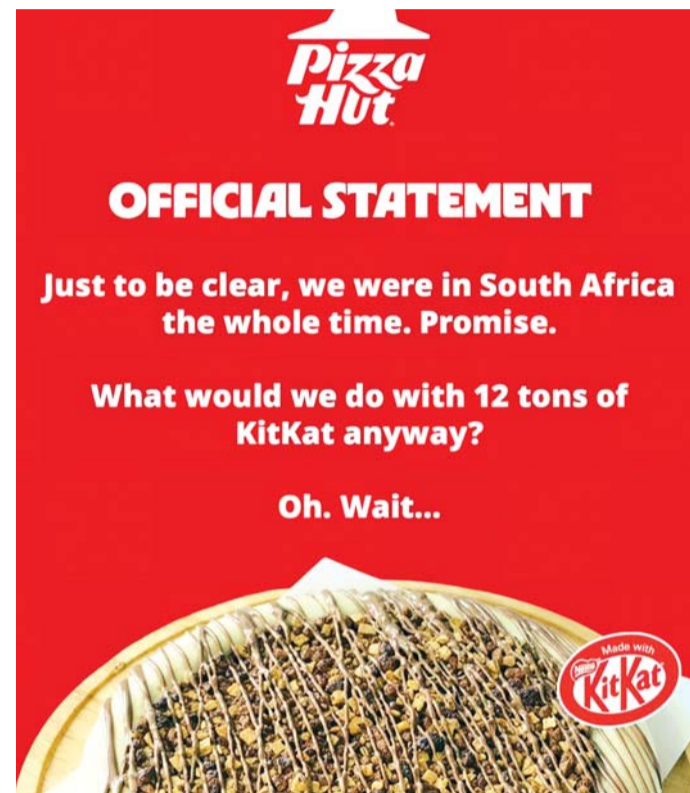


#RECOVERED

The KitKat Heist

While the teenage masterminds may have thought they had pulled off a sweet deal, their plan melted under the watchful eye of their own mother



In a story that sounds almost too bizarre to be true, what began as a large-scale chocolate theft turned into an unusual family drama in Austria. Authorities recently confirmed that nearly 12 tons of stolen KitKat bars, amounting to more than 400,000 individual pieces, have been successfully recovered after an unexpected tip-off.

The chocolate shipment had originally been stolen from a truck traveling between Italy and Poland. Following the theft, the entire load seemed to vanish without a trace, leaving investigators puzzled about where such a massive quantity of confectionery could possibly go.

The mystery began to unravel in Austria, when a local mother contacted the police with a startling claim: she suspected her own teenage sons were behind the crime. According to authorities, the boys had allegedly taken control of the stolen goods and were attempting to distribute them through online marketplaces as well as local black market channels. Reports indicate that some of the chocolate had already made its way into nearby towns.

What ultimately exposed the operation, however, was not sophisticated police work, but a mother's observation. She reportedly became suspicious after noticing her sons frequently covered in chocolate and complaining of stomach aches. Her concerns grew when she discovered a truck parked on their rural farm, which turned out to be the very vehicle used in the heist.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation, she alerted authorities, leading to the goods and the dismantling of the unusual operation. The case has since captured public attention not just for the scale of the theft, but for its almost comical unraveling.

In the end, while the teenage masterminds may have thought they had pulled off a sweet deal, their plan melted under the watchful eye of their own mother. And as many have joked since, being turned in by your own mother might just be worse than getting caught.



