

## Around 85 persons from Manipur suspected to attend the religious congregation at Delhi's Nizamuddin; CM appeals those attended to come forward for testing

**IT News**  
**Imphal, March 31**

The shocking revelation about a religious congregation being held at Delhi's Nizamuddin between March 13 to 15 has created a shockwave across the nation with six Telangana men who took part in the prayer reportedly died of COVID-19 and 24 people testing positive and nearly 200 others showing symptoms on Monday, has alerted Chief Minister of Manipur as there are reports about 85 people from Manipur attending the prayers. As many as 462 are from NE. Source said some 1,400 people who are believed to have been exposed to the virus. Chief Minister of Manipur, N. Biren Singh in his official Facebook page appeal the people from Manipur (if in case attended) to come

forward for testing. He wrote - "If there is anybody from Manipur who had attended that congregation, organised by Tablighi Jamaat at Delhi's Nizamuddin, between March 13 and March 15, you are requested to come forward and get yourself tested for COVID-19. The religious congregation was attended by nearly 2,000 people, including foreigners. Please call helpline number : - 1800-345-3818". The Chief Minister further wrote that the message was not aimed at spreading panic but a call to act responsibly. According to an unconfirmed report, many from Manipur are suspected to have attended the congregation called Tablighi Jamaat at Delhi's Nizamuddin area. A document containing the names of those who attended the congregation is being widely circulated

on Whatsapp but its authenticity cannot be confirmed. However, according to a source from the Assam Government mostly visited Covid-19 hotspot Markaz Nizamuddin area between March 14 and March 22; 462 are from North East states and of these 85 are from Manipur. The number is officially confirmed.

When Imphal Times enquired the concerned Government authority about the authenticity of the said document, it could not be confirmed at the moment. However, the helpline representative said, "Around 80 individuals from Manipur attended the congregation at Nizamuddin and concern district authorities are trying hard to trace those and quarantine them, along with the help of local clubs and organizations."

## A steep hike in Covid 19 cases; Death toll reach 47, positive case climbs to 1440 Over 800 preachers from Indonesia to be black listed for jumping tourist visa

**IT News**  
**Mumbai, March 31**

The number of active "Covid-19" patients climbed up to 1440 with 47 deaths across the country, while there has been steep hike in number of patients in Maharashtra-248, followed by Kerala 234 and Delhi 97 on Tuesday. Karnataka has registered (98), Gujarat (73), Telangana (77), Tamil Nadu (74) and Uttar Pradesh (101), J & K (55), cases of coronavirus. The other states/UTs include: Andaman Nicobar- (10), Chhattisgarh (8), Uttarakhand (7), Goa (5), Odisha (3), Himachal Pradesh (3), Manipur (1), Mizoram (1) and Puducherry (1). The death toll across the country stands as : Bihar 1, Delhi 2, Gujarat 6, Himachal Pradesh 1, J & K 2, Karnataka 3, Kerala 1, Madhya Pradesh 3, Maharashtra 10, Punjab 1,

Tamil Nadu 1, Telangana 1, West Bengal 2. As per the update from the official source there have been 47 death cases, 1253 active Covid 19 cases, 140 cured/discharged and 15,24,266 passengers were screened at airport. In another development in Delhi, over 34 persons were admitted to different hospitals after they complained of cold and cough after attending a religious congregation at Tablighi Markaz, Nizamuddin, on Monday. The Police cordoned off the area around the Markaz Masjid located around 100 metres from the Nizamuddin dargah and drones were deployed in the area to ensure strict implementation of lockdown orders. Over 8,000 people from across the country as well as Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Saudi Arabia attended a

