



Sunday, September 8, 2019,

# Ungracious

By-Dr Nunglekpm Premi Devi  
Independent Scholar

Ah! He knows he finds his love his lady;  
Likes 'her' like a diamond in his ring;  
'I think I've seen you before' he started surprisingly;  
'I feel like I've known you for the last birth' he faulted;  
Cares 'her' like a morning breaths, brushing and cleaning;  
Remembers 'her' his every second count breathing;  
Make calls 'phone calls' as if he knows no boundaries;  
Man, oh! Man you're such a great dirty;  
Your mind so muddy and soiled and splashing;  
You string 'her', her presence at your nightmare;  
You foiled 'her' will so manky and treacherous;  
You shadowed 'her' icky unethical;  
Every morning and each evening calls and talks;  
'Hi' and 'hello'; 'I'm waiting and I'm dying'.

She forgets evils and she sees tenderness;  
And she finds fondness warmth and friendliness;  
She roams and smiles for 'him' so attaching;  
She blinds her solicitude 'making him' a man;  
Consideration and yearning and worshipping;  
Liking and inclining and adoring and devoting;  
O! Man, you forgot 'her' fidelity, her fealty;  
She stitches and holds her 'garland' for you;  
She bears 'her' pangs of separation for you;  
Her family, her childhood, her memories,  
Her home, her honesty, her place, her habitation,  
Her fatherland, her motherland, her cradle,  
Ah! So sweetly she beholds those, her basket,  
Her origin, her birth, her cot, her beginning,  
Her support, her shelter, her protection,  
You laughed when she cried for your happiness;  
You danced when she stepped your crooked infidelity.

Marriage! In the name of Social beings,  
Marriage! In the name of intimacy embracement,  
Food and drinks; Music and lights;  
Customs and ornaments; Cars and cars;  
Laughter and all smiles; make-ups and all expensive;  
Oh Man! You throw the lights on and drink to heaven;  
Darker the night, you play upon the maiden so fiercely;  
Later the night, you wake her up shouting;  
You knew not who she bears, so devastating;  
Once she disapprove, you kicked her anywhere,  
Once she dismiss, you taunted her monstrously;  
Shaken as she could; she cried her out pouring and pouring;  
She feels so thornier, her bed isn't smells rosier;  
He fights and she struggles; Isn't this a mistake?

## Nagaland to host festival of music, films, culture and indigenous games

Courtesy NN  
Diphu Sept.8,

Tribal Vaganza, a festival of music, films, culture and indigenous games will be held on September 13 and 14 at Bethel School Compound, Old Showuba, Dimapur in the suburbs in Nagaland. The festival will commence with indigenous games like, open oiled bamboo pole climbing competition and bamboo still race at 2.50 pm in the afternoon and in the evening from 6pm, there will be a pre release Film Premiere of 'Enter My World'. Minister of H&TE and Tribal Affairs, Temjen Imna Along will grace the occasion as special invitee. There will be a mega concert on day two at 6 pm featuring, Fiddlecraft from Pune, Reuben Mashangwa's band from Manipur, Lords of Rock and Abiogenesis from Nagaland. Enter My World, written and directed by Arenla Subong is really going to be intriguing as it is a new form of musical with an exciting story. Calling it Howey musical, the songs are sung in Naga folk

tunes (India) and the script in English. It is full of drama with all its colours – the writer and her assistant on her research venture are caught by some hunters in the jungle and held captives in a Naga village suspecting them to be spies. They are surprised to find themselves in a world which is in the folk era. The end is electrifying with the tiger spirited man and the boar spirited man confronting each other and the writer and her assistant trying to flee from the village. Some of the noted actors are Zhokoi Chuzo-the Naga Bollywood actor, Arenla Subong of Abiogenesis, Ariensa Longchar of Dreams Unlimited, Moa Subong, V Chishi, Kiry Yimchunger, Toshi Lenda and Daniel Engty. Other special features in the film are the Chicken Dance by Chakesang Zuve Cultural Club, Choreographed by Veswozo Pheasao and the Sangtam Dance by Kuyingpong Cultural Club Choreographed by Shiromong Anar. The festival is organized by Abiogenesis Society, Dimapur and sponsored by North East Council, Shillong.

