

## KSA objects delimitation base on 2001 or 2011 census; demands fresh census

IT News  
Imphal, May 21:

Kangleipak Students' Association (KSA) has raised strong objection to the delimitation process of parliamentary and state assembly constituencies of the state based on 2001 and 2011 census.

Speaking to reporters at its office today afternoon, President of the student's body N. Chetan said that delimitation should be done based on fresh census to be conducted in 2021. He said that memorandums in the connection will be submitted to the president of India, prime Minister and Home Minister of the Government of India.

Delimitation Commission of India had directed the Speakers of the Manipur Legislative Assembly along with Nagaland, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir to nominate associate members for delimitation of the parliamentary and assembly constituencies of the state. Under the delimitation Act 2002 delimitation had been conducted in 2008 based on the 2001 census across the country leaving aside the

five north east states including Jammu and Kashmir.

Chetan said that delimitation of the constituencies without increasing the number as according to the growth rate cannot be accepted. He added that the five states- Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir were not included in the 2008 delimitation as the population growth found in 2001 census was impossible. As for the state of Manipur, population growth as per 2001 census in the 4 subdivision of Mao-Maram, Paomata, Purul and Chakpikarong, has been extraordinarily increased.

And due to the prevailing law and order problem in the said areas in those time, the delimitation was not done after the approval of the President of India. On March 6, 2020, government has established Delimitation commission for delimitation of the five states based on the 2001 and 2011 census.

Chetan said that KSA will strongly object to any attempt for delimitation based on the 2001 or 2011 census but will welcome delimitation after fresh census of 2021.

## Not all positive cases of Coronavirus are COVID-19 patient – Dr. Palin

IT News  
Imphal, May 21:

Managing Director of the Shija Hospital and research Institution (Shri), Dr. Kh. Palin today said that not all person who are detected with Coronavirus are COVID-19 cases. He said until the symptoms associated with the Coronavirus had been shown a person cannot be treated as COVID-19 patient.

Dr. Palin was answering to people during a live chat in Facebook today afternoon. He said that those people detected Coronavirus have to be isolated so that they don't contact with other people who are not affected by the Coronavirus as the virus can

be transmitted to them. He appealed people not to be panic with the rise of the Coronavirus positive patient as it is expected with more people from outside the state returning to the state.

"As the virus were detected from those who are coming from outside the state, there is no community transmission so far and people need not panic but to remain vigils to fight the pandemic", Dr. Palin said.

Dr. Palin who is also a member of the consultative

Committee of the state level COVID-19 Committee opines for setting up of a separate hospital particularly for COVID-19 patients as mixing up of normal patients may be risk for normal patients. He also suggested Home Quarantine for negative people returning from outside the state as a better option as more care will be taken by family members.

At present the number of Coronavirus positive patients reaches 25 where 2 have recovered.

## Boxer Dingko set to return home

IT News  
Imphal, May 21:

Asian Games gold medalist boxer Dingko Singh has started a journey of 2,400-km to reach his home in Imphal from Delhi. As per reports, he is set to complete the journey in 48 hours without taking any overnight stops. He is accompanied by his wife, a nurse and two drivers who would be travelling with him till Manipur. Singh was in Delhi for his cancer treatment and was also suffering from jaundice. According to reports, he was flown to Delhi with efforts from Boxing Federation of India for his radiotherapy appointment at Delhi's Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS).

Soon after Singh was examined by the doctors, he was suggested chemotherapy instead but couldn't be administered as he was already suffering from jaundice at the time. All this while, Dingko Singh was under quarantine at ILBS. Dingko contracted jaundice in January as was admitted at ILBS in Delhi where he was suspected of having a strong release of a form of live cancer. Since he had already undergone a whole cycle of chemotherapy in 2017, radiation was suggested for him but due to his low blood count, it had to be put off. In an attempt to improve his blood count, he went home in early March after spending six weeks at the ILBS, before returning for treatment only to face a delay again and more problems due to the pan-India lockdown in force.

