



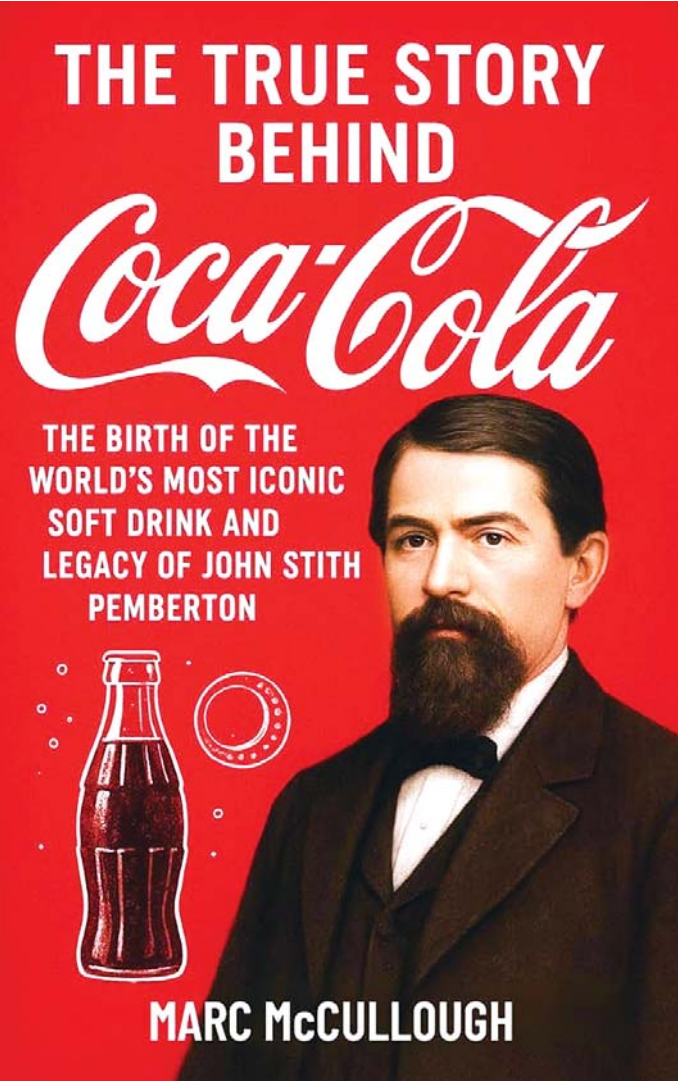
Honouring the Gentle Giants

World Elephant Day, observed on August 12, is dedicated to raising awareness about the urgent plight of elephants worldwide. These majestic creatures face numerous threats, including poaching, habitat loss, human-elephant conflict, and illegal wildlife trade. The day aims to foster compassion, support conservation efforts, and promote better treatment and protection of both African and Asian elephants. Conservationists, wildlife organisations, and animal lovers unite to advocate for stronger policies and global cooperation. On this day, people are encouraged to learn more about elephants and contribute to preserving their natural habitats, ensuring that future generations can witness these gentle giants in the wild.

