

**Blow to Navy**

The country and the navy have suffered a big blow. The Navy has lost its most modern operational submarine INS Sindhurakshak which had two explosions and sank along with 18 crew members off Colaba coast in Mumbai. The tragedy and loss have come at a time when the country is deeply concerned about her security on land and sea. The Navy had been struggling hard to modernize its strike force and the subs that were aging. The Sindhurakshak had been refitted in Russia at a cost of rupees 815 crore and was completed within three years and re-inducted this April.

The cause of two explosions that occurred in the sub is not known. Was it owing to short circuit or some mechanical error will be established in due course of time? But there are also suspicions that it could be the result of sabotage. The nation is greatly worried about the happening. Terrorists have usually issued threats of attacking and destroying sensitive defence installations and sites of the country. In the light of 26/11, the present sabotage cannot be ruled out. The tragedy could have been deeper if the blasts had engulfed the adjoining Kilo class submarine docked nearby. Flames did spread to it but were doused quickly and no damage was done to that submarine. The probe will reveal what happened but the fact is that question of delay in upgrading and replacing ageing vessels has come to fore with full force. INS Arihant, another submarine was in focus last week when its nuclear reactor turned critical. It is yet to be commissioned. Of the nine Kilo submarines two are being refitted at the Hindustan Shipyard Limited. One of the submarines sent for refining at HSL has been docked there since 2003.

While a fleet strength of 24 submarines was sanctioned, the Navy has four older generation HDW 209 class and nine Kilo class submarines. Eleven of these are older than 20 years. A nuclear-powered submarine, INS Chakra, was leased from Russia in 2012. The difficulties of defence procurement are clearly showing. The orders for more German-made HDWs were cancelled after allegations of corruption in procurement. In 1999, the Cabinet Committee on Security had approved a plan to induct 24 submarines in a 30-year-period. Evidently, the procurement policy has failed. The frozen P-751 plan requires the CCS to sanction Rs 50,000 crore but with the economic downturn and the burgeoning fiscal deficit, defence spending could become a casualty. For India needing to dominate Indian Ocean from the Gulf of Aden to the Malacca Strait, the size of the rapidly expanding Chinese submarine fleet - nearly 50-strong now - poses serious challenge? Naval budgets have increased from \$2.8 billion in 2011-12 to \$6 billion in 2013-14. While the initial plan was to secure more frigates and destroyers, the Sindhurakshak tragedy makes a strong case for quickly clearing the P-751 purchase.

Whatever be the findings of the enquiry into Sindhurakshak tragedy, one thing is very clear. There is serious and real threat to our sensitive defence installations. We should not forget that during the attack of terrorists on Gawadar port they had successfully targeted one Pakistani naval aircraft of much strategic relevance. The need of the hour is that the Defence Ministry issues instructions to the concerned that all sensitive installations of Army, Navy and Air Force in the country be put under strictest security arrangement with immediate effect. No laxity has to be allowed in this. Destruction of a most modern submarine is not only painful but also demoralizing.

**Lack of cohesion**

Jammu citizenry is faced with chaotic situation of unplanned municipal corporation services for reasons best known to the corporation functionaries. There seems virtually little or no movement of giving a face-lift to the winter capital. Some years ago, the Central Government sponsored the project of modernizing sanitation of the city, and in the process, grants were sanctioned for laying sewerage grid of the entire city. The project was well considered before funds were sanctioned. But as things go, the project was hardly launched when it began to encounter a number of obstructions and impediments, mostly arising from lack of cohesion among concerned departments and agencies of the Government. Contractors, who were allotted the task of digging the roads for laying sewerage pipelines, were obstructed by the R&B department for one or the other reason. Another department that jumped into the fray and made certain claims was the water department. No less active was the Environmental Department. All these combined to stall the task of laying sewerage pipelines. Anyhow having overcome these difficulties, the work of digging the streets of the city proceeded on a large scale and the entire city looked to be converted into heaps of rubble. Jammu has already very narrow streets causing obstruction to heavy vehicular traffic. But dugout roads and streets left open with heaps of excavated stuff lying on one side made transport through the city very difficult. Now we have traffic jams on all sides. It is tremendous waste of time, energy and money for the toiling mass and workforce.