## Special train brings back stranded Manipuris from Hyderabad

IT News  
Imphal, May 21:

Special train from Hyderabad ferrying stranded residents of Manipur due to the nationwide lockdown imposed to contain the Covid-19 pandemic reached Jiribam Railway Station at 10.00 am today.

35 passengers including 3 (three) babies from Ukhrul district, 47 passengers from Chandel and Tengnoupal districts, 52 passengers from Senapati and Kangpokpi districts,

86 passengers from Churachandpur, Pherzawl and Bishnupur districts, 54 passengers from Thoubal and Kakching districts, 54 including 2 (two) babies from Imphal West district, Kamjong and Noney districts and 7 passengers from Tamenglong district left for their respective districts in 15 buses of the State Transport Department, Government of Manipur.

Also 29 passengers including 1 (one) baby from Jiribam district was

brought back today.

All the returnees travelling in the special train from Hyderabad were screened by the authorities at the Jiribam Railway Station. The returnees boarded the buses after undergoing necessary screening process and following other mandatory procedures under the supervision of the Jiribam District Administration.

The returnees will remain in isolation at the Community Quarantine Centres of their respective districts for 14 days.

## Amphan kills 12 people in Bangladesh

By- Siam Sarower Jamil,  
Dhaka, May 21:

At least 12 people died as super cyclone Amphan battered the coastal areas of Bangladesh leaving a trail of destruction before weakening gradually, Bangladesh authorities said.

Health Emergency Operations control room confirmed the death of 12 people - two each in Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur and Jashore districts and one each in Barishal, Sathkhira, Jhenaidah and Chittagong districts.

The victims include a Red Crescent volunteer Syed Shah Alam, who drowned after his boat capsized due to strong winds in Kalapara area of

Patuakhali.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department said the cyclone completed crossing Bangladesh coast at night and was staying over Jhenaidah in the morning. It was moving towards Rajshahi and Pabna region after being weakened gradually.

Maritime ports Mongla and Payra had been advised to lower the great danger signal 10 and hoist local cautionary signal three.

Maritime ports Chattogram and Cox's Bazar were also advised to hoist local cautionary signal three.

Authorities of different government department said they were still assessing the damage in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.

'We had nearly 1.5 crore clients without power until 5.00am. We are trying to restore the supply. But polls were collapsed in many areas and cables were torn apart,' said Major General (retired) Moin Uddin, the chairman of Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board.

Bangladesh Water Development Board said the cyclone had damaged embankments in many areas causing flood.

The Amphan is touted to be the most powerful cyclone in the Bay of Bengal since a devastating super-cyclone in 1999 killed more than 9,000 people in Odisha.

## COVID-19 recovery rate improves to 40.31 pct

Agency  
New Delhi, May 21:

Health and Family Welfare Ministry said that a total 45 thousand 300 people affected with corona virus have cured and the recovery rate reached to 40.31 per cent in the country. During the last twenty four hours, three thousand two people have recovered and five thousand 609 fresh cases of COVID-19 have been reported taking the total number of cases to one lakh 12 thousand 359. A total 132 deaths have been registered in last 24 hours taking the nationwide toll to three thousand 435.

A total one lakh three thousand 532 samples of corona virus were tested in the last 24 hours. Indian Council of Medical Research said that the total number of tests reached to 26 lakh 15 thousand 920 in the country. Meanwhile, ICMR is continuously scaling up its testing facilities for COVID-19 by giving approval to government and private laboratories. As of now, total 567 laboratories across India have been given approval to conduct the test for COVID-19 including 396 government laboratories and 173 private laboratories' chains.

The Ministry said, 3 thousand 27 dedicated Covid hospitals and health centres along with more than 6 lakh 50 thousand Covid Care Centres have been identified. More than 2.81 lakh isolation beds and 11 thousand 387 oxygen supported beds have already been identified in dedicated Covid hospitals and health centres. Ministry said, government has supplied 65 lakh PPE coveralls and more than one crore N95 masks to the states. In addition, the government is involving epidemiologists at all levels in order to combat COVID-19.

