

‘Amidst Govt. measures, Right to food violated at many places, even MLAs are liable’

IT News
Imphal, March 29

While supporting the government calls for total lockdown across the nation to break the chain of the Coronavirus pandemic, Chairperson of the Manipur Human Rights Commission (MHRC) Khaidem Mani said that the commission has received various report about violation of the right to food at many places.

“Government has taken up measures to ensure that every person gets food by distributing 4 Kg of rice but in some area, people whose name are not in the voter list have been barred from getting it as if they have no right to live”, Khaidem Mani said.

He further added that the state government had assured 20 kg of rice to a family of five members and the implementation of distribution



of rice has been assigned to the MLAs of each assembly constituency. However, the Commission has received complaints from people of some Assembly constituencies barring rice share to persons who are not in the voter list which is more like to say that those who are not in the voter list have no right to live, Khaidem Mani said.

He added that the commission also received partial attitude of some agents at some Assembly constituencies where the rich and influential gets bag of rice when poor people are distributed only 3 Kg of rice. The Chairperson of the MHRC however, did not disclose the name of the constituency as of now but said that people's

representatives are also liable for punishment if violated Human Rights. Khadem Mani further said that the commission also received complaints about violation of the Rights of the Child.

“Around 3200 Children who are staying in the Child care centers have not get rice and their nutrition that they have been entitled. Care to prevent the spread of Coronavirus by distributing masks, soaps, hand sanitizers, etc. have not been taken up”, Khadem Mani said.

Even though the lockdown and the curfew are the only means to fight the spread of the coronavirus and as everyone has been ordered to stay indoors it is also the bounded duty of the government to ensure their Right to live, that is why the state government has order to distribute rice to all the people.

Chief Minister says each person irrespective of age should get 4 kg of rice

In Keishamthong Assembly constituency people who are not in voter list have to remain hungry

IT News
Imphal, March 29

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh once more reiterated that each person in every assembly constituency should get 4 Kg of rice and that every MLA has been requested to keep strict vigilance to make sure that no one remains hungry during the nationwide lockdown to prevent the spread of Coronavirus.

In a press conference held at the Chief Minister's Office today morning, the Chief Minister said that the rice is being distributed from the NFSA share of April month and that the government will pay for it. However, according to NFSA each cardholder is entitled 5 Kg of rice per month but to make sure that every person gets

their food the government decided to distribute 4 Kg of rice free of cost.

Spokesperson of the state government Th. Bishwajit had also announced the same on March 23 saying that the state cabinet had resolved to distribute NFSA rice to every person free of cost from the share for April. He also stated that people with CMHT will also get the rice equally.

Chief Minister's reiteration and Government spokesperson statement turn out to be the greatest joke for the people living in Keishamthong Assembly Constituency as people who are not in the electoral roll are denied from getting their share. Those who are staying in rent and those people below 18 years have to remain hungry during the

lockdown as they have not been provided the share announced by the Chief Minister of Manipur and the Government spokesperson. A lady from Keishamthong Longiam Leirak today, today called up to Imphal Times saying that she had two sons whose name is yet to be enlisted in the voter list due to underage.

“The agent said only I will get 4 kg of rice while my two sons will not get it, so I return without taking my share as my two sons eat more than me”, a widow who lives on hand to mouth said. She also added that she rather die of hunger with her sons instead of letting her sons with an empty stomach. An agent who came to a family of 5 (five) members but with only one in the voter list said that he will give only

for the person in the voter list. Among the five members three are enrolled in the voter list of Sugu Assembly constituency while two are yet to be enrolled in the voter lists due to underage even though they are fully grown up.

In a crisis, many have voluntarily come out to extend helping hand to the poor and needy but some people including the representative of the people are playing politics taking advantage of the crisis.

“If the Chief Minister thinks that people in Keishamthong Assembly constituency are his people too he should directly interfere with the problem being faced by the people”, another person relayed a video message to Imphal Times.

India's confirmed coronavirus cases climb to 979, death toll at 25

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, March 29

With six fresh deaths — one each from Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Telangana, the number of deaths in the country rose to 25 in India, even as the number of confirmed cases across the country rose to 979 on Sunday.

A 40-year-old woman, admitted to the hospital due to respiratory complications and hyper tension passed away at a Mumbai Hospital, thus taking the total death toll in Maharashtra to 6, on Sunday. The death toll across the country stood as: Bihar 1, Delhi 2, Gujarat 4, Himachal Pradesh 1, J & K-1, Karnataka 3, Kerala-1, Madhya Pradesh 2, Maharashtra 6, Punjab 1, Tamil Nadu 1, Telangana 1, West Bengal 1.

