

Sunday Health Care

# Heart travels 20km in 12 minutes for transplant

A heart travelled 20km in 12 minutes flat for a transplant on Saturday morning. It was to be transplanted into a patient who suffered heart failure.

The traffic police had created a green corridor for the rapid transit of the organ between hospitals.

Experts removed the heart from the body of a 45-year-old brain-dead patient at Vasant Kunj Hospital around 6.30am. The organ reached Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon via National Highway 8 around 6.42am. The police had brought the unconscious donor to the emergency ward of Fortis Hospital in Vasant Kunj. He suffered a head injury in a road accident near Chattarpur on Wednesday. However, the neurosurgery team could not revive him and he was declared brain dead on Saturday.

After the hospital specialists counselled the victim's family members, they agreed to donate his organs.

The hospital informed the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), a government body that coordinates the procurement and distribution of organs and tissues across India. A police clearance was also sought as it was a medico-legal case.

Abra Ali Dalal, facility director,



Fortis, Vasant Kunj, said, "For this facility, this is the first organ donation from a deceased person. We thank the donor's family for making such a noble gesture in their hour of grief." "It was also the clockwork precision of all medical teams that made this cadaveric donation a reality," he said. According to NOTTO protocol, each hospital has to inform the government body about a possible organ donation. Thereafter, the body decides on the organ distribution among hospitals based on a list of recipients.

"The organ donation rate in the country has increased tenfold over the last five years from 0.05 per million population to 0.5 per million. With NOTTO fully functional and the regional and state machinery working in coordination, the donation rate will see a further improvement," said Dr Avnish Seth, director, Fortis Organ Retrieval and Transplant.

Short story

## Proud Red Rose



As the days passed, the red rose would look at the cactus and say insulting things, like: This plant is useless! How sorry I am to be his neighbor.

The cactus never got upset and he even tried to advise the rose, saying, "God did not create any form of life without a purpose."

Spring passed, and the weather became very warm. Life became difficult in the forest, as the plants and animals needed water and no rain fell.

The red rose began to wilt. One day the rose saw sparrows stick their beaks into the cactus and then fly away, refreshed. This was puzzling, and the red rose asked the pine tree what the birds were doing.

The pine tree explained that the birds got water from the cactus. "Does it not hurt when they make holes?" asked the rose.

"Yes, but the cactus does not like to see any birds suffer," replied the pine.

The rose opened its eyes in wonder and said, "The cactus has water?" "Yes you can also drink from it. The sparrow can bring water to you if you ask the cactus for help."

The red rose felt too ashamed of its past words and behavior to ask for water from the cactus, but then it finally did ask the cactus for help. The cactus kindly agreed and the birds filled their beaks with water and watered the rose's roots. Thus the rose learned a lesson and never judged anyone by their appearance again.

The rose tried to move its roots away from the cactus, but it could not move.

Since the President of India, on the advice of Union Home Ministry, withheld one Bill out of three, keeping the two others referred to experts, it is high time for the Meiteis in particular to introspect into what amounts to the actual "rejection" of the said Bills. It could have been because all the three Bills are, in some way or the other, incompatible with relevant Articles of Indian Constitution. We are governed by it and we must try to understand the nitty-gritty of what the Constitution is all about. It's useless to pass and submit new Bills to the Governor only to be rejected again. A good home work including consultation with stakeholders is highly needed. There is a chapter called Directive Principles of State Policy in our Constitution is known to all. In this chapter there are three Lists namely:

1) The Union List 2) the State List, and 3) the Concurrent List. The Union List includes subjects to be exercised by the Centre while the State List contains subjects to be exercised by the State. The Concurrent List contains subjects to be exercised both by the Centre as well as by the State. Some of our present demands are related with citizenship, aliens, naturalisation, emigration, expulsion etc., which all are under the Union List. The Concurrent List, in most cases, is also exercised by the Centre. Through the 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act of 1976, five subjects like 1) Education, 2) Forests, 3) Weights & Measures, 4) Protection of Wild Animals and Birds, and 5) Administration of Justice, were transferred from State to Concurrent List. Even the Law and Order, which is in the State List is most often exercised by the Centre when a State is under promulgation of certain Acts like Disturbed Area Act as in Manipur, for example. Our Indian Constitution, therefore, is said to be federal in character but unitary in spirit.

