

We should have but one desire today
- the desire to die so that India may live.
-Subhash Chandra Bose

SITUATION GRIM

It is very disturbing that people are facing death and destruction on roads in the J&K UT due to carelessness of those commuting without following rules and regulations. The story of the UT is so agonizing that there are no words to express sympathy as people are continuously losing lives by meeting fate which is 100 per cent avoidable as the case in today's accident in Rajouri District in which two passengers succumbed after the bus in which they were travelling turned turtle near Kakora Morh. As far as the road condition is concerned the things are perfectly alright and in case the driver of the bus had navigated following all rules meant for driving there was no chance of mishap or any such eventuality but as in many other cases on roads in UT, this has to be happened because people in this part of the country never bothered to adhere to traffic norms and are posing great risk of life to them and to those who unfortunately come across by virtue of either driving or by accompanying them in the same vehicle. The condition here is so grim that there are dangerous names given to roads stretches and places like Khooni Nallah, etc. It has become a norm in J&K that there are few newspapers which have spared few slots in their print editions for accidents as if they know that surely some accidents are sure to happen and they will need space for the same. The worst part is that the reckless drivers in the UT never disappoint them by causing the road mishaps on a daily basis and at times doing the same so badly like the one today that people got killed in these careless actions. As far as the government is concerned, it has improved the road edifice drastically and is also very strict with regard to issuing licenses but the basic fault is in the mindset of people because they make mistakes on petty issues like the buses are driven recklessly to compete with each other for fetching more passengers, etc. In instant case also the government swung into action very fast but deaths occurred on the spot and therefore two precious lives were lost. It is necessary that the people should understand their responsibility so that the avoidable deaths on roads could be stopped and commuters reach back home safely. This is the need of the time and every citizen should think and work to achieve this target or else deaths will continue to happen as is the case today.

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OFF 'D' CUFF

Understanding 'Dharma'- 1st Word of Bhagwat Gita

'Dharma' is the essence of the Bhagwat Gita. The mesmerizing Song of God starts with this beautiful word only. The beautiful Sanskrit word is often taken to mean 'duty' or 'religion' in the English language but these meanings are simply imperfect. In the Bhagwat Gita, Lord Krishna details the word in a far deeper way that completely transforms its meaning turning it into a way to achieve personal as well as spiritual growth. In life, everyone encounters external & internal conflicts. No one is spared. The Divine Scripture helps people make wise decisions while dealing with these conflicts with the help of adherence to Dharma. When the concept of Dharma is clear, it leads to further clarity of thought as happened with Arjun on the battlefield. Earlier Arjun felt, this war is unfair and it's not Dharma to kill own relatives just to win back a kingdom. But Lord Krishna teaches him that the supreme Dharma is God, who, for His own rationalities, seeks this battle to happen in order to make Dharma victorious over injustice and apathy. So, Lord Krishna discards Arjun's understanding of Dharma as 'weakness of heart' and 'powerlessness' and asks Arjun to fight. Then Arjun admits that he is perplexed over the concept of Dharma. He then gives up his efforts and surrenders to Lord Krishna as his spiritual teacher. Now God made him understand the teachings of the Bhagwat-Gita making him realize his real Dharma. God first reveals the eternal nature of the soul and then unfolds various layers of Dharma. He tells Arjun that he is ignoring his Dharma by refusing to fight. He concludes the reference to Dharma by saying, 'Now if you do not fight this battle, then having neglecting personal Dharma and repute, you shall incur sin.' (Bhagavad Gita 2.33). This makes Arjun realize his real Dharma rather than neglecting it in the name of Dharma only. Further, in the 4th chapter, God reveals that He appears in this world to protect the principles of Dharma only and restrict the destructive influence of Adharma. He speaks of Dharma in other chapters as well. While largely they are metaphysical explanations of the word a common man must understand it in simpler words and try to apply it in day-to-day life. Understand that your origi-

nality is your Dharma only. Dharma is a profound entity due to which the whole existence of something can be proved. So, everybody has his own individuality, Dharma, personality and soul. When a person exists in his original individuality, then only, he remains happy here.

Once a person gets separated from his individuality, wants to become something else, and gets distracted, turbulence arises in the mind.