A PIL has been filed in the High Court seeking court's intervention in streamlining of filling the open dugouts and black topping the stretches of the roads and streets where digging has taken place. By and large, the project handlers of sewerage laying lines should be bound by terms of reference to do the black topping of the patches they have dug out. This has not been done and the responsibility is being shifted. The ordinary people are the sufferers. Corporation authorities show total lack of concern. It is a strange affair of irresponsibility and dereliction of duty. Somebody has to be held responsible for not executing the stipulations of the plan as set forth in the blue print. Rightly, a PIL has been filed and the Divisional Bench has taken cognizance of the case and ordered the concerned including Jammu Municipal Corporation to submit affidavits giving details of the roads where trunk sewer lines and lateral sewer lines have since been laid. The details shall be reflected in meters/ KMs ward wise/ locality wise. The authorities have been given two weeks to file the affidavits and they are also asked to notify by what date they will be able to complete the work. It is unfortunate that the citizens have to knock the door of the court of law for its intervention in a matter that administration should have resolved long back.

Raksha Bandhan

**The bond of love**

**Prof (Dr) R D Gupta**  
Raksha Bandhan also known as Rakhi, is one of the most important festivals of India, especially of north and western regions of the country. Infact, Rakhi is considered to be the festival of sisters and brothers. It is because on this day, Rakhi (a piece of silky woven thread or simple thread) is tied around the wrist of the brother by the sister. Rakhi or Raksha Bandhan, infact, assumes all kinds of protection (Raksha) of righteousness and destroyer of all sins. The custom of tying the Rakhi has now become a part and parcel of the families particularly those of Hindus. This results in bringing back oneness of the family together in an emotional bond.

In Dogri dialect, Raksha Bandhan or Rakhi is called Rakhri. In Dogri, there is a proverb that Aai Rakhri Teohar Laeii Batri (It means that with the arrival of Raksha Bandhan, thirty two other festivals come off). Raksha Bandhan festival mostly falls on Sawan or Shrawan Purnima (Bikrami Era) which coincides with the month of August according to Christian Era. Shrawan Purnima is also called Rakhi Purnima or Kajri Purnima. In Dogri this is known as Rakhar Punia.

Legends : The origin of Raksha Bandhan owes to a number of legends. Some of them very important are narrated hereunder.

An Incident Relating to God Indra and Goddess Sachi: The God Indra, king of deities after losing his kingdom to the Demon Vritra, went to Guru Brahaspati for advice to get his kingdom back. Guru Brahaspati exhorted him to get tied a thread around his wrist from his wife Sachi. Sachi then tied a thread around her husband's wrist ensuring his victory in the upcoming war between Vritra and Indra. God Indra then succeeded in his aim. It is believed

that this happening occurred on Shrawan Purnima and since then Raksha Bandhan is held. Draupadi and Lord Krishna: During the fight between lord Krishna and Shishu Pal, the former had left with a bleeding finger after the demise of the latter. To stop the flow of the blood of Lord Krishna's finger, Draupadi wife of Pandavas after tearing a strip of her Sari tied around Lord Krishna's wrist. In lieu of that Lord Krishna promised to protect her and to repay the debt manifold and spent the

him to send her husband back to Vaikunth. Infact, the Goddess Lakshmi showed herself her power to the king. The king frightened and ordered his sepoies to leave Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi to their abode- Vaikunth. Bali desired to protect his life at all cost. Lord Vishnu, however, showed his inability to do so. However to resolve this, it was decided that Lords Vishnu, Brahma and Shiva will guard Bali for 4 months each.

Alexanders's wife and Porus



next 25 years of his life rendering just that.

Lord Vishnu and Demon Bali : According to this legend, Lord Vishnu with the extreme devotion of his devotee the demon king Bali, promised him to serve as guard of Bali's. As such Lord Vishnu left his Vaikunth i.e; paradise and began to live in Bali's kingdom. The Goddess Lakshmi wanted Lord Vishnu back in Vaikunth. She after disguising as Brahmin went to the king Bali and sought shelter by telling that her husband had gone away on long journey. She, thus, used to remain in the kingdom of Bali. On Shrawan Purnima she tied a thread on the wrist of king Bali wishing for his well being.

In return, he granted a boon wide which Goddess asked from

: One of the earliest example of Raksha Bandhan took place during 326 BC, when a battle was fought between Alexander the great and the king Porus. It is believed that fearing for the life of her husband, Alexander's wife approached Porus and tied a rakhi around his wrist. And in return for that she got blessings from Porus that he will never kill Alexander.

Celebration : Although rakhi is celebrated in various parts of India differently yet its significance remains the same. As for instance, in western India it is called Nariyal Purnima and as a ritual coconuts are thrown into the sea. In south India, this festival is called Avani Avittam. On this day Brahmins after taking holy bath change their holy thread ( Janeyu ) amid chanting

of hymns. In East India rakhi tying ceremony is celebrated to maintain universal brotherhood, which was started by Sh Rabindar Nath Tagore in Shanti Niketan in 1905 at the time of Bengal partition.