#ICON

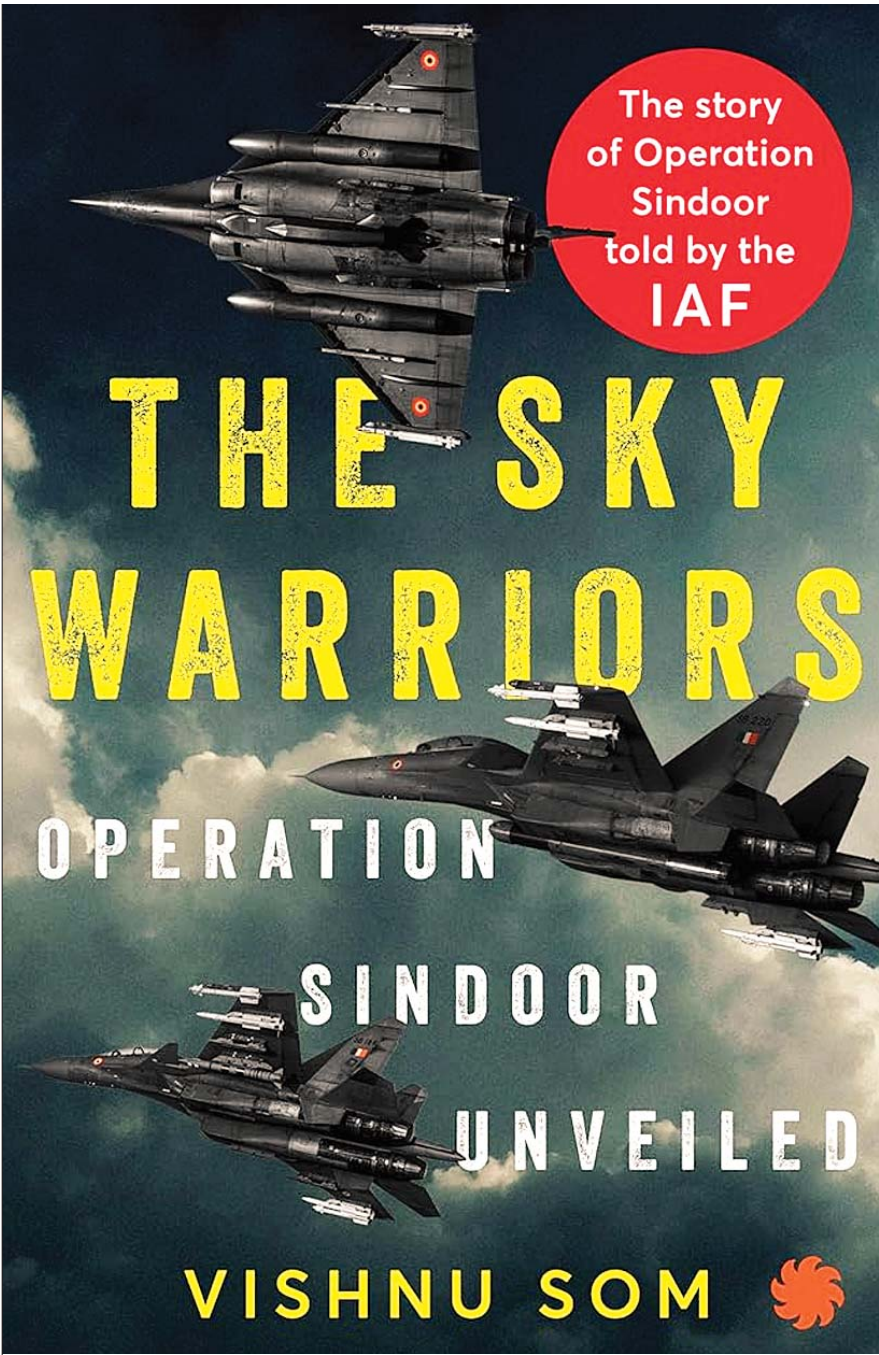
The Accidental Birth of Coca-Cola

Cocaine was removed, and Coca-Cola transitioned from medicine to refreshment, becoming one of the most recognisable brands in the world



In 1886, in Atlanta, a wounded war veteran was searching for a way to free himself from addiction. His name was John S. Pemberton, a pharmacist and former Confederate soldier who had been injured during the American Civil War. Like many injured veterans of his time, Pemberton was prescribed morphine to manage chronic pain. Over time, he became dependent on it and began desperately searching for an alternative cure. Driven by both personal need and professional curiosity, Pemberton spent long hours experimenting in his laboratory. He wanted to create a medicinal tonic, something that could ease pain, fight fatigue and lift mood without the dangers of morphine. His experiments led him to combine coca leaves and kola nuts into a syrup. At the time, coca leaves naturally contained small amounts of cocaine, while kola nuts were rich in caffeine. Together, they formed what Pemberton believed was a powerful "brain tonic."

He began selling the syrup at a local pharmacy, where it was mixed with water and served over ice. Each glass cost five cents. Customers initially bought the drink as a remedy for headaches, exhaustion and general fatigue. It was marketed not as a soft drink but as a medicinal beverage designed to refresh both mind and body. That syrup would eventually become Coca-Cola. The drink's rise was slow at first. In its early days, only a handful of glasses were sold daily. But the refreshing taste, energising effect and clever marketing gradually turned the pharmacy tonic into a popular beverage. Over time, the formula was refined, cocaine was removed, and Coca-Cola transitioned from medicine to refreshment, eventually becoming one of the most recognisable brands in the world. What began as a personal quest for recovery became a global cultural icon. Today, Coca-Cola is sold in nearly every country and consumed billions of times each day. Yet, behind the red-and-white branding lies a deeply human origin story: a pharmacist searching for healing, experimenting in a small lab, and accidentally creating the world's most famous drink.



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.'