Agency  
New Delhi, May 21:

The booking of tickets for 200 trains which will run from 1st of June commenced from 10 AM today. Railways said these trains will be fully reserved trains having both AC and Non AC classes. General coaches shall also have reserved seat for sitting. There will be no unreserved coach in the train. Only four categories of Divyangjan concession and eleven categories of patient concessions are permitted in these special trains.

Railways Ministry said, these special services will be in addition to the existing Shramik special trains and Special AC trains. The Ministry said, other regular Passenger services including all mail and express, passenger and suburban services shall remain cancelled until further advice. The fare in these trains will be normal and for General coaches, second

seating fare shall be charged and seat will be provided to all the passengers. No catering charges will be included in the fare. Provision for prepaid meal booking, and e-catering shall be disabled.

AIR correspondent reports that all stalls at stations including food plazas will be opened but only take away food will be given. For these trains, only online E-Ticketing can be done through IRCTC website or through Mobile App. No tickets will be booked across the reservation counter on any Railway Station. The Advance Reservation Period will be a maximum of 30 days. RAC and Wait list will be generated. However, waiting list ticket holders will not be permitted to board the train. No tatkal and premium tatkal booking shall be permitted in these trains. Only passengers with Confirmed tickets will be allowed to enter the Railway station.

## No stone will be left unturned in helping Cyclone affected people: PM Modi

Agency  
New Delhi, May 21:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said, no stone will be left unturned in helping the Cyclone Amphan affected people. In a series of tweets, Mr. Modi said, the NDRF teams are working in the cyclone affected parts and top officials are closely monitoring the situation and also working in close coordination with the West Bengal government.

The Prime Minister said, he has been seeing visuals from West Bengal on the devastation caused by the Cyclone and in this challenging hour, the entire nation stands in solidarity with the state. Mr. Modi said, he is praying for the well-being of the people of the state. He added that efforts are on to ensure normalcy.

The Prime Minister also said, his thoughts are with the people of Odisha as the state bravely battles the effects of Cyclone Amphan.

Authorities are working on the ground to ensure all possible assistance to the those affected. Mr. Modi said, he prays that the situation normalizes at the earliest.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Amit Shah has said that Government is closely monitoring the cyclone Amphan and are in continuous touch with concerned authorities. Mr. Shah also spoke to Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over situation arising due to the cyclone and assured all possible help from centre.

The Home Minister said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is committed for the safety and security of every citizen. He said, NDRF teams are already on ground to help people in need. He urged people of West Bengal and Odisha to stay indoor and follow instructions. He prayed for everyone's safety and well being.

## Domestic passenger flights are slated to resume from May 25 in a phased manner

IT Correspondent  
Delhi/Mumbai, May 21:

Domestic passenger flight operations are expected to commence from Monday, 25 May in a calibrated manner, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Puri said in a tweet. To this extent, the Ministry of Civil Aviation will share standard operating procedures with all airports and airlines.

While the earlier indications were that flights may start between airports situated in green zone areas, air-

lines had raised the issue of viability for operating such flights. Even as most major centres such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, etc are still classified as red zone areas. Only after a clearance from certain state governments the flights can be operated from these areas.

Some state governments including West Bengal had earlier expressed concern about resuming flight operations. In addition to this, certain state governments have been apprehensive of allowing people from

locations highly impacted by Covid19 to enter their borders. Puri said that it was not up to the Centre alone to decide on resuming domestic flights. "In the spirit of cooperative federalism, the government of states where these flights will take off and land should be ready to allow civil aviation operations,".

A detailed set of standard operating procedures is being worked on by the government in consultation with the aviation industry and going by the initial feedback, a number of new rules

and regulations are expected to be put into place that will change the flying experience.

These new guidelines include mandatory social distancing at airports, revisions in the way security procedures are conducted to ensure minimal contact, use of face masks and personal protective equipment by passengers and employees, among others. A variety of new health checks may also be instituted that could result in longer queues at airports and increased wait times.

# ★ Editorial

## Counting on our collective responsibilities

The count is increasing from a trickle to a steady flow and the trend is more than likely to increase in the coming days with thousands more coming back from various places across the country more of which are already the most affected zones of Covid-19 pandemic. Many in the state are getting vocal of their growing concern for the efficiency and stringency of the quarantine centres being set up in different places to accommodate the thousands who are returning home.

