

Manipur government serious on COVID-19 epidemic; surveillance activities enhanced CM appeals to avoid shaking hands, says 24x7 control room open

IT News
Imphal, March 5

Following reports on the rise of the pandemic Coronavirus across the world, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today convened a review meeting with heads of various departments and government officials which are taking up preventive measures at various points.

"So far our government have not report of any persons affected by the COVID-19 or coronavirus in the state", Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today told media person today afternoon at his conference hall. However he said that out of the 12 persons were under quarantined sample sent for 10 person has been negative and sample sent for two person are still awaiting. Briefing the media persons the Chief Minister said that soon after the news about the spread of the COVID-19 the state government had taken up stringent measures to prevent the spread of the virus in the state.

"Both at land route and air route, at all entry point to the state of Manipur so far 1,21,629 people have been screened", The Chief Minister



said. At airport total person screened for the virus is 68,180 person and at Mao, Behang, Moreh Jiribam etc. total number of people screened is 53,449, he added and said that 352 person who entered the state are under surveillance as the virus can hide in the body 14 days without giving any symptoms. "These 352 persons are under surveillance after collecting their travel history", Biren said. The Chief Minister further said that the state government will introduce

form to fill their travel history at all entry points mainly from Myanmar side. He also said that authority at Indo Myanmar border particularly at Moreh and nearby has been enhancing the surveillance.

"We have opened 24x7 control room to contact if any suspicious case has been found and the telephone no is 2411668", The Chief Minister said.

With Yaoshang festival just at the door, the chief Minister said that his government cannot stop the festival but

appealed the people particularly the youths from shaking hands or sneezing in public places as the virus spread on contact with it directly.

"At present we have opened 4 isolation wards at JNIMS with 8 beds and another 6 bedded isolation wards at RIMS. As for suspected case detected at Moreh isolation wards will be opened so that the person can be availed treatment facilities at Moreh itself without coming to Imphal", the Chief Minister said.

29th coronavirus case in India; Maharashtra govt says no need for general public to use face masks

By- Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, March 5

An employee of Paytm, Gurugram (Haryana), who had recently returned from a vacation in Italy, tested positive for coronavirus on Wednesday taking the total number of infected persons in India to 29 (16 Italian tourists, 13 Indians). The employee has been admitted to the Safdarjung hospital. Paytm announced that its offices in Gurugram and NOIDA (UP) will be shut down for two days to sanitise and fumigation. The company also advised all its employees to work from home for the next couple of days.

A Paytm spokesperson said, "One of our colleagues based out of Gurugram office who recently returned from Italy post a vacation, has sadly been tested positive for Coronavirus. He is receiving appropriate treatment and we are extending complete support to his family. As a precautionary measure, we have suggested his team members to get health tests done immediately. However, there will not be any impact on our daily operations and Paytm services will continue as usual," the company spokesperson added.

In a related development Gautam Nagar administration issued notices to over 1000 companies that they should get examined any employees returning to India after a trip abroad, regardless of which county he/she visits. There has been sudden rise in

the number of positive cases. They include : a) An employee working at DSM, Mindspace, Madhapur, Hyderabad, who returned from Dubai (admitted to Gandhi Hospital), b) A 69 year Italian and his wife admitted to Sawai Mansingh Hospital, Jaipur, Rajasthan, c) A 45 year old man, who recently returned from Italy (admitted to the Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi), d) 14 Italian nationals taken to the quarantine facility of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in Chhailan near Delhi, e) Three suspected cases found in Himachal Pradesh. Among the three cases, the two persons who returned from Italy (now under observation in the Tanda Medical College in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh). The third person, came back from South Korea (now under observation in Indian Gandhi Medical college at Shimla). All the three confirmed cases in Kerala have recovered and been discharged from the hospital.

To ensure adequate supply of medicines, the Drug Controller General of India (DCCI) has granted approval to the Indian Council of Medical Research to use a combination of lopinavir and ritonavir in the event of the coronavirus disease in India turns into a public health emergency. Lopinavir and ritonavir have already been approved for the treatment of HIV.

