



# Varuni

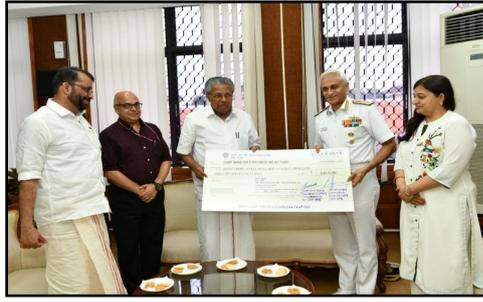
*Kochi - October 2018*

## Unity in Adversity

**KERALA'S UNIQUE WAY TO SAY  
"THANK YOU INDIAN NAVY"**



***Kerala Floods – Heroic Acts***



 **indiannavy**

  
**PINARAYI VIJAYAN**  
 CHIEF MINISTER  
 KERALA

**Commendable Public Service  
 During the Catastrophic Floods of 2018**

The people of Kerala value, recognise and honour your exceptional, tireless and timely assistance at a time of severe calamity and crisis during the floods of 2018 for bringing relief and succour to the lives of thousands of citizens. The high degree of commitment and professionalism displayed by you and your team at a difficult time contributed in large measures to the State's rescue and relief efforts. Your contributions are in keeping with the highest ideals of selfless service and community involvement which the nation cherishes.

  
**Pinarayi Vijayan**  
 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

**Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC,  
 Chairman COSC and Chief of the Naval Staff  
 New Delhi**



## **MESSAGE FROM NWWA PRESIDENT (SR)**



It is an honour to serve as President NWWA Southern Region and to take on the responsibility of leading this organisation. Over the years our organisation has transformed in sync with the Indian Navy and increased its ambit to cover a variety of activities associated with the welfare and well-being of the SNC Parivar.

I have always believed that beside every soldier, there is an even stronger woman. The Kerala deluge created mayhem around but that did not let the spirit of resilience in the Navy wives or their families die. Together, hand in hand we fought and overcame this fury by weaving a beautiful tapestry of love, compassion, humanity, oneness, empathy and kindness under the able guidance of Mrs. Reena Lanba, President, NWWA. I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to the entire NWWA fraternity for standing by me like pillars, staunch, steadfast and true.

I am proud to lead this motivated and talented team of ladies who have volunteered to contribute towards the betterment of our community despite their own commitments and responsibilities on the home front. I intend to build upon the strong foundation laid by our predecessors and take NWWA Southern Region forward in all its endeavours.

NWWA, today, undertakes several activities which include: empowering our women through specialised training provided at subsidised rates; contributing towards making Navy Children Schools world class; running schools to meet the requirements of special children; providing creches for working women; supporting the elders in our community; encouraging healthy habits; encouraging talented individuals in various fields; and working to make our environment green and sustainable. These efforts ensure that the Naval community remains a vibrant, healthy and happy place and we need to pursue them with purpose and vigour.

It's my firm belief that we have gained much from being a Naval spouse and it is our duty to return this favour by contributing our efforts towards the betterment of the Naval community, in the same manner as our officers and sailors who selflessly serve the country.

I look forward to the continued voluntary support and cooperation of all ladies in SNC to take our endeavours forward. A particular area of my emphasis will be to better integrate the large number of young ladies who join the Naval community and to provide them with necessary support and information, so that they integrate seamlessly into our Parivar. I congratulate all members and volunteers of NWWA (SR) who have kept the flag of this organisation flying high.

There is no greater joy than giving. I look forward to working together with all of you in helping to make a positive difference to all our lives.

This edition has been aptly dedicated to the heroic acts of our SNC parivar. I compliment Team Sanchar for their untiring efforts in bringing this edition to fruition.

Jai Hind

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sapana Chawla". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mrs Sapana Chawla  
President NWWA (SR)



## From The Editors' Desk



“Change is the only constant in life.”

**Heraclitus, Greek philosopher**

Change is the essence of existence - everything in life is a process of moving, growing, adapting and changing. We, the ‘new team’ of Sanchar embark on our maiden voyage to bring forth this very *special edition* of Varuni and take this opportunity to warmly welcome Mrs Sapana Chawla our new NWWA, President (SR) who took over the helm of affairs of Southern Region on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2018.

The last few months had the Southern Region bustling with unusual activity. Whilst we saw a change of guard, God's own country also witnessed its worst floods of this century. In these trying times, the Naval community donned the mantle of the Saviour. It was indeed heartening to see our entire fraternity working selflessly and doing their bit to help the local populace. NWWA ladies under the able leadership of Mrs Chawla reached out to one and all. Not only did they partake in the community kitchens, gave generous contribution to the relief fund, they were present at the relief camps too where they helped, supported, motivated and lent their shoulders to families who arrived in pain and were emotionally broken.

We also stood testimony to innumerable acts of courage and compassion as with each passing day there was a new story to tell. It was only apt that we dedicate this edition of Varuni to all the *Heroic Acts of our men* in white and their families who worked tirelessly beyond the call of duty in these trying times. The stories that follow truly touch a chord as the intrepid acts of our community kept the flag of the Indian Navy flying high.

We are truly fortunate that we all belong to this community – the Indian Navy.

Happy Reading.... teary eyed, you will definitely swell in pride.

**Mrs Zarine Singh**

**Mrs Shruti S. Sareen**

## TOGETHER WE CAN

**Mrs Dhanya Varma**

I had switched on the television in the afternoon when I saw a visual of a Naval Helicopter rescuing a pregnant woman. I remember wondering for a minute if Vijay was flying the helicopter. But, then I soon forgot about it as I went about doing things that required my attention. Later in the day when Vijay got back home, I came to know that it was indeed him who commanded the rescue mission.

