

Editorial

Nurturing the future

Great revolutions seldom start with a bang. They evolved and came into being according to the needs and necessities to salvage or turn around a particular situation. It involves various radical changes and often is seen as a turning point - a step towards the untrodden path, a new approach and thoughts. An element of calculated risk is inherent in such revolutions.

Steps initiated up by the Education Minister of the BJP led government, to turn around the declining state of education in the state, especially those of the State-run educational institutions can be viewed as nothing short of a revolution in the spheres of education in the State.

Different experimental changes have been mooted, some implemented, and despite objections and disturbances from certain quarters for the unorthodox approach in the search for an answer to the ailing system of education, the bold and earnest nature of the steps taken, even to the point of risking his popularity and position is an altogether uncommon and commendable display of courage of conviction. But the tag of "do or die" to the steps being taken up, as reported in various dailies reeks of desperation and a last ditch effort on the part of the concerned authorities to salvage the last remaining shreds of pride and position. The new initiatives, in order for it to show the desired results, should be pursued relentlessly. While the media may seem unjustly critical of the various development works being planned and carried out in the State, the stand may be attributed to the dismal show of commitment and lack of follow-up in almost all the public projects and developmental works carried out so far.

The onus to prove everyone wrong lies squarely on the shoulders of those empowered to carry out these projects. It is common knowledge that the education scene in the state is being increasingly dominated by the private players and institutions, in spite of the high tuition and admission fees collected by them which shows the level of confidence and demand they command. Meanwhile, the scene within the state run educational institutions is in stark contrast to the ones being witnessed amongst the private educational institutions.

A lackadaisical attitude, lack of enthusiasm and an almost negligible student participation and attendance marks these schools and institutions. The very thought of starting a massive turnaround of these maladies is indeed a daunting task. To draw up the courage to actually implement these changes is indeed a mark of unstinted sacrifice and a willingness to take risks for a higher purpose. The rest of those in the helm of power need to wake up to the commendable deeds of such extraordinary leaders, and to try and better them. It remains to be seen as to the dedication and tenacity with which the leaders pursue these steps. Instilling a sense of achievement and encouraging incentives coupled with a system of rewards could pave the way for a changed attitude amongst the overpaid and underperforming government appointed teachers of the state.

A concerted effort from everyone involved in the system needs to be made in order for the new initiatives to effect any real and sustained change in the State. It would seem too early to warrant a guess about the outcome of the whole exercise, but the initial picture is a rosy one. Hope the good run continues.

Govt committed to remove imbalance in banking system: FM

AIR
New Delhi, Nov 6: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has said Government is committed to remove imbalance in banking system. Inaugurating newly constructed head office complex of Punjab National Bank in Delhi, Mr Jaitley said Centre is working to make a healthy banking system to support growth of economy. He said apart from making financial profits, Punjab National Bank will have to take social responsibility so that people in remote areas have access to banking system with utmost ease. AIR correspondent reports that Punjab National Bank has set a target of 25 thousand crore digital payments this year.

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History will not forgive us

By: Heikrujam Nabashyam

of British suzerainty. Our forefathers had the courage and the spirit which the present generations hardly match. To keep their words and commitments our ancestors could play with their life. "Nongmada Pokpa Machana Nimi Shiba Hounade" these were the honour words of our forefathers which may be equated to the English saying, a coward dies many times before his death. This was the principle of their life. To them their honour and self-respect was more valuable than their dear life. That was the value and the way of life that our forefathers followed.

However, today we often talk of our "Naat-Chatnabi" — our culture and values which can hardly be related to values of our ancestors and their culture. First, let us try to understand our Naat-Chatnabi in common man language. One's Naat-Chatnabi is one's value, philosophy and way of life.

Now, what can we observe in our present social mores and values — our integrity, discipline morality, social spirit and our sense of commitment, etc.

Now let us take the example of mob justice in our society, among the youths and the students — since this aspect is most visible. Today mob justice is the rule of the day. What does it mean? It means the law enforcing machinery of our Meitei nation has lost their credibility. It means our leadership have not or unable to discharge their duty to the public. It means the words and commitments of our

leaders have no meaning. But how can it be so? How can our leaders afford to disregard the public and yet get the mandate of the people. The answer is simple, the people sell their votes.

This is the comparison between the present day value and the values of our ancestors, that is, between us, the present generations and our forefathers.

Let us see how we could understand this paradigm change. The values of social hierarchy in our Hindu culture which had so subtly taught us the Mantra "You are small, he is big" had gradually destroyed the honour and self-respect that our forefathers had so dearly loved and lived with. The fact is the Meitei had experienced a tectonic shift from an egalitarian society — like our hill brothers do till today — to a vertically divided society.

Now what could one expect from a community of people who have no honour and self-respect. This is the reason why we are what we are today. Scientific studies on human behavior had proved that a community devoid of self-respect and integrity has no future. Anyway everybody is free to refute what I have said about our present social values.

Today we seem to be living in our past glory, telling the world that the Meiteis are as good as any civilized nation on this planet. But the reality is otherwise; we have started losing confidence in ourselves, in other words cynicism has gradually taken the place of our confidence and self-respect. This metamorphosis in our

value and culture is absolutely unpropitious for our children and the future. The truth is such a situation certainly calls for immediate attention and initiative especially from social scientists, academics and most importantly enlightened social workers who would work relentlessly among our women, youths and students so that we can bounce back to the position of honour and self-respect that we had lost so thoroughly.