## Fact Finding Report from Kashmir Reveals 'Grim and Despairing' Picture of Media

Courtesy The Wire  
By Wire Staff

A recently released fact-finding report on the state of media in the Valley after restrictions were imposed in J&K following the reading down of Article 370 claims to reveal "a grim and despairing picture of the media in Kashmir, fighting for survival against the most incredible of odds".

According to the report, called "News Behind the Barbed Wire – Kashmir's Information Blockade", a two-member team from the Network of Women in Media, India (NWMII) and the Free Speech Collective (FSC) spent five days in the Valley (August 30-September 3). Journalists Laxmi Murthy and Geeta Seshu from the above mentioned two volunteer-driven organisations were part of the team.

The report says the team spoke to more than 70 journalists, correspondents and editors of newspapers and news sites in Srinagar and South Kashmir, as well as members of the local administration and civilians.

The team noticed surveillance, informal "investigations" and even arrests of journalists whose reporting was not favourable to the government or security forces. They say despite the absence of an official curfew or notification for the shutdown, printing facilities are controlled, and mobility in select areas such as hospitals is restricted.

"In the absence of reportage from the ground, the government's influence of the narrative of normalcy is near total," the report adds. It says there is "deafening silence" and "invisibilisation" of voices from Kashmir in the national media on the "alienation, anger and disillusionment at the perceived breach of trust". The report calls the control of communication by the government undemocratic and harmful, adding that it privileges voices of authority over those "speaking truth to power".

### Subtle warnings

The team alleges that journalists have been questioned for reporting "sensitive stories" and have even been pressured to reveal their sources. Subtle warnings have been sent to editors of leading newspapers, that reporting sensitive stories could result



in questioning by investigating authorities, according to the report. The report highlights difficulties faced by journalists in gathering and verifying information about incidents, communicating with their sources and inability to respond to play-backs from editors regarding fact checks. It says this could compromise the credibility of news stories and even endanger local journalists.

Referring to alleged verbal orders to senior journalists Fayaz Bukhari, Aijaz Hussain and Nazir Masoodi to vacate government-allotted accommodation, the report calls it an attempt to harass journalists by deploying pressure tactics.

The report also claims that landlines are working only in certain areas but not in the press enclave, which houses most newspaper offices. "While government figures claim that 26,000 landlines (with 95 working exchanges) across J&K have been restored, the majority in Jammu and Ladakh. In both areas, the ban on the Internet has been lifted but communication remains erratic," it says.

Talking about the Media Facilitation Centre set up in a private hotel by the state government for journalists in Srinagar, the report says there are only five computers, a BSNL internet connection and one phone line controlled and managed by government officers. This causes inconvenience as journalists often have to queue up to file stories, sometimes waiting an entire day just to send one file.

Calling the government's approach "top down", it says press briefings by senior members of the administration are held irregularly for 10-15 minutes where no questions are fielded.

**Some topics off-limit**  
Hinting at an "unofficial directive" on what is permissible content, it says high ranking police officers have told journalists that news about protests, stone-pelting and restrictions are off-limits. Murthy and Seshu also heard that a team of BJP members bring seven-eight stories every day, demanding them to be published.

The report cited examples of editorials in major newspapers to demonstrate how the absence of editorial voices reflects the state of media in the state. "Editorials, Op-eds and leads are now on topics such as: 'Vitamin A foods: Uses, benefits and top 10 dietary sources'; 'Want to ditch junk food?'; 'Should you consume caffeine during summer? The answer will surprise you'; 'Fruit produce'; 'Planetary thinking'; 'Our oceans and us'".

Mentioning that international media has not been allowed direct access to the Kashmir valley, it says they have been able to provide a more holistic picture of the situation through senior local journalists. However, the report adds that these local journalists are being targeted. "A 'List' with the names of seven journalists has reportedly been compiled. These are: Fayaz Bukhari (Reuters), Riyaz Masroor (BBC), Parvez Bukhari (AFP), Aijaz Hussain (AP), Nazir Masoodi (NDTV), Basharat Peer (NYT) and Mirza Waheed, writer resident in the UK,"

it says.

