

Editorial

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Understanding education

Various initiatives and incentives taken up by the ministry of education such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) under the Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009 have not achieved its objectives despite four years of concerted efforts. The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such a manner as the State may, by law, determine. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which represents the consequential legislation envisaged under Article 21-A, means that every child has a right to full time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards. Article 21-A and the RTE Act came into effect on 1 April 2010.

The title of the RTE Act incorporates the words 'free and compulsory'. 'Free education' means that no child, other than a child who has been admitted by his or her parents to a school which is not supported by the appropriate Government, shall be liable to pay any kind of fee or charges or expenses which may prevent him or her from pursuing and completing elementary education. 'Compulsory education' casts an obligation on the appropriate Government and local authorities to provide and ensure admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by all children in the 6-14 age group. With this, India has moved forward to a rights based framework that casts a legal obligation on the Central and State Governments to implement this fundamental child right as enshrined in the Article 21A of the Constitution, in accordance with the provisions of the RTE Act which provides for, among others, Right of children to free and compulsory education till completion of elementary education in a neighbourhood school, making provisions for a non-admitted child to be admitted to an age appropriate class.

It also lays down the norms and standards relating inter alia to Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs), buildings and infrastructure, school-working days, teacher-working hours. And, most importantly, the Act provides for appointment of appropriately trained teachers, i.e. teachers with the requisite entry and academic qualifications and prohibits (a) physical punishment and mental harassment; (b) screening procedures for admission of children; (c) capitation fee; (d) private tuition by teachers and (e) running of schools without recognition.

Now that one can safely conclude that the groundwork is coming to a satisfactory conclusion, what remains to be seen is how actively and keenly is the Government looking into the implementation of the schemes, for no amount of planning and financial support or investment will reap result unless the teachers deliver, and in time.

SC dismisses plea against Asthana's appointment as CBI special director

PTI New Delhi, Nov 28: The Supreme Court today dismissed a plea challenging appointment of senior Gujarat cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as a special director of the CBI. A bench of Justices R K Agrawal and A M Sapre said "the writ petition is dismissed". The apex court had on November 24 reserved the order in the matter. The Centre had opposed the plea, saying Asthana had an outstanding career and had supervised over 40 high-profile

cases like coal scam, Augusta Westland scam, black money and money laundering cases. Common Cause, the petitioner NGO, had opposed Asthana's appointment, saying it was illegal as his name had surfaced in a diary recovered during a raid conducted by the Income Tax department at the offices and other premises of company Sterling Biotech Ltd. The Centre, however, had claimed that Asthana, who was earlier an additional director in CBI, was looking after its eleven zones.

Unique Model juniors, ChanabamThambougirls' rule in RFYS Football

Imphal Public School clinch senior boys' crown, MayaiLambilift college boys' title

Imphal, Nov 28: The Unique Model Academy, The Imphal Public School and ChanabamThambou Higher Secondary School were stretched to their limits by their respective opponents before they crowned themselves with glory in the Imphal-leg of the Reliance Foundation Youth Sports football tournament on Sunday.

In the finals played at Thaubal District Sports Complex ground, all the three winners were decided via a penalty shootout that indicated that all six teams were at par in terms of ability and skill.

The Unique Model Academy lifted the junior boys' title edging out Ideal English Senior Secondary School 3-2 after both teams were locked goalless at regulation time while the seniors' boys crown went to The Imphal Public School, who downed Emmanuel English Academy 4-3 in a penalty shootout as there were no goals scored until fulltime. KhunajamSanamacha Singh, NongthambMeiraba Meitei and Takhellamb Chingheingakpa Singh scored from the spot for Unique Model while only SehgothangTuboi and ThanggouginMhangte could convert their penalties for Ideal English. ThangminchonLhouvum of Ideal English was adjudged



player of the match. Imphal Public School were served well by AkoijamKishan Singh, LoitongbamKarnajit Singh, ThoudamPari Singh, TakhellambBankimchandra Meitei in the shootout while MayanglambamRabichandraMeitei, player of the match WakambamAthoibaMeetei and RohenSingam Singh scored for Emmanuel English. Unlike the other two finals, the school girls clash produced goals with ChanabamThambou prevailing over Emmanuel English Academy 5-3 after the teams were level 1-1 at the completion of regulation time. WaikhomKanchanChanu put Emmanuel ahead in the 9th minute and it seemed they would sneak through but player of the match Yangjoijam Kiranabala Devi netted the elusive goal in the 54th minute to take the contest into the tie-

breaker. Thoudam Kabita Devi, Kiranbala Chanu, Phijam Anjali Devi and UshamLuxmi Devi were on the mark for the winners while only Kanchan Chanu and Thoudam Rabina Chunu scored for Emmanuel English Academy, who had to return empty handed despite featuring in two finals. The only final decided in regulation time was the college boys where MayaiLambi College upstaged Dhanamanjuri (DM) College of Arts 3-0. Wahengbam Angousana Luwang scored in the 14th minute while Huidrom Piyabung Singh netted in the 78th for the winners. DM College's hopes of making a comeback were dashed in the 34th minute when Ansekshong Hongsa ended up booting an own goal. The winners will now head for the zonals to be held in Kolkata next month.