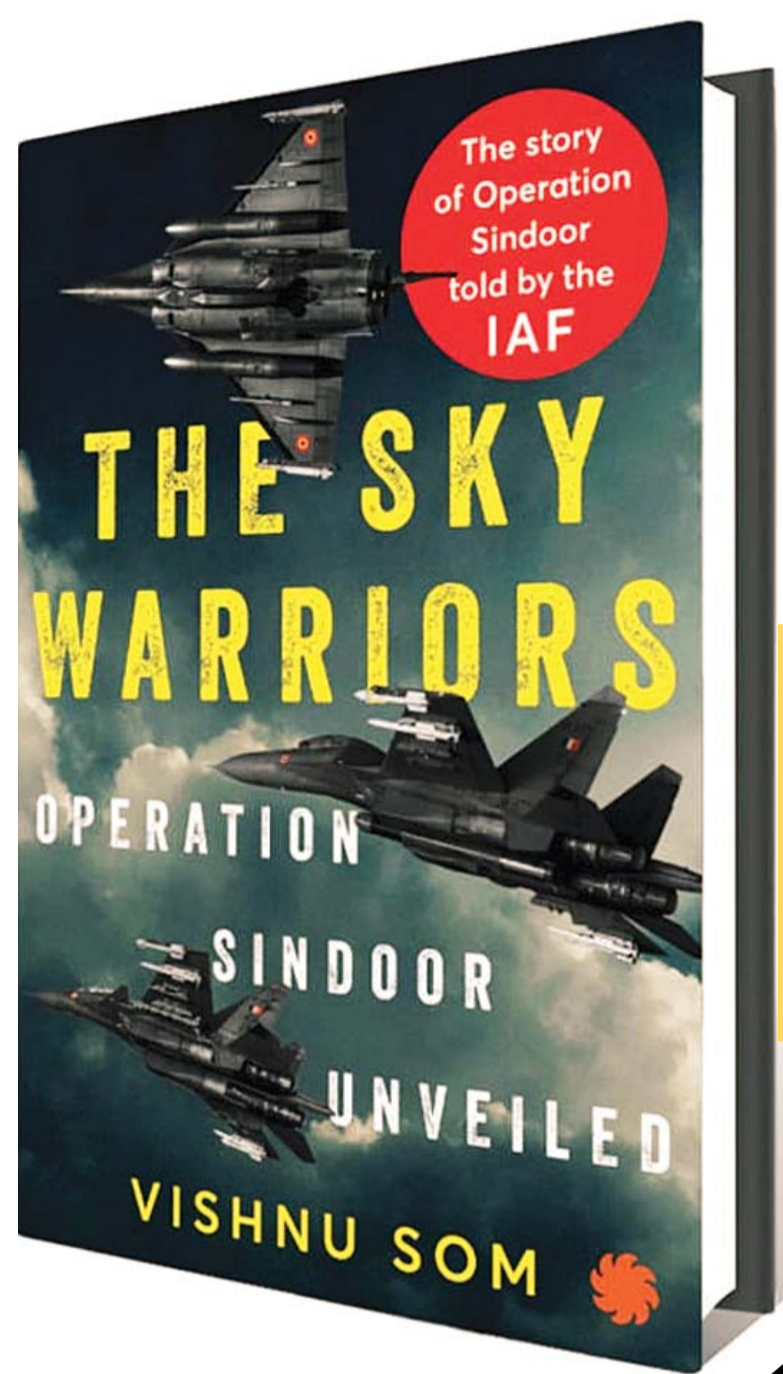
About The Book

The book begins with the Pahalgam incident following which there was no doubt that the IAF would be part of the response and would be put to the ultimate test. Preparations that followed involved finalising target lists and redeploying assets with the aim of sending a 'precise punitive message by striking terrorist infrastructure without opening a wider front.'

Between 07 May and 10 May, over a period of 88 hours, India and Pakistan fought their most intense air battles since the 1971 war. The Sky Warriors' by Vishnu Som, the acclaimed journalist, is a definitive account of Operation Sindoor as told by the men who flew the missions and planned the strikes. It offers an air warrior's view of the Indian Air Force (IAF) operations against Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

The book is a rare account of the ensuing air operations. The author writes how a Sukhoi pilot is maneuvering towards hostile airspace as the enemy radar attempts to lock on to his aircraft. It reveals how a senior officer commanding a cutting-edge war room is orchestrating the operations under immense pressure. It also gives a glimpse of missile unit commander on the LoC facing wave after wave of Pakistani drones.