We were in Kataribagh, Willingdon Island & were unaffected by the floods, but the enormity of it all was not lost upon us. Thousands were homeless because of the flood waters and lakhs of people across 12 districts of Kerala were stranded. Relief and rescue had to be of a mammoth scale and proportion; and the people of Kerala were in dire straits. Our men swung into action and from dawn to dusk one could hear the thundering sounds of rescue helicopters whizzing past overhead. Our phone inbox and social media platforms were inundated with SOS calls and messages.

Naval wives from various corners of the city got together by whichever means they could to collate information and coordinate relief and rescue requirements. Relief camps were being run in the base. Some days it was food and on others it was clothing and the medicines but everyone pooled in, men, women and children alike, to help support the camps.

This is Vijay Verma of Indian Navy who evacuated Sajitha to safety so she could deliver her child two hours later. And Sajitha's baby born in the safety of Naval Hospital Kochi.



Our husbands were working in the most trying of circumstances and we were all aware of it. Every pilot's wife would have in her mind said a silent prayer for her husband's safe return and I am no different. My high point of the day was when at night my husband would return home tired but with a wan smile on his face. The sounds and images of people crying out for help would keep playing out in his head but the next morning he would shrug off the fatigue and the stress and get back to his duty of saving lives. I am sure all of the men on duty felt the same way about the work they were doing and immersed themselves completely in the task at hand. They worked together hearts and minds. It didn't matter which squadron or ship they belonged to, in air and on ground they supported each other to the hilt.

Every person from the Naval community, men, women and children, stepped up and put in their best. We showed the world the true meaning of unity and courage. We also proved to ourselves that we are stronger and resilient than we think. Jai Hind.

## A FLOOD OF LOVE

**Cdr P Jayasanker**

On the night of 15<sup>th</sup> August, I received a call from my relative Col. Shantanu from Delhi that his old in-laws are stuck in their house in Chenathunadu, a lovely riverfront house at Chalakudy. When I spoke to them, I was told that there was no power supply and the water outside the house was about 3 feet deep. On my suggestion to leave the house, I was told they have catered for 5 days of food and have shifted to the first floor of their house. Also being an old couple, they were not comfortable leaving their house.

I was woken up on the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> by multiple phone calls from them stating that the water had got into the house overnight and was now getting closer to the first floor. By then all hell had broken loose from all around - Chengannur, Pandanad, Edanad, Aranmula, Kozhencherry, Ayiroor, Ranni, Pandalam, Kuttanad, Aluva and Chalakudy that there was uncontrolled flow of water from incessant rains and added flow from more than 30 dams that had been opened. I rushed to the Naval Base that very instant to check on the ways me and my unit could help in the task, as I was sure that the Southern Naval Command would have already mobilized its might in rescue operations.

As expected, a well oiled machinery of the Navy had been set up and teams were being dispatched in various directions as requested by the civil administration. The constant whirring of the Helos above indicated that our aviation assets were in the thick of action. It was then that I noticed that a group of persons were unloading mattresses and other items at the T2 Hangar. Soon the Naval Whatsapp groups started getting messages asking for clothes and other items for the rescue camp set up at T2 Hangar. All arrangements were moving like clockwork and any bystander would doubt that this was a sudden and unprecedented arrangement. As buses after buses started unloading rescued people, it was evident that maximum number were ladies and children with few old men as well. In the meanwhile, my relative at Chalakudy were not rescued by the boats that visited the area ,as they were full and could not return later due to the heavy flow of the river. Also the air rescue attempt too failed due to the GI sheet roofing over their terrace. To make matters worse, their communication stopped at about 1730 hrs due to failed battery.



**Jisha with Dakshit**

The evacuated persons coming to T2 hangar were reporting to the registration desks and their details were being collected manually. This is where we found that if we could somehow get this data online, their near and dear ones could know that their relatives are safe and sound in the Naval camp which would help them immensely. The undertrainee officers of NCW were brought in with their laptops and network dongles and pressed into action to update the data on Google Person Finder creating a link for Kerala Floods. The data was also simultaneously entered into an excel file for our database, which was later used by many agencies including the Collectors office. A Copy of the printout was placed outside Travancore gate for easy reference for relatives who had come to meet their family members. This arrangement proved helpful in repatriating the inmates of the camp to their relatives easily.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> rescued people were still coming in and the T2 hangar was getting filled. A decision was taken to convert the Naval KG into another rescue camp. Meanwhile the family members of Naval personnel started streaming in to assist by providing clothes, manning the various counters and starting a play area for the kids. This personal interaction by the family members and the ladies under the aegis of NWWA has been instrumental in soothing the nerves of many rescued ladies who were there without their men and were worried about the well being of their relatives. There could be no better compliment when one Malayalam voice message from a young girl that went viral, where she extolled about her experience of the helo rescue and the good time she was having in the Navy camp.

In the morning, a young gentleman brought a one and half year old child to the help desk and stated that the child was thrust into his hand whilst being rescued by the helicopter from Annamananada near Mala and he had no idea about his parents.

The photo of the child with available details was immediately published through social media and the response was

immense with people calling from US and Australia to confirm the well being of the child. One lady from Hyderabad even offered to adopt the child, which was graciously rejected. Soon the relatives of the family called us and the mother, Jisha was soon reunited with her son Dakshit. Another pair of children, Malavika and Ashik were separated from their parents who reached another rescue camp. Once again social media was used to find them and reunite them in quick time.



