

Editorial

Lesser truth in Manipur education sector

Education Minister Th. Radheshyam has been in the news many times for his inevitable inspection visits to school and colleges. His action speaks louder and people are hopeful of the changes that the dynamic Minister is likely to bring changes in the state education scenario. All that has been heard from the Minister is the present state of school buildings and other infrastructures. However, we the people still fails to hear even single word about bringing reform to the educational sectors which is a major reason for the failure of the education scenario. After inspection of the school buildings now its again mass transfer of teachers. Everyone knows the repercussion of this mass transfer. And again after the state assembly session which is scheduled from tomorrow tenders for construction of school buildings of the already built schools will be notified. If the Minister felt that the schools were not constructed upto the mark then why is our honourable Minister instead of taking action against those contractors or any other official responsible, have to start another construction.

We are all aware of the fact that various initiatives and incentives taken up by the ministry of education such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) under the Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009 have not achieved its objectives despite four years of concerted efforts. It has also been reported that a large number of elementary teachers all over the country (more than 7,000 in Manipur alone) have yet to receive the requisite training or the expertise to impart education to the students at the elementary level. The training program is taken up to address this lacuna, with the Chief Minister prominently stating that untrained elementary teachers will not be employed after 2015. It may be mentioned that the Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such a manner as the State may, by law, determine.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which represents the consequential legislation envisaged under Article 21-A, means that every child has a right to full time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards. Article 21-A and the RTE Act came into effect on 1 April 2010. The title of the RTE Act incorporates the words "free and compulsory". "Free education" means that no child, other than a child who has been admitted by his or her parents to a school which is not supported by the appropriate Government, shall be liable to pay any kind of fee or charges or expenses which may prevent him or her from pursuing and completing elementary education.

'Compulsory education' casts an obligation on the appropriate Government and local authorities to provide and ensure admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by all children in the 6-14 age group. With this, India has moved forward to a rights based framework that casts a legal obligation on the Central and State Governments to implement this fundamental child right as enshrined in the Article 21A of the Constitution, in accordance with the provisions of the RTE Act which provides for, among others, Right of children to free and compulsory education till completion of elementary education in a neighbourhood school, making provisions for a non-admitted child to be admitted to an age appropriate class.

It also lays down the norms and standards relating inter alia to Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs), buildings and infrastructure, school-working days, teacher-working hours. And, most importantly, the Act provides for appointment of appropriately trained teachers, i.e. teachers with the requisite entry and academic qualifications and prohibits (a) physical punishment and mental harassment; (b) screening procedures for admission of children; (c) capitation fee; (d) private tuition by teachers and (e) running of schools without recognition. Now that one can safely conclude that the groundwork is coming to a satisfactory conclusion, what remains to be seen is how actively and keenly is the Government looking into the implementation of the schemes, for no amount of planning and financial support or investment will reap result unless the teachers deliver, and in time.

Will the Doklam Standoff Lead to a Second India-China War?

By Rajesh Kumar (courtesy: The Diplomat)
The mounting military tensions at Doklam, the tributary area connecting Bhutan, China, and India, have generated the impression that India and China are going to repeat their 1962 war. Official Chinese media and think tanks have warned India that conflict can lead to war if not handled properly and India should learn lessons from history. When asked about the possibility of the current dispute escalating, Luo Zhaohui, China's ambassador to India, did not dismiss the likelihood of such a development. And an article in *The Global Times*, referring to India's involvement on behalf of Bhutan, reminded New Delhi that "under India's logic, if the Pakistani government requests, a third country's army can enter the area disputed by India and Pakistan." In New Delhi the rhetoric is similarly tough. For instance, when Beijing invoked the 1962 war and its humiliation for India, Defense Minister Arun Jaitley replied that "India of 2017 is different from India of 1962." Likewise, General Bipin Rawat, India's chief of army staff also acknowledged the possibility of an Indo-China war and said that the "Indian Army is fully ready for a two and a half front war." The

government's recent authorization of the army to make an emergency purchases of ammunition, stores, and spares for several weapon platforms also point toward an impending short, intense war between India and China. Taking it further, some policy observers have directly compared the current standoff with 1962 by casting new actors and settings; Narendra Modi and Bipin Rawat instead of Jawaharlal Nehru and B.M. Kaul, and Doklam in place of Dhola Post. The fear of an India-China war does not emanate from the Doklam standoff in isolation. The possibility of war between the two nuclear-armed giants of the Asia-Pacific, with their 2.6 billion combined population, has been one of the significant concerns of the global strategic community for the last few decades. Certainly, a war, which could cause thousands of casualties and decimate a substantial part of the global economy, is a pressing matter for the strategic community. **Engaging this article?** Click here to subscribe for full access. Just \$5 a month. The most significant question regarding escalation is who would fire the first bullet, India or China? Interestingly, answering this question will help us to answer the million dollar question: will there be another India-China war? In my view,

either side escalating the current border skirmishes to a short or long war is unlikely for many reasons. **Will India Go to War With China?** If the question is whether India will go to war with China, my answer is a sound "no." The reasons go beyond strategic calculations, such as strength and numbers of forces and weapons. In other words, cognizance of pure military strength and weakness is not the primary force that stops New Delhi from firing the first bullet against its enemy. It is the structure of the government, and concerns of leaders about the domestic constituency that holds back a forward move. Let me clarify this. War is fundamentally a political act. It is not the military, who fights the war, but rather the political leaders, who declare the war, that are accountable for its outcome. A war can bring different incentives for domestic institutions including a change of government or change of leadership. In their *Selectorate Theory* of War, Bueno De Mesquita, James D. Morrow, Randolph M. Siverson, and Alastair Smith explain the general tendency of democratic leaders to fight easier wars. According to the theory, democratic leaders are more likely to opt out of difficult wars because their grip on power is more contingent on the support of the population. Compared to other types of regimes, in a democracy, the chances are high that the outcome of the war will be reflected in the re-election campaign. Therefore, once a war is underway democratic leaders need to ensure nothing less than victory. The necessity of a win to secure support from the domestic constituency compels leaders to put in additional efforts, including more military spending at the price of public welfare spending. If they win the war, people will forget all their sufferings in the delight of victory. However, if they lose, the people will not only recollect the futile sufferings they underwent but the leaders who brought humiliation to their nation as well. Here, democratic leaders have to ensure that war will not be a destructive force to their support base.

