

HENSON HERALD

Edited by Eleanor Broadhurst

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Introduction

This is our first edition of the year and Emma Lockley is having a break, therefore Eleanor Broadhurst is kindly deputising.

North Staffordshire Press has entered six titles in the Arnold Bennet Literary Competition, so we are keeping our fingers crossed. Thinking ahead to July, another summer school will run again in Publishing - please contact if you would like more information.

As the news is diabolical, here are some Dad Jokes to cheer us up!

- 1) What does the man on the moon do when his hair gets too long?
- Eclipse it!
- 2) Why don't ghosts like rain?
- It dampens their spirits!

This week, a student from Stoke Sixth Form College did work experience with Henson Editorial Services & North Staffordshire Press and we are grateful to Maisy for helping us and look forward to her returning at half term!

Malcolm Henson (MD)

India's Missing Children: Trafficking a Structured Nexus

By *Thangavelu Vasantha-Kumaran*



About a year ago, an 8 year old boy disappeared from the neighbourhood of Chennai, India, where I live. Posters announcing his disappearance appeared all over and in other neighbourhoods. But he went untraced and there is no information regarding his disappearance yet.

This isn't a stray incident in Chennai or megacities of India, particularly Delhi, the capital city. Nearly 8 months ago, a 5-year old went missing from Delhi. The child-lifters who allegedly kidnapped her were arrested but there is no word on the little girl yet.

In August 2018, the headline on The Hindu, a National Newspaper, screamed: India's Missing Children, with a subtitle saying that 'Some 174 children go missing every day. Only about 50% of them are ever found again. But the story behind these statistics is far more complex than what social media will have you believe' (Divya Gandhi and Julie Merin Verghese, The Hindu Magazine, August 12, 2018).

The most recent Crime in India Report from the National Crime Records Bureau says that more than 59,000 children went missing in 2020. With the pandemic raging in the country, the children of India have been at risk more than ever before. Human trafficking has seen an exceptional rise.

A study on Sociologies of India's Missing Children published in an online journal on August 14, 2019, reporting that most missing children are from poor backgrounds and nearly all of them are trafficked for work as bonded labourers or as sex workers in city brothels.

Distressingly, small girls going missing is more common than boys. The newspapers report on the missing children every day but rarely if ever they return. All that we know is that every five minutes, a child arrives unaccompanied on the country's railway platforms, from somewhere and often from very far.

The phrase 'missing children,' in global and Indian contexts, means three distressing phenomena, namely, (a) runaways, children and most often, adolescents who to leave home and return within a few days; (b) child-snatching, often by non-custodial parents who take their children without the custodial parent's explicit permission; and (c) abductions or kidnappings by strangers, who may keep, sell, ransom, molest or kill the child.

There is information that a child goes missing every 10 minutes in India, according to the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India website for tracking missing children.

At this rate, nearly 55,000 children would have been missing in India in a year and only half of them would have been traced if we go by the Police records in the country.

Heinous Practice of Child Trafficking in India



Child trafficking is an illegal practice of buying, procuring and relocating children. It is a heinous crime which involves the pushing of young children into physically and sexually exploitative work. Child trafficking has serious detrimental effects on the children that have been trafficked. Children are often trafficked for commercially and sexually exploitative work such as child labour, child prostitution, agricultural work, domestic servitude, child soldiering and mining. Save the Children is an NGO that works for the protection and promotion of children's rights. This NGO seeks to ensure that each child experiences a happy and secure childhood.



Women of India (Delhi) during a demonstration for Missing Children of India, holding a placard saying 'Bring Back Our Kids'

There is a portal dedicated to tracking missing and vulnerable children. This portal (National Tracking System: trackthemissingchild.gov.in/trackchild/index.php) has the database of missing children and information regarding children who are staying at different Child Care Institutes in the country. This is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India and tracks the progress on missing children in every state of the country.

There is also a National Centre for Missing Children (NCMC), a non-political and non-profit and a non-governmental organization offering tracking services free of charge in the country (missingindiankids.com).



About 78 per cent of trafficked kids lured into the sex trade on job promise.

Although no exact figures are available in India, the number of runaways could be a million a year. That theoretically means a child runs away from home every 30 seconds. If you add the number of missing, lost and abducted children, the number of missing children in India could be phenomenal.

