

FORCENET

E-ZINE

Magazine for military veterans in the corporate
September 2023, Volume V, Issue 09

DREAM BIG



इसरो ISRO
CHANDRAYAAN



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FORCENET

From the Editor

Hello Friends,

In the vibrant tapestry of our civilian careers for veterans, every individual's journey is a story waiting to be written. This month, we delve into a theme that resonates deeply with our community of veterans: "**Dream Big**." As we navigate the dynamic landscape of the civilian world, we often find ourselves holding back from the limitless opportunities that await us, simply because we play it small. It's time to break free from these self-imposed confines and soar to new heights.

Throughout their careers, many veterans have accumulated a wealth of experience, knowledge, and skills. Yet, there comes a moment when we realize that there is more we can achieve, more impact we can make, and more dreams we can turn into reality. The secret lies in thinking big. It's not just about envisioning grandiose outcomes but also about embracing a mindset of boundless possibilities.

Thinking big doesn't require a complete overhaul of who we are; rather, it demands that we push our boundaries and challenge our limits. It's about daring to take calculated risks, seeking novel solutions to complex problems, and embracing innovation in every endeavour. As veterans, our track record of perseverance and adaptability uniquely positions us to navigate uncharted territories.

The journey from thinking small to thinking big begins within ourselves. It involves shedding the fear of failure, silencing the inner voice of doubt, and believing in the power of our experience to create remarkable change. Our magazine has always been a platform to celebrate achievements, share insights, and foster camaraderie among veterans. Let's encourage one another to break free from the chains of comfort and embrace the exhilaration of pursuing greatness.

As you peruse these pages, absorb the stories of those who have dared to think big, who have challenged conventional norms, and who have reaped the rewards of their unwavering commitment. Let their journeys inspire you to embark on your own path of growth and possibility.

Remember, the horizon isn't the limit; it's just the beginning. It's time to trade in the safety of the shore for the uncharted waters of innovation. Together, let's harness the power of thinking big to redefine our roles as veterans in the corporate world.

With anticipation of the remarkable heights you will achieve,



Dreamingly Yours,

Capt Rajesh Nair

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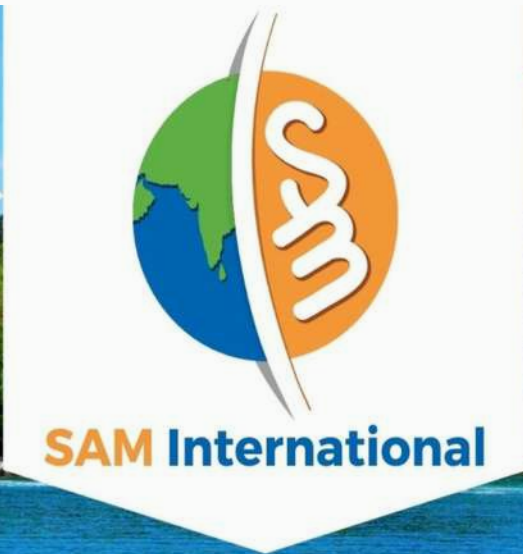
Fruit Rolls Tasty and Nutritious



Name of the fruit roll	Ingredients	Nutritional Facts per 100 grams of product (Approx. values)	% daily value based on a 2000 Calorie diet
Guava	Guava pulp, Sugar, Liquid glucose, Acid regulator (E330), Class II preservative (E224)	Energy- 350 K cal	17.5%
		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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[A NOTE FOR THE READERS](#)

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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.

Expatriate Interview

In this series, we plan to showcase the achievements of the members of the 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 UDAY SHRIWAS

Capt Binu Soman was commissioned into the 36 (Maratha) Medium Regiment on 5th September 1997, from OTA Chennai. After an initial tenure of 3 years in the unit, he moved to the 1822 Lt Regiment. In 2004, after completing six years, he opted to take a release from the Army. He started his civil life as a Deputy Manager at the Bank of Maharashtra. In 2006, he joined an MNC financial institution as an Assistant Manager and climbed up to the current position of Senior Vice President based in Malaysia.



Uday: Please let us know something about your background prior to joining the Armed Forces?



Binu: Being a Fauji kid, I always had the advantage of meeting and connecting with people from different parts of India, which helped me understand diverse perspectives. I was the youngest of the two siblings, and that meant an extra pair of hands in the form of my brother. I graduated from Kerala University and joined the Officers Training Academy, Chennai, in 1996, and was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery, 36 (Maratha) Medium Regiment, on 5th September 1997.

Unit life was like a bliss, and exactly like my home, I always had an elder brother waiting to help. In my short tenure of 6 years, I moved a lot, and after Op Vijay, in the year 2001, I got married to Anjali at Aurangabd and subsequently moved to the 1822 Lt Regiment in Agartala. In the year 2002, I was blessed with my son Aditya, and in March 2004, I got released from the Army.

Army Days

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

Binu: I am currently managing a team that is handling fraud investigations at a financial institution. This is a regional profile covering all the countries in Asia Pacific, and the position is based in Malaysia.

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

Binu: I was very fortunate that my first exposure to work was in the Indian Army, where the activities are well defined and diverse. In a short period of time, it teaches you that "everything is possible; you just have to start". I was getting into my comfort zone, and I had to decide: should I stay and remain comfortable or explore outside of my comfort zone? This was a very difficult decision, as I had a family, but I eventually decided to step out.

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

Binu: Honestly, I was not prepared for the world outside, as things are much different. But I soon realized that the first aim is to survive with whatever comes your way and then slowly explore what is around you to find out what is of interest. This journey from surviving to establishing yourself has to be planned, and the following will be helpful:

- The required skill set, training, and certification will help.
- Networking will be helpful; connect with people in your work area and also with peers in the industry.
- Be open to ideas, and don't be a wall and deflect things.
- We may not agree with everything, but aggression is not the answer.



Reunion

Uday: What challenges you faced in this new journey? And, how did you overcome those challenges?

Binu: The first thing I noticed was that you cannot demand work but will have to extract it without being aggressive. This may sound a bit bizarre, but over a period of time I realized that by being aggressive, you are killing motivation, which is essential for a high-performing team. The easiest way to extract work is by teaching them and encouraging them to come up with ideas.

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

Binu: Learning should never stop; the world is changing at a rapid speed, and if you are not abreast of the latest in the industry, then you will become a dead wood. The other important thing is that we are all equally intelligent, so allow and encourage people to come up with ideas.

Uday: 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?

Binu: I have a team of four (3 Chinese, 1 Malay, and 1 Filipino). It is very important to understand the lay of the land—their cultural practices, their beliefs, etc.—as their actions revolve around them. We should not be on a correction spree because they may not be wrong but are different.

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

Binu: Growth becomes a challenge after reaching a certain level in an organization, as the climb upwards is quite steep and you will have very limited positions. So, I am left with no choice but to come up with an improved version of myself, year after year.

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

Binu: My suggestion is to be patient. Officers in forces are go-getters, but people outside are a bit raw for that. You will have to train and mold them to be go-getters. The other aspect would be clarity; everything may not be in black and white. You will have things that are in the gray zone, and do not hesitate to get clarity on them; asking or learning things will always be helpful.

Uday: How do you find your corporate journey so far?

Binu: Excellent and very satisfying experience. Change if necessary, amend if wrong, and always deliver the best for your client and organization. How can something like this not be exciting?

Uday: What are your future plans going forward?

Binu: I am planning for a bigger role, and I am open to working in any geography. So, the hunt is on.

Uday: There must have been great lessons during this tremendous journey. Can you share a few examples from your experience?

Binu: I have added those on top, but to summarize, be patient and don't be aggressive; be open to ideas; and keep that hunger for learning always alive.

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

Binu: Prepare yourselves, as the world outside is very competitive. Officers from the forces have that extra dose of energy in them, so it is not going to be difficult. Please remember that your plan will have to be realistic; hold on to what comes your way first and then hunt for what you like.

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

Binu: Actually, there were a couple of them, but the best one was the setting up of the unit in Malaysia that I am currently heading. When I reached Malaysia, I did not even have a workstation for myself and my team. With that as a start, I rolled out the activity for 3 countries in 20 days, and in 3 months we supported 8 countries, and in 9 months all the Asia-Pacific countries.

Uday: How do you pursue hobbies or interests while there are commitments at work?

Binu: Honestly, I always had time, but my hobby is laying around.



