

Covid Vaccination graph in Manipur fails to climb; state decided to organize mass vaccination at Community level

IT News
Imphal, May 22:

With the graph of the Covid -19 vaccination which has been underway in the state of Manipur remain jigg showing state authority of the vaccination section of the state health department failure to speed up the vaccination drive, a high level committee of the state vaccination unit has decided to organize mass vaccination at community level, a reliable source told Imphal Times.

On an average the state government could vaccinate only around 6000 doses per day even as the stock with the State Vaccine Store (SVS) is supposed to be 101,047 doses as on May 21. If the trend continues it is likely to complete the vaccine doses in stock with the government for around 8 months. And be-

cause of this the allocated vaccines for the state may be re-allocated to other states which had speed up vaccination and which needs more by the Immunization division of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

As per records only around 8,787 people who were between 18 years to 44 years have been vaccinated the first dose. The 3rd phase vaccination programme started from May 17 and on the very day as many as 1828 people of the age group were vaccinated and for reason best known, there was no vaccination on the following day. The number however increased on May 19 with the total vaccination of this group reaching 4,319. Not everything seems to be fine with the number of vaccination decreasing to 73 on May 20. On May 21 the total number of people be-

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tween to age group 18 to 44 reached 2,567. That too there were no vaccination conducted for this age group at 11 (eleven centers) on May 21, as per report. Vaccination were conducted for this age group only at Churachandpur (1247), Imphal East (890), Jiribam (163), Kamjong (136) and Ukhrul (131).

Why the graph of the vaccination cannot be rise at a time when the state authority have been appealing people for vaccination at the earliest, is the questioned raise by from section of people. Is it because those utilizing for Cowin registration are not efficient

enough or are there lack of manpower or is it because the vaccination site is less?

Interestingly, a reliable source told Imphal Times that the government had decided to relax the limitation of vaccine beneficiaries that was earlier fixed at 150. Besides, it has also been decided to increase the vaccination centers. In a meeting of the core committee for vaccination of the state government it has also been decided to conduct mass vaccination in the community in support with the Community/Club/ Community based organization and elected members.

India Again Sets a New Record with Highest ever 20.66 Lakh Tests Conducted in the last 24 hours

Less than 3 Lakh daily New Cases for six Successive days

PIB
New Delhi, May 22:

With more than 20.66 Lakh tests conducted in the last 24 hours, India has again set a new record of highest tests conducted in a day. This is also the fourth successive day of more than 20 lakh tests in India.

The daily positivity rate has declined to 12.45%.

Cumulatively, 20,66,285 tests conducted in the last 24 hours in the country.

India's Daily Recoveries continue to outnumber the Daily New Cases for the ninth consecutive day. 3,57,630 recoveries were registered in the

last 24 hours.

India's cumulative recoveries have reached 2,30,70,365 today. The National Recovery Rate has grown further to touch 87.76%.

Ten states account for 73.46% of the new recoveries. In another positive development, India has recorded less than 3 lakh Daily New cases for six consecutive days now.

2,57,299 Daily New Cases were registered in the last 24 hours.

Ten States reported 78.12% of the new cases in last 24 hours. Tamil Nadu has reported the highest daily new cases at 36,184, followed by

Karnataka with 32,218 new cases.

On the other hand, India's total Active Caseload has decreased to 29,23,400 today.

A net decline of 1,04,525 is witnessed in the last 24 hours.

It now comprises 11.12% of the country's total Positive Cases.

8 States cumulatively account for 69.94% of India's total Active Cases.

The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country exceeded 19.33 Cr today under the Phase-3 of the nationwide Vaccination Drive.

A total of 19,33,72,819 vaccine doses have been admin-

istered through 27,76,936 sessions, as per the provisional report till 7 am today. These include 97,38,148 HCWs who have taken the 1st dose and 66,91,350 HCWs who have taken the 2nd dose, 1,48,70,081 FLWs (1st dose), 83,06,020 FLWs (2nd dose), 92,97,532 beneficiaries under 18-44 age group (1st dose), 6,02,11,957 (1stdose) and 96,84,295 (2nd dose) beneficiaries aged 45 to 60 years, 5,63,83,760 1st dose beneficiaries and 1,81,89,676 2nd dose beneficiaries of more than 60 years old.