Evidence suggests that 11 children go missing every hour but four of them remain forever untraced in India. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data on missing children for 2016 reported a higher number of missing children at 63,407.

There is also evidence from these records that 111,569 children were missing for more than a year in 2016. And between 2011 and 2014, the number of India's missing children stood staggering at about 325,000.

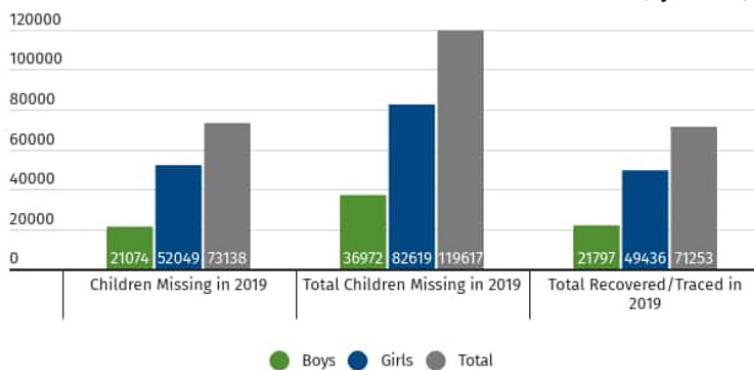
The total number of children missing in 2019 was 119,617. Whereas the total number of missing boys was 36,972, the total number of girls who went missing in the year was as many as 82,619.

The number of children recovered or traced in the year were 72,253, with 21,797 boys and 49,436 girls. However, the number of children reported missing that year was 73,138, with 21,074 boys and 52,049 girls.

The top five states reporting the most missing children in 2019 were Madhya Pradesh (11,022), West Bengal (8,205), Bihar (7,298), Delhi Union Territory (6,255) and Maharashtra (4,562).

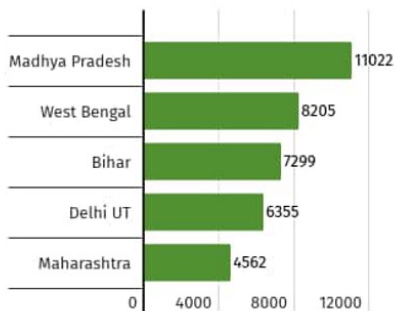
CHILDREN REPORTED MISSING & TRACED IN 2019

(By Gender)



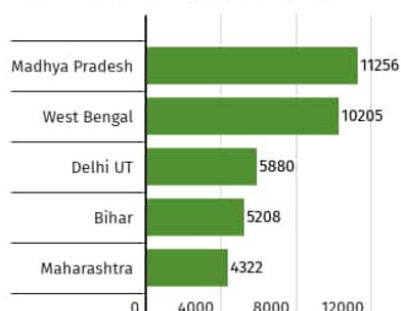
Note: Total Children Missing & Total Recovered/Traced includes missing children from previous years.

TOP 5 STATES REPORTING MOST MISSING CHILDREN IN 2019

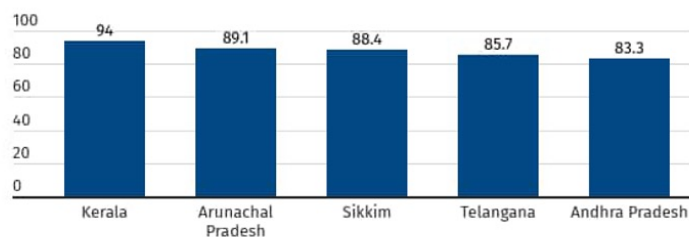


TOP 5 STATES: TOTAL MISSING CHILDREN RECOVERED/TRACED IN 2019

*Includes missing children from previous years



TOP 5 STATES BY PERCENTAGE RECOVERY



Percentage Recovery - Total Recovered or Traced / Total Missing * 100

Note: In 2019, 15 transgender children were reported missing; Total transgender children missing (26); Total transgender children recovered/traced (20).

Source: NCRB - Crime In India

moneycontrol

The top five states of India reporting the most missing children recovered or tracked for the same year were Madhya Pradesh (11,256), West Bengal (10,205), Delhi Union Territory (5,880), Bihar (5,208) and Maharashtra (4,322).

