

## CM greets Nurses on Intl. Nurses Day

IT News  
Imphal, May 12:

Chief Minister N. Biren Sing greets the nursing fraternity on the occasion of International Nurses Day. The day is celebrated around the world every May 12, the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

"You have been at the forefront in the fight against the deadly Covid-19 pandemic. You have dedicated invaluable time and energy that you could otherwise have spent with your near and dear ones, in caring for and nursing our people back to health. You have forgotten your own fears and pains in tending to the pains of others. You work silently behind curtains and in the remotest corners of our land, delivering love and care, for a better and lovelier tomorrow for all of us. You are our mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters for our patients." N Biren wrote.

## Globally over 1300 journalists succumb to Covid-19, India loses 40 in last 10 days

By Navthakuria Guwahati, May 12:

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to kill working journalists around the world, where the global tally reaches at least 1302 victims in 76 countries till the early hours of 12 May 2021.

Brazil with 191 journalist casualties because of novel coronavirus infection aggravated ailments still tops the list of victims among journalists narrowly followed by India (173 dead). In the south Asian country, at least 40 journalists died of Covid-19 complications in the last 10 days.

According to Press Emblem Campaign (PEC), the Switzerland based media rights & safety body, Peru follows India with 140 media-casualties and Mexico with 109. Below the hundred mark, Colombia lost 57 journalists due to the pandemic, followed by

Italy (55), Bangladesh (52), USA, Ecuador (48 each), United Kingdom (28), Dominican Republic (27), Pakistan (26), Turkey (25), Argentina (23), etc.

Since March 2020, the PEC started a corona-ticker to pay tributes to the journalists died of Covid-19 around the world, said Blaise Lempen, secretary-general of PEC ([www.presseemblem.ch/](http://www.presseemblem.ch/)) adding that journalists have an important role to play in the fight against the virus and hence their safety must be a priority for every nation.

"Journalists are particularly at risk in this crisis as they are continuing their jobs to provide information from the ground. A number of them died for lack of adequate protective measures when performing their duties. We advocate for early vaccinations to journalists on the frontlines and also adequate compensations to the victim families," stated Lempen.

India is rapidly losing scribes to the pandemic almost four individuals per day, which is alarming, said Nava

Thakuria, PEC's country representative adding that the billion plus nation has lately witnessed the demise of journalists Homen Borghoi, Shiv Anurag Pateria, Sarat Chandra Mingaraj, Kishore Ch. Das, Waqar Wizvi, Arvind Shukla, Umashankar Santhalia, Sant Sharan Awasthi, Vipin Chandra, Subhash Mishra, Kaleswaram Sandeep, D. Shankar Rao, Rajendra Joshi, Pradeep K Sahu, Shesh N Singh, etc to corona-aggravated ailments. Relatively fewer corona-casualties among journalists are reported from Iran, Russia (21 each), Venezuela (19), Panama (16), Spain, Ukraine (15 each), Bolivia, Egypt (14 each), Honduras (11), Afghanistan, Nigeria, South Africa, France (9 each), Guatemala (8), Uruguay (6), Kenya, Cameroon (5 each), Cuba (4), Madagascar, Morocco, Salvador, Sweden, Zimbabwe (3 each), Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Ghana, Iraq, Indonesia (2 each), etc.

## Governor applauds Assam Rifles for their continuous contribution towards Peace and Prosperity in the NE Region



IT News  
Imphal, May 12:

Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla applauded the Assam Rifles for their significant role in maintaining internal security with uncompromising dedication and sincerity, contributing to the promotion of peace and development in the entire region of North Eastern States. They have been variously hailed and verifiably so, as 'Friends of the North East People' and 'Sentinels of the North East' and has contributed to the overall peace and prosperity in the region.

The Governor was speaking during the Directorate General of Assam Rifles (DGAR) Annual North East Webinar function organised by the Directorate General of Assam Rifles held at Raj Bhavan Imphal today through video conferencing.

