

FORCENET

E-ZINE

Magazine for military veterans in the corporate
May 2022, Volume IV, Issue 05



**FORCES
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SCAN ME



FORCENET

From the Editor

Dear Readers,

In this hot summer some people relax by moving to a hill station, others in an A/c room, some into activities and some **Just Be**. We have selected the theme for this month as **"Just Be"**. What does it really mean to JUST BE?

Just Be-ing is being at one, with yourself, your whole you, being mindful in all things, being at peace. It means to be aware, take a pause learn to stop and look, listen, see and smell your surroundings. Take stock of your own things. Be present in the now, don't worry about tomorrow. Be creative with colours, words, ideas, cooking, games etc.

Just be is about Living on own terms as well as letting go at times. Life has always been serving us flavours of varied kinds to make our lives interesting and equally eventful. It is our response to these situations that brings us closer to our own selves and it is then it starts manifesting into **Just Be**. Let go your past, your anguish, your hurt, your anger, your jealousy, your EGO only then you can truly **Just Be**.

The Forces Network events emphasis on these qualities and urges its members to follow their inner voice in the path to success. Each one of us are unique on this planet, each has a unique DNA, a unique fingerprint and some unique talent. God has sent us on this earth with a purpose to serve others utilizing your unique talent. You do NOT need to follow what others are doing – since you are unique find your own Niche. Do your Own Thing by being **Just Be** Yourself. No need to imitate anyone else- **Just Be**.

After reading the magazine and having tasted multitude of experiences by reading our content take a deep breath, relax and tell yourselves let it be....

Just Be

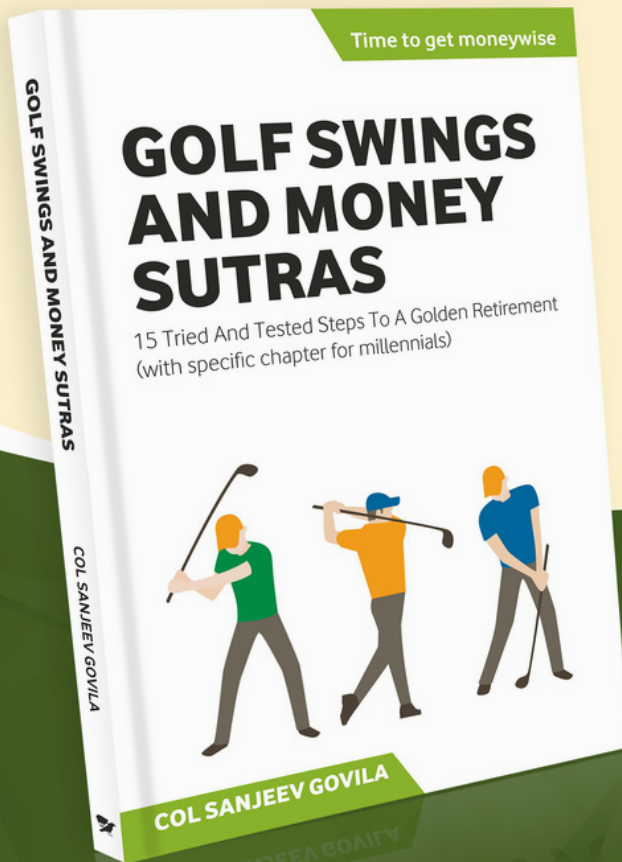
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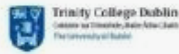


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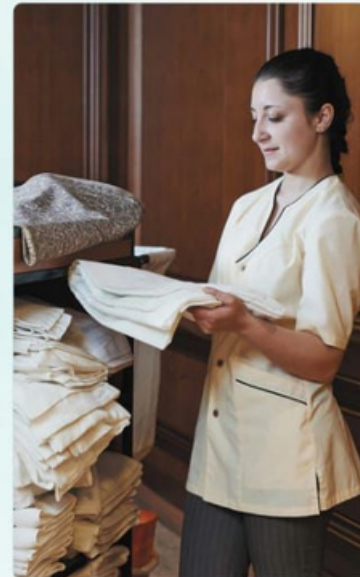
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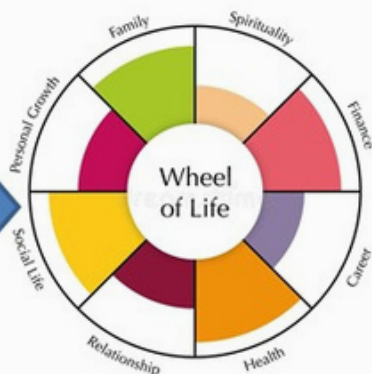
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A NOTE FOR THE READERS

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

For the ease of providing a 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. The facts and opinions appearing in the articles thus do not reflect the views of Forces Network, and Forces Network does not assume any responsibility or liability for the same.

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 PUNYASLOKA PANDA

Col Abhijeet Roy was commissioned to the Garhwal Rifles. An alumni of NDA and DSSC Wellington and IIM Lucknow, during his army tenure he had held various prestigious responsibility including instructor to NDA and staff postings in Brigade & Division. Post his Army tenure he has been in the field of HR, handling recruitment and leading the employee relations team with one of the biggest IT / ITES MNC in India.



Punya: Tell us something about your background prior to joining the Army, and your subsequent Army career?

Abhijeet: Jai Hind to all the folks out there!! This is indeed a niche readership, that has been part of an unparalleled profession with the forces and has now transitioned, is transitioning, or planning to take the leap for their own different reasons. Each journey is unique and it is therefore a privilege to have been asked to share mine. So here goes...



With his Unit The 8 Garhwal Rifles

Back in the 1980s, much to the comfort and discomfort of my parents, I had announced my decision to join the Army. Comfort because unlike many other kids at that age, I appeared clear headed and discomfort because Army conjured scary thoughts and there was no precedent in the family. But being brought up in Doon, with the school in the cantonment, and home on the other side of the tea gardens from IMA, it was kind of preordained, I would say.

Punya: Give us an understanding about your role and what you are presently engaged in?

Abhijeet: I started off the corporate journey with IBM and I am happily continuing with it. My initial role was that of a lead recruiter, which I performed for about two years. I have since moved into the area of employee and labor relations and am thoroughly enjoying the work. This involves, in military terms, managing discipline, looking after certain welfare aspects, manpower policies as also ensuring the labor law compliance.

Punya: How did you prepare yourself for the military to corporate transition?

Abhijeet: The intent to make the move was long existent due to this desire - I will call it romantic now, to be like those who have done multiple things in life - a la Capt Gopinath - Army, Udipi, farming and businessman. Accordingly, in my own little way, I started preps in 2005 or so by enrolling for an MBA with IGNOU.

Punya: What were the challenges faced during your transition? How did you overcome the challenges?

Abhijeet: I started the preparations in 2005 or so by enrolling for an MBA with IGNOU. I had planned out the transition with a GMAT and a one-year Executive MBA at IIM Lucknow. By God's grace the transition went off smoothly and as planned and I landed up securely in the corporate.

Punya: How has been your experience in the corporate domain so far?

Abhijeet: In my experience, sometimes hard work pays sometimes not, sometimes change is good sometimes status quo is better, sometimes planning helps and sometimes it is better to go with the flow, sometimes the client is right but sometimes not, being decisive is good but sometimes indecisiveness saves the day. It is all contextual and situational and nothing is absolute.

Punya: Academy Training teaches us a lot and it prepares us for our future life. What has been your biggest take away which has been really a big lesson even as you take up challenges in corporate life?

Abhijeet: My journey started in 1987, with an early dream fulfilled called NDA "**The maker of men**" - *and now women too*, and almost as if in no time, culminated in 2012. Along the way, had some wonderful experiences, great camaraderie, and immense learning. Commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles, I had the opportunity to serve in various sectors primarily in the North and East with outings to the alma mater and a brigade, post the DSSC.



Being Fit

Punya: There must have been great lessons during this tremendous journey after hanging the spurs. Can you share a few from your experience?

Abhijeet: Working towards developing a finer sense of judgement and balance is crucial because that is what leads you to make choices and choices are what define you as a professional and as an individual – ironically that is a truism in itself.....but you get the point right?!

Punya: Could you please share how much the present world situation has impacted your professional world? And what is your insight and suggestions to our readers?

Abhijeet: Through my career spanning the professions of soldiering and being an Human Resource professional, the one thing I have come to believe is that nothing seems to hold true all the time. I am talking of all the truisms and aphorisms that one comes across in one's professional or personal life. When you hear or read about these, they do strike a chord and may be inspiring. But in the real world, you have to really got to pick, choose, and apply as per situation.



Succulent Collection as Hobby

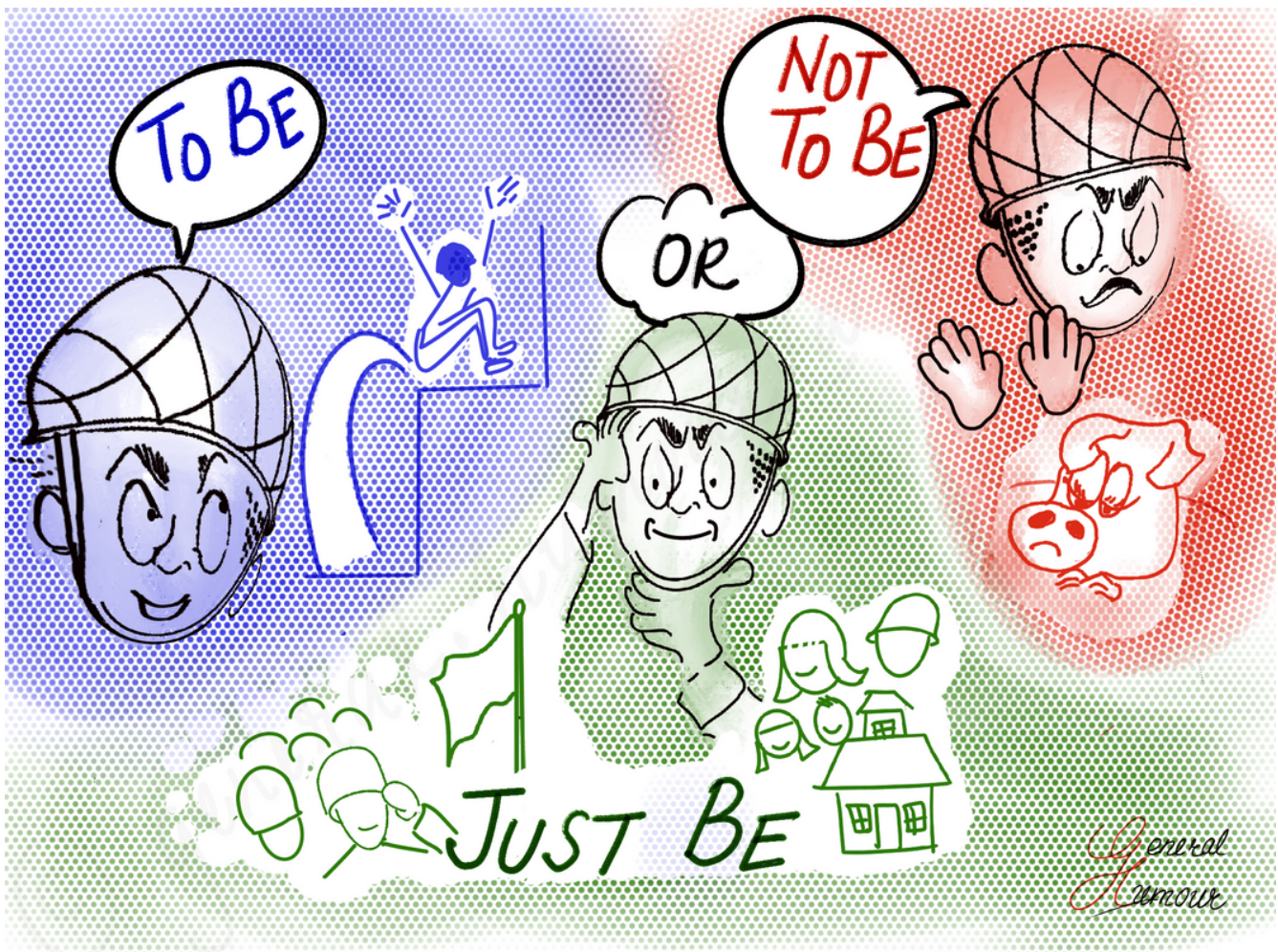
Punya: Do you have any other hobbies or interests, which you pursue passionately? And how?

Abhijeet: I am now well entrenched in Bangalore. Trying to keep fit with a daily morning jog around a nearby lake and for which I joined hands with the local community to rejuvenate. Weekends are peaceful and used for tending to a succulent collection.