The book tells the reader what it truly means to go into combat. The split-second choices, the weight of command, the handling of modern state of the war waging equipment and the commitment of those who fly these war machines and man the weapon systems are sensitively written. He writes about BVR radar locks, BrahMos launch sequences,



#BOOK REVIEW



and the engagement envelopes of the S-400, India's critical shield against missile attacks. While the first day dogfights following the IAF strikes on terrorist camps grabbed headlines, what stood out was the subsequent degradation of the Pakistan Air Force. Som reveals the overwhelming kinetic response against Pakistan's air defence assets, airfields, and command-and-control (C2) centres, using BrahMos-NG, SCALEP, Harop, and other precision-attack munitions and drones.

The IAF induced paralysis and altered the trajectory of this 88-hour war. Beyond the initial scramble of the first day, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) had little left to demonstrate. Within 48 hours, it was rendered largely inconsequential with its air defence in shambles, its fighter fleet reduced to ineffective patrols, while the IAF's Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) nodes were monitoring every inch of the air picture. One of the critical

moments of the 88-hour war involved a Wing Commander serving in Group Captain Animesh Patni's S-400 unit. As the Pakistani aircraft and missiles attempted to probe and breach Indian air space, they faced the immense pressure of executing a counter-strike.

Seeking final clearance in a highly charged atmosphere, he

requested for confirmation to fire. 'Upon receiving a firm 'Affirm,' you are cleared to launch,' a towering 25-foot S-400 interceptor missile was fired, accelerating to hypersonic speeds into the night sky.

The narrative describes the sheer force of the launch, which shook the ground below. High above, the targeted Pakistani fighter jet desperately attempted evasive maneuvers, frantically deploying counter measures like chaff and flares to break the lock.

However, the S-400's highly advanced radar and tracking systems proved impossible to shake. A massive explosion illuminated the dark sky, followed by confirmation of a successful hit as the enemy aircraft vanished from radar screens. The intense, clinical focus inside the control room instantly gave way to cheers and patriotic chants from the Indian troops manning the system.

This interception was part of a broader, highly successful deployment of India's layered air defence

Protecting The Blue Heart Of The Planet

World Oceans Day, observed every year on June 8, highlights the critical role oceans play in sustaining life on Earth. Covering over 70 per cent of the planet, oceans regulate climate, produce oxygen, support marine biodiversity and provide livelihoods to millions worldwide. The day also raises awareness about growing threats such as plastic pollution, overfishing, coral bleaching and rising sea temperatures caused by climate change. Governments, environmental organisations and communities across the globe mark the occasion through clean-up drives, conservation campaigns and educational initiatives, encouraging sustainable practices to preserve marine ecosystems for future generations.

How The IAF Commandeered Air Space

The IAF induced paralysis and altered the trajectory of this 88-hour war. Beyond the initial scramble of the first day, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) had little left to demonstrate. Within 48 hours, it was rendered largely inconsequential with its air defence in shambles, its fighter fleet reduced to ineffective patrols, while the IAF's Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) nodes were monitoring every inch of the air picture.



network. With runways cratered, assets destroyed both in the air and on the ground, and logistics and command nodes under severe pressure, Pakistan's Director General, Military Operations ultimately sought a ceasefire, thereby averting further losses of PAF capabilities.

The author also covers the Pakistani response in detail including details, their weapons used and states that 'both sides took hits' and 'each denied losses.'

The air warriors, men and women in blue, going beyond the call of duty, embody a brand of quiet, lethal professionals that inspire national pride with their courage and resolve.

Conclusion

Deeply researched and intensely gripping, *The Sky Warriors* combines operational intelligence, forensic detail and edge-of-your-seat storytelling. The Sky Warriors isn't just another military account. It is fast-paced, gripping, and deeply relevant at a time when air dominance is defining geopolitical power. It also highlights the professionalism, dedication and the sheer grit of pilots, who executed their assigned tasks with clinical precision.

