

## #FOOD TALES

### TARI: A TASTE OF TRADITION

Niyatii Rathore, once a lawyer, now runs *Tari*, a home kitchen in Jaipur that celebrates her family's meat recipes and her love for cooking.



Niyatii Rathore.



Tusharika Singh  
Freelance Writer  
and City Blogger

In the modest kitchen of a small rented house in Civil Lines, the tantalizing aroma of a family recipe for *mutton curry* mingles with the dreams of a 30-something woman, who traded her lawyer's robes for *haldi-stained* clothes. Meet Niyatii Rathore, the founder of *Tari*, a home kitchen that's as much about culinary delights as it is about stories and anecdotes for a passion that has been simmering since childhood.

Originally from Ajmer, Niyatii moved to Jaipur to carve out an independent life, one where she could pursue her dreams. After completing her schooling from Mayo College in Ajmer, she went on to pursue Law at the Government Law College in Mumbai, where alongside law, she kept doing different internships and gigs around foot. In May, this year, she finally gave wings to her dreams by starting a home kitchen, where the air is often filled with the strains of Kishore Kumar's melodies, blending seamlessly with the sizzle of *masala* for her signature *Mundota Maas*.

As Niyatii stirs the *masalas* being roasted with care, following a family recipe passed down through generations, her father's wisdom resonates in her mind, the secret to a perfect *curry* lies in the coriander, added twice, once during cooking and again just before serving. This meticulous attention to detail and reverence for family recipes is evident in the offerings of *Tari*.

The name "*Tari*" itself is a testament to Niyatii's thoughtfulness. It refers to the crucial gravy component of

meat dishes, sparking endless debates about its ideal consistency. This seemingly simple, yet pivotal element inspired the name of her home kitchen, reflecting the nuanced care that she puts into her cooking.

The menu at *Tari* is concise, featuring just four dishes. *Mundota Maas*, a refreshing take on the traditional *laal maas* without the *mathania mirch*, *Sajda Maas*, a healthier, yogurt-rich one-pot dish, much like a mutton stew. *Chicken 2012*, a nostalgic tribute to her friends from her Mayo batch, and *Keema Matar*, a cherished recipe, passed down from her mother, as non-vegetarian cooking is predominantly a male domain in her home. "I currently have just four dishes on the menu, and they are the best I make. Thus, there is absolutely no room for dissatisfaction," she says.

Niyatii's culinary journey began when she was just 10 years old with *Lauki Ka Halwa*, and at the age of 16, she had mastered mutton *curry*. "Cooking makes me glow," she shares, her eyes lighting up. "It's like the feeling after a rejuvenating salon session, relaxed, glowing, and ready to take on the world."

However, the journey is not without its challenges. As a one-woman show, Niyatii juggles everything from cooking to managing deliveries. Yet, her dreams are expansive. She envisions introducing some more meat dishes, a couple of vegetarian dishes and hosting pop-ups in cities beyond Jaipur, sharing her culinary creations with a wider audience.

With every dish, Niyatii offers a taste of her heritage, a glimpse into her journey, and an invitation to savour the flavours of her passion. Through *Tari*, she is not only serving delicious food but also inspiring others to pursue their dreams.

Available only on pre-order.

Till now, armies have traditionally used bulk field artillery calibres of the 105 mm and 122 mm variety, which enable close-in fire support for attack or defence. With 130 mm and 155 mm shells, the volume of explosive content increases, and so does the lateral and longitudinal dispersion when firing at longer ranges. The round travels greater distances and is more affected by prevalent meteorological conditions. The variety offers the defender deployment opportunities relatively in-depth, and helps interdict enemy concentrations in earlier timeframes, thereby isolating the battlefield and improving force ratios in the battle.



Lt Gen PS Rajeshwar  
PUSM, AVSM,  
VSM (Retd.)

The Russia-Ukraine war has highlighted the salience of the God of War, the Artillery. Data from the Ukraine conflict of 2014 showed that artillery was producing approximately 85% of all casualties on both sides. In the ongoing protracted conflict since 2022, attrition by gunners has again propelled the Russian military's thought process of waging war. Challenged by multiple layers of ground friction, the intended Ukrainian counteroffensive in 2023 made little breakthrough as Russia's massed fires, during these attempts, degraded them substantially. Extended tactical battles like those seen at



# Ukraine-Russia Conflict

## Classroom For Modern War



Bakhmut and Avdiivka have showcased the neutralisation and destruction of enemy forces by firepower elements. What gains attention is the role and employment expected from artillery units in land warfare.