Capt Punyasloka Panda is an ex-Infantry Officer and was commissioned into 8 Garhwal Rifles. Post his Indian Army tenure he has worked with many renowned companies, predominantly in the field of Crisis Management & Business Continuity. Presently he is working with Accenture Solutions, based out of NCR. He is a CPP and ICRA certified ISO22301 Lead Auditor.

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



Amit Dalvi

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 PUNYASLOKA PANDA

Maj Ravi Navin was commissioned into the Rajput regiment, An alumni of NDA, during his army tenure he had held various prestigious responsibilities and had handled various vulnerable operations. Post his Army tenure, he has been in field of Crisis Management, handling Physical Security, Electronic Security Systems and Business Continuity. Presently, he is based out of Middle East and looking into Strategic Program and Operations for Corporate Functions for one of the biggest IT / ITES MNC.



Punya: Please tell us something about your background prior to joining the Armed Forces and your subsequent Forces career?

Navin: When I first breathed on earth, my father was in Indian Air Force and my initial years were in cantonments. My father soon started his second innings in Indian Railways and we moved to Hyderabad. That triggered my student life in Kendriya Vidyalaya Trimulgherry. All my friends were from Armed Forces background, and that's where the seeds of my services journey were sown. I had aspired to be a Fighter Pilot, but destiny had reserved Olive Greens for me. I joined NDA after my 12th Grade. Followed by IMA before commissioning into the 26th Battalion, The Rajput Regiment. And I am very proud to say, whatever I am today, is because of my time in the prestigious institutions of the Indian Army.

Punya: Please give us details about what you are presently engaged in your professional role?

Navin: After hanging my uniform in 2008, which was the peak of recession, I struggled to find a decent job for a few months. I got my first break in L&T WATL. Accenture happened within a few months. And then there was no looking back. With a great leader like Col Gurdeep Bains, being my mentor, I learnt a lot, made my share of mistakes, continued to learn and grow with Accenture.



Young Officer Days

Punya: What was the impetus for you to leave the uniformed service?

Navin: Everyone has their reasons, I had mine. I guess whatever happens, happens for good and drives you towards your destiny. Thus, without going into why, I would rather say, I am happy today where I am, with my family and kids. Making a decent living for myself, and helping the community in ways that I can.

Punya: Please tell us about your vision as you prepared for your second career after the Army?

Navin: I had a simple vision – join a reputed firm as early as I can. Once I have a foot on ground, plan and prepare to grow. I was blessed to have some very good Veterans helping me at that time. To name a few, Maj Amit Sharma, Aman Virk, Avi Sud, (Late) Col Sameer Anukul, and many others, who guided me to the opportunities, guided me in attending interviews etc. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude especially to Maj Amit Sharma, Aman Virk and Avi Sud as they continued to guide me in my professional life. Networking is key to getting your first break and settling down in Corporate life.

Choosing the career line in advance and getting trained for it will be a game changer. Time and Money did not allow me, but those who can afford, should do a full time MBA to have a head start. At least, the DGR six months course is a must. Lastly there are professional certifications for career paths like CPP for physical security professional, CISSP/ CISA/ CISM for Infosec, ISO Courses etc.

Punya: What challenges have you faced in this new journey? And how did you overcome those challenges?

Navin: There were many challenges like unlearning the Army ways and learning the corporate style. But, as mentioned above, my success in the Corporate is directly attributed to my training in the services. We should not forget our basics. We should apply them to the new circumstances. Adapt and Pivot to the new. Accept the differences without being judgmental, and work towards the success of the organization. The organization will ensure your success.

People management is a big one. In Army, there is one command and everyone else works towards that. But, in corporate every business/function has their priorities. Getting other functions to support your mission needs people skills. Negotiation, persuasion and garnering external support is key to cross functional collaboration. Finance is something Men in Green don't understand very well. We need to put time, energy and efforts to get it right. Once we get it right, no one can stop you from reaching the CXO table.

Preparing a client and people mindset will take you a long way in corporate career. If we take care of our team, the team will take care of the work. If work is well done, client will be happy, and if client is happy revenues and profits will flow in. Thus Business Objective is achieved.

Punya: Would you like to share important learnings as you grew up in the corporate world?

Navin: The most important is that the family comes first. One of our objectives to hang the uniform was to take care of the family. So, don't fall into the rat race. Be sincere in whatever you do and you can easily take out quality time for family.

Be bold enough to say NO. if something is not practical, ethically correct or against your own/ organization's values, say NO to it.

Look around and there are unlimited opportunities. Don't ever think you cannot do it. As Faujis, we have enough material to handle any work. We are quick learners. Accept the challenge and challenge with become an opportunity and will help you grow.

Punya: Prior to your present tenure you were handling one of the country operations in Africa, what is your team like, and how is it working in a place (a new country), full of different cultures and individuals from varied backgrounds?

Navin: Very enriching. If you don't pay attention to cultural differences, which is diversity, you may fail. Understand the differences and use their strengths to achieve your objectives. Lastly, understand that all of us are working for ourselves and our organization. If we make them win, they will make us win.

Visiting new places and new cultures always energized me. So, on a personal front these are great experiences, which I am going to cherish all my life.



With Team in US ASIS GSX meet with LAT America, Middle East & North Africa, and Mauritius team

Punya: How do you tackle the challenges, especially in today's competitive world?

Navin: I have stopped competing a few years back. I am happy with what I have. However, I do enjoy learning new things and improving my own self. If I compete with my yesterday's self, I will keep improving by the day. Then, I don't need to compete with anyone else. Also, if you get into the rat race, be sure, you will lose yourself and your family. Don't fall for that.

Yes, growth is important. Keep an eye for opportunities and grab them before it's gone. Consider which skill will be in demand down the decade, which industry is expected to flourish, which technology will revolutionize the next generation. And start working on that now. Go where the growth is, and you will grow with it.

Punya: What's the most important factor for any Forces Officer to settle down and succeed in any place outside India?

Navin: Stick to basics – Discipline, humility, learning, adaptation. You also need to unlearn some aspect of our military lives, like hierarchy may not be as important as in Services, innovation has a big game changer in corporate career development. Adapt as per your changing needs and as per organization's culture. It would be a smooth transition from the Olive Green to the Multi-colored corporate.

Punya: How have you found your corporate journey so far?

Navin: Amazing. There were a few low points. But in the overall scheme of things, God has been kind to me. I have held responsible positions, made some really fantastic friends along the way. And of course, made some good money.

Punya: What is your future plan going forward?

Navin: Going with the flow for now. Just changed my role a year back and I now work on strategy for corporate support functions like Workplace, Mobility, Procurement etc. Learning a lot of new areas. I hope to do something on my own someday, but the picture is hazy for now. Let's see.

Punya: There must have been great lessons during this tremendous journey, the pandemic period and the challenges as an expat. Can you share a few examples from your experience?

Navin: Pandemic was a unique period in all our lives. Personally, the fear of losing near and dear ones, reiterated the fact that we should give enough attention to our near and dear ones. You never know when they will go away from your life. Sitting abroad, I couldn't do much for my family and friends who were affected by COVID, expect praying for them.

Professionally, pandemic opened a completely new dimension of business resiliency. Being prepared helped us a lot in handling the pandemic. But more important was to be agile – develop and adapt new strategy which may change over the week or fortnight.

Being Human was put into action across the globe. We had mobilized resources for people affected by the pandemic. Helped the Indians in Saudi. By virtue of my role in the organization, I had access to couple of Embassies, which I used to help the needy. People lost their jobs and livelihood. We used our network to find them jobs.

Punya: So, what advice would you like to give to fellow Forces Net members who want to take up a similar corporate profile?

Navin: Take a dip with courage and determination. I am sure Defense Services has given us the required skills to succeed in the Corporate. Like I said earlier, networking, hard work, values and eye for opportunities can take you to places.

Punya: Any important projects undertaken by you over these years?

Navin: Well, personally, I am actively supporting the Telugu Speaking community in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia(KSA), both in terms of supporting in their times of need and also from a cultural and talent development perspective.

Professionally, the most important project was the integration of disparate access control systems with HRMS and other tech components with a middleware. This middleware is the single platform for many operations. All this, by a non-technical NDA graduate. It was the most satisfying work I have done in my corporate career.

Punya: There would have been few challenges in the family front with respect to relocation and schools and it would have been a bit of a tough time for you and Ma'am. I would request if you can share some tips how you managed them and overcame them?

Navin: It was indeed a tough decision. When the opportunity first came, a big NO came from all the family and friends. However, my company Accenture, allowed me to take on the new role and work remotely from India. But when I first visited Saudi Arabia, my perception completely changed. It appeared to be a good place to live in. Just follow the law of the land and you can live peacefully. The toughest portion was convincing my wife to move to Saudi.

Migration was well planned with support from organization and friends. We knew which school I would admit my kids, which neighborhood we would stay etc. Of course, there are challenges like language barrier, cultural differences etc, but you get used to it. Own research also helped me a lot. Cost of living, what to buy, from where etc. Lastly, we have always been fortunate to find good friends. They became our pillars to stand on.

Punya: We had discussed some years back about your passion for travel and seeing new places. How do you pursue hobbies or interests so passionately?

Navin: Yes, I love travelling a lot. I have been to European, Middle East and African Countries. It is the best break one can take. See new places, enjoy new food, learn new cultures. It helps you understand the strength in diversity.

I recently discovered a new interest. Karaoke singing, courtesy a new friend. But, thoroughly enjoying myself. Do what makes you happy and your energy levels will never go down. These travel and hobbies recharge me immensely.



With Family at Georgia



Capt Punyasloka Panda is an ex-Infantry Officer and was commissioned into 8 Garhwal Rifles. Post his Indian Army tenure he has worked with many renowned companies, predominantly in the field of Crisis Management & Business Continuity. Presently he is working with Accenture Solutions, based out of NCR. He is a CPP and ICRA certified ISO22301 Lead Auditor.

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

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

Ms. Anshula Yuvaraj is the Founder of Vinusto.in (Viraasat Ventures Private Limited), a social enterprise working with handloom weavers. An HR professional by vocation, she has spent 23 years as an HR Leader in the Corporate sector, her longest stint was with Wipro. She is a graduate of Psychology and MBA -HR, which she completed in 1995. Her husband post his retirement from service, is now a Senior HR Leader and they have a 21 years old son who is studying to be an Academician and Scientist. Anshula likes reading, traveling, and painting.



Uday: Please tell us about yourself and what do you do?

Anshula: I am first generation Social entrepreneur and Founder of Vinusto.in - Viraasat Ventures Private Limited. Vinusto is a social enterprise in the e-Commerce space. We make designer wear with authentic handloom in an affordable luxury range, for consumers in India and abroad. Purchase on our website contributes to the weavers' family.

I have set up Vinusto, after leaving a Corporate career spanning 23 years in companies like Wipro, Publicis, P&O Ned Lloyd, etc, as an HR leader and Function Head. My last corporate assignment was as HR leader for one of the largest SBUs of Wipro, with an employee strength of 40000 and an HR alignment of 90.

Embarking on a start-up journey in a field hitherto unknown was a risk indeed and the past 3 years as founder of Vinusto have been a roller coaster ride, to say the least.

On the personal front, my parents were academicians, both IIT pass-outs. My mother was among the few women Engineers in the early 60s. Thus I was brought up in a gender-equal environment, and for me having a career was a given. I embarked on my Corporate journey after completing my Graduation in Psychology followed by MBA in HR in 1995. My husband after his stint in the armed forces, is now a Senior HR Leader. Currently he is the Group Chief Human Resource Officer at MakeMyTrip, and our son is a budding scientist, studying in IIT, Bombay.

**Uday: What is it that inspired you to embark on the entrepreneurial journey?**

Anshula: I had an inkling that I would opt for a second stint in business in the first decade of my corporate career. At that time, it was more about setting up an HR business. However, things changed while I was teaching my son History. It has this chapter on Handlooms and handicrafts - the impact of British rule, and the economics of imperialism. While I have studied Economics and am aware of stages in the Indian Economy, this session was a revision of sorts. I realized that handlooms and handicraft was an area that requires some work and I can contribute. The idea of truncating the handloom supply chain using technology remained with me till I quit to start my second innings.

We have shortened the supply chain and brought weavers closer to consumers using the technology platform www.vinusto.in

Uday: We all have mentors and guides in our professional world and they are a great influence, could you please tell us about them from your life?

Anshula: I have been fortunate to have all my managers mentor me on the way. I was also lucky to spend a long stint in Wipro which has a strong culture of feedback and learning, that helps an individual to grow. One person who is the hallmark of humility and integrity is Mr. Azim Premji and he has been a great influence. He is a real 'karm yogi' - one who believes in 'doing what needs to be done' without looking for accolades.

