

At RIMS, only Medical PG students and Junior Residents are treating Covid-19 patient

IT News
Imphal, May 28:

It has now been revealed that patients at Covid wards at one of the prestigious institute called RIMS (Regional Institute of Medical Sciences) – the one and the only Institute in Manipur under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, assigned MBBS PG students and Junior residence doctors to treat Covid-19 patients. Officially it has been known after the Ministry has sent a letter to the director of RIMS to assigned Consultants for Covid patients from either assistant professors or Associate professors.

And moreover, these resident doctors (about 39 of them) have not been given their 3 months honorarium even though they have been utilized on Covid care service.

Doctors in the green zone where the administrators of the RIMS open for consultation of those Covid patients at Covid ward is located more than 200 yards from the wards. And communication with them was never satisfactory. Those discharged from the Covid ward of RIMS had told the miserable stories to Imphal Times, however, due to lack of evidence, Imphal Times remain quiet for so long.

25 years old Ibecha (not

real name) who had undergone treatment at Covid-19 ward RIMS said that they were visited by some nurses and junior doctors only twice a day at a specific time (morning and evening) and sometimes only once in the morning. Co-morbid patients who had complaints of constipation and diabetes were not attended to and left by themselves. There were no doctors (consultant) or nurses in the doctors and nurses cabin open at the ward. Imphal Times journalists had time and again witness several times leaving the patients at Covid-19 wards by themselves.

Some security posted at the gate only shouted to

those who went to hand over medicine to the patient undergoing treatment at the ward.

Doctors at Green zone never give proper answers to patient parties when enquired about the condition. And inside the ward, some patients have to help some of the patients lying at the Covid ward bed.

Doctors (PG students) even called patients who were little improved to help another patient as if there are no nurses or doctors or any hospital attendant. No one had ever dared to questioned as there was no concrete evidence of what has been happening in the Covid ward.

Now with the directives of the Ministry of health and family welfare of the government of India, it is clear that no qualified doctors have ever attended the covid-19 patient at RIMS Covid ward.

RIMS have been cheating the people in the name of treating Covid patient. They have stopped treatment of non-Covid patients and also stopped emergency operation when doctors working with a huge amount of salary are staying home or somewhere where they feel safe from Covid.

Director RIMS should explain the way that Covid patients are being treated at the Covid wards.

CM inaugurates Cryogenic Oxygen Plant at JNIMS COVID Hospital for children below 15 years soon: CM

IT News
Imphal, May 28:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today inaugurated a Cryogenic Liquid Medical Oxygen plant having a storage capacity of 10 KL at JNIMS complex in Imphal East district.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren Singh stated that an 80-bedded dedicated COVID Hospital for children below 15 years would be opened soon. He pointed out that it is a matter of concern that positive cases among children are also on steady rise.

N. Biren Singh said, the Government was not sure in the beginning that an oxygen plant of such capacity could be installed within such a short period. However, with joint ef-

forts and collective hard work of all concerned, it has become a reality now and it is like a dream come true at this critical juncture, he contended.

The Chief Minister informed that PSA oxygen plant in Churachandpur is now operational and a similar plant would also be inaugurated in Thoubal as well within a couple of days. Moreover, many of the hill districts would also have their own oxygen plants soon. In addition to this, N. Biren Singh said, another Cryogenic LMO plant of 20 KL capacity would be installed in Imphal at the earliest.

He also further informed that the State now has around 4000 oxygen cylinders and over 1000 oxygen concentrators. Another ICU block having 70 beds with ventilators is also



coming up at JNIMS complex soon, he said. With all these measures, the Chief Minister said, patients requiring oxygen would be quite manageable.

Maintaining that the Central Government has been pro-

viding prompt assistance whenever needed, he observed that the State should be thankful to the Central leaders for it. Stating that adherence to SoP is the only means to defeat the pan-

dem, he also urged the people to pray for the wellbeing of doctors, nurses, para-medical staff, police and all other frontline warriors.

Later, N. Biren Singh also inaugurated a Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra where people can buy over 600 types of high quality generic medicines and 154 surgical products at affordable rates.

CAF and PD Minister Th. Satyabrata, Manipur Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker K. Robindro, MPs RK Ranjan and Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba, Advisor to CM (Health) Dr. S. Ranjan, MLAs L. Rameshwor, L. Sushindro and M. Rameshwor and Principal Secretary (Health) V. Vumlungmang were also present at the occasion.