Local journalists told the fact-finding team that 'embedded' journalists from the national media are creating a narrative that's convenient to the government. "I would have written the story differently. It was clear they did not want my report. So now, I don't file anything," a journalist working with a prominent newspaper told the team.

The report also details difficulties faced by women journalists. In addition to the restrictions on communication and mobility, pressures from the family to remain safe make their work "immensely difficult".

In conclusion, the report lists several measures the government must take to demonstrate a commitment to freedom of expression. These include immediate lifting of internet shutdown and ensuring high-speed internet connectivity, restoration of landlines and mobile networks with priority given to journalists and media houses.

The report also seeks restrictions on the movement of journalists being lifted, desisting from monitoring and surveillance and ceasing "intimidation tactics".

It also demands creating a level playing field for local, national and international media to ensure equal access to official sources and information, setting up of a transparent and accountable mechanism for disbursement of government advertising and ensuring an enabling environment for the safety and dignity of working journalists.

## International conference organized to eradicate burden of blindness in India LG Anil Bajjal inaugurated the two day conference

By a Correspondent

In continuation of efforts of providing quality ophthalmic care to the masses by well trained, technically competent and academically updated caregivers, Intraocular Implant and Refractive Society (IIRS) organised its two day Annual International Conference in New Delhi today. Over thousands of delegates from various Nationalities participated to discuss the latest techniques, innovations and advances in the field of ophthalmic care.

The event was inaugurated by the guest of Honor, Shri Anil Bajjal, Honorable Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. Present on the occasion were Padmashri awardee Dr Mahipal S Sachdev, Chairman of the scientific committee, IIRS, Dr Amit Tarafdar, President IIRS and Dr Amar Agarwal, Secretary General IIRS.

According to the recent data provided by WHO, India accounts for around 30% of the World's blind population attributing to a total of 12 million cases. With an addition of 2 million new cases annually, is not only affecting the quality of life of the individual, but also dragging the holistic development of the nation. It is only adoption of the latest technological advances in the

field of Ophthalmology, which can lead to a reduction in the blindness load of India.

"Such annual conferences are a unique kind of platforms where we get to see the enthusiasm of the ophthalmic community to impart and receive knowledge, exchange views, improve and improvise – all with a common and noble goal of providing succor to the diseased. With the thrust of the Government on Make in India, deliberations in this conference will be the genesis of a lot of ingenious and indigenous therapeutic protocols and ideas which will become gold standards of ophthalmic care the world over. It is time for us to join hands together and accelerate in this relentless march towards eradicating blindness from the face of this country," Said Anil Bajjal, Honorable LG, Delhi.

Therapeutic challenge lies in making this technology available at the grass root level, and training ophthalmologists and technicians in the peripheral hospitals to embrace this technology. IIRS is a premier ophthalmic society, engaged in the onerous and continuing task of providing a platform to the ophthalmologists of this country for updating their skills and knowledge in the field of



ophthalmology. "Apart from the burden of blindness in India, around 15% of the Indian population suffers from preventable blindness and some kind of vision problem. With advancements in the field of ophthalmology, timely detection and treatment can prevent almost all types of vision problem thereby preventing addition of blindness burden in the country. The industry and the ophthalmologists hope to find a common meeting ground so as to reduce the cost of technology, mutually cooperate to impart training on the latest machines and cater to the vast rural

population of India." Said Dr Mahipal S Sachdev, Chairman of the scientific committee of IIRS and the CMD of Centre for Sight: one of the largest chain of eye centres in India.

The dignitaries also discussed about the ways to make the latest cutting edge technology available to the masses through several brain storming sessions. Adoption of the latest methodology in treatment of ophthalmic disorders not only leads to faster recovery, improved and better quality of life, but also helps in increasing the number of sight restoring procedures within a quick span of time.

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