Family Time



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

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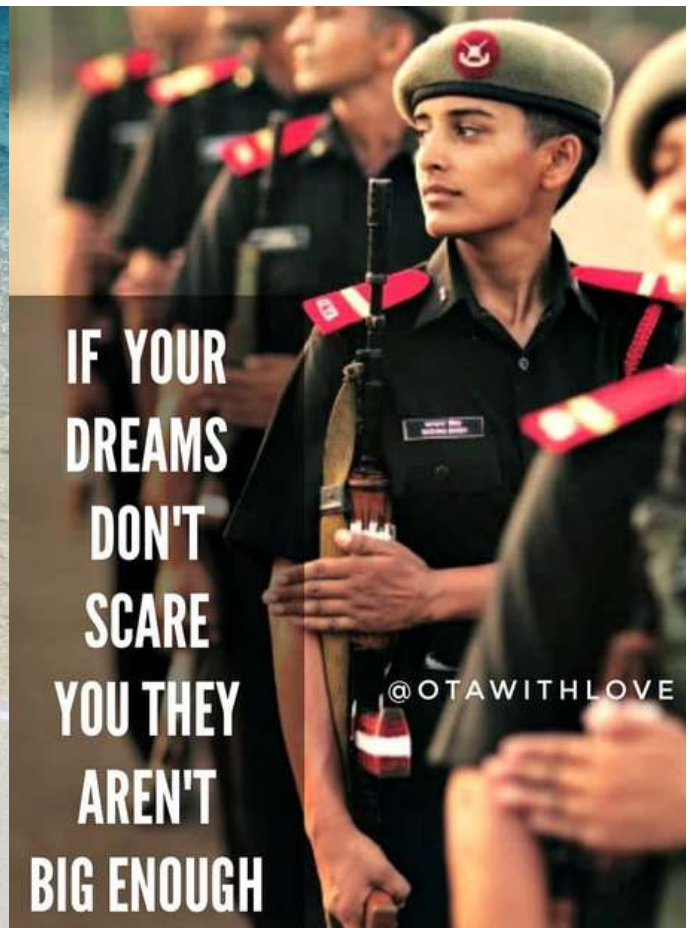


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Stars On The Horizon

Children of Defence Officers have the capability to excel in various fields, owing to their extensive exposure resulting from frequent transfers and changes of stations. They possess very high adaptability skills and immense potential as individuals. In this series, we plan to showcase the achievements of the children of the members of Forces Network who are on the path to carving a niche for themselves through hard work, grit and determination, so as to provide adequate motivation to the others.

IN INTERACTION WITH UDAY SHRIWAS

Reeham Ahmed, the daughter of a veteran, is a writer based in Gurugram, India. She is the author of 'Bobo and the Magic Cloak', a short story published in the US-based literary magazine Lucky Jefferson. The story also appeared in the anthology, Footprints on the Moon. Reeham has been featured in the Tiny Love Stories section of The New York Times, an Amazon Prime web series, a Hindi feature film, and a campaign by Global Desi. She has given invited talks for the LJ Pod and St. Xavier's High School, Gurgaon. She has done readings of her work for the Pehlay Akshar Foundation and Noida International University. Reeham studies in Grade 7 and is 12 years old.



Uday: Please tell us about your childhood and places you grew up in. Your father was in the Army and your mom is an army brat, what do you think are the best teachings of the Army life?

Reeham: The best teachings of army childhood are things like how to march properly, how to stand straight, and the wonderfully funny stories my mother and father tell me, mainly my father.

Uday: What has been your childhood dream and any specific moments from your early childhood which left an imprint?

Reeham: My childhood dream was to be an assassin. I was a very terrifying child. As for memories, I don't have many, but I remember going to Disneyland when I was younger. Also, I am still upset about losing one of my blankets on a trip to the Baltics. As for my latest memory, a very dear one is when I met a friend for life, Ashly. A-s-h-l-y is how I spell her name. She was a stuffed dog with ears the size of my hand. Now she is dead. RIP, but I have her male counterpart, Ash, so yay!



With Footprints on the Moon



Modelling for Global Desi

Uday: Your early memories as you started writing?

Reeham: My first piece of writing wasn't Bobo and the Magic Cloak, but a love triangle that I made on my old phone, which I lost to an Uber ride. Thankfully, I still have the story on my other devices.

Uday: How are you preparing for your writing career in the future?

Reeham: I have started making a book called Cherry Blossom Tree. It will be referred to as CBT in my answers because I'm lazy. Once I complete it, I will look for an editor and then a publisher. I don't want to go to my mother.

Uday: It is evident that you decided to follow a certain path in writing. Could you please share more about the journey so far?

Reeham: I have chosen to be an author because writing is my talent and I have a lot of creative ideas. I can pick up a pen and a pencil and write anything, even when I feel like I have nothing to write. As I said, I'm making a story called CBT. Once I am done, I will write a sequel.



With my mother at the AWWA Lit Fest

Uday: Would you like to talk about mentors and teachers who have guided you through your journey?

Reeham: My mother guided me into writing and sent me to classes. When I had an anxiety issue and was confused about what to do, my mother helped me again. As for the rest, well, it's all thanks to me and my imaginary friends.

Uday: What is your larger goal in life, and how are you preparing for it?

Reeham: I have learned that my anxiety tends to drive me insane, so I'm just planning to complete my first book and then see what to do next from there.

Uday: There is huge potential, especially in Fauji kids. What would be your message to them?

Reeham: Try your best. Remember that things can always be worse, so just try your hardest, but don't overstep your limits. Yes, limits can be broken, but there's a reason we have limits in the first place.



My Author Talk at St. Xavier's High School Gurgaon

Uday: Would you like to share any experience which helped you immensely in your journey to becoming a better author?

Reeham: It's nice to ask your friends for advice; get into theater; and reading is not something you have to do. Don't worry. Maybe listen to some music and try to take some writing classes.

Uday: Would you like to tell us about your achievements in the writing world?

Reeham: I got my story published in a US literary magazine, I got invited to an author podcast, and I went to St. Xavier's, which was an honour. I'm doing this interview, which is an achievement too. I'm writing my first book, which I plan to complete. Honestly, these are all incredible things, and it's an honour to be able to experience them.

Uday: Are there any subjects or social goals that you are passionate about and that people need to be sensitized about?

Reeham: Don't fail in life. I'm joking, kind of, but I genuinely fear that writing may not be the best career option. I fear I will not be good enough, but I will try my best. That's my goal: to be so good that I can think I am good enough to make good books for people to read. Another goal is to complete CBT.

Uday: As someone who's looking to pursue a career in writing, what keeps you going?

Reeham: I'm not good at a lot of things, so when I found out I can write to my heart's desire, I knew I could at least try to make it my career. What's the worst that can happen?

Uday: What are your hobbies, and how do you find time for them?

Reeham: Listening to music helps me while I write. I like EDM. I enjoy theater and am going to start formal classes soon. I used to learn karate, and I like walking in nature. Mostly, I like being alone.



With my mother Sahana Ahmed at St. Xavier's High School

Uday: How do you plan to handle fame at this tender age?

Reeham: To be honest, I am just another person at school. It is only my parents' friends who treat me as special. My mother does not post much about me on social media because she wants to protect me. So, I am on social media, but with hidden accounts. Try and find me!

Uday: What are the top 5 qualities that can help every individual to excel in any walk of life?

Reeham: Try to do something you are good at. Take your own time. Remember that school can sometimes come second when you are committed to another goal. If you ever feel like quitting, ask a friend if you should. Always ask for advice, whether from friends, family, or even a stranger! Ask! And thanks for reading! Have a wonderful life!



My family



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

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Author of the Month

JS Grewal

IN INTERACTION WITH IQBAL SINGH

Brig (Dr) JS Grewal, a third-generation army officer, was born in 1949. Alumni of King George's School and NDA were commissioned into GARH RIF in 1969. A veteran of the 1971 war, he commanded Fighting Fourth during Op Pawan, where he was wounded and awarded the Sena Medal for Gallantry. After commanding a brigade in the valley and in Punjab, he retired after a tenure as an instructor at the War College. After retiring and completing a PhD in defense and management, he taught MBA at various business schools for six years. He has written thirteen papers on military subjects and authored five books, of which three have been published in Germany. A permanent resident of the USA, he spends time in India as well.



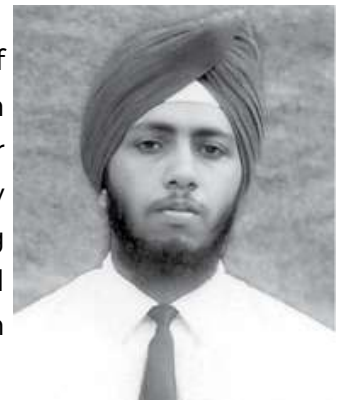
IQ: Many congratulations on the publishing of your book “ How to Connect with God.”It is indeed a rare subject to write upon especially for a soldier. How did you decide to write this book and is there a backstory to this?

Jagtar: I was born into a religious family, so having imbedded spiritual and human values, I decided to spread knowledge gained over the years to all, irrespective of their religion, so that they could embark on a spiritual journey. In this Kalyug era, we find that people are selfish and engrossed in all sorts of activities, including exploiting religion for personal gains. This book has threefold aims as follows:

- For beginners, to suggest the easiest way to salvation and get a good body in the next birth.
- For those who have basic knowledge and believe in God to chalk out the road ahead.
- For those who think they are very knowledgeable but have not made any spiritual progress to show the correct path ahead instead of fruitless discussions.