India 1.86 lakh cases, Daily New Cases are lowest in last 44 days

PIB
New Delhi, May 28:

India's Active Caseload has now reduced to 23,43,152. Active Cases have decreased since its last peak on 10th May 2021.

A net decline of 76,755 is witnessed in the last 24 hours and active cases are now only 8.50% of the country's total Positive Cases.

As part of continued decline in the daily new cases, the country has recorded less than 3 lakh Daily New Cases for the twelve consecutive days now. 1,86,364 Daily New Cases were registered in the last 24 hours.

India's Daily Recoveries continue to outnumber the Daily New Cases for the 15th consecutive day. 2,59,459 recoveries were registered in the last 24 hours.

73,095 more recoveries during the last 24 hours as compared to the daily new cases.

Out of people infected since

beginning of the pandemic 2,48,93,410 people have already received from COVID-19 & 2,59,459 patients have recovered in the last 24 hours. This constitute an overall recovery rate of 90.34%.

A total of 20,70,508 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours in the country and cumulatively India has conducted 33.90 crore tests so far.

While on one side testing has been enhanced across the country, a continued decline in weekly case positivity is noticed. Weekly Positivity Rate is currently at 10.42% while the Daily Positivity rate has reduced and is at 9.00% today. It has remained less than 10% for 4 consecutive days now.

20.57 Cr cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the country as on today as part of Nationwide Covid-19 Vaccination Drive. India is the second country after the US to achieve the vaccination landmark of 20 Crore.

CCM urges PM to treat Myanmar citizens in spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

IT News
Imphal, May 28:

The Citizens Committee Manipur (CCM) has urged the Prime Minister of India to treat the citizen of Myanmar who had fled to India due to persecution by Myanmar Junta regime with humanity in the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

In a memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister, the CCM elaborated on the present condition of the Myanmar citizens who are facing persecution due to their support for democracy and also highlighted the condition of those who fled to India following the crackdown on the pro-democracy protests in Myanmar.

The people of Myanmar have been by and large resisting the February 2021 military coup to which the Military have responded with absolute repression. Having no alternative, the desperate citizens, including women and children, have crossed over into India through the historically, geographically and culturally con-

tiguous 1,468 km long India-Myanmar border in North East India, particularly in the Manipur-Mizoram sector, the memorandum stated.

The memorandum said that the Government of Mizoram took a natural and culture bounded decision that, given the fleeing population share ethnocultural ties with the people of the State, it cannot remain indifferent to their plight.

"Shelter camps were opened and food and basic essentials were provided to thousands of them", the CCM said and added that the Government of Manipur initially forbade the district administration and CSOs from "opening any camp to provide shelter and food" in the border guide letter of 26 March.

However, following strong public outcry, the Government of Manipur issued another letter reference number H-3608121202 I-HD-HD dated 29 March 2021 stating: "it appears that the content of the letter has been misconstrued and interpreted differently. The State

Government has been taking all humanitarian steps and had recently taken all steps, including taking them to Imphal, to treat the injured Myanmar citizens. The state government continues to provide all aid, it said.

Given the facts on ground the CCM urge the government of India to withdraw the letter dated 26.03.2021 which stated - "Notwithstanding the kind words, no humanitarian aid has been extended to the desperate people stranded in the border."

On the other hand, reports of the Assam Rifles personnel timing them away keep appearing in the news media. They are reportedly acting on the basis of Union Home Ministry notification (no. 19/2/2020-NE: II) dated 10 March 2021 which clearly instructed the North East States to "sensitize all law enforcement and intelligence agencies for taking prompt steps in identifying the illegal migrants and initiate the deportation process expeditiously and without delay".

contd. on page 2

Voice of Imphal Times:

Spreading false information by misinterpreting govt. order is not an act of civilized citizen

IT Desk

This is about misleading information spreading around by some few vested interested people by misinterpreting a govt. order issued by district administrators of both Imphal East and Imphal West.

The order dated May 25, 2021 warn people who are distributing edible items or medicines or other essential items to needy person not to use loudspeakers or logo of the person who are supposedly helping the people during this hard time. In simple words, the order simply tells people not to use this hard time to gain mere popularity for use in future or whatever intention they have. The order only stopped people to earn popularity while distributing materials to the public using loud speakers or using logo or banners of the person behind the distribution however, it didn't order people to stop helping people at times of need.