My first experience of watching "humility in action" was way back in 2004, when Mr. Premji was on a site visit. The Reception desk had been notified of his visit, and they were ready to welcome him. And he walks into the conference room, wiping his face with his handkerchief, without anyone knowing. Mr. T.K Kurian who in those days was the Business Head of our SBU said - "I told you the guys, the welcome committee will not even know that he has walked in quietly without informing anyone." Such incidents leave an impression for a lifetime.

Uday: What's your biggest source(s) of inspiration?

Anshula: My parents remain my inspiration, they were the epitome of honesty, integrity, and knowledge. They gave me a very healthy and gender-neutral environment as a girl child which helped me grow as a person and a professional.

And then there are people around us who are equally inspiring with real courage and I have learned from them. I will share my favorite- I as an expectant mother who was

working through her pregnancy faced the dilemma of climbing 4-5 floors to my office which didn't had an operational lift in those days. Am sure most women readers would know, it becomes tiring as days go by. Every day on my way to the office I would see this woman who used to sweep our society compound and she was also an expectant mother. She was earning her living contributing to her family. Looking at her clean that compound with a big broom on daily basis gave me the courage to climb those stairs every day till the day I delivered. That woman inspired me.

Uday: Army life must have had an influence on your choices as you traveled and grew in personal and professional life, could you please tell us more about the Fauji aspect of your life journey?

Anshula: The army brings diverse people together who are focused on a common goal, which makes them a cohesive whole. Not only do officers come together but the families as well, and the ties are such that the time-lapse disappears when you get together.

Army toughens you up, for the hardships and one can adapt to any situation, can make a home anywhere, work with diverse people to achieve success.

Uday: Would you like to share the details of your work and your entrepreneurial pursuits?

Anshula: The company is called Viraasat Ventures Private Limited and our brand is Vinusto. Our web store is www.vinusto.in We are a social enterprise in the e-retail space, we make handloom products which include women's designer wear & sarees for India and Global markets. We source and work directly with the weavers to ensure the authenticity of the product. Our handlooms are certified and a purchase from our web store contributes directly to a weaver's family.

We are lucky to have a loyal and expanding customer base including some celebrities and received great feedback on our designs and quality.



Connecting at grass root level

Uday: How has been the journey so far and any stories of great remembrance and significance you wish to share with us?

Anshula: The entrepreneurial journey is slightly different from a corporate job- with its struggles and mishaps. When the latter happens you still pick yourself up as you are responsible for the livelihood of others, and are committed to a cause. In a bootstrapped startup, even when you earn a small profit which is a fraction of your Corporate salary – it has another high.

Positive strokes from customers are the best – I remember the first time a customer said ‘your product is better than the picture’, we were elated. Though we have heard this often enough, the first one gave us a different high.

Cluster visits are also a great experience, our weaver partners are very hospitable and when they work on the loom to create a fabric inch by inch it’s a sight to watch. The time, energy, and effort is laudable, and watching them, and working alongside the team is an experience in itself.

Uday: You must have had interesting interactions with some of the best visionaries, business heads and founders in your corporate career and now as an entrepreneur, what would you like to say about their way of life? What are the top personality traits of such excellent leaders?

Anshula: Agree, that there are some traits common to leaders which lead to their success.

- The greater the stature, the humbler the leader. They are willing to accept their vulnerabilities and that’s what makes them real.
- The key to success lies in the ability to grasp and learn- learning can happen only if your cup is empty – thus the ability to unlearn and learn.
- Leaders don’t look for popularity vote- they are willing to do what’s right, and are objective while taking decisions. They are not only fair but also perceived as fair.
- They are action-oriented- as strategy is nothing without action, and leaders who are entrepreneurs know perseverance.

Uday: You are an Entrepreneur and you are equally passionate about mentoring and coaching as you have done exceedingly well as Human Resource Management leader? Are they different or similar? Could you please share something about the connection between these two Areas?

Anshula: There are also common grounds between Corporate working and Entrepreneurships as there are differences. In both cases, one manages resources, people, and expectations as well as focuses on goals.



During my Corporate Stint at Wipro

My corporate journey had helped me hone my skills of problem-solving, influencing, goal and business matrix orientation, and process centricity which I use as an entrepreneur. I am hands-on which is essential when you start small. Additionally, as an HR professional, my understanding of human behavior helps me grasp consumer expectations and influence the producer. Latter is the most difficult part of managing a social enterprise.

As an entrepreneur, you work with a small team of people and need to multi-task, there is an immense amount of pressure as the livelihood of others is dependent on you. In a bootstrapped start-up, managing and optimizing financial resources is critical. Thankfully I had worked in a start-up early in my career to have ingrained frugality in my operating style.

Uday: Any other challenges you faced so far, on the way to establishing yourself and how you challenge those challenges? Was there any Turnaround event or moment in your life?

Anshula: I have been a working professional for a long time. The entrepreneurial stint is a continuation of work. And my husband and son have been very supportive and proud that am a working professional. So at the home front, it was largely sorted. Venturing into a new field was challenging, I am an HR professional and not from the fashion industry, it's the social cause that brought me here, so I learned on the way. It was a process of unlearning and learning everything from handloom clusters to logistics to the type of technology that will work.

I think the skill I came with were problem-solving and finding solutions. Also as a student of human behavior, I have some understanding of people, which helped me in engaging with the weavers as well as customers- both the most critical elements of

the business. As we started work, the first challenge was to convince the weavers and the second was to create the website. We started with one platform and had to eventually transition to a more compatible one, within a year.

Establishing the design team and handloom-based designs that will appeal to the customer, out-sourcing production for our made-on-order, 0 inventory model was tough. We eventually created an in-house production setup as we scaled up. Even if you create a product that appeals to the consumer, digital marketing is a different ball game and involves many a hit and miss scenarios.



Creating own Team

Uday: Lessons learned as the world transitions through one of the most challenging times?

Anshula: While the last couple of years have been difficult for everyone, it also helped us learn the importance of life. My son and I suffered a bad bout of Covid in the second phase and mine was touch and go for some time, however, we recovered due to the relentless efforts of my husband.

On the professional front as a team we learned that it's prudent to optimize cost and be frugal; put your money where it's needed. If the change is sudden, adapt fast, as speed will matter. Avoid over-analysis, and assumptions, sometimes direct actions give results. And bad times don't last forever, smart actions do.



Family Time

Uday: What advice do you have, especially for family members (wives) from Fauj?

Anshula: It's admirable how lady wives are pursuing their creative interests and setting up their own ventures to find their mojo. They should continue to do so as it holds in good stead in later years as well.

Uday: Most importantly, what is the best thing you love about Fauj?

Anshula: The spirit of comradery and a clear focus on the goal, the positive attitude, the ability to live in the present.....the togetherness of diversity without losing its identity- fauj is the living and only example of Team spirit and secularism.



Confident Women Entrepreneur

Uday: As an aspiring and confident woman in the World of Entrepreneurship, How's been your experience?

Anshula: The world of entrepreneurship is exciting but challenging. At the workplace we are all we professionals/ entrepreneurs – gender does not matter as the struggles of business are the same. Every day is a new day and perseverance is the key. It's a long journey to success.

If you want to know more about my work, you can reach out to me on anshulay@gmail.com / +91 99534 22227.



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 field of Marketing, Business Development, Strategy. He also has 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

Unicorn in the Making

In this series we plan to showcase budding entrepreneur members of Forces Network who are in the start of their journey. The aim is to support and guide young entrepreneurs within our community, with a view to motivate them for achieving greater success. Yes – we do need job creators in greater numbers than job seekers.



MagikNest a company conceived by Wg Cdr M Thirumaran assists users in analyzing the Real Estate market of their interest. This mobile app provides technological and professional assistance for Real Estate buyers. The app provides a set of solutions in terms of shortlisted properties/projects which are of particular interest for a buyer. MagikNest is Live in Pune / Jaipur and coming shortly to your own city.

Rajesh: Tell us something about your background prior to joining the Armed Forces, and your subsequent Forces career?

Maran: My formal schooling was from Chennai and I did my Engineering Graduation in Electronics & Telecommunications from IETE, New Delhi. Post engineering, I joined Air Force Technical College, Bengaluru, and was initially trained as an Aeronautical Engineer. Subsequently I was specialised as a Communication Engineer and was responsible for Tropo-Scatter, Line Of Sight, Microwave and Satellite Communication Systems in various roles. During my two Decade career in IAF I have commanded two Communication Units and was responsible in raising a unit in J&K. During this tenure, my scientific bent of mind and innovative approach, have resulted in more than twenty approved modifications and indigenous solutions in various systems.



Wg Cdr M Thirumaran

Rajesh: Please tell us about your entrepreneurial venture? how does it works and what was the vision behind starting your venture?

Maran: During my PGDM - Marketing & Operations Management I did a project on Housing Needs of Soldiers. In this endeavour, I undertook a survey with approx 1800 serving and retired personnel of Indian Armed Forces. This made me realise a need for providing Housing Solutions for our Community. Thus in 2012, a Customer aggregator firm, Rakshak Infrastructure, was born. Subsequently I became a Real Estate Developer - Rakshak Infrastructure (I) Private Limited. We operated from Pune, Jaipur, Solapur and Satara and delivered more than 5 Lakh square feet and presently are in the process of delivering 2 Lakh SqFt. In 2015 we started a Technological Company which was specialised into Software Development for Real Estate Industry and manufacturing of Anti-Riot Suits for the Police Forces.



Body protection suit for Police forces

In 2018, we envisaged a need for a Buyers Platform in Real Estate Industry and did a pilot project. Thus began the idea of MagikNest, A Real Estate Google for Pune market. We designed, developed and fine tuned a host of Indigenous & Innovative Interfaces/Products and Processes.

Rajesh: How do you describe MagikNest ?

Maran: MagikNest ia a Google for Real Estate Market. The Search Tool powered with Aggregation & Automation makes the Real Estate Buyer's Search as a simple and convenient process culminating into an Informed & Apt Purchase Decision.

In this process MagikNest also creates a Notional Buyer's Platform which aggregates the Customers / Consumers and provides them Bargaining power and translates the B2C transaction as a B2B transaction. This will bridge the Gap of Demand & Supply in Real Estate Industry, provide Customer satisfaction and also eventually result in reducing the 15 Lakh Crore worth Unsold Inventory.

Rajesh: What are the challenges faced in this entrepreneurial journey? And, how do you plan to overcome those challenges?

Maran: Most of the Consumer Market including Real estate is a Push-Model from the Sellers perspective. Even aggregation of Market or Customers is happening at sellers end. MagikNest, being a Buyer's model based on a Pull approach, needs to be aptly marketed to the prospective Customers. Since the buyer is not used to such a model, the biggest challenge is to inculcate a new habit or approach. This requires substantial financial resources to execute the business model efficiently. While we are engaging Angel Investors, we also are looking for Crowd Funding to the tune of 3 to 5 Crores.

Rajesh: What is your team like, and how did you build it?

Maran: My journey started for providing solutions to defence personnel, and who would understand their need better than fellow defence retired men and/or their dependants. So, the initial team was formed by recruiting retired personnel in Rakshak. However, when the business became a Buyer platform for all the Real Estate Buyers, the team was also diversified.

In MagikNest, the Core Team comprises of myself, Wg Cdr M Thirumaran (Retd), Founder and CEO; Ms. Preeti Patil, Chief Product and Process Officer (CPPO), IIM Lucknow Graduate and fauji Brat, and Mr. Rahul Singh, Chief Operations Officer (COO) having more than 10 years of core Real Estate experience.



With Team

Rajesh: For a startup COVID - 19 has thrown a lot of challenges, how do you plan to tackle them?

Maran: On the Contrary, the very model of MagikNest is best suited to this post COVID, new normal. The aim of MagikNest platform is to enable the Real Estate Buyers to interact with all the available products/projects in the city on one digital interface. MagikNest has aggregated all details of each project, which normally Buyers acquire only by personally visiting the projects. Buyer can easily select and shortlist projects, and even schedule a safe site visit, all through one application. MagikNest enables a Real Estate buyers' purchase journey to be digital and simplified.

Rajesh: There must have been great lessons during this tremendous entrepreneurial journey, can you share some?

Maran: Patience and Persistence are the Two virtues which are very Important for First Generation Businessmen. Further, Innovative approach and Out of the Box thinking has pulled me out of many Challenging situations in this Journey. We, Rakshak Technologies Private Limited, were manufacturing Indigenous Body Protection (Anti-Riot) suits for State Police Forces. We used innovative approach in the manufacturing and reduced the cost by 40%. Due to our Cost reduction we could supply the Items at 50% lower cost to Kerala and Tamil Nadu State Police Forces compared to the previous purchases. This has set a trend in the Industry and today most of the products are copying our methodology and transactions are happening across the country at a similar pricing.

