

FORCENET

E-ZINE

Magazine for military veterans in the corporate
December 2023, Volume V, Issue 12



CAMARADERIE



THE NETWORK THAT WORKS

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FORCENET

From the Editor

Dear Readers,

It is with great pride that I pen the editorial for this Special Anniversary Issue celebrating 16 years of founding of Forces Network. Forces Network has always been about its members. We ran a survey asking our members to describe in one word when they think about Forces Network— you know what, the most commonly repeated word was **camaraderie**. That is how that has been selected as the theme of this month.

Camaraderie is a treasure trove that we, as veterans, have carried from the battlefields to the corporate landscape. It's the unspoken bond that unites us, the foundation upon which our community, Forces Network stands tall. Transitioning from the military to the corporate realm can be a daunting journey. Yet, our community has been a beacon of unwavering support, echoing the familiar rhythms of the military brotherhood. The camaraderie we share isn't merely a nostalgic memory; it's a thriving reality within Forces Network. It's seen in the training programs where seasoned veterans guide the newcomers, sharing insights and lessons learned from the battlefield of corporate challenges.

Our community has been a lifeline for many, offering a safe space for open discussions, where vulnerabilities are embraced and support is readily extended. Through our forums, events, and gatherings, we've transformed corporate offices into spaces where the echoes of military camaraderie resound, where the ethos of '**never leave a comrade behind**' is a guiding principle. What makes our community unique is the seamless integration of military values into the corporate fabric. Us. We've witnessed remarkable instances where this camaraderie has been the catalyst for professional growth, where job opportunities have been shared, networks expanded, and collaborations forged—all grounded in the trust and camaraderie we share.

The stories within these digital pages narrate the incredible journeys of our members—how camaraderie has been a lynchpin in navigating the challenges of corporate life. From overcoming career transitions to supporting each other through personal struggles, these anecdotes speak volumes about the strength of our community.

However, while celebrating our achievements, it's crucial to acknowledge that the road ahead demands more from us. We must reach out to those who might need a helping hand. Let us pledge to keep the flame of camaraderie burning bright, to stand by each other through the highs and lows of life. Together, we will continue to be a pillar of strength, an unwavering support system, and a beacon of camaraderie to the veterans in their second careers.



With camaraderie and respect,

Capt Rajesh Nair
Editor, ForceNet E-Zine



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		Protein-1.4 g	2.8%
		Fat- 0 g	0%
		Fibre-3.16 g	2.9%
		Total carbohydrates-85 g	-
Mango	Mango pulp, Sugar, Liquid glucose, Acid regulator (E330), Stabilizing agent (E440), Class II preservative (E224)	Vitamin C-13 mg	17.9%
		Energy- 360 K cal	18%
		Protein-0.8 g	1.6%
		Fat- 0 g	0%
		Fibre-5.6 g	5.2%
Apple	Fruit pulp, sugar, liquid glucose, acid regulator (E330), stabilizing agent (E440), class II preservative (E224)	Total carbohydrates-96.5 g	-
		Vitamin C-25 mg	34.4%
		Energy-293.4 K cal	14.4%
		Protein- 1.15 g	2.3%
		Fat 0 g	0%
	Total carbohydrates-72.2 g	-	
	Total sugars-47 mg	-	
	Vitamin C-14 mg	19.17%	



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Lalit Panwar ▶ Amit Batra

1 hr · 🌐

Hi Everyone.... attended the Amit Batra's webinar on Kids Coaching today and found it extremely useful and powerful session. Shall recommend parents of all kids from 1 yr to 18 yrs to attend and gain the useful insights right from foundation to communication. Great Job Amit....carry on the good work.



Rajiv Ghosh ▶ Amit Batra

1 hr · 🌐

Attended a session on parenting by AB, it was quite insightful. Concepts like mentoring your child, setting rules, delegating responsibilities, respecting your child's opinion did invoke my interest and we will definitely implement the same in my daughter's upbringing. Loved the way he explained how right parenting creates an environment which will help the child grow in a positive direction. I highly recommend all parents to attend his webinar.

Contact us at (Whatsapp msg only)



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[A NOTE FOR THE READERS](#)

This is an interactive e-magazine with active links on many pages, including the advertisements, which can be used by just tapping or clicking on them.

For ease of providing feedback, such links have been provided at the end of the articles too.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed within this e-magazine are the personal opinions of the authors and interviewees. Thus, the information and viewpoints presented in the articles do not represent those of Forces Network, and neither does Forces Network accept any duty or responsibility for them.

Online Feedback / Review

We would be featuring Feedbacks received from users post clicking on the interactive active links of the e-magazine. These links can be used by just tapping or clicking on them. For ease of providing feedback, such links have been provided at the end of each articles.

Feedback on: Author of the month Ambreen Zaidi - Nov 2023

Ambreen Zaidi as a author is very daring lady, speaks truth and never shy away to raise voice against injustice(Fatwa issued against her is a testimony). She has written books on topics which never gets limelight in our media. Madam is doing great work in bringing up the unheard voices of armed forces.

Additional Suggestions:

New additions of adding photography section is evolving step in Forces E Zine Magazine with time.

LT CDR VARUN KUMAR DHAND

Feedback on: Knowledge Bytes: What makes you come alive - Sep 2023

Very well written

LT CDR ANUJ BHARDWAJ

Feedback on: Knowledge Bytes: What makes you come alive - Sep 2023

Wonderfully written article..

DR SARLA MEHTA

A NOTE FOR THE READERS

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For ease of providing feedback, such links have been provided at the end of the articles too.

Founder's Note

Wow we are sweet sixteen!

Time has really flown by.



Forces Network was founded on 04 Dec 2007 – this month we turn 16 years of age

As we mark the remarkable milestone of sixteen years for our professional Network, I am profoundly moved and honoured to reflect on the incredible journey we've undertaken together. What began as a vision to create a supportive, empowering, and unwavering community for military veterans transitioning into civilian life has blossomed into a thriving network that stands as a testament to the unbreakable bond of service and camaraderie. Our journey has been one of shared experiences, mutual support, and the unwavering commitment to lend a hand to our fellow veterans navigating the complex terrain of transitioning from military service to the corporate world. Throughout these sixteen years, our community has stood as a beacon of support, a hub of opportunity, a haven of understanding and source of trustful information for all those who have worn the uniform.

What began as a community of 4 members is today a community of 6500 members spread across the length and breadth of this world. The heartbeat of our network lies in the seamless exchange of knowledge, experiences, and opportunities. We've seen incredible success stories of veterans finding their footing in new career paths, thanks to the job openings shared within our network. The privilege of being able to guide, support, and witness our members grow and flourish in their professional lives is a source of immense pride for all of us.

Much Beyond Mere Professional Networking



Fatima Rizvi : She wrote a story called [My Real Family](#) It fills me with a sense of pride when we hear acknowledgements of Forces Network from our members wherein the Network has come to their help in their hour of personal distress. While there have been innumerable instances of such support some which stand out are as mentioned. When someone loses their jewellery in the checked in baggage of a flight and they do not know where to turn to; they send a message in the community and within 30 minutes they recover their lost jewellery. When someone's child meets a mishap in a far off foreign country and the Network comes to aid of the family member. Such is the power of the community of Forces Network and this Network and this is what gives birth to such [magical stories](#). You can read the stories of Fatima Rizvi and Soujanya Rai on our website.

A Safe Space

One of the most remarkable aspects of our community is the safe space it provides for members to ask any queries. As I saw do not worry if your query is silly or stupid or simple just ask. This is a closed community and this is a safe space. If we do not learn where else would we learn. Whether it's about career advice, navigating corporate culture, or simply seeking a listening ear, our network has always been a reliable sanctuary where no question goes unheard or unanswered. The strength of our collective knowledge and experience is the backbone of the assistance we offer.

Masters of Military to Corporate (M2C) Transition

We at forces Network have deeply focussed on this subject, we have studied it and researched it in detail. We have run surveys, studied Transition in other countries, interviewed successful veterans in the corporate, conducted salary surveys and ingrained the lessons learnt for the transition journeys of several members. There are senior members who have walked the journey themselves very successfully. Many of them come forward to share their learnings with other members of the community.



Forces Network is the undisputed leader in the M2C Transition Workshops having conducted 10 such workshops

Overcoming the Fear of Technology

One of the best industries from the perspective of global opportunities, quality of life and financial compensate is the technology industry. However most veterans are technologically challenged and are in fear of the same. Making a successful career transition in the technology industry is not easy but some veterans from our network have been able to successfully crack the code for this. While many veterans are desirous of making a career but they are unaware of where and how to start. It was to fulfil this need that we started the Any Body Can Tech (ABCT) program. We ran 3 batches of these programs and many a tech careers were launched because of this. Sample these testimonial videos from [Angad](#) and [Jojo](#). Of all the achievements in Forces Network personally for me the ABCT has been a crowning glory and also a source of great personal satisfaction.

Participants Certified 40

Microsoft CERTIFIED AZURE FUNDAMENTALS

ABCT-III Any Body Can Tech Non Tech to Cloud Certified Program Breaking Myths

It's Easy – If You Try

Microsoft Az-900 Certified : ABCT-III

Participants shown: Cdr Japdeep Ghuman, Capt Sharanjit Minhas, Col Rajkumar Dhankar, Col N Selva Kumar, Lt Cdr Varun Dhand

ABCT is by far the most popular training course of the Forces Network

Trust and Integrity

As a Founder this is something that I am most proud of. We have always acted with full integrity and transparency. This is also how our members view us. A community that always acts with extremely high integrity which consequently has helped us win the trust of our members. This is acknowledged widely that the trust and sense of brotherhood that define our community have been the cornerstones of our success. The bonds formed during our time in service continue to thrive in our civilian lives. The trust and reliability we've built have made our network a revered and trustworthy community, sought after not only by veterans but also by corporations and organizations eager to tap into the unique skill sets and ethos of our members.

Networking Seminars

We have organized multiple seminars across the country over these 16 years. We had very humble beginnings, our first event was in a small restaurant in Hyderabad in 2008 today of course we have graduated to five star venues with marquee speakers. We have conducted seminars across New Delhi, Bengaluru and Pune. These events have been a tremendous source of bonding and have resulted in job offers or business opportunities for many of our members. Secondly, we have always been very choosy about our Speakers in such seminars. They are by far the best and the brightest.

Marquee Speakers



Randeep Sekhon, CTO Airtel



Deep Kalra, Founder MMT



Prabhiyet Singh, Uber



Rajesh Pandit, MD, CBRE,
South Asia



Avnish Sabharwal, MD,
Accenture Innovation



Ritu Marva, Founder Franchise
India

Forces Network Seminars always invites top notch speakers



The Future Ready U Seminar was a big draw and had record participants

The Camaraderie

The camaraderie and sense of belonging cultivated within our network go beyond mere professional connections. It's a family, a brotherhood and sisterhood, where the ethos of service, sacrifice, and commitment remains steadfast. Our events, both virtual and in person, have been a testament to this, fostering connections that transcend the digital realm and echo in the real world. When we began the requests in the Network apart from jobs was for guest rooms in Varanasi or Bengaluru today we get requests for connects in far off global cities like Vienna and Boston. This reflects not just the growth of Forces Network but also of our members. Having said that the environment in the community is egalitarian and collegiate.

Conclusion

As the Founder, I am humbled and inspired by the incredible dedication and resilience displayed by each member of this community. It's your passion, your willingness to give back, and your unyielding support for each other that has shaped this network into what it is today.

Moving forward, as we embark on the next phase of our journey, let us continue to uphold the values that have brought us this far. Let us remain committed to supporting one another, fostering a culture of sharing, and extending our hands to those who are embarking on this significant and often challenging transition. In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member of our community, past and present, for your unwavering commitment, support, and dedication. Here's to the next chapter of our network, filled with more opportunities, shared successes, and an unbreakable bond that defines us.

With deep respect and gratitude,

Iqbal Singh
Founder, Forces Network



Star of Forces Network

A Forces Network Star is a member of the Forces Network who has gone on to achieve glory in the his/her corporate/civilian avatar. The aim of this series is not just to celebrate our successes from the veteran community, which unfortunately we do not do enough, but also to inspire others. The ultimate goal is to set up a virtuous self-sustaining cycle of inspiration leading to more successes in turn inspiring many more.

