

Positive case of coronavirus reaches 30 in India

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, March 6

A middle aged man from Ghaziabad with a recent travel history to Iran has tested positive for novel coronavirus, taking the total number of such cases in India to 30 even as the government on Thursday asked states to form rapid response teams at district, block and village levels.

The total number of people tested positive for coronavirus (Covid-19) in India is now at 30, which include the first three cases reported from Kerala where students were diagnosed with the infection, treated and discharged. Hence there are only 27 active cases of the virus in country at the moment.

The three cases reported from Delhi-NCR, two being that of a person, who recently travelled to Italy and another person who returned from Iran, have been included in this list of 30 patients. In addition, six acquaintances of the Delhi-based man with a travel history of Italy have

tested positive for Covid-19. One positive case a techie, who returned from Dubai, to Hyderabad, Telangana has also been reported. The single largest report of individuals being infected with the virus has come to light from Rajasthan where 16 Italian tourists and their Indian driver tested positive for the coronavirus. (14 patients shifted to Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon, two admitted to Sawai Madhavsinh Hospital, Jaipur).

On Thursday, a man from Ghaziabad who recently visited Iran was diagnosed with a confirmed case of Covid-19 taking the total number of individuals tested positive for the virus to 30. Concerned officials have maintained that all of the infected individuals are stable and under constant observation. Authorities are also running against time to establish a thread of people the infected individuals might have come in contact with. A total of 6,49,452 passengers have been screened at airports across the country

Highlights

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi cancels visit to Brussels to attend EU India summit which was to be held on 13 March.
- All primary schools in Delhi to remain closed till March 31.
- Indian medical team to set up clinic at Qom, Iran to start screening for coronavirus.
- The Sikkim government suspends issuance of Inner Line Permit to foreign nationals
- ISKCON bars entry of foreigners to Vrindavan temple (Uttar Pradesh), cancels Holi celebrations scheduled for 7 March.

from 6,550 flights as of March 5. In addition to this, 29,607 people have been kept under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) to prevent the curb of the

coronavirus.

Two suspected cases of the virus from Telangana tested negative at the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune (Maharashtra).

Shouldn't the recruitment process of 209 posts at Manipur University null and void?

IT Desk
Imphal, March 6

According to various documents and directives both from the University Grant Commission (UGC), team Imphal Times, who have been following the development in the Manipur University now feel apprehensive of whether the 209 regular posts (some already offered appointment order) during the tenure of the Administrator Jarnail Singh, who is also empowered to act as the Vice-Chancellor of the University will become null and void.

This question is being raised, as Imphal Times procured an official letter from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education, written to Vice Chancellors of 39 Central Universities across the country stating that Acting Vice-Chancellors can perform the routine nature of work of the University, which includes



appointment on temporary basis and convening the meeting of the Committee like Finance Committee, Executive Council and Academic Council. The letter signed by one Pramod Kumar Saha, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India and sent on October 9, 2014, also stated that decision like amending of Statutes, bringing new ordinances or amending the ordinances, appointment of permanent teaching and non-teaching staffs of new posts, etc should not be taken up by the acting Vice-Chancellor.

On October 11, 2018, The Manipur High Court made an arrangement to end the long impasse at Manipur University by appointing Jarnail Singh, an IAS officer, (Redd), who had year-long experience in the administration of as "Administrator" to act as VC by putting VC AP Pandey on suspension.

In another ruling of the Manipur High Court, dated 19.11.2019 in PIL 48 of 2019, it has been stated that Jarnail Singh is in-charge of Vice-Chancellor and MHRD is the competent authority to decide

allegations against him. Now, on February 13, 2020, Imphal Times published a news item under the heading "UGC directs Registrar MU to take action over a complaint of anomalies in recruitment process 209 posts" in the letter by the UGC it is stated that base on the report of various anomalies in the process of recruitment for the 209 post-action taken report should be sent at the earliest possible time.

Interestingly, base on the findings of the 2 member inquiry committee, the President of India, who is also the visitor of the Manipur University dismissed Prof. Adya Pandey from the post of VC on February 21, 2020.

