

DON'T PAY HEED TO PAK RANT

As the LG Manoj Sinha has welcomed the decision to host G-20 summit in J&K and vowed to make it a grandiose event, the rogue nation Pakistan has started a vociferous campaign against the move by India by opposing the move to the hilt. Reportedly, Pakistan has opposed India's plans to hold some G-20 events in Kashmir in the run-up to hosting the summit in 2023. It has completely rejected any such attempt by India as per its Foreign Office. Pakistan has a habit of going opposite to India and this stand is another one in the series showing its abhorrence against India and its people. The Government of India should not pay any heed to the assertions made by Pakistan and carry on with the plans to make the summit a great success. The statement by Pakistan that J&K is an internationally recognized disputed territory is totally unfounded and should not be given any weight. Though Pakistan has stated that in case of any such controversial proposal from India, the G20 members will be fully cognizant of the imperatives of law and justice, and would reject it outrightly but the real picture will come to fore only when the other member countries will open up their cards as Pakistan's rhetoric is biased and full of prejudice. It is the prerogative of all the nations to decide whether they want to come to India or not as Pakistan is nobody to force them to abstain from visiting India to attend the summit. Like in many other cases before, the baffled Pakistan has toed a different line this time also and will get a rebuke from all the member countries as Kashmir is an integral part of the country and there is nothing as such which might prove it to be an international dispute. Whatever has to be sorted out as far as J&K is concerned is the fact that Pakistan should vacate PoK and give the chance to people there to live their lives in complete freedom as the rogue nation has subjugated their rights.

FULLY CAPABLE

History is the proof that whenever the enemy has tried to invade the territories of the country, it has been given a befitting reply by the valiant security personnel of the country, for whom only and only security of the country is supreme and they even not hesitate to sacrifice their lives in the line of duty. It is really a matter of pride for every citizen that the security forces personnel of our country don't perform their jobs just like other regular duties to earn livelihood for the family but keep an emotional bond with the country treating it as their mother, even above their biological parents. This unique feature and emotional bond provide our forces a unique distinction across the globe as the forces of no other country possess such a distinctive attachment. It is only due to dedicated services of such brave personnel, that despite having hostile relationships with two neighboring countries from the last several years, the nation is still possessing steadily in every sector without any fear or uncertainty. India has always propagated this philosophy of peace and brotherhood and followed the same from decades altogether but it is also a matter of fact that no activity against the interest of the nation is tolerated at any level. Recently, while referring to the ongoing row with the Dragon along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh, especially regarding the rapid deployment of Air assets by China on its side along LAC, the Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, has said that the Indian Air Force is fully capable to deliver the desired punch as and when required that too within a very short span of time. He further said that looking at the present scenario, the nation should comprehend the situation along its unsettled western and northern borders as a 'two-front' contingency and prepare for it accordingly. He further said that at present time, when the nation is already sharing hostile relationships with two neighboring nations, the country could be attacked on all fronts starting from military standoffs to information manipulation and blackouts in the future. This assertion of the Air Chief proves that our security forces, irrespective of any situation or scenario, are fully competent and ready to meet any untoward situation for safeguarding the sovereignty and integrity of the nation without an iota of doubt.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Destiny and Deeds

Bhrigu Maharaj has been one of the greatest astrologists in ancient India. A king with his two sons went to him to ask as to what would happen to them in future. Bhrigu Maharaj told one of the boys that he was destined to be a king. He told the other boy that he would be hanged. Both of them asked as to when these events would take place. Bhrigu

Maharaj told them that after 10 years one would be the king and the other would be hanged. Both of them got worried and returned thinking as to what would happen next. The boy who was destined to be the king hoped that his brother should not be hanged and the other thought that whatever might happen to him at least his brother would become a king.

Destiny and Predictions

Ten years passed quickly. The one who was destined to be the king was told by his father he was unfit to be the king. The king then sought the whereabouts of the other boy who was to be hanged and announced that he would be fit to be the king. Both the boys went to Bhrigu Maharaj and apprised him of the current situation. They told him that how could such change take place despite your great wisdom to predict the future. They complained as to why the predictions had gone wrong. Bhrigu Maharaj listened to them carefully.

