Gilgit Agency

Baltistan

Glacier

UMMAAI

KASHMIR

hroughout history, there have been instances of wanton cruelty and a blatant violation of the rights and privileges of mankind. Whether that was based on the colour of one's skin, their nationality, religion or merely being unfortunate enough to be living under the regime of another country, people have regularly been treated like animals or worse. Universal Human Rights Month is here to remind us of that day in 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly codified basic human rights of every individual on the planet.

Aksai Chin

Verma, who served with him in Kathmandu, says, "an important part of his personality was his humility and kindness, his feet

firmly on the ground." General BA Karriappa, as GO, Maharashtra

and Gujarat areas recalls an inci-

dent of how General Natu asked

him to help out a widow with her

emoluments and once, he had got

her dues released, General Natu

brought the widow and her children to Mumbai so that they could

Colonel Balbir Singh Purewal

recalls an incident during grenade

training when General Natu was the CO and *Havildar* Min Bahadur

died. This was due to an 'innova-

tive method of training' but the

GOC, General Sartaj Singh gave a

'shabash' for trying this method of

grenade throwing. Such were the

eaders at that time, willing to

General Natu was deeply influ

enced by Swami Vivekananda and

the Quit India Movement and

stands tall as a great patriot and a brave 'Soldier General'. He con-

tributed post superannuation to

nation-building through social

This book is remarkable in

many ways because it not only

talks about the contribution of

General Natu but also throws light

on a very important period of the

history of our Army, from parti-

tion to post 1971. How the Army

was shaped by the debacle of the

1962 war, imbibed the lessons

learnt and went on in 1971 to attain

a decisive victory in the war with

Pakistan by concentrating on pro-

fessionalism. The turnaround in

those nine years, which included

the 1965 war with Pakistan, was

be attributed to the leaders in the

Army, men of integrity who stood

tall and firm, confident and sup-

portive, some of whose personali-

ties have been covered in this book.

But what also stands out in the

book is our Regimental system

where 'the unit is a family' and the

deep relationships endure, the

bonding is tremendous and these

should be widely read, not only in

the forces from a professional view

point but also by others, as it pro-

vides an insight into the ethos and

values of the Army and a unit

which is the foundation and the

manner in which it shapes one's

rajeshsharma 1049@gmail.com

This is no doubt this book

familv ties endure.

A large part of this success can

exceptional.

stand by their orders and for their

subordinates.

राष्ट्रदुत 06 December 2023

#EVENT

OF GENDER, POWER & **POWERLESSNESS**

The first in-person session of 'The Universe Writes' in Jaipur hosted Mineke Schipper in conversation with Major Dr. Meeta Singh at ITC Rajputana. The Universe Writes is organized by Prabha Khaitan Foundation, in association with Shree Cement, Siyahi, Nederlands Letterenfonds (Dutch Foundation for Literature), Ehsaas Women of Jaipur and Spagia Foundation.



Major Dr. Meeta Singh and Mineke Schipper.



evening filled

proverbs and capti-

on gender issues, along with a profound exploration of the power and vulnerability of the female body, took center stage as Mineke Schipper, an emeritus professor and accomplished Dutch author, who has written over thirty books, unfolded an engaging conversation with Major Dr. Meeta Singh, a doctor, soldier as well as a humanitarian. The occasion was the first innerson session of 'The

Universe Writes' in Jaipur.

"To address gender dispar ity and foster a more equitable and just society, it is crucial to have a deep understanding of human history. Women, in particular, need to be cognizant of their histori cal roots and the pivotal role of mothers becomes paramount in this awareness. Establishing equality within households serves as a significant foundation for a society that values gender equality. Mineke emphasized the importance of teaching boys to actively participate in routine household chores as a means to contribute to the reduction of gender disparity our society", opined Mineke while talking about ways to reduce gender disparity in the society.