IN INTERACTION WITH IQBAL SINGH

Col N Selva Kumar was commissioned into the Corps of EME and served in various roles during his service of 32 years. He served at Combined Workshop, commanded field workshops, commanded a Tri-service specialist workshop of Sig Int, had tenure with DGQA and contributed immensely at Dte of Indigenisation, IHQ Defence towards indigenisation. He had been a senior faculty at MCEME and DIQA. Post retirement he has transitioned into defence manufacturing sector, headed a Defence Industry, built up the defence corridor of TN and now is the Defence Projects CEO of Bridge Bharat Council for Promotion of Innovation, Research and Entrepreneurship. An expert in Corporate Venture Building through Collaborative R&D and Coordinated Manufacturing, handling projects pan India.



IQ: Please tell us something about your background prior to joining the Army, and your subsequent Army career. Please share any significant achievements.

Selva: Hailing from a remote village near Madurai in Tamil Nadu, with no one in my family even remotely associated with Army, my joining Sainik School Amaravathi Nagar TN had paved my way to NDA, IMA and then to Army. I passed out from IMA in Dec 1988 with the distinction of being 1st in order of merit amongst officers commissioned in to Corps of EME.

I was awarded Commendation by the Chief of Integrated Defence Services for outstanding performance in handling strategic tri-service projects in the capacity of Commanding Officer, as well as by the Director General of Quality Assurance for my outstanding contribution as Faculty in the field of QA.

I had a satisfying and a well-rounded career in Army wherein I had the unique opportunity to work in every stage of Life cycle management of a Defence equipment. Beside being the end-user, provided maintenance support (O, I & D level), headed the equipment design & development teams for Signal Intelligence, front-ended national level indigenisation/import substitution from DOI, conducted



My Family pic in 1970

acceptance trials and provided QA cover to supplies from industry (DGQA). I Was a senior faculty at MCEME and at DIQA. Had headed three foreign missions for FAT and Maintenance Training abroad. Had designed and developed an '*Automated Remote Diagnosis System for Radio Sets*' to remotely assess the conditions over the VSAT with inbuilt knowledge base to pinpoint the fault as well as e-Learning package for DGQA to serve as an online learning tool and as a repository of policies and reference material.

IQ: Give us an understanding about your current role and what you are presently engaged in. Also please share in chronological order the roles and companies in your corporate career?

Selva: My first assignment after transition was as Plant Head & GM of a Defence Manufacturing Unit where I had utilised the expertise on defence equipment and the business acumen learnt, backed with the core technology, to successfully turnaround the sick defence manufacturing company into a sustainable profit-making company. Thereafter, I had moved on to developing Defence Corridor at Tamil Nadu.

In my current role as CEO defence projects at Bridge Bharat Council, I am providing '*Corporate Venture building*' support through Collaborative R&D and Coordinated Manufacturing' to about 450+ manufacturers, 8 Universities, 45+ Engineering colleges pan India. I support larger industries in developing a Defence Vertical in their Industry, facilitate project-based R&D through Academia and consortium-based manufacturing by MSMEs and coordinate all these activities to proceed in-line with the project requirement. Also a public speaker and a guest faculty conducting awareness campaigns on Defence manufacturing, motivation and career counselling at forums.



Addressing the Nagpur SMEs on behalf of Dte of Indigenisation, IHQ of MoD



73rd Course, Fourth term at NDA. Juliet Sqn

IQ: How did you prepare yourself for the Military to Corporate transition?

Selva: My transition was smooth owing to the series of courses of Forces Network that I had enrolled into. Commencing from Military to Corporate Workshop (3 days) that enlightened me about the Haves vs Needs for surviving in corporate world, I went on to attending almost every course of Forces Network including ABCT and Digital marketing. Besides, I underwent courses on Cybersecurity, SCM, PMP, Bug Bounty Research, PMP, Chat GPT, Entrepreneurship, career building etc to strengthen my knowledge base. I had consolidated my expertise built over the years in Army and transitioned in to Defence manufacturing industry where I could add value.



Receiving a special award from Honourable Rajya Raksha Mantri, awarded to Bridge Bharat Council for its contribution towards Make in India, IDDM, & Atmanirbharta and handholding the MSMEs and Academia

IQ: What were the challenges faced during your Transition? How did you overcome the challenges?

Selva: Despite having adapted well to work with civilians and cross-functional teams during my tenures in Tri-Services Unit, Army HQ and DGQA, I faced two major problems namely, 'the responsibility without authority' and having to project 'I' instead of 'We'. Had to learn to overcome them the hard way.

IQ: If you were to Transition from the military to the corporate today with the benefit of all the insights and wisdom that you have gained in the corporate today what would you have done differently?

Selva: Considering my passion and expertise and with the ongoing emphasis on Self-Reliance in Defence, I feel the path I have chosen is appropriate.

IQ: Any important lessons you learnt while switching jobs and companies in your corporate career? Any advice for transitioning military personnel on this front?

Selva: The most important lesson that I learnt is that the salary isn't the only concern while choosing a second career. A job where you are doing what you enjoy, with a team that you can identify with and where you have something to offer to the growth of the organisation would be the best second career. This involves a deep job research before diving in. M2C course conducted by Forces Network is quite helpful in this regard.

I would recommend that one needs to evaluate the passion, core strength, strengthen it and then choose the career path that suits based on own aspiration.

एन.सेल्वा कुमार के हिट ने बनाया नया कीर्तिमान

संपन्न दो दिवसीय पहला गवर्नर्स गोल्फ कप टूर्नामेंट में यह कीर्तिमान हासिल किया। इस प्रतियोगिता में सेना, वायु सेना, असम राहफल्स, सीआरपीएफ, आईटीवीपी, बीएसएफ सहित कुल मिला कर करीब १२० गोल्फरों ने हिस्सा लिया। सामान्यतः इस तरह की गोल्फ प्रतियोगिता अक्सर आयोजित होती रहती है और पेशेवर तथा शौकिया गोल्फर लगातार इसमें शामिल होते हैं, लेकिन कम मौके ऐसे होते हैं जब प्रतियोगिता के बाद खिलाड़ी के प्रदर्शन पर चर्चाएं होती हैं। सेना के ४७ वर्षीय एन.सेल्वा कुमार ने अपने प्रदर्शन के लिए भारतीय गोल्फ के इतिहास में सुनहरा अध्याय जोड़ा है।

आमतौर पर खेलप्रेमियों के बीच गोल्फ को लेकर कुछ भ्रांतियां बनी हुई हैं। अभिजात वर्ग के खेल के रूप में विख्यात गोल्फ गेंद और क्लब से खेला जाने वाला एक व्यक्तिगत खेल है, जिसमें खिलाड़ी तरह-तरह के क्लबों का प्रयोग करते हुए गोल्फ के मैदान में



जानते हैं। भारत में जीव मिल्खा सिंह और शिव कपूर किसी परिचय के मोहताज नहीं हैं। गवर्नर्स कप में त्रिगेडियर सीएमएफ प्रभु ने सिल्वर डिवाजन में बेस्ट ग्रास कैटेगरी में विजय हासिल की, जबकि ईशा शर्मा को सर्वश्रेष्ठ महिला गोल्फर तथा लेफ्टिनेंट कर्नल संदीप शर्मा को सर्वश्रेष्ठ गोल्फर से नवाजा गया, जबकि अन्य महत्वपूर्ण मुकाबलों में

एन.सेल्वा कुमार ने शौकिया तौर पर गोल्फ खेलना दो साल पहले शुरू किया। इस दौरान क्लब स्तर पर श्री कुमार को सात-आठ प्रतियोगिताओं में प्रदर्शन का मौका मिला, लेकिन लाइटकोर गोल्फ कोर्स में उन्होंने अविश्वसनीय प्रदर्शन किया। सेल्वा ने लागगेस्ट ड्राइव में ४५५ यार्ड का हिट लगा कर सभी को अंचभित किया। इस

IQ: How important is it to understand your own passion and expertise and then to work towards upskilling in that domain so as to have a better innings in the corporate? How does one identify one's passion?

Selva: Most important. Everyone has a talent and a passion, which may coincide or otherwise. Unless one is constrained to earn for a living, following the passion would ensure a sustainable second career and a corresponding growth arising from your love for what you do. To identify one's passion, he/she must introspect to realise what they always wanted to do but couldn't do while in uniform. It could be Astrology, Teaching, Agri-Tech, Gardening, writing or even wine tasting and fortunately, today there is a well paying career associated with every field.

In my case, M2C course enabled me to re-identify both my passion and talent, which fortunately coincided.

IQ: You have had a stint in the corporate now. To be successful what traits from the military must be give up and what must we imbibe?

Selva: In order to survive in the corporate world, firstly one needs to forget your rank and where you come from. Boasting of what you did doesn't help. One needs to analyse and translate the expertise built while in uniform in to 'how you can add value to the organisation you have joined' and believe it not, we have an immense expertise built during our military career that could be an asset for value addition. We have walked the paths that our corporate counterparts don't even know about their existence and unless we translate into their language and prove what we can offer, we will not be valued in the corporate world. It is akin to re-establishing our worth to the men we command at every new posting, in order to command respect from within.



Bridging the Defence and Defence-aspirant Industries - Literally

IQ: Tell us about Bridge Bharat Council? What was the thought process behind this organization? How does Bridge Bharat plan to create value in the eco-system of defence innovation and manufacturing?

Selva: BRIDGE Bharat Council, as a Section-8 company (not-for-profit) supported by

Senior Military Officers, Industrial Leaders and Vice Chancellors, has been motivating and mentoring the MSMEs and Academia to be part of the Defence Sector. We also interact with the industrial associations and government departments such as MSME Department and Industries Development Corporations of states (TIDCO, KINFRA) for supporting them in their missions. In a nutshell, it is an action-oriented think-tank working as Corporate Venture Builder following the principle of Collaborative R&D Coordinated Manufacturing which holds the key for the success of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. In my current role as CEO defence projects at Bridge Bharat Council, I am providing Corporate Venture building through Collaborative R&D and Coordinated Manufacturing support to about 450+ manufacturers, 8 Universities, numerous Engineering colleges pan India. It involves identifying the opportunities (RFP/RFI/Green Field), the strengths of each associated establishment and the possibilities of integrating the resources to conclude a project profitably, forming suitable consortiums, handholding through the entire process from product development till supply.

IQ: What message would you like to give to transitioning military officers who wish to make a career in the defence industry. What are the kind of opportunities available?

Selva: Of late, many veterans have made a successful career in Corporates, however, many don't sustain in their job for various reasons. While a corporate job looks appealing, most of the expertise built during our military career aren't directly relevant and one needs to re-learn to compete with young counterparts in entirely a new field.

Contrary to the general assumption that soldiers/veterans are misfit in the world of business, a closer look at a soldier's profession will reveal that she/he is highly innovative and have greater appetite for risk which are the basic ingredients of becoming successful entrepreneurs. Further, they have a wealth of knowledge about the defence procurement procedures, operational conditions, defence equipment and the voids in capabilities that need to be addressed. With the ongoing emphasis on make in India especially in the Aerospace & Defence sector, this wealth of knowledge with the veterans is an untapped treasure. Imagine an industry's success in manufacturing a component/ sub-assy/ assy for Defence with no knowledge about their form-fit-function in the defence equipment they are meant for. Wouldn't a fauji be a better fit for manufacturing a fauji product for fauj?



Well Pitched

There are a lot of business opportunities available in defence sector (approx. Rs 5.6 Trillion market), lot of attractive schemes on offer and unfortunately a huge void of expertise with the industries aspiring to enter defence sector.

There are schemes like IDEX, TDF which are up-front funded up to 50% of the project cost. These are the problem statements uploaded by defence to obtain a solution to an ongoing void. Appreciating these voids, arriving at a solution and even reaching out to the officials for refining the solutions aren't any great shakes for a veteran as compared to a civilian. Necessary technical skillset (AI, VR, software, hardware etc) can easily be hired/ outsourced to convert the solution into a proto-type model. Further, there is a huge requirement for import substitution/ indigenisation of the spares for sustaining the defence equipment in use which amount to approx. 2/3rd of the total defence budget allocation. These are critical, banned from import and mandated to be made in India which a veteran can easily handle.

In my opinion, the veteran can take up any of the role as an entrepreneur, a consultant, a mentor, a facilitator, an advisor etc where they can transfer their knowledge to the nation building mission. These careers in defence sector offer a reasonably well paid, flexible job that a veteran can take up with minimal learning/ unlearning and continue well beyond 60 years of age.