The government is reviewing the availability of drugs to treat the coronavirus-infected in case the infections surge. A recent review has revealed that

the available Active pharmaceutical ingredient (API), to manufacture drugs related to treatment would be sufficient for at least two months and up to three months. In order to maintain sufficient supply, the government is also considering to limit the export of 13 essential APIs and formulations made using them.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has been instructed to restrict the export of 13 APIs and formulations, the majority of which are made in Hubei, China. According to the latest reports, many Chinese pharmaceutical companies have partially resumed production and expected to resume full production by the end of March. Logistics, however, have not resumed fully, which may delay the availability of APIs.

In the meanwhile the Maharashtra government has issued a statement saying that except the medical staff treating the infection or those who have come in contact with patients, others need not use face masks. For those with other existing health conditions the use of a mask may create unintended complications, it added. "General population can use folded cotton handkerchiefs for self-protection which can be reused by keeping in bleach solution or hot water for half hour followed by the thorough washing," it said.

All states asked to create rapid response teams for management & control of COVID 19

IT News
Imphal, March 5

Government of India today said that every state have been asked to create rapid response team for the management and control of novel coronavirus, COVID 19.

Briefing reporters in New Delhi, Sanjeeva Kumar, special secretary, Ministry of Health said, 29 positive cases have been detected in the country so far. He said, out of them three affected persons have been recovered and discharged. Kumar said, so far three thousand 542 samples of affected persons were collected and out of them three thousand 513 tested negative.

Awareness Programme on COVID-19 conducted at Raj Bhavan

DIPR
Imphal, March 5

An awareness programme on Coronavirus (COVID-19) for staff of Raj Bhavan was organised today at Darbar hall, Raj Bhavan, Imphal. The awareness programme was attended by Dr. R. K. Manojkumar Singh, Associate Professor, Microbiology, JNIMS, Nodal Officer, VRDL, Microbiology, JNIMS, Dr. Utham Tharoijam, Sr. Resident, Medicine, JNIMS and Dr. L. Arke, Addl. Director (Public Health) & State Nodal Officer, Health Services, Manipur as resource persons. Dr. R. K. Manojkumar Singh speaking about Covid-19, Virology & Laboratory Diagnosis underlined the need for in-depth knowledge like viral morphology, transmission of virus, updated case definition, updated definition of contact, new travel advisory, testing centres in India, specimen collection and shipment and testing of Covid-19 at reference laboratories. He informed that Coronavirus is a group of viruses causing diseases in mammal & birds, in humans, the viruses cause respiratory-infections typically mild including common cold but rarer forms like SARS & MERS can be lethal. In cows and pigs they may cause diarrhoea, while in chickens they can cause an

upper respiratory disease. Saying that it can spread between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 3 feet) and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

He further said that Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India has issued new travel advisory on 26/02/2020 that Indians are advised to refrain from non-essential travel to Republic of Korea, Iran and Italy. People coming from these countries or having such travel history since 10th February 2020 may be quarantined for 14 days on arrival to India.

Besides the Apex testing laboratory of ICMR-NIV, Pune there are 13 testing VRDLs for COVID-2019 and also 19 more testing centres are in the pipeline. Mentioning the Referral Laboratories for Manipur are ICMR-NIV, Pune (till 5th February, 2020) ICMR-NICED, Kolkata (from 6th - 11th February, 2020) and GMCH, Guwahati (from 12th February).

For sample collection in Manipur, IDSP (Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme) cell, Directorate of Health, Lamphelpat. VRDL (Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratory), Microbiology Department, RIMS and VRDL (Viral Research & Diagnostic

Laboratory), Microbiology Department, JNIMS- Nodal Centre may be contacted, he added.