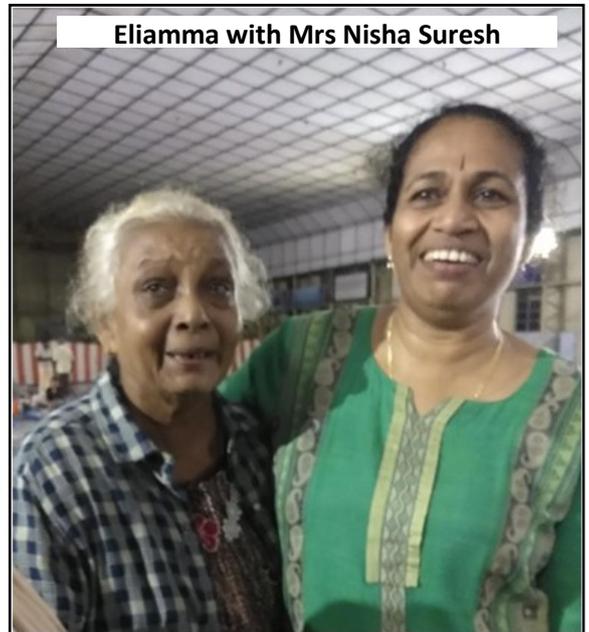
Another story that is worth mentioning is that of a 73 year old Eliamma from Pothussery, near Mala, who was crying consistently since her arrival, and was collecting all the chocolates distributed without eating even one. This was the first time she had been separated from her octogenarian husband, in their 50 years of married life and she had never had a meal in her life without feeding him first. The chocolates being his favorite were being kept safely by her to give to her husband. It was only after constant cajoling by our

NWWA ladies that she accepted to have food. Her grand children came the next day and reunited her with her husband, who was lodged in another camp.

The second camp set up in Naval KG saw an influx of 336 people and the entire setup in T2 hangar was replicated there. This camp was beautifully managed by the teachers and staff of Naval KG with the assistance of Naval personnel. An optional third camp was planned at KV 2, which did not start as the people started leaving the camp as news of receding water came in.

A heave of relief on the personal front too as news came in that my relatives were rescued by a larger boat from their house on 18<sup>th</sup> August.

As the flood water receded around 1000 people who came to the two naval camps moved out, we were left with memories and stories galore of an event that saw the nature's fury bring out the best of human nature. The tears in the eyes of people leaving the camp may have been of gratitude to the Navy or the fear of facing an uncertain future, that needs to be rebuilt from proverbial scratch.



## NWWA CORE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>President</b>	<b>Mrs. Sapana Chawla</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Mrs. Avanti Nadkarni</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mrs. Archana Bhat</b>
<b>Secretary - NWWA Kendra</b>	<b>Mrs. Rohini Cariappa</b>
<b>Treasurer (Welfare Fund &amp; Ladies Club Fund)</b>	<b>Mrs. Suman Chandna</b>

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>SUB COMMITTEE</u>
Sahara	Mrs. Sapana Chawla	Mrs. Navneet Randhawa
Sakhi	Mrs. Avanti Nadkarni	
Media Coordinator	Mrs. Avanti Nadkarni	
NWWA- TISS	Mrs. Avanti Nadkarni	
Sanchar	Mrs. Zarine Singh	Mrs. Shruti S Sareen
Samudri	Mrs. Zarine Singh	Mrs. Kamal Singh Mrs. Mamta Anand
Udyogika	Mrs. Zarine Singh	Mrs. Prairna Sharma
Pragati (NB)	Mrs. Neeraja Alamanda	Mrs. Saloni Pandey
Pragati (R)	Mrs. Neeraja Alamanda	Mrs. Chanchal Agrawal Mrs. Kuljit Sandhu
Tarsh	Mrs. Laila Swaminathan	Mrs. Nandita Kumar Mrs. Himani Gupta
Sparsh	Mrs. Jenny Joseph	
Saundarya	Mrs. Suman Chandna	
Anubhavi	Mrs. Padma R Ayyar	Mrs. Priyadarshini Rajkumar
Arogya		
Archive	Mrs. Reema Tandon	
Ashirwaad	Mrs. Usha Sridhar	Mrs. Darshini Krishna
Jagriti	Mrs. Anuradha Pawsey	
Kala Kendra	Mrs. Rajbir Randhawa	
Prakriti	Mrs. Reema Tandon	Mrs. Priti Chopra
Sankalp	Mrs. Nidhi Bansal	
Sports	Mrs. Rohini Cariappa	
Kendra-in-Charge	Mrs. Saroj Rohilla	
Kendra-in-Charge (R)	Mrs. Rashmi S Karwade	

# NWWA BUZZ





**Dr Vinod Kumar Gupta**  
 @Drvinodgupta  
 Replying to @IndianNavy @SpikespenMMDC and 2 others  
 I join the Nation to salute our Flight Diver Amit and his team members. Nation is proud of you. Jai Hind.

**Indian Navy Fans**  
 August 22 at 12:35 PM · 🌐

#KeralaFloods Navy technical teams + KWA staff fix submerged/ defective transformers of Aluva water pumping station. Would help in restoration of fresh water supply in most of Kochi region. Well Done. Lets put our best foot forward.