Designed, developed and conducted a customised 5 days course on Supply Chain Management for Senior Defence Officials at Defence Institute of Quality Assurance

IQ: Tell us about your family. What role did your parents play in shaping your value system. Also share the role played by your family including spouse in your successful Transition?

Selva: My parents were elementary school teachers and had given me the valuable lessons in life. They taught me to stand by my commitment and righteousness which I have been practicing till date.

Transition from a protected military career to a volatile corporate zone is quite a task. My wife having been in corporate sector had shared her experience and cautioned about various things that I was used to take them for granted while in uniform. She had her share of the transition burden but withstood and had stood by me. Today, besides missing the Fauji life, we are adapted to the new way of life



Lighter Moments



Iqbal Singh is a former infantry officer who started his career with The Garhwal Rifles in Dec 1987. He took premature retirement from the Indian Army in 2008 as a Lt Col to pursue a career in the corporate in the technology industry. He is currently working in a senior role with a Big Tech company based at Gurgaon. Iqbal is also the Founder of Forces Network – the Network of the military veterans in the corporate.

Please provide your invaluable opinion/feedback on this Interview, by clicking/tapping [HERE](#) - Editor

Former Editor's Note

RECOLLECTION....CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND LEARNINGS

The prompt was the mail from IQ Sir, in the Forces Network group. He was looking for an Editor for the e-magazine planned to be launched shortly. Volunteers were being sought.

I do not know how many applied, but I did, even though I had no prior experience in this field. Till then, I had just been a contributor to school magazines. My volunteering was based on my presumption that the said Editor would be required to just 'edit' the grammar and language of the compiled articles, and with the firm belief that my English was good enough for the envisaged task.

And, after being shortlisted, I got selected for the position. I still do not know what were the positives seen in me, but I imagined that Uday, who had suffered enough under me during his tenure in a newly raised Rashtriya Rifles Battalion, must have whispered something about the worthiness of his Second-in-Command to IQ Sir, that tilted the scales in my 'favour'.

So, I get this welcome mail from IQ Sir, congratulating me. He still did not give me an inkling of where I was heading. And, he clearly mentioned that my contribution of effort was going to be 'pro-bono'. I had to look up the dictionary for the meaning of that word, and with that effort all my misgivings about the standard of MY English also came down crashing. Nevertheless, I was already well prepared for the essence conveyed by that word. And, I conveyed my YES.

And, then we hit the ground running. We were a big team....of THREE. IQ Sir, Uday and me. All employed in corporate and earning our daily bread. So, on one Saturday, we had a Zoom call, and tried to put semblance of some process for our first issue of the magazine. We discussed the layout of the magazine, the proposed sections it would have, the various means of collecting the articles, mutual responsibilities, timelines etc. The primary challenge was the platform to be used for the magazine to be created. The trained fauji mindset of mine was thinking of doing everything in MS Word, and then saving it as pdf. Had done a lot of it while in service, and with some graphic support from MS Powerpoint.

And, I soon realized that it was an outdated and childish plan. So, it was announced by IQ Sir, that we would use CANVA. I heard this name for the first time, but it sounded nice to the ears and also looked interesting. However, I was clueless about its capabilities and functions, though I was sure that I would be able to get a good grasp soon by able guidance from Google Baba and You Tube Didi, but was incapable to initiate the start. IQ Sir, had someone who could come to our rescue at the moment, his son Junaid, who was two steps ahead of us on the subject at that time.

So, it was decided that he would design the initial layout of the e-zine, and organize placing of the content in it. I would then take on the editing task. The content was to be collated by Uday, and final proof reading was to be done by IQ Sir. We were now adequately armed, to put our best foot forward, and learn in the process.

So, finally in Nov 2019 we were out with our first issue of the e-zine. This one having 39 pages was a good start. That we had to resort to tactics of bigger font, wider space in words and between lines, and spicing it up with images is something only we could gauge. And, in the process we had also been able to onboard people like Amit Dalvi for the cartoons, Meena Arora and Dinesh Dutt Sharma for articles, Bidisha Pandey for conducting interviews, Sangeeta Thakur, and many more as part of extended team. Many more got added as the months passed.

By the time we started working on the second issue, I had suitably armed myself with the functional nuances of Canva. It was a great learning experience for me, especially because I took help and guidance from no one. I had also realized that being an Editor here did not mean just being an 'editor', but there was much more to it. I had to work on the complete aesthetics and presentation of the content and the magazine as a whole. It was to be made not just pleasing to the eye but inviting enough to be picked up and read through.

The three brains again got down to war gaming.

And, the result was there to see. The Dec 2019 issue was a complete metamorphosis compared to the first issue. The reader should verify this firsthand at **<https://www.forces-network.com/forcenetazine>** We were mighty pleased with our efforts, and the feedback we received from the Forces Network fraternity. However, we were not going to sit on our laurels as there was a lot of ground still left to cover, by adding to the novelty with each issue. Each new issue of the magazine was a great learning experience for me, not only from the Canva application point of view, but also from the professional insights which I got while formatting, rewording, realigning, condensing, and improving the language of the content received from our members who were sharing their experiences. Every other article/interview was a treasure of knowledge.

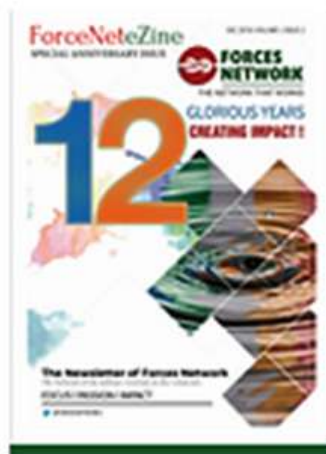
The whole experience has been more than extra ordinary. However, it was not bereft of many challenges, which the readers at the other end would not be aware of. Let me talk about them one by one, through a glimpse of behind the scenes activity, but in a gist.

The Process

First of all, we get down to deciding the theme for the month. As it should have some relevance to and for our veterans fraternity, some deliberate brainstorming happens, and then efforts are made to include it in the various interviews and the articles featuring in the magazine.

Then comes the physical effort of reaching out to the shortlisted persons whose interviews are to be included in the monthly issue. Most of the times it is Uday, but we have a collective Zoom call too sometimes. This is followed by forwarding the questionnaire to these persons, or making a transcript of the interview conducted on Zoom call. Since the persons reached out to also are professionally engaged, regular interaction has to be maintained to ensure that the desired content is received back in time, but mostly misses the laid down target dates. All discrepancies like absence of photographs, or other relevant aspects of the interview are also made up through continuous follow up. This is the most time consuming and energy consuming activity.

Once the content starts trickling in, the Editor gets down with the business of laying it out in the magazine, formatting it, checking the language and grammar, and other aesthetic aspects including placing of photographs and annotations. Believe me, it is not an easy task.



On the sidelines, planning for the cover page of the magazine also happens. We utilize the services of Anup Bose for the purpose, who happens to be sitting in Kolkata. So, interaction is all on phone. With the limited resources available to the Team, and our individual capabilities limited to graphics on a Powerpoint slide, he is the best we could manage. Since he can not generate ideas by himself, the same has to be fed to him. He is then good on working on it. Provides us with a few graphic options, out of which the best is selected, and subsequently fine tuned. At this juncture, it would be worthy to note the transformation we have had in our cover page over this period since first launch. Now, we have finally settled for something which is distinctly recognizable and relatable, apart from projecting us as a brand.

On an average, it is a serious business for the Editor from the 21st of each month, as we have never missed our deadline of releasing the e-zine on the first day of each month. So, he is heads down into it for next 8-10 days, after which proof reading by IQ Sir happens, and all noticed deficiencies/mistakes are corrected.

And then we are good to go. Looks so simple and easy on paper, no!! However, when we start receiving immediate feedback, all our hardships get forgotten, and we get down to business of preparing for the next issue.

The Progressive Changes

The first inaugural issue had just two interviews, under the sections of **'Stars of Forces Network'** and the **'Forcenetpreneurs'**. As the titles suggest, it included persons who had or were making a worthwhile contribution in our Forces Network community, and those who have established themselves as successful entrepreneurs post service engagement, respectively. It was with the firm belief that there was a great deal to learn from the experiences of the people with these credentials, by our network. As time passed, we started including other sections like **'Womenpower'** to showcase achievements of spouses of defence officers/veterans, and later also included women officers; **'Expatriate Insights'** to learn from the experiences of those who have crossed borders and are settled or working abroad; **'Rising Stars'** to highlight achievements of the fauji brats in the civvy street; **'Stars on the Horizon'** to showcase the achievements of the young children of the defence officers; **'Author of the Month'** to include the learnings of those defence officers or their spouses who have pursued this literary field, and Book Reviews. A **cartoon** a month has since been contributed by Amit Dalvi, on the theme of the month, without a break. Sometimes we have additionally spiced it up with **'Guest Speak'** by including persons who are doing exceptionally well in their chosen field, but not related to the defence forces.

That was not all. Then there were articles contributed by members relating to various aspects which impact all those who are in the process of planning for transition, are transitioning, and have already transitioned. There were contributions of articles for leisure reading as well. Lately, to showcase the photography talent of our members, a section in this regard has also been included.

A big push was made to encourage families and children of officers to also contribute to the magazine with their content of poems, stories, etc. And, we were obliged too. This not only added volume to our ezine, but also helped in increasing the reach of the digital copy of our magazine across all frontiers, as it was easier for each contributor to share it within his/her circle of family and friends.

We had to turn creative too, many a times. In order to ensure as well as ascertain that the content of each magazine was being well consumed by the readers, we started a Quiz each month, which had questions based on the articles included in the month's issue. It generated a very good response, and fortunately good prizes were sponsored by members from within our fraternity itself. Unfortunately, it got derailed during the Covid period.

As a Team, continuous feedback is what we looked forward to. While it would come to us as individual mails, we planned to get it in a compiled form. So, Google Forms active links were placed at the end of each article, thus making it convenient for the reader to submit immediate response. Fortunately, the digital format of the ezine provides us with this option, and we exploited it well. Active links have also been placed on each advertisement featuring in the magazine, to take the reader to the related website or intended page of the advertiser.

We also provided free services related to matrimonials, for a long time. The response to include details of the wards was very encouraging, and we continued for a reasonable amount of time. However, it seems that not many alliances materialized and thus the response reduced. So, we shut it down. However, it is something which can be revived any time, if the demand for the same is felt, on expression from a good number of members.

We are always on the lookout for including any progressive change that will add and bring more value to our readers, and continue to strive in this direction.

At this juncture, I would also like to remember the immense contribution made by two of our members, whom we unfortunately lost to Covid. First was Vinay Gupta, who was an expert in Data Science, and had contributed a series of articles on the subject, making it easy comprehensible to our readers. And second, it was Suresh Chandra who contributed wonderful book reviews each month. I am sure, that their articles were eagerly awaited by the readers each month. As a special tribute, we then issued Special Editions of the literary contributions made by them. These are must keep copies.

As I was moving on to an assignment, where carrying out the onerous responsibility of the Editor would be constrained, thus likely to affect the quality of the magazine, I handed over the charge to Rajesh Nair in Aug 2021. And, I have no hesitation to state that he has done an excellent job, and taken the magazine to new heights with his creative ideas and diligence.

Expectations

I am sure that the readers appreciate the hard work of this very small team of 3-4 people, who steal and spare some precious time from their professional as well as personal life, to churn out this bundle of knowledge each month, dot on time, for the Forces Network fraternity to gain immensely from it. Nevertheless, the following is what will help the magazine go a long way:

- Readers are requested to be more active with their feedback. Your views and suggestions will help us create content according to the needs. We are ready for brickbats too, as that is what will help us improve to scale new heights. Please generously use the feedback links provided at various places in the ezine.
- Members are requested to contribute more articles, which can be on professional matters, topics of their personal interest, or on subjects of leisure. No one is here to judge you, and this is an excellent platform to exploit your hidden literary genius. Write a story, write a poem, or write about any funny anecdote from your service days. However, avoid content with religious and political inclinations, and those which are likely to show our defence organisations in poor light.
- Please also encourage your family and children to contribute with their articles. This is a wonderful platform which has a very wide reach, and that they can exploit to the hilt.
- Please share the digital copy of the magazine received each month in the Forum, within your defence circle and also with those not in uniform. It relates to you. It will do immense good to our fraternity and increase awareness about the capabilities of the veterans in the corporate environment. Post it where ever feasible, like LinkedIn, Facebook, Scribd etc.

