



Food is Significant

World Food Safety Day, observed annually on June 7th, is a global initiative led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness about the importance of food safety and reduce the burden of foodborne diseases. It highlights the critical role of safe food in ensuring public health, economic prosperity, and sustainable development. You can celebrate the day by engaging in activities like educational workshops, cooking demonstrations, food safety quizzes, farm visits, community cleanups, and social media campaigns.



The Birth Of India Around CP PART:3

One of the most frequented dhabas in New Delhi in the '50s and '60s, Kake da Hotel, opened across the road from our restaurants and continues to be popular. It was then run by two brothers, each one doing either lunch or dinner with their own raw material and freshly cooked meals. Hence, the food served was always freshly cooked and not leftover from the previous meal.

LALIT NIRULA distinctly remember August 1947. We were not allowed to go outside after sundown. Late evenings were pitch dark, the shops were closed and one could clearly hear the sound of sirens. Sleeping on the roof, I remember looking towards Old Delhi and seeing a reddish glow in the sky and being told that there were fires burning in that area.

What I remember most distinctly after that was probably the second half of '47 and '48 when the inner circle was more crowded than it had ever been. The verandahs were full of people and walking space was limited as the refugees had opened little stalls with gas lanterns on the covered corridor floor. These people were initially shifted to Irwin Road (Baba Kharak Singh Marg) and Panchkuian Road where they opened kiosks and then some were later shifted to what became Mohan Singh Market. Many other pavement vendors were also shifted to Queensway (Janpath), as well as across the outer circle near Shankar Market, and are still there. Though Oriental Fruit Mart in E-Block was supposed to be the best fruit shop in New Delhi, the new Irwin Road fruit shops, opposite Rivoli cinema, soon became popular as they sold the best in terms of quality and price.

One of the most frequented dhabas in New Delhi in the '50s and '60s, Kake da Hotel, opened across the road from our restaurants and continues to be popular. It was then run by two brothers, each one doing either lunch or dinner with their own raw material and freshly cooked meals. Hence, the food served was always freshly cooked and not leftover from the previous meal. We were also taken for dinner to Moti Mahal in Darvaganj by the parents for tandoori food, which was still a rare treat in the Delhi of that era. Kundan Lal, the



owner of Moti Mahal, introduced Delhi to the delights of tandoori chicken as normally meats were cooked on horizontal skewers on a charcoal grill and the tandoor was used for cooking rotis and naans. I remember him as a large, smiling



man with a large moustache, wearing a pathan suit with a pathani topi, always greeted his regular customers at the entrance. I think he was also the inventor of 'butter chicken', which, I was told, came about when his chicken curry finished and to provide a gravy chicken dish, he took a half-done tandoori chicken, added butter, tomatoes and spices and cooked it in a

FACTFILE

The area around Qutab Minar, including Mehrauli, had mango orchards and had some bungalows, and I remember hearing that the 'Dilliwalla Seths', who lived in the walled city, had country homes here to house their mistresses! India Gate lawns with King George V, at one end, and Rashtrapati Bhavan, at the other, was also a favourite place in the summer evenings and for lunch during winter months up to the early '60s as there were few people there.

frying pan. It has now become so popular that it has replaced the traditional chicken curry in popularity and is synonymous with Delhi cuisine! CP was a very quiet place at night in the '40s and early '50s and I

#GROWING UP IN CP



remember going for a family picnic in the inner park as it was absolutely deserted by 8 pm. I learned to cycle in the Central Park in the solitude of the early mornings. We

Puram, Vasant Vihar, Anand Niketan, Shanti Niketan and West End!

Going for a picnic with college friends to Hauz Khas in '61 is vivid in my memory and the monuments were then surrounded by a forest! I also remember a small village there, with no other habitation. Very few cars were seen in the late '40s and '50s. The public transport system was not able to cope with the population growth post-1947. With the spread of Delhi, most people resorted to travel by bicycle. At 9.30 am, we could see hordes of bicycles interspersed with a few cars in CP. The most unusual bicyclist, I saw from our first floor, wore a dressing gown and was armed with a toothbrush in one hand. I have still not been able to fathom what this person was up to!