The theme of the Webinar function was 'North East Beyond Insurgency and Ethnic Divide: Aspirations and Opportunities with Focus on Manipur.'

The Governor further said that North East India comprising eight States of India (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) shares its boundary with Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh. These regions have witnessed insurgency for more than six decades. Even though some states in the region have remained peaceful after ending insurgencies, the overall situation in the region is not conducive to peaceful living and co-

responding prosperity. Even though Manipur has seen an overall declining insurgency activity, the discontent in a stable settlement amongst the people still continues. During the past few months, the overall law and order situation has considerably improved and the subversive activities of various UG outfits were at low ebb, she added.

Continuing her speech, the Governor said that there was an upsurge in the violence against the Security Forces, Paramilitary Forces and Indian Army by various insurgent groups, operating in both Hills and Valley Districts, but the same has not shown any sign of increase and seems to have been contained by the Security Forces and Indian Army. The Counter Insurgency (CI) operation conducted by the Assam Rifles are noteworthy, commendable and praiseworthy, she also stated.

Appreciating the role played by Assam Rifles, Governor said that the aspirations of the Assam Rifles to bring a peaceful NE Re-

gion without insurgencies is an invaluable contribution to the country in general and NE Region in particular. The Governor also thanked the Directorate of Assam Rifles for their efforts to organize such an important webinar at this critical juncture. The key role of undertaking CI operations by Assam Rifles at the border areas to prevent the insurgent groups from escalating violence is widely welcomed by all. The AR has performed in an exemplary manner till date and so whenever and wherever mandated for the welfare of the people of the North Eastern Region. Resolving the ongoing insurgencies in NE and the role played by the Assam Rifles will be the harbinger of peace and consequent economic prosperity for the millions of people in the North Eastern Region, she added.

Governor Najma also expressed her confidence that it will be a good step in the right direction, for the success of India's 'Look East Policy' which was known as 'Act East Policy' only then India will emerge as one of the global powers in a multi polar world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Online function has inaugurated session, one and two. Various resource persons also delivered speech on different important topics at today's online function.

## AR organises Covid-19 Awareness and Appropriate Behaviour Drive in Churachandpur

IT News  
CCpur, May 12:

In its relentless pursuit to reach out to the local populace amid COVID-19 resurgence, Loktak Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organized a COVID-19 Awareness and Appropriate Behaviour Drive at Kangvai village in Churachandpur on today.

The awareness drive included a Road Show on resurgence of COVID-19 pandemic and dissemination of "Do's and Don'ts" including Social Distancing, wearing masks and importance of vaccination.

The residents were also sensitized on adherence to the guidelines of COVID-19 to restrict the community spread of the pandemic.

## Bijaya Yumlembam succumbed to Covid-19



IT News  
Imphal, May 12:

Senior Programme Executive of the All India Radio (AIR) Imphal Bijaya Yumlembam succumbed to Covid-19 today. She was 56 years old. A resident of Uripok Bachaspati Leikai, Imphal West, Bijaya Yumlembam was

also a senior member of the Manipur Mountaineering and Trekking Association (MMTA). Imphal Times condole the demise of Bijaya Yumlembam and share the pain of the media colleagues of the All India Radio Imphal and also her family.

On the other hand Imphal Times also condole the demise of Thingom Bhogen Singh, Deputy Director Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Manipur, Samurailatpam Satyabhama Devi, senior leader of the BJP Manipur Pradesh.

Meanwhile, Noted theatre personality Ratan Thiyam is reported tested positive with COVID-19 on Wednesday, official sources said.

## FoH demands revocation of the April 20 Koubru agreement

IT News  
Imphal, May 12:

Federation of Haomee, in a statement today set an ultimatum to the government of Manipur for revocation of the 4-point Agreement signed between the Committee on Protection of Mt. Koubru (COPPK) and Minister Letpao Haokip in the presence of Minister Awangbou Nema on April 20, by May 20.