Dr. Utham Tharoijam, spoke on the signs and symptoms of coronavirus. Some of the basic and necessary measures that people should follow are avoid travel to disease outbreak area, avoiding crowded places, maintaining distance of at least 6 feet away from anyone with symptoms, careful 60 second hand washing (soap, alcohol base hand sanitizers), avoiding touching of T-zone (eye, mouth, nose). Health care worker- PPEs (Personal Protection Equipments).

Speaking as resource person, Dr. L. Arke informed that a 24x7 control room (0385-2411668) was opened at Medical Directorate, Lamphelpat. He also stated that screening has started at surface points of entry in the state (Behiang, Sinzawl in CCpur district, Moreh Gate 1, 2 & ICP in Tengnoupal, Nambisha in Kamjong, Jiriga in Jiribam and Mao gate in Senapati). Out of the 12 samples sent for testing 10 has been found negative and results of 2 are awaited. Staff of Raj Bhavan including Special Secretary to Governor H.T. Gangte, Commissioner Bobby Waikhom, CRPF personnel and others attended the awareness programme.

ATRPFM organises seminar on Sustainable Forest resource management in the Tribal areas

IT News
Imphal, March 5,

The All Tribal Rights Protection Forum Manipur (ATRPFM) has organised One day Seminar programme focus on the Sustainable Forest resource management in the Tribal areas with special focus on Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, Economic development and Ecological balance on 5th March 2020 at Sandang senba Maring Khull, kangpokpi dist Manipur under the Sponsorship of Tribal Affairs

& Hills Manipur in collaboration with Forest & Env't Dept Govt of Manipur. The Seminar was attended by 300 and above Village Chief/ Headman, CSOs, and many other Island Block Tribal Leaders and Senior Citizen. The Seminar was grace by Haokhal Hangsing Honourable ADC Chairman Sadar Hills Manipur, Khaimang Chongloi Kuki Inpi Manipur, M Dominic Maring Member Sadar Hills ADC as Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, and Functional

President. Bd Behring Hon'ble EX- MP MLA and Adv't Sampion Hungyo, as Resource person.

The Resource persons has categorically elaborated on the Rights of Forest dweller/ Indigenous people as it enshrined in the (Forest Rights Act) FRA 2006, moreover they has elaborated specifically on the sustainable Forest Resource Management and how can the forest dweller get benefited on their Land and Forest relating to the Ecological Balance.

Marginal drop in Christian persecution year on year four firs registered in January alone

IT News
New Delhi, March 5

The year 2020 has barely begun and has already witnessed 26 incidents of violence against Christians spread over 10 states. Contrast this against 29 incidents in 13 states in India in January 2019. Uttar Pradesh continues to lead with highest number of incidents of eight

in 2020 and nine in 2019. Eight states Chattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh continue to witness violence in 2020 January as in 2019 January. This year Chattisgarh has climbed to the number two position, with 5 incidents, whereas last year it was Tamil Nadu with the same numbers. Another difference this year

is in the registration of FIRs - four registered as against nil in 2019. Credit goes to the lawyers, human rights activists and networking partners of United Christian Forum (UCF) and other such organizations who are working on ground to ensure much needed assistance to the victims who are facing false allegations of forceful conversion.

Editorial

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Essence of celebrating Yaoshang

Yaoshang- as the festival of colour is locally known is just around the corner. Arguably the most anticipated festival will be celebrated by young and old alike without exceptions to caste, creed or faith in a day's time. And as with everything that has gone through the changes brought about by time, the manner of celebration has undergone a sea change from how it was a decade ago. The five day cultural extravaganza which used to be predominantly about playing with colours by the boys and stopping of passersby for contributions by the girls during the daytime while the evenings were marked by Thabal Chongba - the traditional dance where finely decked girls dance with the boys to the lilting music, have undergone changes which have started raising eyebrows and concerns.

