

place but as a part of the latter's quote]. Dyer retired as a Colonel on 17 July 1920. Therefore, he is always being referred as a Colonel in various historical accounts and truly so, one is addressed by the last rank in which he retires. He further distorts history by stating that "Dyer too devised innovative ways to establish the authority of British arms in Punjab. Martial law was declared". A Brigadier had no authority to declare martial law in Punjab. It was in the aftermath of Jallianwala Bagh massacre that Punjab Lieutenant Governor, Michael O'Dwyer (who was later killed by Shaheed Udham Singh in Britain) requested that martial law should be imposed upon Amritsar and other areas, and this was granted by Viceroy Lord Chelmsford. He writes "Major Leetul Gogoi had Farooq Ahmad Dar, who was passing by on his motorbike, strapped to the bonnet of an army jeep" trying to give a first-hand eyewitness account as if he was present on the scene at that moment. He should have faith in the law of the land and offer his services as a whistle-blower. By any account, there cannot be any comparison between the action of Colonel Dyer and Major Gogoi. Colonel Dyer fired 1650 rounds for about 10 minutes on a peaceful assembly of unarmed people and caused 379 fatalities and about



1200 injured according to official British report (Indian estimate is much more). Whereas, Major Gogoi surrounded by a mob of almost 1200 people, with number of stone pelters interspersed between them, didn't fire a single bullet, identified a stone-pelter, picked him up and tied him to his jeep. Let the Court of Inquiry establish whether Farooq Ahmad Dar was a stone-pelter or a bystander. However, the comparison is illogical and unwarranted because Major Gogoi is the 'Saviour of Humanity' while Dyer was an acknowledged "Butcher of Humanity". The writer should familiarise himself with Indian Penal Code: the stone in the hand of a person is treated as a weapon if his intention is to kill or cause grievous injury to the persons on whom it is thrown. Obviously, a Colonel's criminal act cannot be compared with an Army Chief who has to keep his force in a high state of readiness (and high morale is just a part of it) to ensure territorial integrity of the nation as also for internal security tasks as directed by the government. One can easily see into the designs of these fliers who can distort history to earn quick fame.

It is easier to deal with a common man with criminal mind or intent but it becomes extremely difficult when an educated person of society mis-utilizes his intellectual calibre to achieve his selfish motives - whether it is to earn quick fame or enlarge his political space. Here is a man, holding no public position but through his venomous writing, has not only hurt the pride of Indian Army soldiers by mocking at their uniform which they worship but used it as a tool to ridicule and challenge the wisdom and functioning of the Army Chief. Being an officer and a gentleman first, General Bipin Rawat is not going to challenge him in his personal

capacity. However, it will be appropriate for the Ministry of Defence to file a defamation case against this writer for casting aspersions on the intellectual capability and the decisive ability of the Chief of Army Staff. The second defamation suit should be by the Ministry of Defence and the Regimental Centres against the writer for hurting the pride of their soldiers by spewing profanities on their object of reverence.

The most introspective question for the Media is - "Will they allow any Tom, Dick and Harry to come and write in their newspapers for the sake of freedom of press or expression?" or do they also have a system of checks and balances to ensure that abrasion occurring once, should not be repeated. The editors of all our national newspapers are eminent



Brigadier (Dr.) Rajeev Bhutani (Retd) is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, Tamil Nadu, Army War College, Mhow (M.P.) and Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS), Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. At the DSSC, he was awarded the General Lentaigne Memorial Medal for his dissertation, "India – Emerging Regional Power, Prospects in 2020 AD".

His 34 year long career saw him holding varied command and staff positions: Brigade Major of a Mountain Brigade, Colonel General Staff (Planning) of a corps in the Northeast, and Director in the Directorate General of Military Operations. He commanded an Infantry Brigade on Indo-Pak border and one of the largest Sub

Area of Indian Army, before superannuating in March 2011.

He is a Post-Graduate in Defence Studies, and in Chemistry, M.Phil. (Defence & Management), and D.Phil. from the Central University of Allahabad. Writer, Defence analyst and presently he is Senior Fellow CENJOWS.

Centre for Joint Warfare Studies

Kashmir House, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi-110 001
Tel. Nos : 011-23792446, 23006535, 3306538/9, Fax : 011-23792444
Website : <http://cenjows.gov.in>, e-mail : cenjows@yahoo.com

personalities who serve the cause of Nation through their mighty pen, more than anybody else. One can expect such writers will not be encouraged or even allowed to write in their newspapers in future. Had this been written under a column of satire, it would have given a different connotation but it is hurting the sentiments of soldiers of Indian Army, who lay down their lives at the altar of Motherland. In a democracy, healthy and constructive criticism of institutions including the Army and its Chief is welcome as it will result into desirable reforms and improvements but veiled and disguised writings with an underlying objective of corroding the strength of institutions must be ruthlessly curbed.

