

Bus carrying stranded Manipuri nearly fall into gorge along with passengers

IT News
Imphal, May 16:

A bus ferrying stranded Manipuris from Jiribam side towards Imphal nearly falls into a gorge along with the passenger at National Highway 37 near Nung Dolan early today morning. Report reaching here said that passengers in the bus manage to run out of the bus as it started falling into the gorge near Nungdalan Bailey bridge under Tousem Police station of Tamenlong district. The locals of the area rushed and extended helping hands to the returnees. The bus too was managed to pull up from falling into the gorge. The registration number of the ill-fated bus is AS-06 AC-3538.

UPF distributes food items to widows

IT News
Imphal, May 16:

As a part of its ongoing effort to provide relief to the less fortunate people of the state who are feeling the adverse impact due to the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing lockdown, United Peoples' Front (UPF) Manipur distributed food items to widows below 60 years residing around areas of Yunnan Hill around areas of Imphal West District and Bishnupur District Nambol Naorem and Maibam. The UPF said that during the COVID-19 Pandemic the front will continue to distribute relief materials to the people of Manipur.

COVID-19 – with another two more, number of active COVID-19 cases reaches four in Manipur

IT News
Imphal, May 16:

The graph of the COVID-19 cases in Manipur is rising with the coming of the stranded Manipuris from outside the state in the last couple of days. With two more new positive cases of COVID-19 today, the number of active positive COVID-19 cases in Manipur reached 4 today.

Two more new cases have been detected at State Level Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratory of RIMS, Imphal today. Both the patients hailed from Moreh town in Tengnoupal district and were returning from Mumbai. The two patients reached Manipur on May 14 and have been

lodge at IIIT Mantripukhri for quarantined.

Earlier, a patient from Kairang Khomidhok in Imphal East who return from Mumbai was tested positive on May 14. Following him another 21 years old girl from Kamjong district, who return from Kolkatta and had undergone quarantined at NIT Takyel, was tested positive yesterday (May 15). Today among 8 persons who have been tested at RIMS State Level Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratory, 2 persons from Moreh who had return from Mumbai have been tested positive.

Both the positive cases detected today are mother and son. The son L. Inaocha (48 yrs) along with

her mother L. Inaocha, who were tested positive, return from Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai.

The first COVID-19 positive case in Manipur was detected on March 24. And the 2nd was detected few days later. Both the positive cases were discharged after being tested negative. Following that Manipur has been declared COVID-19 Free State in the country. COVID-19 positive cases so far detected in the state reaches 6, even as active cases stands at 4.

It is likely that the number of COVID-19 cases climbs in the state with many more returning from the red zone area of the country

Protest erupts in Andro against the detention of Social Worker Sanjoy



IT News
Andro, May 16:

Supporters of Lourengbam Sanjoy, project contender of the upcoming By-Election of Andro Assembly Constituency today carried out mass protest shouting slogans against his detention at Porompat Police

Station. Protest were staged at various area of Andro at Angha Thambalnu Market, Yairipok Tulihal Azad Higher Secondary School ground, Yairipok Ningthounai Mayai Leikai ANBA ground, Yairipok Changamdabi Makha, Changamdabi Mathak, Nongbrang Mayai Leikai Nongbrang Awang Leikai, Yairipok Yambem

Keithel Macha, Yambem Leirak Achouba, Yairipok Yambem Laimang and Yairipok Top Chingtha. Placards reading "Transfer Imphal East Additional SP Bishorjit, Release Sanjoy without any condition etc." were displayed by the protestors. Irate locals also blocked streets in various parts of Andro Constituency. Protestors alleged that disqualified Ex Minister Th Shyamkumar's daughter Th Sylvia and the minister's brother Th Rabi filed a false report to the Police accusing Sanjoy of vandalising their house at Yairipok Yambem. The protestors warns of serious agitation in the coming days if Sanjoy is not released unconditionally at the earliest.

Despite CM's directive, parking at Thangal and Paona Keithel road still on

IT News
Imphal, May 16:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's words are not taken seriously by either the state government employees or the general public as his directives are not converted into action many times. The most recent being the directives he had given to the traffic police to make the roads in Paona keithel and Thangal Keithel clean and tidy.

On March 20, during a surprise visit to Thangal and Paona Keithel to sensitize the shopkeepers specially Imas vendors, Chief



Minister N Biren had directed the concerned authority to cancel all the parking permit given to private agency by the Imphal Municipal Corporation to discontinue parking at the road side of Thangal and Paona road. Unfortunately, vehicle parking at the said areas are

on till today owing to negligence on the part of the concerned officials and the public.