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,



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.



#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, SCALP, 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 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 of Military Operations ultimately sought a ceasefire, thereby averting further losses of PAF capabilities. The author also covers the Pakistani response in detail including details of their weapons use and states that 'both sides took hits' and 'each denied losses.'

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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#TRUE FACTS

Nehru Was Prime Minister In '46!

Nehru Was Prime Minister Even Before 1947: A Historical Insight



When we think of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru instantly comes to mind, officially taking office on 15th August 1947, the day India gained independence. However, few are aware that Nehru had already been functioning in a prime ministerial role before 1947, albeit under a different title and within a different political context.

The Interim Government of 1946

In the wake of the end of World War II and mounting pressure from the Indian independence movement, the British government agreed to form a provisional government in India. This was known as the Interim Government, and it came into existence on 2nd September 1946. This government was to function under the framework of the British colonial system, but with Indian leaders holding executive authority for the first time. It was a significant milestone on the path to independence. Nehru's Role in the Interim Government Jawaharlal Nehru was appointed the Vice President of the Executive Council in this interim arrangement. Although the title did not formally say "Prime Minister," Nehru was the de facto head of the government.



He presided over cabinet meetings, led international diplomacy, and acted as the representative of India in global matters. **Some Key Facts**

- Date of appointment:** Nehru took office on 2nd September 1946.
- Authority:** He headed the Interim Government, with key portfolios such as External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.
- Functioning:** Though still under the nominal authority of the British Viceroy, Nehru and his colleagues had substantial autonomy in domestic affairs.

Was Nehru Truly Prime Minister? While the title of "Prime Minister" was not officially

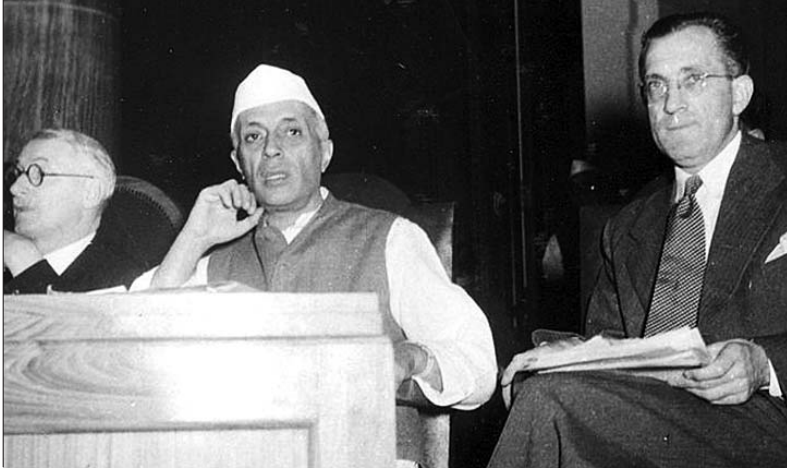
used until 15th August 1947, Nehru's responsibilities and public image closely resembled that of a Prime Minister.

- He led the Congress party, which had won the majority of seats in the Constituent Assembly.
- He was the main spokesperson for the Indian people, both domestically and internationally.
- He represented India at the United Nations in 1946-47, long before independence.
- The public and the press often referred to him as "Prime Minister" informally.

 In fact, Lord Wavell, the British Viceroy at the time, noted in his journal that Nehru was already functioning as the Prime Minister in every practical sense.

