

## After 34 tested positive of Coronavirus, inmates from quarantine center at Moirang came out in protest of authorities' negligence

**Imphal, June 9**

Inmates from quarantine center being opened at Diligent High School in Moirang. Assembly constitution today came out at the street and protest over government negligence in providing that food and others daily needs after 34 of them have been tested positive and taken to isolation ward at Bishnupur district head quarter. A video footage uploaded at Facebook saw inmates coming out at the street and protesting government authority's negligence. "Since early morning no authority including the

district administration authority had come to ask about our food, they didn't even attend the inmates who are having some health problem", a lady inmate was heard while sharing the video. Earlier, an inmate from the same quarantine center, who has been tested positive with the novel coronavirus in a Facebook post had indicated that he may have contracted the virus from inside the quarantine center. Imphal Times when contacted to him through mobile phone, it is learnt that even at isolation ward in Bishnupur district hospital, he along with other positive

people were not properly provided medical treatment. The person identified as Khangbam Arbinda, aged about 27, son of Kh. Amu Singh of Kumbi leirak Achouba, Bishnupur district return back from Chennai and reached at Jiribam on May 23. He is a research fellow at Anna University Chennai. He came back as he is having heart problem and as he thought that it would be better to check up at Imphal as hospital. "As soon as we reached at Jiribam, 104 of us who came from other states of India were told to travel in 3 bus to Imphal, we were



not allow to complaint about fever our cold, they were simply provided some paracetamol and no testing has been done, he said. He expressed suspicious of getting infected at the quarantine. 34 of them from among the 104 persons from the quarantine center have been tested positive late yesterday night.

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## SC directs Centre and state govts. to send all the migrant workers to their native places within 15 days

**Agency New Delhi, June 9:**

The Supreme Court today directed the Centre and state governments to send all the migrant workers to their native places within 15 days and formulate employment schemes after conducting their skill mapping to rehabilitate them.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, Sanjay Kishan Kaul and MR Shah also directed the Centre to provide additional trains within 24 hours of states making the demand for sending the migrant workers back to their native places. The top court also directed authorities to consider withdrawing all cases against migrant workers for alleged

violation of lockdown norms under the Disaster Management Act. The bench also directed the authorities to identify and register migrant workers who want to go back to their native places and conclude the exercise, including their transportation within 15 days from Tuesday.

The bench, which posted the matter for further hearing in July, said the schemes for welfare and employment of migrant workers should be publicised adequately. The top court had on June 5 reserved its order on the suo motu case registered on the pughts of migrant workers during the coronavirus-triggered lockdown period.

## CM inspects UNACCO School for opening of Covid care center and NSU complex at Haraothel

**IT News Imphal, June 9:**

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh along with Health and Family Welfare Minister L. Jayantakumar and Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Letpao Haokip inspected the works going on at UNACCO School, Meitram in Imphal West District for opening of a COVID Care Center. The Chief Minister and the Ministers were briefed by the Chairman of the Governing Body of the school, N. Irabanta regarding different blocks and campus of the school. N. Biren Singh said that that mischievous and undisciplined inmate of quarantine centers would now be jailed. Expressing serious concern that some inmates do not bother to maintain safety guidelines laid down by the Government at this time of crisis, he observed that it would be never possible to

keep vigil on anybody round the clock. As such, the State Government has now kept aside a separate block in Central Jail, Sajiwa which can accommodate 90 inmates to jail the mischievous inmates. The Chief Minister said that the COVID Care Center at UNACCO School would start functioning from tomorrow. The Center was earlier planned to have only 100 beds. However, it has now the scope of increasing the capacity to 300, he added. As of now Churachandpur has the highest number of COVID-19 cases and containment zones, the Chief Minister informed and added that Bishnupur District Hospital has also started admitting COVID-19 patients apart from RIMS and JNIMS. The Chief Minister also inspected the progress of construction of permanent campus of the National Sports University at Haraothel / Koutruk today.