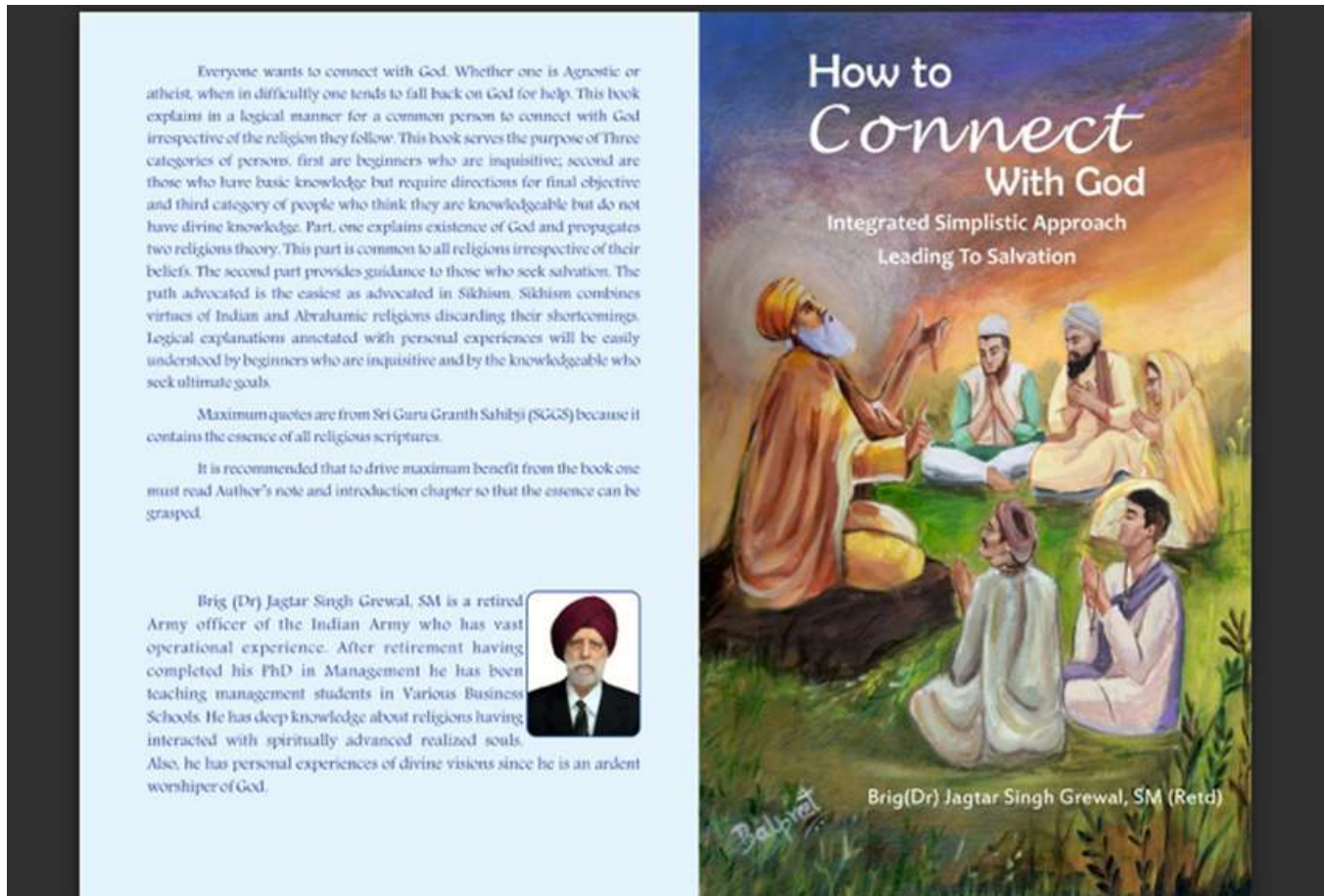
IQ: I believe you have always been religious right from your NDA days and even before. You commanded 4 GARH RIF during Op PAWAN in Sri Lanka under some really challenging operational conditions?

Jagtar: Yes, I have been religious since childhood. A lot of officers think that in the NDA we do not get time for such activities, which is not correct. I used to get up at least one hour before others to say my prayers and visit Gurudwara Sahib every Saturday and Sunday, even at the cost of missing movies. Being religious makes a leader upright and have faith that God will hold his hand at all times. Subordinates also develop faith in him, provided he is truly religious and tolerant of all faiths.



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After retirement, en route to Hemkund Sahib, I was accompanied by my co-brother, a retired officer as well. At Dehradun, where we spent a night, one of my teammates from OP PAWAN came to see us off. My co-brother expressed fear of rain and the problems that can be faced en route. My teammate told him nothing could go wrong because you were accompanying our ex-commanding officer. This kind of faith in a leader can only be experienced by those who think that nature will also cooperate. My brother turned religious after that trip.



My recent publication

IQ: How did you think being spiritual helped you as a leader especially in battle ?

Jagtar: Being spiritual helps a leader in two ways, especially if he has achieved spiritual advancement. First, God's voice guides him. Another example is Brig Randhawa, who was later IG Mizoram. He said Sri Guru Gobind Singhji always guides him.

The second is that God automatically does all his work for those who love Him and His name (SGGS page 638). When subordinates have faith in him, battle progresses smoothly in their favor. He also puts across his views to his superiors in a straightforward manner without fear or becoming a yes man.

IQ: There is a famous story about you while in intensive operations in Sri Lanka you were doing your morning Prayer in the jungle and there was a call on the AN/PRC Radio set from the VCOAS in New Delhi. I believe you asked him to wait and he did. Tell us more about it?

Jagtar: Actually, while saying prayers, my sahayaks and radio operators never disturbed me, even if bullets were flying. This was one such incident. Such incidents have occurred many times in my life. Once, my Sahayak (we had Kumaon regt ERE) refused to let C Arty enter my room during war games at Srinagar.



Briefing the Chief

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?

Jagtar: Well, my career is jampacked with operational and other experiences. On commissioning, I joined 10 Garh Rif at Ramgarh. I was appointed as IO, moving straight into an exercise involving opposed river crossings, of which I had no experience. We moved to West Bengal on IS duties, thereafter trained Mukti Bhani, and then, for the war, were deployed in the Chamb Sector. Have experience of counterinsurgency in Mizoram, as BM of the brigade saw riots in Delhi in 1984, followed by OP Trident in Kashmir. Commanded 4 Garh Rif during OP PAWAN and in Punjab in counterterrorism operations. Brigade command at Thangdhar and at Jallandhar. Gained instructional experience at war college.

Some lessons that I learned are:

- Decision-making is a major task for a leader. He must have qualities like tolerance for ambiguity and a calculated risk profile without being foolhardy.
- Compassion, not pity for subordinates.

- Knowledge: From lower levels to the highest levels, tactics, operation art, and strategy. Before joining NDA, I had read all the basic books, including indirect strategy and Churchill's book on WWII. My first CO advised me to read one campaign and one biography every month, which I religiously did.
- The commander must be able to listen to criticism, too. During OP PAWAN, after a difficult operation, I quoted from a book on terrorism to our Brigade Commander, Brig Palsokar. He said he is not interested in reading about terrorism. I told him, Sir, how can you make that statement when you are dealing with terrorism? For a moment, I thought I had overstepped as he kept silent. But much later, when one of my company commanders, Maj. (later Lt Gen) Ata Hasnain, went for the SC course, he told him, "Tell your CO that I have caught up with my reading on terrorism." Such commanders are rare.
- In all situations, anger, emotions, etc. are okay in movies but not in reality. Ability to think clearly in all situations.
- Judging people is very important for finding the right person for the right job.
- Flexibility in approach and tenacity in aim.



Op Review with RM

IQ: Give us an idea about this book. What can a reader expect to gain by reading it? What is the message that you wish to convey via this book? Also in today's communally charged atmosphere what would be your message to people?

Jagtar: In this book, I have propagated two religions theories. One is Abrahamic, and the second is Indian. All others are offshoots of these; therefore, it is difficult to comprehend why they fight with each other except for greed, ego, and personal gains. If very few can also connect with God, the aim will be achieved. The book is in two parts. The first deals with connecting with God to lead a healthy life here and gain a good body in the next birth. The second deals with the journey to achieve spiritual goals, culminating in salvation. Language has been kept very simple, with a lot of illustrations of true incidents in a logical manner for an ordinary person to comprehend. After reading the book, if they give up differences based on rituals and live in harmony with each other, they will develop humility and lead a happy life. The objectives of the book will be achieved.

IQ: How did you conduct your research on this book? What were the major insights you gained from your research?