Rajesh: Tell us more about your family, also the role of family members in the life of entrepreneur is very important, tell us more about it?

Maran: My Wife, S Devi, was a Teacher and small time Entrepreneur when I was serving. After I took up Entrepreneurship she sacrificed her career and became a full time House Wife to support me and our Children. We are blessed with a Son and a Daughter. Our son, Karthik Maran, who has completed B.Tech aspires to be a Film Actor. He has already bagged few roles in Tamil Industry and he is currently acting in a TV Serial at Chennai. Our Daughter, Nandhini Maran is appearing in XII std CBSE exams and aspires to be a Journalist.



Happy Time - Family Time

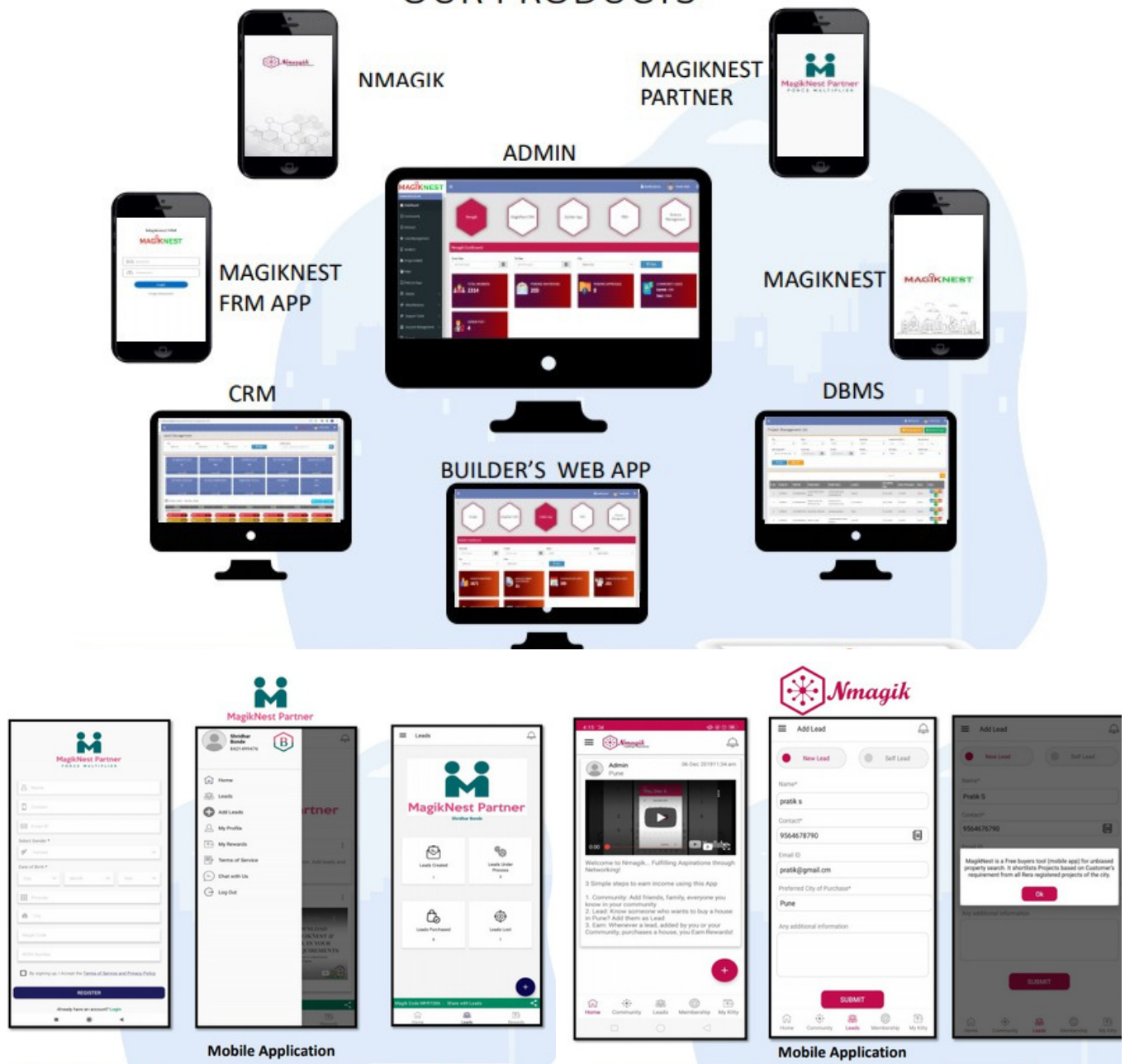
Rajesh: What's your future plan, and what support do you look forward to?

Maran: We are creating a Notional Buyers platform to convert B2C as a B2B. This can be extended to Automobile Industry , Jewellery and other high value Products. This has the potential to change the way Business transactions are happening today.

The future plan is to first make MagikNest operations Pan India and then expand to other industries. In terms of support, **we are looking for equity investments to the tune of 5 Crores.**

Further, we are collaborating with a well established real estate player and soon will be launching a **9 Acres Bungalow Project** within Pune Municipal Limits. This Officers Colony will have all standard amenities and at an affordable cost starting from Rs 129 lakhs, all inclusive.

OUR PRODUCTS



Rajesh: How does one contact you?

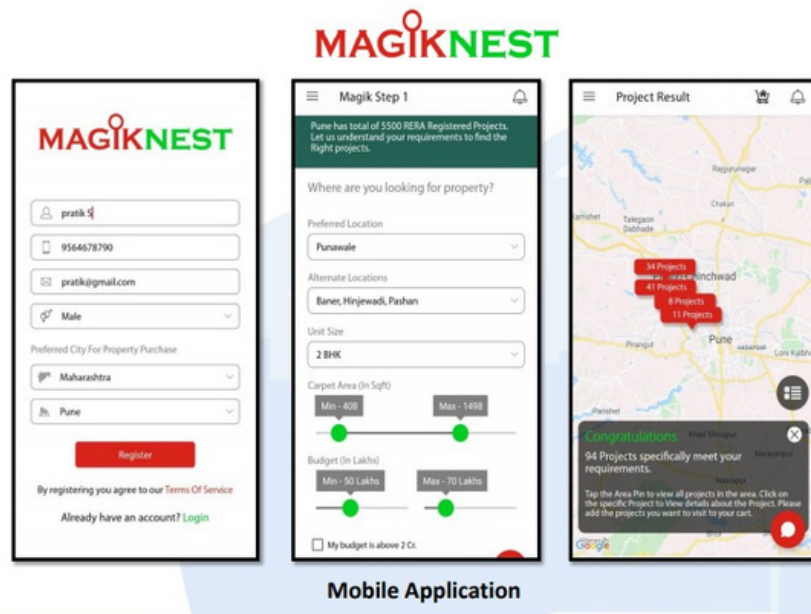
Maran: Readers can connect with me and my venture, MagikNest through the below mentioned channels:

Website: magiknest.com

Email: maran@magiknest.com

Phone: +91- 8600102771

Real Estate buyers' in Pune and Jaipur can download MagikNest application from Google Play Store or iOS App Store and register themselves directly into the app.



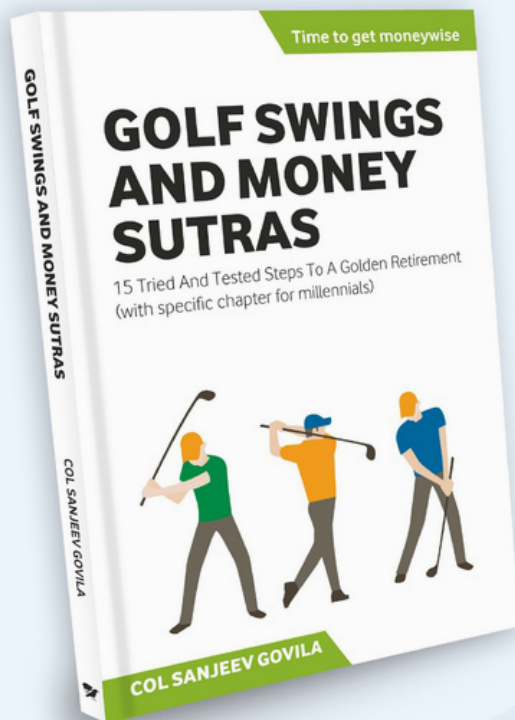
At my office in Pune

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Col Sanjeev Govila, the CEO of Hum Fauji Initiatives, has authored a book titled '**Golf Swings and Money Sutras**'. The book was launched by Gen MM Naravane, the Army Chief, on 22nd April 2022.

The book gives out the author's distilled wisdom of 27 years of understanding faujis while being in the army and now 12 years of being at the helm of an iconic company, Hum Fauji Initiatives, which is India's one of the largest personal finance companies while still exclusively managing armed forces clients only - Armed forces officers (serving or retired), their parents and their children.

The experience, the observations, the knowledge gained and imparted are all

reflected in this book to help the readers travel conclusively on to the path of their financial freedom to lead a happy, contented life.

The author says:

"I'm sure this book will help a lot of armed forces families since it is primarily written for retiring or retired faujis, including those contemplating Pre-Mature Retirement.

I've also added a chapter for the millennials, the corporate children of faujis, since financial well-being of the grown-up children is also a big concern of officers at that age in this era of run-away consumerism."

And what does **Lt Gen Ata Hasnain**, one of the most well-known military speaker,



writer and defence analyst have to say about the book?

"I'm sure this book will prove to be a landmark in the personal finance field and help a huge number of armed forces officers and civilians alike in leading a safe, bountiful and meaningful retired life.

Being set against the background of a golf course as a friendly chatter between three golf-playing fauji course mates, it immediately takes the pressure off from the reader to get ready to do some 'serious' financial reading.

I would go to the extent of saying that no armed forces officer should retire without reading this book!

This book is your chance to understand the retirement money game and explore the possibilities of financial abundance. The narrative unveils the money truths through easy conversations between three friends on the golf course and their dilemmas about where, why and how to invest their retirement money.

Radhika Gupta, the famous CEO (of 'The Girl with the Broken Neck' fame) of

Edelweiss Asset Management Company has to say this for the book:

"I've watched with interest how Col Sanjeev Govila and his company, Hum Fauji Initiatives, have worked over time to spread financial literacy in the armed forces over the past many years. This book is a step in the right direction. Best wishes to this yeoman service and their tireless efforts."

Please note that entire sale proceeds of the books will be donated to, HFI Welfare Foundation, for educating children of deceased Jawans', Sailors' and Airmens' families who have now fallen on hard times.