Ten states account for 66.30% of the total doses given so far in the country.

Voice of Imphal Times

Co-win statistics on vaccination numbers confusing : Is it an error or negligence?



IT Desk

The total number of Covid -19 doses vaccinated to people across the country provided in the dash board of the www.cowin.gov.in is confusing as the arithmetic goes wrong shows something else. According to the application the total number of doses so far given as on May 21, 2021 was 19,02,92,253. The co-win application statistics also stated the number of 1st dose vaccination as 14,87,32,370, while the number of 2nd dose vaccination was 4,15,59,883.

It is logical that if the number of 2nd doses is 4,15,59,883 then naturally the total number of vaccine doses should be (Dose 1 + (Dose 2x2) that is, the total number of doses should be the addition of 14,87,32,370 + 4,15,59,883 + 4,15,59,883 which is equal to 23,18,52,136 (Twenty three Crore eighteen lakhs fifty thousand one hundred thirty six) doses.

The same is shown for all the states. For Delhi too the number of 1st doses given is shown as 39,17,551 and the number of 2nd dose given is 11,46,370. It is common sense that the number of people who got the 2nd dose already had been vaccinated the 1st dose. And thus the total number of vaccine doses so far vaccinated for the state of Delhi should be the number of Dose 1 + Dose 2 + Dose 2. However, the total number of doses given in Delhi is shown as 50,63,921. That means the number of doses jab on the people who got the 2nd Dose has been left out. The arithmetic definitely is confusing.

Coming back to the state of Manipur where not even 15% of the population has

been vaccinated, the total number of vaccine doses used is shown as 4,11,958. As per the dashboard of the Cowin application the total first dose used is shown as 3,41,903 while the total 2nd dose is shown as 70,055. The number of doses given to the people who get the 2nd dose has been again left out. The total number of vaccine so far use should be 4,82,040 doses and not 4,11,958.

For state like Manipur, which always depend on the Central government for procuring vaccines, if the number of vaccine doses used has been miscalculated then there are possibilities of the Central government assuming adequate stock of vaccine doses with the state.

For example the total number of Covishield vaccine doses received by the state as on May 12, 2021 was 5,52,230 doses and in addition with the release of Covid-19 vaccine by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Immunization Division, Government of India, dated May 17, 2021, as per a letter no. T-22014/07/2021-Imm the total vaccine so far received by the state of Manipur should be 6,02,230 doses. Since then, no vaccine has been allotted so far for the state. The first package of Covishield vaccine received by the state government from the center was on January 13, 2021. A total of 54,000 doses were received. Later on January 20 another doses of 48,000 was received. The largest quantity i.e. 2,45,000 doses of Covishield Vaccine was received on February 12. On March 5, state received 17,360 doses of Covishield vaccines, another 23,030 doses was received on April 5. On April 26, 50,000 doses of Covishield was received and another 75,000 doses was received some few days later. That was the time when vaccination at

private centers have to be put on halt due to limited stock of the vaccines with the state government.

Later on May 12, 39,840 doses of Covishield was received and the vaccine received on the day has been announced for starting of the 3rd phase programme.

Now as on May 21, 2021, the total number of 1st dose given is 3,41,781 and the total number of 2nd dose vaccine given is 79,701. This too is not updated in the dashboard of Cowin application at 2.30 pm today (May 22, 2021). And even as private center has stopped vaccination the dashboard said that there are 3 (three) private Covid vaccination centers in Manipur. Mention may be made that private centers have stopped vaccination since May first week due to non availability of vaccines.

So the total vaccine doses used till yesterday was 501,183. Assuming that the state of Manipur received 6,02,230 doses of vaccine so far the number of vaccine doses stock to be left with the state is 101,047 doses.