Such deviations bring restlessness to life because we are not doing what we ought to do and which is according to our nature.

For example, the nature of fire is to produce heat, and it does that without any trouble. It can't produce chilliness. Likewise, you should always perform your Karma according to your nature because when you get away from your inherent nature and try to become something else, you fail.

A person is a painter; but his parents force him to start taking interest in business, giving examples of other successful businessmen. But when a person of an artistic bend of mind starts any business, it cannot flourish; it is bound to fail because his mind revolves around art and painting only.

The one who loves playing with colours cannot perform tasks related to business and so he cannot get success in the endeavor.

Further, if a person takes interest in the business but is forced to play a musical instrument, then making music and playing the instrument would become a reason for unrest for him. He can never be happy.

So, God wants everyone to understand that adhering to Dharma is important. How much success you'll attain while choosing that path is altogether a different matter; yet moving on the path is always rewarding.

Moreover, while adhering to Dharma, it's alright to die, get distracted, or even fail, but it's not alright to get attached to some other Dharma, start behaving like other people and try to be like them.

It would be like suicide. Here you are killing yourself.

So, to summarize the concept of Dharma, figure out what you were put on this earth to accomplish, put all of your hard work into achieving it and let go of the good or bad results.

This is the ultimate meaning of 'Dharma' and this is the essence of the Bhagwat Gita. Dr Archika Didi

■ M A SHAH

The United Nations' General Assembly has unanimously approved a resolution proclaiming year 2022 as the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD2022). The scientific disciplines of mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology are called basic sciences because they provide a fundamental understanding of natural phenomena and the processes by which natural resources are transformed. Basic science provides the essential means to meet crucial challenges such as universal access to food, energy, water, health and communication technologies. Science is not just about inventions and technological advancements; it is also about the spirit of rational inquiry that can guide us in our lives. The constitution mentions this as one of our Fundamental Duties (Article 51A (h))-to develop scientific temper and spirit of inquiry. A focus on creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration is essential to prepare students for the future. We need to create the right ecosystem for the youngsters to become future leaders in science and lead our nation into the 21st century, as envisaged in NEP 2020. We need to move beyond the class rooms for better science communication in regional languages to reach out to people in their mother tongue and to inculcate a scientific temper and the spirit of inquiry. At the same time, government must take steps to popularize science through books, documentary and broadcasts. We have a scientific social responsibility (SSR), akin to corporate social responsibility. We also need to introspect and find out ways to excel in the field of STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics) research, as has been mentioned by Prof Qazi Azhar of Michigan State University in his presentation at NIT Srinagar. We must increase public and private investments in Research & Development, nurture research scholars to do high-quality research, resolve bottlenecks in patenting regime and nurture promising ideas that find wide applications, as was done in recently organized Materials conclave under the chairmanship of Prof MSR Rao, IIT Madras. We believe that support to the basic sciences indeed contributes to poverty reduction and sustainability and are hopeful that Prof Rao will extend support in opening the local chapter of MRSI in J&K.

We need to celebrate the role of our scientists, science communicators, science teachers, policymakers and institutions that have contributed in giving relief to humanity. We also must recount inspirational stories of our great scientists to our youngsters and encourage them to take up careers in science. More than dozen INSPIRE internship programmes of DST New Delhi were conducted to inspire and encourage bright minds to take up science under my chairmanship and an option of inviting Nobel Laureates

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

India is facing the burning problem of inflation from last few years and it has landed us in trouble. Inflation is the economic phenomenon of continuous, persistent and constant increase in the price general price level. The inflation is the characteristic of the developing economies and India being an east developing economy is beset with the problem of inflation. The inflation is adversely effecting the lives of the people because the consumers have to part with more money for purchasing the goods and services which they need. In fact the purchasing power and purchasing capacity of the consumers is decreased because of the inflation and they can purchase less goods with the same money with which they used to purchase more goods earlier when there was no inflation. The continuous rising prices affects all of us particularly the common man who faces great problem in the purchase of the goods and services which he needed most. The prices of all most all the goods are increasing continuously and it has affected adversely the budgets of the common householders and they want an escape from the rising prices. The inflation has broken the back of the common consumers and they are facing difficulties in the purchase of the goods. The inflation puts a great burden upon the pockets of the consumers and they are unable to purchase all the items of the daily use and this is an irony. The prices of the essential goods and the daily use products are rising continuously and putting all of us to inconvenience due to decrease in the purchasing power of the money. These days the prices of flour, rice, pulses, spices, sugar, detergents and soaps etc are rising continuously and it becomes difficult for consumers to purchase these goods but people have to buy these and other goods and the purchases cannot be

