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No gatherings, protests of over 50 in Delhi till Mar 31
NATIONAL, PAGE 7

No deadline for decision on Olympics: JOC
SPORTS, PAGE 12



China reports 14 new coronavirus deaths
INTERNATIONAL, PAGE 9



State govt orders closure of schools, colleges

Total ban on entry of tourists, IIPs suspended

DIMAPUR, MAR 16 (NPN): As a precautionary step to prevent and control outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the state, the state government has ordered closure of all educational institutions (tertiary, secondary, higher secondary, colleges and universities), both government and private in Nagaland with effect from March 17, 2020 and would remain in force till April 12, 2020.

In a notification, the state chief secretary Temjen Toy also ordered detentment of all non-essential official gatherings such as seminars, workshops, conferences etc during this period. However, the ongoing board/council/university examinations would continue as per schedule. The government has also put on hold official functions and programmes involving big gatherings including manuhomhli. Issue of new/fresh Inner Lane Permits for Tourists



Nephu Rio chairing a high level meeting on coronavirus on Monday. (DIPPR)

(Domestic/Foreigners) and all other categories would remain suspended with immediate effect until further orders. The government has also banned all tourist entry (foreign and domestic) into the state with effect from March 18, 2020 till further orders. All entry points and check gates into the State to be manned and screened by manpower provided by the State Police forces. The manpower would be trained and provided with equipment by the H&FW department. State government has constituted a special action group (SAG) to continuously monitor the situation and to ensure that actions are taken in order to keep the state in readiness for any eventuality besides taking prompt measures for pre-

vention and control of the virus. The public have also been advised to refrain from holding any social, cultural, sports, political, religious, academic and family functions/programmes which could see gathering of large number of people. Further, public have been advised to avoid all forms of non-essential travel outside the state. All persons, students as well as public, entering the state have been informed to contact COVID-19 helpline no 7005435243, 9856071745, 7005339653 and Toll Free no 1070 or Email nisu@npsc.nic.in

CM chairs high-level meeting: To take stock of the situation arising out of COVID-19 pandemic, the state chief minister Nephu Rio, convened a high-level meeting at his secretariat office, Kohima Monday. Addressing the meeting, the chief minister said the meet was convened to bring out a collective decision for the best option in order to ensure the safety of the people. He urged the elected representatives to go to their respective districts and hold meeting with the district task force. Expert views on State's preparedness for Covid-19 was given by the chief secretary, Temjen Toy and principal director health and family welfare (H&FW), Dr VizolizSuokhne.

The chief secretary stated that two important aspects of the pandemic were prevention and preparedness. He expressed satisfaction with the H&FW department for following all preventive guidelines issued by the Centre. He, however stressed on the importance of personal prevention. Concerning preparedness, Toy stated that video conference with all the concerned agencies at the Centre was being held regularly and all directions issued were followed. Stating that most cases of COVID-19 deaths were caused by respiratory problem, the chief secretary stressed on the importance of procuring more ventilators. He stated that in rural areas, the rural development department, through self help groups would act as a network channel to assist H&FW department to contain the pandemic. Dr Vizoliz Suokhne informed that Nagaland had no reported or suspected case till date. He stated that the department has initiated procurement of more Personal Protection Equipment and Ventilators to meet the need of all the districts. He also stated that all districts have identified locations for quarantine which includes Military Hospitals, TB Hospitals, AYUSH Hops and some government infrastructures.

They said about 5,000 people commute by trains everyday via Dimapur station and it was not possible to screen all of them as there were multiple entry and exit points at the station. They also added that it was impossible to track the origin of passengers given the nature of rail travel in India. For instance, there are multiple stations between Guwahati and Dimapur, where passengers, some of them ticketless hop into the train making it practically impossible to track their origin, they said. They however claimed that awareness was being carried with passengers having symptoms being asked via public address system to come forward and self declare. The officials claimed that awareness campaign in the form of pasting posters in four languages - Hindi, Assamese, English and Bengali - and regular informative announcements through public address

Train passengers not screened for Covid-19

Staff Reporter

DIMAPUR, MAR 16 (NPN): Even as the threat of coronavirus (COVID-19) looms large and the government claims it has adopted a slew of measures, the state remains vulnerable from the most potent hazard but yet ignored source-mass transportation system, such as passengers travelling by trains. Passengers arriving by trains to Dimapur, seem to be let off without any effort to screen them despite well founded fears that community spread of coronavirus is the main source for posing a serious threat to public health. Railway officials on condition of anonymity admitted before Nagaland Post that thousands of passengers arriving by trains were not being screened as it was done in stations like Guwahati, with thermal sensors. They said about 5,000 people commute by trains everyday via Dimapur station and it was not possible to screen all of them as there were multiple entry and exit points at the station. They also added that it was impossible to track the origin of passengers given the nature of rail travel in India. For instance, there are multiple stations between Guwahati and Dimapur, where passengers, some of them ticketless hop into the train making it practically impossible to track their origin, they said. They however claimed that awareness was being carried with passengers having symptoms being asked via public address system to come forward and self declare. The officials claimed that awareness campaign in the form of pasting posters in four languages - Hindi, Assamese, English and Bengali - and regular informative announcements through public address



Thermal screening of passengers at Guwahati Railway Station on March 16 (IANS)

“It’s a temporary stop before the district authority takes over,” an official explained. Meanwhile, Railway officials have urged passengers having any symptoms or coming from any of the affected countries and regions to contact the station superintendent so that appropriate steps could be taken and such passengers forwarded to Dimapur chief medical office.

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DTE fixes face

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H&FW deptt. refuses rumors

NOTIFICATION

In the public interest, and as a precautionary step to prevent and control the outbreak of **Corona Virus (COVID-19)** in the State, the Government of Nagaland hereby orders the closure of all Educational Institutions (Elementary/Secondary/Higher Secondary/Colleges/Universities), both Government and Private in the State of Nagaland w.e.f. 17th March, 2020 and shall remain in force till 12th April, 2020.

Non-essential official gatherings such as seminars, workshops, conferences etc. are to be deferred during this period.

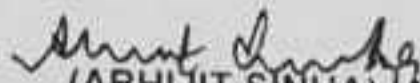
However, ongoing Board/Council/University Examinations will continue as per schedule.

Sd/- TEMJEN TOY, IAS
Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Nagaland.
Dated Kohima, the 16th March, 2020.

NO. GAB-I/COM/GEN-1/2020

Copy to:

1. The Commissioner & Secretary to Governor, Raj Bhavan, Nagaland, Kohima for kind information.
2. The Addl Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, Nagaland, Kohima for kind information.
3. The Sr. PS to Deputy Chief Minister, Nagaland, Kohima for kind information.
4. The Sr. PS to all Ministers / Advisors, Nagaland, Kohima for kind information.
5. The Deputy Secretary to Chief Secretary, Nagaland, Kohima for kind information.
6. The Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Nagaland, Kohima for information and necessary action.
7. The Vice Chancellor, Nagaland University, for information and necessary action.
8. The Commissioner & Secretary, Higher & Technical Education Department, Nagaland, Kohima for information and necessary action.
9. The Principal Director, School Education Department, Nagaland, Kohima, for information and necessary action.
10. The Director, Higher Education Department, Nagaland, Kohima for information, and necessary action.
11. The Director, Technical Education Department, Nagaland, Kohima for information and necessary action.
12. All AHODs / HODs for information.
13. All the DCs, Nagaland for information and necessary action.
14. All SPs, Nagaland for information.
15. The Director IPR for wide publicity in the local newspapers.


(ABHIJIT SINHA) IAS
Principal Secretary to Govt. of Nagaland.