The book is not just a record of conflict; which it clearly brings out,

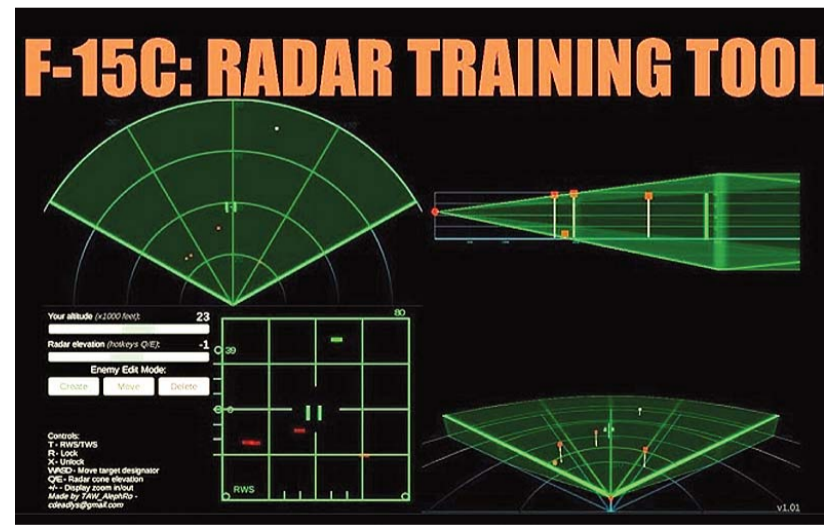
was not a one-way affair and it's a tribute to the technical and operational evolution of the Indian Air Force. An outstanding read. The level of research is phenomenal; detailed, credible, and clearly built on a deep understanding of the subject.

What truly elevates the book, though, is the manner in which the story has been told.

The narrative flows effortlessly, making even complex operational details easy to follow and genuinely compelling. It is engaging in a manner that's seldom seen in non-fiction and hence hard to put down. Although the broad contours of the operation were known, the details and individual accounts make it a memorable read. It is a must-read for anyone interested in military affairs which gives an insight into how modern wars are fought and won. The fact is that stand off weaponry has fundamentally altered combat.

His analysis of the escalation matrix is also outstanding. The book clearly highlights the air aspects of a multi-domain environment and brings to fore the manner in which the IAF was able to unleash its decisive force and redefine the rules of engagement.

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#GANGA DEVI

The Woman Who Chronicled the Vijayanagara Empire

The poem begins during the reign of Bukka Raya, describing the birth and upbringing of his son. It then follows his journey into adulthood

Long before history became a formal academic discipline, stories of kingdoms were preserved through poetry, memory, and lived experience. One of the earliest and most remarkable accounts of the Vijayanagara Empire comes not from a court historian or foreign traveler, but from a woman, Ganga Devi.

Ganga Devi holds a unique place in Indian history as one of the first known writers to document the rise and campaigns of the Vijayanagara Empire. She was the daughter-in-law of Bukka Raya I, the empire's second king, and was married to his son, Kumara Kampana (often referred to as Veer Kampana). Her position within the royal family gave her a rare, close-up view of the political and military life of the time.

Her most famous work, *Madhura Vijaya*, is an epic narrative poem that blends history with literary artistry. It is one of the earliest sources that provides insight into the expansion of the Vijayanagara Empire, particularly its campaign against the Madurai Sultanate.



The poem begins during the reign of Bukka Raya, describing the birth and upbringing of his son. It then follows his jour-

ney into adulthood, his marriage, his rise as a warrior, and ultimately his military campaign to reclaim Madurai. Through this narrative, Ganga Devi presents not just a political account, but an almost biographical story enriched with emotion, purpose, and detail.

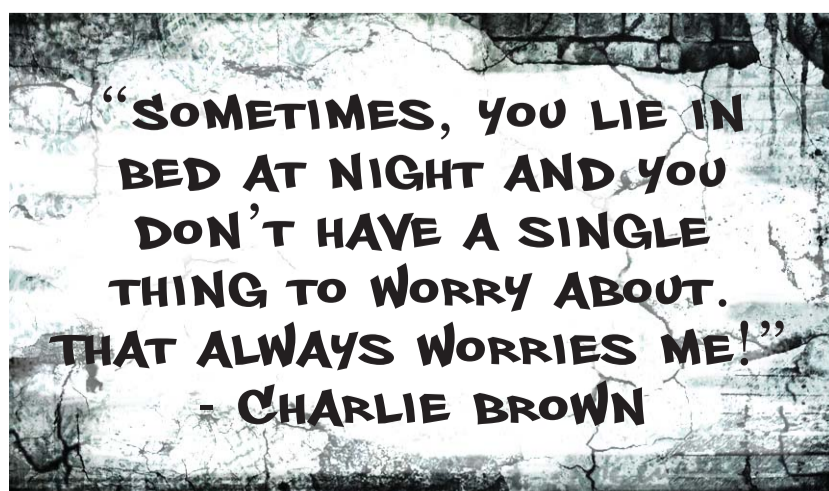
What makes *Madhura Vijaya* especially compelling is its style. It is not a dry chronicle of events but a vivid blend of history and mythology. Ganga Devi uses mythological references and classical imagery to elevate real events into something epic and symbolic, making the narrative both informative and poetic.

