

Inspection deficiencies of GAMC Jammu

The Government Ayurvedic Medical College (GAMC) in Jammu is at risk of losing permission to admit 50 students for the BAMS UG course in the academic session 2023-24. A team from the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) for the Indian System of Medicine visited the college and identified numerous deficiencies in staff and infrastructure during their assessment. Indeed, the shortcomings identified by the inspection team are of significant concern, as they not only impact the quality of education but also the standard of treatment provided to patients. The inability of the administration to find a suitable Ayush doctor to occupy the Principal's position is a serious issue. An allopathic doctor may not possess the necessary knowledge, understanding, and experience in terms of Ayurvedic treatment and the specific requirements of an Ayurvedic hospital. The absence of a full-time Principal and Medical Superintendent, as well as the vacancy for a Deputy Medical Superintendent, are significant lapses that can have a detrimental impact on the smooth functioning of the college and hospital. The substantial shortage of essential books in the library is also unacceptable, as access to proper reference material is crucial for academic and research purposes.

One of the fundamental requirements of Ayurveda is a diverse range of herbs and herbal plants, which are essential for treatment and practical learning. The shortage of these resources, as indicated in the inspection reports, is deeply concerning. Moreover, in today's digital age, the absence of a proper college website is surprising and inconceivable. A well-designed and informative website plays a crucial role in disseminating information, promoting the college, and facilitating communication with students and the public. The lack of a demonstration room and other structural deficiencies further highlight the serious shortcomings within the college. These are basic requirements that should be met by any degree college, let alone a medical college. The delay in finalising the posts of Medical Officers for almost two years is another matter of serious concern. Given that the whole world is increasingly looking towards alternative systems of medicine and India is a pioneer in Ayurvedic medicine, it is indeed perplexing why the necessary actions are not being taken seriously.

The appointment of a full-fledged Director and associated staff indicates that the Government recognises the importance of the institution and its role in promoting Ayurveda. However, if any bottlenecks or obstacles are hindering the finalisation of the posts, they should be identified and addressed immediately. It is unacceptable that the authorities have not taken the deficiencies and warnings pointed out by the inspection team seriously and have not appeared before the designated Hearing Committee. The repeated highlighting of these issues by the inspection team should have served as a wake-up call for the administration to take immediate and effective action. It is contradictory that on the one hand, the administration is striving to streamline services and make them more accessible to the public, while on the other hand, those responsible for overseeing the Department of AYUSH and GAMC are showing a lack of urgency and concern for the critical situation the college is facing. The fact that GAMC Jammu is on the verge of losing even conditional admissions is a severe consequence that should not be taken lightly. The authorities, particularly those at the helm of the Department of AYUSH and GAMC, need to realise the gravity of the situation and take immediate action to rectify the deficiencies and address the concerns raised by the inspection team. It is crucial to ensure the smooth functioning of the institution and maintain the standards necessary to provide quality education and healthcare services in Ayurveda. Time is of the essence, and the administration needs to act swiftly now. It is crucial for the reputation of the institution and the overall development of Ayurveda as a healthcare system.

Court returns ACB's closure report

Another closure report of ACB has been sent back for proper investigation by Anti-Corruption Judge Doda. In a high-profile case of alleged corruption in the transfer industry, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) registered a case against the then-in-charge Chief Education Officer (CEO), Kishtwar. The Additional Sessions Judge of the Anti-Corruption Court in Doda reviewed the closure report and returned it to the Director of the ACB, instructing further investigation. The FIR, in this case, was filed based on a complaint by the Director of School Education, not by any private person or a usual trap case by ACB. He approached ACB, indicating concerns regarding the alleged corruption and irregularities. Before the FIR, an internal departmental inquiry was conducted by a Joint Director, who found discrepancies in the matter. However, during the investigation, it seems that the inquiry report from the Education Department was disregarded or not given due consideration by the Investigating Officer (IO). The Judge, upon reviewing the closure report, correctly observed that the IO had failed to determine the reasons behind the numerous mid-session transfers that violated established norms.

These circumstances raise questions about the thoroughness and adequacy of the investigation conducted by the IO. It is indeed concerning that multiple officers involved in the decision-making process, including the IO, his superiors, the range SSP, the prosecution officer, and the Director of the ACB, may have missed crucial details and failed to thoroughly address the corruption charges. It suggests that important pieces of evidence were overlooked or not properly analysed. As a result, the Judge has rightly rejected the closure report for its failure to address the underlying reasons for the questionable transfers.

Given the seriousness of the corruption allegations and the importance of combating corruption, a comprehensive and unbiased investigation must be conducted. Returning the matter to the ACB for reinvestigation is a step in the right direction to ensure that the truth is uncovered and justice is served.