Closing Thoughts

This was a golden opportunity that landed in my kitty, and I learned immensely from it. While the complete process of producing a magazine is one part, the learning from the experiences of all those interacted with and featured in the magazine is the better second part. I can state with full conviction that each issue of ForceNet e-Zine is a treasure to cherish, a trove of ageless knowledge. Without doubt, any old issue can be picked up at any time or at any stage in life, and the reader will find pearls of wisdom, which will add value to both professional and personal life.

I am also grateful to the members of this small team, which taught me how to share responsibilities and their burden, and how cohesiveness is an inseparable part of success. We surely lived up to prove that **‘Together Each Achieves More’**.

Not many of us would be surprised to hear and learn that the incubation period for the launch of this eZine has been very short, as we collectively represent a determined potent force which does not believe in procrastination, and rather believes in getting the work done, and doing it well too. The gap between date of announcement of the launch, and the actual date of launch is only a few weeks!!! We all can pat ourselves for that remarkable accomplishment.

I would not hesitate to add that this has been possible only with the whole hearted support of the members, and many amongst us who contributed with their literary contributions within a short span of time. Would like to place on record thanks to Junaid Singh who helped with the design and formatting of the eZine. It is a very positive indication that in the issues of eZine which will follow hereafter, we are not going to have any dearth of participation from not only the ForceNet members, but their family members as well. With quantity taken care of, quality will also be taken care of, soon.

I would like to close with a snapshot from the Editor's Note from our first issue, and I feel we are on the right course. Never resting on our laurels, we know that 'we have miles to go, before we sleep', with the able support of essential member....**YOU – the Reader.**

My best wishes to the editorial team, that hold the reins now. Happy reading.



Lt Col Ranvir Singh, a product of Rashtriya Military School and an alumnus of National Defence Academy, was commissioned into 2nd Battalion The Bihar Regiment in June 1988. After hanging his boots in Jan 2009, he has contributed immensely as a Corporate Warrior for more than 12 years to recognised organisations like IL&FS Technologies Ltd, National Institute of Bank Management of RBI, MMTC-PAMP India Pvt Ltd., and Globacom Limited. Apart from being a Security & Safety specialist and an Administration domain expert, he has a keen interest in the field of ever evolving Information Technology, a flair for writing, and photography. He can be reached at ranvirsm@gmail.com

Please provide your invaluable opinion/feedback on this Article, by clicking/tapping [HERE](#) - Editor

Expatriate Interview

In this series we plan to showcase the achievements of the members of Forces Network who have settled abroad and carved a niche for themselves through hard work, grit and determination. The aim is to bring to fore the mechanics of such transitions, and thereby quell the apprehensions of the larger community in the Network. Learning from each other would help us exploit our true potential in any part of the World. And, it could be beneficial for our families too.

IN INTERACTION WITH IQBAL SINGH

Cdr Amit Dogra hails from hills in Himachal, got his education & training from NIT Allahabad, Naval Academy, IIT Delhi and IIM A. He started his professional career with Gammon India and then joined Indian Navy. He served in Navy for 12 years before moving on to corporate world. He worked in India for 5 years before moving to Australia 5 years back. He loves to share, participate and spend time with his friends and family members. The utmost reason Amit loved fauj is because of its camaraderie.



IQ: Please let us know something about your background prior to joining the Indian Navy?

Amit: I am from Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh. I did B. Tech in Civil Engineering from MNIT Allahabad in 2000. I worked in Gammon India Ltd for 1.5 years before joining the Navy in Naval Architecture /Constructor Core in 2002.



Republic Day Parade 2009

IQ: Tell us about your military career. What were the experiences that defined you and what were important life lessons that the military taught you?

Amit: I was a Short Service Officer , served in Navy for 12 years(10 Mandatory+2 Years extension) . My first posting was Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam and second and last posting was Naval ship design directorate Delhi. I retired from Navy in 2014.

IQ: What was the impetus for you to leave the uniformed service so early in your military career?

Amit My Core -Constructor / Naval Architecture , didn't have the option of converting short service commission to Permanent commission in Navy.



Men in White

IQ: How was your Transition journey from the military to the civilian world? Any lessons that you may like to share with the military personnel contemplating a switch to the civil?

Amit: My journey to Civil Street was smooth. The lesson I would like to share is to be flexible , nimble and hungry to learn and give your 100% to prove yourself in whatever opportunity you get to in Civil Street. Work upon yourself and build your brand and network. Keep your head high , make friends and enjoy corporate life.

IQ: Please give us details about what you are presently engaged in your professional role and where are you based out of?

Amit: I am based in Melbourne (Australia). I moved to Australia in 2018 and now I am working in an engineering consultancy as Design Manager.



New Beginning in Australia

IQ: What would be the top 3 things that transitioning military personnel need to unlearn as well as learn while seeking a successful corporate career?

Amit: Few things to keep in mind:

- Armed Forces Career was your past and Civil Street is your present.
- Be Humble, respectful and Helpful to the people around you.
- You are tougher than most people around you and you will sail through the toughest obstacle corporate career throws at you, so believe in yourself in dark times and keep going.
- You can rely on your Fauji fraternity for anything, anytime and anywhere.

IQ: What are the challenges in relocating to another country and starting all over again? How did you overcome them? Any advice to others? What is the one thing you love about Australia?

Amit: Well, there are few challenges in the journey when you are starting a new chapter in a new country. First and most important challenge is to get your entry into the job market for which networking would be the key as per me in to get your foot in the door. So meet and speak to as many people as you can to get started. Also be mentally and financially prepared to sustain yourself and family for 6-8 months till the time you are looking for jobs. Australia as such is very flat structured in terms of job market so even though you might have lot of experience coming from forces, but one should be prepared to start as an individual contributor if that is what the role requires initially. Also, it would help if one can upskill themselves in a certain specific skill/niche instead of applying for generic roles.

Pollution Free, lots of open spaces and beaches is what I like about Australia.



Transition training from Navy to Civil Street

IQ: If you were to live your second career journey again, would you do anything differently? What and why?

Amit: I am happy with the way my second career turned out. I enjoyed my time doing different roles such as Sales, Marketing, Operations etc and meeting new people in different organizations.

IQ: How has been your corporate journey so far? Are you satisfied?

Amit: Yes



Training days



Fun with Family

IQ: Tell us more about your family? How important is family support in switching careers as well as moving abroad? You may like to illustrate with examples from your life.

Amit: Family support really helps in switching careers and moving abroad as it makes it a bit easy to look for jobs as you do not have to worry too much about finances.

In my case my wife is a software engineer, so it was easier for her to get a job when we landed in Australia. She got her job in the first month which gave me time and space to look for a suitable role rather than starting with odd jobs.

IQ: Do you pursue any hobbies or interests? Tell us more about them.

Amit: I really like to go for long hikes. I also enjoy surfing and body boarding for which there are plenty of opportunities in Australia.

IQ: What are your future plans going forward? Do you intend to come back to India or continue overseas?

Amit: I will certainly come back to India.

IQ: So, what advice would you like to give to the fellow ForceNet members who want to take up similar corporate profile?

Amit: Well, I wanted to pursue General Management post Navy, where I am able to manage the entire suite of sales-marketing, operations, legal, back office etc. I got that opportunity and it was quite fulfilling. When I migrated to Australia, I wanted to go into technical field and I was able to do that too. So I think I was persistent & resilient to work my way to the kind of roles I wanted to pursue in my career and I was lucky enough to land in those roles. My advice would be to be persistent with never give up attitude to align & shape your career in the direction you want.



Lt Col Iqbal Singh (retd) is an infantry officer who started his career with the Garhwal Rifles in Dec 1987. He is currently a senior technology executive with a Big Tech firm based in Gurgaon. He is firmly of the belief that tech is an enabler and your friend. He is the founder of **Forces Network**, a network of military veterans in corporate. His message to comrades-in-arms has been: "Do NOT be afraid of tech but embrace it". In line with his thinking he relishes breaking stereotypes, crashing glass ceilings, and doing the seemingly impossible. He believes that there are no barriers; all the barriers exist only in one's mind. It was with that firm conviction that Iqbal started the now famous **ABCT (Any Body Can Tech)** Program in the Forces Network in 2019. Under this program, non-tech officers were taken to the cloud certification level. Over 40 participants got certified by Microsoft in cloud computing under this program. This launched the tech careers of many of these participants. Iqbal believes that cyber security as a career is set to boom. He is convinced that military personnel can easily transition to cyber security with some upskilling. Accordingly, he has authored a series of articles demystifying cyber security. The current article is the sixth to appear in the ForceNet E-Zine as part of the series.

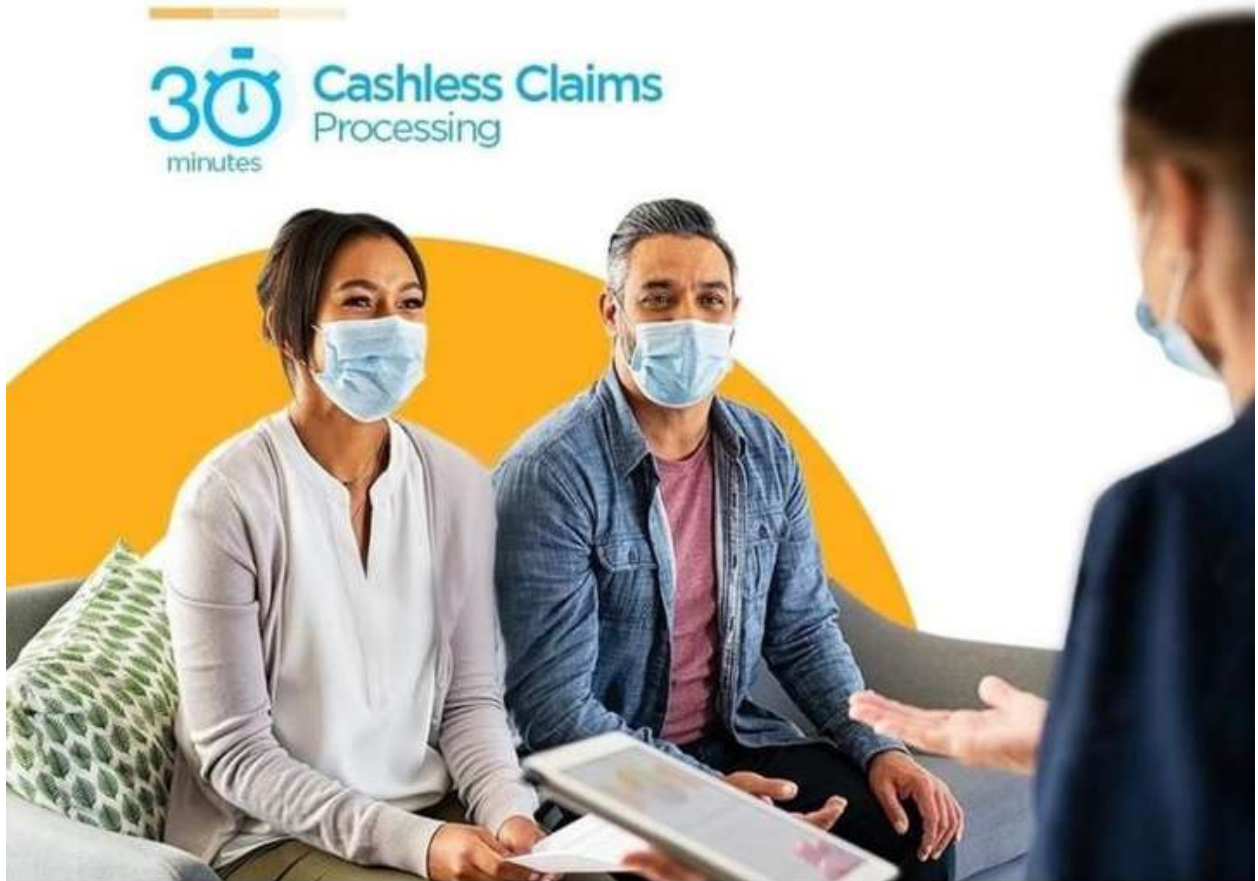
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Women Power

Spouses/Daughters of Defence Officers as well as those who have donned the uniform, have immense potential as individuals. While many of them have already established themselves as successful independent entities, a very large number still has to recognise and exploit their inherent hidden capabilities and worth. In this series we plan to showcase the achievements of such women of the members of Forces Network who have carved a niche for themselves through hard work, grit and determination, so as to provide adequate motivation to the others.