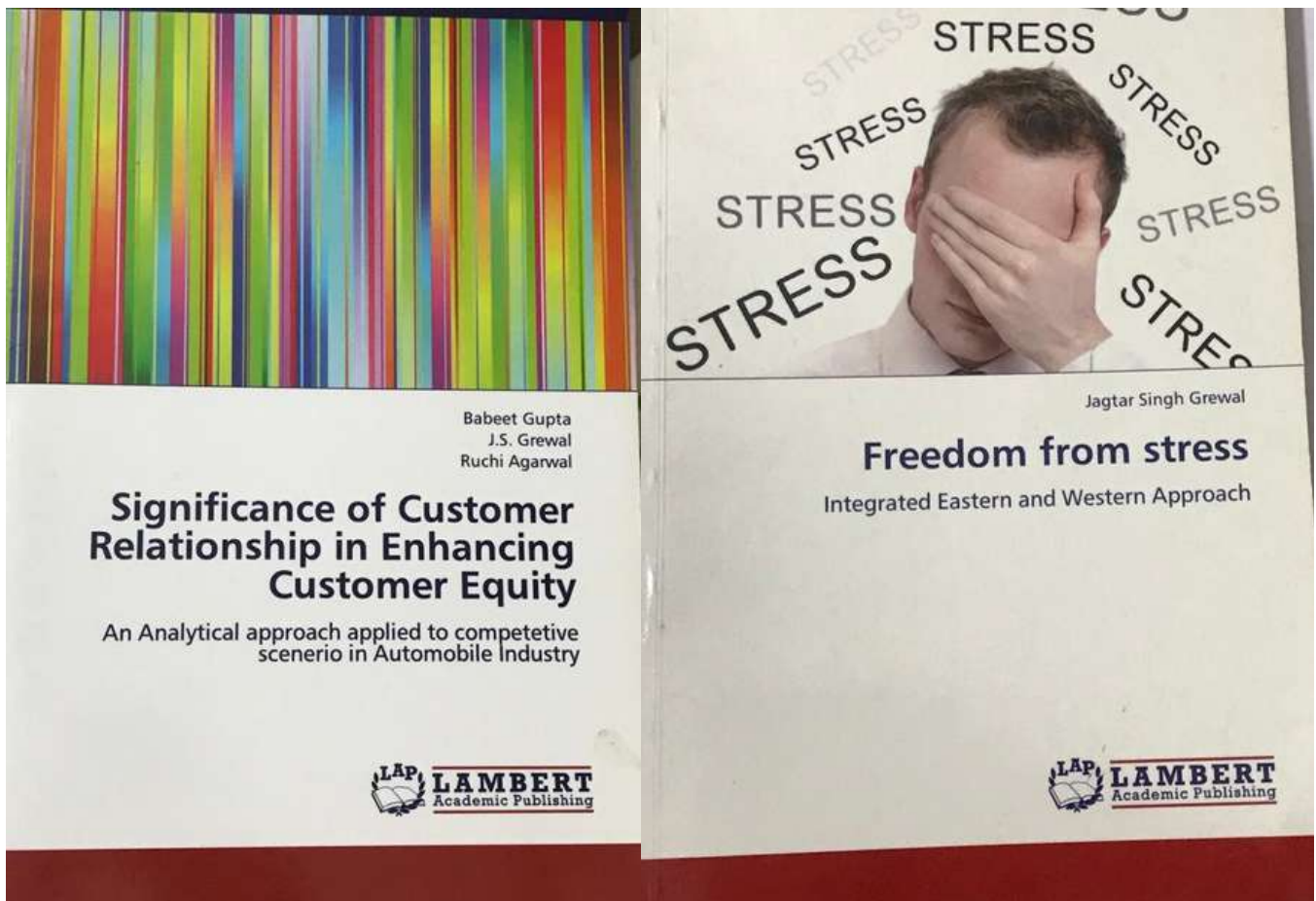
Jagtar: Research is an ongoing process. Going through various scriptures. Through the study of Sri Guru Granth Sahibji (SGGS), interaction with realized souls, and personal experiences, the book forms the basis.

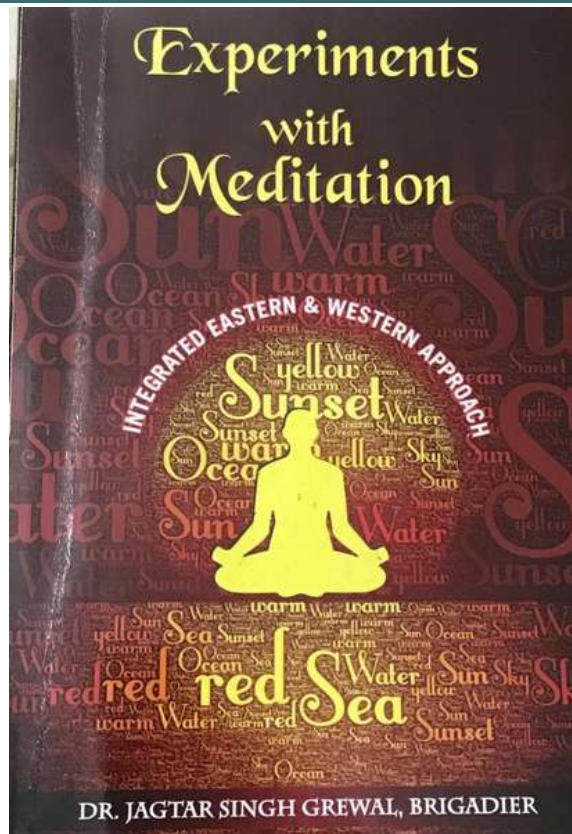
IQ: What is your writing process? Do you make a list of points, create a draft, and then refine it, or do you have long sittings to pen the book?

Jagtar: Yes, points have to be listed and then drafted. Every day, about two hours are optimum, as beyond that, serious work is difficult. Clarity of thought is a must. FM Montgomery is not liked by many for various reasons, but one thing I picked up from his autobiography is that when he started writing, he wrote without any cuttings. I have followed this principle throughout my life. Even as a BM, I used to write handwritten drafts like an assignment for staff college. Commander corrected it, and it went straight for typing for final copies.

IQ: You have also authored books in the past. Tell us about those books.

Jagtar: Three books published by Lap Academy in Germany are based on researchers' theses. While the book on meditation is a forerunner of the present work. Motivation: Theory of Prerna: Amalgamation of Eastern and Western Thought has been co-authored by Dr Jaspreet Ahluwalia and self.





IQ: Tell us about your family. How do they take it when you are busy writing , reading and researching your books?

Jagtar: My family fully supported me. Kiran Grewal, my wife, and Pavittar Singh, my son, helped me by giving administration support and leaving me free to work on the book. My elder son, Rupinder Singh Grewal, and our daughter-in-law helped with editing. Our granddaughter, Sulakhni Kaur Grewal (all three US citizens), edited the entire book and also wrote a foreword bringing out its relevance to the younger generation.



In USA with my elder son and family

IQ: What are your future plans regarding writing

Jagtar: Next, I will start working on 365 Sakhis (true stories related to Sikh Gurus). The aim of the book will be to narrate one story a day to the children. After that, I would pen down my thoughts on Army life in the form of a biography so that today's generation in the Armed Forces could benefit.

IQ: How can our readers eager to pick up a copy of your book do so?

Jagtar: It is a self-published book; therefore, it is available to me only. I can send it by post or give you a copy locally. For those in the USA and Canada, I intend to post it from there when we reach there in October this year. The cost of the book in India is INR 300 plus postage, while abroad it is \$10 USD. The book can be posted once the address is shared by those who desire it.

My contact is:

Brig (Dr) JS Grewal, SM (retd)

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Mohali 160062.

Tele +919872821730

+13027404164.

Grewaljagtar13@gmail.com



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

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.



Drifting Rainbow - By Col BS Rai



Spiritual Eye Flower- By Col BS Rai



Bells Flower - By Col BS Rai

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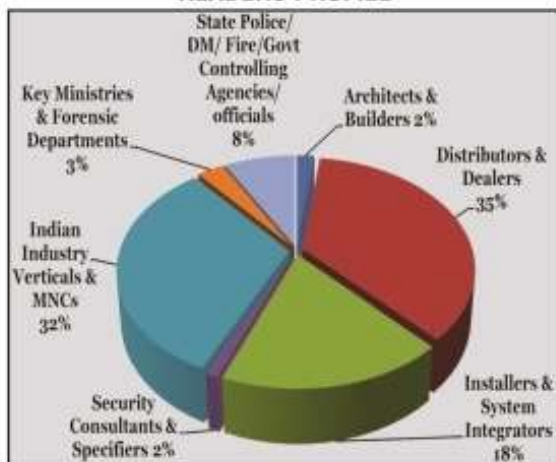
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Tech Corner

Empowering AI Conversations: Unraveling the Magic of Prompt Engineering

BY SHUBNEET CHAWLA

Introduction

In recent years, advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) have revolutionized the way humans interact with machines. One fascinating application that has gained popularity is Prompt Engineering.

What is Prompt Engineering?

Prompt engineering is a powerful technique that enables users to shape the behaviour and output of AI models. Instead of using traditional command-based inputs, Prompt Engineering allows users to engage with AI systems using natural language queries. This opens up new possibilities for seamless human-AI communication ie. Art of Asking questions to Large Language Models (LLMs) or Instructions we provide to guide the questions.