Following this on March 4, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India has directed the Registrar of the Manipur University to start the process for the appointment of Vice-Chancellor of the Manipur University which has fallen vacant after the dismissal of Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey with effect from February 21, 2020. There is no confirmation on whether the Registrar had sent the report on alleged anomalies being found in the process of recruiting the post to the UGC, however, the letter from the MHRD written to all the VCs of 39 Central Universities still stands effective. Administrator Jarnail Singh who is the acting VC of Manipur University still has not spelled out a single clarification regarding this matter.

First confirmed coronavirus case in Bhutan

Agency
Bhutan March 6

The isolated Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan has reported its first case of the coronavirus after a US tourist tested positive, the prime minister said Friday. The tiny, land-locked country, famous for measuring Gross National Happiness has emerged as a popular tourist destination in recent years.

But the government immediately shut borders to foreign visitors for two weeks in an effort to limit the impact of a disease that has wreaked havoc in more developed countries around the world. The 76-year-old man arrived in Bhutan from India on March 2, and was admitted to hospital on March 5 with a fever, where he tested positive for COVID-19, the office of Prime Minister Lotay Tshering said in a

Facebook post. The post added that there would be "two weeks' restriction on all incoming tourists with immediate effect". Schools in three areas — including the capital Thimphu — will be closed for two weeks from Friday; the patient, who has not been named, left Washington on February 10, touring India from February 21 to March 1. Health officials say they have

traced roughly 90 people he came into contact with in Bhutan, with his 59-year-old partner, driver and guide all being placed in quarantine. None is currently showing symptoms. Eight Indian nationals who were on the flight to Bhutan have also been quarantined. More than 3,000 people have died from novel coronavirus, with nearly 100,000 confirmed infections globally.

ATRPFM demands 5 ice term for ADCs

IT News
Imphal, March 6

II Tribal Rights' Protection Forum Manipur (ATRPFM) said that the term of office of the existing ADCs end in the month of April, 2020 and the Administrator may extend the term of office only when satisfied that it is necessary in order to avoid administrative difficulty which is just a proviso. Decision of the HAC and Cabinet to extend the term of office has no basis at all, there is no reasonable ground to extend the term of office. Without any reason, Cabinet has approved the recommendation of the HAC to extend the term of office which is illegal. HAC is to implement the Act in the best interest of the tribal public and not with their own whims and fancy. The term of office of the ADC members shall be five years and shall commence from date of notification of election or nomination. The forum said that they have submitted a representation dated 12.02.2020 to the Governor, Chief Minister, Minister (TA&Hills), Chairman, HAC and Chief Election Officer, Manipur for conduct of ADC election 2020 before the rainy season, most preferably in the month of April or May, 2020.

A statement said, "We received an intimation copy dated 26.02.2020 in the matter from Election Officer (HQ), CEO, Manipur addressed to the Secretary, State Election Commission, Manipur. However, no positive action has been taken by the authorities concerned till date. Instead of taking positive action, the Additional Chief Secretary (TA&Hills), Govt of Manipur has conveyed to all the CEOs of ADCs on 29.02.2020 in pursuance of the approval of the State Cabinet on its meeting held on 26.09.2019 and concurrence of Finance Department (PIC) vide UNO. No. 218/2019-2020/FD(PIC) dated 21.12.2019 that the State Government has approved for filling up of 750 vacant posts @ 125 posts in 6 (six) ADCs, Manipur. We appeal the Government to clarify why appointments have to be made just before the election. The existing ADCs will appoint employees before election and just after the election, the appointment/recruitment may be cancelled by the new ADCs. We have a great apprehension for this as we have already experienced in the past. Is appointment for election expenditures? On what ground appointment is to be made just before the election?"