The FoH term the agreement as a secret agreement

and urged the two ministers to revoke the agreement by making it public. The FoH said that the two Ministers of the Manipur government have a right to sign any agreement in connection with Mount Koubru without the consent of the people of Manipur. The statement added that being a forest Minister how could he remain, silent spectators, when deforestation has been taking place and instead poppy plantation are going on Reserved Forest area.

## CRT initiated 'Positivity Unlimited' lecture Series started off

IT News  
Imphal, May 12:

Covid Response Team (CRT), an initiative of civil society with multiple stakeholders including religious, spiritual, business, philanthropic and social organizations has organized a lecture series titled "Positivity Unlimited" which started off from 11 May onwards and would culminate on 12 May to spread positivity in the society amidst the challenge posed by Covid-19 for Indian society. In this lecture series, key figures in Indian society are addressing the nation to create positivity to meet Corona challenge. Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd.), Convenor, Covid Response Team, confided that each day, the programme is for over 30 minutes covering possible responses on different aspects of life ranging from spirituality,

dharmaic course, mental health to enhancing physical strength. "Imbibing confidence in the society setting aside fear, hopelessness, helplessness and negativity, motivating people to brace up for a long haul with huge societal changes after Covid 19 is the idea behind "Positivity Unlimited" lecture series", he further stated.

These lectures are relayed to people across the country and the world through a string of over 100 news portals as well as many important media platforms to enhance the reach and bring about positivity. The lectures are broadcasted from 4:30 pm to 5 pm every day through [facebook.com/VishwaSamvadKendraBharat](https://www.facebook.com/VishwaSamvadKendraBharat) and [youtubec.com/VishwaSamvadKendraBharat](http://youtubec.com/VishwaSamvadKendraBharat) digital media platforms. The Doordarshan National and Sudarshan News also broadcast the 5-Day lecture series at

4.30-5.00 pm on "Positivity Unlimited: Hum Jeetenge".

The speakers are - Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev, Pujya Muni Pramanagar, Sri Sri Ravishankar, Azim Premji, Pujanecyaya Shankaracharya Vijayendra Saraswati, Sonal Mansingh (Padmavibhusan), Acharya Vidyasagar, Pujyashri Mahant Sant Gyan Dev Singh (Shri Panchayati Akhad-Nirmal). The lecture series would culminate with the address of Pujanecyaya Sarsangchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Dr Mohan Bhagwat on May 15.

The lecture series starts with address by Sadguru and Munishri Pramanagarji. In the opening day of the lecture series, spiritual leaders say, "Bharat will win battle against Covid-19 with positivity, strong mind and steely resolve". It was launched on 11 May with Sadguru Jaggi

Vasudevji and Pujya Jain Munishree Pramanagar calling upon the Bharatiya society to keep a strong resolve and avoid panic, fear, frustration and anger to win the battle against Covid-19. Both the spiritual leaders expressed confidence that Bharatiya society has the resilience to meet any challenge including the present one. They emphasized that the most important thing to do right now is to maintain a positive attitude.

Addressing the nation, Sadguru Jaggi Vasudevji said, "...panic, frustration, fear, anger, none of these things are going to help us because this is not a time for grandstanding. This is not a time to point fingers at each other. This is a time to stand up. Not even as one nation, as one humanity."

He further added, "It's very important for all of us to continue our work to the extent

possible because crippling the whole activity in the country or in the world is not the answer, because that's going to take a much bigger toll on us. So it's very important to what extent, whatever the nature of work we are doing, to what extent we can keep it on without coming close to people, without getting infected, (this) is a fundamental responsibility."

"This is a time to dig and dig yourself deep into the roots of the culture which has invested so heavily into inner well-being. At least the Indians should set the example. No matter what happens in our lives... We will stay peaceful. We will come through any kind of situation that is thrown to us, either by earthly whiteness or the aliens. We will come out of it successfully. This is something we need to demonstrate to the world. In many ways, the world is looking towards India

for this," said Sadguru.