FINAL RESULTS

Junior boys: The Unique Model Academy bt Ideal English Senior Secondary School 3(0)-2(0). **Golden boot:** KhunajamSanamacha Singh (Unique Model); **Golden ball:** ThangminchonLhouvum (Ideal English); **Golden glove:** SurjanPoudel (Ideal English). **Senior boys:** The Imphal Public School bt Emmanuel English Academy 4(0)-3(0). **Golden boot:** LoitongbamKumarjit Singh (The Imphal Public School); **Golden ball:** BikiuTeinamei (Maria Montessor School); **Golden glove:** MoirangmeiSurajkanta Meitei (Emmanuel). **College boys:** MayaiLambi College btDhanamanjuri (DM) College of Arts 3-0. **Golden boot and ball:** HuidromPiyabung Singh (MayaiLambi); **Golden glove:** LhunaLmangNeishiar (Dhanamanjuri College of Arts). **School girls:** ChanabamThambou Higher Secondary School bt Emmanuel English Academy 5(1)-3(1). **Golden boot:** ThingbaijamBabysana Devi (Emmanuel); **Golden ball:** Phijam Anjali Devi (Emmanuel); **Golden glove:** Naorem Monika Devi (Chanabam).

National and International News

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate 30-km Metro rail line in Hyderabad today

PTI Hyderabad, Nov. 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the much-awaited Hyderabad Metro Rail Tuesday. The 30 km-long first phase of the metro rail project between Miyapur and Nagole, having 24 stations, would be launched by the Prime Minister at 2:15 pm at Miyapur station. Its commercial operations would start the day after. During its inaugural run, Modi and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao will travel by the metro from Miyapur to Kukatpally, and back. The trains would run from 6 am to 10 pm initially and the timings would be rescheduled to 5:30 am to 11 pm, depending on the traffic and demand, Telangana's Information Technology Minister K T Rama Rao said on Saturday. He claimed that the Hyderabad metro rail is the most innovative

and largest such project in the world in public private partnership (PPP). The concessionaire, L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Ltd, has fixed a minimum fare of Rs 10 for a distance of up to 2 km and the maximum fare is Rs 60 for a distance of more than 26 km. Each train would initially have three coaches and 330 people can travel in each coach. The number of coaches can be increased to six depending on the traffic, Rao said. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) would also start feeder services for the metro, he said. A smart card was launched on Saturday for metro rail passengers. It would be used for multiple modes of transport in future, Rao said. A mobile application—"T Savari"—would also be launched. The app provides quick interface for metro services. Under the project, sky-walks will be also built connecting the stations directly to commercial complexes, stadiums and offices, he said.

The state government has started its efforts for the second phase of the metro as well, the minister said. Asked about the deadline for the completion of the entire project, he said it should be ready in one year's time. As many as 546 security personnel from private agencies will man the stations on the Miyapur-Nagole stretch. They will be working under three police officials per station in each shift, the Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd (HMRL) said. The L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) has already installed sophisticated CCTV cameras at all the stations and on trains. HMRL's Managing Director N V S Reddy earlier said that several measures have been taken up to ensure comfortable travel for the disabled people. The project, which started in July 2012, was initially scheduled to be completed by June this year but delay in land acquisition and other

issues resulted in it overshooting the deadline. Rao told reporters that Modi would arrive at the Begumpet airport here at 1:10 PM on a day-long visit to the city tomorrow to inaugurate the metro rail project and the Global Entrepreneurship Summit. Modi would spend about 30 minutes at the airport for a reception, Rao said. He would leave from Begumpet airport and reach Miyapur metro depot in an IAF helicopter, Rao said, adding Modi would unveil a metro rail pylon at Miyapur and watch a film on the development of metro rail at the concourse level of the metro station. Modi would go by air to Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) to attend the GES, Rao added. Modi is scheduled to attend a dinner at the Falaknuma Palace built during Nizam era before leaving the city tomorrow night.

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Australian police arrest a man accused of planning a mass shooting on New Year's Eve in Melbourne

AP Canberra, Nov. 28: Australian police have arrested a man accused of planning a mass shooting for New Year's Eve in a crowded Melbourne square, officials said on Tuesday. The 20-year-old Australian-born citizen with Somali parents was trying to obtain an automatic rifle to attack the downtown Federation Square in Australia's second largest city, Victoria State Police Deputy Commissioner Shane Patton said. Thousands of revelers pack the square each year on New Year's Eve. The man, who was not named, downloaded instructions from an al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

website on how to launch a terrorist attack and how to use guns, Mr. Patton said. Mr. Patton described the suspect as "a person who's expressed an intention to try and kill as many people as he could through shooting them." Justice Minister Michael Keenan said police arrested four extremist last December over a similar plot to attack Federal Square and other public places in Melbourne over the Christmas-New Year period. Mr. Keenan urged the public to continue with their usual routines over the period and expect to see a heavy police presence. "The aim of these terrorists is to foster fear and intimidation, but Australians should be able to go about their

business secure in the understanding that the government has worked very closely with law enforcement and other security agencies to keep them safe," Mr. Keenan told reporters. Counter-terrorism police had been monitoring the latest suspect, a known extremist and a sympathizer of the Islamic State group, this year and detained him as he met with people in an attempt to acquire a gun, Mr. Patton said. Australia has strict gun laws and automatic weapons are banned from private ownership. The man is the 74th suspect arrested in Australia in 31 counter-terrorism investigations since Australia's terrorism threat level had been elevated to "probable" in

September 2014. The plot was the 14th that police say they had disrupted since the terrorist threat level was raised. Five plots have been executed. Police expect he will appear in a Melbourne court late on Tuesday or Wednesday on charges of preparing to commit a terrorist attack and collecting documents to facilitate a terrorist act. People convicted of those crimes in Australia face a maximum penalty of life in prison. Search warrants were issued on Monday at a home in a suburb where the suspect lived with his parents and siblings, at a relative's address in another suburb and at a computer business where he once had a part-time job.