The total number of confirmed cases included 931 Indians and 48 foreign nationals. 87 patients were cured and discharged-87, while 25 deaths were registered.

The highest number of 179

new coronavirus cases were registered, on Saturday, with Telangana registering its first death due to Covid 19, when a 74-year-old with travel history to Delhi, died at a private hospital in Telangana. A family of four, who had visited Delhi, also tested positive. Besides, four medics deployed at RGI Airport in Hyderabad also reportedly contracted the virus. A tally of active cases rose to 63 in Telangana. One Covid-19 patient in the state was cured and discharged simultaneously.

The Maharashtra with 181 cases has the most number of Covid-19 patients, Kerala comes second in the list with 176 confirmed cases. The tally of confirmed cases stood as: Maharashtra 181, Kerala 176, Telangana 63, Karnataka 55, Uttar Pradesh 55, Gujarat 55, Rajasthan 54, Delhi 49, Tamil Nadu 40, Delhi 39, Punjab 38, Madhya Pradesh 34, Haryana 33, Jammu and Kashmir 25, West Bengal 15, Andhra Pradesh 14, Ladakh 13, Bihar 9, Andaman and Nicobar Islands 9, Chandigarh

8, Chhattisgarh 6, Uttarakhand 5, Odisha 3, Goa 3, Himachal Pradesh 3, Manipur 1, Mizoram 1, Puducherry 1. The confirmed cases include: a police head constable who was deployed at Mumbai airport, a Central Industrial Security Force jawan and a BSF officer in Madhya Pradesh.

On Saturday the Union government unveiled a Rs 1.7 lakh crore stimulus to help those hit by the 21-day lockdown.

While the Maharashtra government decided to include treatment for coronavirus, under its health care scheme “Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya Yojna” from first April. BCCI announced to contribute Rs 51 crore to PM's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES Fund) to fight Covid-19 pandemic.

While the number of deaths around the world stood at 30,000, the number of confirmed infections worldwide topped 600,000, as new cases stacked up quickly in Europe and the United States.

CM launches website www.tengbang.in Govt committed towards people's welfare in such hard times: CM

IT News
Imphal, March 29

With an objective to address the grievances and help the Manipuris who are stranded outside the State due to the nationwide lockdown and pandemic COVID-19, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched the website www.tengbang.in at a simple function held at Chief Minister's Secretariat today. The website is developed by CubeTen in coordination with IT Department, Government of Manipur free of cost as their CSR activity.

Speaking at the function, Chief Minister said that the website is being launched with an aim to reach out to the Manipuris who are stranded outside the State and require help to overcome various hardships in such difficult times due to the nationwide lockdown and outbreak of COVID-19.

Chief Minister maintained that the website is integrated with a payment gateway so that people who wish to contribute to the Chief Minister's COVID-19 Relief Fund can donate online. A mobile application of the website will also be available soon in Google play and Apple store, he added.

Clarifying about the rice quotas being distributed in all the constituencies of the State, Chief Minister said that with the objective to work for the welfare of the people in such hard times, he had requested the Cabinet Ministers and MLAs to distribute the total rice quotas of their respective constituencies free of cost to the people without fail. A minimum of 20 kilograms should be provided to every



family where five members live together, he added. This sums up that each member of the family would get four kilograms of rice.

N. Biren Singh also clarified that such measure was taken to cover all the people of the State irrespective of having NFSA cards and not in view with the outbreak of the coronavirus and total lockdown in the country. He mentioned that for those who are living in a rented house, he has directed the respective MLAs to identify the tenants in their constituencies so that the government could provide the rice quotas to them.

Urging the people of the State to stay at home to break the chain of spreading the coronavirus in the State, Chief Minister stated that the government has taken certain steps like food home delivery services to provide essential items to people at their doorsteps.

recovery of the patient. Chairman of MANIDCO Dr. Yumnam Radheshyam, Chairman of LDA Shri L. Susindro, Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Director (IT) Shri Nambam Deben, Shri Haobam Joyremba of CubeTen and others were present during the function.

Meanwhile, several individuals and organisations have contributed a sum of Rs. 12,50,000/- to the Chief Minister's COVID-19 Relief Fund today.