As we lived in D-Block, the Republic Day Parade would pass by on the street in front of us every other year and next to us on alternate years. As a matter of routine, this event would see many people visiting us who discovered that they had not met us for a long time and would, coincidentally, lean over the verandah railings to watch the parade pass by!

My schooling started at the age of four in a tent at Delhi Public School (DPS), a new school started by Reverend J.D. Tytler, a big (to me as a little child), smiling and very red-faced bearded man. It was located in the grounds of Cathedral Church of the redemption in Church Lane near Rashtrapati Bhavan. DPS then moved to its present Mathura Road location and still operated from tents, till I left the school in January 1954, to join a boarding school. Tents were made for interesting classrooms and, as

children, we did not find them unusual at all. In fact, whenever it rained, I had dreams of using my table as a raft and floating home on it!

FACTFILE

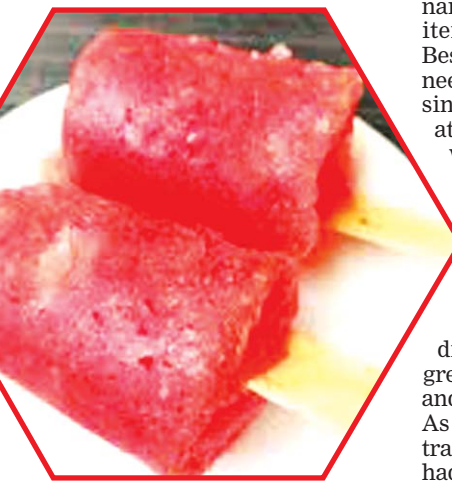
Another interesting and talented individual was Nishi Nakra, whom I got to know in 1960, when he did the music system for our new restaurant, La Boheme. He was a good engineer and passionate about sound. He developed speakers and amplifiers under the brand name, Enbee, in an era when such items could not be imported. Besides being an inventive engineer, he was also a very talented singer and I would often visit him at his shop in Shankar Market.

Rains were a delightful and exciting time as CP roads were sure to get flooded at least once, with sometimes even the shops getting flooded. The flooding at Minto Bridge was a yearly event. I would look forward to going with someone older after the rain stopped to walk around CP, as water on the roads would be thigh deep for a 11 year old child. Minto Bridge would always be a great place to visit as normally there would be a bus or two roof deep in water! Ah, the excitement of those days!

Connaught Place in the evenings was exotic. There were peacock feather sellers, and people selling caged parrots, which were also seen flying around CP in large numbers. Many times, the bhaluwallah, the sapaera with his 'been' and the bandarwallah would be seen on the open pavements and in the park.

The one person I have never forgotten was a dignified elderly white-turbaned man, who probably moved to Delhi after partition and who would walk with his bicycle in the verandahs of CP selling

chooran of two varieties, 'lakkad hazam' and 'patthar hazam.' He would ring his cycle bell to advertise his presence as he walked the corridors. As a child, I did not appreciate the digestive properties of the choorans, but they were deli-



cious and I would buy a small 'purria' for two annas or if we had more money, a small glass vial of chooran.

Edwin Chan lived in CP and was an interior designer who specialized in wood furniture and interiors, and as a very young man, had worked with his father on the woodwork of the Viceroy's House (Rashtrapati Bhavan). His passion

was to invent and develop a perpetual motion machine and till he died sometime in the early '90s, when asked how the project was going, he would optimistically proclaim that it was just a step away from completion.

Looking Back The Post Kargil war era is more 'important' now as during this period, the Chinese threat started getting somewhat realized in the thoughts of policy-makers where in a deliberate thought was being given to enhance and utilize the potency of artillery in our warfighting matrix. It was then realized that mountainous terrain combined with poor border infrastructure is a huge challenge to even move existing guns to the forward areas, leave aside being able to fire them effectively to neu-



It was on 21 Apr 1526 during the first battle of Panipat between Babur and the Lodhi Kingdom when Mughal forces under Babur not only used the gun power based fire arms but used the artillery as well. This changed the very outcome of the battle and heralded the beginning of Mughal Empire in India which flourished through centuries before it was ousted by East India Company beginning the British rule in India. Since the Battle of Panipat was won primarily due to use of artillery guns, it became part of inventory of most of the kingdoms in India thereafter

