

COVID-19 case in Manipur : Positive cases reach 51, building complex in Imphal East declared as containment zone

IT News

Imphal, May 28:

With 7 (seven) more tested Coronavirus positive late yesterday evening, the total number of confirmed positive Coronavirus case reached 51 in the state of Manipur. On the other hand total number of positive patient tested negative also reached 5 with the another positive case tested negative. Total active positive Coronavirus case stands at 46. Authority are expecting rise in the number of patient

with the increase in the number of Manipuri residents from outside the state. All the persons who have been detected with coronavirus are outsiders who had returned to the state. State government authority said that the virus is not spreading at community level due to the strict measures being taken up.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner of the Imphal East district had sealed a school complex at Kabo Leikai in Imphal East after two person who were under quarantined

after returning from Delhi were tested positive with coronavirus. Location of the school building is at Revenue Village 25 A-Kabo Leikai Nongpok.

Source said that, the two persons – one from Dewland and other from Telpati in Imphal east were reportedly found loitering around the area leaving the quarantined centers. Both were reportedly arrested by a police team. Unfortunately the result of both came out positive with coronavirus.

Issue raised over escalation of cost of raw materials of handloom products

IT News

Imphal, May 28:

While the governments both at the centre as well as the state level are taking steps to increase the production of handloom across the nation in view of the impending shortages due to the increased utilization of fabrics for various medical equipments and other necessary accessories for combating the Covid-19 pandemic which is wreaking havoc around across the world, an unfortunate issue is emerging

which could very well escalate into a major problem in the state. According to Leima Traders- a business house dealing in handloom products, the price of handloom fabrics has gone up considerably since the lockdown began across the country as a result of a sharp hike in the price of raw materials. According to the traders, a standard bundle of cotton yarn hanks weighing about 4 kilos costs around Rupees 500 more than the normal price, for example a bundle

of silk yarn hanks costing Rs 2400/2500 before the lockdown is at present costing Rs 3000. Similarly, Silk yarn hanks costing Rs 820 per bundle now costs Rs 1150. The increase in the cost of inputs has forced a sharp rise in the Retail/Selling price of the finished products which is affecting not only sales but even production for some weavers. The traders also expressed the need for the state government to inquire into the matter and resolve the matter before things take a bad turn.

Meira Paibi Numit observed

IT News

Imphal, May 28:

Meira Paibi Numit Observation Committee comprising of representatives from Poiri Leimarol Meira Paibi Apunba Manipur, MEPWAK and AMAWOVA today observed the annual 'Meira Paibi Numit' with floral offerings at the bust of Meira Paibi at Khurai Salanhong while observing lockdown regulations laid down by the state authorities by a limited number of representatives. The committee also presented food items to the family of Late Sinam Ongbi Priyari as assistance during the lockdown.

RD Minister elaborates on importance of site visit

IT News

Imphal, May 28:

Technical Assistants of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme should visit work sites before preparation of Work Estimate, said Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh today.

The Minister was addressing a One-day Meeting Cum Interaction Programme on Preparation of Work Estimates, Schedule of Rates, Etc. in SECURE, which was held at the Pachayat

Bhavan, SIRD Campus Porompat.

Biswajit elaborated that visit to the work sites will help the Technical Assistants in understanding the nature of work and help them in preparation of estimates of projects.

He further instructed the Technical Assistants and the officials concerned to start preparing estimates for 100 days so that the preparation can be concluded during the rainy days. This will ensure that uninterrupted works can be undertaken soon after the rainy season.

Donation to CM's COVID-19 relief fund

IT News

Imphal, May 28:

The Manipur Home Guard Employees Welfare Association today donated Rs. 1 lakh to CM Covid-19 Relief Fund. The amount was handed over to the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh by Y. Mangi President of Manipur Home Guard Employees Welfare Association. Battalion Commanders of Home Guards Md. Rashimuddin, Md. Abdulhai, Md. Yakup Ali and others were present during the solemn function.

It may be recalled that the Manipur Home Guard Employees Welfare Association had earlier donated Rs. 2 lakhs to the CM Covid-19 Relief Fund.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh expressed profound gratitude to the Manipur Home Guard Employees Welfare Association for donating to the CM Covid-19 Relief Fund.