And the top five states by the percentage of the recovery or tracing in the same year were Kerala 94%; Arunachal Pradesh 89.1%; Sikkim 88.4%; Telangana 85.7%

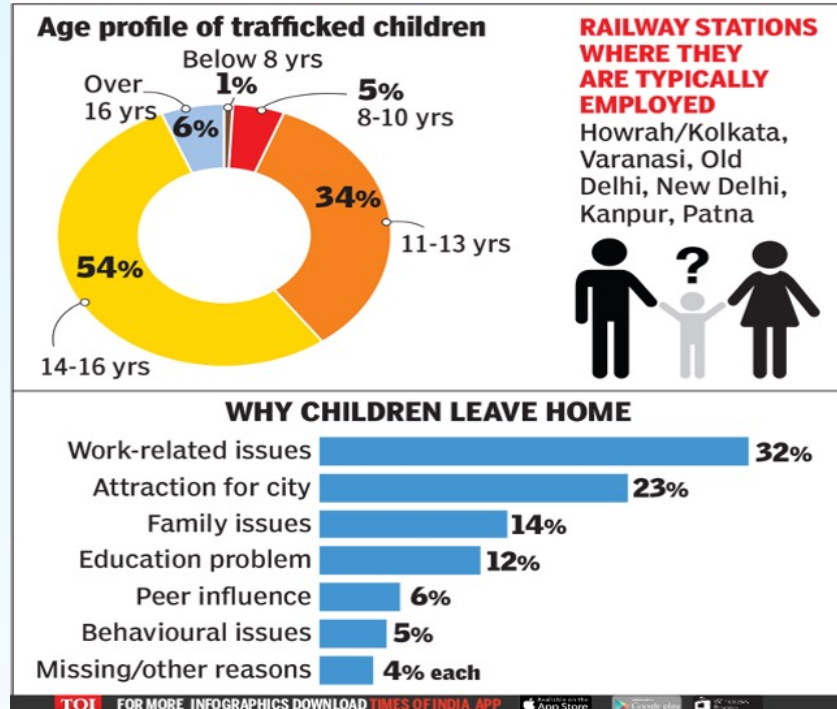


Face recognition App helped Indian Police find missing kids in India

In Tamil Nadu, where I come from, missing children cases registered in the state was 14,716 during 2011-15. The state apparatus was able to trace and recover 14,174 children, with 5,056 girls and 9,660 boys. As many as 542 children are still to be tracked and recovered. But there is little hope among the parents of the missing children as well as the police personnel.

As for the cases of missing children registered in Chennai, the capital city of the state, the total number during 2011-15 was 2,586, of which 1,083 boys and 1,503 girls were traced (a total of 2,445) and 141 children are yet to be tracked and restored to their parents.

INNOCENCE LOST



Of the innocent children lost, the age profile of the trafficked in India shows that a majority of 54% was of 14-16 years, 34% was of 11-13 years, 6% was of 16 plus years, 5% was of 8-10 years and just about 1% below 8 years.

Most runaways, the evidence suggests, are typically employed in railway stations of big cities such as Howrah, Kolkata, New Delhi, Kanpur and Patna. Among the reasons why children leave home, the most significant are the issues related to work (32%), followed by attraction for city life (23%), family issues (14%), problems related to education (12%) – most runaways do not like their schools, peer influence (6%) – someone among friends or classmates prod them to go away, and issues of behaviour (5%) – often parents, either one, scold them for bad behaviours.

New Delhi has emerged as the Abduction Capital of India.

Although abduction of children is an all-India phenomenon, the capital city of India has become the abduction capital, with the largest number of kidnappings. The worst ever abduction that happened in India in 2017 was of 34 children who went missing from an orphanage at Gandhidham in Gujarat.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) directed the police to probe this disappearance of children after the district magistrate and superintendent of police failed to find the children.

NO COUNTRY FOR KIDS

■ Seven children go missing every hour across India

■ As per NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan, only 50-55 per cent children are traced and rescued

