More than 22 crore vaccine doses provided to States/UTs

Delhi Delhi, May 26:

As part of the nationwide vaccination drive, Government of India has been supporting the States and UTs by providing them COVID Vaccines free of cost. In addition, the Govt. of India has also been facilitating direct procurement of vaccines by the States/UTs. Vaccination is an integral pillar of the comprehensive strategy of Government of India for containment and management of the pandemic, along with Test, Track, Treat and COVID Appropriate Behaviour.

Implementation of the Liberalized and Accelerated Phase-3 Strategy of Covid-19 Vaccination has started from 1st May 2021.

Under the Strategy, in every month 50% of the total Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL) cleared vaccine doses of any manufacturer would be procured by Govt. of India. It would continue to make these doses available to the State Govts totally free of cost as was being done earlier.

Government of India has so far provided, both through the free of cost category and through direct state procurement category, more than 22 crore vaccine doses (22,00,59,880) to States/UTs.

Of this, the total consumption, including wastages is 20,13,74,636 doses (as per data available at 8 AM today).

More than 1.77 crore COVID Vaccine doses (1,77,52,594) are still available with the States/UTs to be administered.

Furthermore, 1 lakh (1,00,000) vaccine doses are in the pipeline and will be received by the States/UTs within the next 3 days.

In a meeting held today through online. the members of the All Manipur College Teachers' Association AMCTA also condoles the sudden and untimely demise of Dr. M. Mani Singh, HOD, Department of English, Mayai Lambi College, Yumnam Huidrom who expired on 25th May, 2021 due to Covid-19 .

Daily Positivity Rate currently at 9.42%; less than 10% for 2 consecutive days

Nationwide Cumulative Vaccination Coverage crosses landmark of 20 Crore

PIB
New Delhi, May 26:

India has recorded less than 3 lakh Daily New Cases for ten consecutive days now.

2,08,921 Daily New Cases are registered in the last 24 hours.

Cumulatively, the Active Caseload has also now reduced to 24,95,591. Active Cases have decreased since its last peak on 10th May 2021.

A net decline of 91,191is witnessed in the last 24 hours. It now comprises 9.19% of the country's total Positive Cases.

India's Daily Recoveries continue to outnumber the Daily New Cases for the 13th consecutive day. 2,95,955 recoveries were registered in the last 24 hours. 87,034 more recoveries during the last 24 hours as compared to the daily new cases.

India's cumulative recoveries have reached 2,43,50,816 today with the 2,95,955 patients who have recovered in the last 24 hours.. The National Recovery Rate has grown further to touch 89.66%.

On another front, the highest ever single day tests 22,17,320 were conducted in the last 24 hours in the country and cumulatively 33,48,11,496 tests have been done so far.

The Weekly Positivity Rate is currently at 11.45% while the Daily Positivity rate has reduced and now stands at 9.42% today. It has remained less than 10% for 2 consecutive days now.

India has achieved a new milestone in its vaccination drive as the cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has exceeded 20 Cr today under the Phase-3 of the Nationwide Vaccination Drive.

A total of 20,06,62,456 vaccine doses have been administered through 28,70,378 sessions, as per the provisional report till 7 am today. These include 97,96,058 HCWs who have taken the 1st dose and 67,29,213 HCWs who have taken the 2nd dose, 1,51,71,950 FLWs (1st dose), 83,84,001 FLWs (2nd dose), 1,29,57,009 beneficiaries under 18-44 age group (1st dose), 6,20,88,772 (1st dose) and 1,00,30,729 (2nd dose) beneficiaries aged 45 to 60 years. 5,71,35,804 1st dose beneficiaries and 1,83,68,920 2nd dose beneficiaries of more than 60 years old.

200 bedded AYUSH Hospital inaugurated at Keirao

IT News
Imphal, May 26:

Chief Minister N Biren Singh inaugurated the Integrated Ayush Hospital and Covid Care Centre with 200 beds and oxygen concentrators at Keirao Assembly Constituency.

The hospital was set up in a short period and will enable the State Government to reduce the load in other existing facilities in providing health care to Covid and non-covid patients.

L. Rameshwor Meetei, Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board, Manipur, MLA, Keirao A/c, Sapam Ranjan, Advisor to CM and the officials for the effort in setting up this Covid Care Centre accompanied the Chief Minister while inaugurating the Ayush Hospital.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated PSA Oxygen Plant at District Hospital Churachandpur today.