The Chief Minister and the Minister were briefed by the officials of NBCC (India) Ltd., the work agency of the project. N. Biren Singh said that the inspection came after he had a video conferencing with Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on early completion of construction of the campus on Monday. The Chief Minister further said that it is a pet project of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and also a dream university of the people of the North East and Manipur in particular. The project was delayed due to a communication gap between the Centre and the State, N. Biren said. As the matter has been sorted out now, the project would see the light of day soon, the Chief Minister added. Now, the work agency has been changed and the project has been handed over to NBCC (India) Ltd. As such, the new

agency has come up with new construction plans, drawing, blueprint, etc., he informed. The Chief Minister further said that a Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, Manipur has been formed to oversee the work progress. Union Youth Affairs and Sports Secretary and Joint Secretary and Commissioner (YAS). Government of Manipur would be the members of the committee which would submit reports to the Chief Minister and Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on weekly basis. As such, the project would see visible changes soon, the Chief Minister said. The proposal for the setting up of the National Sports University was announced in 2014. The foundation stone for the construction of the University was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 16, 2018. Kiren Rijiju visited the campus site in September last year.

## AstraZeneca ties up with Pune based SII to produce potential vaccine

**By Raju Vernekar Pune, June 9:**

"AstraZeneca pic", a British-Swedish, a multinational pharmaceutical company, has entered into an agreement with the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII), among other world-wide vaccine manufacturers, to produce the vaccine currently under trial at the University of Oxford on a mass scale, if successful. The agreements, reached on a "not-for-profit basis" includes a \$750 million agreement with the "Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations" founded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (USA) and "Gavi", the vaccine alliance", headquartered at Geneva, Switzerland, to support the manufacturing, procurement

and distribution of 300 million doses of the vaccine, with delivery starting by the end of the year. "AstraZeneca" has agreed to supply 400 million doses to the US and UK after reaching a licence agreement with Oxford for its recombinant adenovirus vaccine. "AstraZeneca" is building a number of supply chains in parallel across the world to support global access at no profit during the pandemic and has so far secured manufacturing capacity for two billion doses of the vaccine. Adar Poonawalla, SII's chief executive officer, said: "Serum Institute of India is delighted to partner with "AstraZeneca" in bringing this vaccine to India as well as low-and-middle-income countries". "Over the past 50

years SII has built significant capability in vaccine manufacturing and supply globally. We will work closely with "AstraZeneca" to ensure fair and equitable distribution of the vaccine in these countries," he added. "Our vaccine work is progressing quickly", the university said on Friday. It recently announced the start of a Phase III trial of the vaccine in about 10,000 adult volunteers with other late-stage trials due to begin in a number of countries around the world. In addition, the university and industry partnership reached a licensing agreement with SII to supply one billion doses for low-and-middle-income countries, with a commitment to provide 400 million before the end of 2020, the university added.

## 26 test positive in a housing society of IAS officers

**By our Correspondent Mumbai, June 9:**

Nearly 26 persons who either reside or work in "Yashodhan", located at Churchgate in South Mumbai, a home to senior bureaucrats, have tested positives for COVID-19 disturbing bureaucracy in Maharashtra. The infected persons include a woman IAS officer, a principal secretary in charge of migrant transportation, her IPS officer husband and their two daughters. They are being treated in Breach Candy Hospital in South Mumbai. Three others who tested positive are car drivers of some other bureaucrats, two are officials from the public works department, while the rest are employed as helpers and domestic helps in the building. Eight of the 26 were actually staying in the building, while

the remaining would come from outside. According to BMC officials, the index case or the point of contact from where the infection spread in the latest instance are two domestic helps who tested positive eight days ago. Now 16 of the infected persons have been shifted to a Covid care centre near CST station. Most of them are asymptomatic and stable. Additional Municipal Commissioner Suresh Kakani said and added that floors where people have tested positive will be sealed. Officials whose house domestic helps have tested positive will be tested after five days. If they test negative, they will be advised home quarantine for some more days. "Yashodhan" is one of the most sought-after government quarters in Mumbai. It is considered