The utility of firepower by land forces involves many essential aspects. To begin with, own troops mainly engage targets at a tactical and operational depth, vital to the success of their combat operations. Till now, armies have traditionally used bulk field artillery calibres of the 105 mm and 122 mm variety, which enable close-in fire support for attack or defence. With 130 mm and 155 mm shells, the volume of explosive content increases, and so does the lateral and longitudinal dispersion, when firing at longer ranges. The round travels greater distances and is more affected by prevalent meteorological conditions. The variety offers the defender deployment opportunities relatively in-depth, and helps interdict enemy concentrations in earlier timeframes, thereby isolating the battlefield and improving force ratios in the battle.

## #WAR-ZONE



Precision munitions, on the other hand, cause lethal damage to the target accurately, with minimum collateral damage. Their Circular Error of Probability (CEP) is less, so, fewer rounds can effectively destroy the target. This needs to be aided by onboard satellite and inertial navigation sensors. The logistics involved are more manageable, and the weapon system can often be deployed in greater depth, improving safety indices. Intrinsic availability with the land forces helps provide much-needed capability when aerial delivery systems meet weather or mission constraints. A report has confirmed India's purchase of Excalibur rounds for 155 mm guns.

In October 2023, reports surfaced of the use of the US Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) in the Ukraine war. This artillery weapon system, capable of a precision strike of up to 300 km, apparently, targeted a couple of airfields under Russian control. Striking accurately on a critical target, deep into territory

held by an adversary, often makes the latter rework its operations or divert necessary resources and efforts to protect its critical assets.

Precision munitions come at a considerable cost. The average current cost of Excalibur is 98.7-106.4 thousand dollars (approx. 83 lakh INR) per projectile. Therefore, such a mission's target(s) must be selected carefully and be strategically or operationally relevant. These targets invariably comprise select command and control centres, communication complexes, armour concentrations, and ammunition dumps, that could result in strategic and operational gains. One prerequisite for the effectiveness of artillery, massed or precision, remains the design of the Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance (ISR) firing architecture, available to the gunners, for executing the assigned mission. The ISR efforts involve satellites, UAVs, aircraft, forward (human) observers, electronic, signal, and cyber intelligence. All this has to be fused through a net-

work of sensors and systems to a decision-making node at the appropriate level to utilise firepower effectively and efficiently.

Artillery Batteries, capable of firing precision munitions, must deploy just in time, be quite in-depth, well-camouflaged, and soot as soon as possible, after the mission. Modern gun control systems incorporate ballistic computers, muzzle velocity corrections, and automatic laying and loading mechanisms linked to hubs controlling or directing fire. Further, the enemy's radars and electronic warfare elements must be neutralised throughout the trajectory to the target.

The Indian Artillery has initiated a procurement process for terminally guided munitions, which will encourage indigenous defence production. Other options to improve shell accuracy include fitting course correction fuses, such as the one being developed by the DRDO. At the lower end of range and lethality can be loitering munitions for artillery units that can offer variety at the

## International Scuba Day



Diving deep underwater, to see and experience the plants and animals located there, is a fairly recent experience for humans. In fact, it was only around a century ago that the equipment that allows people to dive was invented. *International Scuba Day* had its inaugural celebration in 2023, when a group of passionate divers worked together to promote and celebrate the important experience that comes from diving. In addition, the day is meant to unite divers from all over the world and promote the community of ocean lovers.

In Ukraine is witnessing a lot of innovation. "Geographical Information System (GIS) *Arta* uses an algorithm to optimise across variables like target type, position, and range to assign 'fire missions' to available artillery units. Users connect to GIS *Arta* using phones, laptops, and tablets connected to military radios, cell-phones, or the Starlink satellite internet system."

Further, it would be imperative to strengthen counter-bombardment (CB) endeavours by dedicating weapon locations, radars and guns or mortars to minimise attrition to own artillery pieces. This is demanded due to the artillery deployment experience in the Ukraine war. "These (Zoopark-1M) radars crunch numbers fast. The technology has allowed Russian units to hammer Ukrainian artillery positions, just four minutes after they fire an opening shot." This implies a detailed selection of spaces for deploying and redeployment of units and formations.

While any nation can start a war, its duration and intensity become indeterminate in the long run. "Officials say that Russia is currently firing around 10,000 shells a day compared to just 2,000 a day from the Ukrainian side." To enable this, war planners must cater for a surge in ammunition production capacities and complex supply chain management.

Are kinetic effects alone enough to make the necessary impact in modern warfare? Not necessarily. Non-lethal efforts, incorporating deception, social media, and offensive or defensive EW measures as force multipliers are also needed.

