


WHY NOT?

There is no flaw in the demand raised by NCP MP Supriya Sule that the government should intervene and bring down high prices of petrol, diesel and domestic cooking gas so that crores of poor people are benefited. After the statements made by some ministers that prices of petrol, diesel and LPG are not in their hands have been exposed badly when the government allegedly cut the prices of fuel by slashing taxes after ruling parties' poll debacle in some of the bye-polls across the country, there is no point in roasting the common man under such high rate of inflation due to rising fuel prices. Though quite a large proportion of the high rates of fuel was cut recently, there is more to be done in this regard as still the prices of fuel are skyrocketing. Besides the surging price of cooking oil is also a big issue for the people living in poverty as without this entity preparing food is nearly impossible. It is necessary that the government should think of the bottom of the pyramid of society and bring down taxes on petrol, diesel and LPG cylinders so that people at large get some relief from inflation. There is no reason that the government remains adamant on the issue because there are more ways to revive the sinking economy as LPG and other fuels alone cannot do this colossal job. What is the fun of keeping economics' experts in the country when they are doing nothing to suggest the political leadership which is steering the country? It is a sad state of affairs that without taking much pain the government is raising prices of essential commodities to bridge the gap of financial crunch which reportedly the country is facing due to the Corona crisis and various other steps taken in the past which somehow boomeranged and incurred colossal losses to the country. The need of the time is to make use of the intellect of the country to resolve the financial crisis and bring down the inflation rate and lay focus on plummeting the prices of LPG and other fuels as the same are pinching the common man.



OFF 'D' CUFF

'Channel your psychic urges'

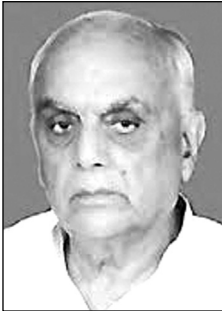
What are psychic pabula? The word 'psychic' means mental and 'pabula' implies 'mental objects' or 'mental foods'. Communism and capitalism are essentially materialist philosophies. Both encourage a psychology of material attachment, which in turn, encourages the pursuit of money, name, fame, etc. People living under either of the two systems develop the psychic pabula which run after crude physicalities. All these objective tendencies are the inevitable outcome of the continuous extroversial movement of psychic urges, insatiably driving themselves from one object to another. While running after such material attachments, the mind constantly creates objects in its objective chambers or chitta bhumi. All these mental objects are mental food, and they are called psychic pabula.

Similarly, while engaged in physical or psycho-physical interactions, mind thrives on these pabula. When it changes its outlook and goal, its objects or pabula also change. So the human mind is continuously dragged in thousands of directions, creating innumerable objects within itself. These objects are nothing but psychic pabula ('pabula' are plural), always alluring and always detracting the mind. All these pabula grow out of psychic urges, psycho-physical demands, the reactive momenta of the mind and objectified environmental conditions.

A mind, driven by many psychic pabula, is the prisoner of innumerable predicaments. In such a condition, the human mind becomes extroversial, multi-directional, weak and static. It is propelled by the principle of selfish pleasure, which leads it down the path of counter-evolution. It always adopts an analytical approach to life, never a synthetic one.

As people have to satisfy their unrestrained psychic pabula with limited objects of wealth, they often create interpersonal and inter-group conflicts. The collective psychology arising from many objectified human minds gives rise to social inequality, economic exploitation, political repression, religious big-

Homage to CDS General Bipin Rawat



■ ER P L KHUSHU

With tragic death of the Chief of Defense Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, his wife Madhulika Rawat, and 11 other personnel who were on board IAF's Mi-17V5 chopper after it crashed near Tamil Nadu's, Coonoor on Wednesday, India has lost a great strategic warrior of Indian security set-up. On 8 December 2021, Gen Rawat, his wife and members of his staff were amongst 10 passengers and 4 crew members aboard an Indian Air Force Mi-17 helicopter flight en route from the Sullur Airforce base to the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, where Rawat was to deliver a lecture. At around 12:10 p.m. local time, the aircraft crashed near a residential colony of private tea estate employees on the outskirts of the hamlet of Nanjappachattiram, Bandishola Panchayat, in the Katteri-Nanchappanchathram area of Coonoor taluk, Nilgiris district. The crash site was 10 Km from flight's intended destination. Rawat's death - and those of his wife and 11 others was later confirmed by the Indian Air Force. Rawat's liaison officer, Group Captain Varun Singh was the sole survivor. Rawat was 63 at time of his death. Bipin Rawat and his wife were cremated according to Hindu rituals with full military honours at Brar Square, New Delhi on December 10, 2021. They were accorded a 17 gun salute. The cremation was carried out by his 2 daughters. Heart-wrenching scenes were seen at Airport as 13 caskets were placed inside a hangar in presence of their family members. Group Captain Varun Singh, decorated with Shaurya Chakra on Independence Day this year, who is the lone survivor of the crash, is in critical condition and was airlifted to the Command Hospital in Bangalore for treatment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and NSA Ajit Doval paid their respects to CDS Bipin Rawat and other Armed Forces person-