It may be noted that, on Dec. 8, 2018 Imphal Times also published a report regarding the financial irregularity in revenue collection of parking fees by Imphal Municipal Corporation.

TSA-GHQ urges for change of medium of teaching in e-Video learning classes

IT News
Imphal, May 16:

While appreciating the Education department of Manipur for launching e-Video learning classes under the "Samagra Shiksha, Manipur" scheme, the Thadou Students' Association, General Headquarters (TSA-GHQ) has urged the Education Minister Dr. Thokchom Radheshyam to change the

medium of teaching on the online video in English language, as students of Hill districts cause hardship in understanding the Manipuri language.

A memorandum submitted by the TSA-GHQ stated that 95% of the medium of teaching in the online video are in Manipuri language caused great hardship for the hills students in understanding the lesson. It said that due

to language barriers, students of the hill districts would not receive the true benefits of the tutorial videos.

The TSA - GHQ urged the education Minister to change the medium of teaching to English language so that justice and equality among all the schools in the state is delivered as English is a medium of instruction in all the schools of the state.

Press meet and other public gathering banned at Press Club

IT News
Imphal, May 16:

All Manipur Working Journalists Union General Secretary Khwairakpam Naoba in a press release statement state that due to COVID-19 pandemic in the state an emergency standing committee had a special meeting and discussed about the journalists who are in the frontline. The meeting also reconsiders meeting

resolution of March 22 jointly with AMWJU and EGM. The resolution AMWJU and EGM on March 22 had at Manipur Press Club are- All press meet, conference and public gathering at Manipur Press Club has been banned for the time being. All reporters and correspondents have been advised against participating in press meet called by any individual or organisation. All the organisation and individual wishing to hold or release press statement are

requested to self record and send the press release or video clips through electronic means via mail or Whatsapp of individual media firm or to the authorised given Whatsapp number 8974283214 or email - amvjju1974@gmail.com. All reporters are advised against participating in any media tour or pickup programme for the time being. And all the Government press communications are requested to be sent through the DIPR.

DeMaS extends moral support and monetary help nurses from Manipur; lodge complaint against Physical assault to Manipuri girl at Delhi

IT News
Imphal, May 16:

Delhi Manipuri Society (DeMaS) has extended both moral and monetary support to around 16 nurses from Manipur who are working at New Delhi. Among the 16 nurses, four are nurses who had voluntarily tested for coronavirus at their own expenses before starting their journey for Manipur and later cancelled their journey as they were found COVID-19 positive.

The DeMaS also facilitated to lodge a complaint to Mrs. Soso Shaiza, Member, National Commission for Women regarding physical assault

on a Manipuri - Ms. Nengchoghoi Misao by a local family in Fazlipur, Sector 72, Gurugram on Many 10.

A statement of the DeMaS said that the 4 nurses from Manipur who cancelled their return journey Manipur after they were tested positive are working in Pentamed Hospital, Model Town, Delhi.

Among the four, one Moirangthem Jenita was the first to be found positive. The other three nurses, namely Narmada, Ronibala and Dhnmanjuri, were also tested earlier at the beginning of this month but their results were found to be negative of COVID19(SARS-COV2) at that time. The four nurses are

staying together in the same hostel. On finding positive of co-worker and co-mate in the hostel, families of the other three nurses insisted to return to Manipur. They also requested for quarantining immediately, which could not be facilitated by the Hospital.

Consequently, the three girls put in their papers and planned for return to Manipur in a bus at a cost of Rs. 10,000/- per person. However, not to leave any stone unturned about novel coronavirus, as one of one of their co-mate in the hostel is covid19 positive, they underwent for retests at prognosis laboratories at their own cost of Rs. 4500/-

per patient. The test result showed positive for all the three nurses. Consequently, they abandoned their plan of returning to Manipur.

Senior Members of Delhi Manipuri Society communicated the Delhi Police and Hospital authorities for proper treatment of them. Thereafter, all the four nurses were taken care of by the Pentamed Hospital for treatment in isolation wards. A sum of Rs. 10,000/- each has also been given to each of the four nurses as an encouragement and showing solidarity to the frontline warriors. Together with this, DeMaS has extended solidarity and monetary

contribution Rs. 10,000/- each to 12 Nurses to encourage them as frontline warriors.

The Delhi Manipuri Society also wrote a letter to Sh. Muhammad Akil, Commissioner of Police, Gurugram, Haryana on May 12 to book the perpetrators of the crime against Nengchoghoi Misao.

A statement from the DeMaS said that the three accused - a lady, his son and daughter in law - all have been arrested by the Gurugram Police.