He told them that whatever was predicted was perfect but they had indulged themselves

in wrong-doings. He told the boy who was to be the king that he had become proud and felt sure that he would get all the wealth and comforts anyway and, therefore, did not appreciate the value and importance of worldly belongings and thus indulged in bad company. Bhrigu Maharaj said to him that he had started abusing all the facilities and belongings. "Due to your misdeeds God has, no doubt, filled your life with comforts but taken away the crown from you. Your deeds have, therefore, undergone a change for the worse."

Deeds change the Fate lines

Bhrigu Maharaj told the other boy that he had brought a change in his life because he knew that he would be living only for 10 years and, therefore, he devoted himself to God and started doing good deeds. He started decorating his life with good deeds which brought a change in the mind of the king. The king was looking for him because he was to be the king. For both the boys their deeds played a significant role. God also noticed the changes and altered their fates.

Both the boys asked Bhrigu Maharaj as to what should be done with the janampatras. Bhrigu Maharaj said that deeds mean a lot. Mere words written in the birth record (janampatras) have no meaning. God has given wisdom to the people and also the power to put the wisdom to a better use. If the wisdom is used for wrongdoings the deeds would lead the person to hell.

Shri Sudhanshuji Maharaj

Doubts never end. If one doubt is removed, another takes its place. It is like removing the leaves of a tree one by one. Even if all the leaves are clipped off, new ones grow. The tree itself must be uprooted.

-Ramana Maharshi

EDITORIAL

On women's rights, West takes a backward step & India shows the way

■ SMRITI IRANI



At a time of distressing furor on social media and on streets against near-total bans on abortion in West, India's generous stance on the termination of pregnancy is a comforting sanctum. Coupled with the moratorium on commercial surrogacy and the proposal to equalize men and women's age at marriage, India is positioned securely in the highest echelons of countries that safeguard reproductive autonomy.

India's Constitutional ethos commits to protection of personal liberty through Article 21. Abortion or termination of pregnancy is a woman's prerogative to self-determine. While women are exclusively fated to withstand child-bearing -purely on account of their biological predisposition- socio-cultural constructs also subject women to a disproportionate share of child-rearing. Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021 is a step in the right direction. It ensures that expectant mothers exercise self-determination in welcoming new life to their homes. Under the aegis of Act, abortions may be performed up to 24 gestational weeks on grounds of risk to mother's life, mental anguish, rape, incest, contraception failure or the diagnosis of foetal abnormalities. The Act navigates the 20 weeks challenge posed by the MTP Act, 1971 and is nod to advances in the field of health and reproductive science. It is a liberal achievement over countries where abortions are disallowed since conception, even in the most traumatizing of circumstances of sexual abuse or incest.

The MTP Act, 2021 attests to the intuition and farsightedness of its crafters. Readiness and desirability of children decisively shape life trajectories of mothers, families and children alike. Unwanted pregnancies unexpectedly curtail life choices of parents- especially mothers- and may limit their mental well-being and personal growth.

Further, children born unwanted may suffer reduced opportunities. Illustratively, WHO links the likelihood of children being born 'wanted' to greater parental investments in education. The recent MTP Act therefore relieves mothers from the emotional and financial albatross of unwanted pregnancies. Incumbent law and policy-makers have skillfully given reproductive choice a lifecycle twist. Since fertility, child-bearing and child-rearing are unmistakably associated with marriage, by proposing to raise the legal marriageable age for women; policy-makers are heralding welcome changes that delay pregnancy.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 seeks to push the marriage age for women from 18 years to 21 years. The Bill is well founded in the face of scholarship and evidence cited by WHO which holds that adolescent mothers aged 10 to 19 years are prone to higher risks of eclampsia, puerperal endometritis and systemic infections in comparison to women aged 20 to 24 years. Children born to such mothers additionally face higher risk of low birth weight, preterm delivery and severe neonatal conditions.

It is worthy to note that the unmet need for family planning in terms of limiting or spacing of child-bearing decreased from 12.9 per cent to 9.4 per cent between NFHS-4 (2014-15) to NFHS-5 (2019-21). However, on a standalone basis, nearly 7 per cent of females aged 15-19 years were already mothers or pregnant at the time of NFHS-5, a marginal decline over NFHS-4's 7.8 per cent. Such young mothers are poorly aware about feeding practices and baby-care, making them more likely to have stunted or wasted children. Together the MTP Act, 2021 and PCMA Bill, 2021 - if enacted- can axe the vicious cycle of early marriages, consequent early pregnancies and poor maternal and child health outcomes.