In the future, Commanders, campaign planners, and the General Staff will have to consider the pivotal role of artillery in battle at tactical, operational, and strategic levels. They would need to look at its principles of employment such as concentration, flexibility, economy of effort, and the aspects of surprise and coordination, much more closely. The necessity of firepower across the frontier will also be ubiquitous over a wide front and for battles well into the depth.

Thus, much work remains, which begins with an operational review of the present gaps in the profile and strength of artillery. To enhance our reach and impact, we need to improve the range and lethality of systems by accelerating the 'modernisation' of guns. At the cutting edge, we need to consider artificial intelligence (AI) based image processing and targeting. We must also upgrade clunky artillery tactical computers to secure portable tablets, infused with agile GIS software for better battlefield awareness. Further, battle drills and procedures may require a relook to boost the survivability of guns in visualised battlefield conditions.

Warfare is evolving rapidly. Armed Forces, worldwide, have learnt many lessons from recent wars, and many more will accrue. As artillery plays a vital role in deciding the outcome of war, a combined arms approach to its employment and utilisation is the best way ahead.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com



## #DISCOVERY

# The Mysterious Underground City

How a renovation project in Turkey led to the discovery of a lifetime, a lost city that once housed 20,000 people.

W e live cheek by jowl with undiscovered worlds. Sometimes, the barriers, that separate us, are thick, sometimes, they're thin, and sometimes, they're breached. That's when a wardrobe turns into a portal to Narnia, a rabbit hole leads to Wonderland, and a Raquel Welch poster is all that separates a prison cell from the tunnel to freedom.

## A Fateful Swing of the Hammer

Those are all fictional examples. But in 1963, that barrier was breached for real. Taking a sledgehammer to a wall in his basement, a man, in the Turkish town of Derinkuyu, got more home improvement than he bargained for. Behind the wall, he found a tunnel. And that led to more tunnels, eventually connecting a multitude of halls and chambers. It was a huge underground complex, abandoned by its inhabitants and undiscovered until that *fateful swing of the hammer*. The anonymous Turk had found a vast subterranean city, up to 18 stories and 280 feet (76 meters) deep and large enough to house 20,000 people. Who built it, and why? When was it abandoned, and by whom? History and geology provide some answers.

## Fantastically Craggy Cappadocia

Geology first. Derinkuyu is located in Cappadocia, a region in the Turkish heartland, famed for the fantastic craginess of its landscape, which is dotted with so-called fairy chimneys. Those tall stone towers are the result of the erosion of a rock type known as tuff. Created out of volcanic ash and covering much of the region, that stone, despite its name, is not so tough. Taking a cue from the wind and rain, the locals for millennia have dug their own holes in the soft stone for underground dwellings, storage rooms, temples, and refuges. Cappadocia number hundreds of subterranean dwellings, with about 40 consisting of at least two levels. None is as large, or by now, as famous, as *Derinkuyu*.



## Hittites, Phrygians, or Early Christians?

The historical record has little definitive to say about Derinkuyu's origins. Some archaeologists speculate that the oldest part of the complex could have been dug about 2000 B.C. by the Hittites, the people who dominated the region at that time, or else the Phrygians, around 700 B.C. Others claim that local Christians built the city in the first centuries A.D.

Whoever they were, they had great skill. The soft rock makes tunnelling relatively easy, but cave-ins are a big risk. Hence,

there is a need for large support pillars. None of the floors at Derinkuyu have ever collapsed. Two things about the underground complex are more certain. First, the main purpose of the monumental effort must have been to hide from enemy armies, hence, for example, the rolling stones used to close the city from the inside. Secondly, the final additions and alterations to the complex, which bear a distinctly Christian imprint, date from the 6th to the 10th century A.D.

## Hitting Bottom in the Dungeon

When shut off from the world above, the city was ventilated by a total of more than 15,000 shafts, most about 10 centimetres wide and reaching down into the first and second levels of the city. This ensured sufficient ventilation down to the eighth level. The upper levels were used as living and sleeping quarters, which makes sense, as

they were the best ventilated ones. The lower levels were mainly used for storage, but they also contained a dungeon. In between were spaces used for all kinds of purposes. There was room for a wine press, domestic animals, a convent, and small churches. The most famous one is the cruciform church on the seventh level.

## If Buckets Could Speak

Some shafts went much deeper and doubled as wells. Even as the underground city lay undiscovered, the local Turkish population of Derinkuyu used these to get their water, not knowing the hidden world their buckets passed through. Incidentally, *derinkuyu* is Turkish for 'deep well.' Another theory says that the underground city served as a temperate refuge for the region's extreme seasons. Cappadocian winters can get very cold, the summers extremely hot.