Nengchoghoi Misao has been shifted out to another place by volunteers of the North-East helpline in a home of a Manipuri family.

Wild bird rescued; complaint lodged against killing of wild animals

IT News
Imphal, May 16:

A Co-Ordination Committee on Wildlife and Biodiversity (JCCWB) Manipur and Kakching Range Forest Division today rescued two birds that were trapped in nets and also seized several nets from Khoidum Pat of Sekmajing Maning Leikai in Kakching district at around 5 am today morning.

Co-convenor of the JCCWB Irengbam Sanaton said that the joint team raided the area as they have information about some selfish persons using nets to trap birds during the

COVID-19 pandemic, which is very unfortunate.

He appealed the general public not to trap the wild birds as we cannot survive without friendly nature.

Meanwhile, the Kangpokpi Forest Division Officer, Chimpiling Kigen had lodged a complaint against the alleged killing of two barking deer and one wild boar under Kangpokpi district that has been uploaded at social media (Facebook) on May 15. The post was uploaded from a Facebook user Mangcha khongsai.

The barking deer and wild boar falls under schedule III Animal Protection Act 1979.

★ Editorial

The silver lining

The present pandemic is wreaking havoc the world over cutting through economies, cultures and geographies. People are losing their loved ones to the virus with no clear solution yet in sight despite reports of promising developments in the relentless search for a cure and the dreaded infection is still spreading despite the best efforts around the globe. Healthcare systems of even the most developed countries are overloaded and proving ineffective in containing it, schools are shut with children caught in the uncertainty and their academic schedule in complete disarray. Employees are losing their jobs and companies are staring at bankruptcies in the very near future with no possible solution in sight. Economies around the world are turning their undivided attention to containing the pandemic and pumping in considerable resources for the same while billions are being spent on bailouts and medical aids.

On an individual level, Covid-19 is proving to be a huge stressor tormenting the collective psyche and triggering fears and apprehensions the world over.

However, amidst the uncertainties and overarching fear, there are still a few things that should brighten up our lives and make it that much more bearable. Perhaps the biggest positive change and one which is the most visible would be the change in the environment. With the drastic decrease in industrial activities and almost zero traffic, be it road, rail or air, the atmosphere has improved and pollution is at its lowest level ever since the industrial revolution around the world. The present pandemic has proven to be a boon in disguise for the environment and nature has been given an opportunity to heal itself.

Another upside is the amount of time we get to spend with our families and near ones which, a few months ago would seem such a difficult task what with all the social and professional obligations and schedules. Right now, despite almost all these social activities being curtailed or completely forbidden, life goes on.

We have learnt to adapt and improvise for all the gyms, shopping, meetings, social engagements and even office which occupied almost all our waking hours. We also have the opportunity to sit back and reflect on our priorities, and make changes as the world after the current pandemic would need to adapt and evolve. The virus has also forced governments and organizations across the globe to break the bureaucratic and organizational hurdles and red-tapism and act swiftly, proving effectively that if there is a strong enough stimulus, things can change and old systems can be discarded instantly.

Challenging times such as the present pandemic also offer a great opportunity for social bonding and other ways of reconnecting and extending help. Despite the inability to physically travel and meet people, the feeling of being together against the fight has fostered a feeling of oneness, and as evident in the state and elsewhere, individuals and groups have been extending help and assistance to others by way of cash and kind thereby increasing social coherence. The biggest gain perhaps, from the psychological point of view is the fact that humans are put into our rightful place and are being taught that we cannot and do not control everything around us. All it takes is a virus to drive home the point. Like it or not, we need to accept the fact that things cannot always go the way we want, and no matter how much we live in the Anthropocene- the era characterized by significant human impact- we are not in control. This virus is also making us realize the people who make a difference to our lives and learn to appreciate their roles and efforts. It has made us more conscious of our surroundings and learnt to live with less. In a way we are at the juncture of an important point of evolution.

By -Sanjenbam Sadananda Singh, IRS Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax, Kolkata

Chaoba lost his job again. He used to work in a reputed restaurant in the Capital City. His landlord does no longer want him to stay in his rent. He has some savings but his life is uncertain. Once a lovely place with lot of happenings, the city becomes a hotspot for the Pandemic. Like him, there are many others who are facing a never seen like crisis. It is a nightmare for many people who work in the unorganised sector or private sector. Stuck between a rock and a hard place, he sets out to the home state in the hope of finding solace. Is he to be blamed?

Life as we all know will never be the same again. History taught us lessons and scientific predictions make us cautious. About a century ago, humankind faced natural and manmade disasters in the form of Spanish Flu and First World War. The pandemic claimed more lives than the war itself. It infected more than 500 million people worldwide and millions succumbed to it.