MLA of Khurai AC L. Susindro Meitei donated Rs. 50,000/-, Babina Healthcare and Hospitality industries Private Limited donated Rs. 5 lakhs, Manipur Cricket Association donated Rs. 5 lakhs, Kangabam Roogert contributed Rs. One lakh and Dhanaraj and family donated Rs. One lakh to the Chief Minister's COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Chief Minister expressed his profound gratitude to all those individuals and organisations who have generously donated to the Chief Minister's COVID-19 Relief Fund till now.

MACR urges MHRC to ensure all beneficiaries to Children and those in 64 Child Care Centers

IT News
Imphal, March 29

Manipur Alliance for Child Right (MACR) has lodged a complaint to the Manipur Human Rights Commission over failure to provide food grains to the children of poor family under various beneficiaries of the govt. scheme like Mid Day meal, ICDS, ICPS by taking up special arrangement as the Children have been seriously affected by the ongoing nationwide lockdown taken up in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the complaint lodged by Keisham Pradipkumar,

Executive Member MACR, the Manipur Human Rights Commission to intervene the situation by issuing directives to the concern authority to ensure that basic food grain, soap, mask, sanitizer, disinfectants be provided to the 64 child care institutions (CCIs) which have been operating in the state under integrated child protection scheme (ICPS) of the Ministry Of Women and Child Development, Government of India, being implemented by the Social Welfare Dept. Govt of Manipur. The 64 CCIs are currently housing around under the juvenile (care and protection of Children)

Act, 2015. The complaints to the MHRC also stated that the concerned NGOs running the CCIs are in need of such arrangement as they are facing inexpressible difficulties because of the ongoing 21 days total lockdown and curfew imposed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Ready to eat food items, food grains entitled for children, lactating mother and adolescent girls under supplementary nutrition programme of ICDS project being implemented by social welfare Dept Govt of Manipur are made available to the beneficiaries of the concerned

Anangwadi centres operational in the every locality of the state so that the beneficiaries could get a sustained food security during the 21 days Lockdown period”, the complaint lodged to the MHRC by Pradip stated.

The complaint also urged the Chairperson of the MHRC to make sure 21 days food grain of midday meal for school students are distributed at the doorsteps of the child concerned, through home delivery mode, so that no child remains hungry while staying inside their homes during the 21 days national wide lockdown.

Covid-19 a curse?

By-Jr Amo

I have been closely following the Coronavirus outbreak, which is a pandemic now, and lately named as Covid-19 by the World Health Organisation.

Since the widely accepted outbreak of the Coronavirus in China's Hubei province Wuhan city around mid December till date, Covid-19 cases has surged to 598,000+ with 27,370+ deaths, from different nations around the globe. And more than 133,390 people infected with the virus have recovered so far.

It has affected Africa, Asia, America, Europe & Oceania continents in large numbers. The magnitude of the danger posed by the Covid-19 is underestimated by Political leaders around the world, and there is no cure or vaccination for persons infected with the virus and is easily transmitted person-to-person. Moreover, experts are saying, cure for this dreadful disease will hopefully be found only by next year -2021. Which means, the struggle is just about to begin.

The epicenter of Coronavirus - China claimed there are no more new local cases while imported cases are still on the rise. Meanwhile, to make matters worse, Spain & Italy has surpassed the death rate of China with a daily fatality rate nearing a thousand counts.

A country with one of the best health-care systems in the world - Italy is right now experiencing a hopeless situation. Hospitals overflowing with Covid-19 patients, roadside ICUs and the list goes on. Spain's Madrid too is facing a crisis with patients skyrocketing, and inadequate medical equipments forcing doctors to find which patient would die sooner, to take care of the other who would have a better chance of survival, various reports claimed.

These things, I have mentioned above are taking place in right now in developed nations who have the best world class medical facilities. India with a population of 132.42 crores, the majority of which live in the rural areas are still dependent primarily on agriculture and around 21 per cent of the total population still live below poverty line.

With the unbalanced health-care system and its exploding population, India is still lucky to be at stage 2 of the pandemic. Meanwhile, if India is only depending on the lockdown, this will only mean a slowdown in

transmission and the later stages could turn out to be an explosion, like the case we have witnessed at first in China.

If the pandemic explodes and reaches stage 4 in India, I don't really think this government will win the fight. Which will in turn lead to a great recession or famine, that will be unimaginable for all.

Okay! Cutting it short, Manipur with a population of around 27 lacs people have reported a confirmed Coronavirus case earlier this week. A 23 year old medical student from UK's Bristol is currently undergoing treatment at JNIMS isolation ward and doctors believe her condition is stable. Thank God, and I wish her a speedy recovery, and pray that there will be no more Covid-19 cases in our state.