But as per the Cowin application the number of vaccine doses (if updated) will be 101,047 doses plus 79,701 doses, which is equal to 180,748 dose left with the state.

This will certainly create problem with the state government as there will be lack of vaccine supply as the center will assume the state having adequate doses in stock if based on the Cowin application.

Manipur Government should put up this matter with the center and should urge the center to make correction of the Cowin dashboard report to avoid any criticism from the part of the Central government.

MCS Association donates Oxygen Cylinders to CM's Covid-19 Relief Fund

IT News
Imphal, May 22:

Manipur Civil Service (MCS) Association along with some IAS/SCS Officers of 2007 batch donated 50 D-Type Oxygen Cylinders to Chief Minister's COVID-19 Relief Fund. The cylinders costing a total amount of Rupees 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh) were donated by the As-

sociation taking into account the immediate requirement of oxygen cylinders for use in treatment of COVID patients in various hospitals and COVID Care Centres.

The MCS Association was represented by Director, Information and Public Relations Shri Heinsnam Balkrisna; Director, Social Welfare and President, MCS Association Shri Ngangom

Uttag; Additional District Magistrate, Imphal west and Secretary, MCS Association. Shri Yumnam Nelson and Joint Director, Transport Dr. Mayengbam Veto among others.

It is worth mentioning that the Government had been putting in all possible efforts to ensure no dearth of oxygen supply for treatment of COVID-19 patients in the State.

The cyclone "Yaas" likely to form over North Andaman Sea and East Central Bay of Bengal

IT Correspondent
New Delhi, May 22:

After the cyclone "Tauktae" battered southern and western parts of the country in the last few days, a low pressure area is very likely to form over North Andaman Sea and adjoining East Central Bay of Bengal around Saturday intensifying into a Cyclonic storm in next 72 hrs. As per IMD forecast.

The cyclone is predicted to move North-westwards and reach Odisha - West Bengal coasts around 26 May 21 evening. The system will be named "Yaas" once it develops into a cyclone.

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has initiated extensive pre-emptive measures on Eastern coast and

all the ashore, afloat and aviation units are on high alert. The development of weather in Bay of Bengal is being closely monitored and ICG Remote Operating Stations (ROS) in the States/UTs of Tamilnadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal as well as Andaman & Nicobar islands are incessantly relaying weather alert messages on Mobile Mounting Bracket (MMB) radio at regular intervals both in English and in vernacular language to alert Merchant vessels, fishing boats, fisheries survey, Scientific research vessels, Oil rigs, accommodation barges, support vessels for Offshore Development Areas (ODAs), etc, an official statement said.

Ships at anchorage have

also been advised to take shelter and necessary safety measures. "Navtex" warnings (an international automated medium frequency direct-printing service for delivery of navigational and meteorological warnings and forecasts, as well as urgent maritime safety information (MSI) to ships), are being issued regularly and International safety Net (ISN) has been activated to alert the vessels in/transiting through area. Port authorities, Oil rig operators, Shipping, fisheries authorities and fishermen associations have been informed about the likelihood of cyclone formation and a close liaison and coordination for safety of boats, vessels and fixed platforms is being maintained.

Though fishing ban is enforced on the east coast of India, Coast Guard Dornier aircraft and Ships at sea are also broadcasting weather warning to fishermen operating at sea about likely formation of cyclone and directing them to return to nearest harbour for safety. ICG has also requested respective State/UT governments to sensitise fishers and accounting of fishing boats present in harbour and a close liaison is being maintained.

In addition, Coast Guard Disaster Relief Teams (DRTs) with inflatable boats, Life buoys and lifejackets are standby for undertaking Disaster response operations. Medical teams & ambulances have also been kept standby for swift mobilisation.

The current trend of evaluation is pushing students towards Cribbing



By: Vijay GarG

Examinations have hardly been a true reflection of a person's creative, collaborative, social, and critical thinking skills. It is a marks-driven, goal-oriented, socially accepted norm that is losing its importance, every time we are moving away from essay-type questions to short, very short, and multiple-choice questions (MCQs). The National Education Policy 2020 attempts to move from rote to competency-based learning, inculcating creative and critical thinking capacities in students to meet the challenges of the 21st century proactively. While the goal is ideal, the current road to this goal isn't.