SDO assures to evict encroachers at Along River bank

IT News

Thoubal, May 28:

Sub Divisional Officer (SDO) of Thoubal M. Ingocha today assures to evict various constructions that were found at the River bank of Along River at Athokpam site in Thoubal district while inspecting the site along with Club members, BJP workers and Social worker Th. Jadumani.

"Construction by encroaching River bank is violation the law and various such encroachers have been evicted in Imphal West area some 2 years back", M. Ingocha said.

He assures to investigate on how the constructions were made.

Th. Jadumani, who is also a former Vice -President of the Manipur Pradesh BJP, expressed discontentment in seeing new construction being taken place when there are standing orders to prevent any form of constructions at River bank.

More Manipuri residents return from Delhi and Bengaluru in special train

IT News

Imphal, May 28:

Special train from Bengaluru, Karnataka and New Delhi ferrying stranded residents of Manipur, due to the nationwide lockdown imposed to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, reached Jiribam Railway Station yesterday.

Of those return from Bengaluru, 169 passengers, including 5 babies from Ukhrul and Noney districts in 4 buses, 189 passengers, including 2 babies from Churachandpur and Pherzawl districts in 5 buses, 39 passengers from Kakching district in 2 buses, 47 passengers, including a baby from Chandel district in 2 buses, 41 passengers from Tengnoupal district in 2 buses, 182 passengers from Imphal East district in 5 buses, 32 passengers from Kamjong district in a bus, 284 passengers from Imphal West district in 8 buses, 214 passengers from Thoubal district in 7 buses, 32 passengers from Tamenglong district in a bus, 105 passengers from

Senapati district in 3 buses, 153 passengers from Kangpokpi district in 4 buses, 122 passengers from Bishnupur district in 4 buses left for their respective districts. 47 buses of the State Transport Department were utilised to dispatch the returnees.

Of those return from New Delhi, 199 passengers from Ukhrul district in 5 buses, 36 passengers from Noney district in a bus, 157 passengers from Churachandpur and Pherzawl districts in 4 buses, 57 passengers from Chandel and Tengnoupal districts in 2 buses, 39 passengers from Imphal East district in a bus, 81 passengers from Kamjong district in 3 buses, 133 passengers from Kangpokpi district in 4 buses, 152 passengers from Senapati district in 5 buses, 37 passengers from Thoubal district in a bus, 38 passengers from Kaching district in a bus, 78 passengers from Tamenglong in 2 buses, 45 passengers from Bishnupur district in 2 buses

and 73 passengers from Imphal West in 2 buses were taken to their respective districts.

Meanwhile, remaining 109 passengers of the train were taken in 3 buses to a quarantine centre in Imphal. 36 State Transport Department buses were utilised for ferrying the 1,234 returnees.

It is worth mentioning here that due to the inclement weather the returnees from the districts of Thoubal, Senapati, Kangpokpi and Bishnupur were dispatched for their respective districts yesterday morning.

At the Jiribam Railway Station, all the returnees travelling in the special train from Bengaluru were screened by the authorities. The returnees boarded the buses after undergoing necessary screening process and other mandatory procedures under the supervision of the Jiribam District Administration. They will remain in isolation at the community quarantine centres for 14 days.

AIYF condemns denial of reservation for OBCs in Medical education

IT News

Imphal, May 28:

All India Youth Federation (AIYF) has condemned the denial of OBCs in the allocation of medical seats for the past 3 years since 2017.

A statement of the student body signed by its President Aitab Alam Khan and General Secretary Thirumala Raman said that reservation policy is being

undermined by the BJP government controlled by RSS which is always against social justice and reservation. "Since 2017, under NEET, OBCs are not provided mandatory 27% reservation in all India polled quota of medical seats", the statement said. It added that those seats have been transferred to general category and hence 10,000

OBC students have been denied opportunity for medical education for last 3 years.

The left wing student body blamed the BJP government terming it as a policy to benefit the upper class students only.

The AIYF demanded allotment of 27% reservation seat to OBCs in the All India Medical Seat allotment.

CBSE students allowed to appear for exams in their home town

IT Correspondent

New Delhi, May 28:

Since many of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) students have shifted to their home town due to the constant extension of coronavirus lockdown, CBSE board has decided to shift the examination centres to their present location, for the examinations of remaining subjects to be held from first July to 15 July, 2020.