Poonam I Kaushish

In this monsoon season it's raining defections in Maharashtra where the BJP-Shiv Sena 'double engine' Government has now been charged with 'triple engine' with infusion of Ajit Pawar's NCP. Amidst this confusion confounded trust Prime Minister Modi to set the cat among pigeons when he pitched for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) highlighting the importance of equality as enshrined in the Constitution last week.

Predictably it triggered sharp reactions from Opposition Parties and Muslim clerics. Hitting out at Parties who reveled in Muslim appeasement and incited minorities against the Code he asserted, "You tell me, in a home, how can there be one law for one member and another law for the other member? "Will that home be able to function? Then how will the country be able to function with such a dual system? We have to remember that even in our Constitution, there is a mention of equal rights for all," he added. This comes a week after the Law Commission invited public's view and "recognized" religious organizations within 30 days..

Questionably, can Modi Sarkar bring UCC? Yes. The Constitution talks about it, Ambedkar was a strong votary, Supreme Court has battled for it innumerable and now the Prime Minister is leading from the front by hooting for it for the first time. Moreover, BJP has the numbers in Lok Sabha even as the situation may not be as good for it in Rajya Sabha, but "floor management" can see the Government through.

The Upper House's majority mark is 119 and BJP plus allies is 103. Add one Independent MP and five nominated members, it is 10 short. APP and Udhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena have expressed qualified support, BJD with 9 MPs is also likely to extend support, which will further fragment the Opposition which has been scrambling for unity. Also, 10 seats will go to the polls soon.

So, how does this stack up? UCC supporters see it as a way to ensure gen-

Can Government bring UCC?

der equality. For example, polygamy is illegal under IPC but Muslim men are allowed to have up to four wives under Sharia Islamic law. Polygamy also exists in many tribal communities and it might become an issue for BJP in the middle of its massive tribal outreach. It's a political tightrope walk for the Opposition. Any wonder, Congress has made it clear that it will make plain its



views once it sees the Bill. Other leaders don't want to be seen as bitterly opposed to Modi's push for a UCC, even as they have voiced their disagreement dismissing it as a "political stunt".

Calling the Government's policies divisive they demand discussion which would be the "safest way" to proceed. "Let us understand its entire dynamics", said a senior leader. Adding, it has been brought up to divert attention from real issues and finds Prime Minister's remarks aimed at the 2024 general elections.

Expectedly, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board has termed UCC

unconstitutional and anti-minority as the Constitution allows every citizen to live life according to their religion which is part of Fundamental Rights. Not a few leaders see it as a ploy to crush India's plurality and secularism by diluting rights sanctioned under Islam. Averting it would lead to India's "Hinduisation" and endanger Muslims and Christians.

like Hindu Code Bill, Shariat law etc which are based on scriptures and customs of various religious communities. Replacing it with a common law governing personal matters: marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance and succession for citizens irrespective of religion, harmonising diverse cultural groups, removing inequalities and protecting women rights, thereby creating a gender-equal society.

Moreover, as India's political realities have changed so much since 2014 and modern society is gradually becoming homogenous whereby traditional barriers of religion, community and caste are slowly dissipating thus supporting national integration. The UCC provides protection to vulnerable sections and religious minorities, while encouraging nationalistic fervour through unity. A thought echoed by Supreme Court in various judgments.

Surprisingly, liberal Muslims have chosen to remain silent on UCC. Given many Islamic countries have codified and reformed Muslim Personal Law to check its abuse. Polygamy has been banned in Syria, Tunisia, Morocco, Iran and even Pakistan.

Should they not support a voluntary UCC? But this is easier said than done due to the country's diversity and religious laws, which not only differ sect-wise, but also by community, caste and region.

As the cacophony for and against UCC grows louder the correct answer lies somewhere in between. However, what cannot be denied is UCC will benefit BJP electorally as it will be used as a ploy to corner the Opposition about being pro-Muslim. A majority of Hindus would view it as the Party implementing its agenda.

Besides, even if it is not brought before elections, the discourse around it and the resultant sharp divisions might be a significant advantage for the Saftron Sangh as the Code has been a key agenda of BJP and part of its 2019 Lok Sabha election manifesto alongside Ram temple at Ayodhya which is set to be inaugurated in January next and abrogation of Article 370 in J&K which have been fulfilled.