■ Delhi, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan are major

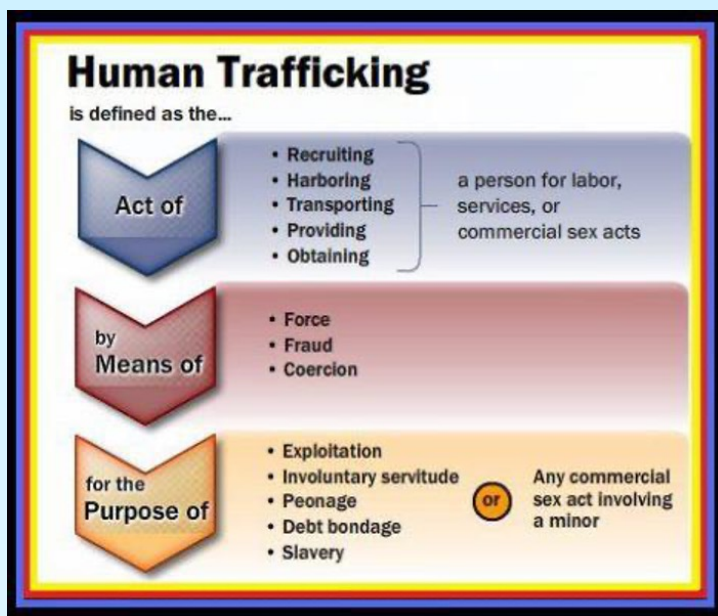
child trafficking destinations

■ Boys are put on work at factories, *dhabas* and hotels

■ Girls are forced into the sex trade or married into areas with a lop-sided sex ratio



IMAGE CREDIT: istockphoto.com/salyood



There was an allegation of sexual abuse of the children at the orphanage run by a religious charitable trust by an informed individual. The complainant also alleged the sexual abuse and raping of young girls at the orphanage for several years. But nothing has happened in the last three years and the missing children remain untraced.

The total cases of kidnapping and abduction in India were 64,519 in 2016, with Uttar Pradesh accounting for 12,994 and Bihar for 5,496.

Gandhi and Verghese report that child trafficking in India is a structured nexus. Once abducted or kidnapped, the child changes hands and travels between states. A sad fact is that missing children cases are often dismissed and the parents are told that their children have run away and will come back sooner or later.

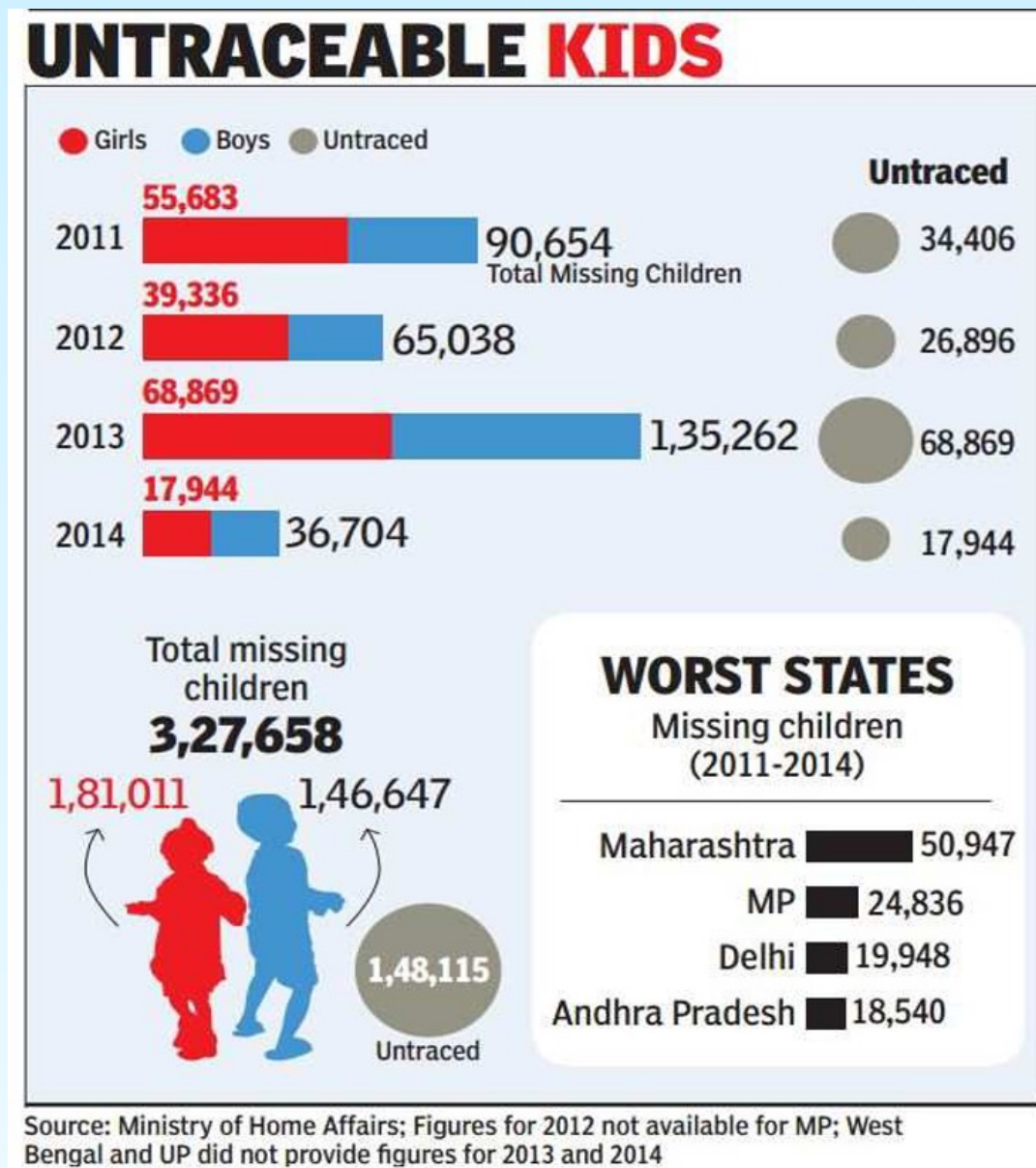
Increasingly, however, kidnapping for ransom is the most dastardly of child kidnappings in India. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi Union Territory and West Bengal are the top five states of the Indian Union for kidnapping and abduction of children.