IN INTERACTION WITH UDAY SHRIWAS

Mrs. RAMA DATT is an eminent educationist, daughter of an Air Force Officer, an Army officer's wife and mother to an army officer can't be anything but a committed and disciplined person. Yes, she is a role model of many. For the past 4 decades she has been in the field of education and has made efforts to make education easy, enjoyable and multidimensional at all levels. Her innovative policies have been accepted by the entire nation. At present is advisor to a school, a member of the Governing Body of renowned institutions like Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh School & The Palace School. She is associated with 'DISHA' where she conducts Teacher Training Programmes.



Uday: Please tell us about your childhood and the life and learnings?

Rama: I am a daughter of an Air Force Officer, an Army officer's wife and mother to an army officer. I had a normal happy childhood and did my schooling college in science stream at Dehradun. The inspiration came from my mother who was a strong, hardworking educationist. Living in a joint family, I easily imbibed the moral values which were passed to the younger generation with ease. For the past 4 decades I have been in the field of education and has made efforts to make education easy, enjoyable and multidimensional at all levels.

I have worked at Maharaja Sawai Man Singh Vidyalaya, Jaipur (1984 to 1996), been the Founder Principal of Mahaveer Public School Jaipur (1996-2003), Steered Sanskar School Jaipur (2004-2017). At present I am advisor to the same school, a member of the Governing Body of renowned institutions like Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh School & The Palace School. I am also associated with 'DISHA' where I conduct Teacher Training Programmes.

Uday: What has been your works and achievements?

Rama: I had various articles published in newspapers on Parent Teacher relations, their role in development of the children, concept of education and more. My emphasis on **'Students Resource Centre and Teachers Resource Center'** in schools where I worked has brought a total change in the teaching process. A much sought after resource person for school workshops across the city. Globally, I have also been invited for Exchange programs to Germany, USA and UK for my outstanding contribution in the field of education, facilitated by various organizations.

Uday: Was teaching always your interest? How was your initial journey?

Rama: Interestingly, I never wanted to be a teacher. As luck would have it I got an exposure to teaching and a chance to be amongst students - that was a turning point in my life. Today I take pride in saying **"I am a teacher"**. In early 80s I took up primary classes for teaching as there was a lot of scope for innovations in teaching methods and shaping the curriculum. Reducing the number of prescribed books was the first step taken; facing resistance from the parents. The next step came in form of 'No exam' for children upto class 2. With God's grace the learning graph of students started rising and that gave her a lot of confidence.

**Uday: Tell us more about your journey?**

Rama: I was responsible for selection of students for admission to class 1, in Maharaja Sawai Man Singh Vidyalaya, Jaipur. Out of 1000 plus applicants - 100 were to be chosen. Admission test was designed, some oral, some written, some skill based, games and free play with 20 children for 3 hours two groups in a day - which took about a month to interact with all nascent children. 100 were selected and rest had to go to other schools for admission. The parents whose child's name was not in the list would break down and wonder why his/her ward was not selected. The regular annual experience was very painful, but the school system had to be followed.

In 1996 I got a chance to start Mahaveer Public School. I proposed to the Management Committee members to start the school from KG and not class 1, to abolish entrance test. The number of vacancies for 100 seats had about 600 applications. I proposed for selection by lottery and the instant reaction by the management was negative. I was lucky that they reconciled and went ahead with the lottery in the presence of all parents, teachers and members of the committee.



Uday: Lottery was not a common thing in those days, how was it taken then?

Rama: It became talk of the town and media questioned – The child’s life begins with a gamble? I justified – it was better than rejection. Prospective parents accepted this system happily and it became regular feature. Today lottery system for is approved by Government admissions in schools for the entrance class everywhere.

My students in all these institutions have received various national & international recognition in scholastic and co-scholastic activities. The chainless cycle being the most popular one.



Uday: What else, any hurdles?

Rama: Under My leadership Sanskar School, received award for being one of the Best Schools of India adjudged on the basis of School Ranking Survey 2015. British Council International School Award 2013-2016 and 2016-19 and became the First Microsoft School. My office doors were always open for the students, teachers and parents without prior appointment. I believed in my students and teachers and always assured them that they were the best.

I feels that God has been kind to me and I had a smooth and progressive professional life. The only unusual pattern in my life I feel is that I had worked for 3 upcoming rising new schools where I had to undergo all teething problems all over again and again. **“That's my expertise”**. The work pattern in my life was to reach the school to its heights and move on before one starts enjoying the fruits of your hardwork. I was caught to set up next new school and enjoyed every bit of it. This gave me enough confidence to guide other institutions in these matters, and a lot of city Principals would vouch for this. I believes that **“True leader isn't the one who has maximum followers but the one who creates more Leaders”** and needless to mention that today several Principals of renowned institutions across the city are working under my worthy guidance & expertise.

Uday: You have been awarded for your good work tell us about that?

Rama: In 2002, I was honored by The Society of Unaided Private Schools of Rajasthan and also 'Shree Radhakrishnan Samman' by Avantika.



In 2005, Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh award by Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, The CityPalace.

In 2012, 'Best Educationist Award' and Certificate of Excellence by International Institute of Management and Education,

'National Mahila Rattan Gold Medal Award' by Indian Solidarity Council,

'Eminent Educationist Award' by National and International Compendium,

'Vidya Ratan Gold Medal Award' by International Institute of Education & Management,

'Bharat Vidya Shiromani Award' by Indian Solidarity Council, all seven at New Delhi.



In 2015 'The Women Empowerment Award 2015' by Zee Marudhara and 'Women Recognition Award 2015' by Rajasthan Patrika & FM Tadka.

In 2017, I handed over the audio books to **Shri Prakash Javdekar** (Former HRD Minister, Gol.) developed by the MSMS II Museum for the blind & visually impaired students.





In Scoo News Global Educators Fest 2019, I was honored with the Jewels of India Award. I was also honored by Simply Jaipur & Thar Sarvodaya Sansthan on the account of teacher's day in the Principals & Teachers Award 2019.

I have also been featured in the prestigious **'Who's Who of Rajasthan'** – India's first speaking coffee table book.

In 2023, I was awarded with Global School Leaders Consortium's Lifetime Achievement Award for remarkable leadership and contribution in the field of education.



Uday: Whats your philosophy in life?

Rama: As the Executive Trustee I have pioneered numerous innovative pedagogies & programs for thousands of students across the country. My philosophy of life is to spend her life on something that outlasts life itself and for me it is the love, sensitivity and understanding bestowed on the young ones in the process of grooming them to be responsible citizens in the near future. My aim is to serve the society - which has given her so much recognition and respect.

Uday: Tell us more about your family?

Rama: My husband Major Y. N. Datt leads a retired life. We have 2 sons Lt. Col. Kartik Datt and Vinayak Datt a banker. They both are well settled with their families. I am a doting grandmother of 4 adorable grandsons. Full support from my family and guidance of Mrs. P. N. Kavoori my Principal at MSMSV made me what I today.

Uday: Please share 5 most important values we can teach our children?

Rama: The 5 most important values we can teach our children's are:-

- Love and Respect
- Responsibility
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Ability to differentiate between Right and Wrong

These in all gives them moral strength.

Uday: Tell us about lessons you have learnt during your career?

Rama: Important lessons I learned during my career in education are:-

- All children are yours (treat them like that)
- Values can't be taught... they are caught (exhibit them in your daily conduct)
- Each one has a talent...should be tapped.
- be just in all situations.
- Believe them, they don't have the courage to prove you wrong.



Capt Uday K Shriwas was commissioned into the Corps of Signals and served in various theaters during his service for five years, including in a newly raised RR Battalion. Thereafter, he has worked with many renowned companies, like Kingfisher Airlines, IFB Home Appliances, JK Cement, and Yes Bank Ltd. He enjoys working in the fields of marketing, business development, and strategy. He also has a keen interest in the field of personal branding. He is presently working as Regional Head - Honour First (Defence Vertical), IDFC FIRST Bank.

Please provide your invaluable opinion/feedback on this Interview, by clicking/tapping [HERE](#) - Editor

Editor's Note

You put the sweetness into the SIXTEEN

Today, we gather to celebrate the 16th anniversary of a community that embodies the essence of courage and service. We mark the 16th anniversary of this invaluable fraternity, a milestone that speaks volumes about the power, resilience and the indomitable spirit of those who have served our nation.

Sixteen years ago, a vision took shape—a vision to create a space where veterans could find camaraderie, support, and understanding. This vision became a reality, and today, we stand in awe of the thriving community that has emerged from that humble beginning. One of the most remarkable aspects of this community is the diversity of experiences and backgrounds it brings. From different branches of the military to various roles and missions, each veteran brings a unique story to the tapestry. It is this rich tapestry that makes the community a mosaic of strength, unity, and shared purpose.

Four years ago, the first issue of Veterans Transition Magazine emerged, a beacon of hope and information for service members transitioning to civilian life. Over the past 4 years, the magazine has evolved to encompass a broad spectrum of topics, reflecting the multifaceted nature of the transition experience. From articles on skill upgrading, job planning and entrepreneurship to features on mental health and community resources, The E-Zine has proven to be a comprehensive resource for veterans at every stage of their post-service journey.

It was in March 2021 when Col Iqbal had a call with me. The call was to explain what the editorial team does. I was offered to join the team in the capacity of Asst. Editor. My work was to assist the person who did the foundation and base of the magazine and brought it to a standard which it is today, the Editor Col Ranvir. Having been working for the fraternity and helping officers in personal capacity in their transition. I found it very exciting and an excellent way of supporting the fraternity which gave so much to me. Capt Uday my coursemate and place type was already doing a fantastic work with the interviews. Working together again was definitely a good idea.

On a Zoom call Col Iqbal, Col Ranvir and Capt Uday explained me the work that they perform, with a commitment to ensure the magazine is released on 1st of every month, (which till date is being followed) come what may. The detailed process of ensuring the release is never missed is explained by Col Ranvir in his article, earlier in this issue. Working on Canva was a different challenge, though I was a qualified computer professional, I found this one required a lot of patience, art and skills to edit and put across the pages.

Things were definitely not as easy as it seemed. With two stalwarts keeping a hawk eye to ensure no major or minor SD errors are there in the issues. Getting into perfection was the need. Every issue of the magazine was a learning and enriching experience.

Managing the editorial part of the magazine and managing the professional and personal front was always a task. Professionally I have been working as Administration Head of a company and personally both husband and wife being working couple meant a lot of work at home being a nucleus family. Juggling the work, personal life and the magazine has not been easy. There has been quite a support from the editorial team when I was short of time.

The editorial team has a lot of healthy debate on the content and theme of the magazine, till we reach a common conclusion. With the work increasing we added another member in our team Capt Afzal Amdani. A Perfectionist based outside the country's boundary, he ensures the maker checker concepts work properly for me. The whole team works on a pro bono basis, fine balancing between their professional, personal and magazine works.

Do read in details how the magazine shapes up in Col Ranvir's article above and how officers do chip in with their contribution. How the whole magazine gets ready and released on 1st of every month.

As we turn the pages of the next chapter, may the magazine continue to be a guiding force, ensuring that no veteran faces the journey of transition alone. Here's to many more years of empowering veterans and illuminating the path toward a successful and fulfilling civilian life. May the pages continue to turn, and the stories continue to unfold, ensuring that the magazine remains a beacon of honor, recognition, and pride for generations to come.

I am sure that all of you would appreciate our hard work. I would request readers to share their feedback and suggestions which would help us to create a more such amazing content. Would also request you to contribute more articles from your desk, your family members including. Also do share the copy of magazine in different defense forums for better reach and read.

Happy Reading

Jai Hind

Capt Rajesh Nair

SS - 75

14 Maratha Light Infantry



Editorial Team

L-R - Capt Rajesh Nair, Lt Col Iqbal Singh, Capt Uday Shriwas,

The Editorial Team meets at Pune

Moment In Time

This photography section, "Moment in Time" provides an outlet for the creative side of our esteemed members. The rules for submission are as follows:

1. Forces Network members, spouses and their wards can submit images for publication.
2. No nudity or porn.
3. No mention of Mil establishments, unit identity, tac numbers or tail numbers.
4. It's a photography section, so no images of various get-togethers and social functions will be published.
5. The longer side of image should be 2048 pixels.
6. Maximum of five images will be published every month. The images must be submitted by the 20th of every month.
7. Mention your Instagram ID.
8. **While submitting, the following details should be submitted along with the suitable Title:**
 - a. Aperture
 - b. Shutter speed
 - c. ISO
 - d. Camera used
 - e. Lens
 - f. Focal length.
 - g. In the case of a mobile click, the same may be mentioned.

