

Editorial

Fate of JNIMS: MCI may cancel Recognition

Fate of JNIMS, the one and only state government run Medical Science Institution in the state, is at stake as the state government is unlikely to appoint eligible Director, qualified for looking after the affairs of premier Institution.

Time and again, Imphal Times has put up the issue of the massive malpractices that has been ruining the good image of the Institution; but no government authority in showing any interest to correct the wrongs.

Self regularization of contractual post, procurement of Medical equipments like MRI machine by paying triple the amount of the actual rate, alleged collection of money in the name of regularization of the contact post etc. etc. cannot be negotiated with were publicity of treating some few selected people who can't afford medical expenditure.

On July 15, 2017, that is today, the in-charge Director of JNIMS, Dr. L. Deban's tenure is over. Until another extension order has been issued by the society that is running the institution, Dr. Deben is no more the Director of JNIMS.

On the other hand, Imphal Times has questioned the JNIMS authority on the total expenditure for in the name of free treatment to patients. The kind of services needs appreciation, but the question is, is the money spent for treatment of the poor patient spent from the pocket of the Director?

Everyone knows over 80% of the people of Manipur lives under poverty line. How many poor will Dr. Deben personally visit and provide treatment. Source said the treatment of these poor patients is from a specific head (scheme from central govt) and Dr. Deben has been utilizing it at his will without the consultation of governing today.

After getting recognition from the Medical council of India (MCI), the JNIMS now has been approved for opening of post graduate studies. Many students including those from outside the state are studying in the institution. After all the hospital is availed with 57 diagnostic test at free of cost under the Prime Minister's dream project. As per the MCI guidelines, recognition of any Medical College can be cancelled any time if found appointing Professors, Asst. Professors, Medical Superintendent or Director who are not eligible for the post.

Now, it is an open secret that Dr. L. Deven is not among the list of eligible candidates who is eligible for the post. If he is extended to the same post and if MCI come to find out; the fate of JNIMS could be at a mess.

By: Gautamjit Thokchom

In the past week, there was uproar on social media over a comment made by a popular film actress that she had no qualms about state girls (referred to as Meitei or Manipuri girls hereafter) marrying non-Manipuris. The dominating male voice was on full display in the comment sections on Facebook. A relatively small but equally vociferous section put up a brave fight. The battle moved beyond the controversy and turned into a deeper conversation on the rights and status of women in Manipur and their significance in the demography and politics of the state. Here is a sample of some of the hard hitting questions, and for a better understanding of the issue, we will try to answer (or, touch upon certain aspects of) some of these questions. Why are we particularly concerned about Manipuri girls marrying out of the community to a foreigner or a non-Manipuri? Is it the hurt inflicted on male ego or the intangible but real danger to our future as a small ethnic group the cause of all our overreaction? Why is it less of a problem when the groom is a foreigner or an ST?

We are, without a doubt, a conservative society. Proponents of this designation are mostly the elderly population with strict views on marriage alliances - the familiar checklist of yek, community, language and deeper concerns about bloodline and domesticity. However, with millennials and an educated section joining the conservative bandwagon, the opposition is framing this particular issue as a men-driven tirade against women's individual freedom. Putting the blame entirely on men

discounts the fact that in Manipuri society, both parents have more or less equal say in the marital choices of their children. Like it or not, the mother is an accomplice in the patriarchal treatment of her daughter. She is complicit with her husband in making sure the daughter marries a 'groom from the same community' in order to save the 'face of the family.' When every family does this, it becomes a norm of a larger section and in due course, a rule of the entire society. This silent complicity brings us to the question of autonomy and status of women in our society.

A Manipuri woman enjoys a fair amount of autonomy in economic affairs. Restrictions are more strictly placed on her dress and conduct with other men. Having learned and experienced the enormous liberty women enjoy in other societies, a new generation of Manipuri women want more than what they are getting now. This gap between the level of freedom they want and how much Manipuri society is willing to give is at the heart of this ongoing debate. The traditionalist arguments of morality and decency are not convincing anymore. They lack forward thinking as well as global currency. Women of today want to take care of their own affairs just like men do theirs. The idea is not about going separate ways, but a realization of a society in which men and women are equal stakeholders. What's most infuriating though is the moral high ground from which men shape these debates. It's an undeniable fact that men have never seriously questioned the morality (and the double standard) of unilaterally laying down rules for women

because the status quo thus created makes them kings of their families and decision makers of the society. History is on women's side to prove this point. One thing men do is heaping praise on successful and daring women. Nupi Lal and the role of Meira Paibis are enthused examples of the high stature of women in Manipuri society. In the present context, they should be chilling reminders of the inaction of men and a testament to women's ability to assert themselves and rise to the occasion.