In short, there is nothing a State can do which is beyond the parameter of the State List. About the three Bills, did the Manipur Assembly transgress into the subjects under

the Union List is now being asked. Again there is Article 371(C) of Indian Constitution under which Manipur Assembly can't pass certain Bills without consulting the Hill Area Committee. This is one aspect we have to consider before a Bill is passed, for the HAC itself is an Assembly within the Assembly. What a State government can do in matters under Union List is to send a proposal to the Centre requesting to cause a Constitutional amendment. The amendment requires passing of the Bill in both Houses of Parliament. After passing the Bill, it will be submitted to the President for his assent. After getting his assent, the Bill becomes an Act. However, it will have to stand the test of the Supreme Court, in case someone files a PIL.

The essence of the three Bills was to protect the indigenous people of Manipur from being swamped by illegal migrants/immigrants. The demographic threat being faced by the valley people in particular is a fact. But the question is who the indigenous people of Manipur are? Are the Meiteis indigenous under our Constitution? In India ethnic groups are recognised as Scheduled Tribes and this is a legal and Constitutional term denoting them. A verdict of Apex Court in this regard will clear the picture further. While dismissing the Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction arising out of a Special Leave Petition, (Cr) No. 10367; Kailas & Others vs. the State of Maharashtra; the Supreme Court of India in its judgement on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2011, unequivocally asserted that **Scheduled Tribes are indigenous peoples of India.** Viewed from this perspective, we Meiteis are not indigenous – a reality which we should contest.

Officially there are 34 recognised STs and 7 SCs in Manipur and they are known as indigenous people of India under our Constitution. We call ourselves *Yelhoumee* which when translated is indigenous or original settlers. There are many friends who work for the cause of indigenous people without knowing

the fact that we are not recognised as such by the Constitution. Shouldn't we press for recognition of the Meiteis as one of the indigenous groups under the Constitution first? We should not pretend to be what we are not. Let us call a spade a spade. The irony is our indigenous hill people are deadly against the ILP demand, for their land and polity are already protected under Article 19 (5) and 342 (1) of the Constitution, among others. This certainly is paradoxical indeed for us. Are we unable to locate suitable Articles under our Constitution to safeguard our land and polity, influx and economy? Or can we get our Constitution amended to our liking?

Manipur, once a princely state, became a part of India on October 15, 1949 under an agreement. With an area of 22,327 sq km, the valley is 2,238 sq km or 10% of the total area where the majority Meiteis live. The remaining area of 20,089 sq km or 90% of the total area are in the hills where the tribals live. Manipur in fact should have been declared a hill State long ago. The Meiteis again share this ten percent valley land not only with tribals coming down from the hills but also with Manipuri Muslims, Nepalis, Bengalis, and Biharis etc.

Even the Burmans of Tripura or the Chogyals of Sikkim, who once ruled their respective kingdoms before the merger with Indian Union, are today listed as indigenous people/ Scheduled Tribes under Indian Constitution. Manipur kings once had matrimonial alliance with the Burmans, otherwise known as Takhel, in the olden days. (The famous Bollywood music director of yester-year, SD Burman, the father of RD Burman, was born to a Manipuri princess named Rajkumari Nirmala Devi. Almost all film-songs of Dev Anand were composed by SDB). There should not be any reason for the Mongoloid Meiteis to remain unrecognised as indigenous people. After the

enlistment of six Assamese OBCs like Tai Ahoms and Koch Rajbongshis – who once ruled mainland Assam and western Assam (Kamtapur region) respectively for many centuries – under Article 342 (1) of our Constitution, which is in the offing, the OBC Meiteis will be the last and only group left out in the lurch, outside the indigenous club, in the entire Northeast India. Moreover, the recognition as one of the indigenous groups of people will have wider politico-economic ramifications in international forum. India had signed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) on 13 September 2007.

Some of our orthodox yet vociferous, middle class, Meitei landed gentry prefer the status quo. However, they have miserably failed to suggest a concrete and practicable alternative, under our Constitution, to protect our land and polity, influx and economy, for the last sixty five years. The relevance of *Yelhoumee* or indigenous people is not a contemporary myth. It's real and needs self introspection. Like a vanishing tribe, or lost children of history, walking from one spot of buried hope to the death rattle of another, searching the Constitutional safeguards, in the wrong pages of the wrong chapter of Indian Constitution, we shall be doomed in the wilderness of the streets only. What we need is to flip the right pages where everything about "indigenous" and "Constitutional safeguards" is enumerated in our statute book. Most of the answer to our present social unrest lies in understanding the above two words correctly. It's very simple and no rocket science indeed. The geo-political reality of today compels us to search for it. We surely need mutual understanding and collective political wisdom before the NFR train reaches Tupul and Imphal.