In his address, Pujya Jain Munishree Pramanagar said, "I want to give a message to the people having Covid-19 infection that the first and the foremost thing is to have a strong resolve that they would come out of it. Getting this disease doesn't mean that one is going to die. Have a strong and steely resolve and you would be able to defeat this disease in no-time."

"Have a spiritual insight and tell yourself that this is a physical disease and not related to your mind. There are many treatments for if your body is ailing but there is no treatment for an ailing mind deep. So don't let this physical disease overpower your mind," he further said.

"Nothing can happen to a person with a strong mind. I agree that no one is immortal but we don't have to die just like that. People get scared when

they test Covid positive. They think that they are not going to make it. Along with the patient, the family members also start panicking. This panic results in a mess. The patient and the family members should have patience. A disease has come but it will go away also. You can see that most of the infected people are coming out of it safely. The death rate is only around 1.5 per cent. The second wave is more scary but what needs to be done is to maintain caution and be alert," emphasized Jain Munishree Pramanagar.

On May 12, spiritual guru and founder of The Art of Living, Sri Sri Ravishankar, noted philanthropist Sh. Azim Premji and noted social worker Padmashree Nivedita Bhide, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, will address the nation as a part of this lecture series.

## Virtual after school activities to keep kids engaged during Second wave Coronavirus (Covid-19)



By: Vijay GarG

The year 2021 is difficult for everyone due to Coronavirus Second wave or second wave Covid-19 situation, but it has impacted the kids most. Kids are not able to attend schools physically. They are spending around 2 to 5 hrs in front of the screen to participate in their classes, but due to teachers; limited experience with online teaching, they are not enjoying these classes that much. They also cannot join any after school activities or spend time outdoors in the evenings due to coronavirus.

Staying at home for the full day isn't easy for them. Once the online classes are over, they need to be engaged to keep their boredom away and stay active. So, it is vital to keep them busy in stimulating activities for their development. There are so many virtual activities that kids can do after their online classes, which will engage and invigorate them the whole day.

Let us explore seven virtual after school activities to keep kids involved during Covid-19:

**1. Start a YouTube Channel**

Kids can start an online YouTube channel with their friends to showcase their dancing, singing, art and craft, or any talent. They can also use this to teach their skills to other kids across the globe. This will help them develop their hobbies and share their passion with others. It is essential that a parent is involved in such activities to guide them and limit unwanted exposure. YouTube channel initiations instructions are also available as YouTube videos and the process is easy to follow and implement.

**2. Virtual Visit to Zoo or Aquarium or Jungle**

Zoos and Aquariums are a perfect way to inspire and educate kids. Visiting Zoos, aquariums, and wildlife sanctuaries help kids understand and appreciate the importance of conservation, animal care, and the environment. Few organisations worldwide offer free or at nominal charges live feed of Aquarium, Zoo, or wildlife sanctuaries/park. Kids can visit the Vancouver Aquarium site, Monterey Bay Aquarium site, Aquarium of the Pacific site, or African Wildlife on Explore site to see what is happening.

**3. Gardening and Virtual gardening**

Not being able to go outdoors or having a real garden should not stop kids from enjoying gardening fun. Gardening in a limited space such as a balcony can be fun for kids of all ages. It will not only keep them busy but will also help them in developing essential plants related science concepts. This will help them in understanding how fruits/vegetables grow just by planting seeds. Putting some seeds in a small pot and putting that pot under an inverted glass in light can teach a complete self-sustainable ecosystem to kids. Kids can use recycled bottles to serve as wall or hanging pot to grow vegetables. They can also use eggshell or coconut shell or juice boxes to grow plants. Some of the easiest vegetables that kids can grow in the balcony are Carrots, Radish, beans, chilies, celery, cherry tomatoes, and wildflower. My personal favourites are carrot and cherry tomatoes. Parents can make kid water these plants as their daily routine. Gardening can also be done virtually with websites like Marshalls Garden Visualiser. This enables the imagination to not be constrained by space availability or climatic / seasonal vagaries.