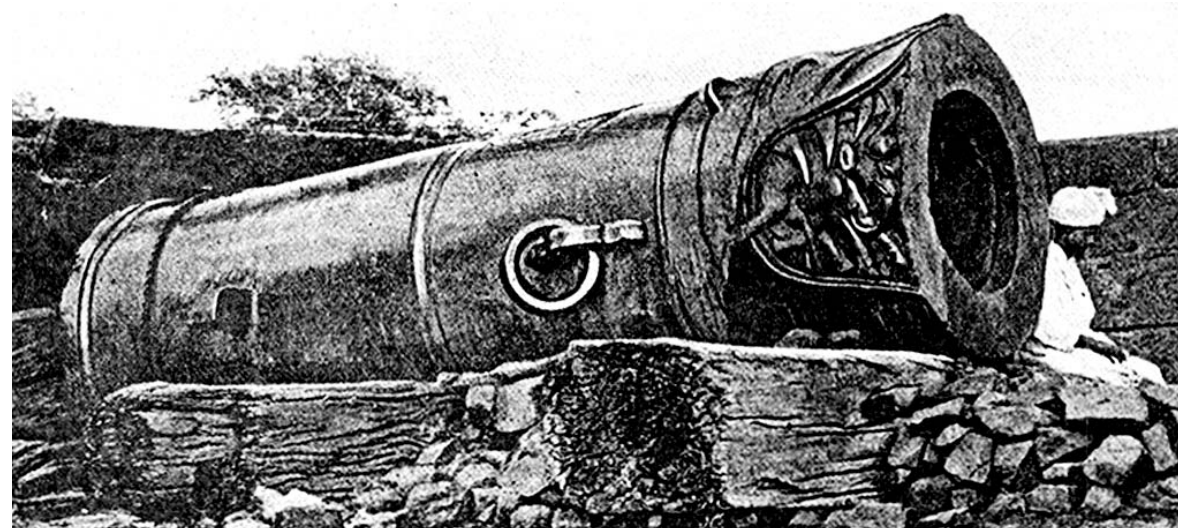


he gunners in India celebrate their Corps Day on 28 Sep as it was this very date, way back in 1827, when the first Artillery unit was raised, though as part of the British India. Whether the gunners should continue with this date as their 'Corps Day' or shift to a suitable date in post independent era of India is something which gunners can keep deliberating. This article looks at the events in Indian history, both pre and post independence, where guns made their indelible mark on the battlefield.

Looking Back

available. The Gunners have acquitted themselves very well in all the post independence conflicts which India has to fight so far. In fact, in the latest battle of India during Kargil War, the victory came to India primarily due to long range, accurate and innovative use of artillery guns. In fact, it will not be wrong to say if Kargil War is renamed as 'Gunners War.' Present Realities The Post Kargil war era is more 'important' now as during this period, the Chinese threat started getting somewhat realized in the thoughts of policy-makers where in a deliberate thought was being given to enhance and utilize the potency of artillery in our warfighting matrix. It was then realized that mountainous terrain combined with poor border infrastructure is a huge challenge to even move existing guns to the forward areas, leave aside being able to fire them effectively to neu-

#FACTFILE



Bijapur, Malik-i-Maidan (H. Cousins, Bijapur, pl. IV).

tralize the enemy. In near simultaneous timeframe, Artillery was focusing on mediumisation and up gunning wherein 155mm calibre was becoming a universally acceptable calibre and progress commenced towards that. A combination of models were used to address this gap to include in house production, DRDO production as well as increasing contribution of the private sector. Despite this multiplicity of effort, ideal and intended profile of Indian Artillery could not be achieved. While the artillery got adequately revamped for handling the threat from Pakistan due to terrain being largely plain except in J&K Sector, but it still needed to address this challenge against China.