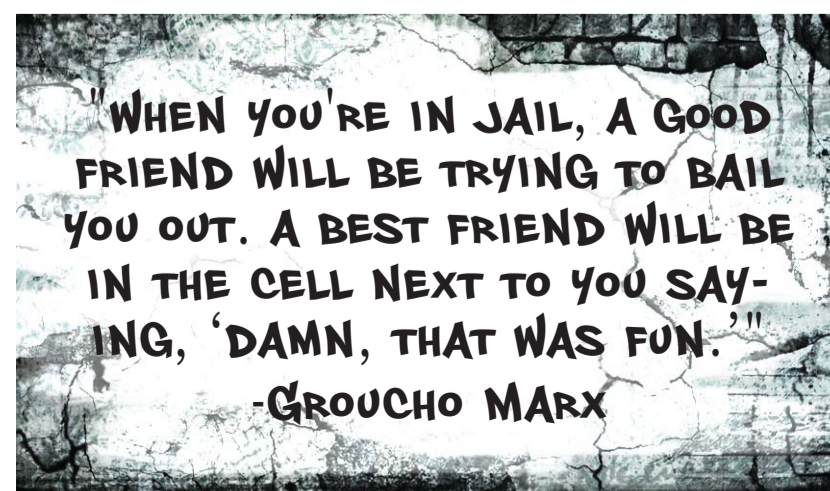
Below ground, the ambient temperature is constant and moderate. As a bonus, it is easier to store and keep harvest yields away from moisture and thieves. Whatever the relevance of its other functions, the underground city was much in use as a refuge for the local population during the wars between the Byzantines and the Arabs, during the Mongol raids in the 14th century, and after the region was conquered by the Ottoman Turks.

## Leaving the 'Soft' Place

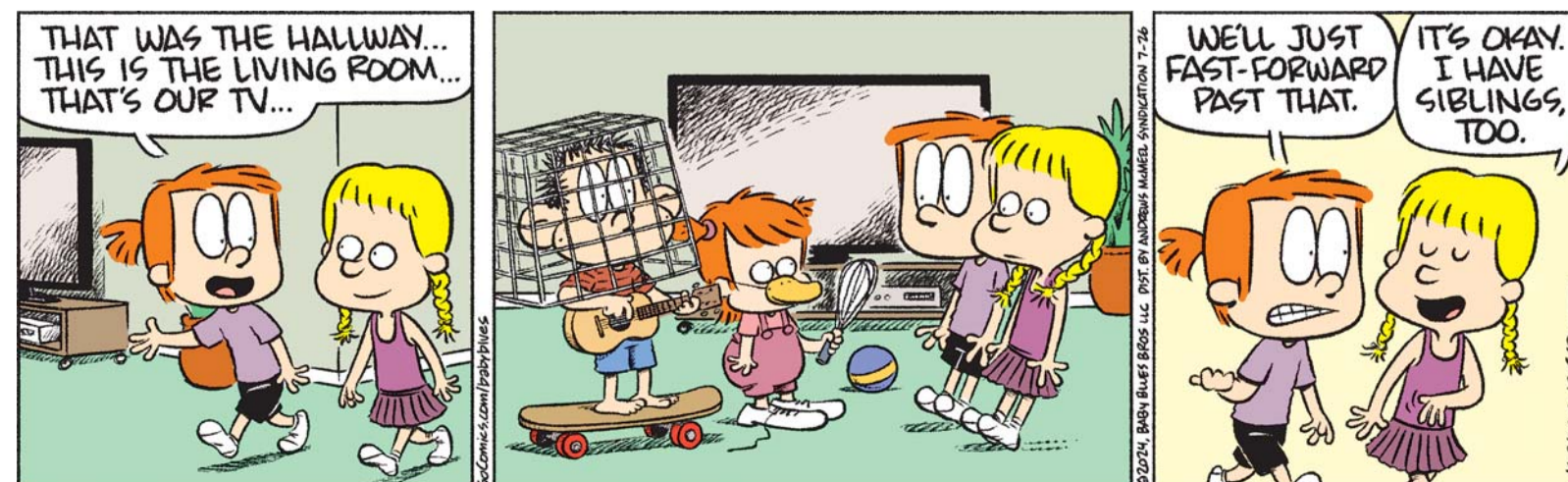
A visiting Cambridge linguist, visiting the area in the early 20th century, attests that the local Greek population still reflexively sought shelter in the underground city when news of massacres elsewhere reached them. Derinkuyu is now one of Cappadocia's biggest tourist attractions, so, it no longer counts as an undiscovered world. But perhaps, there's one on the other side of your basement wall. Now, where did you put that sledgehammer?



## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS

