

# Editorial

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018

## Educating the educators

In a move that promises to alleviate the quality of education in the State, the training program of untrained elementary teachers was formally launched with the Chief Minister lighting the auspicious lamp to commemorate the occasion. Various initiatives and incentives taken up by the ministry of education such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) under the Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009 have not achieved its objectives despite four years of concerted efforts.

It has also been reported that a large number of elementary teachers all over the country (more than 7,000 in Manipur alone) have yet to receive the requisite training or the expertise to impart education to the students at the elementary level. The training program is taken up to address this lacuna, with the Chief Minister prominently stating that untrained elementary teachers will not be employed after 2015. It may be mentioned that 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.

## Dogs bite 3,397 people in a year in Mizoram

**PTI**  
**Aizawl, Feb 3:** When a dog bites a man, it is not news, they say. But when 3,397 people are bitten by dogs in a year, it may be one. A record maintained by Economics and Statistics department of Mizoram government said, 3,397 people of the state, mainly from urban areas, suffered dog bites during 2016-2017 financial year. It said 1,363 of these victims were

women and one person died due to dog bite during the period. Not just canine cases, the department has records of nips by cats and rats, besides snake bites. At least 101 people including 55 women were bitten by cats, and 37 people - of whom 15 were women - were bitten by rats during the same period. Altogether 221 snake bite cases were recorded by the department in the state in 2016-2017.

## Clash over trivial issue, three receive gunshot injuries

**PTI**  
**Biharsharif, Feb 3:** A clash broke out between members of two communities here in Nalanda district today in which three persons received gunshot injuries, police said. Superintendent of Police of Nalanda, Sudhir Kumar Porika, said the incident took place in the district headquarter town of Bihar Sharif where members of two communities clashed over a trivial issue at Paharpur locality. Gunshots were fired and stones hurled from both sides for about

an hour until police reached the spot and brought the situation under control, the SP said. Three persons received bullet injuries. The condition of two of them was critical and they have been referred to a hospital in Patna while one of the injured is undergoing treatment at the Sadar Hospital in Bihar Sharif, Porika said. The situation was tense but under control and a meeting of peace committee will be convened soon to restore complete normalcy in the area, the SP added.

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## National & International News

## GST commissioner, eight others arrested in bribery case

**PTI**  
**New Delhi, Feb 3:** The CBI has arrested a commissioner of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) department from Kanpur and eight others, including his staff and private officials, in connection with an bribery case. According to agency sources, Sansar Chand, a 1986-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, posted as the commissioner, two

superintendents of the department, one personal staff and five private people were nabbed by the CBI in a late-night operation spread across Kanpur and Delhi.

They said it is alleged that the commissioner was a "habitual" offender, taking bribes from businessmen on monthly and

weekly basis, and it was during one such collection of Rs 1.5 lakh last night that he was nabbed.

The man who allegedly gave the bribe has also been taken into custody, a source said.

The sources said his wife is also named in the FIR but has not been arrested.

## US warns countries against aiding terrorists eyeing nuclear weapons

**PTI**  
**Washington, Feb. 3:** The United States has warned countries against supporting non-state actors and terrorist groups trying to obtain or employ nuclear weapons. "The US will hold accountable any state or non-state actor that supports terrorist efforts to obtain or employ a nuclear weapon," Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Tom Shannon, told reporters at a Pentagon news conference where the Trump Administration rolled out its 2018 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR). Neither Shannon nor the NPR report, running into 100 pages, identified any country which could be seen aiding terrorist groups in this regard. US officials have in the past expressed concern over the possibility of nuclear weapons of Pakistan landing into the hands of non-state actors or terrorist groups and thus has been working with Islamabad in enhancing the security of its nuclear weapons. Pakistan has repeatedly denied such fears and asserted that its nuclear arsenal are one of the safest and secure ones in the world. Shannon said that nuclear terrorism remained a major threat in the 21st century and countries need to work to mitigate it. "The potential threat of non-state actors getting their hands on a nuclear weapon remains at the front of all of our minds," Shannon told reporters at a news conference held at the Pentagon.

Deputy Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette said the US will keep a close watch on nuclear proliferation activities. "The Department of Energy will continue to focus on nonproliferation, counterproliferation and counterterrorism. Together with our allies and partners, we have enjoyed great, great success in these areas," he said. In a special section on nuclear terrorism, the report said the US strategy to combat nuclear terrorism encompasses a wide range of activities that comprise a defence-in-depth against current and emerging dangers. The report said the US would try and prevent terrorists from obtaining nuclear weapons or technology and respond to nuclear incidents by locating and disabling a nuclear device or managing the consequences of a nuclear detonation. "For effective deterrence, the US will hold fully accountable any state, terrorist group, or other non-state actor that supports or enables terrorist efforts to obtain or employ nuclear devices," the report said.

The report also said that a terrorist nuclear attack against the US or its allies and partners would qualify as an

"extreme circumstance" under which the US could consider the "ultimate form of retaliation". According to the report, the US will continue its efforts to minimise the number of nuclear weapons states, including by maintaining credible US-extended nuclear deterrence and assurance; and deny terrorist organisations access to nuclear weapons and materials.