Playing with colours and spraying with coloured water on passersby have given way to splashing of dirty and smelling water which have resulted in frequent quarrels and more unfortunately to unwanted accidents. While the state security and traffic police personnel have stepped up their vigil to prevent unwanted incidents and curb excesses during the festival, the trend for the youth to abuse the festive spirit and indulge in excesses have been on the increase. Triple riding on two wheelers, speeding, incessant honking, throwing water balloons at passing motorists and four wheeled vehicles packed beyond their stated capacity have come to be the norm rather than the exception and a definite recipe for disaster.

Another recent trend that has the social media buzzing is the fact that young girls have already started stopping motorists to demand contributions even during peak traffic hours at various places well before the festival even began. While there is some section of the society expressing or rather suggesting the observation of the festival for two or three days instead of the five days as is being done at present, these young girls are putting their own lives at risk as well as the safety of the unsuspecting motorists. Being passionate about anything is generally good, but when the passion becomes excessive or out of control, the outcome is almost always undesirable.

Another aspect of the festival that has started to evoke more criticisms is that of the unearthly hours into which the Thabal Chongba is being dragged on. While the nocturnal revelers might very well be having a great time with the gradually extending period of celebration, for those who are trying to get some rest and quiet, and more importantly those who are not in the best of health, the shrill noise of the loudspeakers could very well escalate the condition.

It would not be possible for the government machinery to keep the society in check during such festive periods. It is for everyone of us to voluntarily shoulder our responsibilities and try to control our near and dear ones. A good way to start would be to make the young generation understand the origin and essence of such festivals to enable them to celebrate the occasions in the right spirit and attitude.

NATIONAL HANDLOOM EXPO : 2019-20

Centre for Trade & Commerce, Lamkoikhongnangkhang, Imphal West

NOTICE

The 5th March, 2020

No.29/AWAS-H/MELA/2017-18: This is served for kind information to all the state's registered primary weavers co-operative societies, SHGs and handloom entrepreneurs that the Manipur Apex Handloom Weavers and Handicrafts Artisans C.S. Ltd. (AWAS), GoVernor's crossing, Paona Bazar, Imphal West, is organizing a National Handloom Expo, 2019-20 at the Centre for Trade and Commerce, Lamkoikhongnangkhang, Imphal West from the 16th to 29th March, 2020 under the sponsorship of the office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India as partial fulfillment of the marketing event of the National Handloom Development Programme. Interested ones can apply for the limited stalls to be opened during the expo by submitting the filled in prescribed forms to the office of the AWAS on or before the 12th March, 2020. Five stalls are reserved for awardees and differently able weavers. Application forms and details can be had from the office of the AWAS during Office hour

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Success Stories from North-East for Women Empowerment

PIB Feature

NEDFi is also facilitating marketing support to the artisans of NER through exhibition participation and its various showrooms at Guwahati & Khetri in Assam, Imphal in Manipur, Aizawl in Mizoram, Namchi in Sikkim and Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. The showrooms at Guwahati, Khetri and Aizawl are under NEDFi's direct CSR support and the rest of the showrooms are setup in collaboration with various established NGOs/Societies of the locality.

1. Name: Leishangthem Bala Devi
Address: Khurai Konsam Leikai, Imphal East
Activity: Kauna (water reed) products making



Leishangthem Bala Devi, a potential handicraft artisan producing various "kauna" (water reed) products. She is a hardworking woman aged 50 years and mother of a son.

She has experienced many struggles in life before she became one of Chanura's clients. She used to engage herself in weaving as her livelihood activity. As she weaved simple and ordinary clothes, she could not make much profit out of it. Moreover, her husband used to work as a mason and his income was not regular. It was difficult for them to meet their daily household requirement and even her son's educational expenses added to their suffering. Like other parents, Bala wished her son to get proper and quality education. She felt depressed as she could not afford her only child good education nor she could not upgrade her living standard.

Until one fine day, one of her locality's sisters introduced her to Chanura Microfin Manipur and when she learned more about Chanura, she felt that Chanura is the real mentor of poor and needy people and she has decided to join Chanura.