Types of Large Language Models (LLMs)

Base LLM	Instruction Tuned LLM
Predicts next word, based on text training data	Tries to follow the instructions, Reinforcement learning with Human Feedback (RLHF)
<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; background-color: #f9f9f9;"> <p>Once upon a time, there was a unicorn that lived in a magical forest with all her unicorn friends</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; background-color: #f9f9f9;"> <p>What is the capital of France? The capital of France is Paris.</p> </div>

Principles for Prompt Engineering

Principle 1 — Write clear and specific instructions

Tactic 1 : Use Delimiters

- Triple quotes: """
- Triple backticks ```
- Triple dashes: ---
- Angle Brackets <>
- XML Tags <tag> </tag>

```
# Import libraries & Secret key....
```

```
Var_Sample = """ This Example is to show how we can use Tactic 1 """  
prompt = f"""Give the the title 'Sample Tactic'.  
Format everything in Times New Roman and Capital letters . Write 2 lines on a bl  
Place the paragrapgh.  
Technical specifications: ```{Var_Sample}``` """
```

```
response = get_completion(prompt)  
print(response)
```

```
shubchaw@shubchaw-mac OpenAI % python3 Sample.py  
SAMPLE TACTIC
```

```
THIS EXAMPLE IS TO SHOW HOW WE CAN USE TACTIC 1
```

```
Technical specifications: ``` This Example is to show how we can use Tactic 1 ```
```

Tactic 2: Ask for Structures output

```
# Import libraries & Secret key....

prompt = f"""Give a json output for mass dimensions """

response = get_completion(prompt)
print(response)
```

```
shubchaw@shubchaw-mac OpenAI % python3 Sample.py
{
  "mass": {
    "kilogram": {
      "value": 1,
      "unit": "kg"
    },
    "gram": {
      "value": 1000,
      "unit": "g"
    },
    "pound": {
      "value": 2.20462,
      "unit": "lb"
    },
    "ounce": {
      "value": 35.274,
      "unit": "oz"
    }
  }
}
```

Tactic 2: Ask for Structures output

```
#Import libraries & Secret key....

prompt = f"""Is there a red colour in VIBGYOR .
Is yes type '''Red is available''' else type '''Red is not available''' """

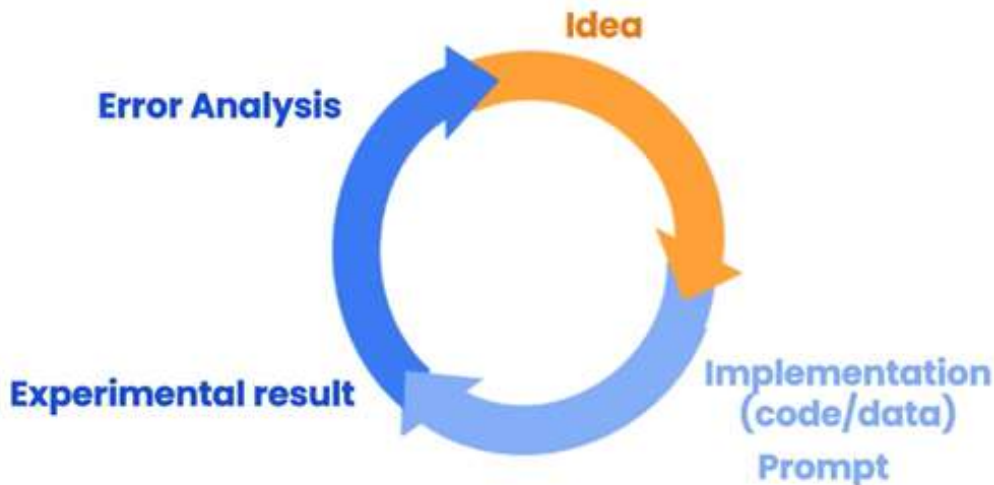
response = get_completion(prompt)
print(response)
```

```
shubchaw@shubchaw-mac OpenAI % python3 Sample.py
Red is available.
```

Tactic 4: Few Shot Prompting (One Shot / Two Shot)

It refers to how much instruction you provide in order to guide the answer. This may involve including examples of what a “correct” answer may look like.

Iterative Prompt Development



Prompt guidelines

- Be clear and specific
- Analyze why result does not give desired output.
- Refine the idea and the prompt
- Repeat

Principle 2— Give model time to think

Tactic1 — Specify the steps to complete a task

Step 1 :

Step 2 :

Step 3:

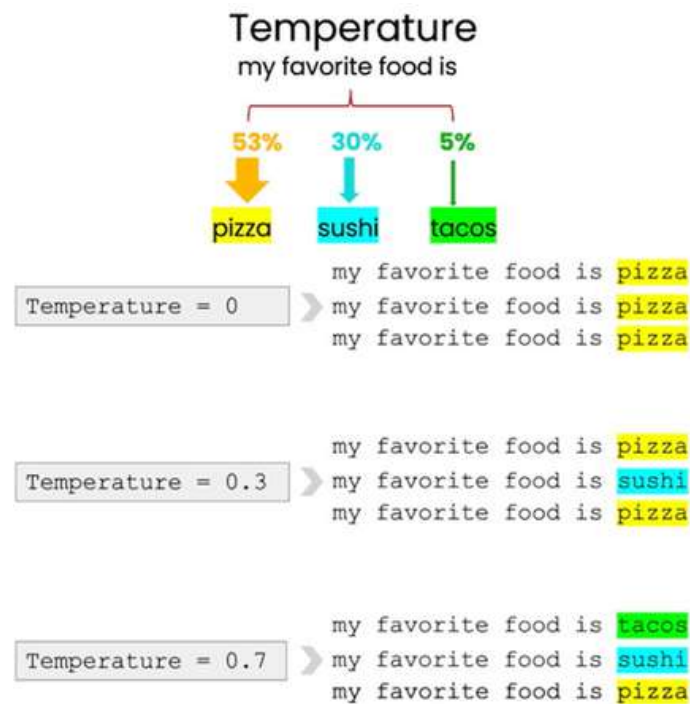
.

Step N:

Tactic 2 — Instruct the model to work on its own solution before rushing to a conclusion.

Adjust Temperature

Temperature is the degree of Randomness of the model



Types of Prompt Engineering

- **Role Play:** In this type, the AI model is asked to respond as per a specific role defined. **Prompt:** “Imagine you are a Product Owner, for a smartphone website . What are the new features that could be added in next 5 Years”
- **Analogies:** In this type, AI model is asked to respond as per resemblance or impersonating. **Prompt:** “Explain quantum mechanics using a sports analogy”
- **Classification Prompts:** In this type, the AI model is asked to classify or categorize the input. **Prompt:** “Is this email spam or not?” The AI model predicts whether the email is spam or not based on the given prompt.
- **Translation Prompts:** In this type, the AI model translates one language into another. **Prompt:** “Translate ‘hello’ to French,” the AI model responds with the translation “bonjour.”
- **Creative Prompts:** This type of prompt encourages the AI model to generate creative outputs, such as writing a poem or composing music. **Prompt:** “Write a short poem about the ocean,” and the AI model produces an original poem.
- **Question-Answering Prompts:** In this type, users ask questions to the AI model and expect informative responses. **Prompt:** “What is the capital of France?” and the AI model responds with “Paris.”
- **Debate Style:** This type of prompt encourage AI to respond for and against a topic. **Prompt:** “Present arguments for and against the implementation of universal basic income”

Best Practices for Writing Prompts



PC - Shubhneet Chawla

Use Cases and Examples

- **Writing Assistant:** Prompt Engineering can power advanced writing assistants that help users generate high-quality content. For instance, a user can ask, "Assist me in writing a blog about renewable energy," and the AI model generates relevant content suggestions and structures.
- **Personalized Recommendations:** E-commerce platforms can leverage Prompt Engineering to provide personalized product recommendations. For instance, a user may ask, "Suggest a camera for landscape photography," and the AI model suggests the most suitable options.
- **Virtual Assistants:** Virtual assistants powered by Prompt Engineering can assist users with daily tasks, answer queries, and offer helpful insights. For example, "What is my schedule for tomorrow?" The AI model responds with the day's appointments and reminders.
- **Language Learning:** Prompt Engineering can enhance language learning platforms by providing interactive language exercises and instant feedback. For instance, a user may ask, "How do you say 'thank you' in Japanese?" The AI model provides the correct translation.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, prompt engineering plays a vital role in unleashing the true power of AI and making our interactions with technology a breeze. By embracing these best practices & principles, you can create prompts that result in accurate and reliable AI responses, making your AI-powered products and applications a huge hit!