prestigious to get a home allotted there. The building has 2- and 3BHK flats; even officers of the rank of additional chief secretary stay here. Situated on Dinsha Vachcha Road, the government-owned high-rise houses 42 senior officials. They include Home secretary Sanjay Kumar; Health Secretary Dr Pradeep Vyas; Medical Education Secretary Dr Sanjay Mukherjee, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Ashish Kumar Singh, his wife Valsa Nair-Singh (who is the state Aviation Secretary), Principal Secretary Bhushan Gagrani, Women and Child Development Secretary Idzes Kundan (her IPS husband Niket Kaushik) and State Intelligence Department Commissioner Rashmi Shukla among others.

One floor of the building was sealed on 20 May, by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) when two IAS officers tested positive. Many officers playing active role in the campaign against coronavirus are residing in this building. When it was noticed that two IAS officers tested positive because of their domestic servants, nearly 150 persons were made to undergo the COVID-19 test. Those tested included top officers and subordinate staff. The 26 persons include cooks, drivers and domestic helps, working for these officers. This development comes as a severe blow to the Maharashtra Government which has begun mission "unlock 01" to bring the state on normal tracks, after prolonged lock down. Elsewhere in the country the

incidents of IAS officers infected by COVID-19 have been reported from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Besides these IAS officers, police personnel constitute the highest number of COVID-19 fatalities and in Maharashtra at least 33 Maharashtra Police personnel, including an officer, have died of COVID-19. Those who succumbed in the state, include 18 of the Mumbai Police force. As many as 2,562 police personnel have till now tested positive for the deadly disease in the state. The figures include 1497 active cases (including 196 officers). "Police personnel posted for nakabandi duty, at quarantine and isolation facilities for the last three months have found to be infected, the Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said.

## JFA condoles death of scribe in Covid-19

**By our correspondent Guwahati, June 9:**

Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA) expresses grief at the demise of Manoj Kumar with Covid-19 complications in Hyderabad. Manoj, 35, was working for a popular Telugu news channel and becomes the first journalist victim of novel corona virus infections in Telangana. "Manoj is the third Indian media martyr in the fight against corona outbreak. Earlier Agra based journalist Pankaj Kulshrestha and Kolkata based photojournalist Ronny Roy succumbed to Covid-19 infections," said a statement issued by JFA president Rupan Barua and secretary Nava Thakuria. JFA scribe Manoj was admitted in the hospital on 4



June with ailments and he was tested positive for Covid-19. The central Indian province had already a dozen of journalists infected with the virus, where many of them were asymptomatic. Manoj died on Sunday night in the hospital. JFA, while urging Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao to compensate the family of bereaved scribe adequately, has appealed to the Union government in New Delhi for immediately announcing life insurance coverage of Rs 50 lakh to each working journalist in the country.

# ★ Editorial

## Is quarantine centers in Manipur hotspot for COVID-19 pandemic ?

The government of Manipur says that there is no local transmission of the novel coronavirus and all those detected with the virus are from among those who have return back to the state. As per the a statement by the Chief Minister of Manipur, as many as thirty eight thousand people have return back from outside the state so far. Among them total number of people tested is over seventeen thousand as per record available from both RIMS and JNIMS, where the testing is done. And among these seventeen thousand plus people 282 people have been tested positive, 64 people have recovered so far and the number of active case as per statement by the state Health department at 11 am today is 218. May be the assumption about 'no local transmission' in the state of Manipur is true as there are no evidences of lateral transmission of the virus until a nurse from Churachandpur district, with no travel history has been tested positive on June 4. However, when one take a look to the statistics of the people detected with the virus, there are reason to believe that the virus may have been transmitting from the infected carriers to those who are not infected but staying together at the same quarantine.