Present Realities

It was at this time that Indian Artillery started looking at Lighter guns, which can be moved either by road having relatively lesser road classification or could be air dropped in the pre-designat-

ed places close to the likely place of conflict, be for defensive or offensive operations. It appeared to address the challenge, though marginally. Besides this, Indian artillery had to navigate through fresh challenges arising due to better surveillance devices available with the adversary. This was a challenge in earlier era as well when the bulk of artillery was in towed configuration with no inherent 'shoot and scoot' capability. During this time, the guns were towed back to alternative positions to avoid the 'Counter Bombardment (CB),' a major threat for the gunners. To address this challenge, inherent 'shoot and scoot' capability was given to the guns through 'auxiliary power system' as is the case for Bofors guns. This intrinsic capability gave the guns more survivability but this ability was also short lived as 'shoot and scoot' capability is limited in distances to which these artillery pieces can move

besides adversaries acquiring more potent surveillance devices as well as CB weapons. The need now is to have our gun system which can be quickly moved from one place to the other place in an operationally acceptable timeframe, wherein they not only avoid the CB but are also able to cover wider frontages even if the resources are limited.

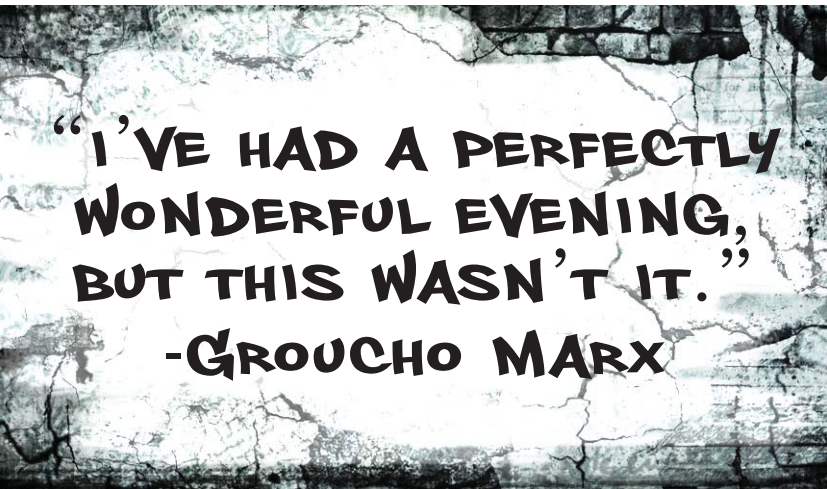
Such a requirement can be met using self-propelled guns mounted on a platform having requisite mobility in all terrains. Indian Army experimented with such guns but these guns could never become the mainstay of artillery, a situation continuing till date.

Conclusion

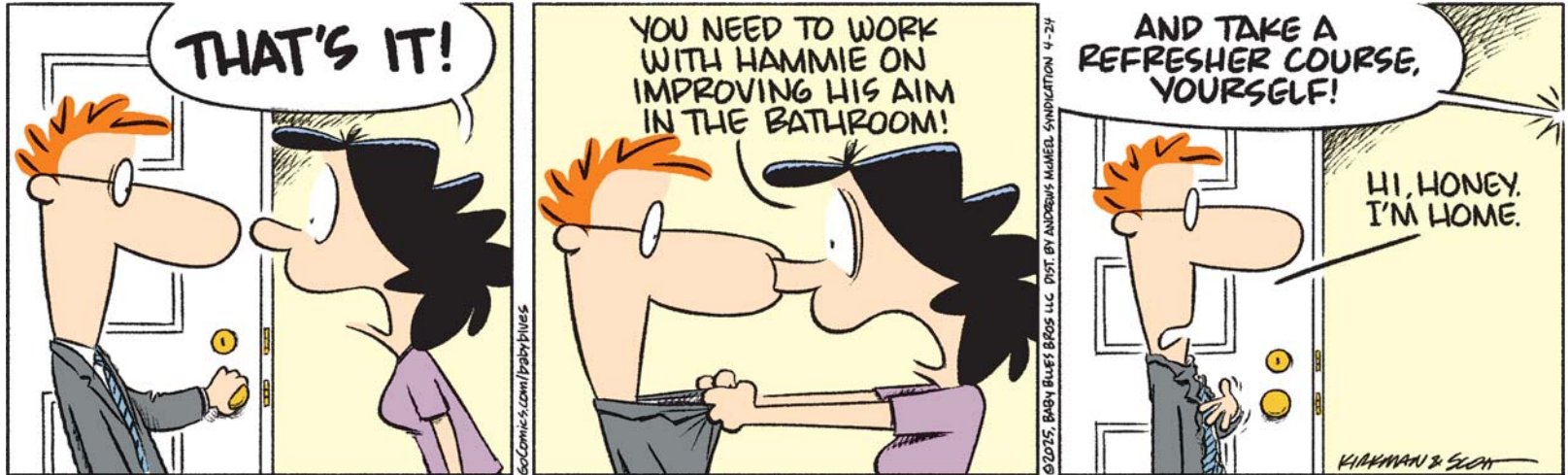
But in the recent times, a major push is being given to border infrastructure to ensure all weather availability of the surface communications, axial up to the LAC with China and LOC with Pakistan and laterals at varying depths to connect these and previous axials. With advanced technology, it is now possible to assess as to with what pace is the infrastructure developing. Future induction of guns, both in numbers and transportability have to be accordingly planned. It will be more prudent to go in for self propelled and light guns with longer ranges and precision munitions, to revamp the artillery of the future.