gathering at Alami Markaz Banglewali Masjid, the headquarters of the Tablighi Jamaat in the Nizamuddin area of South Delhi earlier this month. While many returned home, others stayed back at the mosque. The persons evacuated were staying in the Markaz. "As per the recommendations of medical team, more people have been shifted to quarantine or hospitals. We are cooperating with authorities and people have been shifted from Markaz," Dr. Mohammad Shoaib, spokesperson of the Markaz said. However the Union Home Ministry has decided to blacklist around 800 preachers from Indonesia who came on a tourist visa and participated in a three-day religious conference at Tablighi Markaz, Nizamuddin. India and Indonesia have a liberal visa arrangement and allow

tourist visa on arrivals for the citizens. The preachers came on a tourist visa but were participating in religious conferences, in violation of visa rules. In the meanwhile the police sealed "Sai Children's hospital" at New Panvel in Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra), on charges of not isolating Dr Swara Mahesh Mohite, who had returned from USA on 16 March. As per prevailing rules, she should have gone through the tests and quarantine formalities. Instead of this, she went on attending to daily cares at the hospital and examined the patients. Dr. Swara is the daughter of Dr Mohite, who runs the hospital. Based on the information, the hospital was sealed by the Panvel Municipal Commissioner Ganesh Deshmukh.

## PPFA insists on self- conscience during Covid-19 pandemic

**IT Correspondent**  
**Guwahati, March 31**

Patriotic People's Front Assam (PPFA), while expressing concern over the Covid-19 pandemic straining the healthcare systems across the globe, insists on nurturing self consciences by every individual with an aim to protect the human race. The forum of nationalists also appealed to the residents of northeast India to strictly follow the guidelines of healthcare experts precisely the social distancing with others to prevent the outbreak of novel corona virus to the maximum level.

According to the Union government in New Delhi, Covid-19 is still in local transmission in the country that is under lockdown till 14 April 2020. The deadly virus has infected over 1,250 individuals in India (with 49

foreign nationals) and out of them more than 30 succumbed to the viral attacks, when over 100 patients have been cured. Assam continues to be Covid-19 free State till date. Appreciating the government initiatives to deal with the pandemic crisis, PPFA also emphasizes on formulating pragmatic policies for the post Covid-19 era, where the world seemingly would be changed. The State government in Dispur should also encourage more nature-oriented life styles paving the way for livelihood to millions of locals, added the forum. PPFA also request those 200 plus citizens from Assam and Northeast, who attended Nizamuddin Markaz religious congregation in New Delhi recently, to voluntarily come forward for screening in any nearby government hospital. State health minister Dr Himanta

Biswa Sarma has already asked "anyone from Assam who attended the religious congregation of Tablighi Jamaat at Hazrat Nizamuddin" to immediately report voluntarily to the nearest government hospital or by calling helpline no 104. The forum agrees with Dr Sarma that it is very important for the sake of nation's health. Meanwhile, PPFA expresses its profound grief at the untimely demise of novice scribe Dimpy Baishya, who faced a road accident during the lockdown. Dimpy used to work for a city based news portal and she was returning home on 30 March evening after duty hours with a colleague, who is presently undergoing treatment. Dimpy was rushed to the hospital but succumbed to severe injuries after some time.

**IT News**  
**Thoubal, March 31**

As a precautionary measure to combat Corona Virus and other infectants, the relief committee against covid-19 Heirok kendra kicked off a disinfecting mission by spraying with bleaching powder within all the areas falls under Heirok Assembly Constituency on Monday. The programme which performed under the sole guidance of Education, Labour and Employment Minister Dr.Thokchom Radheshyam who is also the MLA of Heirok AC started from the campus of the SPO barrack located at Heirok part (iii) kabo laikai. BJP Heirok Mandal president, Thokchom Chourjit flagged off the drive there. While briefing the media about the mission at the launching site, Upadkashya and Heirok jilla parishad member T.Nungshi Singh stated that the disinfecting mission will

cover all the area that falls within the jurisdiction of Heirok AC. The relief committee which set up under the chairmanship of Education minister Dr.Thokchom Radheshyam had resolved to launch such a mission. The committee will also distribute essential commodities to every household during the lockdown and curfew period, he added. He further informed that the committee had arranged an authorized mobile ambulance

