

## NPF MLA Awangbou Newmai inducted as Minister in N. Biren Singh led Govt.

IT News

Imphal, May 29:

MLA of the Naga Peoples' front (NPF) Awangbou Newmai has been inducted as Minister of the N. Biren Singh led government of Manipur today. He takes oath as Minister today evening.

With the induction of Awangbou Newmai in the state Cabinet, NPF now have 2 cabinet ministers in the BJP led government of Manipur. NPF MLAL. Dikho is already in the Ministry.

Awangbou Newmai has been inducted in the ministry after a ministerial berth remain vacant after the disqualification of MLA

Symkumar who was the Minister of Forest and Environment and MAHUD in the N. Biren Singh Government.

Source said that BJP's central leadership had given approval for induction of the new ministry late yesterday evening.

It may be mentioned that NPF has been demanding increase in the Ministers since the last 6/7 months in the aftermath of the demand by BJP MLAs for major reshuffle of the ministry. The party even field its candidate, Honreikhui Kashang, for the lone Rajya Sabha seat. However for reason best known to the NPF and the BJP the candidate the NPF withdraw



an understanding with the NPF. With the disqualification of MLA Shyamkumar, 11<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly now has 58 members excluding the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly. If in case the fate of Shyamkumar falls to the 7 other MLAs who had joined the BJP then the total seat in the 11<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly will be 51. Total number of MLAs required by N. Biren Singh government to continue is 26 which he had even without the support of the 4 (four) National Peoples' Party (NPP) MLAs who are Ministers in the government as Congress now have 20

MLAs. It is likely that a major reshuffled may take place after the measures being taken up to contained the COVID-19 pandemic has been settled. If in case the NPP MLAs drop from the government due to misunderstanding the congress will have 24 MLAs that means BJP still will lead the number taking into account the BJP play well with the Independent MLA Ashab Uddin.

Moreover, it is just about 1 year and 8 months left for the N. Biren Singh government and it is likely that his government may not face that much problem as the BJP too needs to prepare for the next election.

## "I feel regret about Steffie" MLA Sushindro on war against COVID-19

IT News

Imphal, May 29:

Khurai Assembly constituency MLA, L. Sushindro (Yaima) expressed regret about sending away a young girl call Steffie (not real name) who wanted to stay at a quarantine center open at his constituency after returning from Guwahati on May 10.

Steffie who hailed from a place in Churachandpur district and returned back along with her friends from Khurai area, wanted to stay along with them as quarantine is mandatory for returnee from outside the state. However, as per the quarantine centers regulatory system in the state of Manipur she could not stay at the quarantine center opened at Khurai Assembly constituency. The shocking part is that she was tested Coronavirus positive along with 11 others from Churachandpur district on May 20.

"I feel regret about Steffie, had I allow her to stay with her friends at the quarantine center open in my constituency she could have been saved", MLA Sushindro said. The MLA said this as none of her friends who came along with her were tested positive. The MLA opined that she may have contracted the virus from carriers whom she travelled along with after she was taken from Khurai the day she returned to Imphal. Steffie was first taken to Institutional Quarantine Center opened at JNV Navodaya and after there were no seat, she was again taken to Sainik School and then to Churachandpur Quarantine center along with others. Sushindro said that the present quarantine system need to be reviewed to make sure that those who come clean do not contracted the virus from carriers after reaching here in the state. It may be mentioned that at some quarantine centers people who came in separate vehicles were mixed up with those who came in different vehicles. They were even deported to centers without segregation who came first or who came later.

## Sagang Villagers help daughter in quarantine to attend father's funeral with due precautions

IT News

Imphal, May 29:

Many young people from Manipur who were living outside the state for years are returning to Manipur due to the rising spread of COVID 19 pandemic in other places of India. We also hear about irresponsible behaviour on the part of those who are returning to Manipur but Sagang Villagers have set an example how during this pandemic, people can be both responsible, maintaining due precaution and at the same time help a daughter fulfill her wish of seeing her father for the last time.