**Kulwant Singh Hora** Great work to rehabilitate the people of Kerala by NWWA. I being a Retd IN Sailor pay the great Salute. God bless the Association with more strength & encouragement.  
 Like · Reply · 1w

**Pushpa Dhawan** Navy doing great work under Mrs Reena Lanba & Mrs Sapana Chawla 🙏  
 Like · Reply · 1w

**Anurag Bisht** Big salute to Lamba mam , also to Chawla mam as she help affected people lot  
 Like · Reply · 1w



**Shaurya Chakra winner rescues 26 in single sortie in Kerala**

Navy Captain P Rajkumar, who was awarded Shaurya Chakra on Independence Day this year, on Friday rescued 26 people stuck in Kerala floods during a single sortie in a Sea King 42B helicopter. Commending the officer, the Indian Navy said he carried out the operation "in extremely challenging conditions hovering between trees and in the limits of man and machine."

short by Ayushi Ahluwalia / 18 Aug, 2018

**How much money did you receive from relief funds for flood in Kerala?**

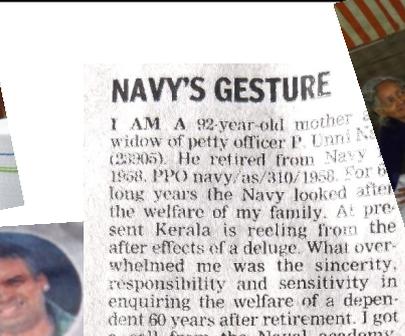
**Shristi ...** h, lives in Kerala, India  
 Answered 23h ago

My Dad and I were airlifted by Indian Navy helicopter on 17 Aug at 11 am in Kochi. I was brought to Naval base, Kochi where I was given food prepared by a sailor's wife. I knew that Navy was involved in rescue mission. But, I didn't know that even their families are. The whole helicopter hangar was converted for survivors to stay safe. They provided us food, water, medicines, clothes, bed, bedsheets also phones to contact our families. But, Navy did not give us the money. They gave us something more than money - Care and Love. We could see Officers, Sailors and their families taking care of us even in the midnight.

Coming to your question, We dont want money. We need Love and care. Will any amount money give me that?

#Respect  
 53k Views · View Upvoters · View Sharers  
 7,440 Upvotes · Share 24





### NAVY'S GESTURE

I AM A 82-year-old mother of a late petty officer P. Unni Nair (23906). He retired from Navy in 1968, PPO navy/as/310/1958. For many long years the Navy looked after the welfare of my family. At present Kerala is reeling from the after effects of a deluge. What overwhelmed me was the sincerity, responsibility and sensitivity in enquiring the welfare of a dependent 60 years after retirement. I got a call from the Naval academy, Ezhimala. The next day another enquiry was initiated from the Naval base in Kochi. I got tears in my eyes with the Navy's sincerity in taking care of its dependents. Navy is not only an ocean of opportunities, but also compassionate towards family members. Their sincerity is deeper than the mighty ocean. As a mother, I urge and plead to parents that enrolling your wards in Naval force will be the best option for their children because their future is in secure hands. The Navy is known for its toughness and resilience. They stay awake so that we can sleep peacefully. The other side of Navy not known to many is its sensitivity, care and responsibility. Once again I thank the entire force for its dedication and care.

Lakshmi Amma

■ Lt Cdr Abhijeet Garud and his team undertook one of the riskiest rescue operations by performing a light-on-wheels rooftop landing manoeuvre. There was the threat of ground resonance if the copter was not meticulously manoeuvred. Around 20 people and an 80-year-old woman was airlifted as they did not have the fuel to winch them



■ Lt Cdr Mayo Chauhan was one among the Navy officers who led rescue operations during the floods. The navigator and winch operator on board Sea King aircraft saved as many as 101 lives. He was also instrumental in distributing around 8.5 tonnes of relief packages



## MIRACLE BABY

**Surg Lt Cdr TY Shenoy**

Rescue team headed by Cdr Vijay Verma air evacuated Mrs Sajitha on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August at 09.30 hrs from the terrace of a masjid. Surg Lt Mahesh medical officer from Garuda carried out the preliminary evaluation and assessed her at the spot of rescue before she was pulled up by the helicopter rescue team. She was taken to INHS Sanjivani. Mrs Sajitha had already ruptured her water bag the previous night. With the little time at hand and in order to safeguard the unborn, active labour initiation was carried out by the team comprising of Surg Lt Cdr Tamanna Y Shenoy gynaecologist, Lt Col Simi Nair nursing officer and Lt Amod Dhage the intern. Sajitha delivered a full term male baby on 17 August at 14:12 hrs. The baby weighed 2.63 kg and post delivery, both Sajitha and the new born continued in the care of INHS Sanjivani. for a week before discharge.



## ADDING COLOURS TO LIFE

**Shriya S Sareen**



SLt Pulkit Soni celebrated his birthday by doing something truly wonderful. He distributed colouring books and crayons for the children at T2 Hangar, who were feeling agonized and restless as they had nothing to do. The children were ecstatic and their parents were also happy. Truly a noble gesture which would be etched in their memories forever.

## CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Saloni Pandey

My husband announces a temporary duty to Coimbatore and I decided to join him as I could also meet a few of my old friends. The day arrived with a grey overcast sky, and it had already started drizzling by the time we started. As we drove, I was scared as I scanned through the forwards on what's app. It was a beautiful uneventful drive till 'Kalamaserry' where one side of the road had been closed because of water logging but the traffic was usual. We continued driving.

As our car almost swam through knee deep water at 'Thrissur', we were quite relieved to be out of the main rain affected area, and now just across the hills was Coimbatore - dry and sunny. The water would have surely receded by the time we returned two days later. So it was a nice happy hour as we drove uninterrupted, till we noticed a long line of trucks. There had been a landslide in Kurthiran. The road was totally blocked and would take at least 6-8 hours to clear. Well, there was no option but to turn back. But now the water at 'Thrissur' was a worry. The water had definitely been rising and it was a tough decision as we dived full throttle, into the waist level water, praying hard as we reached the other end, after what seemed like an eternity. It was not helping to see houses totally submerged on both sides of the road. With 'Thrissur' behind us we now sped back to Kochi.