Further, Uttarakhand is already in the process of framing its common code soon, Gujarat unleashed its UCC genie November last by setting up a committee to study its implementation and intends rolling it out pre-poll, the third State after Himachal and Assam and Goa already has a UCC regardless of religion, gender, caste. It has a common family law whereby all Hindus, Muslims and Christians are bound with the same law related to marriage, divorce, succession.

Certainly the path to UCC is sensitive and difficult but it must be taken. A beginning has to be made if the Constitution is to have any meaning. Discrimination cannot be justified on the grounds of traditions and customs. To establish equality the law that regulates population of a country should also be one. A common civil code will help the cause of national integration by removing desperate loyalties to laws, which have conflicting ideologies.

What next? Ultimately, no community should be allowed to veto or block progressive legislation. Time now to reject different laws for different communities, implement Article 44 and reform India.

One cannot progress riding on past's wheels. India needs uniform laws and should figure what is satisfactory to all groups. Criminal and commercial laws are basic, so there is little purpose behind common laws to appear as something else. It just partitions Indians on the premise of religion that should not happen in the 21st century. It is beyond endurance of sensitive minds to allow injustice to be suffered when it is so palpable. What gives? (INFA)

Chandrayaan-3: India's ambitious lunar mission

Girish Linganna

On September 6, 2019, the aspirations of more than a billion individuals were reliant on a mission that was on its way to the dark side of the Moon—an area that is perpetually shrouded in darkness. Chandrayaan-2's Vikram lander was travelling to its destination more than 384,400 km away from Earth. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) mission control experienced a change in atmosphere to one of gloom when the spacecraft went missing. Now, close to four years later, India is about to make another attempt.

The Indian Space Research Organisation has announced a new mission, Chandrayaan-3, with the goal of achieving a soft-landing on the Moon. Preparations for the forthcoming Chandrayaan-3 mission have been completed. The Chandrayaan-3 mission is ready to be launched aboard the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mk-III, India's largest rocket, which is also known as 'Bahubali'. Back in March, the rocket had made its last roar sending the OneWeb Gen-1 satellite constellation into an exact orbit around the planet.

The 3,900-kilogram spacecraft will be loaded onto the payload fairing at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota, in order to break free from Earth's gravitational pull. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch the ambitious Chandrayaan-3 to the Moon, expectedly in mid-July, but a firm date is yet to be released. The Chandrayaan-3 probe will attempt a feat that, till date, only three countries—the erstwhile Soviet Union, US and China—have achieved so far: soft landing on the lunar surface.

As India is formulating plans to investigate the polar region of the Moon, we can look at the remarkable package of supplies they are sending to our neighbouring celestial body.

Standing 43.5 metres tall, the rocket was pre-

viously employed in the successful launch of the Chandrayaan-2 mission. The GSLV Mk-III consists of three stages, containing two solid strap-on boosters, a liquid core stage and a high-thrust cryogenic upper stage. It can deliver a 4-ton satellite of the GSAT series to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbits, as well as payloads of 8,000 kg to Low Earth Orbit, with a gross lift-off weight of 640 tons.

ISRO will launch on the Moon a lander-rover

begin.

Weighing in at a hefty 2,148 kg, the propulsion module for Chandrayaan-3 will take the lander-rover combination up to an orbital distance of approximately 100 kilometres above the lunar surface before detaching. This module also has its own distinct purpose as it has been equipped with the Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE) instrument, meant to analyse the spectrum of Earth and collect data on possible habit-



combination with Chandrayaan-3 and will use the Orbiter launched with Chandrayaan-2 a few years ago to coordinate with the new mission. The Orbiter is already orbiting the Moon, conducting scientific research and exploring the surface. The lander-rover combo has been carefully packed in the spacecraft's propulsion module, which will bring it into lunar orbit before the tricky descent

able planets. Using data emitted by SHAPE, India will be able to analyse exoplanets and come up with a benchmark for judging the habitability of those found beyond the solar system.

While Chandrayaan-2 delivered the Vikram lander to the Moon, Chandrayaan-3 is carrying a comparable lander with a nearly identical configuration and mission plan. ISRO has preserved the

Lander name, Vikram, exclusively for Chandrayaan-3.

In the interim, the Chandrayaan-3 lander was constructed to address the flaws of its predecessor, which had failed to land safely due to a "software glitch". Accompanying Chandrayaan-3's lunar excursion is a lander loaded with sophisticated scientific equipment, including Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (CHASTE) designed by the Space Physics Laboratory. This apparatus is intended to accurately assess thermal conductivity and temperature.

The Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) will be crucial in estimating seismic activity near the designated landing site. To measure the plasma density and monitor its fluctuations, the Langmuir Probe with the Radio Anatomy of Moon-Bound Hypersensitive Ionosphere and Atmosphere (RAMBHA) will be deployed. US space agency NASA has designed a passive Laser Retroreflector Array (LRA) as the fourth instrument for lunar laser ranging research to gain a better understanding of the Moon system's dynamics.