All Photos may please be sent to forcesnetworkz@gmail.com by 20th of every month.



**Prague - Apple iPhone,
By Col BS Rai**



Prague Art - Apple iPhone,
By Col BS Rai



Old Car Praha - Apple iPhone,
By Col BS Rai

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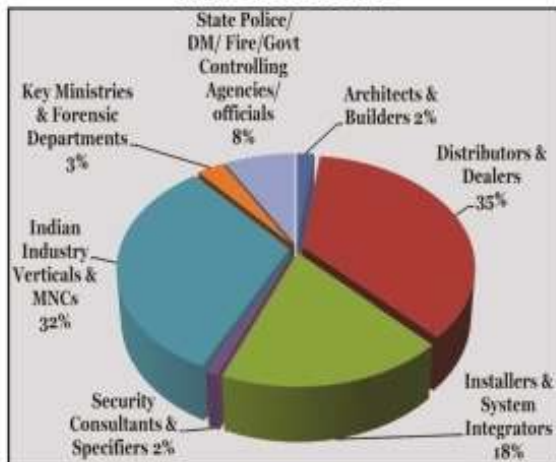
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Tribute

Disabled Soldier Care: A Unique Story & Perspective for Future

BY ABHAY MANE

Introduction

India is the seventh largest country & the largest democracy in the world with a rapidly growing economy. In India, the Constitution and the Judiciary uphold every citizen's rights. The Supreme Court also ruled that the right to life, enshrined in the Constitution, includes in it the right to live with human dignity and all that goes with it, including the necessities of life, such as adequate food and clothing, shelter, clean environment, and basic education.

Constitutional Mandate of Equality as applicable to Disability Rights, Article 14 of the Indian Constitution provides that the State shall not deny any person equality before the law or equal protection of the law within the territory of India. This fundamental right in the Indian Constitution is in conformity with Clause (1) of Article 5 of the UNCRPD. Disability is defined as any impairment of the body or mind that limits a person's ability to partake in typical activities and social interactions in their environment (Scheer and Groce, 1988). Newly acquired impairments bring with them a wide range of psychological, cognitive, and behavioural challenges, as well as concerns about future quality of life.

Disabled soldiers as the civilian population of India are covered under the same constitution, hence denying/limiting/delaying them proper care & rehabilitation is in contravention of the Constitution of India. Soldiers who have unfortunately become disabled, have made immense sacrifices for their countries, and deserve our unwavering support and care. **To honour soldiers who have been disabled in the line of duty, while serving the Nation and to celebrate the undying spirit of 'Soldiering', Indian Army observed the year 2018 as the 'Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty'.** The primary focus of such initiatives is towards alleviating the sufferings of these soldiers, who have done their duty with utmost dedication to the Nation and have been disabled for life.



Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre (PRC), Kirkee

Part I: Case Study Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre (PRC), Kirkee

Recently, significant progress has been made in caring for disabled soldiers. PRC, Kirkee, Pune is an excellent example where in Paraplegic & quadriplegic soldiers are allowed stay for the rest of their life post disability, as often family members are incapable or reluctant to take them back in their folds.

PRC is a center for 100% disabled ex-servicemen of the Armed Forces. It is one of the largest Centres of its kind in South East Asia. PRC caters to the retired/invalidated soldiers with spinal cord injuries of the Army, Navy & Air Force when the disability is attributable to military service. Spinal cord injury results in either Paraplegia (lower limbs paralysed) or Quadriplegia (all limbs paralysed). The tasks of PRC are primarily aimed at preventing complications in the human physiological systems of wheelchair-borne personnel and encouraging them to lead a normal life while addressing their requirement of round-the-clock care.

Facilities such as furnished barracks including family accommodation, games & entertainment facilities, and recreation is available within the campus. PRC through its contribution has paved the way for a shift in societal attitudes, and greater recognition of the psychological impact of disabilities, resulting in more comprehensive care and rehabilitation program for the past 35+ years.

- **Employment Opportunities:** Two important employment programs such as Call Centre of the start-up UdChalo & an Industrial Manufacturing workshop established by Amphenol Interconnect India Private Limited to produce electronic connectors.

- **Education & Vocational Training:** PRC has coordinated with Queen Mary Technical Institute & Pune University to conduct educational courses for PRC residents. Many disabled soldiers have benefited from this collaboration & acquired basic as well as higher education. The children of disabled soldiers residing in family accommodations are provided with scholarships for higher education. 14 children have acquired MBA degrees till now the financial support provided by PRC through CSR & other grants.
- **Sports:** Many of the residents of PRC have received international awards in sports. Both indoor & outdoor sports facilities for games such as Basketball, table Tennis, badminton, throwball, Rugby, swimming pool & archery are available & all veterans are encouraged to participate. PRC team has a competent para-basketball team that has won more than five awards in national para-basketball competitions. Some of the notable achievements in sports are:-
 - **Spanish & Canadian International Para badminton Championship:** Ex-Sowar Prem Kumar Ale won two bronze medals in Mar 2022. He also won Gold Medal at Canada in Jun 23.



- **International Para Handball Championship:** Ex Naik Suresh Kumar Karkee won medals in Handball Championship held at Cairo on Nov 22. He is also a basketball player, wheelchair marathon runner & swimmer.



- **Creative Arts:** An Art Studio has been established within PRC where the paraplegic soldiers practice the art of moth painting, which has been appreciated in International Forums. Mridul Ghosh, a paraplegic and an Air Force Veteran presently a resident at PRC has been bestowed with Life Time Achievement Award for his contribution to field-of-mouth painting.

PRC has made all-out efforts to use financial aid & latest technology to provide the best for its residents as contemporary disabled soldier care adopts a holistic approach that addresses the physical, mental, and emotional aspects of rehabilitation. Noteworthy aid provided is as under: -

- Assistance by specialized medical professionals, including psychologists and psychiatrists, for counseling and therapy to address the psychological trauma associated with disabilities.
- Special beds, advanced wheelchairs, and other assistive devices have significantly improved mobility, independence, and quality of life for individuals with spinal cord disabilities.

The Centre is focused on providing meaningful lifelong rehabilitation of paraplegic and quadriplegic combatants once discharged from the service. Rehabilitation programs conducted in the Centre, focus not only on physical therapy but also on vocational training, education, and skill development. The objective is to equip disabled soldiers with the necessary tools to pursue meaningful careers and successfully reintegrate into civilian life. Collaborations between government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private entities have expanded the scope and effectiveness of these programs.

Part II: Envisioning the Future of Disabled Soldier Care & Conclusion:

To ensure continuous progress, it is crucial to envision the future of disabled soldier care. By harnessing technological advancements, prioritizing mental health support, and fostering inclusivity, we can create a brighter future for disabled soldiers.

Change starts from Within: What happens when soldiers with service-connected disabilities leave the military? Veterans with service-connected disabilities typically follow one of five tracks to employment when separating from the military. The track that they choose will determine the actions they must take prior to their separation. The five tracks are reemployment with their previous employer; rapid access to employment; self-employment; employment through long-term services; or independent living services. The following actions in the five tracks would help achieve the desired results for disabled soldier's rehabilitation: -

- Established Tracking the separation process of disabled soldiers
- Aligned Training with a comprehensive job database
- Provide a networking platform for Companies and Employer assistance with appropriate resources to hire disabled soldiers
- Tax Incentives for employers/companies having established hiring programs for disabled veterans
- Enactment of laws to aid guaranteed and continued employment without any discrimination from employers
- Establishment and propagation of centers for rehabilitation, assisted living, and re-employment (such as PRC, Kirkee,) is a critical requirement where corporate and community can make major contributions.

Corporate Programs /ESG activities: Companies and individuals can become a veritable source of volunteer caregiving, designing and building to create disabled-friendly and safe areas, and professionals to provide online access to keep abreast of current affairs, knowledge, and skills advancement, both hard and soft , for disabled veterans ,apart from monetary funding.

Assistance to Children of Disabled Soldiers: Education scholarships and health insurance for children of disabled soldiers will relax their financial restraints with the added boost to the social aspects of Corporate ESG programs.

Government & Administration Support: A relook by the Government to allocate additional resources to develop and enhance disabled soldier care programs such as PRCs is need of the hour. This includes funding research and development, improving access to medical and rehabilitation services, and implementing policies that protect the rights and opportunities of disabled soldiers.

Conclusion

Disabled soldier care has transformed over time, progressing from a focus on basic medical treatment to a comprehensive & integrated approach that addresses physical, mental, and emotional well-being. By harnessing technological advancements, prioritizing mental health support, and fostering an inclusive society, we can further improve disabled soldier care, enhance career prospects, and facilitate rehabilitation. It is our collective responsibility to honour the sacrifices of disabled soldiers by ensuring they receive the care and support they deserve.

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Col Abhay Mane comes with 20 years of experience in the Armed Forces. Having commanded a specialist engineering unit. He has also spearheaded key skill development program for mid-level officers, empowering them to assume higher roles. He has also successfully led a technical team in the world's highest battlefield. In addition to Process & Project Management, his expertise lies in Talent Development. With a deep awareness of Social Responsibility, he believes in paying forward to the next generation. He has mentored 100+ College Students in Leadership, Communication, and Team building also guiding them for an Armed Forces Career. In addition to graduation as an Engineer, his qualifications include MSc in Military Technology and Applied Sciences, master's in public administration, PGDM in Disaster Management, Certification in Talent Development, Instructional Design, Human Rights, Organisational Behaviour, Lean Six Sigma & Scrum.

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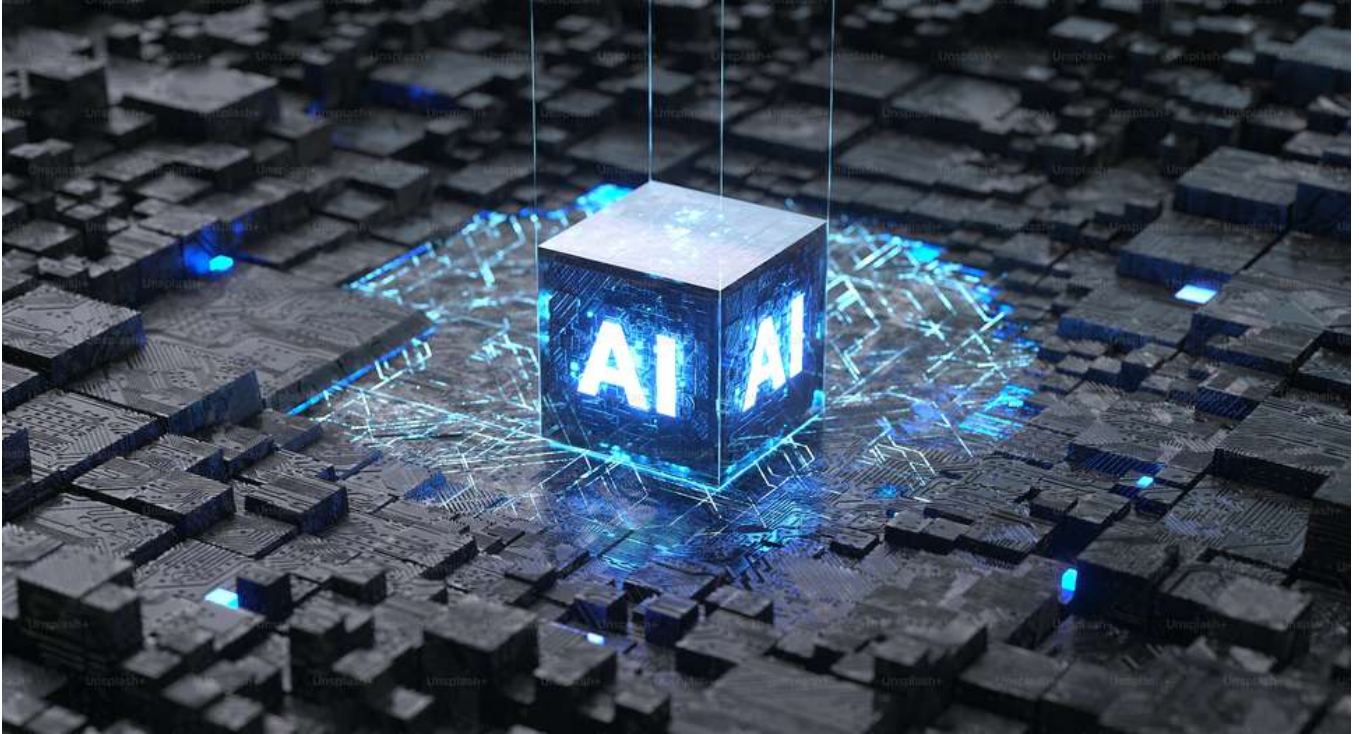


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Tech Corner

Artificial Intelligence

BY SHASHANK DUBEY



PIC: UNSPLASH, HEADWAY

Introduction:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think and act like humans. It involves the development of algorithms and computer programs that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and language translation etc. AI has the potential to revolutionize many industries and has a wide range of applications, from virtual personal assistants to self-driving cars.

