

**Remarks by Ambassador at the Condolence Meeting at
Embassy Auditorium
December 12, 2021**

Good Evening Everybody,

I join the Indian community in Kuwait in expressing my heartfelt condolences on the demise of our Chief of Defence Staff Gen BipinRawat, his wife Madam MadhulikaRawat, and eleven officers of the armed forces whom we lost in the tragic helicopter crash in Coonoor in Tamilnadu last week. The officers who lost their lives are CDS'sDefence Adviser Brig Lakhbinder Singh Lidder, Staff Officer Lt Col Harjinder Singh, Wing Commander Prithvi Singh Chauhan, Squadron Leader Kuldeep Singh, Junior Warrant Officer RanaPratap Das, Junior Warrant Officer Arakkal Pradeep, HavildarSatpalRai, NaikGursewak Singh, NaikJitendra Kumar, Lance NaikVivek Kumar and Lance Naik B SaiTeja.

We are assembled here to also pay homage to our CDS Gen BipinRawat, his wife Madam MadhulikaRawat and the officers. We also pray for the speedy recovery of Group Captain Varun Singh who was injured in the helicopter crash.

I would like to quote Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji who said, "I am shocked and anguished over the untimely demise of Gen. BipinRawat and his wife, Madhulikaji. The nation has lost one of its bravest sons. His four decades of selfless service to the motherland was marked by exceptional gallantry and heroism. My condolences to his family.

It's deeply painful for me to learn of the loss of lives in the chopper crash. I join the fellow citizens in paying tributes to each of those who died while performing their duty. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

Hon'bleUpRashtrapatiJi said, "Deeply shocked by the tragic death of Chief of Defence Staff, General BipinRawat, his spouse Smt. MadhulikaRawat, senior officials of the armed forces & others in a helicopter crash in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu. ...My thoughts & prayers are with the bereaved family members in this hour of grief...Known for his remarkable leadership and strategic vision, General Rawat added great strength to our defence capabilities and made a stellar contribution to strengthening our national security. His outstanding service to our nation will always be remembered.

Hon'ble Prime Minister in his message said, "I am deeply anguished by the helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu in which we have lost Gen BipinRawat, his wife and other personnel of the Armed Forces. They served India with utmost diligence. My thoughts are with the bereaved families.

Gen BipinRawat was an outstanding soldier. A true patriot, he greatly contributed to modernising our armed forces and security apparatus. His insights and perspectives on strategic matters were exceptional. His passing away has saddened me deeply. Om Shanti.

As India's first CDS, Gen Rawat worked on diverse aspects relating to our armed forces including defence reforms. He brought with him a rich experience of serving in the Army. India will never forget his exceptional service.

We have received condolence messages all across the globe. In Kuwait, messages have been sent to Hon'bleRashtrapatiJi by His Highness Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Mishaal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, The Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait. I have received several messages from Ambassadors and Kuwaiti friends.

Let's now rise and observe a moment of silence to pay homage to the departed souls.