## National & International News

### Three children killed in Afghanistan bomb explosion

**ANI**  
**Kabul, July 10:** At least three children were killed and six others, including three women and three men, wounded in a bomb explosion in Kandahar province of southern Afghanistan.

Provincial Police spokesman Zia

Durani said the incident took place earlier today on a main highway connecting Spin Boldak and Arghistan district when a rickshaw vehicle carrying civilians struck an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), leaving at least three children dead. Durani added that six others also

sustained injuries in the attack. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident so far, reports Khaama Press.

The Taliban militants and other armed insurgent groups are frequently using IEDs, which are the main contributors to the casualties

of the Afghan security forces and but are also growing civilian casualties.

At least 600 civilians were killed and 1,343 others wounded in the first quarter of 2016, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said in its latest report.

### Nepal to send team to assess security in Kabul post attack

**ANI**  
**Kathmandu, July 10:** The government has decided to form a team that would soon be sent to Afghanistan to make an assessment of the potential security risk faced by the Nepali migrants working there. The decision comes after a Taliban suicide bomber targeted a minibus of security guards working at the Canadian embassy in Kabul and killed 13 Nepali guards.

Minister for Labour and Employment Deepak Bohara told the Parliament on Saturday that the team of officials would leave for Afghanistan soon.

"Following the incident, the government has issued labour permits to some working in green zones as they were on annual leave. Since questions are being raised about the security situation of even those working in green zones, we

are planning to send a team in 8-10 days to find out the reality," the Kathmandu Post quoted Bohara as saying. The security of an estimated 20,000 Nepali citizens, currently working in Afghanistan, has become a major concern after the tragedy. So far, a total of 8,614 Nepalis have acquired the work permit for Afghanistan, according to the Department of Foreign Employment and the officials estimate a higher

number of people going to Afghanistan through informal channels.

A few days after the attack, the Nepal Government imposed a ban on the citizens going to work in the war-torn country and has also been facilitating the evacuation of workers willing to return.

More than 50 Nepalis working as security guards have returned from Afghanistan following the attack.

### BJP appeals for unity to pacify fragile situation in J-K

**ANI**  
**New Delhi, July 10:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Hina Bhat on Sunday countered the Congress' allegations in wake of the deteriorating law and order situation in the valley and said everybody must come on board to pacify the situation instead of giving hype to the opposition's charges. Taking a jibe at the Congress, Bhat said the nation is at the moment least interested to know about the allegations of the grand old party. "The situation is very fragile, very sensitive in the state, we are only concerned about the peace so that no more deaths are there in Kashmir. So, I don't want to give hype to the Congress Party or any other allegations. Right now, everybody

should get together and pacify the situation and get thing under control," Bhat told ANI here. "When such thing happens, imposition of curfew is a must. And through Facebook, WhatsApp, they try to communicate with each other to carry forward the protest. So, it is important to bring the situation under control," she added. Talking about the Amarnath Yatra, the BJP leader said that it has been suspended for the time being due to security concerns. "It is better if we hold on the yatra for the safety of the people both from the state or those coming from outside the state," she said. Appealing for peace and harmony in Jammu and Kashmir, the Congress yesterday said that it was the

responsibility of the Centre and the PDP-BJP coalition government in the state to ensure law and order.

The Congress also blamed the PDP-BJP coalition government in the state for all "wrong decisions that may have adverse consequences in the long-term". "To the youth or the elderly people of Jammu and Kashmir, we will convey the message that violence is not the solution to any problem. Peace, harmony and brotherhood are the only answers," Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said. Meanwhile, the death toll in the clashes between security forces and protestors has reached eleven as three more civilians from south Kashmir succumbed to injuries. Earlier, eight civilians were

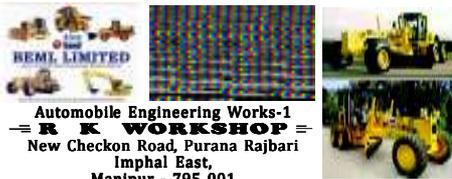
killed in the clashes in south Kashmir, a day after Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani and his two associates were killed in an encounter in Anantnag. More than hundred protesters have also been injured in the clashes across Kashmir Valley.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has said the Centre is working with the state government to bring normalcy in the valley. In a tweet, he appealed to the people to remain calm and maintain peace. The mobile internet and train services are suspended in the valley. Amarnath Yatra remains temporarily suspended and around ten thousand pilgrims are reportedly stranded at Jammu.

The CBSE has postponed the UGC-NET exam scheduled for today in Srinagar.

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