The conversation further delved into the rich tapestry of oral texts, myths, stories and folklore which have been the cornerstone of her literature. Mineke's journey into the realm of oral traditions began in the 1960s when she and her husband, driven by the belief in the power of distributed knowledge embarked on a teaching mis sion in Congo. While teach ing French literature and collaborating on projects in China, Mineke found inspiration in the proverbs shared by people from different walks of life — from waiters in London to taxi drivers in China. It was within a vear

15,000 proverbs. She cited proverbs such as one from England, which said, "Never marry a widow hanged" and a Turkish

that Mineke had amassed a

staggering collection of over



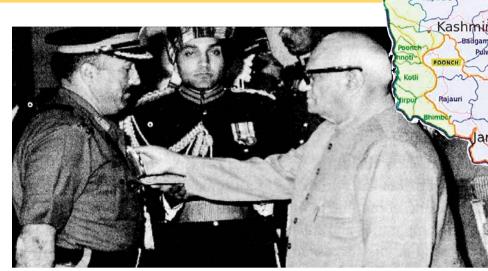


proverb like "A stick on the back and a child in the womb is the best way to control women", to provide a glimpse into the kind of oral traditions that exist for women. In Africa too, a proverb goes, "Never marrv women with big feet", which is also the title of one of her books. This happens so that women can not run away. She said that such proverbs have arisen because the power which women have, is intimidating for men. This is why men pre fer to marry women who are smaller and younger than them and also not too visible

in the public space. It is worth noting that Mineke Schipper is the author of several academic books, essays and novels including Naked or Covered A History of Dressing and Undressing Around the World (2017) and Imagining Insiders: Africa and the (1999). For her international acclaimed non-fiction book. Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet: Women in Proverbs from Around the World, she received the Eureka Award in 2005 for

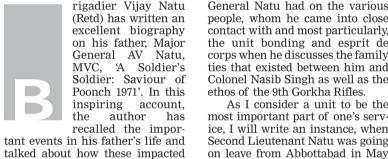
best non-fiction book. The discussion was fol lowed by an engaging Q&A session with the audience, with a very unique set of questions, revolving around gender hierarchies and the origin of proverbs in various As I consider a unit to be the most important part of one's service, I will write an instance, when Second Lieutenant Natu was going on leave from Abbottabad in May 1947. He had accompanied Captain Usman Shaikh from his battalion, when their bus was surrounded by an unruly mob of Muslim League supporters at Attock, who wanted to pull out and slaughter all Hindus travelling to Punjab and beyond. It was at this stage that Captain Usman kept quiet and did not reveal his religious identity, thus saving him 'from lynching and certain death'. The 'camaraderie and bonding' endured.





SAVIOUR OF POONCH

#BOOK REVIEW



talked about how these impacted him and shaped his personality. A weak boy at a Boarding school at Akola in Maharashtra, Anant showed signs of leadership at a very young age when he chal lenged an older bully at school to a wrestling bout and beat him. He thereafter became fearless in life and this character trait remained with him. Having joined the Ramakrishna Mission, to be initiated as a monk in 1945, he could not resist the uniform calling and left the Belur Math to join the Army. He was then commissioned into the 13th Frontier Force Rifle in October 1946 after passing out from the Officers Training school at Belgaum. Post-Partition General Natu was transferred to the 9th Gorkha Rifles and served in challenging appointments, in operational areas, participated in wars

Jagatbir Singh

recalled the impor

staff appointments. He also had two very fulfilling innings in Nepal that were historic one in the 1950s, where he con tributed to reorganizing the training of the Royal Nepal Army and in his second innings, he contributed vastly to the Ex-Servicemen Welfare, which included setting up seasonal pension paying camps and a hostel for the wards of Gorkha Ex-Servicemen at Kathmandu. Students from this hostel excelled and went on to tenant appointments in the Nepalese Army, administration and other

and held important command and

professional fields The book can be divided into three parts, the first is his early years, the second part being General Natu's service in the Army and finally his post-retirement years. Apart from dwelling on each of these parts of his father's life, it is the wonderful manner in which Brigadier Vijay Natu has captured the effect

people, whom he came into close contact with and most particularly, the unit bonding and esprit de corps when he discusses the family ties that existed between him and Colonel Nasib Singh as well as the ethos of the 9th Gorkha Rifles. As I consider a unit to be the

most important part of one's service, I will write an instance, when Second Lieutenant Natu was going on leave from Abbottabad in May 1947. He had accompanied Captain Usman Shaikh from his battalion, when their bus was surrounded by an unruly mob of Muslim League supporters at Attock, who wanted to pull out and slaughter all Hindu travelling to Punjab and beyond. It was at this stage that Captain Usman kept quiet and did not reveal his religious identity, thus saving him 'from lynching and cer tain death'. The 'camaraderie and bonding' endured. Joining 1/9 Gorkha Rifles Post-