A young woman from Sagang Village, Saikot Constituency in Churachandpur returned

from Chennai and reached Churachandpur on May 24. She reached the district level institutional quarantine centre at Sielmat Christian High School early morning. She talked to her father around 3 am in the morning and was happy thinking that she would be meeting her as they have not met for almost three years. But around 6 am on the same day she was informed that her 67 year old father suffered a heart attack and passed away. She being in a quarantine centre has not been able to meet her father while he was alive and also it seemed to her that she would not be able to attend even funeral even. Acknowledging her grief, the village Chief and

villagers of Sagang decided to help her see her father for the last time even if it was only for five minutes, with due precautions. The village chief sent for PPE and an ambulance to bring her from the quarantine centre, another PPE was provided by the Quarantine centre and she was brought to the village. When she reached her village, the ambulance was sanitized by the volunteers from the villages and she was allowed to see her father for the last time wearing a PPE. Later the village was sanitized. The village of Sagang, in this manner managed to fulfill the wish of the grieving daughter at the same time fight the pandemic.

## Amit Shah speaks to all Chief Ministers

Imphal, May 29:

Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to all Chief Ministers on Thursday regarding the COVID-19 situation in states and union territories.

He invited their suggestions on the future strategy to deal with the pandemic and the lockdown which is scheduled to end on 31st May.

## Miscreants attempts to rob ATM booth arrested

IT News

Imphal, May 29:

A miscreant who attempted to rob ATM booth of UCO Bank Kakching branch was arrested by a team of Kakching Police today morning.

According to report, the person attempted to rob the ATM booth on the night of May 27. The matter was reported to Kakching Police on

the following day by the Branch Manager of UCO Bank. Following the complaint a case was registered and the accused person identified as Yengkhom Leekish Singh age about 28 years, son of (late) Y. Ibomcha Singh of Kakching Sumak Victory High School Pareng, who was recorded at CCTV was arrested. A statement from the police

said that the arrested accused revealed that in between the night of May 27 and May 28, he climbed the iron shutter of the ATM booth attached to the UCO Bank, Kakching branch and broke the upper part of the shutter. Then he entered into the ATM booth and tried to break the ATM with the intention to take our money.

## COVID-19: Positive cases reached 58, active case is 53

IT News

Imphal, May 29:

With 3 (three) more people tested Coronavirus positive, total number of positive Coronavirus cases reached 58 in the state of Manipur. Active Positive case is 53. However, all the persons tested positive were from quarantine center who have return from outside the state.

The three persons were tested at VRDL of RIMS late yesterday night. They are presently admitted at COVID care facility center at RIMS. A statement by health directorate said that condition of the three are stable and all necessary control measures like containment and contact tracing are in place.

At present there are 25 active cases undergoing treatment in RIMS and 28 active cases in JNIMS.

## COVID recovery rate improves to 42.88%

Agency

New Delhi, May 29:

Health and Family Welfare Ministry said that a total 71, 106 people affected with corona virus have cured and the recovery rate reached to 42.88 per cent in the country.

During the last 24 hours, 3, 414 people have recovered and 7,466 fresh cases of Covid-19 have been reported taking the total number of cases to 1,65,799.

This is the highest spike in fresh cases since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in India.

Health Ministry said, 175 deaths have been registered in last 24 hours taking the nationwide toll to 4,706.

## Minister Letpao inspects Molcham PS in Indo-Myanmar border, distributes essential items to adjoining area

IT News

Imphal, May 29:

Hon'ble Minister of WR and YAS Shri Letpao Haokip conducted a 2-day tour on Wednesday and Thursday to the most interior areas of Chandel district and personally took stock of the COVID-19 tackling measures being taken up. Distribution of essential items to the villagers, meeting village chiefs, inspection of PMGSY roads/projects in these areas and inspecting the recently re-installed Molcham Police Station were the main activities of the tour.