On May 29 issue of this newspaper, we have quoted Khurai Assembly Constituency MLA L. Sushindro at which he drew the attention of the state health department and the district administration to the need for change of the quarantine system in the state. This newspaper had reported the MLA regretting on learning a girl from Churachandpur getting infected most probably from the quarantine center that she stayed at Churachandpur.

Day before yesterday, inmates staying at quarantine center opened at Waikhom Mani Girls' College in Thoubal breaking the gate of the college forcing the district administration to sent them back to their homes. Imphal Times had also reported about the grievances of the inmates staying at Little Flower School quarantine center some days back. Those staying at the center felt insecure as chances of getting infected with the virus was high as no proper maintenance for physical distancing among the inmates were taken up. And day before yesterday there are report about keeping over 60 people in a single room for quarantine at Kangpokpi.

Yesterday, 36 people from the same quarantine home at Moirang have been tested positive. As per source there are 104 people staying in the quarantine center. Most of them arrived in the state from Chennai and others states of India on May 23. That means they were in the quarantine center for 17 days. May be their samples were collected on day -14 or before but their result were provided on the 17th day only. Generally as per the SOPs of the Manipur government person who showed no symptoms after 14 days can be sent back to their respective home for self quarantine. However due to pressure from sections of people the government make test mandatory for all people in the quarantine even as the authority fails to test all the people in quarantine on time.

Given the fact that there are no proper toilets, rooms or timely testing facilities, it is possible that the virus did spread from those infected to those who are not infected at quarantine centers.

Doesn't that talk volumes on the way that the authority are running these quarantine centers?

## Gratitude towards three staff nurses of RIMS hospital

By Priyashini H

Nursing staff of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Imphal Manipur headed by Chief Nursing Officer of RIMS Sh.Lata Devi extended their warmest and heartfelt gratitude to the first batch of Covid19 warriors.

It is worth mentioning that after their six days' duties, these three staff nurses were quarantined for 14 days coupled up making it altogether for 20 days. And ultimately today, they will be able to go back home to be along with their dear and near ones.

At a small function held today apropos their discharge, the Chief Nursing Officer along with other RIMS Nursing staff showed their solidarity by handling a flower plant to each three of them for their dedication.

This is an act of appreciation which will motivate all the Nursing community at RIMS to

do better and work hard.

The RIMS's Nurses showed their gratitude and boost up the morale to the three Staff Nurses for the yeoman services that they had rendered or rather for the works that they have done to keep the community safe and sound from those infected by Covid-19. Mention maybe made that nurses are playing a vital role in the fight against Covid19 in Manipur.

Manipur will be safe and most probably will emerge victorious in this fight against covid19 because of selfless toil and sacrifices, the dedication, determination and grit that are made by the frontline workers like the Nurses, Doctors, paramedics, sanitation workers, police personnel, media personnel and all those who are involved in this pandemic.

Though of course, everybody is involved in one way or the other. There is no denying about it.

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## Manipur's Draft Bamboo Policy: Timeliness Cluttered By Casualness

By - Prof. Amar Yumnam

The Manipur Government has recently come out with Draft on Manipur Bamboo Policy. I was very happy to learn of this for various reasons; let me spell out some of the reasons to begin with. First, the ongoing COVID-19 crises are testing the resilience of governments worldwide, and Manipur is no exception to this. However, to hear of a Draft Policy Paper on Bamboo in the midst of this crisis is absolutely heartening. Second, Bamboo constitutes a key component of the socio-cultural and economic life of the land and people of Manipur. Third, Manipur has been looking for a policy on Bamboo very seriously at least since the early 1990s. Fourth, in recent years the multidimensional significance of Bamboo as an input for various products is being increasingly explored, particularly in the Southeast and East Asia. Fifth, Bamboo has been proven as an important input which meets the requirements of environmental sustainability, principles of hygiene, norms of healthiness, and convergence with the livelihood enhancement properties particularly of the lower strata rural populace while converting into end-products. Sixth, the Post COVID-19 world would certainly be not the economy where agglomeration holds the key for (economies of scale) taking the industrialization forward. This is where the critical significance of Bamboo as an Industrial input arises. For all these reasons *inter alia* I personally felt very excited to hear of a Draft Policy Paper on

Bamboo in Manipur.