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Tech Corner

Virus Control Device - Shycocan & UV

BY RAJESH NAIR

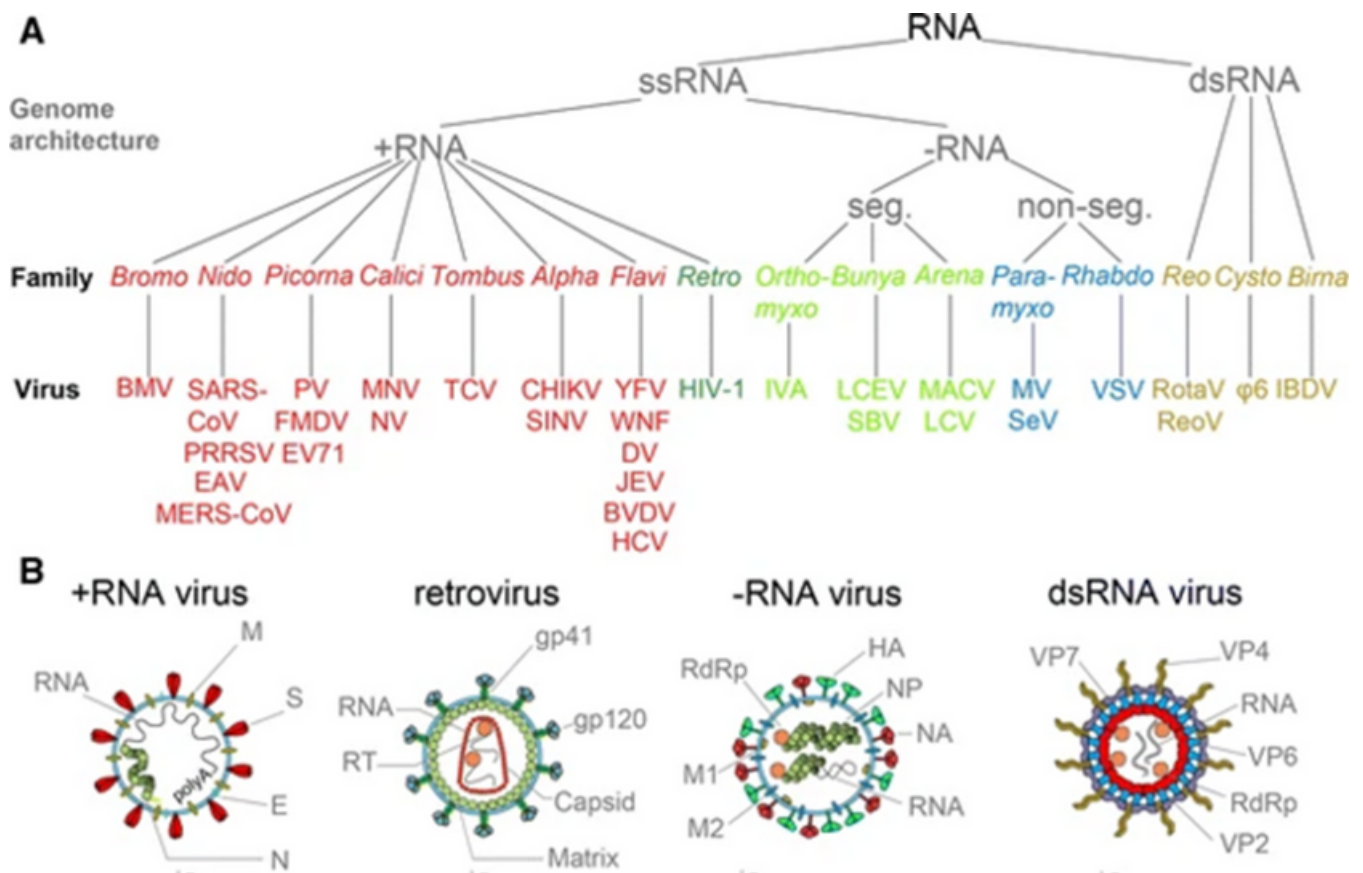


During the pandemic, most of us struggled to re - start our offices. Several steps were taken to ensure the business continues and each one of us, had lessons from the same. I am sharing information on two of the technology (Shycocan and UV) which were used by me for ensuring the business continues. While the usage of these equipment can be debated, professionally I had found it to be useful in ensuring there were no community spread happening at the work place, which has been functional from Aug 2020 till date. The Shycocan technology has been used by me personally also and hence more the reason to confirm on its working.

Let us understand the Virus first.

Understanding Virus:

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The name of this virus comes from the crown-like spikes that it has on its surface. The word corona came from the Latin word "Crown." Coronaviruses are a large group of viruses that infect animals and mammals. Scientists call them zoonotic because they can get a transfer from animals to humans. It is the largest category for an RNA virus.



The Family Tree of RNA

An RNA virus is a virus which has ribonucleic acid as its genetic material. The nucleic acid is usually single stranded RNA but it may be double stranded also. RNA viruses generally have very high mutation rates compared to Other viruses

Ribonucleic acid (RNA) Viruses, are characterized by club like spikes that project from their surface. These tiny protein structures that are invisible to the naked eye and spreads through droplets or aerosols when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or makes physical contact, including through contaminated surface, clothing, discarded tissue papers, used masks etc. The human cell membrane has a negative membrane, while coronavirus is a positive charge virus. The virus consist of Spike Protein covering their outer surface. These positive charged spikes attaches to the negatively charged walls of a host cell by forming a bridge that enables the virus to enter the host cell where it replicates, releasing RNA and it multiplies in host's cells and spreads the infection.



SHYCOCAN (Scalene Hypercharge Corona Canon).

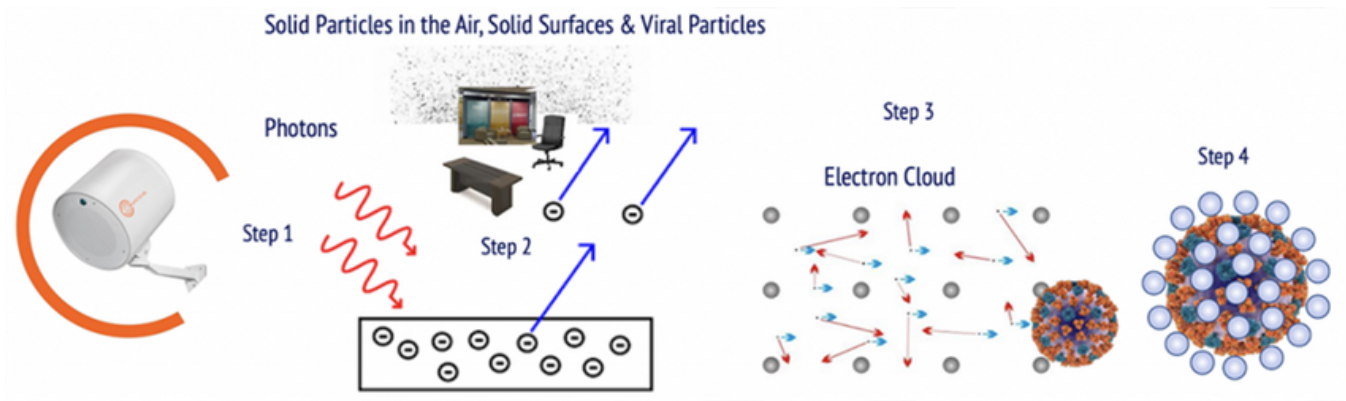
The SHYCOCAN device has been invented in India by Dr Rajah Vijay Kumar, Chairman and CSO of Scalene Cybernetics, Bengaluru India. It operates on a 110/240V - 50/60 Hz wall socket and is a plug and play device. The device is available in market and can be purchased individually also through its dealer network or online.



Dr Rajah Vijay Kumar

More About Device:

The device uses photon mediated electron emission technology to work. It generates extra high tension at a switching frequency of 20 KHz that delivers the necessary signals to a photon mediated electrons emitters (PMEE), that produces hyper charge high velocity electrons. These PMEE are superalloy (a mixture of 19 metals). This alloy when triggered emits photons and when these photons strike any surface it emits electrons. The machine continuously generates photons which in turns forms an electron cloud in the room. These negative charged electrons emitted from SHYCOCAN bonds with the positive Protein structure of an airborne coronavirus and neutralising its positive charge and preventing it from infecting other people.



Working of Shycocan

STEP 1 Shycocan produces high intensity photons

STEP 2 High intensity photons strike solids like suspended air particles, viral particles and surfaces like tables, chairs, walls etc. in the room and emit electrons

STEP 3 Due to continuous operation an electron cloud gets formed in the indoor space

STEP 4 The electrons get attached to the Coronavirus in the environment and neutralizing its positive charge, preventing it from infecting another person. This process is called "Attenuation"

Shycocan device is intended to disable virus particles in the air and on surfaces. it does not cure or treat a person who is positive with virus. As the common myth, it is not a plasma generator, ionizer, UV/Ozone disinfection, or HEPA filter.



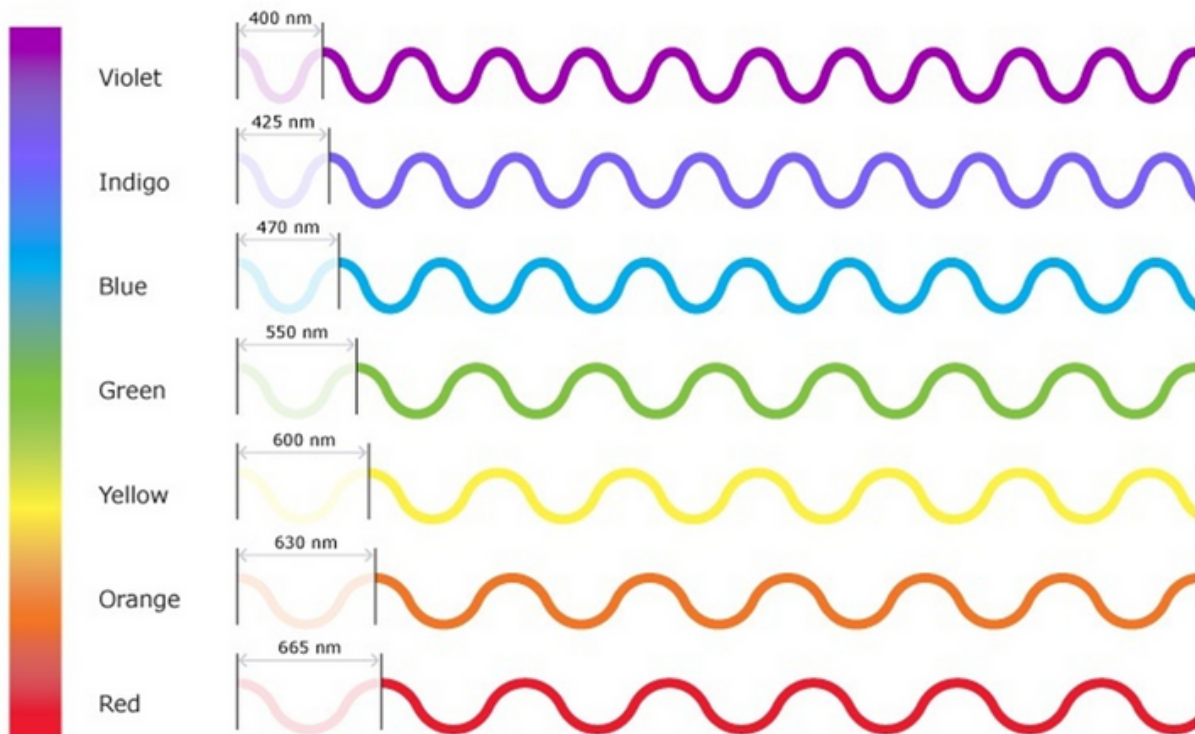
Cut section - showing the Super alloy



UV Lamp for A/C system and Ducts

Whats UV?

The Light spectrum is formed of X-Rays, Ultraviolet, Visible and Infrared light. "Ultraviolet" means "beyond violet". Violet being the colour of the highest frequencies of visible light. Also known as UV these are invisible rays that are part of the energy that comes from the sun. UV is a form of electromagnetic radiation with wavelength from 10 nm (with a corresponding frequency around 30 PHz) to 400 nm (750 THz), shorter than that of visible light, but longer than X-rays.



The lower wavelength limit of human vision is conventionally taken as 400 nm, so ultraviolet rays are invisible to humans. Insects, birds, and some mammals can see near-UV (NUV) (i.e., slightly shorter wavelengths than what humans can see). Ultraviolet rays are invisible to most humans. The lens of the human eye blocks most radiation in the wavelength range of 300–400 nm. Shorter wavelengths are blocked by the cornea. Nevertheless, the photoreceptors of the retina are sensitive to near-UV. Under some conditions, children and young adults can see ultraviolet down to wavelengths around 310 nm. Near-UV radiation is visible to insects, some mammals, and some birds. Birds have a fourth color receptor for ultraviolet rays; this, coupled with eye structures that transmit more UV gives smaller birds "true" UV vision.

Types of UV

UV radiation is classified into three primary types, based upon the measurement of their wavelength: which is measured in nanometers (nm = 0.0000000001 meters or 1×10^{-9} meters)

- Ultraviolet A (UVA)
- Ultraviolet B (UVB)
- Ultraviolet C (UVC)

UV- A accounts for 95% of the sun's radiation, which reaches planet earth. It's the type of light we use in skin tanning and causes wrinkles and premature aging.

UV-B is the biggest problem when you expose yourself to the sun. it causes sunburns and damages your skin cells, and prolonged exposure can cause skin cancer, so we use sun scream for protection.

UV-C This specific radiation of UV Light is most harmful to living organisms and cells. Here our Earth's Ozon layer comes to help, and it blocks UV-C light hitting the earth's surface.

Wave Type	UVA	UVB	UVC
Wavelength	315 – 399 nm	280 – 314 nm	100 – 279 nm
Absorption Level	Not absorbed by the ozone layer	Mostly absorbed by the ozone layer, but some does reaches the earth	Completely absorbed by the ozone layer and atmosphere

*-COURTESY - CDC.GOV

UV radiation is present in sunlight, and constitutes about 10% of the total electromagnetic radiation output from the Sun. It is also produced by electric arcs and specialized lights, such as mercury-vapor lamps, tanning lamps, and black lights. The UV spectrum, thus, has effects both beneficial and harmful to life.