It will also seek arms control agreements that enhance security, and are verifiable and enforceable. The US will enhance cooperation with its allies, partners, and international institutions to combat nuclear terrorism, and deterring state support for nuclear terrorism through advanced forensics and attribution capabilities. Noting that the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, the report said that nuclear non-proliferation today faces acute challenges.

Most significantly, North Korea is pursuing a nuclear path in direct contravention of the NPT and in direct opposition to numerous UN Security Council resolutions, the report said. The report also lists Iran as a challenge in terms of nuclear proliferation.

"Although the the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) may constrain Tehran's nuclear weapons program, there is little doubt Iran could achieve a nuclear weapon capability rapidly if it decides to do so," it said. According to the report, the US will work to increase transparency and predictability to avoid potential miscalculation among nuclear weapons states and other possessor states.

"...through strategic dialogues, risk-reduction communications channels, and the sharing of best practices related to nuclear weapons safety and security," the report said. In its report, the Trump administration said, although the US will not seek ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, it will continue to support the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Committee (CTBTO) as well as the International Monitoring System and the International Data Center.

"The US will not resume nuclear explosive testing unless necessary to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the US nuclear arsenal, and calls on all states possessing nuclear weapons to declare or maintain a moratorium on nuclear testing," it said.

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## Governor's speech.....

The government has initiated a healthcare scheme "Chief Minister-ge Hakshelgi Tengbang" Scheme which was launched on the Statehood Day. The scheme will provide "cashless" medical cover to BPL, AAY card holders and to the poor, disabled and widows for up to Rs. 2 lakh per family per year for 7 critical diseases and for upto Rupees fifty thousand (Rs. 50,000/-) for other identified general ailments.

Continuing its efforts to improve Air connectivity, direct flights between Imphal and Delhi has been introduced. Expansion and upgradation of Imphal International Airport is taking place along with setting up Air Cargo Terminal. During the year, the Imphal Airport road was improved and widened; work is almost nearing completion.

The government has already completed 19 Kms of National Highways of the set target of 30 Kms and work on procurement and tendering for another over 88 Kms is under progress. Maintenance and Improvement work of Imphal-Jiri Road will be completed by March 2018. DPR for 4 laning and 2 laning is under preparation. Foundation work has started for construction of Barak and Makru bridges.

The Manipur State Transport was revived after a gap of 15 years. Free travel for the disabled has been provided in all public transport. For convenience and safety of women passengers, reserved Seating arrangements have been made on Manipur State Transport (MST) buses.

The Government has decided to make the "Core Area of Imphal City" Garbage free. Laxmi Market and New Market at Khairamband Bazar have been made functional after repairing the earthquake damages. "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana" scheme is implemented in 24 towns of Manipur and over twenty six thousand (26,000) houses selected for assistance under the scheme. The Government has exempted Stamp duty, registration fee and tax on registration of deeds for transfer of land to the female head of the household under the Scheme.

The government has implemented the "Chief Minister-ge Shotharabasingi Tengbang" scheme which will provide the much needed care, assistance and dignity to the persons with disabilities, the aged homeless persons and their caregivers. 2,150 persons with disabilities have already been registered under the Scheme.

For the first time, a "North-East

Business Summit" was held in Manipur which was attended by Hon'ble President of India as the Chief Guest and as many as 39 MoUs were signed. The government has come up with a new Industrial and Investment Policy, 2017 envisaging setting up of a "Single Window Agency" for approvals. For creating industrial infrastructure, the government is constructing one more industrial estate, at Salemtar of Chandel district besides the four existing ones.

The National Sports University has commenced its operations and first two courses in the areas of Sports coaching and the Physical Education and Sports were launched this year. Efforts are on to complete the work on District Sports Complexes in Ukhrul, Chandel, Churachandpur and Tamenglong this year as well completing the Cricket Sport complex at Luwangsangbam. 4 (four) Artificial football grounds at Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur and Thoubal will be taken up, besides one Artificial Hockey Ground at Imphal East, Mini Sports Stadium at Akampat SEYO Club Ground, MMA Training Hall, and Flood Lighting at Khuman Lampak. There is also a proposal to set up a regional football academy in the state to encourage young talents.

Government has initiated measures to provide Manipuri local dishes in all Manipur Bhawans in order to make the visitors from the State feel at home. Manipur Bhawan, Guwahati will be made functional within March 2018. For the welfare of the journalist community Manipur State Journalists' Welfare Scheme was introduced in the State. The State Information and Public Relations Department organized a 2-Day Media Interaction Programme between India and Myanmar recently.

The Governor said that we must look forward to a future which will unlock the full potential of the people and resources of Manipur that requires a strong sense of participation, collaboration and common purpose amongst all stakeholders in order to realise collective goals and attain shared prosperity.

Later, in continuation of the session, MLA Shri P. Saratchandra moved the motion of thanks to the Governor address which was seconded by MLA Shri Awangbow Newmai. The Governor address will be discuss in the floor of the Assembly on February 6, 2018.

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