However, before further getting into this domain, it is important to understand the term **'Intelligence'**. 'Intelligence' as defined by dictionary is 'the ability to learn and solve problems'. The most common answer that one expects is **"to make computers intelligent so that they can act intelligently"**.

Intelligence, as we know now, is the ability to acquire and apply knowledge. Knowledge is the information acquired through experience. Experience is the knowledge gained through exposure(training). Summing the terms up, we get Artificial Intelligence as the "copy of something natural (i.e., human beings) 'WHO' is capable of acquiring and applying the information it has gained through exposure."

Therefore, the approaches to AI can be summarized into one of the following four categories:-

- **Systems that think like humans (Think Humanly - The cognitive modeling approach)**- The idea behind this approach is to determine whether the computer thinks like a human.
- **Systems that act like humans (Acting humanly - The Turing Test approach) -** This approach was designed by Alan Turing. The ideology behind this approach is that a computer passes the test if a human interrogator, after asking some written questions, cannot identify whether the written responses come from a human or from a computer.
- **Systems that think rationally (Thinking rationally - The “laws of thought” approach) -** The idea behind this approach is to determine whether the computer thinks rationally i.e. with logical reasoning.
- **Systems that act rationally (Acting rationally- The rational agent approach) -** The idea behind this approach is to determine whether the computer acts rationally i.e. with logical reasoning.

Composition of Intelligence: The essential constituents of Intelligence is as indicated:-

- Perception - refers to ability to perceive and act in the world
- Learning and Adaptation - infers to being able to learn from past data
- Cognition - indicates understanding of text, speech, visuals etc.
- Reasoning - ability to explain the solution process
- Decision making - includes planning, giving recommendations etc.



The main focus of AI is towards understanding human behavior and performance by creating computers with human-like intelligence and capabilities. This includes Natural Language Processing (NLP), Computer Vision (CV) and Robotics. The field of AI draws upon computer science, mathematics, psychology, linguistics, philosophy, neuroscience, artificial psychology, and many others. **Mathematicians** provided the tools to manipulate statements of logical certainty as well as uncertain, probabilistic statements. They also set the groundwork for reasoning about algorithms. **Psychologists** strengthened the idea that humans and other animals can be considered information processing machines. **Linguists** showed that language use fits into this mode. **Computer Engineering** provided the artifact that makes AI applications possible. AI programs tend to be large, and they could not work without the great advances in speed and memory that the computer industry has provided.

Another term experts associate with AI is **'Rationality'**. The 'Rationality' of human beings refers to **'always act in a way that it benefits'** is the underline assumption which mathematical models use to progress ahead in AI. Recent advancements in understanding the theoretical basis for intelligence has gone hand in hand with improvements in the capabilities of real systems. Essentially the following requirements pushed the research and development of AI despite having phases of AI winters since its inception in 1950.

- To create expert systems that **exhibit intelligent behavior** with the capability to learn, demonstrate, explain, and advise its users.
- Helping **machines find solutions to complex problems** like humans do and applying them as algorithms in a computer-friendly manner.
- **Improved efficiency:** AI can automate tasks and processes that are time-consuming and require a lot of human effort. This can help improve efficiency and productivity, allowing humans to focus on more creative and high-level tasks.
- **Better decision-making:** AI can analyze large amounts of data and provide insights that can aid in decision-making. This can be especially useful in domains like finance, healthcare, and logistics, where decisions can have significant impacts on outcomes.
- **Enhanced accuracy:** AI algorithms can process data quickly and accurately, reducing the risk of errors that can occur in manual processes. This can improve the reliability and quality of results.
- **Personalization:** AI can be used to personalize experiences for users, tailoring recommendations, and interactions based on individual preferences and behaviors. This can improve customer satisfaction and loyalty.

- **Exploration of new frontiers:** AI can be used to explore new frontiers and discover new knowledge that is difficult or impossible for humans to access. This can lead to new breakthroughs in fields like astronomy, genetics, and drug discovery.



PIC: UNSPLASH.

Limitations of AI To understand the capabilities of AI, it is also important to understand the limitations which AI brings with itself.

- **Bias and unfairness:** AI systems can perpetuate and amplify existing biases in data and decision-making which could be a potential hazard.
- **Lack of transparency and accountability:** Complex AI systems can be difficult to understand and interpret, making it challenging to determine how decisions are being made. This aspect of explainability is a big concern in AI systems.
- **Job displacement:** AI has the potential to automate many jobs, leading to job loss and a need for reskilling.
- **Security and privacy risks:** AI systems can be vulnerable to hacking and other security threats and may also pose privacy risks by collecting and using personal data.
- **Ethical concerns:** AI raises important ethical questions about the use of technology for decision-making, including issues related to autonomy, accountability, and human dignity.

Industry Use Cases

The industries where AI find its usefulness includes **Healthcare, Manufacturing, Automobile, Finance, Surveillance, Social Media/ Entertainment, Education, Space Exploration, Gaming, Robotics, Agriculture and e-Commerce.**

Continuous learning and acquisition of new skills is a Must-Do and central to an individual's working life, if one aspires to work in domain of AI. In order to ensure that one is prepared for the jobs of the future, veterans/ transiting officers will have to take greater responsibility for their own professional development, whether that means through upskilling or reskilling. One should keep a reference of following actions :-

- 1. Make Life Long learning the new normal.** Whether through programs offered by employers or through private channels, continuous learning and the acquisition of new skills must become central to an individual's working life. Individuals should also invest not only in digital skills but also in meta skills, which will serve them well regardless of shifts in the market.
- 2. Remain focused on upskilling and reskilling.** More and more sources of information about jobs and skills will become available in the coming years. Individuals need to pay attention to these sources of information and update their skills accordingly, either by searching out high-quality providers of education or by charting their own course amid the vast amount of online-learning offers.
- 3. Become more flexible while developing a career path.** Frequent career changes and lateral moves into similar job positions will become increasingly necessary. Therefore, individual should remain flexible throughout their careers, looking for positions where their existing skill sets can be applied successfully as well as updating their skill sets according to where their own interests match the market's needs.

Stay tuned for more on AI Ecosystem!



Cdr Shashank Dubey (retd.) was commissioned into Electrical Cadre of Indian Navy and took PMR after serving Navy for more than 23 plus years in various capacities. His Naval roles encompass techno leadership positions, strategic and operational roles, and Program/ Project management roles. His corporate experiences include design, development and delivery of AI SaaS products, marketing research to understand customer pain-points and aims to advance organisations through leveraging the intersection of technology and business.

Please provide your invaluable opinion/feedback on this Article, by clicking/tapping [HERE](#) - Editor



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FOUNDER :

Col. Vivek Chauhan (Veteran)
96 Regular / Alpha 86



Members Speak

On 04 Dec 2023 Forces Network shall complete 16 years of its founding. Our members have been our greatest source of strength throughout our journey. To commemorate the occasion and celebrate our members we are initiating a survey for our members to fill in. It primarily covers how Forces Network has been beneficial to you.

The Next few pages are dedicated to Few of the Veterans in their own words. Below are the questions asked:-

Q1: Current Organisation? - **Organisation**

Q2: Present Designation? - **Designation**

Q3: One word that comes to your mind when you think of Forces Network ? - **One Word**

Q4: How did Forces Network help you (Maybe get a job, a certification, sell property saving brokerage, enhance your business, et)? - **How I was Helped**

Q5: Any Suggestion? - **Suggestion**

One Word: Camaraderie

How I was Helped: It helps to revive and cherish the bond that we all had while in uniform.

Suggestion: Forces network should allow entrepreneurs to post their ads/publicity once in a month (free of cost) for at least first two years in business. Also, Kudos to the entire team for creating such a great platform.



Maj Deepak Negi
Director
Tryclean

One Word: Energy

How I was Helped: Helped me get connected with progressive mindsets



Lt Col Tyagvir Raghava
Founder
Tyagvir's Academy of True Empowerment (TATE)

One Word: Awesome

How I was Helped: Helped me Professionally network. That helped me in multiple ways.



Col Gurpartap Singh Sahota
Engineering Finance Manager
Jazeera Airways

One Word: Collaboration

How I was Helped: In 2010 I saw a post on Forces Network about openings with Indus Towers. Ultimately, I bagged the job and that too in my home town!..



Capt Suraj Karan Bajaj
DSM
Amazon

One Word: Excellent

How I was Helped: Got a clear idea of the nuances of transitioning from military to corporate. Did few certifications based on advice of industry veterans and was able to upskill myself. Now I am ready to step into the corporate world with confidence.



Col Neeraj Sawhney
Dy Cdr

One Word: Synergy

How I was Helped: I volunteered to interview a lot of successful veterans for the ForceNet E-Zine during my last two years of service which was extremely valuable in understanding how I should prepare for my second innings and what are the different career options available.



Lt Cdr Bidisha Pandey
Director
Austrade

One Word: Eye-opener

How I was Helped: Gave me an exposure to the corporate world when I was transitioning. Also helped me connect with luminaries who have transitioned successfully and gave me confidence to take the decision to quit service.



Cdr Vinayak Simal
Senior VP
Kotak bank

One Word: Professionally managed Network

How I was Helped: Showed me the various Certification paths which helped me in my Transition.



Maj Avneet Kaur
IT Project Manager
EMERSON ELECTRIC CO

One Word: Assurance

How I was Helped: Helped me become aware of various certifications.

Suggestion: Thank you for all you do for the community



Col Raghu Isukapalli
VP
JPMC

One Word: Camaraderie

How I was Helped: Helped me shape my thoughts and prepare me towards upskilling for my Transition. Personally, this community is a curated version of Google/ search engine. Forces Network has always been a one stop reliable solution. I am greatly indebted and thankful for the efforts and generosity that each member of the Forces Network has contributed by providing guidance or solutions at right time to the members. Wishing Forces Network community greater heights and success in building India as a developed nation at least a decade before our 100th independence anniversary.
Jai Hind



Lt Cdr Vivek Murugesh
Dy Director

One Word: Bonding

How I was Helped: It helped me connect with friends and seniors. Secondly, almost any information and help is available.

Suggestion: Proud to be part of this group thanks to Col IQ sir



Lt Col Vanit Passi
Director
Lovely Professional University

One Word: Camaraderie

How I was Helped: Put me on the path of technology certifications. Via ABCT-III course and got myself certified on cloud via the Az-900 certification from Microsoft. That gave me immense confidence.

Suggestions: Forces Network Please transform yourself by training Fauji's for job creation .Develop Entrepreneurial mindset. Its a responsibility of every member.



Lt Cdr Varun Dhand
Dy Manager Security
STATE BANK OF INDIA

One Word: Energy

How I was Helped: A positive environment with energy and enthusiasm for appropriate orientation and empowerment.

Suggestion: Wishing Forces Network and its esteemed members to gain more power and synergy to continue making impact for the transitioning aspirants as well as veterans working in corporate to be more valuable to oneself, fraternity and organisations, they serve.
Jai Hind



Lt Col Anurag Sengar
Head of Security
Adani Power Ltd

One Word: Empowering

How I was Helped: Purchasing right household appliances, connecting with others in Aviation Industry, also guiding other veterans in many ways.



Sqn Ldr Kishore Chinta
CEO
EMSOS Aviation Pvt Ltd

One Word: Integrity

How I was Helped: The Network is about helping others



Cdr Prasanna E
CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER
DRAS

One Word: Fantastic

How I was Helped: I have gained immense business from the Forces Network .

Suggestion: Keep up the good work



Lt Col Delin Mathew
Freelancer

One Word: Transcend

How I was Helped: A Network with truly global reach. A positive environment curated by the Founder is amazing!