nel, at the Palam airbase in New Delhi. The three Services Chiefs were also present. In his tragic demise India has lost one of its best military strategist acumen who shaped the Indian army to a greater extent as the Chief of the Army staff. He also played a key role in the formation of the army. He was instrumental in restructuring the military to reduce administrative interference, reduce duplicity, and increase combat potential. He also ensured that the man behind the car remained important, arming new assault rifles bought in the United States. He also played a vital role in the modernization of the army. When Gen Rawat took over as the CDS on 1 January 2020, China was not seen as the adversary. Till then, Pakistan was the main adversary and the Army was more oriented towards the anti-terror and counter-insurgency operations along the Line of Control (LoC) and in the hinterland. But things changed with the Ladakh stand-off and the subsequent Galwan clashes. China has now emerged as the main challenge, he would often say. CDC Gen Rawat was right when he stressed on the need to re-balance from the western sector with Pakistan to the northern sector with China. Gen Rawat was tasked with bringing among the Services a joint operation and acquisition mindset. It had many purposes, to cut the flab so that the burden of defense budget could be reduced and make a leaner and meaner force, capable of fighting wars of the future rather than remain in silos while harping on traditional means.

He was instrumental in reducing terrorism in the northeast, with one of the highlights of his career in the 2015 cross-border operation in Myanmar. In this operation the Indian military responded successfully to an ambush by NSCNK terrorists. The mission was carried out by the operational command of III Corps Dimapur under the supervision of Rawat. This was also part of the planning for the 2016 surgical attack, in which the Indian military crossed the line of control into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. This General of army and the senior-most armed forces officer, who had overseen strikes in Myanmar and the surgical strikes across the Line of

Control, had been known to call out Pakistan and China several times over border disputes and the spread of terror. Here are his top quotes. "Territorial ambitions of China and Pakistan require India's armed forces to remain alert and deployed along disputed borders and also along the coastal regions round the year," General Rawat said last month while delivering the Sardar Patel Memorial Lecture at All India Radio. "China's partnership with Pakistan and its stand on Jammu and Kashmir can be best described as an anti-India nexus," he said during a press conference held in Guwahati, Assam. "China has a habit of using money power and economics to gain popularity in the countries. We have to move with the Prime Minister's SAGAR mission (Security and Growth for all in the Region)," the four-star General said in October. "Let them (Pakistan) attempt to do something to damage our assets, and the reaction from our armed forces will be very different. The political will is there. Our armed forces are ready," General Rawat told India Today TV. We have taken adequate precautions to ensure that any such misadventure by Pakistan is thwarted and they are not able to succeed in their mission. But, in fact, they may suffer heavy losses should they attempt any misadventure, he told media. (Pakistan Ko Control Karne Ki Jaroorat Hi Nahi Hai. Wo Dheere Dheere Khud Hi Decontrol Ho Raha Hai. Aur Shayaad Hamain Koi Karwahi Karne Ki Jaroorat Hi Nahi Padegi). It is in self-immolation mode," the officer had said at the Agenda Aaj Tak in 2019. "Nobody ever thought that the Taliban would take over the country so fast. We don't know what is in the future.

There can be more turmoil and changes that can't be anticipated as of now," Gen Rawat said while speaking at the India International Centre in Delhi. "We were always tasked for defending our borders. And when you have unsettled borders on your north and your west, you don't know which side the battle will commence and where it will end. So you should be prepared on both fronts." (Friends To Sabhi Ban Jaate Hain Lekin Dushman Humko Satark Rahane Ki Chetawani Bhejate Hain means

Friends are easily made, but enemies keep us alert). This is what Gen Rawat told the media in an interview after taking over as Chief of Defence Staff, "India sees huge geopolitical competition in the region by China in creating a favourable strategic posture to provide sufficient security to its overseas interests."