vehicle 24x7 so that any kind of emergency patient could be brought to hospital. For this, one may contact mobile number 96156101098, he added. He also appealed the public to follow the lockdown regulations fully as implemented by the government, we should fight the covid 19 together, he told. Pradhan, Heirok part (iii) GP N. Tangba, Chairperson Heirok Nagar Panchayat L.Nungshisana devi, BJP Heirok Mandal General Secretary N. Brojen, convener

of Kendra Education committee Heirok L. Rajmani, social workers Th. Sanathoi and Th. Bishorjit, some personnels from SPO Heirok attended the flagging off event. Proper social distancing norms had also been maintained at the event. Supporting the mission of the relief committee, social worker L. Biren, a resident of Heirok part (ii) Devi Mandop Leikai had also donated around 100 masks to the Committee during the launching event.

## KSA extends monetary help to students of Chemistry Dept. MU



**IT News**  
**Imphal, March 31**

Kangleipak Students' Association extended monetary help of Rs.50,000 to the students of Chemistry Department of Manipur University who have been working since 19th of this month for producing Hand sanitizer. KSA handed over the aid amount to the 18 students

who have been working day and night in producing the Hand sanitizer and applauded the effort of the students. A press release by the same organization said "Essential commodities like groceries and vegetables will be distributed to those students of Schools, Colleges and Universities who are currently living in rented rooms and those students

may contact the following numbers viz 7005837341, 8258826270, 7005790538 and 7005570871 for any assistance during the lockdown." Students will be given first priority and after that KSA will start helping those daily wage earners who are facing problems because of the lockdown imposed due to COVID-19" the statement added

## CCpur's CSOs, ADC prepares to fight COVID -19

**IT News**  
**CCpur, March 31**

The Chairman autonomous district council ,ADC, Churachandpur T Paukhanlian has convened a meeting with civil society organisation, CSO, leaders and leaders of students Union of the district yesterday morning at ADC, Churachandpur office . The meeting was attended by all the 26 members of the ADC members besides Village authorities of the town.

The main agendas of the meeting was on as to how to regulate and opened basic necessities providing groceries shops and taking maximum precautionary measures. The meeting was attended by leaders of the Young Paite Association, YPA, Kuki Khanglai Lompi, KKL, Kuki Inpi , Churachandpur, Zomi Youth Organisation ,ZO, Simte Youth Organisation, SYO, Lamka Block Chief Association, Siamsinpawli General Headquarters, Mizo

Zirlai Pawl, MZP, Hmar Youth Association, HYA besides other. During the meeting issues related to opening of shops have been discussed detail. Leaders stated that the issue is about the fight against COVID 19 on the one hand and malnutrition on the other. Based on this light suggestions have been made in favour of allowing the opening of shops which has licence with strong instruction to mark distances for social distances and that

only one members of person of family will be allowed to go and purchased goods . While another suggestion was again made in such a way as to not opened at all those of the shops for some more time. The ADC will keep in touch the district administration regarding the deliberations ,so that all preventive measures are taken care of and basic requirements of the general public is readily available to the public.

# Editorial

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

## Fighting COVID-19; Health Advisory needs to be reviewed

The world today is being haunted by a dreaded deadly virus – Novel Coronavirus, that has its epicenter at Wuhan in China in mid-January this year. It doesn't take long for the virus to spread across the globe reaching over 200 countries including countries like Italy, USA, United Kingdom, which have one of the best health care systems in the world. Scientist across the globe are trying hard to find a vaccine to kill the virus as well as to treat people are affected by COVID -19, but what is worrying to human kinds is that killing by the virus increases every day when any vaccine is yet to be produced. The only way that countries across the Globe are protecting their people is 'lockdown' of their entire nation to allow people to stay inside their home distancing between people to people if in case of buying emergency products or convening emergency government meetings. The characteristic of the deadly virus is not fully understood as of now and more findings are coming up.