Benefits:

Ultraviolet light (specifically, UVB) is also responsible for the formation of vitamin D in most land vertebrates, including humans. UV light (specifically, UV-B) causes the body to produce vitamin D, which is essential for life. Humans need some UV radiation to maintain adequate vitamin D levels. There is no doubt that a little sunlight is good for you! But 5-15 minutes of casual sun exposure of hands, face and arms two to three times a week during the summer months is sufficient to keep your vitamin D levels high.

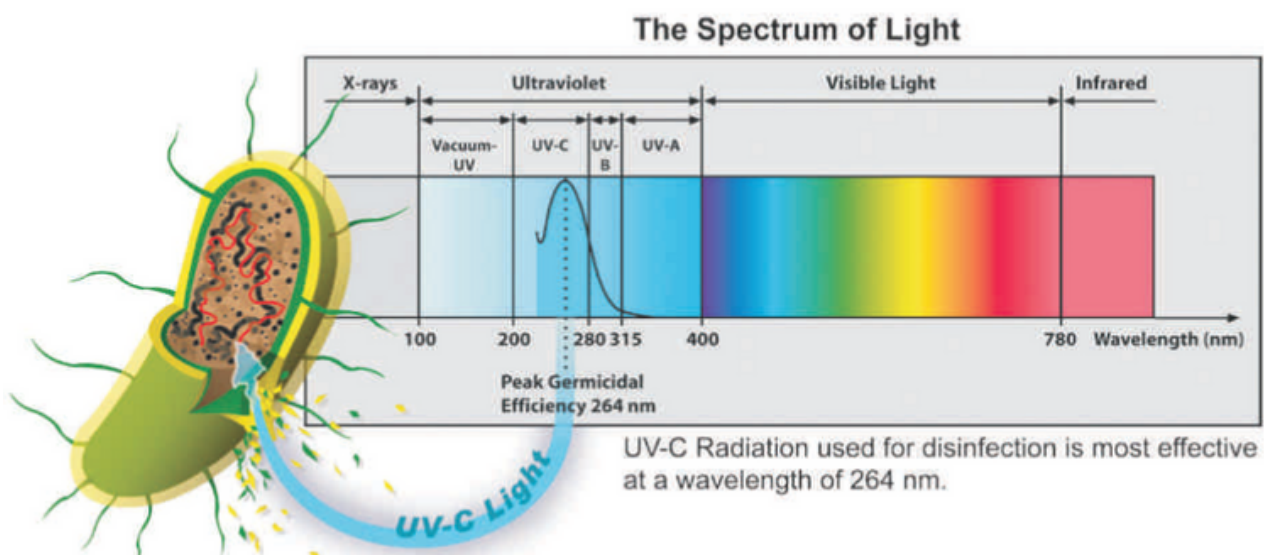
Risks:

For many generations scientist knew that certain frequencies of light have a devastating effect on microbial life. Exposure to ultraviolet light in the range of 254 nm (UV-Band) disrupts the DNA of micro - organisms thus preventing them from reproducing, thereby effectively killing them. The chemical and biological effects of UV are greater than simple heating effects, and many practical applications of UV radiation derive from its interactions with organic molecules. Short-wave ultraviolet light damages DNA and sterilizes surfaces with which it comes into contact. For humans, suntan and sunburn are familiar effects of exposure of the skin to UV light, along with an increased risk of skin cancer. The risk is elevated at high altitudes and people living in high latitude areas where snow covers the ground right into early summer and sun positions even at zenith are low, are particularly at risk.

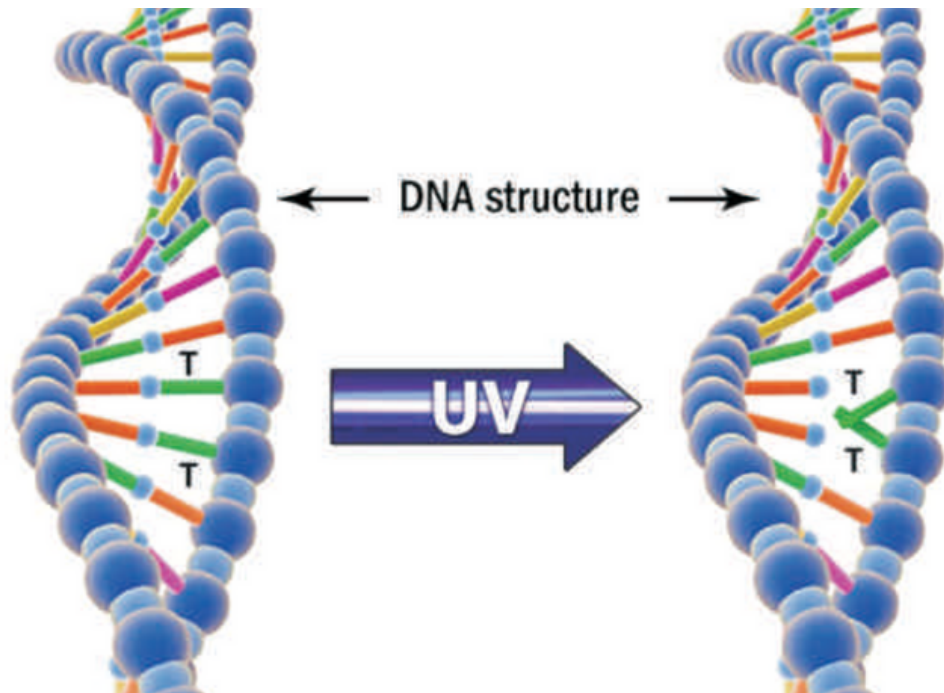
UV-C light, is commonly used in air purification. When properly utilised, this invisible form of light can safely kill germs, mold, mildew, and even bacteria and viruses.

How does UV light kills viruses?

UV-C rays kills biological contamination, it basically penetrates core of the cell and rupture/damages it's DNA structure, the killing time depends of UV radiation power and it's exposer time to living biological contamination. Not all UV light is ideal for disinfection only UV light with specific wavelength from 200-280 is classified as UV germicidal range



UV-C in the Light spectrum



UV light destroys the DNA

UV-C is dangerous when comes in direct human contact, it is not advisable to use a UV light without proper design and protection. Ultraviolet photons harm the DNA molecules of living organisms in different ways. In one common damage event, adjacent thymine bases bond with each other, instead of across the "ladder". This "thymine dimer" makes a bulge, and the distorted DNA molecule does not function properly.

Ultraviolet lamps are used to sterilize workspaces and tools used in biology laboratories and medical facilities. Commercially available low-pressure mercury-vapor lamps emit about 86% of their radiation at 254 nanometers (nm), with 265 nm being the peak germicidal effectiveness curve. UV at these germicidal wavelengths damage a microorganism's DNA/RNA so that it cannot reproduce, making it harmless, (even though the organism may not be killed). Since microorganisms can be shielded from ultraviolet rays in small cracks and other shaded areas, these lamps are used only as a supplement to other sterilization techniques.

UV-C LEDs are relatively new to the commercial market and are gaining in popularity. Due to their monochromatic nature (± 5 nm) these LEDs can target a specific wavelength needed for disinfection. This is especially important knowing that pathogens vary in their sensitivity to specific UV wavelengths. LEDs are mercury free, instant on/off, and have unlimited cycling throughout the day. These LED can easily be fitted in the Air handling units / duct of the centralised A/C or on the split A/C

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

Authors of the Month

MEENA NAYYAR & HIMMAT SINGH SHEKHAWAT

IN INTERACTION WITH RAJESH NAIR

Meena Nayyar is the mother of Capt. Anuj Nayyar, MVC - a retired librarian of Delhi University, a protective mother and a loving wife. For almost two decades, she had locked Anuj away in her memories. The pain of losing her son was too much to talk about, let alone write a book. It was only after she met Himmat that she started remembering him openly. She continues to run Kargil Heights Filling Station as a tribute to her brave son. She is based out of Delhi

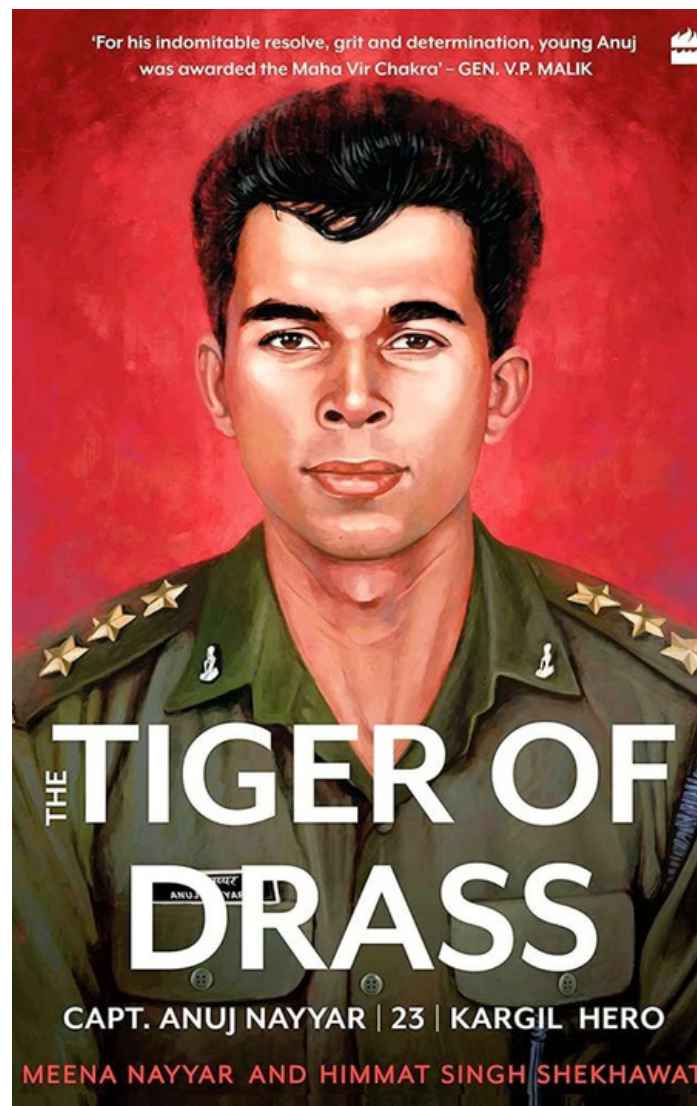


Himmat Singh Shekhawat is a MBA in Sales and marketing and has been working in corporate for almost 15 years. He has made it his life's mission to help the families of the fallen soldiers and share their stories with the world. Along with Shivaditay Modi, he is the founder of the **Rashtriya Riders**, a biking group that pays tribute to the men and women in uniform. He is currently working with MakeMyTrip as a regional head, Son of Army veteran, he belongs to an army family and is based out of Jaipur.



Rajesh : Tell us about your life. You seem to be part of a bikers group that travels across the country visiting the families of the fallen ones and different units. Tell us about that, please?

Himmat: I along with Mr. Shivaditay Modi formed this biking group by the name of Rashtriya Riders with the sole intention to say Thank You to the serving men and women of Armed Forces and paying our regards to the families of the fallen ones. Professionally we both are working, I am working for Make My Trip as Regional Head and Shivaditay Modi is working for Telus International as Sr. Manager. All in all we have ridden close to 30,000 Kms covering several borders and meeting several families of the fallen ones.



Rajesh: This seems to be your first book, what got you into writing?

Himmat: Yes, indeed this is our first book, basically always wanted to get into the Armed Forces however couldn't, on the hindsight wanted to do something for the Armed Forces. We were on one such ride wherein we were meeting families of the fallen ones, as per our ride plan we were meeting Capt Nayyar's family however we got late due to extended weekend traffic, we only managed to reach his home at about 12 in night, had some awesome dinner that night during the course of dinner we had conversation about Capt Nayyar and what kind of personality he possessed, exactly after one month after the ride we called Meena Nayyar Mam and said that we want to write a book on Capt. Nayyar, her mother agreed, first thing first we read letters of Capt Nayyar which he wrote from the war front. Gradually, we had emotional alignment with him and his family and then this book came into picture.

Rajesh: Is anyone in your family in defense? Did you ever want to join?

Himmat: Yes, my father, my grandfather, my uncle, my brother, my father-in-law were from defence and I always wanted to join the Indian Army. However I couldn't, I had cleared written exams four times and also all four times I was screened in, however in the conference I wasn't recommended for clearing.

Rajesh: What were you during Kargil? How far back does your relation with the family (Capt Nayyar's) go?

Himmat: During Kargil War, I was in 10th standard, as I belonged to Army background and wanted to join Indian Army thus my inclination towards Kargil War was very strong. I was so attached to the war that I used to listen all News Channels and recorded everything in the tape-recorder which I had during that time, in fact there was this program telecasted in Doordarshan by the name of "50 days War-A tribute", I used to record everything.