Independence, he saw action in 1947-48, at Naushera in Jammu and Kashmir. It is here that he served with Major Eric Vas who later rose to be an Army Commander, whom he described as 'a straight forward and courageous man'. Eric once submitted a report to the Division Headquarter on a 'chapatti' and when asked to explain the unusual behaviour, had sent a classic retort. "I regret the use of my stationery but atta is the only commodity I have for fighting, feeding and for futile correspondence." He was the brainchild behind setting up the Higher Command Course in the College of Combat, one of the most incisive courses in the Army. Anant looked up to him as a friend philosopher and guide throughout

his service and even later in life. Posted to 4/9 Gorkha Rifles on the raising of the battalion in 1960, he was the Second in Command under Lieutenant Colonel Nasib Singh in Dehradun. In June 1962. the Battalion was moved to Ahlihal in Himachal Pradesh but was airlifted to Bomdila, in October 1962. During the move, one aircraft flew a platoon to Bombay which was promptly deployed for airport Post war, the Battalion was

involved in a series of exercises

where the Commander of 77

Infantry Brigade, Brigadier Sartaj

Singh was greatly impressed by his

General Natu served under him

while commanding his Battalion,

when he was GOC 5 Mountain

Division and later as Commander

Incidentally

professionalism.

93 Infantry Brigade, when he was GOC 15 Corps. General Sartaj's professionalism, values and conduct left a deep impression on him. Nasib, who raised 4/9 Gorkha Rifles had joined Hodson's Horse as a Sowar in World War II and General Messervy, who was their Commandant, 'saw a spark' in him and groomed him to become an officer. He laid strong foundations for the battalion. General Natu 'considered him, his professional Guru'. Later. Nasib was selected to be part of the raising of ITBP. Incidentally, the sons of the first three CO's of 4/9 Gorkha Rifles, Colonel Rajinder Singh, Brigadier Vijay Natu and Major General Kishen Singh, the son of Lieutenant Colonel (later Brigadier) Hari Singh took over the Battalion from General Natu. All joined 9 Gorkha Rifles while Major General KVS Lalotra, the younger son of Nasib, joined 11 Gorkha Rifle, as per Lieutenant General Anil Bhatt (Retd), who also belongs to this Battalion. The tra-

dition still endures and he said that

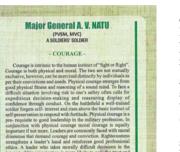
General Natu's grandson, Varun



Vaidya also joined the Battalion and was his ADC. General Natu's best came when he went on to win glory for India in Poonch during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War. The author has captured very well the events and remanences by those who served with him during the defence of Poonch, for which he was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra, the second highest gallantry award in India.

He had prepared the formation extremely well, by not only physically visiting each post since taking over but also rehearsing the drills and putting his formation through a twosided exercise. In a novel step, he ensured that he was 'party to the process of distributing compensation to the civilians whose land had been appropriated for security reasons. By accompanying the DC, he instilled a 'sense of trust about the Army'.

During the war, though attacked in superior strength, his Battalions 6 SIKH, 1/4 Gorkha Rifles, 8 JAT and 11 J& K Militia stood firm and repulsed the attacks , 13 MAHAR and elements of 9 PARA Commando also successfully counter attacked Thanpir, a location which had captured, taking the Pakistanis by surprise, by attacking along a 'precipitous slope'



He also heeded to the advice of his Brigade Major, the Major (later Brigadier) AK Sahni of not executing an offensive plan initially and waited for artillery build up and for the situation to stabilize before he launched 21 PUNJAB and C Company 9 PARA Commando to capture a Pakistani Post, successfully.

His meticulous preparations involved studying Brigadier Pritam Singh's battle of Poonch in 1947-48, his perseverance, diligence and ability to motivate his subordinates and stand by them. Major (later Lieutenant General) VM Patil, who was posted as his Brigade Major recalls his initial briefing, in which he said, 'his command is based on team work, trust and transparency

No wonder Field Marshal, Sam Manekshaw, at the Investiture Ceremony remarked, "Silu, do you remember the young Captain from 1/9 GR from our days in Ferozpur in the early 50's? Here, he is a decorated soldier. I knew he would not let me down when I selected him to command the strategically important 93 Infantry Brigade at Poonch.