Without letting the people know what has been in the govt. order dated May 25, 2021 issued by the district administrators, some few vested interested people are spreading misleading information as if the order people to stop distribution of needy items.

The greatest mistake in the present Manipur's society is the presence of these few vested interested people who are happy in seeing hate to the people by intentionally spreading misinterpreted information which actually was taken up for the welfare of the people. These few people are more dangerous than the novel coronavirus which is invading human kinds.

Everyone knows the adage - 'little learning is dangerous'. To spell out the truth, these few vested interested people who are

"Everyone knows the adage - 'little learning is dangerous'. To spell out the truth, these few vested interested people who are always happy seeing hate to the people are taking advantage by utilizing the 'little learned' people"

always happy seeing hate to the people are taking advantage by utilizing the 'little learned' people. On one side, for reason hard to understand people in general never bother to go in depth and tried to understand details of what inner meaning are there in any of the decisions by competent authority. Saying so criticism towards any decisions or order of the authority after thorough understanding of the content is a welcome step. But dry arguments on hearsay from the vested interested people will only create chaos and obstacles to the fight against any enemy particularly the unseen enemy which the world is fighting.

If one goes in depth to the order of the district administration dated May 25 in connection with the distribution of items, one will definitely understand that the district administration do know and acknowledge the Samaritan service of people helping others at time of emergency that we all are facing today. The order reads - "... the act of charity or kindness one in good faith and in solidarity with the masses affected by the pandemic by any person or organization is a welcome gesture and District Administration, ... appreciates the kindness extended in any form".

The order however shows serious concern to the use of loud speakers, public gatherings, house to house visits and use of self created relief kits/package with names of donors etc. and media coverage and exposures at social media, which has been notice acknowledged while doing such act.

A common people should also understand that the district administration certainly knows the consequences of the society as such act in the name of charity has become a weapon of gaining publicity.

Forget about the concerns of the district administration, will any person be happy living under the blessing of someone just because these few people have more money and power than us. Such act also creates ignorance about the presence of the government that was supposed to protect and help us at time of need. People were made forgotten that it is people's right to get all basic needs from the government at time of needs and if the government is unable to provide the needs than they better surrender an hand over the administration to people. People will decide.

Publicizing of one's photo receiving essential items through any medium of mass media is synonymous with the portraying of the person receiving the item as "beggar". Why can't those who come out to help others simply help them without showing themselves or without any publicity. An act from the heart doesn't require publicity it will bear fruit some days.

The corona virus has taught us many lessons, but we have never tried to learn what we are being taught. Some still continue to be selfish and some simply follows the system that the virus has taught us not to do.

Everyone knows, humanity is more important than money or power. Because no one can escape from the attack of the deadly virus if remain ignorant, however proper utilization of one's wisdom and upgrading ourselves to a politically civilized status of livelihood can only save us from the attack of the deadly virus.

To Build a Successful Career in Social Media Marketing



By: Vijay GarG

It's effortless. All you need to have is a little flair for writing, a little knowledge of Photoshop and your status has to be 'online' always. Simply put, on paper, this is what it takes to be a social media marketer. The popular perception is, social media marketers spend their days just 'playing' on various social media marketing channels; quite, in the same way, an individual scroll through the endless newsfeeds of interesting information and engaging updates from their 'friends'.

However, what if you are serious about it? What if you want to mint money out of social media marketing?

The truth is, it is as complicated as any other career and is pretty demanding as well. No doubt, social media marketing is a growing field and offers endless opportunities, and the demand for social media marketers is also high. Nowadays almost anybody and everyone terming themselves as social media experts and competing for the open spots. If you are thinking about building a career in social media marketing, you have to adhere to some rules.

Social Media Marketing

Let's start with some common myths about social media marketing as a career: Social media marketing is easy. No, it's not. It requires creativity, attention to the details, data analysis, proper research and above all patience.

Social media marketing is treated as an experiment. It should not. It requires long-term strategic planning and focus. Social media marketing is objective rather than subjective. No, successful and engaging campaigns can't be built on instincts or sheer guesswork. Social media campaigns have to be data driven and made on objective results.

Social media marketing doesn't require institutional knowledge.

1. Be A Voracious Learner

Social media marketing as an industry is incredibly fast growing and extremely competitive. Every day you have to learn a new trick, unfold a new chapter. A social media marketer needs passion and desire to succeed.