**4. Learn to code**

Yes, your kid can very easily learn coding while just sitting at home. There are many online tools that make it easier for kids to learn to code and develop logic skills. Scratch is one such tool that kids can use to create their own games and animations. MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), one of the world's best computers, engineering, and the physical sciences universities, developed this tool for kids and it is available for free.

**5. Virtual Performing Arts Classes**

If you have a young kid, you can check out the virtual theatre, dance, and music classes online. Performing arts are a good way for kids to develop emotional and cognitive skills. Kids can learn Zumba or classical dance or learn to play instruments like the piano or guitar. You can easily find a lot of free apps for kids with interactive video lessons to learn instruments. Due to Covid, many organisers in India are also providing dance and music classes online as individual and group sessions.

**6. Online Art and crafts Lessons**

Art and craft is the best way to enhance the creativity of kids. It is immensely helpful in keeping energy and imagination on a high level. Through this, they can learn to recycle old objects available at home. Kids can check out easy creative drawing ideas and 5 minutes of easy DIY crafts on various online websites. Kids can also learn art and craft online through YouTube channels or online workshops that teach particular art to kids.

**7. Online Book Club**

Books enrich our lives in many ways. Kids can start or join an online book club with their friends. The reading books will not only develop their language skills but will also help them unwind and recharge. They can pick any book read it among their audience, or all of them can read the same book.

## Covid-19: Anaconda of Toddler's Education

By: Sanjebam Jugeshwar Singh  
Asst. Prof.JCRE Global College, Babupara, Imphal

Early childhood, the years from birth to age six, has been medically proven to be the most critical period that sets the stage for a child's growth and learning trajectory. Research from neurobiology and cognitive development experts suggests that 90% of brain development occurs in the first six years of life. According to the center on the developing Child at Harvard University, the emotional and physical health, social skills and cognitive-linguistic capacities that emerge in the early years are all important prerequisites for success in schools and later in workplace and community. UNICEF has stated that "during the critical early year's children needs responsive care, adequate nutrition, stimulation and protection to develop their social, emotional and cognitive skills. It is thus the reason why early childhood education is imperative for the development of our nation's youngest citizens."

In response to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, countries around the world have taken unprecedented steps in an effort to prevent and contain spread of the virus. Some of these containment measures have included closures of schools and childcare services, lockdown and guidelines of physical distancing, shutting down of non-essential business and suspension of community and recreation services and programs. The ripple effects of such actions and the impact on families and societies is now being felt and seen in very real ways including strain on healthcare systems, a pending economic crisis, food and housing insecurity and social upheaval. These disruptions to everyday life mean that many young children are at home unable to attend

early childhood education and care and are therefore now entirely reliant on their caregivers for nurturing care to meet all of their developmental needs. This added burden on families to balance childcare and work responsibilities, compounded by economic instability and social isolation in many cases, is fertile ground for home environments characterized by toxic stress. We know that optimal brain development requires a stimulating and enriching environment, adequate nutrition, learning opportunities and social interaction with attentive caregivers. Under the current pandemic context, access to these opportunities will likely be severely restricted, compromising the healthy developmental trajectory of many children. Unsafe conditions, negative interactions and lack of educational opportunities during the early years can lead to irreversible outcomes, which can affect a child's potential for the remainder of his or her life. While every educational institution in India shut down in March 2020 and most moved online to ensure continued learning during the pandemic. We have approximately 165 million children in 0-5 year's age group who have lost out on early childhood care and learning centers dedicated to their development continue to remain closed. According to UNICEF, school closures can lead to drastically negative outcomes for children to multiple risks. The longer schools are closed, the more children suffer from extensive learning losses with long-term negative impacts including future income and health. Depending on their age, gender and disability or social economy status, many children (especially adolescent) do not return to school after long closures and many more are

expected to suffer permanent losses to their learning. In addition, children rely on schools for nutrition, psychological support and health services.

