

Prof Vaishna Narang,
Former Dean, SLL&CS-JNU;
English Auditorium, PU; 3 pm

CONFERENCE: The Centre for Human Rights & Duties to organise international conference on "A Conversation for change: Human rights, youth and drugs"; Golden Jubilee Hall, PU; 9:30 am

APNI MANDI:
Sector 15, 40 & 46

MOHALI

APNI MANDI: Sector 58

PANCHKULA

APNI MANDI: Sector 26

crore merely make up for its salary and other unavoidable expenses, which is about Rs 817 crore. The MC's total annual fund availability estimate comes out to be almost the same — Rs 822 crore.

It means the corporation will be left with only Rs 5 crore for the whole year. "If we total the amount of our own revenue and funds under the Budget, we will not be able to carry out even the maintenance works. Development works are a far cry. We will be at the mercy of the Administration the whole year," said an official. The funds under the Budget will be allocated to the corporation on a quarterly basis.

Civic body's own revenue estimate of ₹397 crore and grant-in-aid of ₹425 crore merely make up for salary, other unavoidable expenses

“We will keep seeking additional funds from the Administration, but will not let development works suffer in the city.”

Raj Bala Malik, MAYOR



According to estimates, a whopping Rs 507 crore will go in salaries of MC employees, Rs 140 crore is estimated for electricity expenses, Rs 58 crore for pension, Rs 20 crore for fuel and Rs 92 crore on running two petrol pumps.

"In the current financial year, our own revenue is esti-

mated to be Rs 208 crore. In the next fiscal, we are going to increase it to Rs 397 crore. Still, we are behind. The Administration should hand over to us the Registering and Licensing Authority and stamp duty so that the MC can work efficiently," said the official.

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Before dera violence

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 4

More than two years after violence broke out in parts of Haryana and Punjab following the conviction of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in a rape case, the Punjab and Haryana High Court today asked the state of Haryana to produce the record pertaining to the imposition of Section 144 of the CrPC in Panchkula ahead of the gathering of dera followers.

The direction by Justice Rajiv Sharma, Justice Rakesh Kumar Jain and Justice Augustine George Masih came on a petition filed in public interest in August 2017.

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No-detention policy — A disincentive for everyone

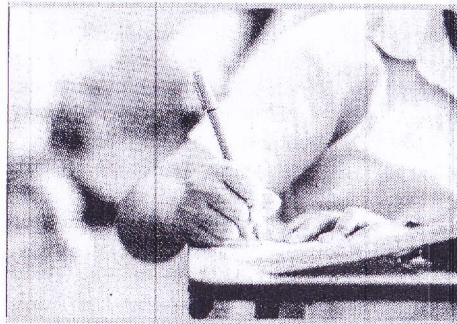
Academics express concern, say the quality of education has suffered because of it

**10 YEARS OF
RTE ACT**

NAINA MISHRA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 4

All students are equal, but some are more equal than others as they are promoted to the next class regardless of the result following the no-detention policy introduced through the Right to Education Act for children belonging to economically weaker sections of society. It has apparently proved to be a disincentive, not just for beneficiaries



but other students as well.

More than a decade after the chapter on making education a fundamental right was opened through the enactment of the RTE Act,

“Education for all is a desirable goal and mainstreaming students from all walks of life even more so. But now the no-detention policy brings with it a new set of complexities. In principle, it sounds an ideal situation but in reality, it needs to be backed with a lot of thought and planning.”

— Atul Khanna, director, STRAWBERRY FIELDS HIGH SCHOOL

the quality of education has, on the face of it, suffered because of the policy. The fear of flunking is not a driving force for more than a few EWS students as they know

they will be promoted to the next class regardless of their performance in the classroom and the examinations. For others, watching some of their class fellows being pro-

moted without studying is the first lesson in discrimination they learn.

Section 16 of the Right of Children to free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, stipulates that "no child admitted to a school shall be held back in any class or expelled from school till the completion of elementary education". Thus, the policy covers elementary stage of schooling covering Classes I to VIII.

Academics are concerned that the policy has aggravated the challenge of motivating such students as well as affected the

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