

FROM THE EDITOR

I need to inform members that the *review* of the book titled - 'Followers of Krishna : Yadavas of India', authored by Major General SDS Yadava (New Delhi : Lancer Publishers and Distributors, 2006), published in the USI Journal January-March 2007, had some factual errors. This was pointed out by one of our members, Colonel NN Bhatia (Retd). I have, subsequently, also exchanged communication with the author.

Through this column, I would like to clarify that there are no errors in the book itself. However, the Reviewer has mentioned Lt Col TP Raina as the Commander of the Kumaon Regiment. He perhaps meant - Brigadier TN Raina, MVC (later rose to be the Chief of Army Staff) who was the then Commander of 114 Infantry Brigade responsible for the defence of Chushul. Similarly, the Reviewer, though mentioning Major Shaitan Singh as the Charlie Company Commander, refers to 'his platoon' subsequently. All the same, such errors in the USI Journal are regrettable.

Through this note, I would request the *book reviewers* to ensure that no factual errors are allowed to creep in. Should any factual mistakes or inconsistencies in the book itself come to their notice, they must point these out. I would like to end with the words - to err is human, but a mistake which is avoidable ought to be avoided.

Guidelines for book reviewers are published on the next page of the Journal.

GUIDELINES FOR BOOK REVIEWERS

Definition

"A book reviewer occupies a position of special responsibility and trust. He is to summarise, set in context, describe strengths and point out weaknesses. As a surrogate for us all, he assumes a heavy obligation which it is in his duty to discharge with reason and consistency".

Admiral HG Rickover.

Guidelines

A book review is a critical evaluation of a work or a book to help the reader by your assessment. For a reader to be guided by your evaluation, it must be objective. A few guidelines are given below :-

- (a) Is the information factually correct ?
- (b) Criticism is not a review.
- (c) Is the book going to be an addition to the existing knowledge on the subject ?
- (d) Present the reader what the book contains.
- (e) Author's previous writing experience and performance; has he done better this time or otherwise.
- (f) Some quotes from the book can be given to illustrate the point. These should be limited and the whole paragraph should not be lifted.
- (g) How is the presentation ? What impact does it make ?
- (h) What does the book say ? (the main theme). How does it say it ?
- (i) Price – is it reasonable or high ?
- (k) The length of the review should be kept within 200-300 words.
- (l) *Complete details of the book (s) reviewed to be given at the top of the review in the order specified below. It may be noted that the order specified should be followed by a coma or colon as specified here.*
 - (i) Title and subtitle of the book (first letters capitals).
 - (ii) Author's name(s) (if it is an edited version then it should be clearly mentioned as - Edited by...).
 - (iii) Place of Publication : Name of Publisher, Year (all in brackets), pages (to be written as pp.), Price (to be specified as Rs or \$ etc. only, without writing the word 'Price'), ISBN-

Example - State Building in Europe : The Revitalisation of Western European Integration. Edited by Volken Bornschier (Cambridge UK : Cambridge University Press, 2000)/ pp..326, £ 15.95 (if it is a round figure/ it should be £ 15.00)/ ISBN 0-521-781035.