2. Educate Yourself

The formal qualification is something, which will build the sub-structure on which the superstructure of a successful social media marketing career can be formed. There are several short courses offered by universities and other institutes. You can educate yourself through online classes. Attending conferences, seminars, lectures dedicated to social media marketing can also be a great learning experience.

What's the Best Type of Content to Drive Conversations?

3. Always Stay Updated

Be a regular visitor of major digital marketing sites and social media influencers. Remember, major players such as Google, Facebook and Twitter regularly tweak their paid advertising platforms and algorithms. So you have to be a thorough vigilante.

4. Learn the Industry

A social media marketer should know the digital terminology such as SEO, PPC, SEM to analyse different digital media campaigns and understand what strategy worked and what didn't.

5. Be A Neerd

A career in social media marketing is often perceived to be quite glamorous, but the truth is, it should be more data-driven and technical. Basic knowledge of HTML and graphic design would help you stand out.

6. Build Your Brand

If you want to be successful in social media marketing, your online presence should be robust. If you're going to show your client that you are the right person to build their company's social media visibility, then you need to show that you have already built your brand.

Must-have Ingredients of Every Link Building Campaign

Engagement on different social media channels is now a top priority for most companies. They want to know how best to use Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and other sites to build their brand and gain market share. Social media, as a business tool, is a relatively recent development. So the employers may struggle to find new employees with an proven track record. Also, that, in turn, will help professionals of this field with an edge. If you are serious enough to build a career in social media marketing, keep the pointers mentioned above in mind and utilise the opportunity lies in front of you.

Covid negative woman gives birth to Covid positive baby in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi

Courtesy: India Today
Varanasi, May 28:

A baby girl in a Varanasi hospital tested positive for Covid-19 soon after her birth despite her mother testing negative for coronavirus before the delivery.

The 26-year-old, a resident of the Cantt area in Varanasi, was admitted to SS Hospital in Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi on May 24.

Before the delivery, doctors at the Varanasi hospital tested the 26-year-old for Covid-19 and her report came out negative. On May 25, the woman gave birth to a baby girl who was tested for coronavirus just after her birth.

The newborn's test report, how-

ever, came positive despite her mother testing negative for the virus.

While the family and doctors are shocked over the newborn being Covid, BHU hospital has said they will test the two again in a few days for Covid-19 infection, sources said.

SSL hospital medical superintendent Dr KK Gupta told HT that this was not a rare or abnormal incident. "The RT-PCR test's sensitivity was up to 70%. The woman's sample might have gone beyond that sensitivity. So the woman's Covid-19 test would be done again."

Hospital officials have, meanwhile, said both the mother and her newborn are doing fine.

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Virtual Series of National Talks on Covid-19 Second Wave Pandemic

IT News
Impal, May 28:

As a part of Fit India Movement, the Fit India Campaign Committee and Fit India Club, Manipur University has been conducting various activities with local cable operator local TV as media partner. As a part of it, Virtual Series of National Talks has been conducting during this Covid-19 Second Wave Pandemic. As the second Virtual Series of National Talks, today a lecture has been given by Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasain, Vice Chancellor, Tripura University, Agartala on the topic "Management of Academic Institutes during Pandemic". The programme has been conducted with Dr. Laishram Santosh Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, M.U. as Convener, Prof. Th. Ratanakumar Singh, Department of English & Cultural Studies, M.U. as Moderator and Prof. M.C. Arun, Head, Department of Psychology, M.U. as Co-Moderator.

Dr. L. Santosh Singh, convener, FICC and FIC, MU, Cachipur welcomed all the panelists including the Speaker of the day and participants. Prof. M.C. Arun, Head, Department of Psychology, M.U., Co-Moderator

of the session has introduced the speaker of the day, Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasain, Vice Chancellor, Tripura University, Agartala and thereafter the programme has been conducted by Prof. Th. Ratanakumar Singh, Moderator of the Virtual Series of National Talks of the day.

The lecture covers various aspects like management of health facility within the campuses of the Academic Institutes, i.e. university campuses, academic management of the universities, role of university under Corporate Social Responsibility, Economic issues of parents and families of students and its consequent role from the university authorities, Post pandemic Management of Academic Institutes and at last the Lessons learned from the Pandemic for Future.