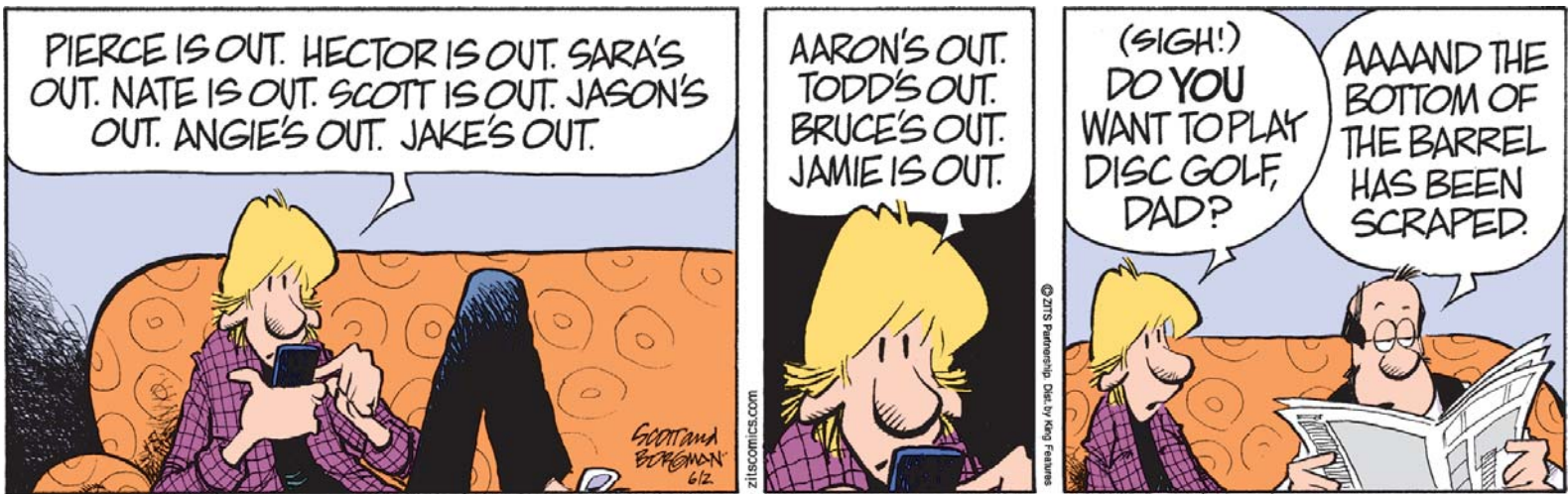
Conclusion

Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership did not begin on 15th August 1947. It had already taken shape during the crucial transition period under the Interim Government of 1946-47. His role during this time was not merely ceremonial or preparatory; he was effectively leading the Indian government even while British colonial rule officially persisted. So, while the official title may have come post-independence, Nehru was already Prime Minister in practice well before 1947, laying the groundwork for the sovereign nation he would go on to lead for 17 years.



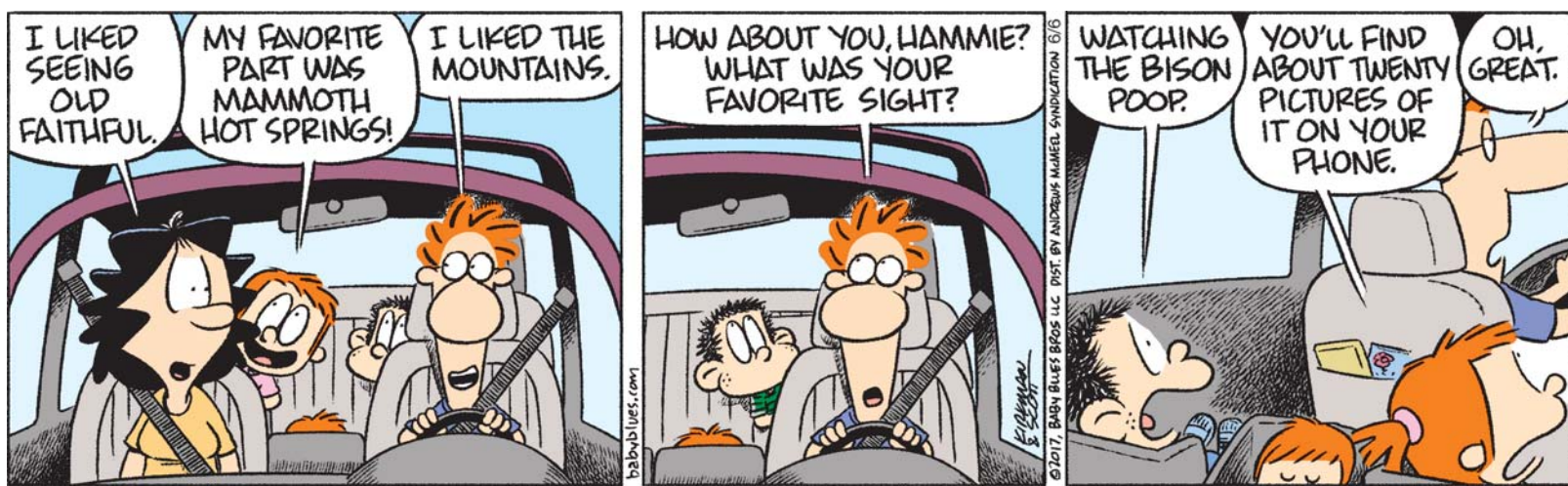
By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

BABY BLUES



THE WALL