What is the motive of the Government? No appointment should be made before the election and the notification for election has to be issued without any further delay, failing which we shall take up our own strongest action. The existing ADCs have been given sufficient time, i.e. 5 years to execute developmental works as mandated, however, no tangible works have been executed by them. Now, there is no point of extending their period as they have no real objective to work for the people. They already received 13th and 14th Finance but no works have been executed by them. There is no

administrative compulsion to extend the period of the existing ADCs. Therefore, election has to be conducted as normal". All Tribal Rights' Protection Forum Manipur appealed all concerned to withdraw the recommendation for conduct of election in the month of November and conduct the election in the month of April or May. And it is the democratic rights of the candidates to contest the election under any political party, there is no provisions under any Act to prohibit to contest for a party. Hence, there is no question of partyless election which was recommended by the HAC.

Football tournament



IT News
Imphal, March 6
4th State Level 7-a -SIDE Men's Open Football Tournament -2020 began today at PTCC Football Ground, Patsoi Part -III. S.

Rajen Singh, Sinam Marjit (Rahul), ZP Patsoi GP, Heinsam Sanjoy OC Patsoi PS, Angom Bobby, Taorem Sanajaoba attended the inaugural function as dignitaries.

Inter CRPF Bn Hockey Tournament kicks start



IT News
Imphal, March 6

Inter CRPF Hockey Tournament organized by 109 Bn CRPF under the aegis of IGP, M&N Sector CRPF begins today at Mongsangei, Makhia Leikai. The tournament was inaugurated by Vinod Kumar, Commandant-109 Bn CRPF, in presence of Vinod Sawant, Deputy Commandant, Club Presidents of sports clubs, Village dignitaries and audience comprising of nearby villages.

Twenty eight teams comprising of CRPF Battalions & GC Imphal deployed in Manipur and Nagaland are participating in the

tournament i.e. 32, 69, 86, 78, 87, 109, 143 Bns & Group Centre Imphal. Speaking on the occasion Shri Vinod Kumar, Commandant-109 Bn CRPF exhorted the players to play the game in true spirit and told them that such tournaments not only build up team spirit but also make one fit and healthy. The selected players from this tournament will participate at Inter sector level tournament and will represent the Manipur and Nagaland Sector.

The opening match was played between 69 Bn and 32 Bn and 69 Bn registered a comprehensive win over 32 Bn in a tiebreaker. This is a knock out tournament and final match will be played on March 7.

One suspected case of COVID-19 affected person admitted at RIMS isolation ward



IT News
Imphal, March 6

Another suspected case of COVID 19 (Corona virus) has been detected at Imphal Airport today. The person boarded the flight from Guwahati and landed at Imphal Airport at around 10.30 am today. The person has been admitted at RIMS isolation ward for observation and treatment. So far 13 suspected case of Corona virus has been reported including this one. Among sample sent for test has been negative for 10 and result for two have been awaiting. The sample of the suspected person who arrived today at Imphal Airport will also be sent for test at Guwahati.

So far no death from the virus has been reported from India even though the number reached 30 today. Manipur still has no report of affected person but government authority has been taking up stringent measures to contain the pandemic.

Editorial

Friday, March 6, 2020

Govt. should think twice before dealing the Salai Holdings case; as for depositors, it is more like waiting for Godot

What will be the fate of the so call investors of M/S SMART Society run by the Salai Holdings Private Limited, who had deposited all their hard-earned money for getting 3% interest in return is not what we in the Imphal Times worried. Neighbours quarrel over the alleged encroachment of few inches of land, friends turn to the enemy over financial matters, even brothers, relatives fight over a little money. So what Imphal Times worried is a serious crisis in the coming days as the so-called investors see no hope of getting back the deposited amount. The only hope that the depositors have is the assurance given by the Chief Minister who is also in-charge of Finance to separate the case of the money related problem from the NIA, which has been taking up case against the Chairman of the Salai Holdings Pvt. Ltd. for announcing establishment of an exile government from London on October 29, 2020, which is a serious offense to the unity of the country.

