

Editorial

Friday, February 7, 2020

The changing face of RIMS: A ray of hope for the common public

The world over, the impending threat of the Novel Coronavirus has been occupying the minds and hearts with unconfirmed reports of the actual number of casualties—both the death and the infected being way more than has been officially declared. The unfortunate event once again shone light on the critical importance of continuously improving and maintaining the public healthcare system as to keep the preparedness of the medical practitioners at the highest level to contain and combat any medical outbreaks or emergencies.

More than the actual damage done by the virus to the human body, what terrifies the people of the world over is the grim fact that there is no effective and proven treatment procedure in place since the virus is a totally new strain. Experts and researchers around the world are still scrambling to bring out a standard treatment procedure as well as an effective antidote, but it will take time. Amidst such a grim backdrop, a new ray of hope is emerging in our very state in the form of a perceptibly re-energised Regional Institute of Medical Science (RIMS).

After what seemed to be an eternity of uncertainty and snowballing scandals involving the administration, there is an unmistakable sign that the current administration is taking the task of improving the overall efficiency and management of the hospital with utmost seriousness. The brisk activities around the campus carrying out constructions and repairing of various facilities is a much needed and welcome change for the common people who cannot afford the exorbitant fees of the swanky private hospitals mushrooming around the state capital.

Application of technological advancements for improved patient service is another major improvement being enjoyed by the public in the form of Online Registration System, Digital Payment as well as Electronic Display units etc. The Out Patient Department has also seen a lot of improvements from hygiene to ticketing to patient interaction. Perhaps the most heartening development effected by the present administration is the availability of testing facility of Influenza (H1N1 or Swine Flu) and seasonal H3N2 free of cost for the deserving and needy patients of the state, along with other facilities at the State Level Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory at the Department of Microbiology, RIMS. The positive turnaround has garnered much appreciative opinions with even a large number of posts at various social media expressing gratitude for the improved experience.

The unfolding positive developments once again underline the possibilities that can be realised when a determined and progressive-minded leader is at the helm of affairs. The motivated attitude of the staffs speaks volumes about the leader, the administration and the management working in sync and understanding which has a reassuring and calming effect on the patients. One can only hope that the good run continues and that the future leaders of the institute can only improve further on the overall development of the Institute.

There is however still a sore point which needs to be addressed—the traffic arrangement inside the campus. Perhaps a dedicated emergency corridor would ease the present situation to some extent even though parking space is at a premium and is bound to grow troublesome in the near future if something is not done in time. The public transport parking right outside the campus is another point that needs to be addressed, given the evident lack of civic sense by the drivers.

Being an important entity at the forefront of public services, the media should also take periodic stock of the functioning of the institute and highlight the developments as well as the shortcomings so that the general public can be informed about the various facilities available at the premier medical institute of the North East region.

A R Provided Prompt Medical Aid to Accident Victims

IGAR (South)
Imphal Feb.7

Aina Battalion of Churachandpur Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) carried out a successful rescue operations of nine individuals who met with an accident while travelling in a Civil Bolero on yesterday near Santing village. The vehicle fell down in 15 ft gorge at around 05:30am while playing from Parbung to Churachandpur. A rescue

team lead by unit Assam Rifles Medical Officer immediately sprung into action and provided first aid to all injured persons insitu. Three of the critically injured persons provided treatment at Unit Hospital who were sent to Churachandpur for further treatment. This quick initiative and life saving aid of the injured civilians by Aina Battalion has been highly appreciated by the local villagers proving Assam Rifles as friends of the North East.

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Medical records of nearly one million Indians leaked though internet

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai Feb 7

Nearly one million medical files and 107 million related medical images of Indian patients, including X-rays and scans, are freely accessible on the internet, as per the report titled "Information Security Report, Unprotected patient data in the Internet - a review 60 days later" released by German security firm "Greenbone Networks" engaged in handling vulnerability management. The records and images include details such as patient name, date of birth and ID, name of the medical institution, ailment, physician names and other sensitive details. A German security firm "Greenbone Networks" has claimed that globally 114 crore medical reports have been leaked.

