

## Many welcomes HC verdict on Manipur University case The HC judgment is a landmark and historic – says Veteran Politician O Joy

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 12,

While welcoming yesterday's judgment by the division bench of Justice Kotishwar and Justice Nobin, veteran politician Okram Joy today term it as a landmark and historic judgment.

"The judgment of the division bench of Manipur High court isa victory of the people, victory of justice and victory of all those who love and care for the Manipur University", O Joy said speaking to reporters at his residence today.

The 5 times MLA from Langthabal Assembly constituency however condemns state government disparities towards the people of the state and attitude of some politician in the government which suppressed the freedom of speech and also rights of politicians.

During the course of agitation some from the ruling had



expressed as if politician who did not win election cannot expressed their views. "Such attitude or words which they use to suppress the politicians can be only found in the dictionary written by fools O Joy said. O Joy also stated that the judgment is a blow to the center and state government which have agenda to saponise the Manipur University. O Joy terms the judgment as victory of the people as it

content directives to both the center and state government to restrain from the University while trying to bring normalcy by the newly appointed administrator. He added the root of the prolonged impasse at Manipur University was VC Prof. AP Pandey and the court directed the Union government to maintain the suspension of AP Pandey. "The judgment has chained Prof. AP Pandey", Joy added. He further stated that even the

Pro VC Yugindro appointed by VC AP Pandey which has been suspended and Prof. Shyamkeshwar, who accompanied Prof Yugindro in breaking the locked room of VC by the enquiry committee has also been suspended.

O Joy also stated that prolonged agitation at the Manipur University was a war between the right and the wrong, between justice and injustice and between what is to be done and not to be done. During the strike, people of the state witness intrusion to the fundamental rights of the people. He was referring to the prohibition of the district administration while he himself along with some other politician tried to stage rally showing solidarity to the Manipur University Community.

Even though he welcome the court judgment, he condemn the center and state government for taking too long in settling the issue.

## Retrospections for a better future

From IT Desk  
Imphal, Oct 12,

The shroud of gloom hanging over Manipur University has finally been lifted and after more than four months of agitations, midnight raids, protests, arrests and allegations flying thick and fast from both sides of the divide, a faint ray has finally emerged in the form of a directive from the state high court. The timing of the decision of the court to step in could not have come at a more appropriate moment, and in appointing Jarnail Singh as Administrator, the state can have a collective sigh of relief as he had proven himself to be an able administrator beyond reproach and more importantly, one who knows the sentiment and way of thinking of the people of the state. He will be in office till such time as deemed necessary to bring the varsity to order with administrative powers of a Vice Chancellor and protected by the court from any individual or party contemplating any disruptive steps in his efforts to bring the house in order. The people of the state repose its trust and support to the newly appointed Administrator and is expectantly waiting to start putting things in motion and make the varsity function as it should once again.

The present development, however promising it might look, should not be seen as a solution. Far from it, this arrangement should be seen as a last ditch effort in a bid to restore the sanctity and relevance of the varsity, and everybody should now come forward and extend full cooperation and support to

the Administrator to speed things up and salvage the lives of thousands of students whose academic career has been put on hold for so long. This is the perfect opportunity for the officials, teachers, students and all stakeholders of the University to retrospect and retrace the events leading to the present situation. Such an exercise should present a clear picture of what should have been done, what to have been avoided, how things could have been handled differently, and most importantly, learn how things would have to be done to avoid a repetition because there cannot be a better teacher than experience. And while the Administrator and his hand-picked team goes about setting things right, the students, teachers and staffs should get back to academic activities in right earnest to try and make up for lost time.

The state government should also take proactive role in bringing about an amicable settlement to the issue of the arrested teachers and students of the varsity. The fact that a few counter FIRs has already been lodged against the suspended Pro VC might very well snowball into another eruption of agitations and violent protests if timely action and intervention is not made by the state government.

Manipur University should serve as a study of how small and often seemingly insignificant oversights- intentionally or otherwise-could build up over time to become a mountain of problems that has threatened to wreck the future of thousands of students and its own existence. There could not be a better time to own up and make efforts to ensure such an unfortunate event is not repeated in the future.

## SC on mob lynching

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 12,

Supreme Court of India vide order dated 24.09.2014 passed in Writ Petition (C) No. 754 of 2016, Tahseen S. Poonawalla -Vs- Union of India & Ors.

case has directed all the State Governments for compliance of the order, relevant portion of which is reproduced as under: "(ix) The Central and the State Governments should broadcast on radio and television and other media platforms including the official websites of the Home Department and Police of the States that lynching and mob violence of any kind shall invite serious consequences under the law."

## Health camp

IT News  
Thoubal, Oct 12,

Social Welfare Organisation, Thoubal in collaboration of the District Health Society Thoubal under the supervision of National urban health Mission today conducted a one day health Awareness camp at Thoubal Bazar Torban Lampak. The health camp was attended by Pediatrician, ENT Specialist, Medicine and Surgery doctors. District Health Society Thoubal provided Ultrasound facilities using their Mobile medical unit.

## MPCC welcomes court verdict: MU community demands released of arrested faculties without condition

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 12,

Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) while welcoming the court verdict has appealed the state government to released all the detained students and faculty members of the Manipur university and also to complete the ongoing enquiry committee at the earliest possible time.