CBSE Secretary Anurag Tripathi said that "It has come to notice that due to closure of schools because of the spread of Covid-19 and lockdown, some students are now not present at the station from where they were appearing in the examination prior to postponement of the exams, and it would be difficult for them to appear in the scheduled examination from their existing examination centre. Keeping in view the problem of the candidates, who have shifted to other districts than the district of their examination centre. CBSE has decided to shift their examination centre to

their present district". The notification will be issued by CBSE in the first week of June 2020 in this regard. Such candidates are informed that they should remain in touch with their own schools and as soon as CBSE issues notification, they should take the suggested action," the press release said.

Union HRD Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' on Wednesday, had also said through twitter, that the CBSE Class 10 and 12 students who have moved to different states or their home districts during the coronavirus lockdown can appear for their pending board examinations there. This announcement is expected to give a big respite to thousands of CBSE students who had moved to their home state or districts in view of the COVID-19 crisis.

A total of 18 lakh candidates have been registered for class 10th board exams, while the class 12 lakh students are appearing for 12th board exam.

SIM swap fraud is a new

kind of fraud that is running around in the market and a lot of people have fallen prey to it. It is a sophisticated form of fraud and falls under social engineering. Fraudsters will distribute phishing emails, trying to ascertain as much personal information from victims as possible. Then this personal information is used to swap SIM card.

To avoid falling victim to this scam, users should always exercise caution when revealing personal information online. As such one should use authenticator apps or services which encrypt messages and are not tied to SIM. One should also avoid using SMS as the primary form of authentication with the bank.

If the calls or texts stop all of a sudden, one should reach out to the service provider to check. One should not disclose the Internet banking password or personal identification number (PIN) to anyone. The banks never ask for this. Usually such calls are made from other states, Payguide said.

Terror charges framed against Arakanese editor

By - NJ Thakuria

Guvahati, May 28:

Interviewing a leader of an armed outfit in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) and publishing its substance through a portal can be termed as a serious offence against the concerned editor. The fate of Khaing Mrat Kyaw, chief editor of Narinjara news portal, based in Sittwe of Rakhine (also known as Arakan) province in western Myanmar indicates the state of media's freedom in the southeast Asian country.

While the world is fighting against Covid-19 pandemic with over a hundred thousand casualties, the Myanmar authorities have framed charges of glorifying terrorism against the editor for uploading an interview

with Khaing Thu Ka, spokesperson of Arakan Army, an ethnic revolutionary group, which Myanmar federal government in NayPiTaw recently denounced as a terrorist organization.

The rebels are reportedly fighting for a homeland for Buddhist Rakhine people in the line of ancient Arakan Kingdom. Rich in natural resources, the Arakan province drew the attention of international media three years back with Rohingya Muslim issues. Myanmar military,

known as Tatmadaw, launched a violent campaign against Rohingya people forcing over seven hundred thousand Muslim settlers to leave for Bangladesh.

Presently the Arakanese editor is hiding to avoid impending arrest.

The police on 31 March 2020 raided Narinjara's office in Sittwe and even temporarily detained three scribes namely Thein Zaw, Aung Lin Htun and Htun Khaing for questioning. Later on 7 April, they reached to the apartment belonged to KM Kyaw in Yangon and also interrogated his wife on his where about.

Narinjara group that publishes news bulletins both in Burmese and English covers various issues particularly related to Rakhine including the ongoing armed conflicts between Myanmar security personnel and rebel ethnic outfits who remain active in Arakan and Chin provinces.

Various media rights bodies have criticized the NayPiTaw regime for charging KM Kyaw under the

counter-terrorism laws and urged Myanmar's special branch to immediately withdraw the procedures. Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) stated that if convicted, the editor would face at least 10 years of imprisonment with heavy fines.

CPJ representative Shawn Crispin commented that the authority should stop threatening journalists who were covering enduring armed conflict and rebel groups in Myanmar. Branding those journalists as terrorists is none other than assaulting the press freedom, she asserted. Earlier Myanmar Press Council also sent a letter to the President Win Myint along with State counselor Aung San Suu Kyi with an appeal to withdraw charges against KM Kyaw.

★ Editorial

Need for greater aggression and sterner actions against Covid-19 pandemic.

“Attack is the secret of defence; defense is the planning of an attack.” - Sun Tzu, The Art of War

It is often said that attack is the best form of defence. “The best defense is a good offense” is an adage that has been applied to many fields of endeavor, including games and military combat but most importantly to everyday efforts which could make our lives that much more satisfying. The present efforts towards combating the Covid-19 pandemic has evidently been focused on containment and harm reduction the world over.