As Imphal is the state capital, the Chief Minister recently announced procurement of 20 ventilators - 10 each for JNIMS and RIMS respectively. Ventilators, in combating Covid-19 case is a very important medical equipment as patients infected with the Coronavirus experience respiratory problems, and their lungs cannot supply enough oxygen that their body needs. In any event, the government is ready only with 20 ventilators based on the CMs report. And to make the matter worse, the second largest and quickly developing district - Churachandpur, is right now without a single ventilator.

Very recently, I heard from one of the doctors with the district Covid-19 team, that no Personal Protection Equipments (PPE) are being supplied to the medical workers who are at the frontline of the fight to tackle, combat and contain the Virus, in case the need arises to save the lives of the common men. It is truly unfortunate that the concerned authorities & the administration couldn't provide the required gear & equipment to the Health Care Professionals who are risking their lives for the people of the district. Churachandpur district got less medical supplies, no ventilators, no PPE. Rather Doctors, Nurses and Health Care Professionals are told to provide protective gear for themselves!!!

If the outbreak unfortunately turns out uncontrollable in Manipur, than what measures does the government have for that next step. Are we all gonna die? Or are we just gonna stare at our families and dear ones choking and dying? I feel the government must not waste this 21-day national lockdown, instead it should push forward and

see what it can achieve during this period. Put up all its might and wisdom and be prepared to face any eventuality like our neighboring state of Assam.

I would also take this time and request my fellow denizens of the district to please follow the restriction measures put in place for the safety of all. I have asked my friends, brothers and sisters who are returning home from abroad or other parts of the country not to hide their travel history and report to the concerned authority. All of us must also restrain from discriminating of suspects, infected and their families as it could lead to a very dangerous situation where suspects or likely cases are ashamed and afraid to report themselves to the authority, which could lead to a cross-contamination that in turn could lead to a deadly situation for the whole district - an outbreak - say like the Patient 31 in South Korea. It can happen!

Finally, I urge the competent authority, please take this Covid-19 more seriously, as it is direct or indirectly a "Do or Die" situation that we are just starting to face and deal with.

I would also like to request everyone - community or tribe, to put aside political goals and differences, to work as one for the poor and the needy who are already facing the brunt of the problems caused by this Covid-19 pandemic.

At this challenging times, I humbly ask - 'Where are our elected representatives? Are they watching us dying? We can't just live only on rice like this!'. Of course distribution of rice was a very important thing. Meanwhile, essential commodity prices are rising unchecked. The scarcity a problem, the price and the virus, how are we going to win in this challenging situation?

Our medical workers need their protective gears too, common men and the people of this district want the authorities to act swiftly, we want disinfectants to be sprayed at our localities, our law enforcing agencies need their protective gears too. They aren't robots or virus proof human beings, but they are guarding us with their lives. This virus is killing people, affecting the economy more than post the two wars that the world have witnessed. Let us join hands and work together and save humanity or let us at least die trying. If not, God save our land. Only time will tell - is Covid-19 a curse? With the death toll rising around the globe, it is by far a blessing in any form.

The lone COVID -19 patient at JNIMS improved; Ministry releases advisory to take action on those spreading fake news about coronavirus

IT News
Imphal, March 29

The health condition of Vimi Ningombam, the first victim of COVID -19 from the state of Manipur has been reportedly improved. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in a press conference held today said that she is regaining to normalcy and that after her improvement she has been shifted to ICCU ward from the Isolation ward.

"Doctors treating Vimi Ningombam said that her condition is improved and that she had asked to provide her some books to read as well as tea maker electric pot for her convenience", the Chief Minister told media persons. He reiterated the people of the state not to spread false information through social media that may mislead the people.

As of today there are no fresh

reports of any COVID-19 affected people either from any part of the state or from those who have been kept at various Quarantined centers open in the state.

Today the State Health Directorate has issued N-90 mask, three layers mask and other Personal Protective Equipments (PPE) to all the health service providers and quarantined centers, a statement said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has issued an advisory to curb false News about Coronavirus. In the advisory, it has been stated that Social media platforms are intermediaries as defined under section 2(1)(w) of the Information Technology Act 2000 and are required to follow due diligence as prescribed in the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 notified under section 79 of the IT Act.

They must inform their users not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that may affect public order and unlawful in any way.