While some preschool operators across the country shifted to an online format to offer uninterrupted learning, a certain section of parents voiced their concerns about the increasing in the time young children would spend in front of a screen and its impact and did not enroll their children into an online program for the rest of 2020. Although there is evidence that spending a long period in front of a screen can impact children, the effect of zero learning year on a child's long term development is more harmful and can cause multipliers effect as a child grows up. According to a recent survey, parents of toddlers are quite worried about their children losing out on learning, and believe that it is very important to keep a child's education going during this pandemic. Nearly 95% of the parents, survey stated that they have enrolled their child in some form of learning online or homeschooling, to ensure continuity in their education. For those who took up an online format in 2020 for their toddlers to avoid a near zero- learning year. When asked about the achievement of learning outcomes of their children, parents cited that their children were able to grasp important pre-academic skills such as recognizing colors, printed names, letters of the alphabets, numbers etc. more than any other skill. The survey also reveals that many parents believe that while academic learning is being somewhat managed and learning outcomes are being addressed, parents are also worried about their child's social and physical development. As per the survey

findings, 80% of parents who had enrolled in online pre-schooling saw delivery of clear learning outcomes and 75% of these parents were willing to recommend online pre-schooling to their friends and families. Making sure that preschoolers get a high quality early childhood education, whether online or offline is the most important priority for parents as it impacts the children's ability to learn, manage their own behaviors and get along well with others and also acts as a foundation for success in adult life.

The immediate and long-term negative effects of the pandemic on children's health and development are likely to disproportionately affect families in communities with high concentrations of poverty, lack of access to quality healthcare and affordable childcare, food and housing insecurity and limited services for family support. Similarly, the ongoing crisis is likely only to exacerbate the situation of children living in home environment characterized by a lack of access to developmentally appropriate resources, such as toys and books, low levels of stimulation and responsive care or inadequate supervision prior to the crisis. Also it may be unrealistic to expect caregivers, particularly those with low levels of education or limited caregiving skills to begin with, to be able to offset the resulting gaps from children's lack of attendance to education and other care opportunities. Mitigating the negative impact of COVID-19 on young children will require strategic multi-sectoral approaches and the synergy of interventions in health, nutrition, security, protection, participation and early education.

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## COVID WATCH -2 Death by Covid or Starvation

By: Yambem Laba

The Manipur High Court is not exactly known for judicial activism in the sense that it seldom takes up take up cases "suo-moto" (on its own) on issues pertaining or affecting the society at large. But it was a welcome step when it directed the State to report to it the steps it has taken up so far on the question of ICU beds and availability of oxygen etc. It had issued this directive upon receipt of a writ petition from a citizen. It further directed to State to facilitate free movement to attendants of Covid patients already hospitalized to provide them with nutritional needs on their own as the major hospitals namely JNIMS and RIMS are not in a position to do the same as was mentioned in the petition.

**PRESENT SCENARIO**

While the High Court directive can be said to be the good news the bad news and reality check is that the number of positive cases detected and 20 Covid related deaths is an ominous sign of the accelerating problem at hand. That 592 people tested positive even after a Lockdown coupled with curfew had been clamped indicates that there is a big leakage somewhere and there could be more hidden cases elsewhere. Why hasn't the Sarkar thought about mandatory tests for all to citizens Leikai or Ward wise. It would be like catching the bull by the horn but it must be done pronto. Then the population could be divided into Positive and Negative segments. Those who have been tested positive could be quarantined in the many Covid centers which we see one Horn'ble or the other inspecting almost on a daily basis and made to be treated and those who have been tested negative should be allowed to

move about unfettered and their certificates checked on the streets by the thousands of the policemen at the sarkar's command.