Cdr Rishi Raj Singh
Director
Royal Albatross Logistics

One Word: Comrades

How I was Helped: Exposure to friends from forces in different domains and industries as also opportunity to facilitate transition of friends from combat to corporate.

Suggestion: Continue good work and increase visibility and opportunities through website and social media platforms



Col Atul Kumar
CEO
AKS ICT

One Word: Hope

How I was Helped: Certification and enhancement of knowledge



Col Ashok Subramaniam
AGM
TCS

One Word: Network

How I was Helped: I have gained immense information



Col Virender Yadav
Head General Services
Manipal group (Sikkim Manipal University)

One Word: Lighthouse

How I was Helped: Providing a guiding light to those moving into the corporate.

Suggestion: Moderation required on topic discussions most of the times is missing



Lt Col Harmeeek Singh
Independent

One Word: Encyclopedia

How I was Helped: During my transition, I could get all the help I asked and much more to upgrade myself. Notwithstanding the network that helped me understand nuances of corporate and civil street.



Lt Col Rahul Ghangas
Senior Operations Manager
Amazon

One Word: Angel

How I was Helped: Solution for any problem



Cmdr DK Karthik
Project Officer

One Word: Brotherhood

How I was Helped: Launched my innings in Career Guidance and Counselling through the Network



Col Sajan Moideen
Principal Consultant
Renergetics Consulting

One Word: Compatriots

How I was Helped: People from the same background give you the best advice on all aspects of life

Suggestion: City wise more offline interactions could be planned



Cdr Varun Agrawal
Founder and Director
Entrepreneur

One Word: Reliable

How I was Helped: The Network that always works. Ever ready to help.

Suggestion: 21 carot gold need no suggestions



Capt Satyam Kumar
Sr Manager
Nabard

One Word: Veteran fraternity

How I was Helped: Helped me widen my horizons



Maj Harish Gaudi
Director Business Operations
Swiggy

One Word: Co-operation

How I was Helped: Oriented me towards Cybersecurity and helped me plan my PMR



Cdr Varun Gupta
Associate Director
PwC India

One Word: Networking

How I was Helped: Got me my current job. Also got many others in ReNew a job opportunity

Suggestion: Keep adding to the network and making opportunities of second innings for ex Armed Forces personnel.



Col K Anil Kumar
Head Security & Administration
ReNew

One Word: Panacea

How I was Helped: Resolved many issues like getting a long pending birth certificate for my son, contact for getting NOC for sale of vehicle, getting advice on CSD portal difficulties, SPARSH issues, ESM ID card, and many other small issues which otherwise would have entailed tedious paper work and travel to various cities

Suggestion: Auto Filter frivolous conversations and discussions that have no end and value



Wg Cdr Rakesh Sharma
Security Officer
Security Agency

One Word: Network of Networks

How I was Helped: Excellent insights and perspectives on variety of subjects.

Suggestion: All the best to Team Forces Network



Col SURENDER KUMAR ROHILLA
COL STANDARD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

One Word: Family

How I was Helped: Information about personal development and right investment was very useful. Very informative posts. People have come forward to help me with few RFIs and other businesses. The support is immense and the response time is very minimal.

Suggestion: Really happy and proud to be a part of such a close knit armed forces family who come together to help another ex-officers or Indian Armed Forces. This shows that camaraderie goes beyond just service to our great nation. It makes us into one big family. Thank you for the initiative and support



Lt Cdr Rahul Balakrishna
Senior Manager - Service Operations
Ultraviolette Automotive Pvt Ltd

One Word: Inspiration

How I was Helped: When I was preparing for my PMR the Network helped me to gain self confidence and focus, connected me to like minded people and achiever veterans in the Corporate.



Col Rahul Doegar
Regional Manager Air and Rail
Amazon

One Word: Trustworthy

How I was Helped: I cracked my first job through this network only. All my queries gets resolved with SME advises.



Wg Cdr Abhinav Gupta
Corporate Quality Auditor
Spicejet

One Word: Nonpareil

How I was Helped: It has helped me stay updated even post my retirement.

Suggestion: SUCCESSION LINE TO KEEP THIS UNIQUE ORGANISATION GOING BE PLANNED



Col GURU SADAY BATABYAL
AUTHOR AND VISITING PROFESSOR
FREELANCE WRITER

One Word: Second Google

How I was Helped: Forces network for me is a treasure trove of general information and simulating discussions.



Maj Leeni Srivastava
Sr Manager, Business Development (Defence)
Bharat Forge Limited

One Word: Reliable

How I was Helped: To be better informed on diverse topics of interest & getting to learn something new everyday. IQ has formed this group and managed it in such a way that everybody is keen to help others. Positivity bursts at the seams of this Network. It is truly a Network that works.

Suggestion: What would we like to be at 25 years i.e 9 years hence ?



Col Modin Nadaf
Re-Attired

One Word: Family

How I was Helped: Motivation & comradeship



Col Mahesh Mathur
Consultant

One Word: Support

How I was Helped: It certainly helps an individual to find similar set of people, mindset and platform once we are out of our comfort zone and transitioning to the corporate world.



Lt Col Ruchika Sharma
Manager
The Walt Disney Company

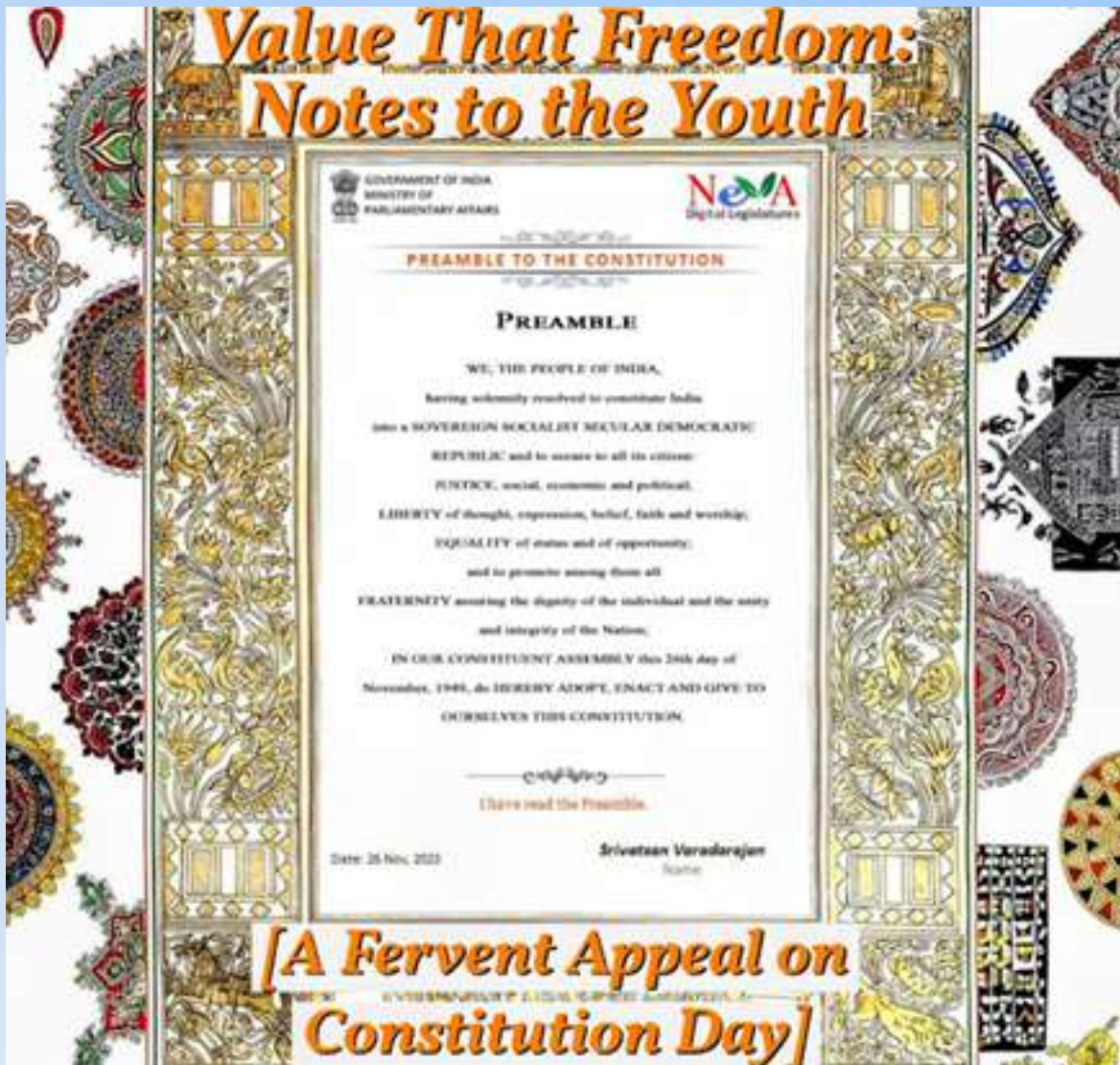
We Regret If we have missed any members Voice. We value all of them.

Editor

Leisure

Value That Freedom: Notes to the Youth

[A FERVENT APPEAL ON CONSTITUTION DAY]



Young hearts of India, heed the call,
Of freedom's gift received by all.
Won with tears & blood & tireless toil,
Off oppressive hands from foreign soil.
Raise your voice for liberty,
As brave souls fought for you to be.
Cast off chains from ankle & wrist,
In unity now we all co-exist.

**Soldiers vigil day & night,
Guarding borders with their might.
So ideas flourish free from fear,
Cultures thrive both far & near.
The vision of our founding band,
Of equality across the entire land -
Rings true as opportunities grow,
For daughters & sons to reap & sow.**

**In diversity India finds its power,
Many streams now one strong tower.
But freedom calls for you to care,
Pass the flame with courage rare.
Our mosaic now global stage sets,
But freedom's not assured - don't forget.
With ballot, book & truthful tongue,
Keep lighting torches old & young.**

**India earned its hard fought right,
By truth & love winning over might.
Cherish liberty that lets hopes fly -
Lift your voice now - vault ambition high!**

**Young hearts don't let freedom wane,
Nor take these rights in vain.
Remember the many sacrifices great,
That won you your free estate.
Too often liberty is assumed,
Taken for granted, its worth not plumed.
But freedom needs eternal care,
For future now is yours to bear.
Stand on shoulders of icons brave,
Use your voice - raise it many an octave!!!
In their honour now uphold,
Freedom's torch blazing bold!!!**

**Jai Hind!!!!
Vande Mataram!!!**

Matrimonials

Groom Desired

A suitable match is sought by Col. T Ravi Narayanan (Retd) for his daughter. The daughter was born on 08.03.1998 and is 5'4.5" tall. She has completed her Post Graduation in English Literature with an 'O' grade from Fergusson College, Pune. Her hobbies include reading, writing, sketching, exploring new places. She possesses a flair for language and has been a student of Bharatnatyam for twelve years. She is an avid animal lover. Father is Retd Col from the Army, and hails from Kerala her mother, a medical doctor, is a Maharashtrian. Her grandfather, late Dr S.V. Mapuskar, is a Padma Shri awardee in the field of health and sanitation and the family is presently settled at Pune. She has no siblings. A boy is desired who is a loving and caring life partner for her from the Army/Navy/Air Force, from a cultured family with a deep sense of moral values and ethics. I, Dr. Shipra can be reached at 9421825592/ 9766764693 shilpanarayanan@hotmail.com for additional details.



A suitable match is sought by Col Sanjeev Poonia (Retd.) for his daughter. The daughter was born on 19.09.1996 and is 5'5" tall. Her education qualification is B.Sc.(H) Mathematics from JMC, DU ;LL.B. (gold medalist) from FOL, DU. Father is retired and the family is presently settled at Dwarka, New Delhi. Her mother is M.A. B. Ed. presently a homemaker. She has 1 sister and 1 brother who are both studying in college. A boy is desired who is Class-1 gazetted officer/ pilot/ well settled in the corporate sector. The boy's family should be Hindu, a respectable background with good financial backing. Hindu-Jat/Rajput/Brahmin/Punjabi/Baniya; horoscope matching preferred. I, Col Sanjeev Poonia can be reached at +91-9968773272 and sanjeevpoonias69@gmail.com for additional details.



Pune Warriors meet at RSI -

L-R Maj Sumit, Capt SK Bhan, Capt Uday Shriwas, Capt Sushil Gaikwad, Lt Col Iqbal Singh, Capt Rajesh Nair, Col Amit Dalvi and Lt Col Kulkarni

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