In a press conference held today at Congress Bhavan MLAK Ranjit said that justice is expected after yesterday's

court verdict. He however said that the two member independent enquiry committee need to be restructures as Independent enquiry committee constituted under the Inquiry Committee Act 1958. He said that those responsible for the prolonged agitation should be punished as per the law of the land. He further added that the FIR lodged against the students and the faculty members should be withdrawn and that all those detained should be released without any condition immediately.

Meanwhile the Manipur University community comprising of representatives from MUSU, MUTA and MUSA today meet the Chief Minister at the CMO office conference hall at 3 pm today. Soon after receiving the invitation from the CMO the MU community had written to the secretary CM that the MU community will stand with the demand for release of the arrested teachers and students and that until the matter put up by them has been fulfilled they are left with no option but to continue the demand.

## British Council and NEC sign MoU on educational and cultural collaboration

From a correspondent  
Guwahati; Oct 12,

Alan Gemmill, OBE, Director British Council India and Kh. Siile Anthony, Director (HRD & E), North Eastern Council (NEC), today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation, to support the knowledge ambitions and economic growth of the eight States of the North East.

The overarching MoU celebrates the British Council's 70th anniversary in India, in particular the rich cultural connections the Northeast has had with the UK, and seeks to strengthen the relationship for the next 70 years. The MoU will support the higher education, English language, skills and cultural aspirations for the young people from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim

and Tripura. As a result of this of this MoU, artists and the cultural community of all the Northeast states would get the opportunity to share culture, creativity and ideas with the UK. Government school teachers and faculty members of higher education institutions would gain access to English Language learning, quality education and internationally benchmarked assessments. (Contd. on Page 4)

## Popular Front National Executive Council appeals judiciary to protect religious freedom and personal laws

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 12,

The National Executive Council (NEC) meeting of Popular Front of India held at its headquarters in New Delhi stated that a series of seemingly liberalist and progressive judgments came from the apex court in recent months intensifies the apprehension among the religious minorities that they may pave the way for Uniform Civil Code.

A highly impactful judgment given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India was on the issue of religious conversion of Akhila to Hadiya and her subsequent marriage with a Muslim. On 9 April 2018, setting aside a Kerala High Court judgment which annulled the marriage, Supreme Court said that "the right to marry a person of

one's choice is integral to Article 21 (right to life and liberty) of the Constitution". It was one of the most important judicial interventions in recent history of the country to protect the fundamental rights of ordinary citizens against powerful right wing forces who tried to block it. The state interference in religious affairs is against the spirit Indian constitution. Consequently, every community has the freedom to practice their religious customs and personal laws. However, the judgment that upheld the 1994 Allahabad High Court verdict on the status of Mosque in Islam and on the entry of women in habarimala temple in Kerala were alarming interference in the religious affairs of the respective communities. At a critical juncture when the country is awaiting justice for

the illegally occupied and demolished Babri Masjid, a judgment negating of essentiality of Masjid in Islam does not give a positive message. The concern that such judgments would be misused by a communally motivated government was reaffirmed by the passing of Triple Talaq ordinance in the name of Supreme Court verdict. Hence it is high time the Supreme Court come forward taking a clear stand that the Ayodhya Masjid-Mandir title suit would be dealt with as per records and not according to any religious faith. This has become an onus on the part of highest judiciary in the context of consistent statements by some unscrupulous leaders that Ram Mandir would be constructed on the site of demolished Babri Masjid at any cost.

The judgments decriminalizing homosexuality and adultery claim to protect individual freedom and privacy. It may be interpreted that Supreme Court is merely imitating permissive values and concepts, which have already resulted in the decline of family and other social systems. The same enthusiasm was not seen in protecting personal freedom and privacy of individuals while ratifying the government decision on Aadhaar. The majority judgment failed to see the danger in linking every citizenship rights and availing of government welfare schemes and services with Aadhaar. Though most of the recent majority judgments were presented in the superficial language decorated with liberalism and progressiveness, they are borne with far reaching

consequences ruinous to individual, family and society. The National Executive Council of Popular Front applauded the commitment of the Supreme Court that is being repeatedly shown in all available contexts that the Indian constitution and its values are supreme. The meeting observed that at a time when overt calls and covert attempts are being made by those who control the centres of power to subvert the democratic and secular foundation of our constitution, this uncompromising constitutional commitment must be seen as the ultimate hope of India. The three days meeting of the apex body of the organisation discussed the socio-political situations prevailing in the country. The meeting also reviewed the activities of the organisation in different

states. The determination and steadfastness shown by Popular Front leaders and activists of Jharkhand state in the aftermath of organization's ban was commendable. The meeting has applauded the High Court decision that revoked the ban and urged the state government to ensure freedom of association in Jharkhand. The proposal by the Community Development Department to allot Rs. 15 million for post-metric scholarship during the academic year 2018-19 was approved. Chairman E Abubacker presided over the meeting. Vice chairman O MA Salam, General Secretary Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Secretaries Abdul Wahid Sait, Anis Ahmed and other NEC members attended the meeting.