In Jammu and Kashmir, rakhi festival is held every year with great enthusiasm. About a month earlier, colourful rakhis become available in the market. Now a days, the style and design of the rakhi have totally changed. Rakhi is no longer a simple thread but a number of its kinds viz; carton rakhi for kids, sandal wood rakhi made of zari thread, musical rakhi made of various decorative materials, gold/silver and diamond rakhi etc; are now available.

Some people buy new clothes. The sweet shops start their preparation well in advance to fulfill demands of the people on rakhi day. Many shopkeepers offer discounts on ready made garments and other clothes. Sisters whose brothers are at a far of distance, they send their rakhis through mail along with gifts. Rakhi greetings cards and rakhis can be sent through internet also. As per the traditions the family members first of all make offerings to the deities.

The sisters prepare thalis for worshipping having rakhis or threads, rice grains mixed with saffron threads, earthen or metal lamp, incense sticks ( agarbattis ) and sweets. The sisters then perform the aarti of the brothers with thalis and put a mixture of saffron and rice grains / threads of marigold flowers on their foreheads as tilaks. Thereafter, they tie the rakhis on wrists of brothers while performing the rites, the sisters pray to the Almighty for their brothers protection and welfare. Brothers in turn bless their sisters with promise to protect them from evils of the world. They give gifts to them also as token of love.

**Kishtwar incident : A solution**

**Rakesh Kumar Pandit**  
Once I had an opportunity to visit the Kishtwar town regarding some official engagement. Excluding the main filthy and dusty market of the Kishtwar town, which is wholly man made, I wonder how nature has blessed this place. The scenic beauty of the place enveloped by the beautiful mountain ridges is mesmerizing and one wishes to be one with its beauty, its calmness and its spiritual aura. The people of the Kishtwar in particular and the people of the J&K in general are expected to maintain this beauty, calmness both internal as well as external in the true sense. Gone are the days of 1990's in J&K, peace has now prevailed to a large extent in this beautiful place of land in India. Leaving aside very few hate mongers and anti-national elements who use the name of religion to keep the pot boiling in order to be in limelight and also to fulfill the evil and selfish designs of their bosses across the border. These hate mongers ignore the plight of the people and bankruptcy in almost every sphere of life across the border. The people of J&K have realized the importance of peace and harmony, because only peace, harmony and stability will provide at least bread and butter to the poor people of J&K where corruption has broken the backbone of the society and unemployment is at its peak. Even the hate mongers of the state know that hate and cry on the name of religion can not be carried forward with empty stomach. The recent incident of clashes between the two communities of different religions in the Kishtwar town and its consequences and impact in the rest of J&K has once again put the question in the

forefront that, can we afford this in the 21st century when our country is dealing with external aggression even from our neighbours at economic, political and military fronts simultaneously. I will not go into the causes of these clashes, which is crystal clear to all the stake holders. The government and the security agencies were well aware of the situation at the ground level much before the incident took place, which led to these clashes

messages as they are because one's interpretation always leads to one's own point of view as well. So I will leave it to the readers to feel for themselves. Very few of these messages have been taken from the Swami Vivekanand's addresses to the World's Parliament of Religions at Chicago, in 1893 where delegates came from all parts of the world, representing perhaps every form of organized religious belief. In his speeches at the Parliament Swami Ji stressed again

space for development. It will be a religion which will have no place for persecution or intolerance in its polity, which will recognize divinity in every man and woman, and whose scope, whose whole force will be created in aiding humanity to realize its own true, divine nature."

Making a plea for universality, at the Parliament Swami Ji said,

" If any one here hopes that this unity will come by the triumph of any one of the religions and the destruction of the others, to him I say, Brother, yours is an impossible hope. Do I wish that the Christian would become Hindu? God forbid. Do I wish that the Hindu or the Buddhist would become Christian? God forbid. The Christian is not to become a Hindu or a Buddhist, nor a Hindu or a Buddhist to become a Christian. But each must assimilate the spirit of the other and yet preserve his individuality and grow according to his own law of growth. In the face of this, if anybody dreams of the exclusive survival of his own religion and destruction of the others, I pity him from the bottom of my heart, and point out to him that upon the banner of every religion will soon be written, in spite of resistance: "Help and not Fight."

"Assimilation and not Destruction."  
"Harmony and Peace and not Dissension."

But the political, religious and ethnic clashes that plague the world today will prove that we have missed the link of Divine Unity of the people of the world with each other. The Earth, therefore continues to be torn in dissension and Swami Vivekananda's message of 'Harmony and Peace' emerges more relevant everyday.