It is worth mentioning that Shri Letpao has been distributing rice and other essential items since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown to the villagers of his constituency 41-Chandel AC. And the ongoing distribution drive is the third phase of this distribution drive.

One very note-worthy feature of this tour is the inspection of the newly re-installed Molcham PS by the minister. The

police station had been lying non-functional since the last 30 years. But in relation with the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown, the state government, after much pressure from the minister, the district administration and the village chief, successfully re-installed the Molcham PS so as to effectively seal the international gate and border.

Shri Letpao, while speaking to us, said that with the re-installation of this PS, the sealing of border will become more effective and law and order situation will be improved. He assured that he will look into the shortages faced by this PS because of its remote location, and will arrange fulfillment of necessary infrastructures.

On asking the extra precautionary measures taken up by the government to seal the border to control COVID pandemic, the minister said that under his initiation, the SDO and village chiefs of the border-adjoning villages have been co-ordinating and sealing the border gates



quite effectively. And basic commodities are provided regularly so that the villagers do not depend on Myanmar at least during this pandemic, he added.

This time, he is bearing the Rs 3 per kg expense of the 5kg per head amount of rice that will be received by each beneficiaries of the district. In addition to that, for the non-NFSA card holders but rice consuming persons including small children, he is arranging rice to be made available to each and every individual without any leftovers from his

personal capacity. Apart from this, he is arranging dal, oil and soaps too.

During the tour, the Minister also inspected the PMGSY roads that are being constructed in these remote areas and along the international border. Officials of PMGSY headed by EE Devendra and contractors were present. He appreciated the satisfactory performance of the works at New Somtal to Molcham and New Songjiang to T Nampao and lauded the efforts of the engineers and the contractors. How-

ever, the minister expressed displeasure at T Nampao to Molcham, stretch and instructed those concerned to fasten up the road construction works. He stated that comparing to the past, road connectivity in the interiors of Chandel has transformed drastically for the better, and appealed the officials and contractors to know the importance of roads in such remote areas and to carry out their works dutifully.

On Wednesday, the Minister started the first distribution of this tour at Khangbarol village where he along with SDO Khengjoi and the village chiefs distributed rice and other essential items such as dal, mustard oil and soap to the villagers. These will reach to the more-than-60 villages in the adjoining areas of Khangbarol and Dingpi areas.

The minister's team halted the night at T Nampao village, which is situated just adjoining the Indo-Myanmar border and one of the last villages of India

along the border. On Thursday morning, Shri Letpao distributed the essential commodities including rice at T Nampao village. Thereafter, he went to Molcham and New Somtal villages, where he continued the similar distribution programmes.

Addressing the villagers at the distribution sites, Shri Letpao appealed the villagers to act responsible and to be extra-careful as the risk of the COVID-19 pandemic is higher in border lying areas. He advised them to follow social distancing rules and other guidelines. The minister also assured them that he will continuously provide essential items until this pandemic lasts, either from the government arrangements or from his personal capacity, and told that they need not depend on Myanmar side and not to worry about shortage of basic items.

As a part of the tour, the minister also installed many solar lamp posts in T Nampao and Molcham villages.

# ★ Editorial

## Contemplating on the impending changes

What next - a short question that needs a comprehensive answer, one that will determine the future of the state and mankind. With the rapid increase in the number of returnees, the number of Covid-19 positive cases in the state is on the rise correspondingly. No surprise there, but the growing concern is the increasingly frequent reports of inadequacies and mismanagement in a number of designated quarantine centres across the state save a few which are situated in and around the city. Regardless of the government decision on the lockdown, a new social norm is in the making, and the sooner we all adapt and embrace these norms, the safer we all will be as from now onwards, our social conducts and behavior will determine not only our own safety but that of others. Social change is the significant alteration of social structure and cultural patterns through time and the present situation is definitely proving to be a turning point - the beginning of an era if one may put it.

