## GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

## DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

## PRESS RELEASE

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## GOVERNMENT DECIDES TOTAL LOCKDOWN TILL MARCH 3 ft, 2020

IMPHAL, MARCH 23, 2020 (DIPR): Government spokesperson Shri Thongam Biswajit Singh today announced that the State Cabinet has taken a decision to impose a total lockdown in the State till March 31st, 2020 as a precautionary measure against the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country.

Shri Biswajit said that however, essential services including grocery shops will be exempted from the lockdown.

Further stating that the medical department will overlook home quarantine system, the government spokesperson also stated that the cabinet has also taken a decision to utilise dedicated buildings in both Regional Institute of Medical Sciences and Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences as isolation wards for the time being.

The government has also decided to distribute rice meant for April under the National Food Security Act this month free of cost to support the needy people during the lockdown. He continued that beneficiaries of Chief Minister's Hakshel gi Tengbang who don't posses NFSA card will also avail free rice.

Stating that we can stop this pandemic spread of COVID-19 only if we follow and observe the precautionary guidelines issued by the experts and scientists, he said that we should not hide any signs of symptoms of COVID-19 and should inform the dedicated health centres at the earliest.

Let's together fight this COVID-19, and not allow our negligence to hinder our fight against it, the Minister appealed to the public. Let's maintain proper hygiene, wash our hands regularly and maintain our social distance to defeat COVID-19. (DIPR)

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