Women are a symbol of purity and beauty (not to objectify, but for the purpose of this discussion). Since ancient times, men took it upon themselves the responsibility to protect them. It's not hard to imagine then, the insecurity and self-deprecation shared by men whether consciously or more likely subconsciously at this new reality of 'competent' and 'naive' girls of the soil choosing outsiders over them. There are frequent reports of state girls lured by money, falling into the traps of foreigners. The existence of this repressed male anger sounds like a far-fetched conjecture, but is not entirely impossible given the complexity of gender psychology. One reason often given to justify this imperative to marry within the community is the diminishing demographic strength of Manipur. While it's true that a handful Meitei bride marrying outsiders would hardly have any impact on the size of our population, one should see the outcry as a manifestation of the betrayal felt by Manipuris when women of our own are cozying up to the same people we are at odds against. The state is under a strong demographic pressure from non-

Manipuris due to immigration and competition for resources. Issues ranging from AFSPA to racial discrimination at Indian cities to an uncertainty over the state's territorial integrity are constant sources of enmity with the much stronger Indian state. This strained relationship has planted a strong sense of distrust of non-Manipuris in the Manipuri psyche. Thus, marriage, which is symbolic of complete acceptance and trust, has come to acquire a political significance. Far removed from these larger than life concerns, the real problem though, that every family faces when someone marries out of the community is the inevitable clash of cultures. Both families have to make lots of adjustments and tons of sacrifice to iron out the differences in etiquette, food habits, social obligations, interests and priorities. Add to this the distance of the daughters after marriage and the headache for travel and communication, no wonder Manipuri parents don't take such prospects kindly! In conclusion, the prevailing opinion seems to be that girls should marry within the community. The conflict between the progressive ideas of freedom of women and the conservative ethos and cultural dissonance of the old guard happens in every small ethnic group at our position. It's a toxic culture to target women to vent out our collective anger and even hinging our hope on them to solve our ethnic crisis. The debate should be about creating a liberating environment for them to make informed and wise choices for themselves and the community.

(The writer is in medical profession. He did his MBBS at JIPMER, Puducherry)

National and International News

NIA to probe smuggling of explosive into UP assembly

Lucknow, July 15: In a major breach of security, a deadly plastic explosive, Pentarythritol tetranitrate (PETN), was smuggled into the Uttar Pradesh assembly, making a mockery of the precinct's three-tier security system. Police sources said PETN in crystalline form, weighing around 150gm, was possibly sneaked into the House on the night of July 11 to trigger an explosion later.

The explosive was detected on the morning of July 12 when the bomb detection and disposal squad (BDDS) was sanitising the House

premises as part of the mandatory drill whenever the assembly is in session. The squad found a blue carry bag under the seat cushion in the third row.

Inside the bag, the squad found another plastic packet containing between 100 and 150gm of colourless and odourless crystals. The team placed the packet before a sniffer dog. Senior police officers said since there was no odour, the dog did not react.

However, despite the absence of other suspicious components like wire, fuse, electronic circuit or

batteries, the squad handed over the packet to marshals, who informed the chief minister's security personnel and cops. The packet found in the UP assembly was sent for forensic examination on Wednesday. On Friday morning, the findings confirmed the substance was PETN. Speaking in the House, chief minister Aditya Nath Yogi said it was "like a terror plot".

The explosive, belonging to the nitroglycerin and nitrocellulose chemical family, is believed to have been used in the blast outside the Delhi high court in 2011, and is a favourite with al-Qaida and Pakistan-based terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is known to have used it in Jammu & Kashmir. The explosive was found underneath a seat allotted to the Samajwadi Party. If it had been used in Jammu & Kashmir, it would have inflicted maximum damage on SP MLAs and could have posed a threat to the lives of the Speaker, the CM, senior ministers and MLAs attending the budget session.