As per the directives of Union Health Ministry, health advisory issued by almost all the states while following the complete lockdown to make sure that people stay at home to break the chain of spreading the virus. It is well known after surveyed by the ICMR that the virus penetrated in the country after people who come or either return to India after visiting countries that are affected by the virus. Until the report of mass prayers at Delhi's Nizamuddin which was held from March 13 to 15 at Markaz in Nizamuddin area in Delhi, there is a fear that the Coronavirus Pandemic reached 3rd phase in India. Manipur is also no exception as there is a possibility some few joining the mass prayer.

Chief Minister of Manipur, N. Biren Singh who is leading an exceptional role in containing the spread of the virus today appealed the people to voluntarily come out before it is late.

As for now until yesterday Manipur was a relief as there was no circumstantial evidence that may affect by the virus as no new case has been reported after the 23 years old girl which was found positive on March 24 and is reportedly recovering.

Now, with the recent report, the state government needs to accelerate its measures to fight the virus.

What is the need of the hour is that the health advisory needs to change. Earlier, people were advised to distance themselves for at least 1 metre. But the concept is change according to Dr. Joykumar Thokchom, a physicist, who has been associating at various Pharmaceutical Companies in different parts of the USA, an presently working as a Senior Director, BrightVolt, Inc. USA the virus can travel 2 metre in the air.

In his writing in Imphal Times, he wrote, "A person can get infected with the virus in three main mechanisms. One among is Exposing/inhaling mucus and saliva droplets from an infected person during talking, sneezing, and coughing. There are reports claiming that such droplets are of 5 micron in size containing lots of viruses in a single droplet itself and they can travel about 6 to 7 feet or 2 meters normally before falling to the ground due to gravity; however, if the infected person speaks loudly in the form of singing or shouting then the droplets are much tinier and become airborne with less impact from gravity and thus can travel much further to spread to a wider number of people.

The advisory about distancing for two meters is also advised by the Government of the United Kingdom. This was informed to the Imphal Times by another Manipuri origin doctor Bishwajit Elangbam, who is presently working as Consultant in Emergency Medicine Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, United Kingdom.

So, earlier advisory about distancing 1 meter should be reviewed immediately and the government should issue another health advisory of distancing at least 2 meter.

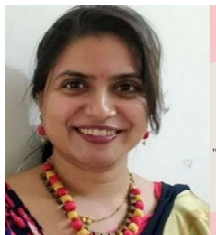
## Document lost

I, the undersigned have lost my wallet containing Aadhar card, Pan card, Driving license, Office I Card (police department), NPS Card (national pension scheme card), Two ATM card (1), UBI ATM card (2), UCO ATM card on the way between Sangolband Meino Leirak to Porompat Police Station on March 25.

Sd/-  
Elangbam Dorendro Singh  
s/o Elangbam Gojendra Singh  
Sangolband Meino Leirak Imphal West

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## The woman behind India's first Covid 19 testing kit



By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, March 31

Just two weeks after the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) allowed private labs to test for coronavirus, a Pune based woman virologist, has become the first researcher in the country to design result oriented kit, available at much cheaper rates.

In what may go down as a crucial benchmark in India's fight against the "Covid-19" virus, the woman-Minor Dakhve-Bhosale, working as the research and development chief of a private bio tech company-"Mylab Discovery Solutions", has developed the coronavirus testing kit titled "Patho Detect" within 6 weeks. According to experts, high scale testing is essential because it alone can ensure an early diagnosis of "Covid-19" and lower down the fatalities.

"Patho Detect" approved by the Food and Drug Authority (FDA) and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), will reduce the time taken for delivering a result to 2.5 hours from the prevalent practice of eight hours. The test kit will cost Rs 1,200, a quarter of Rs 4,500 per kit that the government has been spending on testing so far. Bhosale, began work on the programme in February, days after leaving hospital with pregnancy complications and developed the kit, just a few days before her delivery. She submitted the kit to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune for evaluation on 18 March 2020. Later in the day, she

submitted the proposal to FDA and the CDSCO, an hour before she herself was taken to the hospital to give birth to her daughter. The hard work paid off. "If you carry out 10 tests on the same sample, all 10 results should be the same...Our kit is perfect", she said.