Later historians, including Muhammad Qasim Firishta, provided accounts that align with aspects of her narrative, helping corroborate parts of her work. Because of this, historians today consider her poem an important historical source, even as they read it with an understanding of its literary nature.

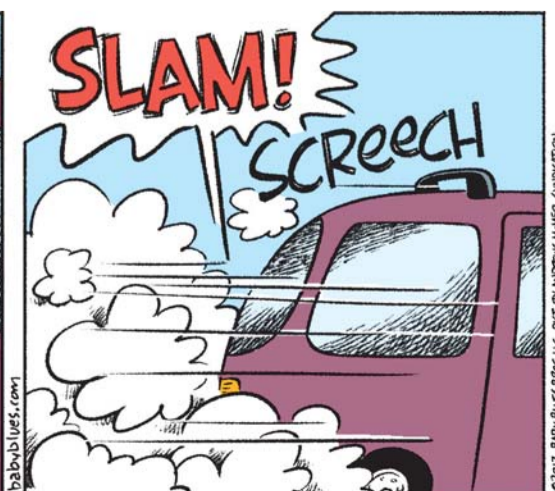
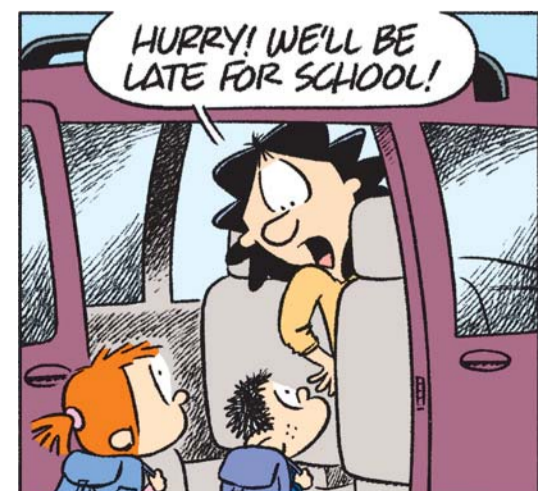
Much of what we know about the Vijayanagara campaign in the south, especially the conquest of Madurai, owes something to Ganga Devi's writing. Her work stands as a testament not only to the power of storytelling but also to the role women played in preserving history, even in times when their voices were rarely recorded. In telling the story of kings and conquests, Ganga Devi also ensured that her own voice would echo through time, making her one of the earliest and most significant historians of medieval India.



THE WALL

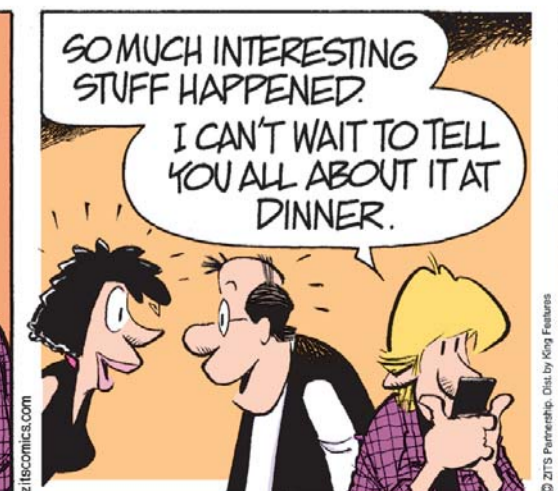


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