Hence, for New Delhi, the best option is to prepare for war but not to start it. In fact, preparing for war increases the government's chance to win re-election through uniting national feelings and sentiments. Considering these assumptions and factors, one can say that New Delhi will not go to war with Beijing, at least until the next election. **Will China Take the Risk?** To those who follow Chinese provocations and warnings, and their continuous references to 1962, it seems that Beijing is preparing for an imminent and unavoidable war with its neighbor. However, it is sure that Sun Tzu's descendants will think twice before such a move. First, Beijing's current priority is translating their economic might to global public support in favor of their impending superpower status. Though the international community has acknowledged China as an economic superpower with footprints in every corner of the globe, the world is not ready to accept China as a future leader. The main reason behind this unacceptability is Beijing's inability to provide alternative norms and rules for the crisis-ridden neoliberal values and Western-led global governance system. In this context, if China takes the risk of waging war against India, it will only strengthen charges of Chinese interventionism and imperial tendencies. In other words, a war against India will ultimately destroy the image China is desperately seeking — that of a benevolent superpower which emerged out of a peaceful transfer of power. Unless and until Beijing could ensure a war against its powerful neighbor has the generative capacity of remaking the world order, the best option for Xi Jinping is to follow Sun Tzu's advice: "the skillful leader subdues the enemy without fighting." Here, the only option left for Beijing is to convince the world that New Delhi is an existential threat. However, it is not an easy task since Doklam is situated in territory disputed between China and tiny Bhutan.

National News

China ready to attack India, claims Mulayam in Lok Sabha

PTI New Delhi, Jul 19 : Samajwadi Party leader and former Defence Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav today claimed that China was ready to attack India in collaboration with Pakistan and asked the government to reverse its stand on the Tibet issue and support its independence. Raising the matter in the Lok Sabha against the backdrop of tension between India and China, he asked the government to inform Parliament what it has done to meet any likely challenge from the neighbouring country. "India is today facing a big danger from China. I have been cautioning the central government for years. China has joined hands with Pakistan. It has made full preparation to attack India. "China is India's biggest opponent. What has the government done?"

In Kashmir, the Chinese army has allied with the Pak army," Yadav, known for his tough stand on China, said during the Zero Hour. He also claimed that China had buried nuclear weapons in Pakistan to target India, adding that Indian intelligence agencies "would know better". Yadav said India's stand on Tibet, a reference to its acceptance that the region was part of China, was a "mistake" and the time has come to support its independence as it had been a traditional buffer between the two big nations. "China is our enemy, not Pakistan. Pakistan can do us no damage," he said. It was India's responsibility to protect Bhutan and China was eyeing Nepal, he said. He also spoke against massive amounts of Chinese goods finding a market in India.

Centre takes serious cognizance of mob lynching in name of cow protection

New Delhi, July 19: The Government has taken serious cognizance of the matter related to mob-lynching in the name of cow protection and sought information from States. Replying to supplementaries during question hour in Rajya Sabha today, Minister of State for Home Hansraj Ahir said, states have been asked to take stringent action against people involved in violence in the name of cow vigilantism. He said, several people have been arrested in different parts of the country. Mr Ahir said, Home Ministry has issued advisory to states for prompt

action as law and order is a state subject. He said, data is being collected about such violent incidents by National Crime Records Bureau. The Minister informed that so far no state has demanded setting up of a Special Investigation Team. Mr Ahir said, dragging BJP's name in such incidents is not proper and the Prime Minister himself had said that people should not take law into their hands. Dissatisfied with the Minister's reply, Opposition members including Samajwadi party trooped into the well raising slogans, leading to a brief adjournment of the House.

Certificate lost

I have lost my original certificate of my Master Degree in Social Work (with specialisation in Medical and Psychiatric Social Work) from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai in the year 1978 on the waybetween Sinjamei to Canchipur on June 20, 2017. Finders are requestedto hand over it to the undersigned.
Ningthoujam Jeevanmala Devi
Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai
Imphal West

Facility Centres Employees' Association of MACS (FaCEAMACS)
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Regd. No. 829 of 2011 under Trade Union Act, 1947 (U/114)
Date: 16/7/17

Notification

As per resolution passed by the Emergency General Body Meeting of the Association held on the 26th June 2017 at FaCEAMACS office, Moirangkhom Bazar, Imphal the 2nd Annual General Body Meeting of the Association will be held on the 23rd July 2017 at 11:30 am at MDU Hall, Yaikul Police lane, Imphal to discuss and transact the following agenda.

- Agenda :
- 1) Annual progress report for the year 2016-17
 - 2) Annual financial statement report for the year 2016-17
 - 3) Membership fees, contribution and donations
 - 4) Regularisation /Equal pay for equal work and EPP
 - 5) Selection/Election of office bearers
 - 6) Misc.
- A mass signature campaign for regularisation /equal pay for equal work principle shall be prepared on the same day. Therefore all family members of the Association are requested to attend the 2nd annual General Body Meeting of the Association in time.
- O.Arunkumar Singh
Secretary

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