Since the threat spectrum has also enhanced substantially, the guns will need to be given requisite Air Defense capabilities as well as anti-drone measures as only then, they may survive in the milieu of the future battlefield. Threat from drones have brought out important lessons from the ongoing wars which need to be factored in our equipping policy. In addition, these have to factor various disruptive technologies which are fast changing not only the equipment profiling but also the war fighting methodology.

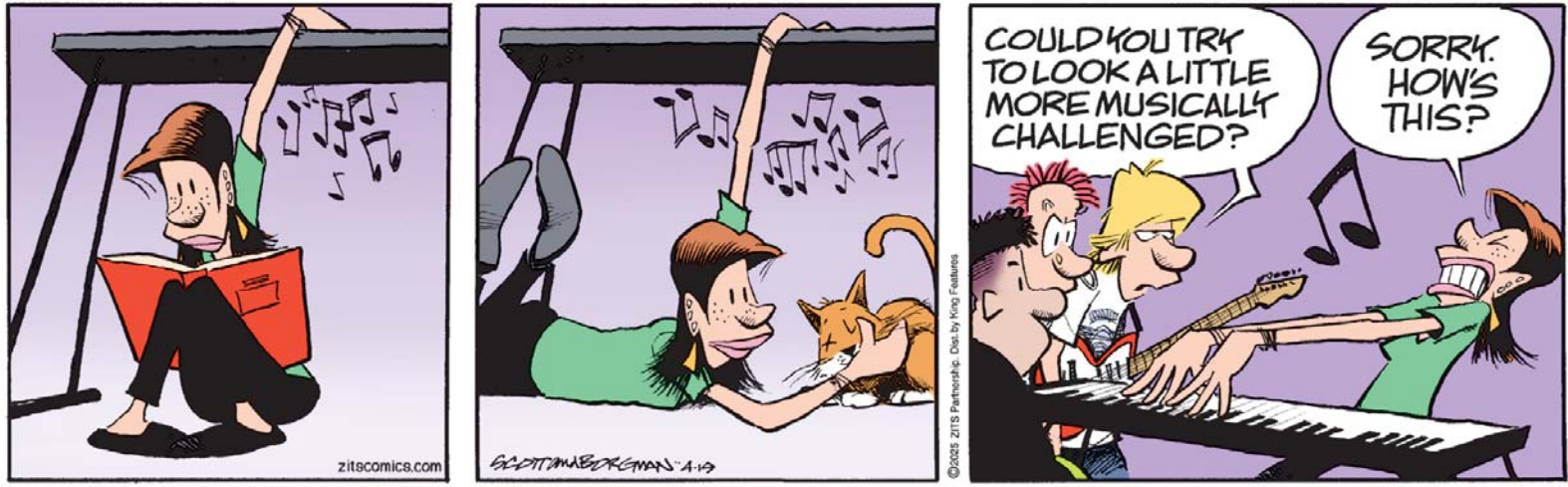
THE WALL



BABY BLUES



ZITS



M109-52 Self-Propelled Howitzer.