Two question arises out here is - whether the announcement by the Chairman of Salai Holdings Private Limited, N. Samerjit had any effect to the state of Manipur or is the announcement, his last escaped route survival as his so-called M/S SMART Society will not be able pay the promised interest. What one needs to understand is how the Salai Holdings Pvt. Ltd. could pay 3% interest per month for every deposited money when Private multinational Bank like the YES which runs across the nation is facing a financial crisis.

Forget about where the M/S SMART Society has been registered, and let us also sideline on whether a non-banking financial company do have limitation in accepting deposited money. When one goes in the logic behind the success of bankers is that - the banks are run by money deposited to the bank by lending the money to another third party in a higher interest from the interest that the bank had to pay to the depositors. In the banking sector money deposited cannot be directly utilized for other purposes other than lending it in the form of loan to get appropriate income. So, the question arises here is that can any of the depositors claimed their deposited amount to the M/S SMART Society by seizing the assets that the Salai Holdings Pvt. Limited Company had invested through various holding companies that they run.

Another serious matter that the people should know is that, will the government simply take the case by segregating it from the case being handled by the NIA in connection with the announcement of the existence of a Government in Exile of the Manipur State. The state government has many experts both in legal, financial matters and administration besides highly trained people to tackle the law and order problems. 20,000 people is a large chunk of people and Rs. 968 crore is around 10% of the state budget. The Modus Operandi of how the Salai Holdings company M/S SMART Society is more like a Ponzi scheme which the government had curbed by passing legislation - Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2019. Manipur Government too had extended the legislation since July 31, 2019. Commissioner Revenue is the competent authority of this act as appointed by the government of Manipur.

Now when one enquired on how the money is deposited to the M/S SMART Society, it is known to every depositor that they simply get a passbook without mentioning the amount of money that they deposited, but with a code number like Unit 2, 3 or 4 which is agreed for those deposited Rs. 2 Lakhs, 3 Lakhs or 4 lakhs without any signed papers that defined the unit for people who had deposited less money. For those who deposited more money, there was an agreement signed in non-judicial stamp paper that stated that the M/S SMART Society borrowed the money that they deposited and in return, the depositor will receive 3% interest of the amount. Interestingly, the agreement signed in the non-judicial paper has no sign of any advocate or Oath Commissioner. In addition to this if the person who had signed the agreement was not allowed to sign a new agreement bond but the amount was simply added to their passbook.

The government certainly knows the total asset of the various company run under the Salai Holdings Pvt. Limited. They also know the total incomes of the company besides the number of employees that they hired started their pay from Rs. 10000 to 1 lakhs.

If suppose the government takes the case then the 20,000 plus people will throw the ball to the government to get their money.

Now voices of the victims have started coming out and it will rise in the coming days. This issue will also definitely impact the next general election if the government think twice before taking the case.

The only option to solve this issue is to either arrest Shamerjit or opens the Salai Holdings Pvt. Ltd. Office using any means. For time being the government should ignore the case of Shamerjit as his announcement have no impact here in the state of Manipur.

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High Court notice to former Maharashtra CM over Axis Bank account transfer issue

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, March 6

The Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court on Thursday sought BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis's response to a petition questioning the transfer of salary accounts of the Maharashtra police department to Axis Bank, a private lender and also asked the state home department and the Director General of Police, to furnish their replies within eight weeks.

While hearing the petition filed by one Mohnish Jabalpure, alleging the misuse of powers by Fadnavis as chief minister to help Axis Bank at the expense of public sector lenders, a division bench of Justices Ravi Deshpande and Amit Borkar issued notices to the Additional Chief Secretary of the home department and DGP.