Evidence suggests that there is physical, sexual and emotional violence against children, both boys and girls. More than 75% of the children abducted, both boys and girls in almost equal number, are subjected to any violence.

Whereas nearly 70% of the children are subjected also to physical violence, 20% of girls and 11% of boys are sexually abused. Emotional violence accounts for 28% of the girls and over 32% of the boys abducted.

India is home to more than 400 million children below the age of 18 years. The youth and children comprise more than 55% of the population. These missing children represent diverse cultures, religions, castes, communities, social and economic groups.

The number on record of the missing children is however only the tip of an iceberg as many cases of missing children are not reported or not recorded by the police, especially in rural areas, despite the National Human Rights Commission's clear directions to investigate every case with full seriousness.



The Supreme Court of India has mandated in 2013 that the police register an FIR (First Information Report) when they receive a complaint. The NGOs involved in children's safety and care claim that there is still a huge hesitation on the part of the police to investigate the cases in right earnest.

India should however strengthen the trafficking law, on the lines of suggestions from the Justice Verma Committee because the present law, the Immoral Trafficking Act 1956, only criminalises trafficking for prostitution.

By Thangavelu Vasantha Kumaran

Chess and Hollywood, Humphrey Bogart

By John Knee

Chess players watching the film 'The Queens Gambit' have been impressed, and perhaps surprised by the technical accuracy shown. However, Hollywood showed considerable interest in chess in the past, and US champion Herman Steiner acted as a coach to the film community. Among those interested who are still household names today may be mentioned Katharine Hepburn, Charlie Chaplin, John Wayne, and the married couple Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart.

Probably the strongest player of those days was Bogart, who revealed that he learnt his chess "in those old shooting galleries when I was a kid in New York". One of his best known games was against Georges Koltanovsky, who specialised in blindfold exhibitions, where he played 30 or more games simultaneously without sight of any boards! Here however he played just the one game...

White :- Koltanovsky. Black :- Bogart. San Francisco, 1952

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. Bd3 Nf6 5. Ne2 Bg4 6. O-O Bd6
 7. f3 Be6 8. Bf4 O-O 9. Nd2 Nc6 10. c3 Ne7 11. Bxd6 Qxd6 12. f4 c5 13. Nf3 Nf5 14. Qd2 Ne4 15. Qc1
 Rac8 16. dxc5 Qxc5+
 17. Ned4 Nxd4 18. Nxd4 Rc7 19. f5 Bd7 20. Bxe4 dxe4 21. Qf4 Re8 22. Rae1 Re5 23. Rxe4 Rxe4 24. Qxe4
 Bc6 25. Qe3 Re7 26. Qg3 Re8
 27. f6 g6 28. Qh4 h5 29. Re1 Rxe1+ 30. Qxe1 Qd6 31. Nxc6 Qxc6
 32. Qe7 Qc8 33. h3 Qc6 34. b4 Qxc3 35. Qe8+ Kh7 36. Qxf7+ Kh6
 37. Qe7 Qc1+ 38. Kf2 Qf4+ 39. Ke2 Qc4+ 40. Kf3 Kg5 41. f7+ Black resigned.

