

Editorial

Imphal Monday, January 16, 2016

Enlightening the society

Education - an enlightening experience, so says the experts. In our society mired with deep rooted beliefs and traditions, the one means of lifting the veil of superstition and bringing the public to their senses turns out to be enlightening the common people to the realities of the present world. The role of education cannot be emphasized enough in bringing about a change in the mindset of the people. Yet, and as we have been experiencing it, the critical role of education has been missing, leading to a slow progression and a hindrance to the fast paced race for development in the present world. In a welcome move by the present minister who is in charge of education, various changes have been mooted- and many have been implemented. Yet the fact remains that the system is still in need of a holistic overhaul- not so much for want of regulations as it is for want of an effective implementation of the various policies and programs drawn up to boost the quality of education being dispensed at present in the state. In what can be termed as a mass malpractice of reformation, the present practice of substituting local individuals in connivance with the appointed teachers to take their place in various far flung places is becoming an accepted way of escaping the harsh realities of the actual hardships that comes with the trade. An undeniable fact that has been conveniently overlooked- the end result felt only by the students. Promises have been made to make state run educational institutions an ideal place of study- a brave attempt to challenge the monopoly of private educational institutions. Though the move is a welcome one considering the exorbitant fees being levied by these private educational institutions of which there has been such a hue and cry about, the fact remains that almost every parent or guardian still prefers to enroll their wards in such private schools. Isn't it then reason enough for the state agencies and concerned authorities to delve deeper into the matter to find out the reason behind all these fiascos? What has the so called "model schools" become? What are the checks and balances that have been put in place to ensure such model schools perform to their optimum? How are the teachers, selected after much hype and controversies performing? Or are those selected teachers really performing their entrusted duties to the best of their abilities? Questions only those in the know of things can give a definitive answer to. Yet the undeniable results showed otherwise. It is time to question the facts and admit the lapses to bring about the desired result. The open secret of the surrogate teachers needs to be busted in time to prevent the decaying rot in the education system in the State. The media is ready- is the Government ready to take the fall?

Petrol price hiked by 42 paise a litre, diesel by Rs 1.03

New Delhi, Jan. 16: Petrol price was hiked by 42 paise a litre and diesel rate was raised by Rs 1.03 a litre. For petrol, the increase is the fourth in 6 weeks while for diesel, it is the second hike in a fortnight. The increase in rates, which are effective from midnight tonight, are excluding state levies and the actual hike will be higher, the oil companies announced. After including VAT, the hike in Delhi comes to 53 paise and in case of diesel it will be Rs 1.20 a litre. Petrol will cost Rs 71.13 a litre from midnight as against Rs 70.60 currently. Similarly, a litre of diesel

will be priced at Rs 59.02 as opposed to Rs 57.82 currently. This is the fourth increase in petrol price in six weeks and the third in case of diesel in one month. Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp (HPCL) revise rates on 1st and 16th of every month based on average international price in the previous fortnight. IOC said in a statement that the movement of prices in the international oil market and foreign exchange rate shall continue to be monitored closely and developing trends of the market will be reflected in future price changes.

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National & International News

CISF jawan commits suicide by shooting himself with service rifle at Bengaluru airport

Bengaluru, Jan. 16: A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan called Suresh Gaikwad allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle at Kempe Gowda Airport in Bengaluru, according to reports. According to *The Financial Express*, the incident took place on Monday morning while Gaikwad was on duty.

This incident comes to light just days after another CISF jawan on Thursday shot dead his four senior colleagues with his service rifle in a fit of rage following a heated argument over leave issues in Bihar's Naxal-hit Aurangabad

district. Constable Balveer Singh, from Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh, fired around two dozen bullets, killing Head Constables Bachha Sharma and Amarnath Mishra on the spot, while Assistant Sub-Inspector GS Ram and Head Constable Arvind Kumar later succumbed to grievous injuries in a nearby hospital. The incident took place when the victims and some others had assembled for a shift change. Balveer, who had recently undergone a month-and-half-long de-stressing course in Yoga, was reportedly agitated over an administrative issue regarding his

leave after he resumed duty on 4 January. A heated argument ensued and the CISF jawan lost his cool, firing his rifle multiple times, Superintendent of Police Satyaprakash had said. He was quickly overpowered by other CISF personnel and handed over to police who arrested him. But before that could be done, his targets lay sprawled on the blood-splattered floor. Gaikwad's suicide also took place just a day after a Sikh soldier put up a video on social media in which he is seen singing in Punjabi about the tough conditions they live in. On the

other hand, Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat had earlier asked soldiers not to air their grievances through social media. "A few of our friends have taken to social media to speak about their complaints. This affects the soldiers deployed at the borders... You can be held guilty of doing a crime for what you have done and invite punishment," Rawat had said. On Friday, the army chief had also announced a new grievance redressal system under which complaints would reach him directly while the identity of the complainant would be kept a secret.

At least 32 dead as Cargo Plane crashes into homes in Kyrgyzstan

Bishkek, Jan. 16: A cargo plane crashed near Kyrgyzstan's main airport Monday, leaving 32 people dead including four pilots as it hit a populated area after attempting to land in thick fog, authorities said.