Today we have landed up at a critical crossroads. It is time for all of us including PPCM and STDCM to have our moments of quiet introspection. We cannot afford to forget the fact that the Meiteis are the smallest and the most vulnerable among our three indigenous brothers — Chin-Kuki, Meitei and Naga.

Thus far, we have come from a historical vast swathe of land from Chindwin to Takhel to the valley of hardly 700 square miles.

However we need not lose our hearts; we would find our ways. But we need to change our attitudes and our mindsets and certainly we need to get rid of our mob culture, which I am afraid has taken over our youths and the students. This must be stopped and instead we need to expand our horizon.

The need of the hour is to understand where do we stand; it is needless to say that we need to sit across the table for serious discussions or else we will only hurt ourselves more and more and history will not forgive us.

National & International News

Trump opens door to NKorea talks as Asia trip begins in earnest

AFP
Tokyo, Nov 6: President Donald Trump appeared to strike a more conciliatory tone on North Korea as he got down to business today on an Asian tour that will be dominated by the nuclear crisis with Pyongyang. Trump began his marathon trip in belligerent form, warning yesterday that "no dictator" should underestimate US resolve, a clear swipe at North Korea and its young leader Kim Jong-Un. However he then appeared to open the door for talks with Pyongyang, saying in an interview broadcast on US TV that he would "certainly be open" to meeting Kim.

"I would sit down with anybody," he said. "I don't think it's strength or weakness, I'm sitting down with people is not a bad thing." he said on the "Full Measure" show. "So I would certainly be open to doing that but we'll see where it goes, I think we're far too early." The president arrived in Asia with tensions over North Korea at fever pitch, as US bombers fly sorties over the Korean peninsula and concerns mount that Pyongyang might stage another nuclear or missile test. Hawkish Abe and Trump are closely allied on the North Korea issue, with the Japanese prime minister sticking firmly to the US

line that "all options" are on the table to deal with the rogue state. "The closeness of the relationship is unprecedented. And the degree to which US and Japanese strategies are aligned, both on the Korean Peninsula but also throughout the Indo-Pacific, is also unprecedented," a senior Trump administration official said yesterday. That closeness was demonstrated on the first day, when the two golfing buddies hit the course within hours of Trump touching down on Japanese soil. Both leaders later tweeted images of their nine-hole encounter, with Abe saying the "relaxed" nature of

their game allowed them to have "candid" discussions on some "difficult" issues. However, that did not stop Trump lashing out at the trade relationship with Japan today, saying it had been "winning" for decades at the expense of the United States. "We want fair and open trade but right now our trade with Japan is not fair and open," Trump told business leaders. "The US has suffered massive trade deficits with Japan for many, many years. So we will have to negotiate and we will do this in a friendly way." Trump will today meet families of civilians kidnapped by North Korea to train their agents in Japanese culture and language — an emotional issue that still angers Tokyo.

Three more boxers enter semis of Asian Boxing, Sarita set for her sixth medal

New Delhi, Nov. 6: India's women boxers continued their unfettered march in the Asian Boxing Championship here on Sunday, with three more ladies storming into the semifinals.

As many as seven boxers out of ten, including former world champion Mark Kom, have made it to the medal rounds, making this one of their finest performances in recent times.

Veteran Sarita Devi, Sonia Lather and Lovelina Borgohain were the valiant fighters who won their respective quarterfinal bouts on Sunday.

Former world champion Sarita was the star of the day, recording a pleasing 5-0 victory over Maftunakhon Melieva of Uzbekistan in the 64-kg weight category.

Sarita, who is returning to the amateur circuit after a brief stint as a professional, is now assured of a sixth Asian Championship medal, just like Mark Kom who made it the semis on Saturday. Manipur's Sarita brought her years of experience into play as she dominated the Uzbek boxer from the word go. Sarita made full



use of her good reflexes and landed her right hooks to seize the initiative early in the bout. She got into her full groove in the second round, leaving Melieva reel from a flurry of lusty blows. She even suffered a standing eight count before the referee felt she could continue. Melieva tried to get back in the final round but Sarita was happy defending. She blocked anything that was thrown at her to set up a semifinal clash with Dan Dou of China.

In her 57-kg clash, World Championship silver medalist Sonia earned a hard fought 3-2 victory over Nazym Ichshanova to make it to the last four. She will meet Yodgoroy Mirzaeva of Uzbekistan in the next round. Lovelina Borgohain also ensured a medal for herself in the continental event after whipping Erdenetuya Enkhbaatar of Mongolia in the 69-kg quarterfinal. The Assamese boxer will be up against Valentina Khalzova in the semis on Tuesday.

North Korea has admitted to kidnapping 13 Japanese civilians but Japan believes the regime took dozens more, including a 13-year-old girl abducted on her way home from school. "You are going to see some focus on the often overlooked question of human rights conditions in NK," said the White House official. Trump stressed US military power and resolve while wearing a bomber jacket in front of service personnel when he landed in Japan, but speaking to reporters on the plane, he reserved some warm words for the North Korean people. "I think they're great people. They're industrious. They're warm, much warmer than the world really knows or understands. They're great people. And I hope it all works out for everybody," he said. However, he described North Korea as "a big problem for our country and for our world and we want to get it solved". Trump also announced that he would hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin during his trip, as the global community scrambles for a solution to the North Korean crisis. "We want Putin's help on North Korea," he said.