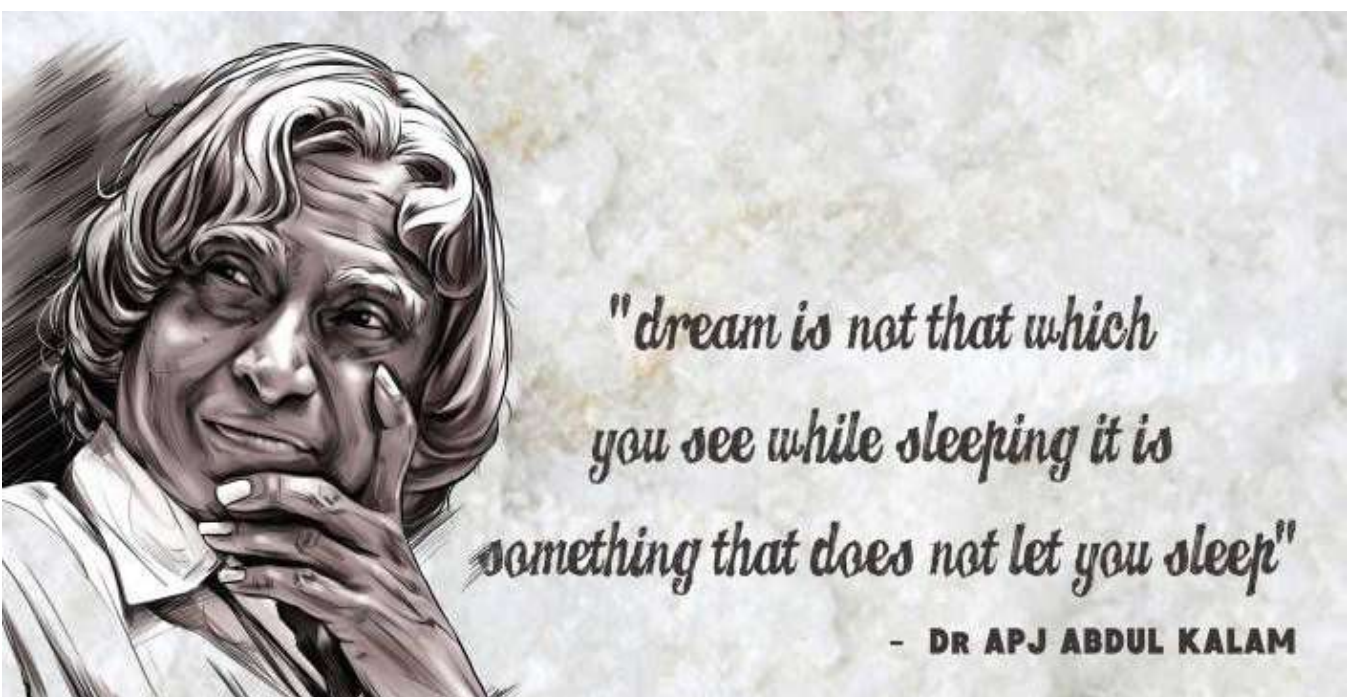
And don't forget, always stay open to user feedback and keep refining your prompts to stay ahead of the game and cater to the ever-changing needs of your users.

Happy prompt engineering!



Shubhneet is a Cloud Solution Engineer and Blockchain Specialist with 6+ years of enterprise Blockchain experience. He has done blockchain specialization and various certifications on related technologies like Web 3.0 and Metaverse. He has been a part of multiple live projects and POCs with the Indian Govt (Niti Ayog), the Japan Exchange, the US healthcare and supply chain sectors, etc. He is also certified in Project Management from Google and is currently a part of Oracle India. Currently deployed at ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce), an initiative to democratize commerce by the Indian Govt. and working as a Master Program Manager and Blockchain Specialist, wherein he is streamlining network operations and working closely with cross-functional stakeholders at various layers.

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Book Review

Mein Hoon Bharatiya (मैं हूँ भारतीय)

BY PADMASHRI KK MUHAMMED

About The Author:

Padam Shri Karingamannu Kuzhiyil Muhammed (born on July 1, 1952) better known as K. K. Muhammed, is an Indian archaeologist. He was the Regional Director (North) of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). After completing his education from Aligarh Muslim University, Muhammed served as Technical Assistant and then as Assistant Archaeologist in the department of History at Aligarh Muslim University. Muhammed was later selected as Deputy Superintendent Archaeologist in Archaeological Survey of India. He was initially posted at Madras in 1988 and later transferred to Goa in 1991. In 1997, Muhammed was promoted as Superintendent Archaeologist and subsequently, served in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. During this period, he also served as a tour guide to historic monuments for prominent foreign guests such as Pervez Musharraf and Barack Obama. In 2012, KK Muhammed retired as Regional Director (North) from Archaeological Survey of India.



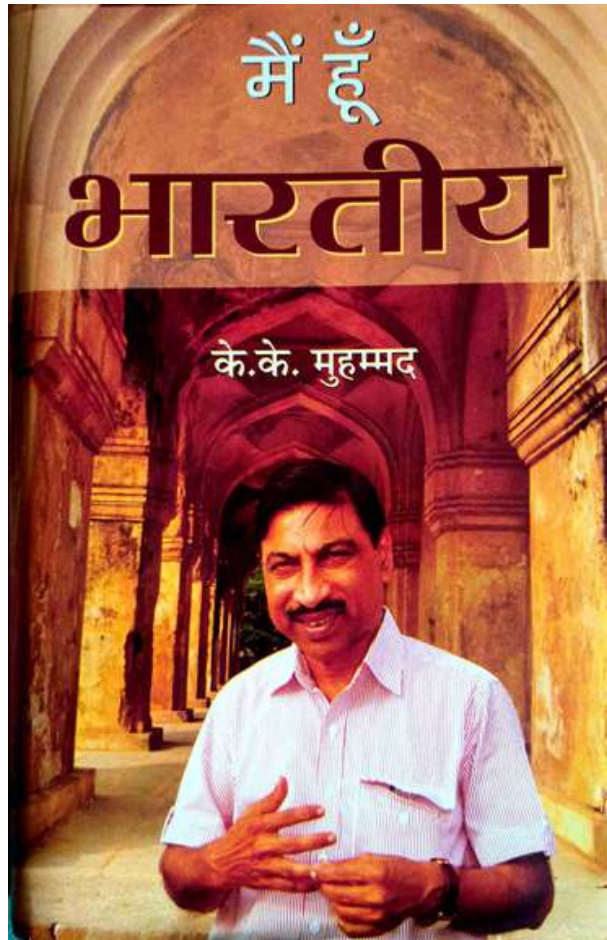
PART- 1

To the World of Knowledge

KK Muhammed had grown up by watching his mother feeding the orphans in his early life. It may be the reason that KK Muhammed inculcated moral values by living simple life. KK Muhammed had started his studies at Madrassa (a muslim school, college, or university that teaches higher education in the Islamic religious studies) education at the age of 5. After a year, his friends had taken admission into the school but he was not admitted into school. He felt very lonely for not going to school but this loneliness inspired him to go to school. Muhammed's wish of joining school was told by his mother to his maternal uncle. One lie was also told to his maternal uncle that Muhammed education is to be arranged by his uncle as per directions given by his father. This lie had changed the life of Muhammed otherwise he would have been a Muslim priest.

The Big World of Reading

With his vision and experience, he concluded that libraries are centers of social reform in society. I also agree with him in this and can relate, as libraries and books have a deep impact on my personality too. He also raised several questions, like why moral



values are compromised by today's generation despite being imparted the best high-level education? Why is today's generation living in their realm and not being socially participatory? Why is today's generation insensitive to understanding the pain of others?

Sad Nostalgia

KK Muhammed had a lot of interest in history after securing the first position in Class 10th. His quest for learning had taken him to Aligarh University. He shares his early encounter with Prof. Irfan Habib (his history professor, who later became Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research) in class, where he expressed his independent views, which were taken in bad taste. KK Muhammed was made a victim of the professor's communist conspiracy for not obeying his ideology. Students who did not obey the orders of Prof. Irfan Habib were mentally tortured.

He was discriminated against and denied access to do research. A student whose marks were lower than his in B.A. and M.A. was offered a scholarship. He thanked Prof. Irfan Habib for denying him research work, due to which he got the opportunity to take a course in archeology.

Discovery of the Ibadat Khana and last days in Aligarh

After completing a diploma in Archaeology in 1978 from Delhi, KK Mohammed was appointed as an assistant archaeologist at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). Ibadath Khana is a place called Din-e-Illahi in the Emperor Akbar era where he founded

human-made religion based on ethical values of all religions. The news of the discovery was published in national dailies like the Times of India and the Indian Express. An attempt was made by Prof. Habib to make KK Muhammed write a confession that the discovered place was not Ibadat Khana. A conspiracy was also hatched to showcase the Ibadat Khana discovery in the name of some other archaeologist. A documentary made about the discovery of Akbar's Ibadath Khana is available on YouTube.

KK Muhammed confessed that, from a historical perspective, places mentioned in history and mythology are in bad condition because the owner of the land is not ASI. These heritage sites are not fenced, and as a result, they become prey for encroachment by the land mafia. He found an innovative solution for stopping encroachment by inviting media persons, intellectuals, and teachers to participate in restoration activities. KK Muhammed also advocates the use of modern technology like cyberarchaeology, digital cultural heritage, third-generation graphic technology, and augmented reality systems to provide a better experience for tourists visiting historical places.

Kindness in approach

KK Muhammed worked in a Naxalite-hit area in Chhattisgarh. He encountered Naxals, and he was asked to stop working. In order to start work, Naxalites asked for donations. The donation amount was small, so KK Muhammed hesitantly agreed to give in exchange for the restoration of temples. With this experience, he came to the conclusion that no matter how bad people are, you can change their thinking and behaviour with your good behaviour.

Bateshwar is asking, who is the Dacoit?

Bateshwar, Morena, has a complex of 200 ancient Shiva and Vishnu temples situated 40 km away from Gwalior. Bateshwar was a miniature of the Ankorvat temple in Cambodia. The area was under the control of Nirbhay Singh Gujjar and Gadariya Dacoits. KK Muhammed was successful in convincing the dacoits to let him restore these temples. He was able to restore 60 temples during his tenure in the region. After the dacoits were eliminated by the police, the area was encroached upon by the mining mafia. KK Muhammed had written a letter to RSS Chief K Sudarshan to intervene in this sensitive matter. K. Sudharshan came to Bateshwar in the next 24 hours, followed by police action against the local mining mafia. There is also a documentary made on "The Rebirth of a Forgotten Temple Complex in Bateshwar," which is available on YouTube.