The bridge at 'Chalakudy' had been closed as the dam gates had been opened and the rivers were overflowing filling up the road we had just come from. The roads were completely submerged and it seemed like we were in some Hollywood movie with water closing in from all sides.

The drizzle was slowly turning into a downpour as we searched for a safe place for the night. But where? There was just one hotel already full with people who had shifted into it when water had submerged their homes. With tension mounting, the lobby of the hotel seemed like the only safe option.

The next morning rain Gods were still fuming. Electricity had already been shut down and there was no network too. With a roof over our head it was time now to take stock of other things. Situation was grim. People had become homeless overnight. Cramped in shelters, they were desperately trying to find their loved ones. Few who had their families were just thankful that they could make it to a safe place when some of their friends were still stuck on roof tops. One family had shifted for their son's engagement and wedding and was now wondering where would they welcome the new bride. A father who had specially come on a weeks leave from 'Dubai' to celebrate Eid with his new born son and had got stuck when his flight got diverted. A son who was desperate to reach his cancer ailing father in Aluva. Old parents, waiting for some news of their son. There was a story behind each worried look, as they scampered around to get some news on their near and dear ones. There was acute shortage of food and water. "We have to do something to help these people" said my husband as he scouted for ways to send some message across, and finally managed to send one to Ops authorities. The response was immediate from our Indian Navy as medical supplies, food and water was dropped bringing some relief and much cheer to the locals.

Surviving on the meager ration of rice and pickle which was the only thing the hotel could provide, we all soon became like one big family helping each other and sharing our small blessings. There were no barriers of language, region, religion or position as we all sat together and discussed solutions to help out people we could, or the happiness we felt when we got to know about the safety of each others relatives. As the waters started retreating and roads opening it was only good wishes we had for each other. Friends had been made for life. It was a bond of strength and support - *That We Are Always There for Each Other.*

*Life has its own way of teaching and testing us, through various ways and now it was for us to understand and learn or just ignore and keep blaming others.*

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN AT CUSAT CAMPUS

Lt Cdr O Jayaprakash

Setting up kitchen at a new place and also provide lunch, we had to move earliest by 0900 hrs, considering the journey time to reach CUSAT. As a night mare to the existing situation, vehicular movement was not possible, as all routes were flooded. By the time we were assessing the alternate route, our chef sailors swiftly started preparing rice and dal. By 1100 hrs, when the convoy was declared good to go, we had prepared rice, semi cooked dal and vegetables.

When we entered CUSAT Camp, we could only sense utter chaos as it was very crowded. We had the task of unloading the materials, setting up the kitchen and also controlling the crowd. We had plenty of volunteers for unloading the items and to our surprise we were able to place all the items in less than half hour for setting up our kitchen. Without any delay, our Chefs and the entire team were in action and by 1400 hrs we were able to serve rice, sambar, veg curry and pickle to 3450 people.

We assigned responsibilities to various students and detailed the timings for serving food. The day started with a morning tea 0500hrs, breakfast 0700hrs, tea break 1030hrs, lunch 1230hrs, evening tea with snacks 1530hrs and ended dinner 1930hrs.

By 17 Aug, when all modes of transport were cut off, we had to intake additional 7 camps as there was scarcity of food and our clientele went up to 5000. We were told to provide packed food for 1200 refugees in UC College which was made ready and loaded in huge tipper trucks. Volunteers from Navy and civilians delivered the food to UC college. The road was totally non-motorable and the efforts to deliver the food packets to UC college was in vain. However keeping in mind the importance of food packets in our hand, we delivered it to other camps in dire need.



By this time, the word had spread across that the naval kitchen was operational and there were plenty of request for food from various camps. Our initial task which was assigned to provide food to 3000 personnel went up to 10000 personnel in no time. As the flood situation worsened, a number of requests started flowing in our mobiles for rescue of civilians with their GPS locations and our team members including chef sailors volunteered. 2 teams with one Officer each took on the task and we were able to evacuate large number of civilians and patients to safer places.

The camp attracted the attention of the media in due course of time. Reporters from all over Kerala visited the camp frequently. The spirit of our men was always high by regular visits by Senior Officers from the Navy and members of NWWA. Despite our tiring work schedule day and night, our men refused to take a break and were always available for duty throughout for rendering assistance to the needy.

As the days passed, the camp became more than just a rescue centre into a more relaxing place for the inmates. We could see people helping one another, interacting in the lawns, going for evening walks like a family. We could hear people speaking praises of our men quoting **“Men in uniform came for our rescue like the Gods.”** The whole scene was a sight to behold and the sense of happiness arose in our men to see people praising our services and our food. However we also could peep into some voices which craved for Kerala Boiled Rice. We indeed arranged boiled rice also which took sometime and effort but at the end of the day all that mattered was their happiness.

From the initial 7 camps we were now happy to support 12 camps. The CUSAT community kitchen had already turned out to be a hit. By the fifth day, people had started moving back to their homes. The humanity and concern among the service and civilian personnel was so high that even at night we would see people with their cars asking for left over food to be taken and given to fellow citizens who were unknown in various other relief camps.