Fadnavis, now leader of the Opposition in the state legislative

assembly, is at the centre of attention, since his wife Amruta Fadnavis holds a senior position with Axis Bank. The petitioner cited a circular issued by the then BJP-led government on May 11, 2017, which effected transfer of salary accounts of police personnel as well as beneficiaries of the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana to Axis Bank. This caused a loss to nationalised banks which were handling these accounts earlier, the petitioner alleged, seeking revocation of the decision and a probe. However a senior official said that the salary accounts of the police force were with UTI Bank - later renamed as Axis Bank - since 2005, much before Fadnavis became



chief minister in 2014. Fadnavis was the chief minister of Maharashtra from 2014 till 2019. He became the CM at the age of 44 and was second

youngest chief minister. He represents the Nagpur South West constituency in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. In a related development, the Shiv Sena-controlled Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), also invested Rs one crore in fixed deposit with the Axis Bank, out of its investments worth Rs 6,300 crore in nine banks in January this year. The interest rate of 6.5 per cent offered by the Axis Bank is the second highest. The document indicates that the FD amount

invested by the BMC in the Axis Bank is the lowest among all its investments made in nine banks. The civic body's FD with the Axis Bank will mature in July 2021. In January, the cash-rich BMC made 446 fixed deposits of amounts worth Rs one to three crore for a period of 12 to 24 months in nine different public and private sector lenders, including the Axis Bank. The BMC has deposited Rs five crore in the Municipal Cooperative Bank, which has offered the highest interest rate of 7.5 per annum. All other banks, including the private lender ICICI, where the BMC has invested Rs 329 crore in FDs, have offered interest at a rate lower than 6.4 per annum. In yet another development, the Thane Municipal Corporation has shifted the accounts of the Thane Municipal Corporation from Axis Bank to a nationalised bank.

'Books are one of the best transporters of knowledge'

IT News
Imphal, March 6

Education Minister Dr. Thokchom Radheshyam said that books are one of the best transporters of knowledge. He emphasized that reading habit needs to be inculcated among the people of all ages specially to the young minds. If people stop reading and educating oneself and not expand knowledge then life would become insignificant.

The Minister was speaking at the felicitation function of the 248th Governing Council Meeting of All India Federation of Master



Printers (AIFMP) held at Hotel Classic Grande, Imphal hosted by All Manipur Press Association, Imphal. He urged the gathering of printers and publishers from across the country to maintain the quality of printed materials. The Minister opined that children

generally use books roughly without care as a result the pages of the books gets easily split up. And if the books are of poor quality then the condition of the books in the hands of children does not last long. Lauding the host All Manipur Press Association, Imphal for organising

the GC Meeting of AIFMP at Imphal he said that such occasion provides an opportunity for the state to showcase its rich culture, tradition and heritage. He also said that such meeting will also serve the purpose of bringing affinity among the people of the different states of the country.

President, AIFMP, New Delhi, Dibyajyoti Kalita, Secretary General, AIFMP, K. Rajendra and members of AIFMP from 23 states of the country attended the GC meeting. During the function a souvenir under the theme - 'Printing - Gateway to Knowledge' was also released.

Guest Column

Human Beings as a Bait in the battle of Vice & Virtues

By: Sorokhaibam Pungamba Singh

"If you are proficient in writing, don't just end in your diary", prompted me to let my words go further afield, far beyond the confinement of my diary. Owing to the evolutionary change of humans, all the reservoirs of divine virtues which were inherited from our ancestors went as a bone only to be refilled with vice-self-centeredness, jealousy, hatred and calousness. The long laid self-imposed tradition of cultivating vice has ultimately bore fruits which are succulent enough to douse the divinely magnificent legacy we were blessed with which judiciously should be kept intact and which jealously should be treasured. This makes us an absent-minded wild beast and keeps us far away from the fact that we are here only on a vacation. We are just a sojourner, stopover for a time being and we are meant to live in holistic harmony. As we keep ourselves under the heels of vice, we get engulfed by an imperceptible yet strong enough veil only to give rise to the development of an aversion to the law of living here on Earth as administered by the creator to accept who you are, to be content with what you have to live a frugal and simple life to stick together for better co-existence by contributing our unique talents and skills and above all to enjoy this brief journey to the fullest and moreover to bear it in our mind that nothing else is of permanent importance than being happy and healthy which are without doubt inseparable and intimately connected to each other for there is no such thing as true happiness without impeccable physical and emotional wellbeing and vice-versa.

