

The last chapter details the floods of 16/17 July 1954, which washed away the Gyantse Trade Post and the escort located there, these were never built again, the omen of events to follow, foretelling the portentous future.

The role of Ambassador Pannikar, PM Nehru and T N Kaul comes under scrutiny that led to the wrong decisions which later would humiliate India in 1962, and continue with the problems today.

The book details the telling naivety of India's diplomats and the Prime Minister to comprehend Chinese intentions and negotiation skills. The most startling revelation is the (open secret) absence of intelligence capability in Tibet and China, and the will to create it by India.

Indian political leadership, Indian strategic analysts, diplomats, international relations experts and military officers will benefit immensely by devoting time to read the book. It would help to understand the past mistakes, follies of mindsets or rigidity of thoughts or prejudices, China and its approach to strategic issues, the value of patience and details in negotiations, and the significance of historical records.

*Lieutenant General Balraj Singh Nagal (Retd)*