With more weightage being put on MCQs and objective-type questions and less on long answers, we are only pushing the learners towards a convergent thinking process. While such MCQs set on real-life, out-of-textbook situations sound fancy and are objective, does it bring out creativity and critical thinking in learners considering the kind of objectives that are set at the school level?

With the post-graduate and final-year medical students being required to join the Covid squad, do we realise that the real exam is in the implementation of our knowledge? Given the novel challenges arising each day, do we appreciate the need for research and innovation or at least developing the knack for it? Ideally, research-oriented thinking should be inculcated as early as school level to address these challenges.

Objective-type questions and MCQs do not evoke or assess creativity in students unless we ask for a justification for the responses. Although for science and mathematics, there is a higher scope of objective-type questions such questions do not keep room for elucidation, novelty, innovation, and creativity. MCQs especially restrict insightful thinking.

Every individual has a unique way of approaching a problem and arriving at the solution. Any number of options in MCQs is insufficient to take into account all the possibilities in which such a large number of human brains attempting that question can arrive at a solution. Only an explanation of the answer can bring out such diversity. To evaluate the approaches should be more important than evaluating the answers themselves. MCQs limit creativity at large.

Plagiarism, copy-paste, cheating are practices that have not been strongly addressed in India, and with the current trend of evaluation, we are pushing students more towards these unethical practices. We have normalised the use of Google-searched information in projects, where students are simply trying to circumvent the process of literature review, experimentation, and critical engagement with texts. It also falls upon us to frame questions in a manner that rules out copy-pasting, that lets the learners know what plagiarism is and why it should be avoided.

Online exams are adding to the difficulty of conducting fair exams and eradicating copy-paste and rote learning since we have very little control over the adoption of unfair means on the part of the students. An exam will be true to its purpose if it requires students to arrive at answers organically through critical thinking and creativity while incorporating knowledge acquired from lectures and textbooks. Towards that, essay-type, research-based, and open-book exams must be introduced in school education.

The pandemic was a great opportunity for the evaluation system to change for better in India. We should have shifted from asking "what do you know about" to "how do you know", "design an experiment" or "conduct a survey".

Exams are getting postponed and cancelled at several levels due to the pandemic. This is the right time to engage students in research, nurture their abilities to write a research paper, and orient them towards research-based learning. Such research does not always require technological infrastructure. For learners who are in remote villages, their natural surroundings can act as a data resource for all subjects. And if we are still bothered about "who has topped?" the best few papers could be published by the institutions. This should start right at the school level.

Hopefully, one day we will accept that everything cannot be explained in a "nutshell", life is not all about "choices" and we cannot always be "objective" in our approach. To instil the 21st-century skills in a learner requires us to challenge them more and not undermine their capabilities to score even when they are made to tackle descriptive thought-evoking questions.

Army Chief reviews operational readiness & security situation in North-East

IT News
Imphal, May 22:

Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane arrived at Dimapur (Nagaland) on 20 May 2021 on a two day visit to review the operational readiness along the Northern Borders of Arunachal Pradesh and security situation in hinterland of North East.

On arrival at the Corps Headquarters in Dimapur, the Army Chief was briefed by Lieutenant General Johnson Mathew, General Officer Commanding Spear Corps and the Division Commanders on the prevailing situation and operational preparedness along the Northern borders.

The COAS complimented all ranks for maintaining excellent vigil and exhorted them to stay alert and keep watch on activities along the LAC.

The Army Chief is scheduled to return back to New Delhi on 21 May 2021.

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International Day of Biological Diversity 2021

By: N. Munal Meitei
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Today, the world is fighting from the 2nd wave of COVID-19 pandemic just like a 3rd World War, a war between a killer virus and the human. Many countries are fighting with the similar SOPs which you and I are to follow to fight back the virus including the recent black/white fungus. As on date, Manipur has lost 646 peoples and my humble submission to the bereaved families is to plant at least one tree in the name of the beloved victims and with this celebration we also share our profound solace and fortitude to the suffering patients who are fighting from this pandemic.