**EMERGENCY RELIEF STAFF**

Almost every time the Country goes to a major war the Government invokes a concept called Emergency Commissioned Officers to command the forces in the field. They are dispensed with after the emergency is over or made to continue after a series of tests and examinations. Likewise the State is facing a war like situation. I am not competent to talk about it on the national scale that is best left to major international media houses like the BBC, The London Times, the Washington Post and the New York Times, so I am concentrating in my small orbit called Manipur. Assuming that all policemen, Manipur Rifles and IRB Personnel would have got the Covidshield vaccination by now segments of them could be earmarked and given crash courses in medicare made to don PPEs and assigned them to assist the doctors on duty in the Covid wards or isolated treatment centres and they having been trained as a disciplined force would be an added asset.

This also brings to mind that the Government is mulling over the thought of all students including last year MBBSI Students on Covid duty. It should not be forgotten that they are primarily students in the first case and PG students have been handling patients who have been tested Covid positive in their respective wards. But that does not mean that the Government can by an executive order transfer them to Covid Care centres if it has no right sans a new legislation or an Ordinance. And if it is an executive

order it must be accompanied by an incentive in the form of extra remuneration to the stipend which they are receiving at the moment plus their service should be counted whilst giving their fial degrees.

Also it will do well for the Sarkar to recruit all available Doctors and Nurses available in Manipur along the lines of Emergency Commissioned Officers mentioned earlier with a clear cut MOU with the individuals that it does not guarantee a full term employment with the State along the lines of Junior residents in big hospitals. Also it should borne in mind that a country does not need extra weaponaries if it does not have the soldiers to fire them. Henceof what use would be the Covid Centres that has cropped up if does not have adequate trained manpower to man them.

Also the news that six doctors are yet to report for duty in Ukhrul for over a month after they were posted there is a grae news. Although the doctors in the lure of cushy postings and commercial interests might have forgotten the fact they had already taken the Oath of Hippocrates should not forget that they are public servants in the first case. Fed on salaries drawn from public taxes. Upon issuance of transfer order it should also be mentioned that failure to report 48 hours of receiving the transfer order would be liable to be suspended from service without a show cause notice be served upon them.

**STATE OF THE ECONOMY**

The Manipur economy at best could be described to be in a state of Stagflation one in which there is stagnation in growth and inflation at the same time. The fact that the Banks although exempted from closure nothing was mentioned about

the movement of it's staff members to their respective banks in the midst of the curfew imposed. And consequently almost all the ATMs have also ran dry. The talk about commissioning MOMA to deliver vegetables to consumers would hardly make sense to consumers who have no cash at hand to make the purchases. The entire population has negligible disposable income at hand. The growth of the economy is also dependent on the number of times a currency unit changes hand every day which is called the velocity of money.

And as stated by economist Dr. Chinglen Meisnam that the State should provide food free of cost to those living below the poverty line and at subsidized rate to those above it as is being done a few Indian States including Kerala. It should be noted here about the methodology as to how the Chinese brought Covid under control in Wuhan and elsewhere where the population was kept confined and members of the Chinese People's Liberation Army distributed cooked food to each every household till the serouge was brought under control.

**CONCLUSION**

As of now there are no visible signs of the making any effort to bring distribution of rice and other edibles to the general population. It is high time for Sri N. Biren Singh the Right Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur to start taking opinions of experts not only on medical lines but that also of social scientists and financial experts as well beyond his cohort of advisors. For one day the entire population might just come come out on the streets stating that it would be better for us to die quickly of Covid than to have a slow lingering death due to starvation.

## Condolence



Sheihbek Sheireng Sheipan Shemgat Lup (SEIPAL) condole the sudden demise of the Irengham Kesho on May 10, 2021. The demise of Oja Irengham Kesho is a great loss to Manipuri literatures, said SEIPAL.

A condolence meeting was held with Dr. Athokpam Kholchandra on the chair through online and paid tribute to the departed soul.

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