With the stocks getting depleted over due course of time, we had a challenge ahead of us in planning for further meals. We decided to provide bread and butter instead of Suji for breakfast. 175 Kgs of Moong dal was soaked overnight and preparation of food was a challenge with the resources we had. We also managed to serve Shahi Kheer on the day of Bakir id lunch which left the people spell bound.

With the mix of North Indians and Malayalees, the camp had very funny conversations for eg. one of our staff asked for “Namkeen” but the other person brought him “Namak” (salt) we all laughed. We had birthday celebrations, dance, music which turned out to be a stress buster for the families.



After feeding more than one lakh people in last few days, we winded up. We left the CUSAT camp with everlasting memories and a sense of satisfaction that we have achieved something great which money cannot buy in this world. Our men put the service before their self, sacrificed their sleep, comfort, did not see their families for days but sure did put a smile on the face of the people of Kerala who have lost their house, lifetime earnings some even their beloved. Jai Hind

## OPERATION MADAD

**Yogesh Kumar, SEA I (CD)**

My team was deployed towards Aluva on 15 Aug , where the water level was very high. As we reached we saw huge crowd had gathered around as the whole area was totally under deluge. We observed that the villagers were terribly scared as we disembarked our vehicle. Our team in-charge, Deepak, PO (CD) and I launched our Gemini and started evacuation and relief mission throughout the night and continued till next night nonstop. At night, we got a message that one family in their home was isolated, which is far away from the village. We set towards the destination with the help of a native for guidance. We were informed that seven people were stranded in house, however on reaching the home, we found that around 12 people consisting of six ladies and six men were awaiting rescue. We accommodated all of them in our Gemini, but after moving for a while, unfortunately, our Gemini's bottom worn out and became flooded and was tilting badly towards one side. I along with Deepak PO (CD) jumped in water immediately and through our water borne skills we supported the torn side on our shoulders and managed to reach alongside a building. We shifted the people to that building and started repairing our Gemini. After four hours, we repaired our Gemini and evacuated those people out of water towards a safe place. We could see that the personnel in Gemini were extremely scared and were very tired. We motivated them continuously and evacuated them.

We continued evacuating personnel till 17 Aug and also distributed relief materials to other safe houses where the connectivity by road was not possible. As the water level began receding, we were recalled. It was the first priceless lesson of my life and I am very confident to handle such conditions in future for the service.

## TO SAVE A LIFE IS TO SAVE ALL OF HUMANITY

**Lt Cdr Nandu M Nair**

The incessant rains took the state of Kerala to neck deep water, massive landslides, destruction of infrastructure and hundreds to lose their lives. The floods and landslides have devastated the state so much that the damage caused to the physical and human assets cannot be recovered and the disruptions produced will be life altering. Indian Navy as always, rose to the occasion, by providing all out efforts to conduct rescue operations.

As Signal School offered me a chance to volunteer for Op Madad, I was detailed by JOC to lead a team to Chengannur which was one of the deeply affected areas. On 17 August, Air drop in that weather was an impossible task. Finally by evening, a decision was taken to follow road route. I, along with 4 more officers, 45 men, 10 gemini boats loaded in 5 trucks and 5 Innova cars, started off for Chengannur.



By night we could reach Kodukulanji, which was further 6 kms from Chengannur. The overflowing Achankovil river had swallowed the roads leaving 6 feet deep water, with high currents. We took shelter at a nearby hospital that night and reached Chengannur the next day. Rescue operations started at full swing. Boats were unloaded and made ready, OBM fixed and teams divided. Locals helped us identify all the isolated houses and locations of stranded people. The area was badly flooded with water ingress up to the second floor of the houses. There were kids, pregnant ladies, aged people, patients stranded at remote locations. On the first day we could rescue around 150 people.

The wholehearted support from the district administration and the police, amidst this chaos helped us to set up our camp at a school by night. The second day was at Edanad a place badly hit by floods, and in addition it was the currents due to the receding waters which made the rescue operations difficult. Few of our boats got punctured. By evening we could evacuate and relocate another 100 people.

Kallisery and Mangalam were the areas where we undertook rescue operations the next day. We also collected food, water and other necessities from the Taluk Office to distribute at the flood hit areas. These areas had a mix of high and low terrain wherein water was absent at few locations. This made it difficult to maneuver the boat under power and we had to lift the boat on our shoulders for kilometers. We could rescue and relocate around 40 people to relief camps.



We called off the rescue operations and returned to base on 21 August. Altogether it was a gratifying experience for us. In spite of all the hardships, all of us had only one thing in our minds - to save maximum number of people. I could see human beings regardless of language, politics, caste, creed and sex helping each other to come out of this misery. Other than Navy-Army, NDRF, Rescue teams from different states, Police, Fishermen and moreover the high-spirited locals worked hand in hand. It is a matter of great pride to be part of this rescue mission and those memories will remain forever.

## श्रीमती सपना चावला, अध्यक्ष, नवा - दक्षिण क्षेत्र



नवा दक्षिण क्षेत्र की अध्यक्ष के पद पर सेवा करना व इस संगठन का नेतृत्व करने का दायित्व लेना मेरे लिए सम्मान की बात है। गत वर्षों से हमारा संगठन भारतीय नौसेना से जुड़कर काफी सुधरा हुआ है तथा द नौ क परिवार के कल्याण एवं खुशहाली के लिए विविध क्रियाकलापों का आयोजन करने में सफल हुआ है।