Another underrated policy innovation that the government curated was the decimation of surrogacy bazaars that allowed 'renting a womb'. Given global inequalities, India

became a lucrative 'bio-market' for surrogate mothers. The bodies of poor Indian women became 'bio-available' to the residents of the Global North, spurring a commercialization of motherhood, commoditization of women and their reduction to their reproductive capacity. India came to condescendingly be dubbed as a 'baby factory', with babies abandoned, exploitation of surrogates and non-payment of compensation. In a country with a long-standing cultural lineage of revering mothers, careless commercial surrogacy appeared to be in stark contrast with the cultural ethos.

Responding to this dissonance, the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, replaced commercial surrogacy with ethical, altruistic surrogacy. The Act prohibits couples who are not of Indian origin to avail surrogacy in the country and allows only locals with certified, medical reasons necessitating gestational surrogacy to avail it. The MTP Act, the Surrogacy Act and the PCMA (Amendment) Bill, 2021, collectively give new meaning to Nari Shakti. Within this enabling politico-legal apparatus, the government has framed policies that readily coalesce to respect the choices and decisions made by women. Under the aegis of Ayushman Bharat- Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), a health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per annum is provided and a wide range of packages pertaining to obstetrics and gynecology are offered. While Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) partially compensates wage loss before and after pregnancy, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan (PMSMA) provides free of cost antenatal care to pregnant women on every 9th day of the month, easing the financial burden of pregnant women.

Not only is the government making a concerted effort for reproductive choices to be easier on the pockets of women, it is also promoting safe motherhood through institutional deliveries under Janani Suraksha Yojana and quality, respectful care in labour rooms during deliveries under schemes like LaQshya. These efforts have culminated in a manifold increase in institutional deliveries

from 79 per cent in NFHS-4 to nearly 89 per cent in NFHS-5. The ultimate reward to the nation is the greater longevity of mothers as evidenced by declining Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) 167 per lakh live births in 2011-13 to 103 per lakh live births as of 2019. The present government evinces the highest regard for its 'Bahuropi' daughters who act -at various points in their life- not only as loving mothers but as sincere students, valuable employees and valorous entrepreneurs. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign's call to ensure that girls are born and nurtured bore fruit in the form of an improved sex ratio of 1020 females per 1000 males. Yojanas such as Ujjwala and Jal Jeevan Mission reduced the time poverty of the females of the household; it gave them much needed respite from the drudgery of collecting fuel-wood or water so they could partake in other gainful activities. Mudra Yojana has provided aspiring women entrepreneurs with loans sans collateral and yet another scheme, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, has advocated for higher subsidies for women. While the West is curtailing abortion rights, India is extending the ceiling of permissible abortions. Where menstrual hygiene remains a conversation hushed in whispered tones in other parts of the world, Prime Minister Modi addressed the issue from the ramparts of the Red Fort with 1.3 billion Indians listening intently. By outlawing Triple Talaq, the government has comforted the constant state of insecurity faced by Muslim women. By proposing to revise the permissible marriage age, the government has held men and women to the same, unbiased standards. The present government has ever so carefully instilled conscientiousness into the calculus of policy making- with a fervent hope that it will better the lives of the mothers and daughters of India for generations to come. Even as the West retrogresses, India progresses and shows the path for a progressive society.

(The author is Union Minister for Women & Child Development).

Mobiles increase tensions in relationships

■ VIJAY GARG

Man has kept the iron of heights in every field like earth, sky, underworld etc. but he has become very poor towards his personal relationships. Human relationships are deteriorating. In the past, our living, socializing and social life was a family affair. An elder or elder of the family was considered the head of the family. Every big or small person would pay tribute to the decisions he had made. Everything was done together. Children were not as afraid of their parents as they were of their uncles or aunts. Mothers often feared uncles or aunts to persuade their loved ones. The mother-in-law fully obeyed and tolerated her mother-in-law's rhetoric. Yet his tongue did not grow weary. There was love and respect in everyone's heart for every relationship. But today it is all over. Joint families are broken. Only single families are left.