That moment will be never be called

Labourers from different parts of India work on restoration work for ASI. These labourers children begged when their parents left for work. Due to the change of workplace for labourers, these children do not get the opportunity to study. After seeing miserable plight of these children, he asked himself a question: "Is children's

liberation not our social commitment?" He started a makeshift school inside monuments. Not a single penny was taken from the government to run this school. The responsibility of running the school was given to his wife, Rabiya, and other friends. KK Muhammed also received the '**Citizen Journalist Award**' for this social work.

PART- 2

Experience Lesson

The basis of the cultural identity of every person is his own heritage. KK Muhammed expressed his strong views on religion and terrorism in an open manner:

- A Muslim who is not ready to accept Ram and Krishna as the patriarchs of his culture in the name of religion cannot become an Indian in the true sense. Similarly, even a Hindu who does not believe in Qutubuddin Aibak and Akbar cannot become a true Indian.
- Today's history is being studied from a communal point of view, which is wrong.
- The Muslim rulers made many mistakes in the medieval period. Muslims must be ready to accept these mistakes, and Hindus must forgive them. By doing this, the path of nation-building will be smooth.
- At present, the Muslims of India wander like souls, carrying the burden of the sins committed by their forefathers on their shoulders. They do not want to accept the mistakes; rather, they try to reduce the sense of sin from the principles derived from Marxists economic point of view.

Government Employee and Media

Government employees should have good relations with the mediums who work as the fourth pillar of democracy. In government service, KK Mohammed always got the active support of the media. His social life started with book reading. I also believe that reading books opens up the windows and doors of the mind. I developed the habit of questioning through books, and to this day, books are my best friends.

Ayodhya: Some Historical Facts

KK Muhammed was one of the members of the Ayodhya excavation team under the leadership of Professor B.B. Lal. The following historical facts were narrated by KK Muhammed as part of the excavation team:

- When he reached there for the excavation, there were temple pillars on the walls of the Babri Masjid.
- In the lower part of the pillar, full urns were made, as seen in the 11th-12th century temples. Full urns are one of the eight Aishwarya symbols in the temple art.
- The same type of pillar and the brick plinth under it were obtained from the construction of the sides and rear of the mosque, as was earlier told about the pillar made of stone.

Based on this evidence, KK Muhammed said that there was a temple under the Babri Masjid. His statement came on 15th December, 1990.

Become 'Vishav Guru'

Knowledge of one's heritage is very important for the development of new ideas and for increasing self-confidence in any society. Due to its rich cultural heritage, India was sitting at the helm of Vishva Guru. We can take the nation to new heights by making a new generation aware of our culturally influential heritage. It is sad that no government has tried to convert our historical monuments into sources of our cultural consciousness.

Summary

After reading this book, it dawned on me that had I not joined the armed forces, I would have been an archaeologist. This book is an honest depiction of KK Muhammed's life while fighting with the system without any compromise in his work ethics. He is a role model of chivalry and transformational leadership. He stood for the truth and lived his life with great valour. Every person entering public service should draw inspiration from the ethical values displayed in his professional career. He never hesitated to select tough assignments due to his ability to anchor his decisions. I will correlate Padam Shri KK Muhammed with our former President of India and Missile Man Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam with the concepts of simple living and high thinking.

Recommendation And Rating

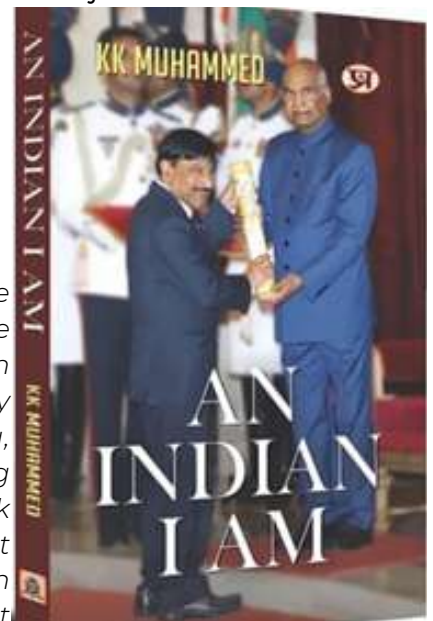
The book is a must-read for every Indian as it depicts the values and ethos displayed by a common man called KK Muhammed. His kind and straightforward approach to life makes bumpy journeys look smooth. My rating for this book is 5 stars.

Other Resources:

- (a) You Tube Video of The Lallantop Show with Saurabh Diwedi.
- (b) Podcast with Ranveer Allahbadi: Ram Mandir, Dwarka & Mohenjo-Daro.
- (c) New Book "An Indian I Am" available at Amazon.



Lt Cdr Varun Kumar Dhand retired from the Indian Navy with 11 years of service in the executive cadre. He left the Indian Navy in 2018. Presently, he is working as Deputy Manager (Security) at the State Bank of India, Mumbai. He is passionate about reading books, running marathons, writing book reviews, and writing and debating on different topics of national importance. Readers can share their feedback on book review at dhand1984@gmail.com.



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

Special Feature



Dream Big

Special Feature

Each month we have a different theme for our magazine. For the Sep 2023 Issue we have selected the theme as **Dream Big - as we invite military veterans who have ever Dreamt Big and then gone to achieve that dream.**

The Next few pages are dedicated to few randomly picked Veterans in their own words.

Name: Col Atul Kumar
Arm: Army - AOC
Current Org: AKS IT Services
Current Role: CEO



Q: What did you Dream Big about? Why did it seem difficult?

A: I wished to head a corporate organisation at CXO level. The typical apprehensions and mindset of an army officer made it seem difficult.

Q: What were the efforts you made to make the dream come true? Share in detail?

A: I acquired academic qualifications, interacted with industry personnel, expanded my professional network, and most importantly, modified my own mindset and attitude. Learning, relearning, and unlearning skills and attributes of professional character helped.

Q: What were the roadblocks or impediments on the way?

A: Own mindset and apprehensions, societal and family question marks, and the non-availability of seamless transition avenues were major issues.

Q: How did you overcome these roadblocks?

A: I worked on self-improvement, developed a positive attitude towards my own transition, learned skills and interacted with peers in corporate to gain confidence in my abilities, discussed the family implications of my transition, including financial issues, and finally networked with industry acquaintances. I joined Deloitte in a senior role.

Q: Your advice to others?

A: Dream Big, set a goal, empower yourself, act, and don't look back. You are good, and the only person you need to tell that to is YOU. Secondly, don't look for a job in only the Big Four. There are far too many better opportunities, including freelance projects, that can help you reach your goal, especially in the era of gig workers.

Q: Remarks?

A: I am always available to transitioning veterans for advice, with the experience of Deloitte, BCG, and AKS behind me.

Name: Col Arun Hariharn

Arm: Army - Engrs

Current Org: Bharti Airtel

Current Role: Vice President and National Head of Nodal Affairs, Security and EHS



Q: What did you Dream Big about? Why did it seem difficult?

A: I dreamt of making it big in a corporate career and be at a strategic level role in a large and reputed organisation. An ideal role I looked for was a semi-tech one which gave me lot of freedom and scope to grow professionally, intellectually and also add solid value to the organisation.

Q: What were the efforts you made to make the dream come true? Share in detail?

A: Put in lots of effort and hands on work to understand the ropes Built up my team and kept them motivated. Added value professionally by getting myself the right certifications Kept my energy levels high at all times

Q: What were the roadblocks or impediments on the way?

A: Frustration when growth does not happen as fast as one would like it to; monotony in role; corporate politics.

Q: How did you overcome these roadblocks?

A: Positive attitude, keeping team motivated to deliver each time, keep pushing up the bar for self and team, professional education and learning.

Q: Your advice to others?

A: Stay motivated, be sincere in your work, have pride and respect in the job you are doing, keep your team motivated at all times, be an unselfish leader , read a lot of books.

Name: Lt Col Tyagvir Raghava

Arm: Army - Signals

Current Org: Tyagvir's Academy of True Empowerment

Current Role: Founder



Q: What did you Dream Big about? Why did it seem difficult?

A: I wanted to start an initiative to help mid-career professionals with life skills so they are able to negotiate life's challenges with courage & commitment.

Q: What were the efforts you made to make the dream come true? Share in detail?

A: First I found my mentor & then took action to empower myself with lot of life's learnings. I invested in my upskilling and training.

Q: What were the roadblocks or impediments on the way?

A: Being an Army veteran & a corporate Professional, biggest impediment was getting into absolute new domain of Self-Development Industry. I quit a very high paying corporate job against the wishes of family members & invested lacs of rupees on my Self Development.

Q: How did you overcome these roadblocks?

A: After I found purpose of my life to empower others, I could define my vision & mission. My vision is to help people to Unhook Their Past & Win Life Like a Warrior. Where W.A.R.R I.O.R is my 7 step frame work to transform the life of my mentees.

Q: Your advice to others?

A: My advice to others is to become WARRIOR of your life.. meaning you must be sitting on driver seat of your life. Be Fearless, Fierce & Flawed in Life. Why flawed...means...you don't look for being perfect rather be action taken..