International Day of Biological Diversity is observed on the 22nd May every year to increase understanding and awareness of our biodiversity issues. This day also advocate the people for the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050 and reducing the biodiversity loss. The theme for this year is 'We're part of the solution #ForNature'. With this celebration we are reminding for using the existing scientific and traditional knowledge to conserve, sustainably use and ensure equitable access and benefits associated with our biodiversity. We also have a unique opportunity to connect this growing movement of ideas and solutions to deliberately accelerate biodiversity positive practices, bridging networks, knowledge and capacities to make biodiversity and nature a priority for all. Together we can prepare and galvanize further action and awareness on the political impetus to nature for people, prosperity and our planet.

Biodiversity is the living fabric of the planet. It is the measure of the health of the ecosystem. It underpins human wellbeing in the present and in the future, and its rapid decline threatens nature and people alike. Biodiversity is the variety of all living beings, the degree of variation of life forms within a given species, ecosystem, biome, or an entire planet. Biodiversity is

a common good, an invaluable legacy formed over the course of millions of years, and capital to transmit to the future generations. On this Day the proverb is particularly fitting: "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."

By halting biodiversity loss, we are investing in people, their lives, future and their well-being. The rate of Biodiversity lost from the planet is about a species for every 20 minutes and about 100 species per day. To support 778 crores of people worldwide, the mother earth is over exhausted and to meet the human demands, mankind will require two earths by 2030.

A species once lost forever. And when species is affected, it also starts to affect to other species. Thus each and every species has a particular function in an ecosystem. Some species can capture energy in various forms: for example they can produce organic material, contribute to the nutritive system of the ecosystem, control soil erosion, act as a protection from pollution of the atmosphere and regulate the climate. Ecosystems contribute to improving the production of resources, as for example, soil fertility, pollination of plants and decomposition of vegetables and animals. They also carry out real services such as: purifying the air and water, moderating the climate and controlling the rain or drought, and other environmental disasters. Obviously all these important functions are fundamental for human survival. The more varied the ecosystem is, i.e. the greater the biodiversity, the greater its resistance to environmental stress will be. Thus, biodiversity is like a large tank, from which humans can draw food, pharmaceutical products and even cosmetics.

Forests are the integral part of global sustainable development. The present day worldwide loss of forest is about the size of a football ground per minute with about 650 crore trees per year. But a fully

grown up tree can produce the oxygen for 10 persons in a year. Then what is the lost. According to World Bank, more than 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods with some 300 million living in them and deforestation accounts for up to 20 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. Forests cover 1/3 of the earth's surface and are estimated to contain as much as 2/3 of all known terrestrial species.

Forest ecosystems also provide a wide array of goods and services. In the last 8,000 years, about 45% of the earth's original forest cover has been converted. FAO estimated that forests provide habitats to about two-thirds of all species on earth. Hence, the conservation of forests offers important opportunities to protect biodiversity and mitigate climate change. Biodiversity is an "assurance" for life on our Planet, and therefore must be protected at all costs, because it is a universal heritage that can offer immediate advantages to human beings.

Once the French environmentalist Olivier Behra said, "fenced-off conservation areas detached from civilization won't save endangered species on their own." Preserving biodiversity and human development must go hand-in-hand. Once there was only a choice between development and conservation. But now we realize that we cannot separate these two words any longer.

The main global drivers of biodiversity loss are climate change, invasive species, over-exploitation, pollution and urbanization. Biodiversity loss implies the reduction and disappearance of species and genetic diversity and the degradation of ecosystems. It jeopardizes nature's vital contributions to humanity, endangering economies, livelihoods, food security, cultural diversity and quality of life, and constitutes a major threat to global peace and security. UNESCO ob-

served that keeping ecosystems resilient and safeguarding our planet's biodiversity is fundamental to poverty eradication, human health and wellbeing.

