

## Pre-school enrolment in Manipur's Bishnupur district lowest in India – ASER report

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 17

Free and compulsory education to all children in the country seems to have no significance in the state of Manipur as enrolment of children in pre-school considerably lower than any other districts in the country. The fourteenth Annual Status of Education Report (ASER 2019 'Early Years') released in New Delhi on January 14 this year says that only 13.3% of 4 year olds and 1.2% of 5 year olds are enrolled in

Anganwadis (pre-school) in Bishnupur district of Manipur. This number is considerably lower than the all-districts average of 44.2% children enrolled in Anganwadis in age 4 and 26.2% in age 5.

The finding was conducted in 26 districts across 24 states in India using Probability Proportional to Size survey methodology. The survey covered a total of 1,514 villages, 30,425 households, and 36,930 children in the age group of 4-8 years. Sampled children's enrolment status in pre-school or school was collected. Children did a variety of cognitive, early language, and early numeracy tasks; and activities to assess children's social and emotional development were also undertaken. All tasks were done one-on-one with children in their homes. In Bishnupur, a total of 1,202 households in 60 randomly selected villages were surveyed. 1,305 children in the age group of 4-8 were covered in this survey.

The report said that ability of the children between age 4 to age 5 to do all tasks is comparatively poor. It said, while 31% of 4-year-olds enrolled in anganwadis or

government pre-primary classes were able to do a 4-piece puzzle, 45% of 5-year-olds attending these institutions could do so. In Bishnupur, almost none of the children in the age group of 4-5 years could correctly answer the listening comprehension questions. Only 1% of 4 year olds and 0.6% of 5 year olds could correctly do this task. Enrolment of children as per the Right to Education Act, 2009 (RTE) are not appropriate in Bishnupur district. The ASER report said that the RTE mandates age of 6 years for entry to Std I. In Bishnupur, 62.6% of the children enrolled in Std I are of age 7 and 8 and 17.8% of the children are of the age 4 and 5. This shows that a major chunk of children in Std I in Bishnupur are not of the appropriate age.

The ASER report said that 47.2% of the children in primary grades at the age of 8 could identify all the four primary emotions compared to an all districts average of 60.5% covered in the survey. In Bishnupur, in the emotion identification task, children found identifying the emotion 'happy' the most difficult among 4 primary emotions.

## Broadcasters challenge TRAI's tariff order, fear subscription revenue dip

By - Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Jan 17

Even as television broadcasters in India have challenged Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI's) new order reducing tariff to give relief to consumers, the Bombay High Court has refused to grant interim relief to the broadcasters.

The division bench of Justices SC Dharmadhikari and RI Chagla at the Bombay High Court has not provided interim relief to the broadcasters till the next hearing of the case on January 22, 2020, but it has issued a notice to TRAI to file an affidavit in response to the petitions filed by the broadcasters, by January 20. The petition has been filed by the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) challenging TRAI's order. Apart from the IBF, broadcasters like Star and Disney India, Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEE), Sony Pictures Networks India (SPN), TV18 and Viacom18, and the Films & Television Producers Guild of India have also filed petitions. In response TRAI has filed caveats in all major high courts against issuing a stay without hearing what it has to say in the matter.

As per the TRAI's order-NTO-2019, the TV channels cannot be priced more than Rs 19, if



part of a bouquet of channels. There is no pricing cap on channels which are not part of any bouquet and are designated premium channels. Also, there is no cap on the amount of discount a broadcaster can offer on the sum of the MRPs of all the channels in the pack. TRAI has notified new rules that permit TV broadcasters to include a channel in a pack only if it wasn't priced more than Rs.12. Earlier, this limit was Rs.19.

NTO 2019, was first issued in December 2018 and implemented in February 2019. Now the distribution platform operators (DPOs), (a term used for cable and DTH operators) are given 15 days to revise their packages.

Ultimately, consumers will have one month to select channels or bouquets of their choice and the new rates will be effective March 1. The ground level cable operators have been given time till January 30 to make the new tariff

public so that the customers can make choices. When TRAI's original NTO was implemented in February 2019, it received much flak as it raised the price for consumers for like-to-like entertainment. The NTO was aimed at allowing consumers to choose a la carte channels and hence bring their cable bills down as it mandated that each channel should be priced individually. However, it resulted in the opposite.

Media industry experts say that broadcasters priced their popular channels at Rs.19 and less popular channels at a very low price and then bundled and offered them at a steep discount. This led to consumers opting for packs rather than buying a la carte channels, defeating the purpose of the NTO.