The Ministry advisory urges all intermediaries social networking platforms to initiate awareness campaigns in their platforms for the users not to upload / circulate any false new / misinformation concerning coronavirus which are likely to create panic among the public and disturb the public order and social tranquility. The advisory also directed to take immediate action to disable / remove such content hosted on their platforms on a priority basis. However, the advisory urges the intermediaries to promote the dissemination of authentic information related to coronavirus as far as possible

Shops to remain closed until after Monday CCpur

IT News
CCpur March 29

Shops in Churachandpur district will remain closed till Monday. A joint meeting of ADC Members and representatives of CSOs and VAs will be held tomorrow (Monday) to assess the feasibility for opening of shops in a hassle free manner. Information received from the ADC said that Hon'ble

Chairman, ADCC Shri T. Paukhanlian is convening a meeting of all ADC Members, representatives of CSOs and VAs to chart out plans and regulate opening of shops without compromising the lockdown and curfews at 8 AM tomorrow (Monday) at ADCC Complex. Opening of shops in town without any public annoyance during the lockdown period in the wake of

Covid-19 threat will be deliberated. The finalized arrangement is likely to be announced to the public after the ADC Members discussed and deliberated the matter with the District Administration later the same day. As such, opening of shops dealing with daily necessary items will be put on hold till Monday, the ADC said while appealing the public to bear any inconveniences thereof.

'Recover NFSA rice hijacked by Nominee of Ex-MLA Shyamkumar'

IT News
Thoubal, March 29

Secretary of the Changamtabi Development Organisation of Andro Assembly Constituency today said that even as the Chief Minister of Manipur has assured food for all during crisis due to coronavirus pandemic, people of Andro Assembly constituency are hurt.

In a meeting held today at Yairipok Changamtabi following the

distancing of one metre by all the participant Md Ayub Kori, the Secretary of the organization said that people of the constituency have not got their rice under NFSA since April 2017.

The rice has been hijacked by ex-MLA Th Shyamkumar and his nominees, Md Ayub Kori said terming it as unfortunate.

Under NFSA a total of 239000 Kg of rice for a total voters of 33936 has been released to distribute to the people with AAY card and

Priority household. If the rice is distributed each voter will get 7 Kg each. If distributed 5 kg to each voter 67872 Kg of rice is surplus. The surplus rice amounted to Rs. 2039160 at market rate Md Ayub Kori added.

He further added that looting of public property is even more dangerous than the COVID 19, and appealed the government to recover the rice and distribute it to the people of Andro Assembly constituency.

Extra News

BFI sets up group to motivate boxers through video conferencing during the lockdown

IT News
New Delhi, March 29

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) became the first national sports federation in the country to reach out to its players through video conferencing to guide and motivate them during the 21-day lockdown as India battles COVID-19. BFI President Ajay Singh spoke at length today and checked on the health, training regimen, nutrition and mental well-being of all boxers. "This is a challenging time for all of us and is all the more reason for us to take care of ourselves. My message to all our boxers is to stay fit, continue with the exercises as

directed by the coaches and try to maintain your weight as much as possible. We will tide over this crisis soon and get back to the ring but staying motivated in the meantime is absolutely necessary," said Ajay Singh, BFI President.

A core group comprising all Olympics qualified boxers, coaches and support staff including doctors and physios has been set up to take care of the needs of the boxers and on a daily basis these conferences will be conducted.

Coaches will be conducting sessions and talk to the players every day for an hour to keep them motivated and help them to

stay positive during this crisis. President Ajay Singh, Executive Director RK Sacheti and other BFI officials will be monitoring these meetings and will keep a tab on the boxers' requirements.

Registration Certificate Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Registration Certificate bearing No. 19420121 of 2019, issued by Manipur University, on the way between Haobam Marak Keisham Leikai to Pishum Oimam Leikai. Finders are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Keisgam Lakpa Mangang
Haobam Marak Keisham Leikai
Imphal West, Manipur

Distribute essential commodities for differently abled and the needy; Stop playing politics in this critical juncture – Jadumani



IT News
Thoubal, March 29

Ex BJP Manipur Pradesh Vice-President Thokchom Jadumani and Yumnam Kumari Singh, President of BJP Thoubal District visited

different localities in Khangabok Assembly constituency and extended help to those in needs mainly to the differently abled and the needy.

Jadumani said, the government had announced free rice for all the

people but the NFSA agents are confusing the public whether the distributed rice is from the very pockets of the local MLA or from the Government. He urged the NFSA agents not to play politics at this critical time.

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