YOUR COLUMN

Priceless pleasure of living in a joint family

Dear Editor, Joint family is a garden smelling of happiness. Globally, India has been a bastion of many achievements in many fields, whose values are highly valued globally. Tourists from many countries come to India just to feel and see this precious moment. One of these beautiful achievements is the age-old joint family system and practice in India that stuns the big countries. Colleagues have been in joint family and in India for centuries. Earlier every family used to run in this system in this way, but the cycle of time went on and healthy, green families kept on breaking down and today the rigidity of western culture has taken the initiative to paint the youth in their own colors, but in spite of that there are still lakhs of families in India who have been successful in maintaining this age-old custom and system! Many families today live together in the form of 50 to 100 members under one roof in harmony and the keys of the arrangements are still with their elders. Wow, excellent! Friends, if you want to enjoy life properly, then live in a joint family with love and love. Then see the fun of living life! Friends, if we talk about the present decade, then the number of family breakdowns has increased. Today the aspirations of maximum youth

2022 - Year of Science

Move beyond classrooms - NIT will accompany

for interaction with young minds was indeed marvelous. I wish the programme to start soon for the larger good of society and science. In 2021, thirteen laureates were awarded Nobel Prize, for achievements that have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind. Their work and discoveries range from the earth's climate to our sense of touch. I am confident that the day is not far to see the recipients of prestigious prize in this part of the globe, as number of sons and daughters of soil are working in prestigious science laboratories. Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman was confident of winning the Nobel Prize in Physics and he booked tickets in July, even though the awards were to be announced in November. He did eventually win the 1930 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on the scattering of light and for the discovery of the effect named after him. He was the first Asian and first non-White to receive any Nobel Prize in the sciences. Ramanujan, like Swami Vivekananda, lived a short life but one that is full of accomplishments that we shall always be proud of. Students of his age used to juggle with algebra, trigonometry and arithmetic problems but Ramanujan found theorems to solve tricky trigonometric problems. They transformed 20th-century mathematics and continue to shape the subject in the present century. Jagadish Chandra Bose in 1895, two years before Marconi's demonstration wireless communication using radio waves. Many of the microwave components familiar today - waveguides, horn antennas, polarizers, dielectric lenses and prisms, and even semiconductor detectors of electromagnetic radiation-were invented and used by Bose. He also suggested the existence of electromagnetic radiation from the Sun, which was confirmed in 1944. For a long time he had been thinking of building a laboratory. The result was the establishment of the Bose Research Institute in Kolkata. It continues to be a famous centre of research in basic sciences. Homi Bhabha realized the need for an institute fully devoted to fundamental research and wrote to J R D Tata for funding. This resulted in the establishment of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai in 1945. In 1948, under his guidance, nuclear reactors like the Apsara, Cirus and Zerlina were built. A multi-faceted personality, Bhabha was immensely fond of music, painting and writing. Vikram Sarabhai had his early education in a private school, 'Retreat' run by his parents on Montessori lines. This atmosphere injected into the young boy the seeds of scientific curiosity, ingenuity and creativity. With a natural inclination towards physics and mathematics, Sarabhai pioneered India's space age by expanding the Indian Space Research Organization. India's first satellite Aryabhata launched in 1975, was one of the many projects planned by him. Like Bhabha, Sarabhai wanted the practical application of science to

reach the common man. Thus he saw a golden opportunity to harness space science to the development of the country in the fields of communication, meteorology, remote sensing and education. Dr. Ali Jan as popularly known in Kashmir was an outstanding student who earned many medals and was conferred Padmashri in 1975 for his meritorious services in healthcare and medical education. A 21st century education is about giving students the skills they need to succeed in this new world, and helping them grow the confidence to practice those skills. With so much information readily available to them, 21st century skills focus more on making sense of that information, sharing and using it in smart ways. Ibrahim Lincoln rightly communicated to the teacher of his son, 'Teach him to sell his talents and brains to the highest bidder but never to put a price tag on his heart and soul'. Let him have the courage to be impatient, let him have the patience to be brave. Teach him to have sublime faith in himself, because then he will always have sublime faith in mankind and in God. We need to train our children to face modern challenges and equip them with virtues, as Lincoln wished for his son.