"If a man says he is not afraid of dying, he is either lying or he is a Gurkha".

-Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw

CENTRE FOR JOINT WARFARE STUDIES



ASLANT HAT : HITTING BELOW THE BELT

SYNODOS PAPER

VOL - XI NO 4 / JUN 2017



It is a universally known fact that Hat, Felt (worn aslant) and "khukri" (Gurkha knife) are the most adorable possessions of a Gurkha soldier. There are seven Gurkha regiments (more than 30,000 soldiers) in Indian Army and a 'Gorkha Brigade' comprising four regiments in British Army (about 3800). Having completed their 200 glorious years in the British Army in

2015, rich tributes were paid to them for their unparalleled record of valour by the international media, both print as well as electronic.

There appears a column in a national newspaper by a writer, whose credentials are 'taught in the department of English, Delhi University' as if that gives him an 'authority' to cast aspersions on the noblest profession of the world. He abrasively uses (or rather abuses) his knowledge of English vocabulary to cast insinuations on the Army Chief of the Nation and that also like a coward, making a slanderous approach behind the shield of a valorous "Gurkha" hat. Unashamedly, a coloured photograph of the hat is also displayed on top of the article in a mocking fashion. It is hard to even imagine that the Man lacked the general awareness about the attire of a world renown "Gurkha" soldier or probably he chose to shut his mental faculties in a greed to achieve self-aggrandizement through this obnoxious article. Incidentally, soldiers of Assam,



Kumaon and Naga Regiments of Indian Army also don the similar hats and they are also unmatched in their fighting prowess.

Since time immemorial, Headgear or 'Pagadi' (in Indian parlance) has always been considered as a symbol of 'Izzat' (prestige or pride) for men of all martial races, the world over. For a soldier, it is much closer to his heart that is why at India Gate, tribute to the Immortal Soldier (Amar Jawan) is paid by placing 'helmet of the Unknown Soldier on top of his personal weapon i.e., barrel of a self-loading rifle'. This writer denounces the glory of a "Gurkha" hat by calling it a silly hat, rakish headgear and added 'insult to injury' by stating it as a villainous hat. He does not know when an officer or a soldier dons this hat, his head gets charged with so much of patriotic fervour that he dispatches his enemies to the other world with a single stroke of his "khukri" : In 1945, Rifleman Lachhiman Gurung defeated 31 Japanese with his left hand, while his right portion was blown by a grenade and was awarded a

Victoria Cross; In 1999 Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey of 1/11 GR was awarded Param Vir Chakra (posthumous) for his singular daredevil act of capturing a dominating height in Kargil. These are the stories of just two brave soldiers, out of 26 Victoria Cross and 3 Param Vir Chakra awardees - the highest awards for gallantry during war in British and India respectively.

He has displayed his poor knowledge of Bombay Cinema. Though rightly acknowledging Bombay Cinema as the reliable archive of our national consciousness but after that he becomes mentally bankrupt. Let me resuscitate his memory - Firstly Dev Anand and Shammi Kapoor had never donned a "Gurkha" hat and secondly each and every member of the Bollywood has always glorified Indian Army. Bollywood has so much reverence for Indian Army and its values that no actor performing the role of a villain ever represents himself as a regular serving soldier or officer of an Indian Army. No one knows what association this writer has discovered between silly hats and silly behaviour? In fact Bollywood's acknowledged and most patriotic actor-director-producer Manoj Kumar picturised a song in his film "Shaheed Bhagat Singh" - 'Pagadi Sambhal Jatta', which was a movement launched in March 1907 by Sardar Ajit Singh, uncle of Bhagat Singh to channelise the discontent of peasants against the British policies. The song basically used the 'Pagdi' (turban) as a metaphor for dignity and asked that it be upheld and not given up. Not going very far, famous star Akshay Kumar, who himself generously donates handsome amount to the martyred soldiers' families, has got a mobile App launched recently to enable the common citizens, willing to make voluntary

donations for the same cause. Another popular character actor Annu Kapoor, through his radio programmes, eulogizes Indian army copiously and makes it a point that Kashmiri youth with nationalistic feelings are praised and encouraged. And this writer is trying to tarnish the reputation of Bombay Cinema also in his exuberance to write some thing.