Name: Gp Capt Inder Bir Singh
Arm: IAF - Administration
Current Org: ANSAL GROUP
Current Role: President



Q: What did you Dream Big about? Why did it seem difficult?

A: I always had a dream of becoming the top CEO real estate. I achieved it in two years of my career in civil and there after have been only CEO/Director/President in real estate.

Q: What were the efforts you made to make the dream come true? Share in detail?

A: I first learnt about the real estate and all its organisational functions while being in service and then became the member of PHD and Urban and Rural Committee of India. There after had networking with most of the real estate groups. I then took the challenge to transform the company with first real estate company. Within two years I was awarded as TOP-10 CEOs and Most innovative CEO awards.

Q: What were the roadblocks or impediments on the way?

A: For obvious reasons there was resistance in the org to have a CEO from a defence background. The work ethic in the org needed to be changed and realigned.

Q: How did you overcome these roadblocks?

A: I started six months before I took retirement with the study on sector i wanted to join. I did my security courses of corporate sector and also learnt about the escalators, travellators, Chillers and other technical equipment.

Q: Your advice to others?

A: Before we venture out in Civil street we need to upgrade our self and also make aware of the circumstances along with the requirements. We need to plan well for transition to the civil sector and never settle for less.

Name: Capt (IN) Sandeep Sharma

Arm: Navy - GS

Current Org: Self Employed

Current Role: Consultant



Q: What did you Dream Big about? Why did it seem difficult?

A: A good position in an international MNC job. Ended up working in 5 countries over a span of 17 years. My children became global citizens as a result. Seemed difficult as no precedence as far as I knew.

Q: What were the efforts you made to make the dream come true? Share in detail?

A: Doing a 3 year Executive MBA from a top school whilst still in service. Building a professional Network.

Q: What were the roadblocks or impediments on the way?

A: Waiting for opportunities. Separating the chaff from the wheat.

Q: How did you overcome these roadblocks?

A: Remained focussed and positive. Kept striving and improving myself.

Q: Your advice to others?

A: Dream big, but be realistic as well

Name: Maj Rajat Chakraborty

Arm: Army - Engineers

Current Org: Yes Bank

Current Role: VP Security



Q: What did you Dream Big about? Why did it seem difficult?

A: I loved to travel and document the memories of my journey in a travel diary. But then one day, when my family inspired me to write online. I then discovered Blogging. Here's the thing. I was never a writer. But today I am a renowned Travel Blogger.

Q: What were the efforts you made to make the dream come true? Share in detail?

A: I started my travel blogging journey in 2012, when the concept was still evolutionary. As I continued writing writing became my sacred space. After writing for one complete year, I realized I have finally found something I will not have to take a holiday from anymore. For 2 years, not much happened. In 2015, I got my first opportunity with a British Travel Firm Hipmunk, (now Fare Compare) resulting in multiple 150+ freelancing writing projects. Sep 2018, I published my first ebook Uttarakhand Diaries – The Unspoken Tales from the Mountains, In 2020, I got my first opportunity with the Forces Network to conduct a batch to teach officers about Self-Publishing.

Q: What were the roadblocks or impediments on the way?

A: My belief that my language and grammar is poor. My second roadblock was to create a flow of thoughts in my writing. I understood that in order to improve myself, I needed to know the thought process of some of the best authors in the world. I realized that the grammar may be bad, but the story cannot be. I wanted to learn the art of authentic storytelling.

Q: How did you overcome these roadblocks?

A: Remained focussed and positive. Kept striving and improving myself.

Q: Your advice to others?

A: Dream big, but be realistic as well

Name: Col Harish Chandra Singh

Arm: Army - Arty

Current Org: Entrepreneur

Current Role: Organic Farming



Q: What did you Dream Big about? Why did it seem difficult?

A: I planned to set up a farm to cater to organic products, which are extremely high-value food produce. The difficulties envisaged were the procurement of land, the selection of crops, and training.

Q: What were the efforts you made to make the dream come true? Share in detail?

A: I underwent training at various agricultural institutes from the grass roots. Disposed of a property to buy a portion of land. Started with experimenting with various crops brought from all over the world. After a few years of effort and trial and error, I was able to home in on chia seeds, quinoa, dragon fruit, etc., which I was able to grow on a large scale.

Q: What were the roadblocks or impediments on the way?

A: Obtaining government organization support, particularly from the Agriculture Department, is difficult.

Q: How did you overcome these roadblocks?

A: I started on a small scale and increased the area after successful trials. I was able to show a new path to the farmers of Uttar Pradesh by growing dragon fruit in Amseruwa village, Barabanki. I was also the first to produce quinoa in India.

Q: Your advice to others?

A: Don't give up; dream big.

Q. Remarks

A: First to introduce chia seeds and dragon fruit in U.P. and was mentioned by the PM in his Mann ki Baat Program in February 2021.

Name: Maj Pravin Singh

Arm: Army - Artillery - Parachute Regiment

Current Org: Cardinal Warriors Private Military School

Current Role: Founder Director



Q: What did you Dream Big about? Why did it seem difficult?

A: Create a private military school in line with Sainik schools. The existing government-sponsored Sainik schools were simply inadequate to meet the demands of the aspirants.

Q: What were the efforts you made to make the dream come true? Share in detail?

A: I gained experience first by working at the MBP Military School as a Commandant in Gondia.

Q: What were the roadblocks or impediments on the way?

A: Finance, HR, permissions, etc.

Q: How did you overcome these roadblocks?

A: Pooled in funds from friends and family by sharing equity with them. Employing all my personal connections to get the best of HR staff. Founded the Confluence Military School (the first private military school in Chhattisgarh).

Q: Your advice to others?

A: Dream big and never give up.

Q. Remarks

A: Be what you want to be. Watch this video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozO5PaDtzwQ&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.entrepreneurstories.com%2F&feature=emb_imp_woyt

Name: Col Anshuman Srivastava
Arm: Army - Army Ordnance Corps
Current Org: Amazon
Current Role: Operations Manager



Q: What did you Dream Big about? Why did it seem difficult?

A: Enter the corporate world and establish myself in the fields of Program Management and Operations in a short period of time.

Q: What were the efforts you made to make the dream come true? Share in detail?

A: Learn the terminology, processes, and organisational requirements in the shortest possible time. This could be achieved by spending extra bandwidth in the initial months, interacting with peers, and clarifying doubts from all, irrespective of position. Online modules provided by the company also assisted in scaling up faster.

Q: What were the roadblocks or impediments on the way?

A: Initially, I took some time to adapt to the culture. Also, the jargon was intimidating to begin with.

Q: How did you overcome these roadblocks?

A: I prepared well in advance. I spent extra hours learning and understanding. I also attended several trainings conducted by the Forces Network. Leveraging the people management skills of the Army.

Q: Your advice to others?

A: Be curious to learn new things rather than only flaunting what you already know from our Forces experience.

Leisure

The Stubborn Friends

BY KAVYAA RAJESH NAIR

Once, there were two friends called Sunita and Lalita. They were best friends but quarreled over foolish things. Both girls thought of sharing a house. At first, they were happy, but after moving into the house, they started to quarrel.

Sunita: I am going to use that bedroom.

Lalita: No, I am.

Sunita: Close the door, Lalita.

Lalita: Do I look like a servant to you? Do it yourself.

Sunita: Let's keep the challenge: whoever talks or moves first has to close the door.

Lalita: Agreed.

Both girls got their chairs and sat down. At night, thieves came when they saw the door open. They cleaned the whole room, even the jewelry that the girls had worn, and left the house. After some time, the watchmen came, seeing that the door was open. He started calling the girls, but they did not speak.



**Free art from web used as pic*

Guard: Hey, close your doors; your house has been robbed.

-----The girls did not respond. After calling them for some time,

Guard: You better answer, or I will take you to court.

-----Still no answer

Guard: Fine, then I am calling the cops to take you to court.

The guard called policemen, and they took the girls to the court. There, the judge asked the girls questions.

Judge: Maam, can you please tell me why you did not cooperate with the guard?

-----no answer

Judge: Maam, if you don't answer, you will be given a serious penalty.

-----Still no answer

Judge: The cops take them away and put them in jail.

Sunita: Please don't hurt her.

Lalita: Ha, you opened your mouth. Now you have to close the door.

Sunita: Judge, please forgive us. Now, please let us go back home.

Judge: Fine. But from now on, you have to cooperate with your guards.

Sunita and Lalita together: We agree, sir.

After reaching home, they were shocked. They found out that their whole house had been robbed. Oh, how they regretted being so stubborn.

I wish I could tell you that they lived happily ever after.



Kavyaa, the daughter of a veteran, is a Class VII student at Army Public School Kirkee, Pune. She loves reading books and writing imaginative stories. This is her first try with the pen. In her free time, she swims and plays football.

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



Forces Network members in the Tricity at Chandigarh

Sitting L-R: IQ, Col MS Chahal, Col Rajesh Sharma, Capt Sharma

Standing L-R: Maj Shikha Saxena, Col Ajaydeep Dalli, Maj Avneet Kaur, Col Sundeeep Salwan, Col Harbir Pannu, Col Manjeet Singh

Kneeling Down In front: Two sons of Col MS Chahal

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If you do, please don't forget to share the photos along with the names

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