The concern seen legitimate given the reports of mismanagements and lack of coordination in a number of these designated quarantine centres ranging from wining and dining by outsiders inside these centres to reports of quarantined persons roaming outside the designated centres. There are also repeated reports of returnees who are made to wait for hours and shuffling between centres before assigning one to them. Reports of inadequate facilities are also getting to a frequent event. These unfolding unfortunate events points to a flaw in the overall system of managing and running the centres and also an evident lack of coordination by the authorities.

The state government and those entrusted with the administration of these centres must immediately draw up and implement a standard procedure and practice for all the centres across the state including diet and hygiene. While the task is admittedly challenging and humans make mistakes even with the best laid plans, this is one time anything less than perfection will mean the difference between life and death. It would, however, be irresponsible on our part to dump everything on the state government and wash our hands off. Everybody in the state is in this fight as much as any government official or frontline health workers and any lack of cooperation or disregard of social protocol will certainly put everybody's efforts to waste. We should not hesitate to remind anyone who does not follow protocol of the dangers and risks to their lives and others. And for those who are quarantined at the designated centres across the state, it would prove more productive if their stay is considered a social responsibility rather than a favour to the society and bear the insignificant hiccups in management or facilities which are bound to happen from time to time. One other dilemma the public is facing during the present lockdown is that of the state security forces imposing penalty or 'fine' on 'curfew violators' while shops are allowed to remain open for specific period. The habit of bunching up even during waiting in queues is another issue we need to address ourselves.

These social norms are implemented for the benefit of the public in that these social obligations may become habit over time and will definitely help save lives- our own and that of others. We need to have this concept clear. Meanwhile, shops, petrol pumps and other public utility places should enforce social norms on the customers without which their service should be denied. Cooperation, coordination and a mindful approach can certainly save us from the scourge of Covid-19 pandemic.

## Is the NF Railway men free from checking or screening while entering the state?

IT News  
Imphal, May 21:

When it is mandatory for stranded Manipuris to check and screen for symptoms on COVID-19 while entering the state of Manipur, Many outsiders who are associated with the North Eastern Railway currently engaged in the construction work of Rail track from Jiribam to Imphal reportedly went unchecked risking the state of raising the number of COVID-19 cases.

A source close to Imphal Times said that the ongoing construction works for rail track between Jiribam to Khongsang is monitored by Silchar Office of the NF Railway and the remaining are monitored by the Imphal office of the NF Railway. Those engaged in the railway construction were let free in crossing the Assam and Manipur border without checking at Jiribam side and there is a huge possibility that many outsiders have entered the state without being screened.

The matter surfaced after a top official of the NF Railway ferried his wife, sons and daughter from

Silchar to Imphal without being checked or screened. According to the source one Premprakash Pandey, the Deputy Chief Engineer 1 of Imphal NF Railway went to Silchar to receive his wife, sons and daughter, who had come from Delhi. The Deputy Chief Engineer along with his family reached Imphal on May 17 evening through Jiribam without screening.

On their way to Imphal the family stayed at Khongsang Railway Guest house for two day and had lunch at Noney. What is shocking is that the Deputy Chief Engineer at first refused quarantine which is mandatory for all, however, on the complaint by citizens, a police team of Imphal West led by the Officer in Charge took them for quarantine.

Earlier, a large number of labourers of the NF Railway were found loitering at Nambol area. Civil body Joint Action Committee on Inner Line Permit System had questioned on how those labourers managed to enter the state without proper checking as they didn't possess any documents for entering the state.

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## NSCN (IM) reacts to Manipur Govt statement on unauthorized camp

IT News  
Imphal, May 21:

The NSCN (IM) has asked the Manipur Government and political leaders that are at the helm of affairs in Manipur to exercise caution and restrain from giving out any "irresponsible statement to provoke the Nagas."

The NSCN (IM) was reacting to the Manipur Chief Secretary's letter to Union Home Secretary regarding "unauthorized camps of NSCN-IM in Manipur." "NSCN-IM have taken note of the Manipur Chief Secretary writing a letter to Union Home Secretary (Govt. of India) as prodded by the UCM, wherein he mentioned that the Indo-Naga

ceasefire does not extend to the state of Manipur. He has taken strong exception to what he said as unauthorized camps of NSCN-IM in Manipur. We are, however, constrained to point out that the ceasefire covers all Naga territories and thus, peace process covers all Naga territories. This spirit has guided the 22 years of Indo-Naga political talks throughout. It was this mutual understanding and respect that has carried the talks this far," said a NSCN (IM) statement. The NSCN (IM) regretted that amidst the worldwide battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Committee Manipur (UCM) has fired a salvo against the NSCN-

IM in particular and to the Nagas in general. "Such a repeated spiteful remark by UCM against the Nagas is not going anywhere to reverse the historical reality and movement that has brought about the ongoing Indo-Naga political talks running more than twenty two (22) years. More than that, such an absurdity shall not succeed the final scrutiny of Naga people's sacrifice for over seventy (70) years that is recorded in blood, sweat and tears," it said. The statement said notwithstanding the UCM's attempt "to create volatile situation we have the dignity to say that NSCN-IM have great respect and good relationship with the Meitei

people." "Therefore, UCM should restrain itself from inciting its own people," it stated. The NSCN -IM stated that it has the foresight that Indo-Naga political solution will bring about peace in the northeast region of India and will immensely benefit the people of Manipur, politically and economically. "Meanwhile, Manipur government and the political leaders that are at the helm of affairs should exercise caution and restrain themselves from giving out any irresponsible statement to provoke the Nagas, lest it turn out to be a historical blunder and undo the age old relationship detrimental to all," it added.

## Lifting and distribution of PDS items in the state underway

IT News  
Imphal, May 21:

PDS rice allocated for the month of May, 2020 continues to be lifted from several Godowns located at various parts of the State. A total of 4,586.41 quintal of rice under National Food Security Act (NFSA) was lifted in Imphal West District today. The lifted rice included 540.2 quintal for Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency (A/C), 378.8 quintal for Yaikul A/C, 1,769.56 quintal for Naoirya Pakhanglakpa A/C and 1,897.85 quintal for Langthabal A/C.

In respect of Imphal East District, there was report of

lifting of dal allocated for the month of April, 2020 under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for its Keirao A/C - 65.44 quintal, Andro A/C - 84.92 quintal and Wangkhei A/C - 105.28 quintal today. A total of 91.30 quintal of dal allocated for the month under Non NFSA left out was also lifted today consisting of 29.33 quintal, 41.27 quintal and 20.70 quintal for Keirao A/C, Andro A/C and Wangkhei A/C respectively.

In the District, 91.13 quintal, 82.77 quintal and 74.74 quintal of dal under PMGKAY was lifted for Khurai A/C, Lamalai A/C and Khundrakpam A/C respectively on 19th May,

2020 too. The three A/Cs also lifted dal under Non NFSA left out on the same day consisting of 31.17 quintal for Khurai A/C, 16.97 quintal for Lamalai A/C and 26.41 quintal for Khundrakpam A/C. 1,812.80 quintal of rice under PMGKAY was also lifted for Kshetrigao A/C on 19th May, 2020.

Lilong A/C of Thoubal District reported lifting of 962.05 quintal of PMGKAY rice and 197.65 quintal of rice under OMSS today. Wabagai A/C of Kachhing District too lifted 835.65 quintal of rice under NFSA from FCS Godown, Sangaprou today.

Tamei A/C of Tousem Sub-Division lifted 307.15 quintal of

PMGKAY rice today from FCI Godown, Jiribam. The A/C also lifted 307.15 quintal of rice under the same scheme on 19th May, 2020.

Apart from lifting, distribution of PDS rice was carried out in some A/Cs of the State. 3,338.4 quintal under PMGKAY was distributed to beneficiaries of Langthabal A/C and Wangoi A/C of Imphal West District. 20 quintal under OMSS was also distributed to trucks drivers in the District. In Thoubal District too, 299.80 quintal under PMGKAY and 62.40 quintal under OMSS was distributed to the beneficiaries of Lilong A/C.