In the last 100 years, more than 90 percent of crop varieties have disappeared from farmers' fields. Half of the breeds of many domestic animals have been lost, and all of the world's 17 main fishing grounds are now being fished out or above their sustainable limits. Locally-varied food production systems are under threat, including related indigenous, traditional and local knowledge on traditional medicines. The loss of diverse diets is directly linked to diseases or health risk factors, such as diabetes, obesity and malnutrition, and has a direct impact on the availability of traditional medicines.

Manipur being in the convergence of two important world's Biodiversity Hot Spots has the richest life forms. But our present biodiversity status is quite alarming. Indiscriminate felling of trees in the hills for firewood, poppy plantation, logging and repeated forest wildfire couple with traditional hunting habits by hill peoples have reduced our precious wildlife and biodiversity to anacutecoma. As per a report, the forest areas felled for poppy plantation in Manipur during 2017 were 6300 acres and now it might have been almost double also. A state of Forest India report 2019, 489 sq. km of our forest have been lost. Thus after sometimes, water crisis will be the most alarming problem causing for shifting of the hill peoples to the already congested valley which already with 64% of the total population but that occupies only about 10% of the geographical area.

Therefore with the coming of the International Day of Biodiversity 2021, let's save our environment and Forest and then only we can have a glorious and rich-full biodiversity for the sake of our mother earth and the future generation.

Fault Pride

By: Heisnam Lakeshwar Singh

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Dukandar, when you ask him for a help (as like you are bagging by paying money), many a time you may find he is so tired in replying you, he is just keep on chatting with the next guy, he doesn't even bother you are standing and waiting for his reply. Smile? Don't even think of it. The funny part is you may come across few customer care executives, when you say "thank you" to him, you can see a kind of indifferent expression on his face. You may come across the words, "your value and status increases when you let others wait for you". In few organizations you may find your manager/HR is doing nothing in his cabin but he lets the other guy waiting for him in the reception area.

I have been studying this from last many years. Do you know what I found? I found generally those people who show such attitude are the people with less value and quality inside them. This is happened because of their stupidity, but this stupidity cost big thing to our society. It creates a culture, obviously unwanted, which is depend upon the fault pride. How does it create culture? These small things are passed to the generations, from superior to subordinate and from father to son. At last it becomes a motivational factor, a recognition which drives the people to work hard so

that one day he can hold such position which gives him the power to look down others. The same subordinate who is in the side of victim will become a manager one day, that day he will act exactly like his manager, because this is what he learnt from his manager. I have come across friends and seniors who raged his juniors because he was raged by his senior. In order to function it more smoothly few organizations make the difference among the subordinate and superior team more visible by giving different uniform.

What does it leads to? It leads to put up more superiority and inferiority complexes in our society based on the kind of job the people do. Slowly we started giving more importance on the position and the title of the job instead of people's character, honesty, hard work, integrity and professionalism. It corrupts the human values. Therefore people often consider money versus human values as trade off. Not only this, it also creates different classes among the people inside the same society. Now many people feel awkward in doing some kind of job, feeling if they do this they feel inferior. They feel if they do this, no girls will love him. After all recognition is the only motivation and inspiration of the people. You may argue on me, as much

money is the only motivational factor for some people, but my answer would be what they do with much money is the real motivational factor, which shows to people that he is rich. When people work out of compulsion not because of motivation, how can we expect quality and value from his work? When there is more number of unhappy people in our society, how the society will prosper? Classification based on job title affects the attitude of the people living in the society.

However there are many people who understand these values. Otherwise this concept would have extinct from our society. It is like story of two wolves, the good wolf versus the bad wolf, the one which you feed more, grows stronger and that decide who you are. I have seen professor, lecturer and teacher who are very knowledgeable at the same time very good human being. I also have worked with manager or superior who is very knowledgeable with whom some time I discussed such things, most of the time I am the listener. From this what I know is human values like character, honesty, integrity, humbleness etc. is directly proportional to the amount of knowledge, wisdom and quality the person possess.

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