And as with any change, there will always be accompanying sociological and psychological impact which needs to be discussed and analysed in detail. There definitely will also be consequences of these changes which may be beneficial or detrimental to the society, and the outcome will depend to a large degree on the awareness and eagerness of the authorities to influence it. Social change is conceived mostly as an autonomously controlled and unidirectional process toward group change; these conceptualizations do not account for social changes that are outside of human control, such as natural disasters of which we are experiencing one. This is certainly a time of great opportunities and challenges depending on how one perceives the developments. We are indeed experiencing these changes in the way we conduct business to the way government departments and institutions are functioning. Another major change we are witnessing right now is in the education sector with almost every educational institution resorting to the internet to conduct online classes or distributing assignments and lessons through WhatsApp and other applications, an opportunity for children to take up other useful hobbies and pursuits which were difficult during the school going days.

Hygiene has become a big social concern and with the increase in social awareness, our collective outlook towards nature has taken a positive turn which is a very encouraging sign. We are also witnessing a positive change in the environment which is becoming more vibrant. The unfolding changes will run its due course and it would be impossible to revert back to our old ways, not that everyone is eager for it, but the change is certainly proving uncertain and unsettling for a few. The government needs to anticipate and prepare for the developments which will make an impact on the society as a whole and as well as on the different communities of the state on a broad spectrum ranging from business to health and education, among others. Verbal assurances must be replaced with concrete actions and sustainable plans must be implemented in time if we are to make the best of the unfolding change.

### More News

## Maharashtra Minister joins 'Speak Up India' from hospital bed

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, May 29:

Maharashtra PWD Minister Ashok Chavan (Congress) who is receiving treatment in a hospital in Mumbai for COVID-19, on Thursday shared a video through Twitter demanding that the Central Government should deposit Rs 17,500 in the bank accounts of poor people. Chavan stated that the Central Government should make a one time payment of Rs.10,000/- besides depositing Rs 7,500 per month, for the next six months, in the accounts of the poor people who have lost the means of livelihood due to COVID-19 and resultant long lock down.

The campaign 'Speak Up India' was launched by the Congress party to raise public support for the people suffering from the coronavirus induced lockdown and asked the central government to unlock its coffers.

In a video message shared on party's social media, Congress president Sonia Gandhi said "that due to the lockdown, many jobs were lost, work places were shut down, farmers had to struggle to sell their crops but the government

did not take cognisance of this". To overcome this crisis, Gandhi suggested direct cash transfer to migrants and poor families and financial relief to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

"Put direct cash of Rs 7,500 per month in the account of every family for the next six months and provide Rs 10,000 immediately, ensure safe and free travel of labourers back home, employment opportunity and rations; and also increase the number of work days under MNRGA to 200 days to facilitate jobs in villages," Gandhi said and added that "Instead of loans, provide financial relief to small and medium industry so that crores of jobs will be saved and the country will make progress".

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said the government should ensure free and safe travel to the migrants who are leaving for their home. "We demand that each migrant worker family returning to their homes should be given free transportation. After being tested, each migrant worker family should be given Rs 10,000 to tide over the present crisis," he said in a video message.

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## COVID-19: Maharashtra Guv' announces austerity measures to reduce Raj Bhavan expenses

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, May 29:

The Governor of Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshiyari on Thursday announced a series of austerity measures to reduce the expenses of Raj Bhavan so as to make more resources available for COVID-19 relief measures.

The Governor gave instructions to Raj Bhavan to undertake the following measures in the current financial year to reduce its expenses: No new capital works to be undertaken. There will not be any new major construction / repairing works in Raj Bhavan. Only ongoing works in progress will be continued and completed, The Independence Day Reception to be held on 15th August 2020 at Raj Bhavan, Pune,



will be cancelled and there will be no new regular recruitment in Raj Bhavan until further orders.

Besides, the proposal for the purchase of new car for Raj Bhavan has been deferred, the practice of offering gifts/mementos to VVIPs will be discontinued until further order, the practice of welcoming VIP visitors with

bouquets will be discontinued. Guest house rooms in Raj Bhavan should not be decorated with vases and flower-pots and meetings and interactions with Vice-Chancellors and various officers will have to be conducted via video conference to avoid any expenses on travel.