On promotion, General Natu went on to command 4 Infantry Division at Babina and here too, he left his mark. This is where he instituted the concept of though not appreciated at that time, has gone on to become an 'important facet' of most

In December 1975, he was posted as Chief of Staff of 16 Corps at Nagrota. The Corps Commander was Lieutenant General KV Krishna Rao, who went on to become the Army Chief. In this appointment, he had to resolve a sensitive incident that occurred on the Line of Control in the Rajouri An officer in a unit had over-

stayed leave but the CO had overlooked it. However, an NCO in the same unit was punished for a similar offence. The Company Commander of the NCO protested to the CO for applying two different yardsticks and sought intervention of the Brigade Commander who took no action. Deeply offended. the Company Commander asked his Company on the Post to revolt. The situation escalated as the Company Commander refused to back down and a neighbouring battalion was being asked to 'assault and capture the Post.'

General Natu intervened. He

drove up to Base of the Post against all apprehensions and then walked to the Post and with a loud hailer, talked to the officer and told him that the officer's elder brother had served with him during his previous tenure and when the officer admitted that he was 'fearful that he would be killed, if he surrendered', he assured him of his physical safety but told him that he would face disciplinary action. The officer and NCO then surrendered. This prevented an ugly scenario'. There are many lessons that stand out in this episode including the fact that an officer was willing to go to any lengths to look after his men.

Major (later Lieutenant General) YM Bammi, who was a Company Commander in Poonch, recalls him as allowing the officers to speak frankly and give out their views to the Corps Commander who was a hard task master, during his visit and operational discussion and recalls that 'due to his initiative, the visit went off well.

Lieutenant General Inde

#J'ADORE

Adorning Jacket with a Saree

Imaginably stylish ways you can wear your saree with jackets.

makes us weak in the knees, it is the 6-yard of timeless beauty. Nothing makes us fawn over an attire like fangirls like the elegant and quite magnifi cent - Sarees. An unbeatable ensemble for any occasion, sarees, are as

dramatic as they are simple. With versatility like no other, today, we have paired the regal 6 yards with different types, materials and styles of jackets, just to prove the timeless versatility of

this number and the imaginably stylish ways you can wear your saree with jackets.



For the love of Indian handloom and the impeccable craftsmanship of the artists of India, this patola saree matched with a contrasting patola long jacket is simply divine. With a striking mendable detailing, this outfit





Saree Adorned with Jacket Blouse

Ditch your blouse and style your plain saree with a printed jacket blouse to add a hint of oomph to your outfit. This ensemble, though casual, has a certain pizazz that is going to make you stand out from the crowd. Opt for an easy-breezy fabric with an eye-catching print for the jacket and style it with a plain saree in a bold shade.



Synonyms with impeccable

were looking for.



Hakoba Jacket White Fringe

craftsmanship and intricate embroidery, hakoba fabric was the fabric of the riches and was worn by kings and queens. This regal fabric is again gaining traction in recent times, thanks to its rich appeal and also breathability. A printed saree styled with a contrasting hakoba jacket is the perfect office wear outfit, you



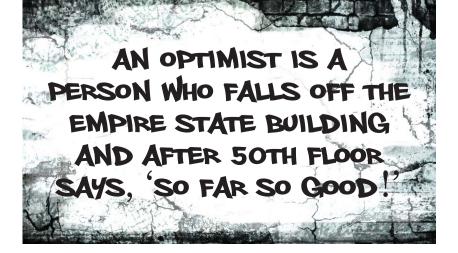
with your friends.

Cape Jacket and trendy saree with a shoulder cape jacket combo at the next wedding and garner comsense. This satin saree with net cape jacket has grabbed our atten

Classic Leather Jacket

Hello, our rocker-chic girls we have got something fan tastic for you. A silk saree paired with the classic black leather jacket and styled with a belt is the bold and beautiful outfit, you need to raise your street style outfit game to a solid 10. Style it with a chunkv bracelet and

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



ZITS







Shoulder

Strut like a super-

woman in this chic

pliments for your

splendid fashion



tion and rightfully so.