As per "Greenbone", the servers storing these records are vulnerable due to the system used by many healthcare providers. Overall, the company found 1.19 Billion images in its review this year, which is a 60% increase, compared to last year. In India the states whose medical files were impacted : Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal, Telangana, Gujarat, Punjab, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chandigarh. Mumbai's high-end Breach Candy Hospital and "Utkarsh Scan Centre" (Dombivli, Thane district) are among the providers impacted. The leak is a result of bad password practices at these hospitals and medical service providers. The servers on which these records are stored have been left vulnerable, says Greenbone's report.

Medical practitioners use a file format known as Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) to store and share medical images. These DICOM images are



typically stored in a picture archiving and communications system (PACS) server, which allows for easy access and storage. But in this case, the security protocol to be followed in securing these servers, was not followed and the images were directly available on the internet without a screening process or a password. Reacting to Greenbone's report a spokesperson for the Breach Candy Hospital said that the data that accessed by the "Greenbone", was not from the hospital's "secured servers" since the patient data is secured with "SSL certification." The server can only be accessed by qualified physicians with usernames and passwords. The data accessed by the security firm may have been from links forwarded by "patientsharing their medical data" with other people. The hospital follows a system where patients and the referring doctors are sent a link with the medical image and report data. The access to such links was earlier indefinite, but has now been restricted to 48 hours. We are also going to put a disclaimer now that it is intended only for the particular patients and his referring doctor and

not for anybody else".

"Utkarsh Utkarsh Scan Centre" couldn't be reached.

"Greenbone's" study came across 97 vulnerable systems in India and noted that the systems located in India, allow full access to related images. The particulars of Greenbone's report are: Maharashtra-studies conducted-308,451, images studied-68,789,685, images accessible-68,789,685, studies with image access-308,451, systems examined-46. Karnataka-studies conducted-182,865, images studied-13,731,001, images accessible-13,731,001, studies with image access-73,444, systems examined-07. West Bengal-studies conducted-172,885, images studied-3,441,255, images accessible-3,441,255, studies with image access-172,885, systems examined-02. Telangana-studies conducted-126,160, images studied-5,997,360, images accessible-110,160, studies with image access-73,444, systems examined-03. Gujarat-studies conducted-111,408, images studied-13,997,757, images accessible-13,997,757, studies with image access-111,408, systems examined-19. Punjab-studies conducted-

45,973, images studied-7,156,545, images accessible-7,156,545, studies with image access-45,973, systems examined-06. Delhi -studies conducted-40,709, images studied-2,105,605, images accessible-2,105,605, studies with image access-40,709, systems examined-04.

Andhra Pradesh—studies conducted-17,302, images studied-446,870, images accessible-446,870, studies with image access-17,302, systems examined-02. Haryana -studies conducted-10,713, images studied-1,548,165, images accessible-1,548,165, studies with image access-10,713, systems examined-02. Uttar Pradesh -studies conducted-6,013, images studied-1,749,150, images accessible-1,749,150, studies with image access-6,013, systems examined-04.

Madhya Pradesh—studies conducted-4,329, images studied-432,900, images accessible- studies with image access- systems examined-01 and Chandigarh -studies conducted-1,121, images studied-672,600, images accessible-672,600 studies with image access-1,121 systems examined-01.

As India moves towards data protection with the "Personal Data Protection Bill", insecure healthcare institutions are expected to be held liable for using unsecured servers and weak password practices, since the PDP bill is likely to govern all healthcare data.

Besides the government's National Digital Health Blueprint report has proposed the creation of district-level electronic databases of citizen's health data and registries for all diseases of public importance and has proposed a National Health Information Architecture to roll-out and link systems across public and private health providers at state and national level.

