

Short Story

A Friend in Need



Suraj was a student in class 5. He was a studious as well as a naughty boy. After science class, he was cracking jokes with friends. As soon as his math teacher arrived to the class, he moved back to his place. The class started and the teacher was asking some questions to the students. And it happened. Suraj wet his pants! He felt very ashamed. He imagined how his classmates would think about him. His wet pants would be the hot topic of the school! His friends would talk about the incident for years. The girls in the class would never look at him as his friend. The boys and girls would never speak with him. He would become the joker for everyone in the class. Suraj's imagination was going so wild. The math teacher noticed a kind of uneasiness in Suraj. She was watching him for 10 minutes and saw him in some kind of trouble. Suraj noticed that the teacher watching him and tried to act normal. He felt that his heart would stop pumping very soon. He silently pleaded to god, 'Dear god, you have to help me. In 5 or 10 minutes, I will be dead. I really need some

help from you. Please come as my savior'. The teacher again saw that Suraj was uneasy and she looked at him. He smiled at her. Kiran, Suraj's classmate made a request to let him drink some water. Suddenly, Kiran from the back bench took his water bottle and started to move out of the classroom. As he crossed Suraj's desk, he accidentally dropped the water bottle. The cap opened and all water fell on Suraj. It shocked everyone and teacher rushed to help Suraj. He asked a student to get a towel from staff room. His friends cleaned the desk and helped him. The teacher asked another student to bring a gym pant for him to wear until his pants get dry. The act of ridicule suddenly became sympathetic. When Kiran tried to help him, he was cornered. The teacher scolded him for being so careless. And of course, Suraj was so relieved. He looked at Kiran, who stood silently in a corner. After school, Suraj approached Kiran and thanked him with all his heart. Kiran smiled and said, 'Hey I know buddy! Because I also experienced the same few months

Sonia Gandhi discharged from hospital, advised rest

PTI New Delhi, Aug 14: Congress president Sonia Gandhi was today discharged from a private hospital here where she was undergoing treatment for dehydration, fever and a shoulder injury for the last 11 days. Doctors treating her at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital said she has recovered from her illness and injury to the left shoulder and is stable now. Sonia, who was admitted on August 3, has been advised rest. "Sonia Gandhi's medical condition at the time of discharge from the hospital is stable. She has been advised rest and continuation of medicines. Mrs Gandhi is likely to visit the hospital for further evaluation of her condition in the coming week," said D S Rana, Chairman of Board of Management of the hospital. 69-year-old Gandhi was admitted to the hospital after being taken ill during

a roadshow in Varanasi. She had undergone a surgery on her left shoulder on August 3 and doctors said she has recovered from the injury. Gandhi was admitted under the care of Arup Basu, senior consultant, Department of Pulmonology and Chest Medicine and his team. She was operated for her shoulder injury at the hospital by Prateek Gupta, senior consultant and his team from Department of Orthopaedics and Sanjay Desai from Mumbai. The Congress chief was shifted to the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital from the Army Research and Referral Hospital, where she was rushed soon after her arrival from Varanasi around midnight of August 2. Sonia had to cut short her roadshow in Varanasi after she was taken ill. She had fractured her left shoulder during the roadshow.

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Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha

By : Navneet Mendiratta
 There goes a story from the pre-independence India, when a very young revolutionary from Punjab was awaiting his turn to be sent to the gallows. This was Kartar Singh Sarabha, all of 19 years old and one of the 27 other revolutionaries to be punished for their alleged roles in Lahore Controversy. His grandfather came to meet him in Lahore jail. "Kartar Singh," he said, "We are not even sure that the country will benefit from your death. Why are you wasting your life?" In reply, Kartar Singh reminded his grandfather of certain relatives who died of Cholera, plague or other diseases. "So, would you want your grandson to die of an ailment instead? Is this death not a thousand times better than that?" He quizzed, rendering the old man speechless. Inspiration to several revolutionary and other freedom fighters, including Bhagat Singh, who referred to him as his "Guru", Kartar Singh had refused any counsel for himself during the trial of the case. The judge pronounced him "the most dangerous of all rebels" and observed that since he is very proud of the crimes committed by him, he does not deserve any mercy and should be sentenced to death. On 16 November 1915, Kartar Singh Sarabha walked to the gallows with a smile on his lips and twinkle in the eyes and singing patriotic songs he had composed. Love for his motherland was stoked much early in Kartar Singh's life. Born in a Jat Sikh family of Sarabha district of Ludhiana to Sahib Kaur and