To be fair, the scale of virulence and speed of transmission of the present pandemic caught the world unaware, and ever since have been eluding a cure despite the best and relentless efforts of the best minds and technologies. It has been almost five months since the outbreak, and even without a specific line of accepted treatment, there has been incredible progress and promising developments in the search for an effective antidote, and hopefully one could be found sooner than later. Even without a definite cure, experts have managed to study and understand a great deal about the virus and its characteristics- enough to formulate an effective defensive strategy which unfortunately a huge number of the public even in developed countries have so far failed to follow.

Meanwhile, the rate of transmission continues to grow in most countries across the world, and many are increasingly of the view that it is time to change strategy and adopt a more aggressive manner of combating the pandemic. This new wave of thinking is gaining wide acceptance as it has been proven more times than not that early detection and effective isolation has so far proven to be almost effective in fighting the pandemic, but unfortunately this understanding has not been able to be put to practice as the volume of testing of suspected cases is still very low despite the assurance of the authorities including the Chief Minister of Manipur.

If the past is anything to go by in the state, these assurances and declarations will mean little until any concrete steps are taken up, as it has become an accepted practice for the government to equate assurances with actual accomplishments albeit without nothing much to show for it in terms of actual results. These practices and mute acceptances have a lot to do with the public perception or rather the lack of it, and if this is to change, the public needs to be more proactive and vocal about issues that needs concrete implementation. There also remains the immediate concern of dealing with those returnees flaunting institutional quarantine regulations which are unfortunately on the increase.

To sum up, the world and the state needs to adopt an aggressive approach towards fighting the present pandemic, and one of the most important aspect would be to sensitize the public in order to ensure their cooperation and support without which the best efforts of the authorities, even with the best of intents would prove to be an exercise in futility.

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They swam ashore whi



By - Kamal Baruah

They're always ready for action and their journeys always filled with joys in despair that lead to destination. They move bases one after another frequently that only people in the military will understand what TDs (Temporary Duty) are all about. They're forced to embrace such reality and their kit bags always came first for another move that survive military for any adventure at worst. By doing so, he encountered the most dreadful day at Car Nic, a lesser known island of Andaman and Nicobar where a few are only inhabited. His ideas of islands were a few dots while drawing India map on schooldays. It was a mistaken belief as islands are quite large where even commercial flights run between Port Blair and Campbell Bay via Car Nicobar.

Sundays are usually meant to be a day of rest for men in blue. They were lazily lounging on the 1st floor watching scenic beauty of rising and falling of the sea. He sat sipping tea at 08:30 morning on that fateful Boxing Day beside the sandy, stony, rocky land with the

wind driven waves of sea. It was seen peace, calm and sanity as the seashore was remote from the usual tourist routes. His friend a photography enthusiast was capturing the long high tides while a few tourists were sea bathing. Tidal waves were at times gentle but he realised that waves were not caused by gravitational interactions between the Sun, moon and Earth. Something went wrong when he gradually observed into the series of waves and it really crept into his thought.

Suddenly the ocean waves became violent. It was tsunami sending powerful blow to the islands thirty minutes after an earthquake under Indian Ocean at West Coast of Sumatra Indonesia. They heard shouts & cries in despair and people ran for safety. Within a short period, everything washed away by series of rising waves of 100 feet height of a large volume of turbulent water that continued for hours. They were literally swimming inside the building like the sinking Titanic with no immediate clues in mind. Over the course of few hours, people perished while running towards high ground. Localities miraculously survived by taking refuge in trees, floating on debris or piece of wood on a desperate act. The scale of the devastation was very high in single story residential quarters. They swam ashore trapped inside the mess for several hours until floodwaters had receded.

It drags victim's mind to the grim reality of how much havoc the fury of nature can create while surviving the tsunami. It was a

JFA welcomes NCW mo

IT News
Guwahati, May 28:

Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA) welcomes the move of National Commission for Women (NCW) to issue a show-cause notice to a city based satellite news channel for forcing a reporter to resign because she was

pregnant. The forum also agrees with NCW that the channel management had shown an insensitive attitude towards the cribe, who worked there for over a decade.

Days back, expressing deep shock and concern 'at the manner in which Guwahati based journalist