Needless to say, it takes courage, honesty, discipline and humility to build even stronger bridges in this co-existence. As human fallibility is something no one can question, our

path sometimes went astray. On no account should we adamantly stick to this path if not for its possession of cake-walk-like characteristics. We spent no end of our effort trying to get ourselves accustomed to this path for all it takes is nothing more than vice with which people can generate swift compatibility with ease rather than with virtues. We are kept in bondage, enchanted by the facile and superficial worldly victory and possessions at the entrance of this path and never dared to deviate, unaware to the catastrophic consequences that lurks right from the midway of this path. When we came to know the true value of these virtues we were endowed with, we assuredly will end in tears for we never nourished and nurtured them which hold the nerve to jolly us along, making us stand up ebulliently to the vices and under which aegis we can make the most out of this bumpy ride called life by living a creative, productive, meaningful, peaceful and self-contained life in particular. While we keep watering these venomous and toxic vices to flourish within us in spite of their parasitic nature, we are knowingly putting ourselves at their disposal by being a host. As a consequence, we became increasingly reckless about the true value of virtues, took them for granted and attached no attention and time to nourish them. We blindfold ourselves to the fact that these virtues are the only gems that is worth counting on in the long run and in the face of misery and adversity. They have come a long way with us in an abortive attempt to save us from the jaws of needless suffering. Not wishing to keep on abusing themselves, they declared a battle against the vices in a vain hope that we, humans would take their side and backed them up. Evidently, in the short of

reinforcement, victory went to the vices. It will not be a hyperbole to leave a fast fact here at this juncture that they were already at the end of their valour on account of their long existence under absolute suppression, acting a passive role. Truth to be told, they have done their part that God assigned them to do before they deceased. They moved heaven and earth, leave no stones unturned and moved to the ends of the world to make their vice heard only to fall in deaf ears. They did knelt in supplication to bless them with our support, to stand by their side, to jolly them up and particularly to lend endless storm of applause so that they can effortlessly bring down the vices to their knees. But we humans are a complete ignoramus when it comes to the art of escapism from the enchanted cook-up stories and superficial fabrication of artful beings. As the vices put us under a powerful witchcraft, we stand up to the virtues, embolden and slash them one by one like an aggressive and rampaging automaton which has been designed only for the purpose of exterminating the jewels of this world.

Oh! We humans are so dumb and submissive, very easy to have ducked in self-delusion. How pathetic we are to turn a blind eye to the blatant attempt of vices to use us as a bait solely for their personal aggrandizement! They know it, without a vestige of qualm, that it would be an encumbrance to their living if they didn't wipe-out the virtues. Has there been any story of stable symbiosis between diversity and devil in the history of mankind? If so, it's worth it to deem myself a sluggish critic who have come up on this stage armed with a dash of the ways of the world. If not invest a few minutes of your precious time to yourself and see it for yourself if

you are possessed by the vice or by the virtue. Now we got trapped in the icy manipulation of the vices, constant exposure to its harsh and aired vices awakens millions of demonic traits within us. These vices within us cannot be executed whenever the fancy took us as they already got impregnated, deeply rooted throughout our whole body. As a matter of fact, we have been and still is, an envious wild beast who don't spree even a jot of their physical and mental energy trying to drag down those happy and successful people around in our world of darkness. Lust for trivial things and obsession with material possession burgeon, an unreasonable apple of discord. The human world is in complete shambles. One day, if we happened to get divine intervention and get rid of these vices and look around to how much extent our human worlds has deteriorated, the chances are that every cell in our body will be under the shadow of boundless unbearable repentance and probably may create history that repentance is a fatal disease which can never be condoned. But when will be this "one day"? Does this "one day" exist or not? Has this "one day" perished long ago? Is this "one day" still far beyond the horizon or deep into the earth's core? Isn't it an undisputed fact that we have to create this "one day" in no time before we can utter yet another fallacy "it's too late". And my question goes on in a rhetorical question's clothing.

The writer is a student of Millennium Institute of Sciences (MIS) and can be reached at sorokhaibampungamba@gmail.com. he is from Bishupur Ward No-11, Manipur