Mangal Singh on May 24, 1896, Kartar Singh was the only son of his loving parents. He lost his father early in childhood and his grandfather had brought him up. He finished primary education in his village school and completed matriculation from Mission High School. When he turned 16, his grandfather sent him to the University of California at Berkeley to study Chemistry. An incident at the immigrations upon reaching San Francisco changed his life forever. He noticed that the Indians were subjected to humiliating questioning, while immigrants from other regions and countries were allowed in after bare minimum formalities. This, he was told, was because "Indians are slaves" and therefore, second-rate citizens. This rankled young, proud Jat Sikh and he started questioning the existence of British rule in India. His association with Nalanda club of Indian students at Berkeley aroused his patriotic sentiments and he often got agitated about the treatment meted out to the Indian immigrants, especially manual workers, in the United States. Kartar Singh, himself worked as a fruit picker to support his education and observed that the Indian farm labour were often treated shabbily and discriminated against in terms of wages. So, when the Gadar movement was born in 1913, Kartar Singh became a key member. Gadar Party was formed by the Indians in Oregon on April 21, 1913 with the aim to oust the British from India, putting all they had at stake. Kartar Singh was made in charge of bringing out the Punjab language

edition of Gadar, the party mouthpiece. Other than Punjabi, Gadar was published in Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati and Pushto and went to Indians all over the world. The newspaper highlighted the atrocities of the British and fuelled revolutionary ideas among the overseas Indians. Soon, World War I broke out and the Gadarites decided that it was time to shift base to homeland and mobilise the countrymen. As the British got busy defending themselves in the world war, a declaration of another war was issued against the British in the August 5, 1914 issue of Gadar and copies circulated among Indians around the world, especially Indian soldiers in British cantonments. On September 15, Kartar Singh left for India with Satyen Sen and Vishnu Ganesh Pingle and met Jatin Mukherjee, of Yugantar, in Kolkata. Mukherjee connected him to Rash Behari Bose. Kartar Singh met Bose in Benaras and informed him of the arrival of as many as 20,000 more Gadarites and plans of the revolution. Unfortunately, the British got wind of the plans of revolutionaries and they launched massive operation to apprehend the rebels. Several Gadarites were arrested at the Ports itself. This did not stop Kartar Singh from planning ahead and he went about preparing the base for the revolution in Punjab. He focussed on mobilising Indian soldiers in the British Army to join the movement, especially cantonments of Meerut, Agra, Benares, Allahabad, Ambala,

Lahore and Rawalpindi and simultaneously set up a small scale arms manufacturing unit in Ludhiana. The date for revolt was set at February 21, 1915, along with senior leaders, including Bose and plan was made to attack cantonments of Mian Mir and Ferozpur while Ambala was prepared for a mutiny. Here too, a traitor let them in a day before the mutiny and several revolutionaries were arrested. Kartar Singh however managed to evade the British. Refusing to give up, he made a last-ditch, desperate attempt on March 2, 1915, to rouse the Indian soldiers of the 22 Cavalry at Chak No. 5 in Sardogha and incite the soldiers to mutiny. This time, Rissaldar Ganda Singh of the 22 Cavalry got him arrested. He was sent to trial with the other Gadarites at Lahore in what came to be called the Lahore Conspiracy case. The judgment was pronounced in September 1915. Due to large public outcry, of the 27, the sentence of 17 of the Gadarites was changed from death to imprisonment and deportation for life in the Andaman Cellular jail, at the last minute following the intervention of Lord Hardinge, the Governor General of India. He soon became the symbol of martyrdom and many were influenced from his bravery and sacrifice. A Punjabi novelist Nanak Singh wrote a novel titled "Ikk Myan Do Tabwaran" based on his life. India will always cherish the memory of its hero, Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha. *Courtesy PIB Feature*