She said both the journeys - that happened in parallel - were not without challenges. There were complications in the pregnancy while work on the test kit was on. The baby was delivered through caesarean. "I felt that it was the right time to serve the people to help them in combating the coronavirus threat".

"Mylab", sent its kits to 150 diagnostic centres in Pune, Mumbai, Delhi, Goa, and Bengaluru and it is confident of ramping up the capacity at its plant in Lonavala (Pune district) to deliver one lakh kits a week.

With just 6.8 tests per million, one of the lowest rates in the world, India has been criticized for not testing enough. In the days following ICMR's announcement, the Union government approved the sale of 18 diagnostic kits by private companies last week. The union government also approved 12 antibody rapid tests, known as a serological test. The antibody rapid test employs a different method than the usual RT-PCR test to diagnose Covid-19. It aims to determine even whether a person had been exposed to the virus earlier. The Government labs are also using RT-PCR probes, which are crucial in the detection of SARS-CoV-2 genome, that have been procured from the U.S.

Bhosale's story became an inspiration to many, including industrialist Anand Mahindra, who earlier announced that his company would be manufacturing ventilators and converting Mahindra resorts into care facilities to fight against the "Covid 19" outbreak. "Ms Bhosale, you delivered not just the test kit and your baby, but you also delivered a ray of hope to the country. We stand and salute you....," he tweeted.

## An appeal to the public of Manipur from a Manipuri Doctor working in UK



By- Dr. Bishwajit Elangbam  
Consultant in Emergency  
Medicine Sandwell and West  
Birmingham NHS Trust  
United Kingdom

It is sad that many hospital worker in my home state of Manipur are seen as COVID carrier, a threat to the well being of their Leikai and unfortunately risk being ostracised from their own Leikai.

Many of my friends including my own niece are healthcare and currently looking after many suspected patients. They all take self isolation measures by minimising contacts with other individuals to ensure that vulnerable people are safe.

These even include living away from their most loved ones, so that they could look after any of your loved ones, families and friends.

I currently work in a hospital where 17 patients have died which are related to COVID-19 infection and come back home to find sole solace and comfort of my family and my neighbours.

This would change the moment, I have any symptoms of flu like illness and self isolate not just to protect my family but also my neighbours and colleagues.

The photo was of myself in my workplace earlier and later with my family in the evening.

The Manipur public needs to stop making decision based on

'assumptions' due to fear of the current pandemic and they need to support all the brave woman and man working in the hospitals, who are the only hope in combating COVID-19 virus >ØÝ and avoid mass death in this beautiful Erāmdam.

The fight against this virus needs many brave man and woman who responds in reasonable scientific manner and one that is not clouded and skewed by negative vindictive behaviour and culture.

This virus will disappear when confronted by a united community that based on strong social values. Let those 'Sambal' barrier built by a negative and obstructive mindset be done away.

These doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers would be looking after the many potential COVID-19 patients as they are trained to do so and would have easily walk away if it was just for their salary or financial gains.

Yesterday, all the 20 families in my neighbourhood came out of their homes and shared their appreciation for all the NHS health professionals. An occasion that not only gave strength but a teary eyes to many.

Please let this pandemic bring the best in all of us, giving us every strength to support the many healthcare workers and help protect and save our loved ones.

Thank you

## Reflections in the shadow of Covid19

By- P. Imnasunep Tzudir  
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We are witnessing the lockdown of entire world due to deadly Novel Coronavirus in this 21st century. This event will play an important role in socio-political history of the world. This China originated Covid19 has been giving us memories and experiences which will not be vanished easily from the slate of mind. We all are aware that due to sudden lockdown the poor labours, daily wagers and their families are facing untold misery at this moment, the Government is trying their level best to meet their basic needs, one should understand that rapid spreading of this deadly virus will be more dangerous than the current misery. If the preventive measures of country lockdown are not imposed at this stage then we will have to pay such a heavy price that even the coming hundred generations of ours would not be able to pay. We are living in such a dangerous time that even governments of the world are helpless. German Finance Minister has committed suicide owing to the 'worry' of the fact that the German economy is on the verge of total collapse due to the continuous burden cause by Coronavirus. I have never seen something like this in my life, nor my parents or grandparents in their life. I am worried more because today's world is far more complex than the world

we learn about from our history books.

In the context of our state Nagaland being one among the poorest state in India as we all know very well, the Government of the day is indeed working tirelessly with all its practical limitations to face this great challenge. The state Govt sanctioned 21.60 crores to strengthen the medical Department, transferred Rs. 2000/- each to benefit 24,457 beneficiaries to registered Building & construction workers to sustain during Covid19 lockdown, distributed a total of 740 PPE(Personal preventive Equipment) in all eleven district, Rs 38 lakhs sanctioned to all the Deputy commissioner for exigency expenses and many more. This is the time we need to stand shoulder to shoulder to stop this deadly virus. I salute the employees of medical, police, administration & social organisations for their selfless contribution and grand sacrifices in the battle against this Chinese virus. However, as I have been observing, many people are criticizing government. Many complex issues of Human Rights are being brought up by so called cyber activists. Why can't people understand that we are living in a most complex situation of our time? Survival of Human Race is more important than any other thing. In the time of Darkness- we must step in to help who cannot help themselves. Instead of asking and expecting from government to do this and that, why can't we all step

in to become eyes, hands and heart of government in the best interest of ailing humanity?

This is not a right time to blame the Government rather to support in cash or in kind to fight together. People should remember that a failure of the Government is a failure of the people. Latest News of an initiative taken by one Sangtam women's organization (Sangtam Thsingmugang) to distribute food and water to the destitute people and passengers stranded at Dimapur Railway station and flyover footpath is very inspiring. People are coming out to extend helping hand without thinking about family, clan, race, colour, caste, creed, tribe, religion. Why are we so much depending on Government? State will function within its framework, but at the same time it is people who should come forward to become a helping hand of state to reach to those who are in need.

Moreover, I want to ask one question to myself, will my God be pleased just with my prayers and worship songs? Does God not expect human beings to be the vehicle of his 'Divine Will' and help each other unconditionally in the time of apocalyptic situations? Service to Mankind, as I understand, will be the ultimate worship to the lord almighty. What can be greater than wiping sorrows of someone who is helpless? What can be holier than feeding food to hungry? What can be more superior to saving people from the claws of Death?

Covid19 has been teaching us a big lesson. He made us more human. However, incidents of Racial discrimination against our northeast people are coming in the media which is sad. Just imagine, the majority of caste conscious mainland Indian population still do not understand eternal human values, unconditional love and brotherhood. However, as news report informs, the culprits involved and subsequently arrested by police in said incidents are now rotting in Jails. Our northeast brothers and sisters must develop awareness about their constitutional and legal rights in this independent country- as knowledge of rights will only enable them to defend themselves against evil of discrimination in mainland world. In spite of all the hatred and negativity in the world, I still believe that the human civilization has been evolving steadily in the light of Universal Love and Compassion and one day man will realize that his ultimate destiny is nothing else but a sublime light of 'UNCONDITIONAL LOVE'. I hope, one day this notion of 'US' and 'THEM' will disappear and we will live as 'one'. But do we really need epidemics like COVID19 to understand this universal truth? At the end, I beseech to entire humanity- come one, come all, let us live together as one, let us fight Coronavirus as a Human Race, not just for our today, but also for 'unknown' tomorrow.