

Mission Detoxification

Blueprint For Desaffronisation Of Education Ready

By Sakina Yusuf Khan/TNN
New Delhi: The 'detoxification' of education might happen sooner rather than later. The spadework for HRD minister Arjun Singh's plans to reverse some of his predecessor's decisions has already been done and a blueprint is ready.

Along with the Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha, a host of leading educationists and intellectuals have drawn up a Common Minimum Programme on Education (CMPE). The names include former UGC chairman Yashpal, educationist Anil Sadgopal, writer Naamvar Singh, economist Prabhat Patnaik, scientist Obaid Siddiqui, social scientist Arjun Dev, former Rajya Sabha MP Shabana Azmi, filmmaker Anand Patwardhan and

Magsasay awardee Shanta Sinha. The entire process should begin with the NCERT, the document suggests: "Constitute a high-powered committee to review NCERT's National Curriculum Framework

has recommended a review of all appointments, promotions and transfers made in the last five years in academic bodies such as NCERT, UGC, ICSSR, ICHR, ICPA and CBSE in violation of norms.

Closed Chapter



- Stop reprinting, distribution of controversial books
- Review all learning material recently prepared by the National Open School

for School Education (2000) and the syllabi and textbooks prepared during the NDA regime with a view to exposing communal, divisive and obscurantist ideology" Among other things, the CMPE

If the recommendations of the CMPE are accepted, it could also mean curtains for NGOs close to the Sangh Parivar. "Identify NGOs related to the Sangh Parivar being funded by the ministry of HRD and other ministries for educational work and take measures to stop their funding," it says. The CMPE also advocates strengthening the autonomy of universities, IIMs and IITs and withdrawal of the UGC's Model Act for Universities.