After Glasgow Climate Change Conference, Director NIT Srinagar Prof Rakesh Sehgal, and Registrar NIT Srinagar Prof S K Bukhari encouraged faculty and students to take up environmental issues seriously. In this context, event on environment, with a title 'Our Relations with Nature' was held at NIT Srinagar on 11th Nov 2021, in collaboration with other Institutions/ Govt & Private organizations and in association with NLCO Kashmir, which was inaugurated by the P K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir. The objective was to encourage students to take leading role in protecting the environment (which is hugely complex system that includes the air we breathe, the land we live on, the water we drink and the climate around us) through scientific knowledge, mass awareness and human consciousness. A group of intellectuals, social reformers, technocrats and environmental lovers have assured to take the mission forward across Kashmir valley in phased manner, taking up water bodies which are being polluted. Thus, it has been decided that the Environmental Symposium Series shall be organized across valley, accompanying volunteers from batch 2021 and the scientific calendar for such events shall be released soon. Ministry of Education (MoE), Govt of India has also advised to visit the districts of Kashmir region for review, monitor and strengthen the implementation of major schemes and programmes of Higher Education, Schools and Skill development. Without elaborating, I will conclude year 2021 with Ghalib's verse that - 'Bas Ke Dushwaar Hai Har Kaam Ka Asaan Hona, Aadmi Ko Bhi Maassar Nahi Insaan Hona.'

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Problem of high inflation

phoned. Therefore there is no option but to purchase the goods even at the high prices. The prices of the patrol, diesel, cooking gas both domestic as well as the commercial are rising continuously and brunt of the rising prices has to be borne by the consumers as it badly impacts the purchasing capacity of the people. It is a common knowledge that the continuous increase in the prices of the fuels like diesel and petrol leads to the increase in the prices of all most all goods and services because the transportation charges increase and this increases the prices of the goods in the market. The subsidized and non subsidized cooking gas prices are rising persistently and it is of serious concern to housewives as they have to part with more money to purchase the cooking gas. The NDA Government headed by the BJP has done away with the subsidy and the prices of the subsidized gas have increased to about rupees one thousand and it pinches the consumers. The freebies and subsidies are not needed but to do away with the subsidy in one go is also not advisable and feasible. The prices of various brands of the edible oils are also increasing constantly and its prices doubled and it has affected the pockets of the consumers. One fails to understand as to what has happened to the prices of the edible oils as it prices has reached to rupees eleven hundred for five liters and it pains the common consumers. Besides the prices of the edible oils the prices of the perishable items like vegetables, eggs, fruits etc are increasing continuously and burdening consumers. Since consumers cannot dispense the use of vegetables, fruit and eggs and therefore the people are faced with the rising prices of these goods. The increase in the prices of vegetables, fruit, milk, curd, cheese affect all the consumers as they have but to purchase these goods at the prices in the market. During the rule of UPA rule the

prices of daily use goods were kept under control by the rulers in the interest of the consumers. But in the rule of the BJP an NDA there is no control on the prices of the goods by the government and there is free for all and the result is that there is skyrocketing of the goods of the daily use. The powers do not take the necessary economic measures of monetary and fiscal nature through the reserve bank of the country to arrest the trend of rising prices to give some relief to the consumers and this is a grave and great concern to the people of the country. The government of the day should exercise control on the rising prices of the essentials of life and come to the rescue of the people .But unfortunately this is not happening these days and the people and the opposition parties and their leaders allege that the BJP government is friendly to the big corporate houses and as such does not control the rising prices of the goods. Thus the price rise does not seem to be the concern of the ruling party as it does not bother about the price rise and its implications. It is so disturbing that the price rise and its control is perhaps not in the agenda of the rulers and hence it is not a priority item before the rulers and so they are least interested in controlling the rising prices. Everything in a democracy is dependent upon and influenced by the vote bank policy and hence the rulers should for the sake of gaining votes pay its attention towards combating the rising prices so that here is minimum of anti incumbency. Since the state assembly elections to the five states is round the corner in the early months of 2022and so the government should intervene and combat the rising prices for the benefit of the consumers and for its own benefit otherwise the ruling parties prospects will be adversely affected in the elections. Inflation is the characteristic fea-