General Rawat's death has an eerie parallel with the helicopter crash in early 2020 that killed Taiwan's Chief of General Staff, Gen Shen Yi-ming, and seven others, including two major generals. The Global Times sharply reacted, dismissing the speculation about a link between the two as 'ridiculous'. By all counts India has lost a brilliant General of our combined forces of field army, navy and the air force, at a time when the country needed him the most because, of the two enemies surrounding India, viz, China with its border expansion policies and Pakistan riddled with terror hubs, exporting it to Kashmir, with an evil eye on Kashmir. India needed him the most this time when China and Pakistan have become friends to be the worst enemies of India on our borders, be it the Pakistan borders or the China borders. India needed him the most presently, when India is expanding its defense weaponry arsenals systems, be it for the field combat requirements, or air combat requirements or naval combat requirements. It is an unfortunate occasion for the whole country. He has served the country to the best of his abilities and capabilities in shaping the country's defense structure.

We thus pay final homage and respects to his departed soul by remembering him perpetually. His life partner Madhulika Rawat, also is paid highest final homage for standing with her husband even at the time of her husband's tragic end in the cruel air Equally final homage's and respects are paid to the glorious team of defense personals who attained final death along with him in the tragic air crash. Let all these souls rest in eternal peace in 'Heaven'.

(The author is a Chartered Consultant Civil Engineer, who has fascination for his motherland, the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir).

Un parliamentary conduct of Parliamentarians

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

India is the largest democracy of the world and the functioning of the parliament is the democracy in action and the parliamentarians should give reverence and respect the dignity of the parliament. The parliament is the temple of democracy and as such is very sacred and the members of the parliament should uphold the dignity of the parliament But unfortunately what is happening in the august parliament is very disturbing and unfortunate and it is of a very serious concern and it should not happen in the interest of the democratic traditions and culture. However it is happening and it tarnishes the image of the Parliament and the parliamentarians. There is indiscipline and unruly behavior in the parliament and it is a cause of big concern to the seasoned countrymen. Day in and day out it has been seen that the disruptions continue to take place in parliament and the credibility of the parliament is eroded and this is not in the interest of the democracy. More frequently the functioning of the parliament is disrupted due to the indiscipline and unruly behavior of the parliament members and it is causing much harm to the democratic institutions. The Parliament is a highest forum in a democracy and all laws are framed through the medium of the parliament and the institution of parliament is most sacred and the sacredness and sanctity of the parliament should be maintained at all costs. It is the duty of the parliamentarians to uphold the dignity and credibility of the august parliament .However what is going on in the parliament is shameful and the heads of the parliament members should hang in shame on the happenings in parliament and it is a cause of serious concern to all right thinking people. From the last some years the functioning of the parliament is disrupted due to the indiscipline, creating of the noisy scenes and the like. This is against the healthy democratic traditions and culture. This should not happen and tarnish the image of the parliament and parliamentarians. The proceedings and the functioning of the parliament should be carried on smoothly without any indiscipline and indecent conduct which should not be tolerated in a democracy. It is very disturbing and painful that both the houses of the parliament are not allowed to function normally due to the obdurate behavior of the parliament members. It is very sad and unfortunate that on the commencement of the monsoon session of the parliament when the honorable prime minister was introducing the newly inducted ministers in both the houses

of the parliament the parliament was disrupted and the house was not allowed to function and the prime minister was also not allowed to introduce the new ministers .It is customary to give introduction of the newly inducted ministers at the beginning of the session and in accordance with it the prime minister was introducing the newly inducted ministers and he was not allowed to introduce them and parliament was disrupted on flimsy grounds by the selfish parliament members and the business of the Lok Sabha and Raj Sabha was disrupted due to the noisy scenes and ruckus in the parliament forcing the chair to adjourn the houses so often without transacting any business .The healthy debates and discussions of the yester years is a thing of the past and it seems to be buried and the unruly scenes and noises and indiscipline is all that characterizes the parliament. It is very sad that our august houses of the parliament unfortunately resemble the fish market due to the indiscipline and the consequent disruptions and it lowers the credibility of the parliament. It is very unfortunate that some days of monsoon session of the parliament were washed away without transacting any business and this is a great loss to the exchequer and the brunt of the loss has to be borne by the common Indian. Thus the parliament should be allowed to function normally and transact the listed business. But what is happening in the parliament is very disturbing and all this is due to the obdurate behavior of the parliament members. The members of the parliament are supposed to function in accordance with the rules and regulations in force but the ugly scenes and noisy atmosphere is being created in the parliament which adversely affects the proceedings of the parliament forcing the chair to order adjournments so often which are not in the interest of the democracy.