With regards to management of health facility with the campus, he stressed on the need for procuring adequate equipments, medicines, non-medicine materials needed to face the pandemic. Oxygen cylinders, 24x7 ambulance facility, Special Isolation centre, vaccination of university community members, etc. should be arranged. Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasain also stressed on maintaining academic calendar by

conducting online classes to complete the syllabus on time and conducting online examinations as we can't exactly say when the pandemic will be over. Timely reporting and monitoring of online classes should be done. Colleges of the state should conduct online classes. Issues of difficulty in adapting with the online teaching apps by the faculties, non-availability of internet networks in some remote and hilly areas, frequent power-cut and inability of the poor students to acquire smart-phones and laptops, etc. should also be addressed. He also mentioned that for Ph.D. thesis evaluation and viva-voice, it should be done through online by coordinating the Controller, concerned Dean, HoD and supervisor as since July 2021 only Ph.D. degree holders will be eligible for applying Assistant Professor Posts.

With regards to Corporate Social Responsibility of universities, adoption of villages and providing awareness and supports in fighting Covid-19 pandemic should be initiated. Blood donation programme by the university community mainly through NSS units should be taken up. Regarding economic issues of students' families, there may be

need of providing concessions on tuition fees, examination fees, hostel fees, etc. for the poor students or for all students as an university policy. Focus should be given to counselling of university community members even after the pandemic. Either psychologist can be hired or faculties of Psychology department of the university should be asked to provide counselling to students, staffs and faculties during and after the pandemic. Regular morning Yoga classes will be of great benefit to relieve stress and strengthening immune. The lessons that we have learned from this pandemic should be utilised in keeping a very healthy environment within the campus. Along with pollution free environment, water bodies in the campus should be maintained well.

The second Virtual Series of National Talks has been concluded with the speaker answering satisfactorily the questions put up by the participants and thanking Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasain for sharing his thought provoking ideas on the topic by the Moderator and Convener. Convener also requested all the participants to take part in the next session to be held on 29th May, 2021 at 11am., on the topic "COVID -19 Vaccination".

PM Modi holds review meeting with Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik

IT Correspondent
New Delhi, May 28:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a review meeting with Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in Bhubaneswar to discuss the impact of Cyclone Yaas. He was slated to meet West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in connection with the damage caused by the cyclonic storm.

Modi conducted a survey of cyclone-affected areas of Balesore, Bhadrak and Purba Medinipur in Odisha and held a short review meeting on cyclone. He was received by Governor Ganeshi Lal, Odisha CM Patnaik, Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Pratap Sarangi at the Biju Patnaik International Airport. The review meeting was held in the airport conference hall.

The Cyclone packing winds gusting to 145 kmph whiplashed parts of India's eastern coast on Wednesday, killing at least six people and leaving behind a trail of damaged homes and flooded farmland, forcing over 21 lakh people to be evacuated to safe shelters in the states of West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand.

Modi was scheduled to conduct an aerial survey of the affected areas of North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas in West Bengal later in the

day and to hold a meeting with WB CM Mamata Banerjee and WB Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, to review the devastation caused by cyclone. The meeting was scheduled to be held at Kalaiketing in Paschim Medinipur district.

Both PM Modi and Banerjee were set to conduct separate aerial surveys of affected regions later in the day.

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and light-moderate rain are expected in parts of West Bengal's South Dinajpur district, according to the Regional Meteorological Centre on Friday. While widespread rainfall is predicted on Friday, in North West and Central Bihar, including Patna,

Jharkhand remains on high alert where about 15,000 people have been evacuated to safer zones. Nearly eight lakh people have been affected by the storm in Jharkhand. Two people died in Jharkhand's capital Ranchi as their house collapsed amid incessant rainfall under the impact of a cyclone. A major bridge on river Kanchi that connects Bundu with Tamar near Ranchi also collapsed following torrential rains, official sources said.

In the meanwhile, the depression over Bihar and Jharkhand, a remnant of the very severe Cyclone Yaas, has weakened into a well-marked low pressure area over Bihar and adjoining eastern Uttar Pradesh, according to

the Indian Meteorological Department's latest bulletin.

Six people were killed as several coastal towns of north Odisha and neighboring West Bengal were pounded by the severe cyclonic storm after it made landfall in Odisha on Wednesday. While three died in Odisha, one person died in West Bengal and two people died in Jharkhand. An estimated three lakh houses suffered damage in West Bengal.