Relationships soaked in love are fading. The only reason a relationship fades is because of the bargaining power. It happens in every family where a wedding, birthday or any other happy occasion is celebrated.

Relatives' mouths swell for years. Many even stop talking. Then they do not participate in the happy ceremony of the same relative but no one leaves any stone unturned in making happy marriage. He tries to make every relative leave his home happily. However, if there is something missing from him, then the angry relatives should think of him as having some compulsion instead of talking to him and confronting him. Giving and receiving does not make a person small or big but the person who jumps on other people's words is definitely small. He falls in the eyes of others.

People who are far-sighted, intelligent and want to enjoy the warmth of relationships never talk nonsense about transactions. So we should prioritize relationships over things.

Relationships have deteriorated considerably. The growing dullness in relationships and kinship has also led to backwardness in human nature. In the old days, hospitality was very popular among the people. But nowadays there is a decline in hospitality. Rising inflation is also a factor. The young generation is in dire need of family etiquette. Today people do not have time to meet anyone. One of the reasons for this is the high literacy rate of the people. Young men and women are not leaving a lasting impression in respecting the elders. People have high expectations for service. But they have neither the time nor the money to entertain anyone. It is very easy and good to go to people's house to eat. But serving the guests who come to your house seems to be a big problem. Only if one has a self-interest can his spirit of service and hospitality be expressed.

Otherwise it becomes difficult to recognize him. So you need to set aside

some time for your work and business. Daughters-in-law need to be more aware of this, since it is most important for them to take the initiative in hosting guests. The growing trend of mobile phones is also increasing the tension in relationships. Because nowadays children, old, young, men, women all have mobile phones in a way has become a part of life. Mobile use has led to an increase in crime, rape, road accidents, thefts, love marriages and drugs. There, family relationships have been shattered. In the past there were joint families and they used to sit together and discuss family needs, interaction from children to elders and other commonalities but nowadays in family relationships mobile has come so far that every member of the family has their own sitting in the room, pointing fingers at the screens of mobile phones, is intoxicated in itself. Parents do not hesitate to talk to their children and children do not hesitate to talk to their parents as a result of which mobile phones are eating away at family relationships.

Mobiles are increasing the tension in relationships. Homes have dining tables but family members do not have time to sit and eat together as they are busy with mobile phones. Parents need to keep an eye on their children's activities and encourage them to spend more time in the family. Social media is also affecting relationships.

On social media today, countries are getting information from abroad. Which, of course, made the video an overnight sensation. Even the unnecessary use of social media is causing strife and unrest in society and families. In today's computer age, science has made human life much easier. In addition to the good results of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and WhatsApp, the use of mobile phones in the home has given birth to many curiosities.

As a result, today's young generation as well as housewives seem to be taking advantage of mobile phones and going astray. The addiction of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp to housewives running away from their responsibilities is not only hindering the growth and development of children but also poisoning the domestic life. As a result of which many houses are on the verge of ruin today.

Therefore, the path of children in their homes should be second to none for their bright future where parents, especially housewives, should use WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram for a limited time and understand their responsibilities towards their homes and children. is required. Women play a vital role in bringing happiness back to the family and improving the lives of children.

Breaking up a relationship in life is very painful. Death also loses and breaks relationships. The pain of separation is the greatest. Unbearable pains arise within. The mind is dis-

tracted. Tears become rivers. The desires of the mind begin to disappear. Life seems miserable. Homes built with greed come to eat. Everything is visible. Even the cool breezes seem to give off heat. In the course of time, since the time when everyone has been absorbed in self, to fulfill his own needs, to take care of his personal family, to be misled, to have material possessions as the real wealth of life and to be entangled in it. The colors of relationships have changed. The loss of manners and behaviour has widened the gap. What kind of relationship should we trust? People don't want to show what relationships have taken shape and show what is not inside. Relationships are hollow and fragmented from within. Due to the sheer number of Mera-Tera, relatives have resorted to reliance instead of being a support. Everyone has become smarter than being wise and has always walked the path of considering oneself wise. Everyone runs around looking for their own happiness.