Coronavirus turns Asian cruise ships into prison hulks

Courtesy : Financial Times
Tokyo Feb. 7

Passengers on cruise ships across East Asia are finding their luxury liners are turning into prison hulks as nations deny them entry for fear of the coronavirus, leaving the wandering vessels with few ports to visit. Japan has vowed to turn away foreign passengers on the incoming Westerdam and Taiwan has refused to admit 29 foreign passengers on board the Super Star Aquarius, forcing the vessel to return to its previous port. No cases have been confirmed on either ship. The increasingly severe measures to try to halt the spread of the lethal virus come as Japan announced it had identified another 41 cases of the pathogen on board the Diamond Princess, in quarantine off Yokohama, where it is currently based. That took the total of cases on the vessel to 61, which meant Japan now has the largest number of cases outside China, and demonstrates how easily the virus spreads in a confined environment. David Abel, a British

passenger on board the vessel broadcasting via Facebook, said the ship's captain was not being allowed to share news of the diagnoses even as ambulances arrived to evacuate the patients. "Why are the Japanese health authority releasing the information to the world and not permitting the captain to tell his people?" he said. "To me it's just wrong." Mr Abel demanded to know whether the clock on the ship's 14-day quarantine would restart after the fresh cases were found and whether he would have to be quarantined again on an eventual return to the UK. Linda Ip, a 62-year-old passenger from Hong Kong on board the Diamond Princess, said she was staying positive because the fresh diagnoses were all from a batch of passengers who had either showed symptoms or had close contact with those who did. "This is a high-level isolation camp, with food and drink, service, a nice bed and warm pillows — just lack of freedom and fear of germs," she said. With about 3,700 people on board, the passengers

on the Diamond Princess have been told to self-quarantine in their cabins. Ms Ip said passengers in cabins with no balcony were being allowed out on deck in batches but told to wear masks and keep a metre away from one another. They have also been asked to start taking their temperature regularly. Michelle Au, a 53-year-old passenger from Hong Kong, praised the crew of the Diamond Princess. "Honestly, the food quality of this cruise ship is really good. It's really not bad given they have to deliver to 2,600 passengers room by room." She said they had live TV, movies and internet in their cabins. "We've come to accept it as an extension of our holiday," she said.

But there remains deep uncertainty about when and where any passengers on the cruise ships will be allowed to disembark. The Holland America Line said it was working on other plans after Tokyo declared it would not allow the Westerdam to call at Japanese ports. The Super Star Aquarius, based in

Keelung in northern Taiwan, operates short cruises to Japan. It was expected back on Friday with 1,738 passengers on board, 1,709 of whom are Taiwanese. But it was told the other passengers, who are mainly from the Philippines, would not be allowed to enter the country. According to a local spokesperson for Star Cruises, the ship was located in waters off Naha in Okinawa. However, it was not clear whether Japan would admit the non-Taiwanese passengers either. Once the ship returned to Keelung, all 1,709 local passengers would have their temperature taken before disembarking. Even if nobody showed symptoms, all would be required to self-quarantine at home for 14 days. A fourth vessel, the World Dream, is being held in Hong Kong with thousands of people on board after passengers who previously travelled on the ship were diagnosed with coronavirus. Hong Kong's department of health said on Friday that there were no confirmed cases on the boat.

Golden Jubilee Celebration of Aimol Ngairong Baptist Church held

IT News
Tengnoupal, Feb. 7

Aimol Ngairong Baptist Church Celebrated it's Golden Jubilee under the theme "From Darkness to Light" at Aimol Ngairong Village in Tengnoupal District today. The inaugural programme was participated by Member of Autonomous District Council (ADC) Chandel Ch. Chanthoi, Director incharge CRC Guwahati Dr. W. Lanu, DI of ZEO Chandel Ch. Thangkholen, Retired Banker Ch. Neitingir Aimol and Retired Range Forest Officer Ch. Rangeliow as the presidium members.



As part of the celebration, a memorial stone (Jubilee Monolith) for the golden jubilee was unveiled by Rev. Semi Serto Executive Secretary ABA, Rev. S. Rengkhoh

morning session, after which S. Thangboi, Deacon pronounced the Invocation Prayer. Rev. Boipu Serto Secretary of Youth & Education MBC attended the programme as Speaker. Wife of Founder of Aimol Ngairong Baptist Church L. Achimpi Cutting the Cake.

During the evening session, several artistes and local youth presented cultural songs and dances for the audience.

Chiefs of Several Village, Local Leaders, Pastors also took part in the celebration among others. A grand feast was also prepared for all.