After joining Chanura she continued her weaving activity for some duration. Thereafter, she started to try her hand on kauna products, the technique she learned from her ancestors. She started making kauna mat, as kauna mat is one of the indigenous handicraft products in the region which every house required. Day by day, her product became popular and the demand increased. Later, she added different other products, like kauna-bags, baskets, files, vase, etc. after attending Livelihood Skill Training Program of Chanura. Now, she is able to earn more income and profit. With subsequent cycles of Chanura's support, her business on Kauna products is flourishing. She is able to extend her house veranda as her work shed. Now, she is able to afford her son's education in a good and popular school.

She also expressed, "With Chanura's financial support and various trainings my business grew, my management skill improved and today, my family is able to own an auto-rickshaw, giving additional income, as my husband uses to earn as a public carrier". She wholeheartedly thanks Chanura for helping her to overcome all her life's challenges and lead a new, better lifestyle.

2. Name: Wangkhem Rezia Devi
Address: Kwakeithel Haobam Marak, Imphal West
Activity: Artificial flower's bouquet and vase making



Rezia, 38 years, mother of three children, is a dynamic woman running a successful business on

artificial flower's bouquet and vase making. Her husband is an auto driver and they both run their family together.

Before joining Chanura, Rezia's family condition was so miserable that they could not even meet their daily expenditure. Moreover, her husband's income was so less that they lived on hand-to-mouth. They faced many difficulties owing to the little income. She was unable to afford admission for her children and they dropped out from the school. To cope with the challenges of the family, she started to work as a wage earner.

Though she worked as a wage earner for her survival, she always had the stamina and creativity to start some business of her own. She dreamt of starting an artificial flower making business, as she had learned the technique from one of her neighborhood sisters. But, due to the lack of capital, she could not put her dreams into action. Although she has the skill, she was unable to run the business independently.

When one of her neighborhood sisters proposed her to join Chanura, she was extremely happy and she felt that her dream to run her business on artificial flower was coming to life.

After joining Chanura, there was no looking back for her. She started her own business, making different products of artificial flowers. Her products became so popular that she started getting bulk orders. She also participated in different exhibitions and fairs to showcase her products. With the incessant support of Chanura, her business had expanded to the point that it needed hiring a few employees. Now, her family enjoys a better lifestyle. She is also able to afford education of her children in good boarding schools.

Rezia expressed, "Today, I am not afraid of the struggles in life anymore and I am ready to explore and strive towards the zenith of success". She thanks Chanura with all her heart for transforming her life from a wage earner to a successful self employed woman, who can render job opportunity to others as well.

3. Name: Mrs Maya Rani Singh



Mrs Maya Rani Singh, aged 35 years of Sawmill area of Pasighat, District East Siang of Arunachal Pradesh who had lost her husband in the year 2015, found difficulties to survive with her lone child. Nightingale Finvest Pvt Ltd (a sister concern of Nightingale Charitable Society, who have been associated with NEDFi as an assisted MFI since 2003) initiated its Micro credit operations by the year 2015 at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh with the funds from NEDFi under "NEDFi Microfinance Scheme for unserved & Underserved Areas".

Mrs Singh came to know about the development through peer groups that the NBFC-MFI is providing Micro credit to women belonging to poor and low income group of the society for income generating activities. She became member of a Joint Liability Group (JLG) in her area with a view of availing loan from Nightingale Finvest Private Ltd. She was found eligible for availing micro credit by the NBFC-MFI and accordingly she could avail her first cycle loan of Rs.9,000/- (Rupees nine

thousand) only in the year 2015. She started a tea shop with the help of the Micro credit loan from the NBFC-MFI. After repaying the entire loan with interest, she availed the second cycle loan of Rs.15,000/- (Rupees fifteen thousand) only in the year 2016 and in the same year she graduated her tea shop to a tea cum stationery shop. Her stationery business started to grow with her dedication and presently her loan intake capacity has grown to Rs.30,000/- with improvement of her stationery shop business.