हमेशा मेरा विश्वास है कि हरेक सैनिक के पीछे उससे भी सशक्त एक नारी है। केरल में हुई बाढ़ से चारों ओर गड़बड़ी पैदा हुई है। लेकिन इसने नौसेना कार्मिकों की पत्नियों एवं उनके परिवारों की विपत्तियों से उभर पाने की क्षमता को नष्ट होने नहीं दिया है। हमने एकजुट होकर इस विपत्ति का सामना करने हेतु श्रीमती रीना लान्बा, अध्यक्ष, नवा के सक्षम नेतृत्व में प्यार, अनुकंपा, मानवता, एकता, समानुभूति एवं दयायुक्त एकदम आकर्षक एक योजना बनायी। पूरी नौसेना बिरादरी ने दृढ़, पक्का एवं असली स्तंभ के रूप में मेरा साथ दिया है, जिसके लिए मैं उनको हार्दिक धन्यवाद देती हूँ।

मैं अत्यन्त उत्साही व सक्षम महिलाओं की इस टीम का नेतृत्व करने में गौरव का अनुभव करती हूँ जिन्होंने पारिवारिक प्रतिबद्धताओं व जिम्मेदारियों के होते हुए भी हमारे समाज के कल्याण के लिए अपना सहयोग दिया है।

मैं अपने पूर्वजों द्वारा डाली गई सशक्त नींव पर खड़े होकर नवा दक्षिण क्षेत्र को सभी उद्यमों में आगे ले जाने का इरादा करती हूँ।

अब नवा द्वारा अनेक क्रियाकलाप आयोजित किए जाते हैं जिनमें आर्थिक सहायता प्राप्त विशेष प्रशिक्षण द्वारा हमारी महिलाओं को सशक्त बनाना, नेवी चिलड्रन स्कूल को सर्वोत्तम स्कूल बनाने में सहयोग देना, स्पेशल चिलड्रन की आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति हेतु स्कूल चलाना, कामकाजी महिलाओं के लिए क्रेश की सुविधा का प्रबन्ध करना, हमारे समाज के प्रौढ़ व्यक्तियों को सहायता देना, स्वास्थ्य संबंधी आदतों को प्रोत्साहित करना, विविध क्षेत्रों के सक्षम व्यक्तियों को प्रेरणा देना और हमारे परिवेश को ताज़ा व उपयोगी बनाने की कोशिश करना आदि शामिल हैं। ये क्रियाकलाप नौसेना समुदाय के उत्साहपूर्ण, स्वस्थ एवं खुश रहने का कार्य सुनिश्चित करते हैं तथा हमें इन्हें लक्ष्य व उत्साह से आगे ले चलना है।

मेरा दृढ़ विश्वास है कि हमारे पति लोग नौसेना में सेवारत होने के नाते हमने बहुत कुछ पाए हैं तथा उसके बदले में यह हमारा कर्तव्य है कि नौसेना समुदाय के कल्याण हेतु हमें सेवा करनी है जैसे हमारे अधिकारी व नौसैनिक देश के लिए निःस्वार्थ सेवा करते हैं।

हमारे प्रयत्नों में दक्षिण क्षेत्र की सभी महिलाओं के सतत स्वैच्छिक सहयोग एवं मदद की मैं उत्सुकता से प्रतीक्षा करती हूँ। मैं उस विशेष कार्य पर ज़्यादा ज़ोर देना चाहूंगी जहां अधिकांश युवा महिलाएं, जो नौसेना समाज में आयी हुई हैं, उन्हें जरूरी सहायता एवं जानकारी दें ताकि वे हमारे परिवार का ही हिस्सा बन जाएं। नवा (दक्षिण क्षेत्र) के सभी सदस्यों व वालंटियरों को मैं बधाइयां देती हूँ जिन्होंने इस संगठन के ध्वज को ऊंचाइयों पर फहराने दिया है।

कुछ देने में ही खुशी होती है। हम सब की जिंदगी में एक सकारात्मक परिवर्तन लाने में मदद देने हेतु मैं आप सभी के साथ जुड़कर काम करना चाहती हूँ। इस अंक को हमारे द नौ क परिवार के साहसिक कार्यों के लिए समर्पित किया गया है। मैं टीम संचार को इस अंक के सफल प्रकाशन हेतु किए गए अथक परिश्रम के लिए बधाइयां देती हूँ।

जय हिन्द !

## “वो दिन”

ज्योति अर्धांगनी/ओ मनोज कुमार

१६ अगस्त का वो दिन मैं अपने क्वार्टर में टेलिविजन पर खबर देख रही थी की केरल में भारी भाड़ के कारण चारों तरफ जनसामान्य बेहाल था, लोग मदद के लिए पुकार रहे थे। मेरे पति भारतीय नौसेना में कार्यरत एक हवाई गोताखोर है। उनका फोन आया की मैं आज लंच में नहीं आ सकता, मैं अभी रेस्क्यू मिशन पर जा रहा हूँ। मैं क्वार्टर से बाहर निकली तो देखा कि चारों तरफ नौसेना के हेलिकोप्टर उड़ रहे हैं। मेरे पति भी उन्ही किसी हेलिकोप्टर में उड़ रहे थे। जब मेरे पति देर रात को ऑफिस से आए तो बोले कि केरल में भयानक बाढ़ आई हुई है, आज हम सभी रेस्क्यू मिशन में थे। वो अगले दिन जल्दी सुबह चार बजे उठ गए थे और करीब पाँच बजे ऑफिस चले गए। ऐसा लगभग पाँच दिन चला।