It was with this mental frame that I read the thirteen pages of the Draft Manipur Bamboo Policy with hope and expectations and full concentration at one go. Without mincing words, I must admit that I find the document as a very disappointing application of mind. Let me put here a few instances as to how do I say so:

A. In the very first para of the Preamble we find "The myriad uses...has [sic]; first instance of carelessness in language;

B. The last para in the Preamble reads thus: "A planned, scientific and holistic approach to cultivation and management of bamboo on a sustainable basis can be an inexhaustible source of goods and services which will contribute significantly towards the socio-economic development of the State and the region as a whole." This is a very complex sentence implying strategy and objectives with none defined properly.

C. When it comes to Vision, the Document states: "The policy seeks to harness the economic, social and environmental potential of the Bamboo resources of Manipur. It seeks to develop the economy of the State and provide employment and income generating activities to the farmers, rural poor and unemployed youths of the State. A market led, community owned sustainable development model for bamboo shall lead to an increase in quantity and quality of bamboo resources and enterprises to meet the current

and future requirements of not just the State and Country but also the larger international market." One cannot make out whether this is a Vision Statement or a Statement on Strategy.

D. In more than one place, the Document mentions "bamboo based industries" implying the poverty of understanding of the very concept of industry.

E. In the many sections on Resource and talking about strategies, in one it is stated that "Bamboo cultivation to synchronise with existing farming practices such as Jhumming, etc. to maximise interim benefits". What does this mean other than giving official approval to shifting cultivation?

F. An instance of being very simplistic in a policy document: In order to fight bamboo-flowering by mitigating the adverse effects: "Give monetary incentives for collection of bamboo seeds."

Having spelled out as to how the Draft Manipur Bamboo Policy is such a big disappointment let me also spell out as to how a Policy Paper should be like.

1. A Policy Paper is a paper with a huge instrumental value to evolve into institutional norms for future functioning of governance, evolution of policy agenda and the relationship between state and the people; it goes much beyond a write-up of a few pages by putting together some sentences relating to the subject. A Policy paper is always and necessarily has to be a

coherent exposition of the ideas of the government manifesting a matured exercise of mind and knowledge.

2. A policy paper must also identify the "what is possible" and the "what is imperative." In the case of Bamboo in Manipur, the paper must have a clear exposition of the scenario of the bamboo sector, and how strategies are being devised for addressing the weaknesses and enhancing the strengths. This is where the linkages with the Scientific World and framework for R and D would be defined. This is also where the comparative route map vis-à-vis the rest of the world should also be articulated.

3. The biggest drawback of any framework for development and industrial sector has been the tendency to become hierarchical in functioning rather than fostering an atmosphere for collaborative functioning. The way the Draft Policy talks of so many Committees, and the nature of the composition of the Committees indicate that the objective of the Draft Policy paper is rather creation of a hierarchical structure (the world knows the weaknesses of this) than a vibrant bamboo economy.

An absolute confusion as reflected in the Vision statement - "A market led, community owned sustainable development model for bamboo shall lead to an increase in quantity and quality of bamboo resources and enterprises" - wherein market led and community owned are just mixed up for the sheer appeal to the reader rather than substance can never be the foundation of a Policy Paper.

## Fourth delimitation in Manipur: An impact analysis

Prof. R.K. Narendra Singh

Decision rooted false documents ended everything. People never realize significance of decision until it turns erroneous.

**Abstract**

Delimitation exercise is a mandatory for representative democracy making territorial grouping of proportionate peoples by fixings or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body. Since in 1952, 1963 and 1973, the delimitations of the entire country conducted under the relevant Delimitation Commission Acts based on respective immediate preceding census's figures. Thereafter such regular exercise deferred supposed to base on the following two decadal censuses but the fourth one had on the row in 2002, except in four northeastern states i.e., Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, based on Census 2001. The main reason of deferred delimitation was disproportionate population sizes hovered over the states of India that was mainly due to indifference of Family Planning Programs (FPP) performance within and between States and Union territories. If delimitation exercise were performed based on Census 1981 and 1991, the outcomes might be creating havoc among the states especially between South and North blocks as the former might had lost their seats in the Parliament due to decreasing population as adopting FPP effectively while antagonistically the latter gain the seats due to high fertility during the decades.

The decision of differed is fully justified that uphold the objective of delimitation of constituencies i.e., proportionate political representation of region, caste, minority, etc., in policymaking bodies. The reason for left out of four North Eastern states in fourth Delimitation of India was the security issues, as Central Government gave reason for; the another undisclosed one was the Foreigner Issues in Assam (1979-1985) due to influx of illegal migrants. If it has had happen, Assam might have largely lost its political representation of sons of the soil. In particular, in Manipur there was a public hue and cry against unreliability of Census 2001 figure as nine sub-divisions of the three hill districts had far beyond natural population growth. And eventually the matter was also heard in the Courts of Law. Finally, the Census Authority of India adjusted only the controversial population figures of the three sub-divisions of Senapati district in their final Census Report 2001. Indeed, there is no chance of classifying the adjusted figures in terms of census parameters considered like age, caste, religion, village, fertility, mortality, migration, etc., and thus in their final Census Report 2001 of Manipur published after excluding the population of the controversial three sub-divisions - Mao-Maram, Paomata and Pural - of Senapati district. It is very much loud and clear that the Census 2001 figure of Manipur is not the exact one, something manipulated in compromised compartment. However, these smokes of havoc in the mind of public were subsided as Central

Government deferred the exercise in four North-Eastern states by Notification bearing S.O.283 (E) dated, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008 deferring the process of delimitation for the four North-eastern states. Secondly, as the 84<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act of 2001 have froze the total number of seats in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies with the result the fourth Delimitation Commission could not increase in Lok Sabha's and State Assemblies in proportionate to the population increase as per Census 2001 published. The frozen seats would remain until 2026. Then the public outburst of hue and cry turns into melody song for the last 18 years since the 84<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act made in 2002. Now the same story is replay as the Government has cancelled its earlier Notification (S.O. 283 (E) dated, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008) which has deferred delimitation by an Order No. 903 (E) dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Moreover, the Government constituted the Delimitation Commission for delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland under section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002. The Commission will delimit the constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, base on Census 2011 (latest one) instead of 2001 and of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland in accordance with the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002. Under the Delimitation Act, 2002, the commission would make only to readjust the division of each state and union territory into

territorial constituencies for the purpose of Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections base on Census figures of 2001 (old one). Now the question arises whether the forthcoming delimitation exercise in Manipur would give proportionate political representation especially in State Legislative Assembly, as the Census 2001 figure of Manipur is counterfeit as well as excluded population of three sub-divisions in the final total population of Census 2001 (a details, specially caste, is necessitated while entitlement calculation for assembly seats). The crux of the matter call for the present article is to analyze the impact of delimitation in Manipur under the Delimitation Act, 2002 demographically. It shows that through the forthcoming delimitation, four unreserved (UR) entitlement assembly seats go to reserved seats of schedule tribe (ST); and the existing three valley seats would be added to their counterpart hill districts. Besides, the finding suggests that the proposed exercise base on Census 2001 is inconsistent and unjustified technically. Secondly, the Delimitation Commission of India is a high power and independent body and therefore constitutionally whatsoever their Orders after completion of the process cannot be challenged even to the Courts of Law and therefore only option left is to make delimitation defer until a fresh and reliable census enumeration take place, likely to be based on Census 2031 figures.

**Key Words:** Delimitation Commission of India; Census 2001; Parliament & Assembly seats.

(to be contd.)