

Editorial

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Creating an education-friendly atmosphere

The ever present expectations of social unrest and unsavory revelations of mis-governance and bureaucratic mess-ups have rendered the social set-up an ad-hoc in nature. What made it worse is the fact that there is an ever-present expectant air of anarchistic freedom. Perhaps, the public have got so attuned to the protracted disturbances and social unrest at a subconscious level that we have now come to accept these frequent social unrest and flare-ups as a way of life. There is no other plausible explanation for the innumerable acts of wanton violence and irrational destruction which apparently provides sadistic pleasures to the rapidly growing rank of perpetrators. The underlying current of uncertainty and uneasiness that has pervaded our society, even at the best of times, speaks more for the situation we all have come to experience and abhor, but have been forced to endure. One of the most affected section of the society during the ever-present social flare-ups, or any social unrest for that matter, has been the student community. One would be hard pressed to come up with a single year without the disturbances and interruptions in their academic activities.

With such protracted disruptions year after year, do we now have the right to expect the students to perform to their optimum and to compete with students from the rest of the country and come up trumps? Don't we at least owe them the responsibility to shield and protect them from the ever-increasing influences and disruptions from amongst their own community with tinted political views which take them away from their main priorities- to acquire and assimilate knowledge which will help them achieve their dreams and help in changing the society for the better? We need to provide them an atmosphere free of apprehensions and tensions- an ambience conducive to development of knowledge and progressive thinking. Students, especially those who are below the graduation level should not be made or rather coerced to indulge in agitations and protests, except under extreme circumstances when absolutely required.

We have been increasingly witnessing the participation of very young students, some as young as primary level, either voluntarily or through coercion, in various demonstrations, protests and agitations.

They need to be made to understand their priorities and be provided with enough space and support to realize their full potential. And contrary to popular argument, home schooling in the state is a concept whose time is yet to come. For now, schools remain the only practical option for imparting knowledge and teaching social interaction skills to the impressionable young minds. While it was announced that there is no objection or opposition to smooth functioning of schools by any group, organizations or students' bodies, yet the school authorities are wary of resuming classes, lest some self-proclaimed crusaders of the people comes along and mete out instant justice which would invariably involve vandalizing and destroying the school properties. Meanwhile, the students are losing out on valuable time and opportunities. It would be the most prudent move for us all if we can ensure a disturbance-free atmosphere for the students in the state. We owe at least that much to ourselves and to the future of the state.

Govt introduces scheme to provide financial assistance for transport, marketing of agriculture products to boost export

Agency
New Delhi March 6,

The government has introduced a scheme for providing financial assistance for transport and marketing of agriculture products with a view to boosting export of farm commodities to certain countries in Europe and North America.

Assistance scheme, the government would reimburse a certain portion of freight charges and provide assistance for marketing of agricultural produce. The commerce ministry said in a statement that the scheme would be applicable for a period as specified from time to time. Presently, it would be available for exports effected from March 1 this year to March 2020.

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Arunachal CM Pema Khandu orders judicial probe into violence over PRC issue

Agency
Itanagar, March 6,

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Tuesday announced a judicial inquiry into the violence over the permanent residence certificate (PRC) issue that left three people dead and caused damage to public and private property. "Justice will be served to the bereaved families and people responsible for causing violence in the state capital will be brought before the law," Khandu said at the state BJP Council meeting. He said the probe will be carried out by a committee headed by a retired judge to ensure a thorough and impartial inquiry so that the real picture of the PRC protest could be unearthed and appropriate actions

taken against people behind the violence. He reiterated that the PRCs for non-Arunachal ST communities of Namsai and Changlang district have been forever scrapped and a gazette notification published to this effect. Clarifying that the state government had never intended to move a resolution or bill in the Assembly for the PRC, Khandu said that the matter was to be brought in the Assembly only for discussion and to make the recommendations of Joint High Power Committee on the issue public. He said the state government had planned to call wider public consultation involving all stakeholders but the issue was "misinterpreted", causing unrest among the students. Sensing the unrest, he said a

statement was issued in social media stating that PRC matter will not be taken up further. "Despite such assurance, large scale rioting and vandalism of government

and public properties took place, which meant that the anti-social elements had taken control over the protest with political motives," he said.

New Delhi gives proof to US on Pakistan's use of F-16 planes against India

Agency
New Delhi Mar 6,

India has given proof to the United States about the use of F-16 fighters and AMRAAM beyond visual range air-to-air missile by Pakistan during its unsuccessful aerial raid targeting Indian military installations on 27th of last month. Official sources said, India is

confident that Washington is carrying out a thorough investigation into use of the US-manufactured fighter as well as the missile onboard it in the offensive operation against India. As part of the purchasing agreement, the US had put restrictions and reportedly barred Pakistan from using the F-16s against any third country.

Union Home Minister launches Smart Fencing on Indo-Bangladesh border, an effective deterrence against illegal infiltration

PIB
New Delhi March 6,

Two pilot projects covering about 71 Kms on Indo-Pakistan Border (10 Kms) and Indo-Bangladesh Border (61 Kms) of Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) have been completed. The Stage has been set now for taking up Stage-II and Stage-III covering about 1955 Kms of the border which cannot be physically fenced. The CIBMS project will vastly improve the capability of BSF in detecting and controlling the cross border crimes like illegal infiltration, smuggling of contraband goods, human trafficking and cross border terrorism etc.

Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the project BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) under Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) on Indo-Bangladesh border in Dhubri district of Assam today. Interacting with media persons, Shri Rajnath Singh said earlier in the month of September, 2018, two pilot projects of "smart" border fencing built under the CIBMS programme in Jammu were operationalised. He added that over a period of time the complete border will be covered. At Dhubri, where BOLD-QIT project has been implemented along riverine border, it was not feasible to construct

border fencing. The 61 kms of border area in Dhubri where River Brahmaputra enters into Bangladesh consists of vast char lands and innumerable river channels thus making border guarding in this area a challenging task especially during rainy season.

To address these problems Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to use technological solutions to enhance capabilities of manpower of Border Security Force (BSF) deployed on the ground. As part of CIBMS, these two projects were undertaken. Implementation of this project will help in integration of manpower, sensors, networks, intelligence and command and control solutions to improve situational awareness at different levels of hierarchy to facilitate prompt and informed decision making and

quick reaction to emerging situations. CIBMS involves deployment of a range of state-of-the-art surveillance technologies — thermal imagers, infra-red and laser-based intruder alarms, aerostats for aerial surveillance, unattended ground sensors that can help detect intrusion bids, radars, sonar systems to secure riverine borders, fibre-optic sensors and a command and control system that shall receive data from all surveillance devices in real time. Implementation of CIBMS projects on Indo - Pakistan and Indo - Bangladesh border will enhance the capabilities of Border security Force (BSF).

The total rollout plan for CIBMS is as under :-

- Stage-I Pilot projects in Jammu and Assam has been completed.
- Stage-II Rollout of 153 Kms in

4 patches along Indo-Pakistan & Indo-Bangladesh Border. Stage-III Rollout of 1802 Kms in 67 patches along Indo-Pakistan & Indo-Bangladesh border. Stage-I of the project on pilot basis has been completed. Stage-I will be reviewed through an independent third party auditor (IT Delhi). Stage-II & III will target primarily the following areas:

- a) Riverine, delta and estuary areas
- b) Waterlogged and swampy areas
- c) Creek areas
- d) Plain areas vulnerable to heavy fog
- e) Thickly populated areas on the border
- f) Hilly areas
- g) Tropical jungle areas
- h) Deserts

A R Conducts Anti Drug Campaign

IT News
Imphal March 6,

Mantripukhri Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted an Anti Drug Campaign for Drug Free Manipur at P. Namjoklung High School in Sawombung on 05 March 2019.

As part of the Campaign, an interactive lecture was conducted at the School to enlighten and to

generate awareness about the ill effects of drugs among the youth and to guide them to lead a healthy and prosperous life. The lecture was attended by students and teachers of Namjoklung High School, Meira Paibis and members of local Youth Club. The lecture was followed by an Anti Drug Rally from Sawombung Company Operating Base to Kabul Kunjao village. The rally witnessed the attendance of over 170 students,

Meira Paibis and locals. The campaign was a success in educating the villagers on this sensitive issue and various measures to counter the drug menace.

The villagers expressed deep gratitude for organising such awareness campaigns from time to time and appreciated the efforts and commitment of Assam Rifles to the cause of making Manipur a drug free State.

Monthly village chief secretary meeting organize at T Minou by Moreh battalion A R

IT News
Imphal March 6,

In order to promote the bonhomie with locals the Moreh Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised monthly village chief and secretary meeting at T-Minou on 05 March 2019. The event was attended by Village Chief, Secretary and locals of Village T Minou. During the meet, recent developments and security situation were deliberated upon and the importance for maintaining peace and harmony in the area was discussed in detail. Village Chief and Secretary were forthcoming in maintaining close liaison with Assam Rifles to provide sp in the overall aim and larger interest of the people. The efforts of Assam Rifles in providing the WSS at H Lhangcham village was appreciated by all. The other agenda points of the



meeting included security aspects, exchange of info and updation of mobile number. The village Chiefs and Secretary express gratitude towards Assam Rifles for its efforts to ensure peace and tranquility in the area. The initiatives by Assam Rifles to provide basic amenities like water in village to improve the standard of living was appreciated. They also assured their whole hearted cooperation and support

to Assam Rifles in future also. Tengenoupal Battalion orbated under 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(SOUTH) conducted a cleanliness drive and a detailed lecture on drug abuse for 140 children and youth of Khudengthabi and nearby areas on 05 March 2019. Tengenoupal Battalion along with the Kuki Student Organization of Tengenoupal district took this

initiative to educate the children and youth about the importance of cleanliness and menace of drug abuse and the peril it imposes towards the health and future of these young children. Khudengthabi post is also known for its large number of recoveries of drugs and contraband items on a daily basis. Hence, understanding the sensitiveness of the issue the battalion took charge of the matter and the medical officers and other important officials of the battalion gave a detailed presentation on the subject and explained the dangers of drugs towards health, family and future of children.

Tengenoupal Battalion with its resolute will is determined to curb the menace of drug abuse in any form, be it smuggling through its area or addiction of children to these illegal substances.