Indian Navy's 7 teams at forefront of relief activities

Seven teams of the Indian Navy comprising two diving and five flood relief teams (FRT) have remained at the forefront of relief activities that are being conducted in West Bengal after the cyclone hit the state's coastal areas, the defence ministry said on Thursday.

The relief control centre at the Indian naval ship "Netaji Subhas", in coordination with the West Bengal government, has concentrated their relief and rescue operations in Digha and Fraserganj, the two highly inundated low-lying coastal areas. The Indian Navy's team at Fraserganj was deployed to Narayanpur village, about 30 km away, for rescue and relief operations despite heavy rains and inclement weather. The Navy's team at Digha operated in villages in the vicinity of Digha and undertook road

clearing operations and distributed aid to the needy, the defence ministry said.

Besides the Indian Navy team has been deployed from INS Chilka under the aegis of Naval Officer-in-Charge, Odisha. The team has already commenced relief work for the personnel in distress. A quick reaction medical team has also been kept on standby for deployment at the site for people requiring immediate health check-ups. Four Naval ships carrying Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) material entered Damra port on Thursday to provide necessary relief to the affected populace of Badrak District.

NDRF

Also the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has deployed 113 teams in five states and a Union Territories as part of its preparation and response to the cyclonic storm-the highest ever such deployment in the rescue operation. These teams have been deployed in West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Andaman and Nicobar Island.

Over the years, India has been hit by various cyclones including Fani, Amphan, Vayu, Nisargad, among others. 'Yaas' is the second cyclonic storm to hit India within a week after "Tauktae" tore into Western Coast causing death and destruction.

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CCM urges PM to treat Myanmar citizens.....

Under the circumstances CCM convened a meeting on 18 April 2027 at the residence of its chairman and former Chief Minister of Manipur, Radhabinod Kojiam, wherein the participants shared the present pains and suffering of the Myanmar citizens in general, and particularly of those who have fled into the bordering villages of Manipur and surviving with full of uncertainties and hardships, with very little, if any, material support, the memorandum stated.

It further said that recalling the long historical, demographic and cultural links between the peoples of Manipur and Myanmar and guided by spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is but one family) a Humanitarian Sub-Committee (HSC) was constituted under the chairmanship of Prof. Amar Yumnam, former Vice Chancellor of Manipur University. CCM gave out a general appeal to the magnanimity of the people of Manipur to mobilise financial and material support from the

general population. The response has been overwhelming, not only the prominent citizens but even young students came out in support. With coordination of the NGO volunteers active in the border areas, the team could send some food, medicine, clothing, sanitary materials, crockery and roofing materials to the border villages in Ukhrul, Kamjong, Chandel, Tengnoupal and Churachandpur Districts of Manipur catering to the basic needs of more than five hundred refugees. The initiative, grossly inadequate as it may be, was a life saving intervention for the desperate stranded Myanmar citizens as well as the poor villagers hosting them with whatever warmth and hospitality they can garner. Unfortunately, the plight of these people is compounded further by the raging COVID-19 pandemic. As they are hiding away from the authorities of both Myanmar and India, they are neither tested nor vaccinated. CCM has been informed of

COVID related death amongst the population and we are deeply concerned that if kept unattended, it can soon spread to the local population and can add to the already catastrophic situation in the country. In the meantime, CCM welcomes the High Court of Manipur judgement of 3 May 2021, in WP (Crl) no. 6 of 2021, upholding the human rights of seven Myanmar nationals, who entered India secretly, to travel to New Delhi to seek protection from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Even though India is not a party to the UN Refugee Conventions, the judgement insisted India is a party to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and pronounced: "The far-reaching and myriad protection afforded by Article 21 of our Constitution, as interpreted and adumbrated by our Supreme Court time and again, would indubita-

bly encompass the right of non-refoulement [this is the principle under international law that a person fleeing from persecution from his own country should not be forced to return. In line with this judicial pronouncement and the primacy of enhancing the people to people relations for deepening the impact of the Act East Policy, CCM strongly urge the Government of India to take its own constitutional and human rights obligations more seriously. CCM believes that shouldering the responsibility to protect these hapless persons seeking safety within our territory is in the spirit of the age-old Indic philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

In the event of any constraints from the side of the Government due to the ongoing Pandemic or otherwise, specialized humanitarian agencies geared up to respond to such situations, including the UNHCR, should be given unhindered access to provide their humanitarian services.