a rate of 3 per cent for the current

fiscal year 2020-21.

**Impact on Manipur**  
The current COVID-19 crisis can also be an opportune moment for Manipur. We all know that the COVID-19 pandemic has been going global, and it could bring the entire global economy to a standstill. The impact of all this on poor states like Manipur will also be dramatic. The pandemic is already affecting almost all sectors of the state's economy. Given the uncertainties, the state must explore all possible ways to reorient its growth trajectory to be self-reliant on the basis of the internal market by making the best use of the new COVID-19 relief package which addressed crop loan requirements of rural banks, minimum support price for crops, funding agricultural infrastructure, income support for farmers as well as liberalisation of agriculture produce marketing, raising allocation to MGNREGS etc. By making the best use of the new package, the state government should now concentrate more on rebuilding the rural and village economy, by initiating crucial reforms to be self-reliant in commodity producing sectors. In addition, non-farm activities must be promoted with a greater emphasis on MGNREGS and MSMEs. The starting of small village-level enterprises in a number of sectors, such as processing local products is also urgently called for. Thousands of returned-migrant workforce are going to stay on in rural/village/

hill areas of the state and job openings for them have to be created. Work under MGNREGS has to be revived, so that the workers, including those returned-migrant workers who have returned without any earnings at the moment, can find some means of livelihood. Infrastructural facilities must be provided in war footing to boost agribusiness activities in the state. Reviving the rural economy and giving an alternate push to the trajectory of development in a job oriented track is the urgent need of the hour.

The state government of Manipur can constitute an expert committee with the involvement of the planning department to undertake a quick assessment of losses to the state economy, particularly to sectors most vulnerable to the impact of Covid-19 crisis and lockdown. The state government must assess the "immediate and medium-term" impact of the coronavirus pandemic on different sectors that contribute to the Manipur's economy.

The coming months will be crucial not only for fighting the pandemic, but also in giving a much needed boost to the rural economy of the nation. In this task, all stakeholders will have to work in tandem, and with a sense of urgency.

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