Weighing only 26 kilograms with the capability to generate 50 watts, this rover, which has retained the same name of the Chandrayaan-2 mission, the Pragyan, is equipped with two instruments: the Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) and the Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS). These are utilized to gauge the elemental composition of the area around the landing site and to analyze the minerals in the regolith (lunar rocks and soil).

The Moon, our only natural satellite, has been forever cloaked in enigma and curiosity. But soon, when Chandrayaan-3 touches down on its heavily scarred exterior, India will unveil those mysteries and potentially discover new secrets.

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Indigenisation of products

Dhurjati Mukherjee

In recent months, the Centre has given a greater thrust to indigenisation of products to boost manufacturing. Though rather late in the day, this thrust was perhaps needed and should help not just in import substitution but open up new avenues of manufacturing. Pre and post US visit of Prime Minister Modi, there has been a significant change in the scenario with new tie-ups and other possibilities opening, specially in the defence, IT and electronics sectors as also collaboration in various fields of research.

It needs to be noted that a huge country like India has a very big import bill pertaining to electronics, defence etc, and experts are of the opinion that most of the items imported can be manufactured in the country as well. This realisation could greatly help the Indian economy.

Recently, the Defence Ministry approved another list that progressively bans import of 929 sub-systems, components, spares and line replacement units (LRUs) of military equipment and platforms by defence PSUs to promote self-reliance. The new 'positive indigenisation list' for the defence PSUs is in continuation of the first three such lists, which contained a total of 1238 items, announced in December 2021, March 2022 and August 2022. The 928 items in the fourth list with import substitution value of Rs 715 crore will only be procured from the Indian industry after the time-lines indicated in the cost that ranges from December 2024 to December 2028. Of the 1238 items, 310 items have been indigenised so far, according to military sources.

It is understood that to promote 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliance) in defence and minimise imports by the PSUs, the Defence Ministry "approved the indigenisation lists of strategically important LRUs/sub-systems/spares and components, including high-end materials and spares, with an import substitution value worth Rs 715 crore," a statement said. The latest list seeks to promote the local production of several parts of Sukhoi-30 and Jaguar fighter jets, Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40) planes, magazine fire-

fighting systems on board warships, and gas turbine generators. It is expected that the defence PSUs will undertake indigenisation of the listed items through different routes through the capabilities of MSMEs and private Indian industry.

Though the value of India's domestic production crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark for the first time in 2022-23, which is 12 percent higher than the preceding financial year, there is need to substantially increase the value to around Rs 2 lakh crore within the next two years or so.

It's pertinent to note the recent observation of Amitabh Kant, former Niti Aayog CEO and India's

India's technology industry is witnessing the setting up of GCCs (global capability centres), which are shared services arms of MNCs. More than 150 MNCs have set up these in the past two years though most are in Bengaluru and some in NCR and Mumbai. Besides, Rakuten's India operations have been expanding rapidly and developing products and doing their marketing and sales here.

G20 Sherpa who rightly maintained: "A country bigger than 24 countries of Europe can't grow on services alone. India needs to grow manufacturing to create jobs. Agriculture must grow to improve productivity. Urbanisation can be the biggest driver of India's growth story, and this is linked to the creation of quality infrastructure".

In a conversation at the meeting the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman stated that the country's private sector was ready to step up, demonstrated by the rush of investment in sunrise sectors, though no figures were given. She added the private sector was expanding in businesses like semiconductors, renewable energy, rare earth elements etc. but these investments, as is generally felt, were quite minimal compared to present-day requirements.

Meanwhile, as the IT hardware business passes through recession in Europe and the US, India

is likely to emerge as the engine that will power growth of products such as laptops, computers and servers with the market expected to grow over 2.5 times in the next three years and cross \$25 billion in size, stated Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for IT and electronics, adding that the PLI scheme for IT hardware will see global companies consider manufacturing in India. The IT hardware closed at around \$10 billion last fiscal, and a growth of 17-18 percent is forecast. Moreover, with digitisation of government as well as education, healthcare and enterprise picking up, the market is expected to hit around \$25 billion in 2025.

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Coming on the heels of Modi's US visit, the most significant development as reported, is American computer chip maker, Micron announcing the setting up of India's first semiconductor plant in Gujarat, which comprises \$825 million (around Rs 6700 crore) from the company and the rest from the government in two phases. According to Micron, phased construction of the new assembly in the state is expected to begin this year