( The author is Assistant Professor of Physics at GDC Baderwah )

***"If there is ever to be a universal religion, it must be one which will have no location in place or time, which will be infinite like the God it will preach, and whose sun will shine upon the followers of Krsna and of Christ, on saints and sinners alike, which will not be Brahminic or Buddhistic, Christian or Muhammedan, but the sum total of all these, and still have infinite space for development.***

and large scale destruction and deaths on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Is there any remedy, so that these unfortunate incidents will not happen in future and disturb the atmosphere of peace, harmony and stability, which is the crying need of the hour. In fact the remedy for these types of evils has been time and again put forth by the spiritual leaders of our great country.

I would like to put forth the message of Swami Vivekananda, whose philosophy and message is universal in appeal and crosses the limits of sects, religions, even nations. Their relevance is for entire mankind. I will put the

and again the idea of validity of all religions and their harmony. He presented the ideal of a Universal religion which would have no temporal, spatial or sectarian boundary but include every attitude of the human mind in a grand synthesis.

" If there is ever to be a universal religion, it must be one which will have no location in place or time, which will be infinite like the God it will preach, and whose sun will shine upon the followers of Krsna and of Christ, on saints and sinners alike, which will not be Brahminic or Buddhistic, Christian or Muhammedan, but the sum total of all these, and still have infinite

**Protect historical buildings**

**I**  
Sir,  
This has reference to the damage caused to boundary wall of Bahu Fort. The loss so caused is quite immense and steps need to be taken to restore its pristine glory.  
The collapse of the wall of this historical building should draw our attention to other buildings of heritage value of Jammu region. Some of these historical buildings cannot be restored to their original status but some can certainly be salvaged if the Government intervenes promptly. A committee needs to be constituted to assess the condition of these buildings and the recommendations submitted by it should be taken into consideration for their safety.  
It will be a great loss in case we fail to protect these buildings. These are not mere buildings but symbols of our culture, heritage, life style and

architecture. In them lies our past and future. With them is associated our history and our contribution to civilization. We need to protect them for our posterity so that they can know their link with the past.

Yours etc....  
**Arvind Sharma**  
**Udhampur**

**II**  
Sir,  
The damage to the historical fort is very disturbing and has hurt the sentiments of the people of Jammu and needs immediate attention towards restoration of its glory. The matter deserves wide media coverage so that the authorities concerned would take appropriate measures to protect it from further damage.

Yours etc....  
**Bhuvneshwar Gandotra**  
**96, Sector 9,**  
**Trikuta Nagar, Jammu**

**Mid Day scams**

Joginder Singh, IPS(Retd)

What was greatly admired by UN agencies and World Bank, India's Mid Day scheme, as most effective initiative to improve child nutrition and school enrollment has run into controversy due to apathy, mismanagement, no accountability and above all greed and corruption.

It all started with Bihar, where 29 students of the Government schools, died after taking mid day meals and over 6 dozen have fallen sick. The midday meal served to students contained poisonous pesticide, that was five times deadlier than the standard product sold in the market.

Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) scientists found the toxic pesticide in the samples of oil, from the plastic container, food remains on the platter, and mixture of rice with vegetables on an aluminum utensil found at the cooking site of the school. An inquiry conducted by the Bihar Government has held the principal responsible for the deaths, due to gross negligence.

It is believed that the Principal of the School, a lady had allegedly forced the cook to use the oil despite the latter's complaint that it had a pungent smell. The bodies of the children have been buried right in front of the school and locals have made it clear they would not allow the school to function again.

The Director of the midday meal in the State, said the school in the village would be merged with the nearest middle school having a better Mid Day meal infrastructure. He also added that Government had taken a policy decision not to run schools from rented and dilapidated structures and equip new units with full-fledged kitchens.

It is the typical case of locking the stables after the horses have fled away. It is amazing that the Government wakes up, after a ghastly tragedy to make good the deficiencies, confirming the suspicion, that the powers that be, can get away with the murder or in this case child murders and pass on the blame on the lower functionaries or the opposition parties.

What were the functionaries at the supervisory level, and immediate superiors of the headmasters were doing? Did they ever check, the quality of the food grains or other food stuffs, and utensils supplied?

At the national level, it would be worthwhile, to check up as to in how many in schools, such incidents have taken place and were any instructions issued, about quality of the ingredients used in the preparation of the midday meal scheme.

