

Pacts inked to ensure quality school edu

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 22: The state government Monday signed agreements with two organisations to improve elementary education teaching and learning.

The School and Mass Education department signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with Akshara Foundation and Kusuma Foundation at the Secretariat here in the presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The MoUs were signed to ensure quality teaching, learning outcomes, governance and management of schools, Patnaik said.

"During last year, our government had launched two quality related initiatives namely Ujjwal in primary education and Utkarsh in secondary education to improve the learning levels of the children studying in government schools. The project is a classic illustration of bringing together teamwork, transparency and technology for making systemic changes in the education sector," he said. The agreements would greatly benefit the school going children and go a long way in laying a strong foundation for academic environment in the state, the CM added.

The Akshara foundation would support the government on mathematical

learning programme for the Class I to V students. The students would get special classes on mathematics. About 4,200 schools of educational backward Bolangir and Rayagada districts would get benefits from the programme this year, sources said. The government has roped in Kusuma Foundation to implement the Secondary School Readiness Programme (SSRP) in educationally backward KBK districts from the current academic year. About 60,000 students would be identified through a test to cover them under the programme, they said.

Remedial classes in mathematics, science and English would be provided to the students with the highest learning gaps. Special handbooks for teachers and study materials for the students would be distributed and four hours of teaching would be provided to the students every day in schools during school hours, the sources said.

According to the Annual Status of Education Report 2016, about 51.6 per cent Class V students don't know the lessons of Class-II while 73.3 per cent Class V students are very poor in mathematics. Similarly, 75 per cent students of Class-V and 45.4 per cent Class VIII students don't know how to write a sentence in English, the report said.

MINOR REJIG IN OAS CADRE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 22: The state government Monday effected a minor reshuffle in senior Orissa Administration Officer (OAS) cadre by shifting nine officials.

According to a notification issued by General Administration (GA) department, additional secretary at Planning & Convergence department Rasid Khan has been appointed the additional secretary of Science & Technology department while Suvendu Kanoongo has been shifted to Khan's post. Gangadhar Patra has been posted as the new additional secretary of Public Enterprises department while Chittaranjan Mohanty is the new secretary of Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA).

The government has posted Biswa Mohan Ray and Sukanta Pradhan as additional secretary to Fisheries & Animal Resources development and Water Resources department respectively.

Similarly, OAS officer Pratap Indra Dash has been transferred as the director of State Council of Educational Research & Training whereas Biranchi Narayan Mohanty is the new additional secretary of Cooperation department.

Handloom minister's personal secretary Ramesh Chandra Rout has been posted as additional chief electoral officer.