As mentioned earlier, we visited Capt Nayyar's family during one such ride and from the day the relationship grew stronger and stronger, currently I can firmly say that I and Shivaditay Modi along with other group members of Rashtriya Riders are integral part of his family.

Rajesh: When did you decide to write a book about Capt Nayyar? Why after 23 years?

Himmat: I along with Shivaditay Modi took the decision of writing a book on Capt Nayyar during one such ride dedicated to fallen ones, the exact date when we made the decision was 2nd Nov'17.

As far as 23 years goes, I proudly say that me and Shivaditay Modi are the choosen ones, destiny has played an important role, never did we think that we would write anything of this stature. Now I can proudly say that the book written with all passion has turned out to be a Bestseller.



The launch of the Book

Rajesh: A person who was born the year Kargil happened will turn 23 today. What impact do you think the story would have on them?

Himmat: The impact of the story is very inspirational in nature I must say, principally the reason I can vouch is because I have been receiving communication - Phone/text/whatsapp/email/messenger that they are inspired by the deeds of Capt Nayyar. For a person who is 23, might be looking now into the professional world, this book will act as an inspiration for him or her and one can take several lessons from the life of Capt Nayyar, irrespective of whether they have joined the Armed Forces or not. They can inculcate/imbibe such qualities which would definitely help him/her in due course of future.

Rajesh: Who all have you spoken to while researching for the book? How many officers/troops?

Himmat: The research for the book has been extensive in nature, we have interviewed all officers - seniors/juniors/course mates- NDA/IMA. Not only officers, we have also interacted with all troops who have worked alongside him and those who have also fought alongside Capt. Nayyar during the Kargil war. We have reached several people at different locations - Uri-Kashmir, Drass-Kargil, Udaipur, Delhi NCR. All in All more than 80-100 officers/troops were being interviewed for the book making it an extensive research.

Rajesh: How far back have you dug into Capt Nayyar's story in this book?

Himmat: I, Shivaditay Modi along with the brother of Capt Nayyar (Karan Nayyar) has worked on the book which comprises his life since he was born and the time till he laid down his life. Every aspect of his life including childhood/schooling/training/Ops in Kashmir to finally the battle of Kargil is thoroughly covered.

Rajesh: When did you learn of Capt Nayyar's story? What inspired you to write on him first, how did you get pulled into it?

Himmat: I was aware of Capt Nayyar since the starting of July 1999 however hasn't much gone through his character, my inspiration to write about him was primarily because that very less literature was available in public domain about Capt. Nayyar. I wanted the common public to be aware about Capt. Nayyar, his character, his deeds, his bravery and his comrades.

Rajesh: Is the book leaning more towards biography, or towards military exploits and the final battle?

Himmat: I would say it is a mixture of all traits covering Military history, true accounts and possibly biography. It has all flavours attached to it.

Rajesh: Did you visit the places where the war happened and Capt Nayyar sacrifice himself ? What does it look like today? If you did, what did you feel about the place?

Himmat: Yes, we made it sure that we visited Pimple Complex in Drass of Kargil to understand the difficulties our men in uniform faced while advancing to the peaks where Capt Nayyar and his men fought valiantly and finally sacrificed themselves. It was very emotional part of journey, as till the time you don't visit the Pimple complex or for that matter of fact any peak where the war was fought, one can never feel the complexity our men faced while taking our territory back. I can clearly say that Kargil War is the most difficult mountain-war fought in the modern day warfare.

Rajesh: What's your view of the 17 Jat regiment, if you've ever visited them? How do they remember Capt Nayyar?

Himmat: 17 JAT unit is a very strong unit composed of tough military people, they have shown their military prowess time and again, their role in war was of high stature and received accolades for their role/s. I have visited them several times (Uri-Kashmir, Alwar), the visit primarily included our interaction with troops to understand Capt Nayyar in detail.

As far as remembering Capt Nayyar, 17 JAT has Anuj hall which is dedicated to Capt Anuj Nayyar and his men. The hall has Pakistani soldiers' diaries, ammunition of the war time, in the unit there are two bust of Capt Anuj Nayyar, one at the Anuj Hall and the other one in the office area of 17 JAT. They have kept each and everything related to Capt Nayyar and stored it carefully, for 17 JAT (Officers and Men) Capt Nayyar is a constant source of inspiration and everyone worships Capt Nayyar.



A constant source of inspiration for the Balwan Jat

Rajesh: How did it feel coordinating with the mother of a fallen soldier?

Himmat: It was an emotional outburst as it is very difficult to speak to the mother of a fallen soldier and that too who was only 23 years. It really isn't easy for a mother to narrate about her son but the objective of writing about Capt Nayar and make people aware about who exactly was Capt Nayar kept us going.



The Prominent figures during the launch

Rajesh: Will you author more books in the future?

Himmat: Yes for sure, I will work on other projects as well however that would be specific only to the Armed forces. It would be covering the unsung heroes of India.

Question to Mrs. Meena Nayar

Rajesh: How did you feel when Himmat had approached you for writing the book on Vir Capt Anuj?

Meena: Himmat approached me with his desire to write a book after reading Anuj's few letter. I did not think much. From his two visits in Oct 2017, I developed a trust that he is keen to write book along with me from the core of his heart. I was sure from day one that he will not leave me in between this dream which we all saw together. I am a librarian by profession at the Delhi university and had good knowledge of books, But never thought of writing a book on my son, as I knew this journey will be quite emotional and torturous for me. Yet I agreed immediately.



The audience at the launch of the book

Rajesh: What aspects were kept in your mind, while writing the book?

Meena: We had made a team called "Team Tiger Of Drass". I started writing about Anuj's childhood, school education, NDA, IMA and also Anuj as Army Officer. However writing war chapter was a challenge for which team Tiger of Drass - Himmat, Shivaditay, Karan, Vikas and Rahul Pathania visited Kargil, They stayed with 17 Jat Anuj's regiment and tried to research circumstances of Kargil war. My only aim to write book was if I don't do this work, no one in the world knows Anuj better than me.

We all started living with Anuj day night. We started opening and consulting the documents which were laminated by Anuj's Dad and locked in files for 18 years. Anuj's things kept in bags were reorganised. Most emotional thing was when Anuj's bag locked for 18 years was opened with shaking hands by Himmat and Shivaditay. I cried uncontrollably but couldn't change our thought of writing the book. It seems Anuj and his dad wanted us to work on this long awaited need of the nation. Himmat , Shivaditay, Karan, Ashok and of course me were all working as a strong team and finally handed over the book to Harper Collins for Publishing.

Book Name : Tiger of Drass

Author : Meena Nayar and Himmat Singh Shekhawat

Publisher : HarperCollins India

Cost : Rs.220

Link

https://www.amazon.in/dp/9354229263/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_1TTE2PT8T9BZ8HN4FND9

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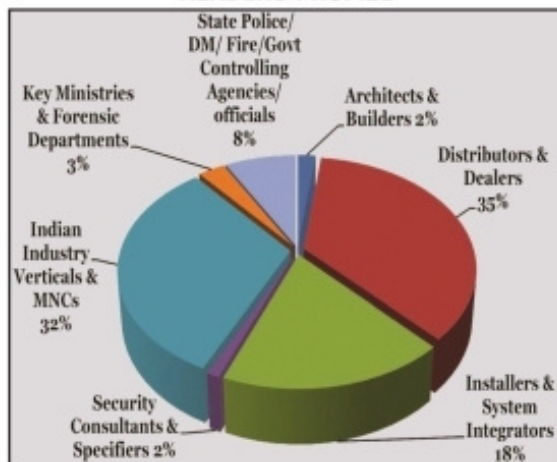
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Book Reviews

Book Review: The Tiger of Drass

BY ARUN HARIHARAN

I have enhanced my skills in the art of fighting with weapons, knives and my bare hands. The day will never come when I admit defeat

-Capt Anuj Nayyar, MVC

About the Author



Meena Nayyar is the mother of Capt. Anuj Nayyar, MVC - a retired librarian of Delhi University, a protective mother and a loving wife. For almost two decades, she had locked Anuj away in her memories. The pain of losing her son was too much to talk about, let alone write a book. It was only after she met Himmat that she started remembering him openly. She continues to run Kargil Heights Filling Station as a tribute to her brave son. She is based out of Delhi



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There are books and then there are books...written about war heroes and gallantry awardees. The Tiger of Drass is one such book authored by Meena Nayyar and Himmat Singh Shekawat. But this is no ordinary book and Meena Nayyar is no ordinary person- She's the mother of Capt Anuj Nayyar, Mahavir Chakra, the main protagonist of this delightful book. In a sense it is a very personalized account bringing out a lot of hitherto unknown and unpublished details of the life and times of the young war hero.

The Kargil War of 1999 was thrust upon India after a complacent military establishment and incompetent intelligence set up were caught napping with the enemy occupying strategically important heights in the Karakoram along the Srinagar- Leh highway in the Kargil District. The onus to clean up the mess then rested upon the shoulders of motivated yet inexperienced young officers and soldiers like Capt Anuj, Maj Vikram Batra, Capt Manoj Pandey to name a few. These lads from ordinary middle class families (most first generation military-men) punched way above their weight and at the peril and sacrifice of their very lives -did the impossible- recapture of all lost ground and ensuring a resounding victory over the marauders, a feat never ever achieved ever before, with the odds of weather, terrain and altitude so badly stacked against them. This book, apart from a close up of Anuj's heroic life also provides a good narrative of the conflict.

The book begins with a peep into Anuj's birth, childhood, his bonding with his parents (Prof. Nayyar-fondly referred to as Poppin and mother fondly called Mani) and only sibling Karan, and their role in making him who he was and shaping his future life. His idiosyncrasies and never say die attitude are also built up to give a peek to the readers about the leader being molded the way he was ,right from his childhood.

Anuj's days in NDA as well as IMA and his indomitable loyalty and spirit for his squadron and company are also highlighted well and described through first hand accounts of some of his batchmates, again to highlight the strength of character of the hero of this book and yet again lend a personal touch to the story.

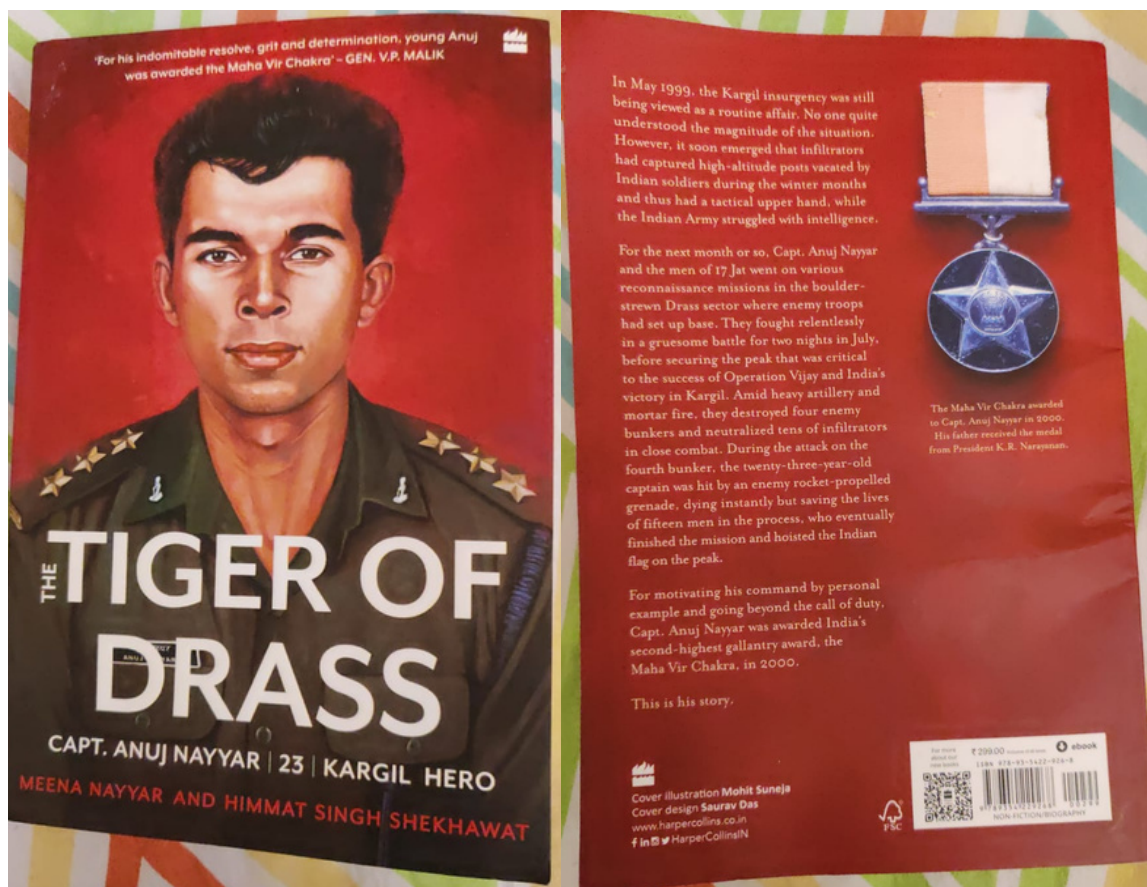
Thereafter, a narrative his initial days in his Paltan 17 JAT along with his escapades during his courses at the Infantry School Mhow , is sure to touch an emotional chord with every serving and veteran officer who reads this book as also give an intimate peek into the life of a young officer in the Army for a lay civilian reading this book.