The government has done the right thing to announce the nationwide lockdown early. Manipur was a step ahead. In fact, the Manipur government started the ground work quite early. It started the screening of arriving passengers at the Imphal

International Airport since January. Its also quite commendable to the frontline warriors, local administration, clubs and various NGOs who have made it possible for the government to contain the virus in the first round of fight.

A battle is won but the "War" remains to be won now. Many fellow Manipuris are stranded in various parts of the country. They have gone there for various reasons - education, medical treatment, in a transit, business, and employment to name a few. With the third positive case in Manipur. It becomes a very difficult situation to take a right decision. But to fight the virus with a humane face becomes more important.

In this line, the National Carrier has been the backbone of the Vande Bharat Mission. Similarly, various state governments have started special transport facilities to take home the stranded people. The advantage here is Manipur is not a big state nor has the issue of having huge population. Despite limited resources, it is within the reach of the government to take care of the stranded population. As per the official report, more than forty six thousand people have registered in the website launched by the government. The moot question is can we control a second wave?

With the view to prevent a second wave in mind, all the incoming citizens of the state should be tested irrespective of

the symptoms. If tested negative, quarantine should still be made mandatory as per ICMR guidelines. However, they can be given the liberty to be home quarantined under strict guidelines and eligibility criteria or community quarantined. After completion of mandatory 14 days quarantine, another test should be conducted either at the expense of the returnee or at a subsidised rate. For these, the government constituted observers and local volunteers can be roped in. If somebody in a group of returnees is tested positive, then whole group should be immediately tested.

Since India is in the third stage of the transmission, community awareness is of the prime importance. Once one positive case is detected in the community, the whole area needs mass testing and contact tracing shall become harder. This is why many people are against the idea of taking in the stranded citizens. But since the decision has been taken and the plan has been already rolled out, then no stone should be left unturned to contain a second wave at any cost.

The best practices are out there to be copied from. Providing hygienic basic amenities during the quarantine period is key to calm the body. To calm the mind, some task or arrangement can be made while maintaining social distance like motivational speech or music. Even the return journeys can be

staggered to optimize the available resources - quarantine centres, testing capacity and support staff. If one warrior is affected, everyone who has come into contact with him/her shall be quarantined. Before travel, the stranded people should, if possible test themselves. Positive people should get treated there itself instead of travelling back home. Even while taking the long journey, if social distancing and preventive steps are not taken, then there is chance of contracting the virus from one asymptomatic to even tested negative co-traveller. Preference shall be extended to those with medical conditions and people under certain age category.

This is the time to show the utmost discipline and compassion on the part of the people stranded outside and who are already inside the state. If self-discipline is not observed, the chances of spreading the virus one way or the other is inevitable. It is the responsibility of the returnees to be vigilant and stay discipline at all times even after 14 days quarantine. For these every step has to be planned and no loose end should be there.

The green zone tag is no longer there and a big challenge lies ahead in front of everyone. The game is not over till there is a vaccine. Till then, our first target is to ensure that no new case arises and people should practice social distancing and hygienic lifestyle religiously.

Senior Congress leader slammed for suggesting Govt to 'borrow gold' from religious trusts

By Raju Vernekar Mumbai, May 16

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan is receiving flak from Hindu priests for suggesting the government should borrow gold from religious trust, for combating the economic crunch of the country due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

On Wednesday, Chavan expressed his views on Twitter about 'appropriate' usage of the gold lying with religious trusts in case of "emergency". He said that the country has estimated Rs.76 lakh crore (\$1 Trillion) worth of gold

lying with the sacred trusts, suggesting that the government should seize the gold at a return bid of 1 or 2 % interest, that can be spent on the lower middle and poor class to increase their spending capacity.

However Swami Paramhams, Tapasvi Chhawni in a video message said that "Before taking gold from Hindu temples, money should be taken to combat Coronavirus from Congress leaders who have amassed huge wealth since independence.". He also branded the Congress leaders as 'anti-national' and questioned Chavan for not seeking to borrow

money "from mosques and churches" but Hindu trusts.

Former Mahant of Kashi Vishwanath temple (Uttar Pradesh) Dr Kulpati Tiwari said that Chavan has lost his mental balance and as such a life long ban will be imposed on him and his family by the Kashi Vishwanath temple. The priests of other 12 "Jyotirlingas" in the country should also impose a similar ban on him, he said and added that no Government takes anything donated to temple by devotees. In 1983 a theft had occurred in Kashi Vishwanath temple and that time the Congress was ruling at the centre. As such the Congress must have played active role in that theft, he alleged.

