

172 stranded Sikkimese return home, sent to quarantine

SE Report

GANGTOK, May 7: A total of 172 stranded Sikkimese entered their home State through Rangpo and Melli checkpoints in SNT buses on Thursday afternoon, as per the information shared by the district authorities.

DC (east) Raj Yadav informed that a total of 79 stranded Sikkimese returned to their home State through Rangpo checkpost. Among them, 73 are from east district and six from north district, he informed.

After medical screening, 28 returnees opted for paid quarantine centres while 45 persons went for the free government quarantine centres.

Similarly, a total of 93 stranded Sikkimese, evacuated from different parts of the country, entered Sikkim through Melli checkpost in seven SNT buses.

An IPR release from Melli informs that among them, 28



The SNT buses ferrying the stranded Sikkimese arrive at Melli screening centre. Pic: IPR/South

persons were from south district and 65 were from west district. After a thorough screening assessment following all safety protocols at the screening centre in Melli, the returnees were found to be asymptomatic.

Twenty two of the South Sikkim returnees were sent to free institutional quarantine centre at IHCAE, Chemchey. The remaining six persons

opted for paid quarantine facilities at a hotel in Assangthang near Namchi.

The returnees of west district were handed over to the west district administration.

The entire screening process was undertaken by south district administration in coordination with medical officials and staff of south and west districts respectively, the IPR release mentions.

Meanwhile, it was officially informed that the nationwide registrations done by the stranded Sikkimese with the State government as of Thursday were 6,084 registrations.

Total registrations from Siliguri, Darjeeling, Kalimpong and surrounding areas by the stranded Sikkimese were 1,601 registrations as of Thursday.

33 returnees cross Melli checkpoint

MELLI, May 6 (IPR): A total of three SNT buses carrying stranded people from various parts of the country belonging to west and south districts of Sikkim arrived at the screening centre set up at Melli, today.

A total of 33 people reached Melli today of which 32 number were from south and one from west district. Today was the second day when distressed and stranded citizens of Sikkim reached the border town before proceeding to the quarantine centres of south district.

After going through a thorough screening assessment following all safety and social distancing norms, all returnees were found to be asymptomatic. Further, a total of 29 people have been sent for institutional quarantine facility at SIRD, Karfector and IHCAE, Chenchey respectively which are both free of cost quarantine centres.

The remaining 3 returnees have opted for paid quarantine facility at



Hotel Pangolia Resort, Namchi.

The entire screening exercise was overseen by DC (South) Ragul K in the presence of CMO (South) Dr. D.C.Sharma, SDM (Jorethang) R. B Bhandari in

coordination with other medical staff of south district. The screening centre also had the presence of police personnel, health workers, volunteers, traffic police and officials of south district administration.

Around 150 stranded set to return to Pakyong subdivision

AJAYTHAMI

PAKYONG, May 6: At least 150 people from Pakyong subdivision currently stranded outside the State are expected to be brought back to Pakyong as part of the evacuation process undertaken by the State government. Those stranded outside include students and working professionals who have desired to return home amid the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

In the first batch, three people arrived at Pakyong guest house quarantine centre from Siliguri last night. There are two quarantine centers set up at Pakyong subdivision, one at Pachey guest house for female and JNV School Pakyong for male candidates where all facilities like free food and lodging are

provided.

Pakyong SDM Hemant Rai informed that free food and lodging are provided from the State government for those staying at the quarantine centres for 14 days. Three persons have arrived and more are joining by today and in the coming days, he added.

Raqquel Lepcha, a main line taxi driver, is providing his emergency services during Covid-19 lockdown period to Pakyong subdivision.

"I have been providing emergency services since day one of the lockdown in Pakyong subdivision area. I have brought three people from Rangpo to Pachey guest house yesterday where they will stay in quarantine centre. I will be going Rangpo today for bringing another batch of stranded people coming from outside the State," said Lepcha.



Raqquel Lepcha ready to depart for Rangpo. SE Pic

Lepcha said the drivers are being provided full safety measures provided.

The taxis are thoroughly sanitized at Rangpo before coming to Pakyong and only four people are allowed to travel in a taxi, two on the

second seat and two at the back seat maintaining social distance. Also they are not allowed to speak more while travelling. For the sake of society and social services, we are providing emergency services, Lepcha said.