Even today, some relationships seem to be sitting on a blanket of warmth and respect for each other, like a truly bright morning. With the help of which even the most difficult steps are easy to take. They do not run away with their arms outstretched while swinging in life, but stand and walk together. Support is formed. Only such genuine relationships make one happy. These qualities make relationships great. Only these relationships are sacred and strong. Relationships are the basis of life. Relationships from the birth of a human being are connected. The mother is first of all a natural relative. Relationships become more and more negative with age. It is in relationships that we live and move.

Relationships are life. It is impossible to imagine life without relationships. There is a unique joy in relationships. Relationships make us think of each other's compulsions and problems. We share laughter and tears. Relationships are fragrant. Relationships are not of grace but of feeling. Duties are also associated with relationships. Everyone in life seeks empathy. They are often sought after in times of distress. This is what we look for in ourselves first.

Relationships are very loving and warm. Recognizing the importance of relationships, we must prevent them from breaking up and ending. We must be sincerely responsible for our relationships. We should all maintain respect, love, respect and shame towards parents, siblings and all other social relationships. Life is perfect with relationships. Whatever the form of the relationship, it is the relationship that gives rise to waiting and excitement in the eyes. Saving relationships is very important. Life is impossible without relationships. It is very important to prioritize relationships nowadays.

Strong bond between Modi & his mother

It is said that behind every man's success there is a woman. That woman in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's life is his mother, Heeraben Modi. Really, mother is the most selfless person in this world who starts loving her children even before they come into this world. Nothing could be compared to a mother's love in this world as it is the purest form of love. Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi has penned a heartfelt note for his mother Heeraben, as she entered the 100th year of her life on June 18. He met her at her residence in Gandhi Nagar in Gujarat on the occasion of her birthday. Modi also took blessings from her mother and washed her feet during the visit. Every year, he meets his mother Heeraben on her birthday and spends quality time with her. This clearly shows how strong a bond Prime Minister has with his mother. He has also dedicated a blog to his mother, underlining her sacrifices as well as the different facets of her life that 'shaped' his mind, personality, and self-confidence. A mother not only gives birth to her children, but also shapes their mind, their personality, and their self-confidence. And while doing so, mothers selflessly sacrifice their own personal needs and aspirations. As per reports, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother prefers not to eat any special food, but to cook her own food. She doesn't like food with more oil and spices. She likes to eat lentils, rice, Khichdi and Chapati in her daily diet. And in sweets, she likes sugar candy and Lapsi. It is rightly said that a mother is not an individual or a personality, motherhood is a quality. It is often said that the gods are made according to the nature of their devotees. Similarly, we experience our mothers and their motherhood according to our own nature and mindset. It is clear that the son like Prime Minister Narendra Modi can never imagine his life without his mother, while the mother's affection and care for her son are eternal. Mothers have a significant impact on their sons to the extent that the way they behave in their later years is attributed to their relationship with their mother. No other person understands a child better than a mother. Despite being the mother of a renowned figure in world politics, she prefers living a simple life which includes travelling in public transports. She struggled all her life, did hard work, never borrowed money and gave such teachings to children, which made them self-dependent and great leaders. She had brought up her children under difficult circumstances, and had never had the luxury of having material comforts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recalled that his mother never had high aspirations for Modi, and even if he had landed an ordinary job, she would have been equally happy. Several sacrifices made by Modi's mother as he grew up and the various qualities of his mother that shaped his mind, personality, and self-confidence reveals the fact that Modi and his mother epitomise the strong bond between a mother and son.

After God, it is our mother who has the most special place in our hearts and our lives. Since the birth of a child, a mother forms a precious and special bond with him. Without thinking about herself, she thinks about her child and his happiness.

She works day and night for her children so that she can make them happy. Motherhood is an integral part of a woman's life, and she selflessly gives her best to it.

We are very fortunate to have a mother in our life, and we must respect our mothers. We should give her all the happiness and love because she deserves all of that in return for her selfless love for us. As for Narendra Modi who is globetrotting throughout the year, it is his mother's blessings which bring him true happiness. It was a heartwarming moment for the mother-son duo as Modi touched her feet and sought blessings from Heeraben.