Ramesh Shinde, spokesperson of "Hindu Janjagriti Samiti", alleged that the Congress has been imposing 'anti-Hindu' policies for the last 70 years, and that the party has looted massive public money in the form of scams. Similarly former BJP Lok Sabha MP Kirit Somaia lashed out at Chavan and tweeted a video, alleging whether the demand was made by Chavan on behalf of Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Congress-ruled state government leaders.

Sensing aggravation on his statement, Chavan later tweeted that his suggestion of gold monetisation was not a new one. The Gold Deposit Scheme (GDS) was started back in 1999 by the Vajpayee govt after the fallout of

economic sanctions, post- 1998 Pokhran Atomic tests. The same scheme was later renamed as "Gold Monetisation Scheme" by the Modi government in 2015. "According to a finance ministry report, 20,547 kg of gold has been mobilised by 2,952 entities between November 2015 and January 2020 under the scheme and two temples from Maharashtra have deposited their gold with 11 banks."

Earlier this week, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) (Andhra Pradesh) Chairman YS Subba Reddy had told the media that the trust will not be using gold deposits in the bank, despite the recent loss of Rs.400 crore in revenue and shall use other reserves to pay employees' salaries and take care of expenses for maintenance of the temple. The reserves rule out the gold deposits in the bank, stating that it will not be touched in any scenario, quoting that gold deposits hold 'sentimental issues'. The world's richest temple is reported to have nine tonnes of gold reserve and Rs.14,000 crore fixed deposits in various banks. Some of the richest temples of the country that hold billions of reserves in various banks include Padmanabhaswamy temple in Kerala, Shirdi Sai Baba Shrine (Ahmednagar, Maharashtra) and Siddhivinayak temple in Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Kashi Vishwanath temple (UP).

Lock down: Don't take coercive action against firms on full wages, SC tells govt

IT Correspondent Mumbai, May 16

While dealing with a bunch of petitions filed by different industries challenging the Union Government's directives to pay full wages to workers during the lockdown period, the Supreme Court on Friday directed the government to put on hold its order of 29 March.

In response to the SC's direction, the Solicitor General of India, Tushar Mehta sought time to file a detailed report. Now the hearing of the petitions is scheduled for next week.

A three-judge Bench headed by Justice L. Nageswara Rao

indicated that payment of full wages, as directed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in an order on March 29, may not be viable for small and private enterprises, which themselves are tottering on the brink of insolvency due to the lockdown. Some small units may not have been able to survive a fortnight into the lockdown. The court remarked that the March 29 order was an omnibus one and there were several issues involved that required careful reconsideration from the government side.

The court hearing was based on a batch of petitions filed by several companies challenging the

constitutional validity of the March 29 order, which mandates that industry, shops and commercial establishments, without exception, should pay their workers without any deductions in the name of COVID-19 pandemic.

The petitions have been filed by entities from the micro, small and medium sector against the government's order to pay full wages to their workers. MSME industries have said that they are compelled to slide into insolvency by the government, which has ordered them to continue to 100% pay to their workers. The petitioners even prayed the court to order the government to support them by taking responsibility for 70% of their staffers' pay by drawing funds from PM CARES Fund or the Employees State Insurance Corporation.

"It is implicit in the fundamental right of an employer to trade or business that there is an obligation to pay when work is actually done and there is no obligation if no work

is done. An employer and employee have reciprocal promises whereby the right of an employee to demand salary is reciprocal to performance of work by that employee. The employer has a right to not pay if no work is done," petitions filed by private firms like Nagreeka Exports Limited and Ficus Pax Private Ltd said. Nagreeka said it was engaged in manufacture and export of cotton yarns, fabric and textiles. It said stoppage of operations since the lockdown had led to losses to the tune of Rs.1.50 crore.

The petitioners said that a blanket direction from the government to private establishments to pay full salaries against no work was arbitrary and violative of Article 14 (right to equality), 19(A), (G), 265 and 300 of the Constitution. They also challenged sections 10(2) (1) of the National Disaster Management Act 2005. Iso pending hearing in the Supreme Court and the high courts across the country.

LOST Aadhaar card

The undersigned Lourebam Sundari, D/O Lourebam Sakhi of Nambol Lourebam has lost my Aadhaar card on the way between Nambol Lourebam to Keishampat on May 10, 2020.

Finders are requested to handover the Aadhaar card to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Lourebam Sundari
D/O Lourebam Sakhi
Nambol Lourebam
Bishenpur district, Pin -795134

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