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CITY

Stress laid on education's communitisation

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, Oct 25: The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati on Saturday organised a one-day national webinar on 'Communitisation of education' for effective implementation of National Education Policy 2020.

The main aim of the webinar was to emphasise the need for involvement of the community in the improvement of school functioning, to discuss the strategies for strengthening the relationship with family, school and community and to suggest the measures for improving school functioning for delivery of inclusive and equitable education.

The webinar was inaugurated by CAV Prasad, Member, Andhra Pradesh School Education Regulatory and Monitoring Commission, Government of Andhra Pradesh in the presence of Dr Murugesan Ramasamy, Director, NIRDPRNERC Guwahati, and Dr T Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor and the webinar coordinator.

Dr T Vijaya Kumar emphasised the need for communitisation of education for effective implementation of National Education Policy 2020 and also to achieve the sustainable development goal i.e., inclusive and equitable education for all.

Dr Murugesan Ramasamy highlighted the importance of local governance such as village panchayats and municipalities

in creating access and quality of education by realising the right to education, since every child has a right to have quality education in this country. The schools should function by actively involving the local communities in accelerating access to quality education.

CAV Prasad said that the local communities play an important role in the effective delivery of quality education at the village level. He further emphasised the need to empower the local communities through school management committees in the promotion of equity, quality and affordability of education to all the children in the habitations.

"Awareness campaigns and activities are to be organised for the local community on National Education Policy 2020 and other education policies for their active participation in the implementation of the policy and delivery of quality education to achieve the SDG," he said.

The keynote address of the webinar was delivered by Professor Bruno Liegise, Professor of Education, Nagaland University who stressed the urgent need for revisiting the communitisation of education initiative of Nagaland government in which she was actively involved in the implementation of the programme in the early years of the initiative in 2004.

Dr Kashyapi Awasthi, Assistant Professor, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration New Delhi also spoke in the webinar.

Revived economic activities, additional passenger services boost NFR earnings

PRANJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, Oct 25: Revival of economic activities leading to upturn in demand for commodities, coupled with resumption of additional passenger services, has resulted in a big jump in earnings of the Maligaon-headquartered Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR).

The total approximate gross earnings on an originating basis of NFR in the first half of the current 2021-22 financial year surged by as much as 3 per cent to reach Rs 95.18 crore from Rs 27 crore in the same period of last year.

The earnings from goods traffic on an originating basis also recorded a climb of as much as 252 per cent annually during the first half of this fiscal to Rs 95.18 crore from Rs 27 crore in the same period of last year.

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Similarly, sundry earnings of NFR in the first six months of 2021-22 also jumped by 94.63 per cent to Rs 94.67 crore as against Rs 48.64 crore in the year-ago period.

The effect of the economic upswing was evident across the Indian Railways with all the zones registering a healthy

growth in earnings during the first half of this financial year. Overall, the total gross earnings on originating basis of the Indian Railways went up by over 59 per cent on an annual basis to more than Rs 85,588 crore in the April-September period.

Meanwhile, the approximate number of passengers booked in the NFR zone touched 14.15 million between April 1 and September 30 this year. This is a huge jump compared to the figure of a mere 0.66 million bookings recorded during the corresponding period of last year.

"We were hoping for this kind of growth in earnings during the first six months of the ongoing fiscal year. Firstly, the base was low as passenger services had remained suspended for most of the time during the first half of the previous year, while the goods traffic at that time was mainly focused on transportation of essential commodities. Besides, even though the second wave of the pandemic this year was severe,

there were only state-specific or local lockdowns. Economic activities continued to some extent and so did passenger services in the form of 'special' trains," said a source.

The source said the demand for commodities has shown a rising trend due to resumption of regular economic activities in most of the sectors.

"In addition, while regular passenger services continue to remain suspended, we have introduced more and more long-distance and local passenger services in the form of 'special' trains to cater to the growing demand for berths from commuters," the source said.

NFR expects further growth in earnings during the second half of the current fiscal.

"With Covid-19 cases continuing to decline and even local lockdowns mostly lifted, we believe there are prospects for more improvement in both the passenger and the goods segments, provided that there is no third wave," said the source.

Think big, overcome fear, IPS officer tells students

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Oct 25: The Fifth Zamira Begum Rahman Memorial Lecture was delivered by senior IPS officer, Diganta Barah on Sunday.

er currently posted as Secretary to the Government of Assam, Department of Home and Political Affairs. Hailing from a remote village Mikir Bora Chuk, Kalabari in Biswanath Chariali, he rose from humble beginnings and pursued

This year, the session was moderated by Dr Darshana Goswami, Assistant Professor, Nalbari College. The students interacted with Barah and asked questions about their future and career. "I plan to visit more such rural

Scientists ...

(Contd from page 1)

"Considering the volume of research dedicated towards the search and characterization of drug candidates from natural sources, the application and commercialization of venom toxins in antithrombotic therapy

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