National & International News

Pak to continue to support Kashmir's 'freedom'

PTI New Delhi, Aug 14: In provocative remarks, Pakistan today said it is dedicating its Independence Day to Kashmir's "freedom" and will continue to extend full diplomatic, political and moral support to the people of the state. The comments by Pakistani High Commissioner to India Abdul Basit came during the country's Independence Day celebrations at its embassy here. India had yesterday virtually turned down Pakistan's offer for a dialogue on Jammu and Kashmir seeking an end to Pak-supported cross-border terrorism. Basit's comments came on a day when Pakistani forces violated the ceasefire along the LoC in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. "As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, we are dedicating this year's Independence Day to the freedom of Kashmir. And we firmly believe that the sacrifices made by the people of Jammu and Kashmir will not go in vain. "The ongoing unrest should be ended. Pakistan will continue to extend its full diplomatic, political and moral support to the valiant people of Jammu and Kashmir till they get their right to self determination," Basit said.

Basit said that no matter "how much" force is used, the political aspiration of people of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be suppressed, and that the "freedom movement" will reach its logical conclusion. In his address, Basit said Pakistan has always strived for better ties with India on the basis of sovereign equality and peaceful resolution of bilateral disputes. However, he said no one can "belittle" or wish away the "legitimate struggle" of the Kashmiri people and it was incumbent upon the international community to ensure implementation of the relevant UN resolutions to settle the dispute. "Today our nation faces several challenges, but no power can cause any damage to Pakistan. People who want to trouble Pakistan, they should know that our people, be it Muslim,

Hindu or Sikh, we are together and will not hesitate to make any sacrifice for Pakistan's well-being," he said. India had yesterday made it clear that it would talk on "contemporary and relevant" issues in Indo-Pak relations and at this time it included stoppage of Pak-supported cross-border terrorism. "India would welcome a dialogue on contemporary and relevant issues in India-Pakistan relations. At this time they include a stoppage of Pakistani support for cross-border terrorism, infiltration of terrorists like Bahadur Ali. "Incitement to violence and terrorism across the border, parading of internationally recognised terrorists like Hafiz Saeed and Syed Salahuddin, and sincere follow up on the Mumbai attack trial and the Pathankot attack investigation in Pakistan," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Vikas Swarup had said.

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11 injured in grenade attack in Jammu and Poonch District
Srinagar, Aug. 14: At least 11 people were injured in a grenade attack in a market in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district today. State police and other security forces, who were on alert due to the Buddha Amarnath yatra in the border district, have cordoned off the area and launched search operation. While 7 of the injured are locals, 4 others are outsiders. The incident has taken place close of DASHNAMI AKHARA in the city. Meanwhile, broadband internet services were suspended across Kashmir. Mobile internet services have been snapped since the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Burhan Wani on July 8.

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At least 90 killed in air strikes in Syria
Syria, Aug. 14: At least 90 people have been killed in overnight air strikes by the Syrian Government and Russian forces across Syria. Most people were killed around Aleppo province, where more than three lakh civilians are trapped in rebel held territories. The air raids hit the only hospital for women and children in the town of Kafr Hamra, killing two staffers, including a nurse, while 10 people were rescued from the rubble, the Syrian Civil Defence said. Air strikes also hit a market in the nearby town of Urem al-Kubra, killing at least six people. Urem al-Kubra lies on the road linking Aleppo to the northern rebel-controlled province of Idlib, which has also seen intense bombing.

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