Action to be taken against way ward Headmaster: Minister Rajen

IT News
Imphal, May 26:

Education Minister S. Rajen Singh has said that appropriate action will be taken against the headmaster of Singa Upper Primary School for not complying the state government's order during this pandemic juncture.

Speaking to media at his residence at Salam, Minister Rajen said that report of conducting coaching class in Upper Primary School, Singa in Thoubal District has been circulated through local dailies today. A student organization, while conducting a surprise visit after receiving complaint in this regard found conducting coaching class in this school, he added.

Minister maintained that we are at a very critical period because of COVID-19 pandemic. Our priority at this juncture, is to save lives of our people. It is very unfortunate if any individual or official disrespects the order of the government during this very pandemic hour.

He said that Director of Education (S) has been instructed to take up appropriate action against such government officials. Action will also be taken up against those private schools authorities by cancelling recognition if found violating government orders, minister added.

WhatsApp moves Delhi High Court against India's new IT Rules

Agency
New Delhi, May 26:

WhatsApp has moved the Delhi High Court against India's new and stricter IT Rules that require instant messaging platforms to aid in identifying the 'originator' of messages.

The petition challenging the constitutional validity of the rules, which come into force on May 26, was filed on May 25.

"Requiring messaging apps to 'trace' chats is the equivalent of asking us to keep a fingerprint of every single message sent on WhatsApp, which would break end-to-end encryption and fundamentally undermines people's right to privacy," a WhatsApp spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added that the messaging platform had consistently joined civil society and experts around the world in opposing requirements that would violate the privacy of its users.

"In the meantime, we will also continue to engage with the Government of India on practical solutions aimed at keeping people safe, including responding to valid legal requests for the information available to us," the spokesperson said.

'The Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021' were notified on February 25, giving social media platforms three months to comply. The rules state that intermediary providing messaging services will "enable the identification of the first originator of the information on its computer resource" following a judicial order passed by a court of competent jurisdiction or an order passed under section 69 by the Competent Authority as per the Information Technology Act.

The rules state that an order will be passed only for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of an offence related to the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or of incitement to an offence relating to the above or in relation with rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse material, punishable with imprisonment for a term of not less than five years.

In cases where other less intrusive means are effective in identifying the originator of the information, no order will be passed.

"...in complying with an order for identification of the first originator, no significant social media intermediary shall be required to disclose the contents of any electronic message, any other information related to the first originator, or any information related to its other users," the rules state.

"WhatsApp has done what every company must do if they care about end-to-end encryption and privacy. The IT rules notified by the government are unconstitutional. In the garb of addressing misinformation and regulating technology companies, GoI has been exceeding the powers granted through subordinate legislation and using it for political purposes as is evident from the recent Twitter fracas. This is exactly the reason why the Free and Open Source Software community challenged these rules in the Kerala High Court," Mishi Choudhary, founder, Software Freedom Law Centre, India, said.

The Union government and WhatsApp have been at loggerheads over tracing the origin of fake/unlawful messages for over two years now. The messaging platform has consistently refused to comply with the government's demand, saying that the move will undermine the privacy of WhatsApp users.

Name shake Covid-19 management will not save the people

IT Desk

As per government report on May 25, the number of active Covid-19 positive cases under home isolation is 4,499 people. Total number of active cases on the same day is reported to be 6785 people. This indicates that a total of 2,286 people tested positive with Covid-19 are either undergoing treatment at the two govt. Covid wards open at JNIMS and RIMS or at the three Covid wards open at Shija Hospital, Raj Medicity or AOI Babina Speciality Hospital or at the 8 district hospitals located at various district. Or May be they are being on quarantined at the 12 quarantine centers open by the government or by the local MLAs at their respective assembly constituencies.

Leaving aside the number of beds available at the local level community centers , there are at least 125 vacant bed at either of the 25 Covid-19 related community or treatment centers open by the government.

If included the number of local level community quarantine centers open – like the one open at Manipur College under the initiative of the local MLA Y. Khemchand who is also the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, number of vacant bed at the quarantine center could have been more than 125.

In Manipur's society, home isolation for Covid-19 positive cases is just an excused. Except at some part of greater Imphal area or to some families of the state, it is next to impossible for a covid19 positive person to remain in self isolation. 90% of the family in Urban area live together sharing the same bathroom, or nearly 80 % share rooms without proper partition with their near and dear one. And moreover almost all family members were often drive by sentiments and emotions and sometime they dare the covid-19 just to show their care and love to the infected family members.

Encouraging home isolation, at a time when the virus is spreading fast at community level is more like putting all in the dungeon of death.

On the other hand , the government seem to show off with more publicity to the war against the unseen virus. The vaccination was a flop show, the hospital arrangement is much more better in Private hospitals. The government open CCC centers are total flop. CHCs and district hospitals have no ICU or emergency oxygen back up. Those Ventilators sent to Thoubal and Kakhing are lying unused. And people in containment area are getting just 3 kg of rice instead of the promised 5 Kg. And there are rumours about some privileged people engaging themselves in Oxygen business, which ofcourse need appreciations.

The total number of Bed including ICU for Covid treatment at RIMS , JNIMS , Shija Hospital, Raj Medicity and AIO Babina Speciality Hospital is 500. And not to be surprised – the number of ICU beds in the 3 private hospitals is much more than the number of ICU beds in both the largest hospitals in the state RIMS and JNIMS.

As per a government document released on May 14, the total number of ICU beds at both RIMS (with 10) and JNIMs (with 10) is just 20 , while the number of ICU beds at the 3 private hospitals – Shija (42), Raj (25) and Babina (5) are 72. These three private hospitals have less number of beds in Covid Care wards (General) than the two so call largest hospital of the state at which one is run under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and another run by the state government.

Off the 8 district hospitals and CHCs there are no ICUs open and still there are no provisions announced for opening of ICU for Covid treatment in the 8 health centers.

RIMS Condole

IT News
Imphal, May 26 :

Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Media Advisor N. Phillip in a press release stated that Prof. A. Santa Singh, Director, RIMS, Prof. H. Priyosakhi Devi, Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital, Prof. Brogen Singh Akoijam, Dean (Academic), Prof. Sanjib Nepram, Chief Warden, faculty members, wardens, officials, staff and students condole on the sudden demise of Harsemran Singh son of Jitendra Singh, studying MBBS 8th Semester at RIMS.

As a mark of respect to the departed soul, two minutes of silence was observed and expressed deep sorrow and prayed for the bereaved family to bear the loss. The staff of the Institute RIMS pray for peace to the departed soul.

NEOM: A new hope to be in Harmonious with Nature

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh
Asst.Prof. JCRE Global College, Babupara, Imphal

For much of the 20th century technological progress and industrialization came at the expense of our environment. Today we are beginning to see the cost of this trade off: rising global temperatures and sea levels, increasingly severe natural disasters, air pollution and contaminated water. This really demands a new approach to urban living, one that views human development and environmental conservation as complementary, not opposing forces. To secure a more sustainable future, and protect our increasingly fragile environment, we must find new ways that humans can live in harmony with nature. India has demonstrated and understanding of this reality with its commitment to the Paris pledge to reduce its carbon footprint by 33-35% from its 2005 levels by 2030. These decisions will help to shift the global community in the direction of environmental co-existence.

A similar approach can be seen in the creation of NEOM. NEOM is a planned cross border city in the Tabuk Province of north-western Saudi-Arabia. It is planned to incorporate smart city technologies and also function as a tourist destination. The site is north of Red Sea, east of Egypt across the Strait of Tiran and south of Israel and Jordan. It will cover a total area of 26,600sqkm and will extend 460 sqkm along the coat of the Red Sea. Saudi Arabia aims to complete the first section of NEOM by 2025. The project has an estimated cost of 500 billion USD. On 29th January 2019, Saudi Arabia has announced setting up a closed Joint-Stock Company named NEOM with 500 billion USD. The aim of the company that is wholly owned by the Public Investment Fund, the Sovereign Wealth fund to develop the economic zone of NEOM. The project is planned to be totally powered by renewable energy sources. NEOM is being built sustainably as a blueprint for how people and planet can co-exist in harmony. The region's development reimagines environmental conservation with 95% of NEOM's 26,600 sq. km reserve for natural. The region selected for NEOM has a relatively mild climate compared to most of Saudi Arabia. Some of the illustrations for the NEOM project were taken from the Gardens by the Bay in Singapore, leaving commentators to note: " Using an actual shot of Singapore to depict an upcoming construction project in Saudi Arabia is an odd choice". Dr. Paul Marshall, Head of the Nature Region at NEOM, explained that Key to NEOM's design was *"being world leaders in protecting the natural landscape and contributing human and natural habitats. Society has come to believe that economic and social progress are things that come at the expense of environment, but NEO will show that they are not mutually exclusive- rather NEO will prove that harmonious living people hand-in-hand with nature is the only way forward for society and planet.*

Pivotal to NEOM development is pioneering approaches to circular economy where waste is minimized and product life-cycle conserve resources. NEOM will be one of the largest development projects in the world and we will take this opportunity to show case how circular economy principles can be designed into cities and regions from the outset from material societies, the type of cement used, renewable energy production systems, and the role of hydrogen –based energy system and how we can capture benefits from industrial symbiosis, we are excited about the range of opportunities to advance circular economy ideas throughout", Dr. Marshall said. NEOM environmental strategy will follow five key principles: understand; protect; sustain; enhance and inspire. Science and discovery expeditions have already been taken and plans for conservation and national parks drawn up. NEOM seeks to promote a holistic view of conservation, increasing not just protection but enhancement of local natural beauty. In areas that are being developed for human habitation, residents will be inspired to enjoy and venerate nature- green spaces will be easily accessible and integral to daily life. No resident will be more than a five-minute' walk from a natural oasis.

By starting anew, NEOM represents a chance to bypass legacy infrastructure that has made it difficult to truly reorient carbon design around sustainability in other cities. To ensure that development does not come at the expense of the environment, green construction shall be a key consideration of the project- from using cutting edge technology to exploring green cement and sustainable supply chains to achieve carbon –neutrality by 2030. If humanity is to continue to thrive on this planet, it is going to have to fundamentally change its relationship with the natural world. While the downside of the inaction could be catastrophic, the upsides of taking decisive action are also extraordinary: better health, a more secure world and well- preserved natural habitats to visit and appreciate. India understand the importance of acting for these causes. As the world makes this transition, NEOM aims to inspire a global shift alongside India and other change – leaders showing its peers the enormous benefits of sustainability-centric urban design, a circular economy and living. As we approach problems different in size and scope from past centuries, we have the power to reimagine our relationship with nature and create a future that serves both our people and planet. NEOM will inspire the world to make this dream reality.

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Career opportunities in online e-commerce market

By: Vijay GarG

However, the rise of the online market has also become one of the opportunities for the people with the generation of more employment opportunities.

If you want to build a career in the same then here are some of the tricks to keep in mind.

1.Ensure your online presence: Your social media handles somehow show your knowledge about the online world. It is an interesting way which can also land you into a good career.

2. Know the trends of today: Be it dalgona coffee or be it the new Instagram update, you need to be updated with what is "IN" in the present day.

3. Create an unfailing resume: Your resume has to be chic and engaging so that you have the least corners unfolded for getting the digital marketing jobs.

4. Learn from webinars: Today there are many online webinars organized by popular digital marketing leaders like Deepak Kanakraju. So, you can attend the same to get into in-depth details of online marketing.

5. Opt for online courses: The one big compulsion to get your first digital marketing job is to do an online course. Doing an online digital marketing course will give you a lot of knowledge. However, you also have to ensure that the course you take also has certification so that it is easier for you to add to the resume.

And last but not the least, you should dream big but begin with baby steps. So, do not resist even small opportunities as they will only add more to your experience.

These were the tips to learn online marketing, and here are the departments from which you can choose your genre.

1. Blogger: The most interesting job of all because you have a lot to talk about and pen down.

2. Social Media Marketing : Doing Instagram, Facebook, Linkedin can also be part of your job if you are into digital marketing.

3. Search Engine Optimization Regulating and ranking online sites is one of the major challenges, and succeeding in it can surely boost your career.

4. Website Designer and Developer: Designing and developing the website is a key to the growth of the website and thus the growth of you.

5. Content Writer: He is the one who will make SEO successful and therefore one of the most booming careers of today.

Now you know that getting pace in the online e-commerce market is not much difficult. It only requires a smart approach. For this, you can land into the jobs of popular e-commerce brands like Amazon, Flipkart, Myntra, Beyoung etc. So, choose wisely and grab your smart deal to build a digital marketing career online.

Education in the time of Covid-19 Pandemic

By: Prof. Laishram Ladu Singh

The outbreak of Covid19 originating from Wuhan City in China in December 2019 and its escalation to pandemic proportion has jeopardized all public and social support systems for health, education and livelihoodof many countries across the globe. As the corona virus causing Covid19 is contiguous, has short incubation period and its modus operandi is unfamiliar, the whole world is caught unprepared to meet the devastating challenges posed by the virus. The high transmission and fatality rates of Covid19 as compared to other influenza and Sars viruses has subjected public health system to respond in no time with development of new vaccines, establishment of Covid19 care hospital wards, strengthening and orientation of health manpower and upgradation of pathological, clinical and surgical capacity. The best practices adopted for curing infected individuals and curtailment of further spread to uninfected are quarantine/self-isolation of infected individuals, masking, social distance and hand sanitization. In a country of the magnitude of India in terms of population size, geographical area, and regions at different levels of socio-economic development the aforesaid best practices could only be partially followed leading to further surge of positive cases. As such the country relied on complete and partial lockdowns, containment and micro-containment zones management to break the chain of transmission of corona virus. The master stroke of nationwide lockdown was declared by Hon'ble Prime Minister on March 24, 2020 and it lasted till May 17, 2020. From then on from time to time with frequent interactions and directives on various aspects of Covid19 care it is left to the wisdom of state governments to adopt preventative and curative strategies.

Education sector along with manufacturing and service sectors is among the prominent casualties of the Covid19 pandemic as examinations either postponed or ad-hoc methods were adopted and admission delayed. Moreover, students were to abstain from attending physical classes and had to vacate hostel. In order to sustain the education system specially during the lockdown and imposition of restricted inter and intra district movements and movements in containment zones government issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for shifting to online classes. The pitfall of conducting online classes is that it missed out important features and motives of face to face classes. It goes without reiteration that there is no better option to education system than the face to face class as it provides an interactive environment for enhancing enthusiasm and concentration on the subjects among the students, besides interactive class is the most effective means of communication. Teachers can read the face of the students and moderate the intensity and pace of lecture so as to communicate to all students considering their interests, besidesthe feasibility to identify students who needs attention and special care. Despite the aforesaid limitations it is agreed unanimously that in the present Covid19 pandemic online mode of education is the only to sustain academic session. As such is the circumstances the SOPs for virtual quality education should have been ideal with enabling packages for the academic institutions and students. The SOPs assumed that all academic institutions and all students are at the same level playing field and overlooked the ground reality of the fact that many institutions do not have adequate ICT facilities and students from the lowest socio-economic strata do not have access to smart phones. This is coupled with poor mobile network in remote rural areas and inability of parents from poor households to pay for recharge. Not being able to afford and access to online class has induced another tension to the students underprivileged socio-economic groups in addition to the tension of uncertainty of the pandemic. This has also resulted in anxiety and depression among students in general and school students in particular. As a consequence, maintaining equity and providing quality education during the pandemic through online mode is a far cry.

Experts are presently of the opinion that Covid19 pandemic is likely to last till the end of the year or the first quarter of 2022 coinciding with the target of complete vaccination of all eligible population of India. It is therefore high time to support and strengthen ICT infrastructure and capacity of all academic institutions which lack facilities for digital classroom facilities or EMRC (Educational Multimedia Research Centre) for recording and transmission/uploading of lectures. Subjects which involved intensive mathematics and illustrations can be more effectively communicated via recorded lectures. Thus strengthening of ICT infrastructure would make the virtual classes more effective and contribute in improving the quality of education.

Managing online classes at the school particularly for primary and upper primary level is very challenging both for the children and teachers. All of us know that children are to be taught in special way more in the form of learning through play and practice, and also required more interaction and care in imparting formative knowledge of each subjects. There is also the issue of putting children from different socio-economic strata and children studying in private and public schools at the same level playing field despite the fact that children from poor households and rural areas are yet to see for themselves smartphones. For disadvantage children to be able to attend online class in smartphones need assistance of parents and it is also true that all parents from poor and rural households may not have much familiarity in the handling of smartphones, which is also true even for school teachers. As such the notion of equity in online school education take back seat in the pandemic time. In the present online school education none is made accountable and no system of reporting of school wise number of classes conducted for each standard has been involved, so children in public schools are more likely to be deprived of minimum schooling during the pandemic. There seems to be no immediate better solution to the ongoing online school education, however it is important to note that divide in terms of accessibility to school education increases between the rich and the poor students, the public and the private schools, the urban and the rural and the hill and the plain have increased. Therefore, stakeholders of school education have to put together their attention to evolve better and feasible online school education support and implementation plans to be issued as SOP for school education. One wild thought to provide solution to online school education during the Covid19 pandemic is to prepare a common syllabus for all levels which should be followed by all schools in the same state and distribute the responsibilities of recording class for 45-60 minutes, school wise, subject wise and lesson wise in their respective schools during the days and time permitted for attending duties by the government authorities. Government further can take up initiatives to telecast the recorded lessons class wise, subject wise and lesson wise in public and private channels in designated time slots. The same can also done in collaboration with EMRC and ICT centers in the state. The recorded lessons can also be available in the website of Directorate of Education.

Assessment and conduct of examinations during the period of lockdown or restriction to travel during the Covid19 pandemic is also challenging and except that examinations were ad-hoc in nature, the mode of examinations conducted till date varies considerably across the states and institutions. It was mid-way to complete even semesters in most universities in the country when the first nationwide lockdown was declared in March 24, 2020 and then after more than two months of complete lockdown came UGC notification to complete the semesters through online classes followed by another notification to promote intermediate semesters students taking weightage of internal assessments and previous semester examinations grades and conduct online examination for the end semesters. Depending on the ICT capacity of the universities/institutions online examinations for even semesters including last semester were conducted following not so refined procedures. One of the most common methods of online examinations adopted was upload questions in the website of the universities/institutions and ask students to write answers, then scan answer scripts and upload in the universities/institutions website when a stipulated time period. There were no systems to monitor students not even their identity except their mobile numbers, who has written the examinations, from where it was written and whether the answers were copied from books/lecturenotes. Lessons learnt from the experience of first ever online examinations conducted by universities/institutions suggest that no proper assessment of students can be made from the online examinations, rather it is disadvantaged to serious and studious students. Notably open book online examinations are better option provided teachers have orientation for preparation of questions suitable for open book examinations and students were equally oriented in their classes, otherwise students would be trap off guard. The methods of promotion of intermediate semesters students and ad-hoc online examinations for last semester students adopted by universities/institutions are evidently not among the best practices which can be replicated for assessments and examinations in the event of continuance of closing down of academic institutions and lockdown. For graduate, post-graduate and other technical courses assessment and examinations only by online modes even during the pandemic situation shall lead to poor quality of graduates who may find it difficult to get takers for them in the job market. Blended mode of assessment for intermediate and end semesters students with equal weightage for online continuous assessment during the time of online classes and examinations which can either online or offline depending on situations and circumstances. Internal assessments by teachers can distribute equal grades/marks for attendance in online classes, assignments and self-study reports, multiple choice questions (MCQ) and group discussions/interactions all in online mode. Questions for written examinations can be at the level of open book tests comprising of problems solving, MCQ and short answers to be completed in one hour with additional fifteen minutes' time for scanning and uploading answer scripts. For written examinations in online mode at the time of online form fill-up for examinations students mobile number can be registered and OTP for assessing questions five minutes before examinations can be sent to the registered mobile numbers. Softwares can be develop to see the students through their mobile camera and monitor the students and also to send acknowledgement of successful submission of answer scripts. Special arrangement for offline written examinations for students who could not appear in the online examinations in institutions nearest to their place of residence can arrange as and when situation permits. For lower classes at the school students can be promoted and graded on the basis of periodic home based engagements following the online classes. Completed assignments can be put in the drop box of the schools by parents.

The foregoing oration is intended to open up discussions among the stack holders, intellectuals, teachers, parents, students and civil societies for finding a feasible means of sustaining education during the time of the Covid19 pandemic.

Prof. Laishram Ladusingh is the Vice-Chancellor of Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, Assam. The views express is personal.