It appears that he has been infected by a new disease called "Sillioopia" (Silly + Myopia) because he is seeing Silly every where - silly hat, silly behaviour, sounding silly and for him "It isn't General Bipin Rawat that is at issue, it is his hat". He should know that the Army, as per its laid down procedures, had instituted a Court of Inquiry to bring out the facts of the incident and it is in no way an acknowledgment of something which he is presupposing. The award of Army Chief's Commendation Card to Major Gogoi was not for any gallantry but in recognition of his sustained efforts in Counter-insurgency operations over a period of time. For one particular incident for which Major Gogoi has not yet been proven guilty and matter may be considered sub judice as the Court of Inquiry is still in progress, can you derecognise the good work done by him earlier and deny him an appreciation which he rightfully deserved. The writer should enlighten himself by reading the elaborate justification given by Captain Amrinder Singh, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab and a die-hard congressman in "The Indian Express, 20 May 2017" supporting the timely action taken by Major Gogoi. Captain Singh has said "Major Gogoionly did what was absolutely correct, and possibly the only sane and logical course of action available to him, in the circumstances."

The Army Chief had never said anything outrageous. Probably, the writer has developed a sort of duelling model in his own mind that is why he is hallucinating and deriving different meanings from "Dirty War". Soldiers are professionally trained to fight in a combat against a known and visible enemy but in Kashmir so much of violence is being perpetrated by militants and their supporters, as a proxy of Pakistan. For the ease of understanding of common citizens of India, who are not aware of the ground reality, the Army Chief had simply stated "Proxy war is a dirty war.... The rules of engagement are there when the adversary comes face-to-face and fights with you." [Financial Express 28 May 2017]. The militants operate incognito and by shielding themselves behind their supporters (support having been obtained through coercion and cajolement), they strike at security forces with impunity, making their task even more difficult. Does the writer expect, the Armed forces to prostrate themselves before militants or do "Satyagraha". He should be aware that the Army does not shoot pellets but fire live bullets after identifying the enemy and exercises complete restraint so as to prevent any collateral damage to civilians.



Since the last few years, a trend has been seen emerging wherein forces/parties inimical to the unity and integrity of India, have been undermining the authority of the elected government through their irresponsible and provocative statements in the media. Politics is the science and art of government and the government has various instruments at its disposal to attain the national interests / objectives viz., finance, diplomacy, military, homeland security, legal and so on. The government maintains the territorial integrity of the nation through the military and besides two other chiefs, it is the Army Chief's responsibility to keep the Indian Army in a high state of readiness - i.e., in terms of morale, equipment and training. If he speaks for the Army, he is not speaking as an individual but because of the mandate given to him by the government. Indian Army is the last bastion of the State, which has stood the test of time. Anyone trying to demoralise its soldiers should be dealt with, in an appropriate manner.

Kashmir problem is the fall out of a bad political decision taken at some point of time in the history. To avenge his defeat of 1971, our disgruntled neighbour adopted a doctrine of "Bleeding India through Thousand cuts". Subsequent to his failed experiment in Punjab, it sowed the seeds of militancy in Kashmir Valley by continuously infiltrating foreign militants as also providing support to home-grown militants and their political masters, the Hurriyat. The corrupt state governments in succession never allowed the development funds to reach the common men, alienating them further from the mainstream. Who is the legitimate authority to resolve it? Obviously the Government of India, which has been elected with a popular

mandate and not the fractured political parties in opposition, who want to talk to Separatists i.e., the Hurriyat, which provide funds to stone-pelters, misguide the youth and provoke the local populace. Who knows the ground reality in Kashmir : it is either the people who live over there or the security forces who are familiar with every inch of the terrain. The Army Chief had stated that it was only South Kashmir with its four districts, which had been affected by militants. But passions are being inflamed by vested parties, inimical to national interests, by stating that the whole of Kashmir is on the boil. If the Army Chief speaks the language of the government and the government in power supports him, he is just implementing the government's political decision. Renowned German Strategist Carl von Clausewitz wrote "War is nothing but a continuation of politics by other means." Here politics is not the role played by political parties but the 'Political End-State' what the Government wants to achieve as a national objective.

There is another scholar,(supposedly in the field of post-colonial and subaltern studies), who got so perturbed on General Bipin Rawat's hand-holding of his junior officer (Major Gogoi) that he wrote an article "In Kashmir, India is Witnessing Its General Dyer Moment" in "Wire". He is so obsessed with the past British supremacy during the colonial period and appears to be overawed by the personality of Reginald Dyer that he has elevated him to the rank of a General. Reginald Edward Harry Dyer of British Army, who perpetrated the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, in fact, was a temporary Brigadier General, commanding the brigade at that time [to be honest with the writer, he has referred him as Brigadier General (temporary) at one