A tragedy of a big enormity, takes place, and the Bihar Chief Minister and Education Minister say, that it is a conspiracy against the Government by the BJP and RJD. It only proves once again that politicians will always blame, their opponents, for the failure of governance.

According to a report at least Rs 700 crore allocated for the midday meal scheme and around Rs 1,000 crore earmarked for upgrading Government hospitals, is either lying unspent, or there was no proper documentation of how it was spent.

This is apart from the Rs 462 crore meant for the Mid Day meal scheme that Bihar returned to the Centre.

As if to salve its conscience and cover its negligence in not having a mechanism put in place, to ensure that healthy and properly cooked food is served to the children, the Bihar Government has announced a grant of Rs. 2 Lakhs to the next of the kin of the deceased.

But in all fairness, why blame only Bihar, the same story is repeated all over the country.

Nearly 100 students belonging to Neyveli Lignite Corporation Higher Secondary School in Cuddalore district, in Tamil Nadu, fell ill on 17th July, 2013, after consuming the mid-day meal and were rushed to hospitals.

Like all Governments, the Tamil Nadu Government has ordered an inquiry.

It is a usual ploy to order an inquiry, as if the Government did not know, what is wrong with the implementation of the otherwise excellent scheme.

Umpteen inquiries have been ordered into the matters relating to the food grains and food matters, but nothing has come out, as the thinking of the decision makers is not clear and focused. To cut a long story short, there is hardly any State, which has been free from such malades.

Our country, despite being a food surplus country, has still not been able to curb food grain wastage. A report reveals that each year, wheat equivalent to Australia's annual grain production is wasted in India. As compared to this Australia has: 0.75% of grain wasted.

21 million tonnes of wheat worth R 50,000 crore is lost every year, or 24% of 2012-13 output. 88.31 million tonnes of wheat was produced by India in 2012-13.

India continues to be the second largest producer of wheat, yet it ranks 65 out of 122 countries on the World Hunger Index of 2012. The Global Survey report says that 42% of children in India are underweight and it's the home to the largest number of undernourished people in the world: a blaring 216 million. The cruel irony is that 75% of the Indian population suffers from hunger and malnutrition in varying degrees.

Rotting food problem is not something new. It is going to last for ever, as there is hardly any punishment worth the name in the India, to anybody, who enters the Government service.

It is for the simple reason, that no Government has the guts or will to sack the indifferent, corrupt and criminals, as all the rights belong to the criminals and not the victims. But no Government takes steps, to build in the budget and implementation of any scheme, the preventive and punitive measures, so that such contingencies do not arise.

All State Governments, and above all Bihar, can learn from each other and copy the good points.

The Bihar school tragedy has spurred the Karnataka Government into restarting its exercise of checking the quality of mid day meals, as well as to have quality audit on ingredients and vegetables and conducting random checks on schools, to ensure that the children are served the best plate of food rich in nutrition.

It has made it compulsory that students should not be served meal until two teachers of the school.

The Government will launch a new scheme to look into infrastructure issues that include storage facilities, kitchens and quality drinking water.

It will have a special team comprising of nutritionist, food inspector, dietician, doctor and members from drug-testing laboratories, to ensure the best quality of food for the children.

The Government should remember that those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it. The past cannot be changed, forgotten or erased, but the lessons learnt from it, can prepare us for a better tomorrow.

**Package for affected people**

Refer news item, 'NC demands special package for flood affected areas' DE Aug 19.

The recent rains and floods have caused havoc in the Jammu region. Many people lost their lives. Some lost their houses, cattle and land. Large swatches of land got washed away causing great loss to people.

Therefore, it becomes duty of the Government to come to their rescue at this crucial stage of life. Besides, it is quite necessary that damage to infrastructure be also taken into account. At some places, power supply has been stopped as electric poles either got washed away or got uprooted. Roads too got badly damaged.

The Government is therefore urged to frame a special package for these affected people so that they can start their normal life once again.

Yours etc....  
**Sunil Verma**  
**Kathua**

**Readers Write**

**Act tough against Pakistan**

Sir,  
This has reference to recent happenings in Kishtwar and subsequents later on.

The genesis of the problem lies in trans border terrorism propped up by Pakistan with full might and candidness. This ground reality cannot be glossed over. Mere issuance of verbal threats, passage of resolution would not resolve the hydra headed crisis. It needs matching counteraction and a befitting diplomatic as well as military response to wilful ceasefire violations and wanton brutal killings of our patriotic soldiers. This would serve as a strong deterrent for Pakistan to stop low intensity war against India. Otherwise they will keep us bleeding all the time.

Yours etc....  
**P C Sharma**  
**Trikuta Nagar, Jammu**