It is estimated that these measures will save nearly 10 to 15 percent of the budget of the Raj Bhavan in the current financial year. The Governor has already contributed his one month salary and further pledged 30% of his salary for one year to the PM CARES Fund for COVID - 19. In the Governor's estimation, these austerity measures will be a small but significant contribution to save resources that can be used to reduce the sufferings of the

people in the backdrop of the situation arisen because of the Corona Virus Disease.

Maharashtra Governor's pay scale was hiked from Rs 1.1 lakh to Rs 3.5 lakh in November 2019. If the other perks are included then the annual emoluments go up to Rs 3 crore. The emoluments include: Furniture and house repairing/renewal: Rs 26.7 lakh, Hospital expenses: Rs 25 lakh, Entertainment expenses: Rs 1.5 lakh, Office expenses: Rs 2.5 lakh, Office furniture repair: Rs 10 lakh, Contract allowances: Rs 37 lakh, Tour expenses: Rs 23 lakh, Miscellaneous expenses: Rs 82 lakh, Garden expenses: Rs 13 lakh, Electricity: Rs 45 lakh, Water expenses: Rs 15 lakh, Improvement expenses: Rs 25 lakh and Annual pay: Rs 42 lakh.

## COVID-19 ICU beds are full in Mumbai No of containment zones reach up to 696

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, May 29:

While the efforts by the Maharashtra Government and the BMC to make more beds available by setting up field hospitals is on, the strength of beds in hospitals has reached saturation point with more and more COVID-19 positive patients are pouring in.

With addition of 1467 new patients, the total number of positive patients reached 35,485 by Friday, with 18,616 patients cured and discharged.

As of now 99 per cent of the 645 ICU beds in Government run hospitals have been occupied. 96 per cent of the 6099 beds meant for acute symptomatic patients are full. Similarly 80 per cent of the beds reserved for "Mid level" patients have also been

occupied.

The BMC has claimed that it has kept 75,000 beds ready in Mumbai (while taking into consideration the beds taken over from private hospitals), which has emerged as the hotspot of the disease and "Chase The Virus" mission is being implemented for contact tracing in the country's financial capital.

Up till now the BMC has sealed 3097 buildings and the number of containment zones has increased up to 696 from 674 zones earlier. The long list of containment zone includes: (South Mumbai): M.R.A. Police Quarters, M.R.A. Road, Fort, M.R.A. Bmc Colony, M.R.A. Road, Fort, Sabusiddique Chawl No.1, Sabusiddique Road, Fort, Sunder Nagari, Azad Nagari, Darya

Nagar, Lala Nigam Road, Near Colaba Market, Sunder Nagar, Colaba, Machchimar Nagar, Capt. Prakash Pethe Marg, Colaba, Ganeshmurti Nagar Part No.1,2,3, Captain Prakash Pethe Marg and Ganeshmurti Nagar, Colaba.

(Central Mumbai): Spring Mill, Gd Ambekar Marg, Spring Mill, Dadar, Vayangankar Chawl, S Wagh Road, Vayangankar Chawl, Dadar, Kohinoor Mill Chawl, M.J. Phule Road, Kohinoor Mill Chawl, Dadar, Naigaon Police Quarters, Naigaon Cross Road, Naigaon Police Quarters, Dadar, Dulaba Prasad Chawl, S M Jadhav Marg, Dulaba Prasad Chawl, Dadar, Ahmed Sellar Compound, B J Devrukhhkar Road, Ahmed Sellar Compound, Dadar, Gautam