The revelation sent the security paraphernalia into a tizzy; security around Vidhan Bhawan was bolstered on Thursday night itself. Yogi cleared a probe by the National

Intelligence Agency and also chaired a meeting with principal secretary, home, Arvind Kumar and DGP Sulhan Singh, directing officials to review security of the assembly with more stringent access control. Besides, the security protocol of the assembly was changed, introducing several curbs. VIP culture puts security at risk. Two sets of people can enter the majestic Vidhan Bhawan, the power centre of Uttar Pradesh. The first one is an authorized entry pass-holding commoner but the other is the VIP. On a working day, a commoner can enter only after showing the pass at any of the 10 gates but the VIP can roam right in, in his SUV bears a car pass, up to the old block which houses the Council Hall. The home guards or constables on duty salute in military precision and dare not ask if the supporters packed in the VIP's car have the pass or not. On July 12, when the budget session began and the Pentarythritol Tetranitrate (PETN) was quietly smuggled through the four layered security, one could see the VIP supporters clicking selfies amid the presence of mute spectators in khaki (police) and white uniforms (marshals).

Dignity of dead must be given due respect: SC

PTI New Delhi, Jul 14: Respect the dignity of the dead, the Supreme Court said today while directing state governments to follow the guidelines of the National Human Rights Commission.

"It is not as if the dignity of only living persons needs to be respected but even the dignity of the dead must be given due respect. Unless the communications and guidelines laid down by the NHRC are adhered to, the respect and dignity due to the dead and the human rights of all us will remain only on paper," a bench of Justices M B Lokur and U U Lalit said.

The apex court's remarks came on the submission of NHRC which said that all its communications and guidelines have remained only on paper and are not enforced by any State Government. It said that the intention of the NHRC was to more effectively assist the criminal justice delivery system and avoid any factual controversies while respecting human rights. The apex court, however, expressed disappointment on the failure of the NHRC to bring out its annual reports saying the website of commission indicate is of 2012-13.

"Several years have gone by since then, but no annual report has been published. We have no idea what is the stage of preparation or

consideration of the subsequent annual reports," it said, adding that the commission should be made available expeditiously.

Regarding State Human Rights Commissions (SHRC) not being constituted by several states, the apex court said the provisions of Constitution required every State to constitute a commission.

"We do not think it appropriate to issue any direction, particularly in the present writ petitions, to State Governments to constitute a State Human Rights Commission.

"But, we do feel it imperative to bring it to the notice of all State Governments that it would be but a small step in the protection of life and liberty of every person in our country if a SHRC is constituted at the earliest," it said.

The court said it expected all state governments to abide by the directions issued by the NHRC in regard to compensation and other issues.

"Considering that such a high-powered body (NHRC) has brought out its difficulties through affidavits and written submissions filed in this Court, we have no doubt that it has been most unfortunately reduced to a toothless tiger," it said while directing the Centre to take note of the concerns of the NHRC and remedy them at the earliest.

Situation under control in Kashmir Valley: Army

Srinagar, July 15: The Indian Army, describing the Amarnath terror attack as "one reversal", said on Saturday the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is under control and it will continue targeting terrorists.

"The Amarnath Yatra attack has been one reversal but we will continue our operations, will continue targeting terrorists. We will continue improving the situation," the Chinara Corps Commander, Lt Gen J S Sandhu, said here briefing the media. "Situation is under control," said Sandhu, adding "The army is not too worried about the situation becoming too bad or alarming. The

situation will remain under control." He also said that youth from the valley was "ready to serve the nation" as recruitment to security forces from the state was very high. On Zahoora Ahmad Thakur, a soldier in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, who went missing with his service weapon, Sandhu said there was no confirmation of him joining militant ranks.

"We are tracking him," he added. Thakur, who was with the Territorial Army's 173 Battalion, was reported missing from his camp in Gantmulla area along with an AK-47 rifle on July 6.

Government of Manipur
Office of the Range Forest Officer
Sadar East Range, Chingmeiroing.

AUCTION NOTICE
Dated, the 10th July 2017

No. 5/2013-14/SE: It is hereby notified for information of HPC, cleared Wood Based Units situated within the Meitei Industrial Estate and the general public that an offer auction of (legally felled one piece tree) Lot - A - 01 log, dumped at Kotonaga Boat Office having 0.639 cum of round pole logs of A-II class, marked as Lot - A, which are lying at the campus of Kotonaga Boat Office will be sold on public auction on 17th July, 2017 at 11:30 am in the Office of the Range Forest Officer, Sadar East Range under certain terms and conditions. The details of the auction sale and auction participation forms can be had from the Office of the Range Forest Officer, Sadar East Range.

Sd/-
(E. Hame Singh)
Range Forest Officer,
Sadar East Range, Chingmeiroing.

Memo No. 5/2013-14/SE Dated, the 10th Mar 2017

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