The story then cuts to May 1999 when the Kargil conflict breaks out and 17 JAT as the Corps reserve is into the thick of things. The conflict progresses with the Indian Army making steady progress through June 1999, against all odds, be it the capture strategically important features like Whaleback, Pt 4540 by 17 JAT and the victories at Tololing and Tiger Hill, though at the cost of valiant officers such as Maj Adhikari and Capt Manoj Pandey

In the mist of all this, young Anuj is given a war-time promotion to the rank of Captain on 23rd June 1999.

The climax of the story however is the final battle of the Pimple Complex, where Anuj's Platoon fights a grisly battle for two nights on 7-8 July, before securing the peak that was critical to the success of the larger operational goals. Amid heavy artillery and mortar fire, the platoon destroyed four enemy bunkers and killed tens of infiltrators in close combat. During the attack on the fourth bunker which was led by Anuj, the brave captain was hit by an enemy rocket-propelled grenade, which proved fatal for him but in the process he saved the lives of at least fifteen men, who eventually finished the mission and hoisted the Indian flag on the peak of pimple complex at 0718 hrs on 8th July 1999.

Capt Anuj had done a great service in leading his men to the last point of the Pimple Complex and delivering the key feature of Pimple 2. Re-occupying this feature rid Tiger Hill of threats from western flanks and also helped resume traffic on the NH1A from Ghumri to Zojila so as to restore important lines of communication. This action in fact secured the Drass Sector which was very important for India's eventual success in Operation Vijay and India's victory in the Kargil Conflict. This in turn, earned the valiant officer the sobriquet "The Tiger of Drass" which is also the title of this book.



The piquant yet tragic tale of valour does not end there and goes on to describe how his parents, sibling and fiancée coped with the loss of this young officer who had so much of zest for life and meant the world to them.

To finally summarise, the book reads quite briskly and can be read in a couple of sittings. Moreover, the oft emotive story concisely portrays the many facets of Anuj's short but inspiring life- a great friend, a dutiful son, an brave leader who led from the front and a gem of a person at heart. The book is appended by many inspiring letters written home by Anuj as well as testimonials from some of his comrades at arms- which lends a very special touch to the whole experience of reading this book.

I am sanguine that "The Tiger of Drass" will surely enthuse the readers and stir a warm sense of pride an patriotism deep inside.

About the Book:-

Title: : The Tiger of Drass
Author: : Meena Nayyar and Himmat Singh Shekawat
Publisher: : Harper Collins
Pages: : 179
Cost: : Rs 299.00



Col Arun Hariharan a Corps of Engineers officer, took premature retirement in 2013, post his command. He is a senior corporate professional now. He is a voracious reader with a lot of interest in history, archeology and occult. His weekly column on light hearted stories of his experiences in the military was published in Hindustan Times from 2011-2014. He has chronicled the history of Meerut Cantonment. His book on short-stories in titled the Gaisal Club and other Indian Tales of Macabre was published by Amazon in April 2017. He is also a prolific blogger and maintains blogs for his short stories, travelogues and on his family heritage. Arun is also passionate about photography and dirtying his hands maintaining his motorbike.

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

it's okay to stop
and JUST BE.

Leisure

INVEST IN OUR PLANET

BY DINESH DUTT SHARMA

WORLD EARTH DAY- 22 APRIL

INDIVIDUALS ROLE TO REDUCE HARMFUL WASTES GENERATIONS

Earth is the lone planet in the solar system that has been bestowed with the abundance of life. It is a living planet that supports life & natural resources. They are our life, if they will be gone, we will be gone, too.



In plain and simple terms GLOBALWARMING means the HEATING UP OF THE EARTH. The main cause of Global Warming is the increase of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. These gases permit heat from the sun to enter the earth but do not let it radiate back to the space. Global warming is the increase of Earth's average surface temperature due to the effect of greenhouse gases, such as carbon-dioxide emission from burning fossil fuels or from deforestation, which trap heat that would otherwise escape from earth.

In order to understand in simple terms, the global warming is mainly the ignorance of the people, with casual and uncaring attitude which has created a wide gap between human life and Earth, which has already showed the signs of disasters in the form of Melting of glaciers, floods, cyclones, landslides, tsunamis, drought, etc

Today's prime concern for the sustenance of entire humanity is -----some of the five golden "R"s' as an individual in his /her day today life to reduce harmful waste generation are: -

Repair - Join the global crusade to diminish the damage caused to the environment. go green and be eco-friendly.

Reuse - Opt for reusable instead of disposable products.

Recycle - choose materials which can be recycled and segregate garbage so that recyclable substances can be effectively extracted.

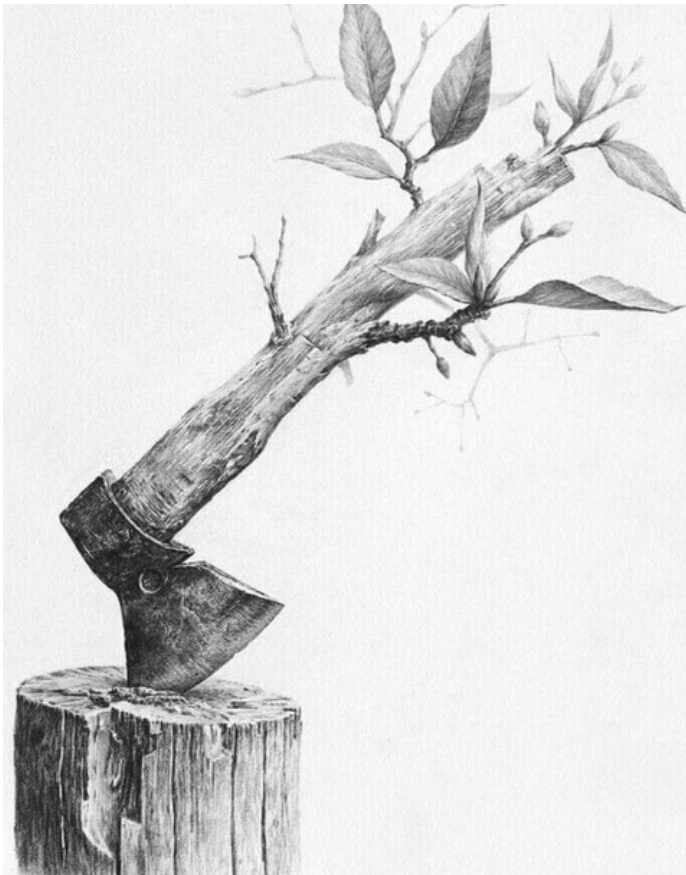
Reduce - excessive use of pesticides, fertilizers, fossil fuels, and CFC emitting equipment's. Planting trees.



SOME SUGGESTED METHODS: -

Its high time now to educate not only the children but the elders too, for being efficient consumers and be responsible users if the energy and resources remembering that the global warming is slowly destroying the Earth and its natural habitat. Parents at home, Teachers at school and Media can play a key role in educating the mass on the effects of global warming by way of: -

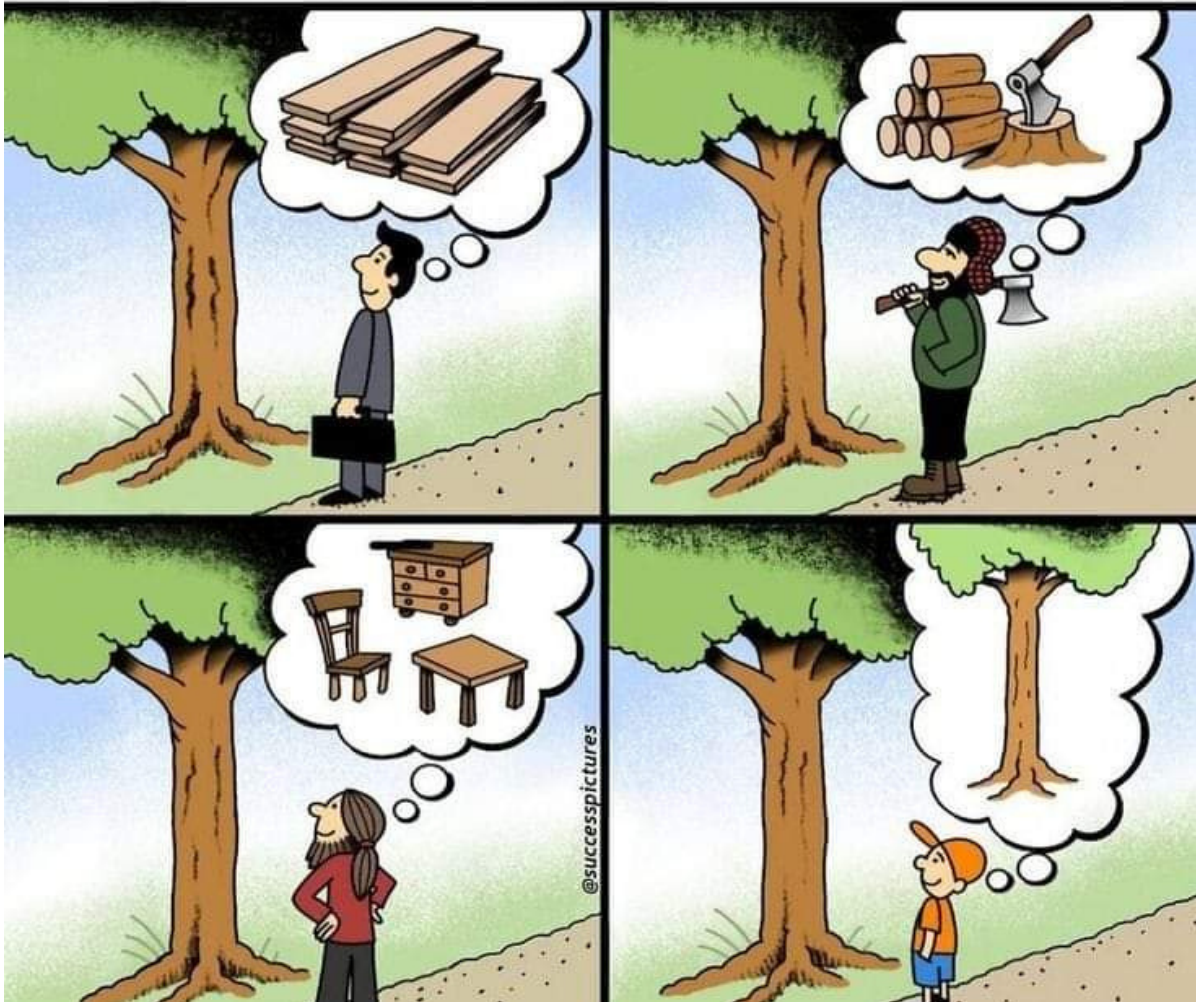
- Parents at home & schools at respective levels must high-light the importance of saving our planet.
- Organising NUKAD NATAKS at wards level.
- Effective advertisements in media.
- Carry shopping bags, no use of poly bags.
- Cycling & walking.
- Use of public transport or car pools.
- Devastating effects of Pollutions
- No Water wastage
- Proper garbage treatment



People should be reminded that they share the Earth and its resources with the other species that keep the ecosystem balanced, if the balance is disturbed the future sustenance of all living beings will be in danger.

Perspective.

@successpictures



Col Dinesh Dutt Sharma, is a Post Graduate in Geography from Bareilly College and an alumnus of Military School Dholpur and Chail (Shimla Hills). He was Commissioned in 1985 in Army Service Corps from IMA. Qualified from CAG's International Institute of Finance Management and Audit Sensitization Noida. The officer had as Directorate of Standardization. Commanded Composite Food Laboratory Jammu, had been Col Transport, Col Supply & Transport, Director Recruiting, Deputy Group Commander and Chief Administrative Officer, NCC Group HQ. On re-employment in 2017 had been DAQMG (OPS) and Director with Discipline and Vigilance Directorate Army HQ. Superannuated on 05 Sep 2021 and based at Noida.

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