She is now living happily with her lone son. Her monthly income is now ranging from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.12,000/-. It was possible only due to her sincerity, hard work & honesty and also for financial support received from Nightingale Finvest Private Ltd.

4. Name: Mrs. Laldinpui



Mrs. Laldinpui, wife of Mrs. Lalhansanga of Aizawl in Mizoram was a hawker and engaged in lime packing activities. Her husband also worked at cable T.V. as a collector, lineman and as operator. As their income was very poor and they were not able to maintain their family properly.

Although both of them were engaged as worker for carrying out the above mentioned activities, they could not meet the entire expenditure required for surviving their family members. Mrs Laldinpui started her Frying Chana (Fast Food) business with a view to increase her family income for meeting her family expenditure including her son and daughters education. First she had started her frying chana (Fast Food) business out of her own capital. However, the capital required for running fast food activities was not adequate. So she started borrowing from Nightingale Finvest Private Ltd. First she borrowed Rs.15,000/- i.e. first cycle loan for purchasing required materials for running the fast food business. Thereafter she continued to borrow fund from Nightingale Finvest Private Ltd to increase her business and presently in the fourth cycle of loan her intake capacity has grown to Rs.40,000/-. Her product is now supplied to wholesaler/retailer of 15 local areas. She is now able to earn more and also to spend more for her household needs as well as for study of their son and daughter. She is thankful to Aizawl Branch of Nightingale Finvest Private Ltd for providing micro credit otherwise it would not be possible for her to run her fast food business.

5. Name: Ms. Umewari Barman



Ms. Umewari Barman is an inhabitant of village Choudhuripara (Mana Basti) under Bongaon Development Block of Kamrup district, Assam. She is residing with her husband and one son & one sister-in-law in a small cottage. The villagers of Choudhuripara (Mana

Basti) are very poor and are unable to meet the day to day basic needs. They came from Bangladesh at the time of separation of Pakistan in the year 1972 and the then Indian Government kept them in a camp at Bongaon. After a long time, the Indian Government allotted one katha land to each family and provided them livelihood based training facility, such as, making *murha*, tailoring, and other cane & bamboo related items. She got training on tailoring cum embroidery, but had no capital to open a tailoring shop.

She availed a loan of Rs.7,000 from Grameen Sahara and opened a tailoring shop by hiring 2(two) sewing machine at her home. She was able to earn a satisfactory amount on regular basis and therefore, paid her installments timely. In 2nd cycle she availed a loan of Rs.12,000 and invested the whole loan amount on purchase of cloth to make school uniforms, sarees, chundars, etc. and grew her earnings steadily. She had also acquired a micro insurance policy (Jiban Madhur) through Grameen Sahara & paid her premium regularly from her earnings. She has expanded her



tailoring business with 4 sewing machines and started to take orders from markets.

6. Name: Ms. Ningombam Sunibala Devi

Ms. Ningombam Sunibala Devi of Thoubal Okram runs a Clothes Vendor. She is mother of three, two boys and a girl. Her husband, a mason was the sole earner but they could not manage the household expenses with the erratic mode of payment of labour charge as payment was made on monthly basis. So she decided to run a clothes vendor. Initially she was dealing with less costly items such as inner wear, blouse etc. but income from the activity was not enough to manage her household expenses. Then she decided to expand her business and borrow a sum of Rs.25,000/- from local money lender. In spite of these, her economic condition could not be improved as she has to repay the borrowed money at high interest and she almost lost hope. Then she came to know about YVU Financial Services Private Limited.

She was provided a first term loan of Rs.25,000/-. Then she added various readymade lady garments such as wrappers (*phaneks*) of various kinds, *chunni* etc. After that her business gets a big boost and from then onwards, there was no turning back. Now she is availing 1st term loan of Rs. 1 lakh.

The continuing relationship with YVU Financial enables her to become one of the main players of women's readymade garments dealer in the market. Nowadays, she is able to send her children to better educational institutes and her socio economic status in the locality has improved a lot and she inspired some in the locality to start their own business.