केरल में आई भारी बाढ़ में नौसेना के ऑपरेशन मदद में शामिल मेरे पति ने २३ लोगो को बचाया और सुरक्षित स्थान पर पहुँचाया। बाढ़ पीड़ितों में जो लोग उन्होंने ऐरलिफ्ट किए उनमें अधिकतर गर्भवती महिला, बुजुर्ग महिला, बीमार लोग और बच्चे थे, और इस काम को पूरी सुरक्षा और सावधानी से करने के लिए अपने प्रॉफेशन में कुशल होना बहुत जरूरी है। मेरे पति ने इस कार्य को बखूबी अंजाम दिया। उन्होंने लगभग ०३ टन सामान जरूरतमंद लोगो तक पहुँचाया, जिसमें खाना, पानी, कपड़े और दवाइयाँ शामिल थे। उनके इस कार्य के लिए भारत एवं पूरी दुनिया से सराहना मिली, जिससे मेरे पति का मनोबल और ऊँचा हुआ। यह मेरे और मेरे देशवासियों के लिए अपने आप में एक बहुत ही यादगार क्षण था। मेरे पति ने जो मानवता के लिए जो काम किया इस बात का मुझे गर्व है, कि मैं ऐसे साहसी व्यक्ति कि पत्नी हूँ जो देश सेवा में लगे है। जय हिन्द ।

## ऑपरेशन मदद

देवेन्द्र यादव एवं दल

17 अगस्त सुबह 5 बजे सिग्नल स्कूल, गोताखोरी दल के साथ मिलाकर चेंगाचूर जिले के पुथेंनकाळु में हेलीकाप्टर से राहत बचाव कार्य के लिए भेजा गया। हमने पुथेंनकाळु के एक चर्च के विद्यालय में राहत – बचाव केंद्र स्थापित किया। हमारे 13 सदस्यों ( 01 अफसर, 08 गोताखोर, 04 नौसैनिक) के दल को 3 जेमिनी के साथ बचाव कार्य के लिए भेजा गया। एक जेमिनी से हमने चर्च के आसपास के ईलाके से लोगों को बचाना शुरू किया। दूसरी जेमिनी को हमने पम्बा नदी की तरफ सर्वे के लिए भेजा। जिसमें पता चला कि पानी का बहाव तेज होने के कारण अकेले एक दल को नहीं भेजा जा सकता है। तीसरी जेमिनी को आपातकालीन स्थिति के लिए तैयार रखा। स्थानीय लोगो की सहायता से आसपास के फंसे लोगो को निकालने के बाद पम्बा नदी के दूसरी तरफ भेजा। जिस रास्ते हम पम्बा नदी के दूसरी तरफ जा रहे थे उस रास्ते में पानी का बहाव इतना तीव्र था कि हम सही रास्ते आगे नहीं बढ़ पा रहे थे, जलस्तर मकान की दूसरी मंजिल तक होने के कारण हमें घर की चारदीवारी के तारों का पता नहीं चल रहा था। रस्सी को पेड़ से बांधते हुए व ओ बी एम की सहायता से हम पंबा नदी के पुल तक पहुँचे। उसके बाद जेमिनी को उठाकर पुल पार किया। हमने उन्हें विश्वास दिलाकर पुल पर सुरक्षित छोड़ा। जहां से हेलीकाप्टर के द्वारा उन्हें राहत कैप में पहुँचाया गया। पहले दिन इस तरह हमने करीब 60 से 65 लोगो को बचाया। हमने उन जगहों से बचाव कार्य किया जहां कोई भी नहीं पहुँच पाया था। १८ अगस्त को हमने रदनाद में बचाव कार्य किया। उस दिन पानी का बहाव थोड़ा कम था। कई दिनों से एक जगह फंसे होने से लोग भूखे प्यासे व तनाव ग्रसित थे। पानी का स्तर अधिक होने से जमीनी हालात पता ना होने के कारण हम लोगो को चोटें भी आईं। हमें लोगो के तनाव ग्रसित होने से लोगो के गुस्सों का सामना करना पड़ा। १८ अगस्त को शाम के समय पम्बा नदी के पास एक अकेले घर में अकेला व्यक्ति था जो सीधे नदी के बहाव की चपेट में था। उस को निकालना जान को जोखिम में डालने वाला कार्य था जो हमने किया। १८ अगस्त को भी हमने लगभग ७०-८० लोगो को निकाला जिसमें अधिकतर बुजुर्ग व मरीज थे। जिसमें से कुछ लोग चलने की स्थिति में नहीं थे। जिन्हें कुर्सी व बांस की सहायता से व्हील चेयर बनाकर निकाला गया। १९ अगस्त को बहाव सामान्य होने के कारण लोग राहत महसूस कर रहे थे लेकिन उनके पास खाद्य सामग्री ना होने के कारण वे भूखे प्यासे थे। हमें सूचना दी गई कि अस्पताल में ४ मरीज चलने में असमर्थ थे। हमने उन्हें वहाँ से राहत शिविर में पहुँचाया और फिर उन्हें दूसरे अस्पताल में भेजा गया। इस दिन हमने अधिकांश राहत सामग्री बांटी। इस राहत व बचाव कार्य में हमें कुछ परेशानियाँ भी झेलनी पड़ी क्योंकि मोबाइल चर्जिंग के साधन उपलब्ध ना होने से हमारे मोबाइल एक दिन के बाद बंद पड़ गए जिससे बाकी लोगो से संपर्क करना मुश्किल हो रहा था। जो राहत सामग्री हमें भेजी जा रही थी वह अधिक ऊँचाई से गिराने की वजह से खराब भी हो रही थी। कुल मिलाकर यह हमारे लिए एक वास्तविक अनुभव था जिससे हमें पता चला कि प्रकृतिक आपदा में लोगो व बचाव दल को किन किन परिस्थितियों का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।

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