The majority of the dead were from the village of Dacha-Suu where the plane - a Turkish Airlines flight from Hong Kong to Istanbul via Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek -

crashed at around 7.30 am local time (0130 GMT), a spokesman for the country's emergency services ministry was quoted by news agency AFP. According to the airport administration, the plane was supposed to make a stopover at Manas, near the capital city Bishkek, on its way from Hong Kong to Istanbul. It crashed when trying to land in poor visibility at

7:31 local time (0131 GMT). News agency Reuters cited Kyrgyzstan's transport ministry saying there were five people on board. It identified the plane as a Turkish Airlines Boeing 747-400, but the company said it belonged to another Turkish firm, ACT Airlines. "Our condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives in the tragic incident involving an

ACT Airlines aircraft in Kyrgyzstan," Turkish Airlines said on its Twitter account. The doomed plane damaged 15 buildings in the village, said Mukhammed Svarov, head of crisis management centre at the emergencies ministry. Rescue workers have recovered the body of a pilot and 15 villagers, the healthcare ministry said.

3 militants killed in encounter

PTI Srinagar, Jan 16: Three militants were killed in an overnight encounter with security forces in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, the army said today. The militants were killed in the encounter at Awoora village in

Pahalgam area of the district, an army official said. Acting on specific intelligence input about the presence of militants in the village, security forces yesterday launched a search operation in the area. He said as the forces were conducting the search operation, the hiding militants fired upon them. The security forces retaliated, ensuing an encounter. The exchange of fire went on till late in the evening after which it was halted for the night, the official said, adding it was resumed in the wee hours today and the three militants were killed in the gunfight. Three AK-47 rifles have been recovered from the encounter site, the official said adding the operation has been called off.

Uttarakhand Cabinet Minister Yashpal Arya joins BJP

New Delhi, Jan.16: Senior Uttarakhand Congress leader and cabinet Minister Yashpal Arya joined BJP in presence of Amit Shah in New Delhi today. Mr. Arya said he was upset with Chief Minister Harish Rawat's style of functioning and was feeling ignored in the party. His son Sanjiv Arya and an ex MLA Kedar Singh Rawat, also joined the party today. On Congress leaders' joining the BJP, Chief Minister Harish Rawat said they might have some compulsion for leaving the congress party. He stated the second line of the congress party in the state has formidable standing and it will have no impact on the coming elections. Mr. Rawat further said that Congress will announce its candidates on Wednesday. Uttarakhand goes to polls on February 15.

44 jailed for mafia-style crime in China

PTI Beijing, Jan 15: A local court today sentenced 44 people, including two leaders, to jail terms varying from 10 months to 25 years in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region for their involvement in a mafia-style gang activities.

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Non-Left tribal parties form forum in Tripura

PTI Agartala, Jan 16: The non-Left tribal parties in Tripura have formed All Tripura Indigenous Regional Parties Forum (ATIRPF) to oppose the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016 introduced by BJP led NDA Government. "Three indigenous political parties have formed the forum to safeguard and protect the interests of the tribals in the state who form one third of the population. We are of the clear opinion that the bill is detrimental to the interest of the indigenous people," the Convener of the forum, N C Debbarma, who is the President of the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) told reporters

yesterday. "After a prolonged discussion among tribal based anti-left parties, the leaders have decided to join hands for spearheading a united movement for the cause of indigenous people," President of the Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura (INPT) Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhaw said. Stating that the forum would organize peaceful movement on the issues concerning tribals, Debbarma said, the central government has planned to provide citizenship status to the foreign people, which is against the interest of the tribals. "States like Assam and Tripura are facing trouble due to infiltration of foreign nationals. If the bill is passed in the Lok Sabha, lakhs of foreign people will get citizenship status which could be a serious threat to indigenous people," he added. Animesh Debbarma, the joint convener of the forum and President of National Council of Tripura (NCT), said the forum would extend all out support to the 12-hour strike on February 8 in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) called by INPT.

Fire in Presidency University, no casualty

PTI Kolkata, Jan 16 A fire broke out in the Presidency University campus this morning. There was no report of any injury or casualty, fire brigade sources said. The flames were spotted in the canteen in the campus at around 6:10 AM and the fire brigade was informed.

Five fire tenders were engaged to put off the flames which were contained in over an hour, the sources said. The exact cause of the fire was not clear but it spread from the kitchen place, the source said. The heritage institution, associated with the names of the icons of Bengal and country for ages, recently celebrated 200 years of its existence.

ART COMPETITION

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Report at : Kangla Western Gate, 07:00 am
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Entry Fee : FREE

Altogether 82 prizes worth Rs. 1,00,000/- UP for grabs
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MEDIUM OF COMPETITION

Drawing, Spray Painting & Acrylic Painting using either Marker Pen and Spray Paint cans or both and Acrylic (Participants must bring their own Marker Pen, Spray Cans, Acrylic) Canvas: FLEX: 4ft x 3 ft (to be provided by Organizer)

Forms available at:
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