The new order "NTO 2.0" as TRAI calls it, has also allowed the distribution platform owners (or DPOs such as cable operators and DTH companies)

to increase the number of free-to-air (FTA) channels in their bouquet to 200 with a network capacity fee (NCF) of Rs.160. Earlier, only 100 FTA channels were allowed in the bouquet for Rs.130.

Broadcasters argue against DPOs being allowed to charge Rs.160 for free channels. The owners of distribution platforms will not allow subscribers to choose their own channels as they will push their own set of FTA channels, which will be included on the basis of the carriage fee.

According to the broadcasters as per the new tariff the individual price of a channel will be Rs 12 from earlier Rs.19 which will hit them hard since cost of content acquisition has been growing over the past few years and this new tariff amounts to 37 per cent drop in the individual price of a channel and estimated 10 per cent fall in subscription revenue.

TRAI Chairman R.S. Sharma said that NTO 2.0 is a fine-tuning exercise. "The purpose of NTO always was to ensure transparency and non-discrimination. We just felt a few things were either left out or distorted in the earlier provision and the idea was to straighten those out, provide more content to the consumer at the same price."

### Tribute rock artist K. Hegin

A tribute concert in the memory of Late K. Hegin a pioneering rock artist of the state Manipur will be held at THAU Ground Thangmeiband on January 18 at 4 pm. The concert is free for all and the band line up consists of Illegals, Khudeiband, AH-1 (former NH -39) Battles, Fingers and Ruben Mangshava. The organising committee invites music lovers and friends of the Late Hegin to the concert.

## MSAP denies gang-raped of Mahima Khan; says will not spare if there is any possibilities of criminal conspiracy and murder

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 17

The Manipur Students' Association, Pune (MSAP) while condoling the death of a class XII Manipuri girl at Pune on January 10 evening denied question of being gang-raped. The Pune based Manipuri Students' body said that the statement by the representatives of AMSU through leading Manipuri paper in

connection with the death of the girl under the heading "A class XII student was found brutally murdered after being gang-raped near Khadki railway station, pune ...." stands as an imaginary and baseless.

The Manipuri student, Ms. Mahima Khan was found dead on the night of January 10, 2020 near Khadki railway station. MSAP statement said that the viral news circulation of the prejudice

cause of her death through various social media like Facebook, WhatsApp including some of the Manipuri local print and electronic media and TV channels is unfortunate and heartfelt.

"The viral news circulated may be treated as the baseless and imaginary", it added.

MSAP statement said that the deceased girl (Contd. on page 2)

## Vision 2020 for Tml District highlighted in District Level Officer meeting

IT News  
Tamenglong, Jan. 17

Vision 2020 for Tamenglong District was discussed during the District level officers (DLOs) meeting which was held at Deputy Commissioner conference hall Tamenglong district headquarter.

During the meeting the concern departments share their vision for the Tamenglong district.

In the 2020 vision, Tamenglong road will be monitored every week so that the villages in the district is motorable throughout the year.

In order to perform some major vital operations in district hospital, through HADP the hospital will get new equipment's and not only that it will also ensure CFC and PHC are connected with tele-medicine facilities which will be linked with the district hospital.

Under the school "phagat hansi" mission two government schools will be selected for a good number of students with a maximum of 700

students. Since no kids are to be left out from schools, the district administration will also select 10 government schools for a model schools so that at least 2500 students get the benefits out of it. 2020 vision also highlighted that in order to declare more forest under the community forest reserve project the forest department will target 100 sq kms forest areas in Tamenglong town areas so that the people make a viable income from this project. To prevent the business of the timber cutting the forest department will also check the limit of the cutting in the district.

The district administration of Tamenglong will also make an effort to declare as the free use single plastic soon stated the DC of Tamenglong.

During the meeting it is also highlighted that by May 2020 the ongoing water supply project will be completed so that the residents of Tamenglong have a sufficient drinking water.

During the meeting the Deputy Commissioner of Tamenglong also share the good news in which the MNREDA will be providing 100 lamps each free of cost for Tamenglong sub-division for lighting up especially the old age and orphanage home, residential schools and hospitals.

Since sports play's an important role in our society under the TATA Grassroots Football school's projects it will continue to train to train at least boys and girls between at the age of 15 years in Tamenglong district.

Armstrong Pame, DC of Tamenglong also highlighted that ONGC will be funding about Rs 2.5 crore for building up the Tamenglong ground in which PWD will be taking up this project which will be completed before 15th August 2020 if there is no problem in implementing this project.

Altogether 31 department took part in this meeting.

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