Nagar, Dadasaheb Phalke Road, Gautam Nagar, Dadar, Prabudhnagar Slum, Jerbai Wadia Road, Prabudhnagar Slum, Sewree, Sewree Koliwada, Sewree Fort Road, Sewree Koliwada, Sewree, Krantinagar Chawl, T J Road, Sewree, Gopal Baug Slum, T J Road, Gopal Baug Slum, Sewree, Ganesh Baug Slum, T J Road, Ganesh Baug Slum, Sewree, A M Jetha Chawl, Sewree Cross Road Slum, Sewree Cross Road, Sewree Cross Road Slum, Sewree, Shakti Chawl, Nityanand Chawl, Khamba Devi, Madina Chawl, Sanjay Chawl, Dambar Copmound, Ganesh Rahiwas Sangh, Khambadevi Road Veer Lahuji Ustad Chawl, Sion Bandra Link Road and Mukund Nagar, Dharavi.

## Appeal from Ministry of Railways to passengers

PIB  
New Delhi, May 29:

Indian Railways has been running Shramik special Trains on a daily basis throughout the country to ensure that migrants can travel back to their homes. It has been observed that some people who are availing this service have pre-existing medical conditions which aggravates the risk they face during the COVID-19 pandemic. A few unfortunate cases of deaths related to pre-existing medical conditions while travelling have happened.

In order to protect the vulnerable persons from COVID-19, in line with Ministry of Home Affairs, Order No 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 17.05.2020, Ministry of Railways makes an appeal that persons with co-morbidities (for example - hypertension, diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases, cancer, immune deficiency conditions), pregnant women, children below the age of 10 years and persons above 65 years of age may avoid travel by rail, except when it is essential.

Indian Railway parivaar is working 24x7 to ensure that rail services are provided to all the citizens of the country needing to travel. But safety of our passengers is our biggest concern. So, we seek the cooperation of all citizens in this matter. In case of any distress or emergency please do not hesitate to reach out to your railway parivaar and we will help you as always (Helpline number - 139 & 138)

## Union HRD Minister interacts with heads of 45,000 Higher Educational Institutions through a Webinar in New Delhi

PIB  
New Delhi, May 29:

Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank interacted with Heads of more than 45,000 Higher Educational Institutions across the country today through Webinar hosted by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru. The Minister addressed and interacted with a Galaxy of Academicians comprising participation from Vice Chancellors / Registrars / Professors / IQAC heads / Principals / Faculty from across the Nation.

While lauding the initiatives taken by NAAC at this time of the Pandemic, Shri Pokhriyal called upon the HEIs in the country to treat the current situation as an opportunity to overcome limitations in the system. He called upon the educationists, students, parents to switch-over to the online method and make the most of the situation so that the academic session of the students and the HEIs are not interrupted. He said there is an urgent need to improve and enhance the Online

ecosystem in India & educators should contribute to enhance the reach so that online education reaches even the rural areas.

In the hour long interaction and address, the Union Minister reflected on various issues and concerns raised by educationists related to Academic Calendar, Online Education, examinations, Fees, Mental health of students, problems of students, fellowships, NEET, entrance examinations etc. He dwelt upon at length on the initiatives taken by the Government with regard to Swayam

Prabha, Deeksharambh, Paramarsh and a host of other special initiatives taken during the pandemic period. He also urged all Higher Educational Institutions to take part in NAAC accreditation process. He reiterated that the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi is very concerned about the well being of Higher Educational Institutions and assured of all help in furthering the academic activities of student fraternity.

The Union Minister asked all

Universities to constitute a special cell which will be empowered to address the issues of students related to academic calendar and examinations arising out of special circumstances due to Covid 19. He said that a task force has been created in UGC and NCERT to resolve the different issues of students. Shri Nishank assured that Ministry is committed to provide all assistance to students in the time of crisis. During the interaction the Union Minister highlighted the process of how the new session will be commenced, at the same time he specified that the priority will be given to the safety of the students.

Shri Nishank called educational fraternity as Corona Warriors because in this extraordinary situation they are working round the clock to provide quality education to students.

The event was also graced by Chairman, UGC, Prof D P Singh, Prof Virander S Chauhan, Chairman, EC, NAAC, Prof S C Sharma, Director, NAAC spoke & coordinated the event.