The suspension of the 12 Raj Sabha members for their disrespect to the chair on the last day of the monsoon session and the suspension was ordered on the very commencement of the winter session of the parliament. It exposes the working of the parliament. It is very strange that the opposition members of the lower house and the upper house protest and term the suspension of the 12 members of the upper house as the murder of the democracy while the fact is that the suspension is for preserving and protecting of the democratic culture and is in no way the murder of the democracy.

It is very sad that politics is being played by the par-

liament members over the non issues and it results in continuous adjournments and washing of the proceedings of the house for some days. It is against the spirit of democracy .The parliament makes laws and rules and binds the whole nation with these laws but the members of the parliament misbehave and indulge in indiscipline and indecent conduct forcing the parliament into disruption and this causes enormous loss to the exchequer because the parliament members continue to be paid the salary and other perks without doing any business and the members of the parliament should introspect for their behavior .There was violence in the house as some members climbed on the table before the chairman of the Raj Sabha which is a clear disrespect to the chair and thus the unruly members of various political parties deserved the suspension to discipline them and protect the discipline and decorum in the parliament .How sad it is that those who are supposed to protect the democracy are hell bent to destroy the it. In power the members of the parliament misuse the laws and while in opposition break the laws and this is a queer situation.

One fails to understand as to how is the much needed suspension of the members of the upper house the murder of the democracy and it is so painful that the opposition members of the parliament defend the indiscipline and unbecoming conduct of the members of upper house .In fact the creation of the ugly scenes and making of the noise and resorting to disruption is not in the interest of the democracy and it is in fact the trampling of the democracy and leads to weakening of the democracy.

Parliament debates are the healthy sign of the democracy but creation of the unruly scenes and indiscipline is anti thesis of democracy and this should not happen in the parliament and it has no place in our democracy. In brief what is needed is the healthy debate, discussion and discourse which will lead to the transacting of the lawful business and no valuable man days of the parliament should be wasted. The parliament members should appreciate that they are being viewed through the live telecasting of the proceedings of the parliament and therefore they should not indulge in indiscipline and indecent conduct which leads to the adjournments so often and also to the disruptions which cost the nation in terms of the economic loss and also leads to weakening of the democracy.

(The author is a retired Education Officer and Columnist).

with natural ingredients can be helpful. Have hand wipes handy to keep your hands clean and dirt free. Carry a pack of hand wipes while commuting, dining outside, and use it for cleaning the food remains from the corner of your nails, fingers, and hands. Those having long nails should take more precaution and should clean the nails properly. One of the most powerful ways to stop the spread of infections is following simple hand hygiene practices. Maintaining good hand hygiene not only ensures your protection but also helps prevent the spread of infections to others around you. It is the need of the hour to Make hand hygiene a priority to live a healthy and stay away from virus. Ensure that children too wash their hands properly and frequently as they touch too many surfaces while playing. Also make them understand that they should not touch their mouth, eyes or ears. Make sure they too follow the same procedure of hand washing. To stop third wave we all need to be more active and should take all the precautions. So it's important to get vaccinated and follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour.

Siya Kerni, Jammu.

YOUR COLUMN

Maintain cleanliness

Dear Editor
Washing hands, using sanitizers and maintaining social distance are the most commonly heard pieces of advice these days. The past year has put hygiene in the spotlight like never before and brought the focus back on the importance of hand-washing and hand hygiene. Hygiene and safety have become the topics of discussion and a worry at the same time. The situation has also called for a change in habits and increased cleanliness. While most of us resort to hand washing in the traditional soap-and-water method to protect ourselves against contracting germs, sanitizing our hands regularly when we cannot wash them is important too. To limit our risk of contracting germs, it is important to regularly wash and sanitize our hands. It not only helps kill germs but also stop the spread of any potential infection. Therefore, practicing good hand hygiene is a priority for maintaining overall health and wellness during this crucial time. Even if you