ture of the developing economies and so India is no exception to the rising prices as there is continuous rise in the prices of the goods which people need. The people are facing the sorry state of affairs of the rising prices and there is urgent need for the controlling of the prices of the goods and services, but the government of the day pays scant attention towards controlling the rising prices and this will be at its own peril as the ruling dispensation will have to cut a sorry figure in the state assembly elections to the five state assemblies. Therefore the powers should intervene and take all the necessary steps to control the rising prices of the daily use products for the benefit of the consumers. If the government is really interested in the welfare of the commoner it should show its presence and take required steps to control and combat the rising prices of the goods and services for the benefit of the common man. The rising prices is a burning issue which the people of India are facing as there seems to be free for all as the hoarders and black marketers are indulging in unfair trade practices to the disadvantage of the people. This black marketing and hoarding should be fought on the war footing so that it does not lead to the creation of the artificial scarcity of the essential goods and services.

So the government should take recourse to the rationing of the essential goods for the interest of the consumers .As already mentioned the prices of the goods and services are rising very steeply and continuously and thus burdening pocket of the commoner.

In brief, the government should exert and control the rising prices otherwise the people will exclaim 'Hukumat Nam Hay Sabse Bahes Honeka.'

(The author is retired Education Officer and Columnist)

have increased. Most of the youth prefer to live their life alone, exploring their opportunities outside. However, in today's system, jobs are available only in big cities, that's why today's environment is becoming lax in maintaining the joint family system, but friends, this is our age-old heritage, to maintain it, in today's digital India era, the responsibility of the youth has increased.

Today 68 per cent of the country's population is youth. Now the time has come that the youth will have to handle the joint family system. They have to imbibe the sweetness, virtues, benefits of joint family system in their lives and set a good example for the coming generation. Friends, in the joint family system, parents get the opportunity to serve the elders! He is not in any other system. Friends, I believe that as many virtues as we get from serving our parents and elders, perhaps they will not be attained even after making thousand pilgrimages, because in my view there is no spiritual person like parents and elders. Parents have such a huge space and power, and we get the privilege of living with them only in the joint family system. Friends, if we stay in a joint family and take care of our parents and elders, then our next generation will also respect us by following this line. Therefore it is necessary that today's youth will have to pay more attention in this direction and these systems will have to be saved from breaking down and by increasing the spirit of adjustment, collective ethos, belongingness, love and affection will have to be strengthened, family form by adjusting the morals among themselves. Protecting this garden by organizing every member has become the ultimate religion of

youth today. Today the youth is in urgent need of qualities like tolerance, humility, sensitivity, imagination, tolerance because these are the basic mantras of joint family system. Friends, if we talk about the PM's address in a programme on December 28, 2021, then according to PIB, personally the PM advised the students to keep alive their sensitivity, curiosity, imagination and creativity and give them the best of life. When it comes to sharing happiness and kindness, don't keep a password and enjoy life with an open heart, he said. Friends, if we talk about the development of the future generation in the joint family, then the children in the joint family get the opportunity for the most safe and proper physical and character development. The wishes and needs of the child can be taken care of more, he gets a chance to play with other children, he also gets the love of parents as well as other family members especially grandparents, whereas in nuclear family sometimes the love of parents is also rarely known, if both are working. With love from grandfather and grandmother, knowledge, experience is abundant, playing with them, spending time also entertains them, in making them cultured, character, and strong, they get the support of many families. Therefore, if we study the above description and analyze it, then we will find that the responsibility of maintaining the values of the world famous centuries old Indian joint family system needs to be taken up by the youth and joint family is a smelling garden of happiness. There is an urgent need for the youth to become gardeners of this garden.

Vijay Garg