## Over 200 booked in connection with misuse of social media in Maharashtra

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, May 21:

The Maharashtra Cyber police has taken into custody nearly 213 people in 400 odd cases of misuse of social media, including offensive WhatsApp messages, sharing abusive Facebook posts and has removed 102 objectionable posts.

The cases include : 170 cases of forwarding offensive WhatsApp messages, 158 of sharing abusive Facebook posts and posting religious messages related to Coronavirus and spreading misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh's directions to the Special Inspector General of Police, the Cyber Cell, has decided to take strict action against cybercriminals, in a bid to curb the spread of rumours and misinformation on social media. The Cyber police has begun stringent action against offenders, by serving notices under section 149 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc) to the culprits.

The state's cyber cell is now keeping a close watch on controversial videos on Tiktok, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms. Till first May, the cell has registered at

least 400 offences at various police stations across the state amid the COVID-19 lockdown. They include 18 offences related to Tik Tok video shares, 07 offences related to objectionable tweets, 04 offences related to wrong Instagram posts and 43 offences related to misuse of audio clips/ You Tube, Deshmukh said and added that women's safety would be given the top priority.

The crimes include making Tik-Tok videos, posting various provocative posts on social media, spreading misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic, taking names of Coronavirus victims besides posting false

posters to defame political leaders.

Offences like slander, personal attack, online financial fraud are included in cyber crimes. The alleged offender can be prosecuted under the Indian Penal Code 1860, Information Technology Act 2008, besides other laws. To prevent such crimes, strict action is taken also under section 149 of the CrPc 1973 by sending individual notices to offenders.

Warning the companies running Tik-Tok, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms in India, Deshmukh has directed them to immediately remove misleading and socially divisive content from their platforms.

## Liquor stock to reach wine shops from bars and hotels in Maharashtra

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, May 21:

In response to pleas from a hospitality association, the Maharashtra Excise dept has decided to allow hotels and bars to sell their stocks of perishable Indian Made foreign liquor (IMFL) to wine shops, so that the hoteliers could recover the loss to some extent.

In an order issued by Maharashtra Principal Secretary (Excise) Valsa Nair Singh, the department has permitted establishments holding FL3 licences to sell stocks of imported beer and wine to wine shops. However, the establishments will have to apply for special transport passes from local authorities in order to complete these transactions.

As per the ongoing lockdown rules, hotels, bars and restaurants are barred from selling liquor to valid permit holders for consumption on premises. "The exemption from the lockdown rules, which have ordered bars, hotels and restaurants to remain shut, will remain in force until the lockdown ends or until stocks last", states the order. Singh said that the exemption was aimed at ensuring that stocks of perishable liquor do not expire. "We are trying to make it easier for establishments to sell their stocks," she said.

However, Gurbaxish Singh Kohli, president of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI), described the order as "illogical". "Why would wine

shops want to buy liquor from us when they have greater sales than we do? We will have to sell our stocks to them at MRP or less," he said and added that establishments would be reluctant to get into the process of applying for transport passes. This order is a knee-jerk reaction to what we had asked for. We will write to the Excise department asking what this order means".

The Maharashtra government on Tuesday announced that it will allow liquor shops to provide home delivery services subject to conditions for both the buyer and the seller. This scheme would be applicable to only those who have permits to consume alcohol. However, the order, issued by the state home department, will come into effect only after guidelines are finalised.

Only those who have permit for drinking can order home delivery. Liquor shops which have been allowed to reopen since 5 May, will be able to take orders on phone. The purpose is to avoid crowding at liquor stores and prevent the spread of coronavirus.

"The mode of payment has to be decided by the buyer and the seller. A person can order up to 12 IMFL (Indian-Made Foreign Liquor) bottles," an official said and added that the rules regarding possession of various types of liquor at home are displayed on the Excise department's website which buyers can check before ordering.

The decision comes after social distancing norms were flouted at several liquor shops that amid the lock down.