Black blundered on his 40th move. He could probably have drawn by continuing with the checks.

Another of Bogart's published games was against USA champion Samuel Reshevsky, who competed for the vacant world championship with four other players in 1948 and scored 10.5 points out of 20. Here he plays 70 games simultaneously, but none of them blindfold!

White :- Reshevsky. Black :- Bogart. Hollywood, 1956

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Nxd5 6. d4 f6
7. dxe5 fxg5 8. Qxd5 Qxd5 9. Bxd5 Be7 10. O-O Bf5 11. c3 Nxe5
12. Bxb7 Rd8 13. Re1 O-O 14. Nd2 Bf6 15. Ne4 Bxe4 16. Bxe4 h6
17. Be3 a5 18. Bc5 Rfe8 19. Rad1 Kh8 20. Rxd8 Rxd8 21. Kf1 Ng4
22. h3 Ne5 23. Ke2 Nc4 24. Rd1 Rxd1 25. Kxd1 Nxb2+ 26. Kc2 Na4 27. Bd4 Bxd4 28. cxd4 Draw
agreed.

Improvements that have been suggested are 16.. Nc4 and 24. b3. A well played game in the circumstances. Bogart was to die of cancer in January 1957. Earlier, he had served as a director of the US Chess Federation, and played games by post with American servicemen in the war years.

By John Knee

ISKP in Afghanistan

The Islamic State of Khorasan province (ISKP) was established as an affiliate of Islamic state of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) by disaffected Taliban in eastern province Nangarhar of Afghanistan in Jan 2015. Its goal is, as a "Province" of the core Islamic State, the group aims to take control of Central Asia and South Asia under the Khorasan Province banner of the self-declared caliphate. A map published by IS propaganda shows the Khorasan area stretching from Kazakhstan in the north to Sri Lanka and the Maldives in the south, and from eastern Iran in the west to western China in the east. As this terrorist group is consisted mostly of Wahabis (adherents of the Islamic reform movement founded by Muḥammad ibn ‘Abd al-Wahhāb), they have been in strong religious oppositions in some points with Shia Muslims (the minority in Afghanistan).

That's why they have conducted so many terrorist attacks such as bomb blasts, suicide attacks, car bomb attacks against their religious ceremonies, mosques, schools, clinics etc which killed lots of civilians and innocent people and children mainly in Capital Kabul. Also, ISKP has conducted numerous high-profile attacks against civilians in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In July 2018, ISKP bombings killed 149 in Mastung, Pakistan. In May 2021, an ISKP bombing killed 90 in Kabul. In August 2021, ISKP killed 13 American military personnel and at least 169 Afghans during the U.S. evacuation of Kabul, which marked the highest number of U.S. military deaths in an attack in Afghanistan since 2011. There is various estimations on its number and structure. The US estimated 1000, the UN 2500-4000 and the Russia, 10000.

The Taliban are also in severe enmity with ISKP because of their different views politically and religiously. As ISKP have acted in many ways which are against Islam, like marrying the young girls and widows to their militants in under their controlled areas, their enmity grew up and have conducted too many clashes against each other in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces of Afghanistan.

The US managed to conduct some strikes against their militants in east of the country which killed some of its leaders and commanders. Also, the former intelligence agency of Afghanistan, NDS arrested one of its supreme leaders in Kandahar, the south of Afghanistan. Furthermore, the Taliban hit them hard which made this group to become weak in terms of militarily. The ISKP afterwards launched secret attacks like plotting suicide and car bomb attacks against Shia Muslims in Kabul and in some other cities of Afghanistan. A while before, they launched an offensive attack in the main mosque of Shia Muslims in Kandahar during offering Friday's prayer which killed lots of civilians. One of my uncles was also in that mosque, fortunately he survived as had escaped from the back door of the mosques while the first suicide bomber set off his bomb. As the US and the west withdrew from Afghanistan, a new season of fighting began between Taliban who took the power of the country with ISKP. The people of Afghanistan thought the fighting ended with taking the power by Taliban and evacuation of US and the West from the country, there would not be killing anymore in the country but they didn't know that another season of fighting started in the country, unfortunately.

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