

FORCENET E-ZINE

Magazine of the military veterans in the corporate

CYBER SECURITY

A primer

MAJ ABHISHEK MANI SHARMA

The Risk expert

CDR CLIFFORD PARAH

The Illusionist

CAPT ABRAHAM CHACKO

Creating Employment

THE INDIAN IT ACT

Sec 67

VANSH LUTHRA

The Artist

EXHILARATION



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FORCENET

Contents

From the Editor	3
Star of Forces Network: Maj Abhishek Mani Sharma.....	16 - 20
ForceNetPreneurs: Cdr Clifford N Parakh.....	21 - 29
Expatriate Interview: Capt Abraham Chacko.....	30 - 36
Stars on the Horizon: Vansh Luthra.....	37 - 44
Cyber Security - A Primer Part III by Col Atul Kumar.....	45 - 55
IT Act - Transmitting Obscene Material by Capt Ashwin Pradhan.....	56 - 61
An Avaitor's Port of Call? by Brig Krishnaraj Nambiar.....	63 - 67
Exhilaration is the New Normal by Capt Punyasloka Panda	68 - 70
Chevening Scholarship by Lt Cdr Bidisha Pandey	71 - 73
Creativity is De-stressing & Rejuvenating by Sq Ldr Meena Arora.....	74 - 75
Transition Tales by Col Apurva Tandon.....	76 - 81
Matrimonials	82

[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.

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From the Editor

Dear Reader,

Am I exhilarated in writing my first editorial for the Forcenet E-Zine? . The answer to my first question is an resounding YESSS! I have big shoes to fill as Lt Col Ranvir has moved ahead due to professional commitments of another demanding assignment.

What's an EXHILARATION. Well the dictionary meaning of exhilaration is "a feeling of excitement, happiness, or elation".

The Forces is one place where one gets to live an exhilarating life, no two days are the same, terrain changes, enemy changes, type of operation changes, teams change and much more. All that keeps us deeply engaged, invigorated, animated, enlivened and inspired. Sadly, in our civilian avatars most of us are happy beating the comfortable and safe path. Many of us get into a rut, same career path, same routine that tends to make our lives soporific, numbing and somnolent. This could lead to our brains thinking in the same linear ways as in the past, it makes no new connections and our memory becomes static, this leads to frustration and lack of fulfillment in our lives.

By adopting the theme of Exhilaration we urge our readers to challenge themselves with new much tougher and demanding goals, move out of the comfort zone, come up with non linear ways of reaching your goals, keep learning and seeking feedback, take up new certifications, think of changing your profile, develop new skill set this would lead to rewiring of your brain. This results in your brain resetting your memories based on the new rules, your memory is nothing but a working model of the world. The more your memory changes it enables you to view the world differently opening up newer vistas & opportunities. This also results in increase sense of focused, alertness, heightened strength and endurance, and the feeling of competence. Worry less about what other people think, make your goals enormously bigger, keep taking progressive action towards your goals, this would make you feel happy which boosts your confidence that gives you more imagination and you start feeling EXHILARATING every single day.

Here is raising a toast to a much more exhilaration in your life day after day!

Until next time, cheers to the Forces Network - the 'Network that Works'!!!



Take care, and stay safe.

Regards,
Capt. Rajesh Nair

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IOSH

Managing Safely

Training Calendar October to December 2021

Mode	Dates	Time	Duration
Online/ Class room	04 to 12 Oct. 2021	1730 to 2030 hrs.	7 days (22 hrs.)
	18 to 22 Oct. 2021	1000 to 1600 hrs.	5 days (22 hrs.)
	01 to 09 Nov. 2021	1730 to 2030 hrs.	7 days (22 hrs.)
	15 to 19 Nov. 2021	1000 to 1600 hrs.	5 days (22 hrs.)
	29 Nov. to 07 Dec. 2021	1730 to 2030 hrs.	7 days (22 hrs.)
	13 to 17 Dec. 2021	1000 to 1600 hrs.	5 days (22 hrs.)

[Registration Link](#)

A flexible 22 hours international course from IOSH-UK; the Chartered body and largest membership organization for health and safety professionals, covering the Safety and Health Management in a high impact interactive package

Who is it for ?

The training is primarily aimed for managers and supervisors (but not limited to) in any sector, and any organization. The target audience includes:

- Executives
- Heads of Departments
- General Employees and
- Graduates/Undergraduates (Freshers)

What are the Intended Outcomes ?

On successful completion of the training, Delegates will be able to:

- Understand their health and Safety roles and responsibilities
- Identify the different types of hazards in the workplace, demonstrate best techniques to assess and control risks
- Gain International recognition and boost their career prospects
- Promote organization wide safety culture
- Get globally recognized and respected certificate from IOSH - UK

Employers will be able to achieve:

- Greater productivity, from fewer hours lost due to sickness and accidents
- Improved company-wide safety awareness culture and appreciation of safety measures
- Active staff involvement to improve the workplace
- Enhanced reputation within the supply chain

Curriculum Overview

IOSH Managing Safely covers:

- Introducing Managing Safely
- Assessing risks
- Controlling risks
- Understanding responsibilities
- Understanding hazards
- Investigating incidents
- Measuring performance

* Post training, the delegates will be evaluated via an assessment (MCQs) and a Workplace Risk Assessment Project.



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Who can take part?

- ❖ Any entrepreneur who wishes to establish a Private Security Agency
- ❖ Any serving/retired uniformed forces personnel aspiring to join the security industry/run a security agency
- ❖ Security Training Faculties

Curriculum Overview

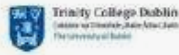
- ❖ Overview of Private Security Industry in India
- ❖ Legal Requirements for Operating a Security Agency
- ❖ Operational Management of a Security Agency
- ❖ Recruitment & Training for a Security Agency
- ❖ Human Resources Management & Compliances in a Security Agency
- ❖ Financial Management in a Security Agency

Intended outcomes

- ❖ Understanding the Present security scenario, Status of Private Security industry and Opportunities of Private Security
- ❖ Acquiring knowledge of Legal requirements for operating a Security Agency and Licensing process
- ❖ Acquainting with operational procedure of a Security Agency and tender/ bidding procedure.
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- ❖ Gain knowledge regarding effective Human Resource Management
- ❖ Able to understand the process of recruitment & training

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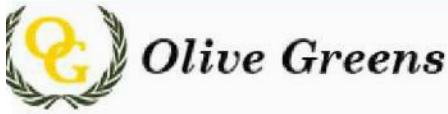


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Corbett Oxycation Resort is a unique Leisure and Enrichment hub that is crafted on the idea of Purposeful Vacations with Oxygen. Located in the sleepy village of Kyari, deep in the forests of Jim Corbett National Park. It is roughly a 7 Km drive from the nearest town of Ramnagar. Two seasonal rivers - Dabka and Khichdi - flow on either side of the village, making for lush green forests all-round the year. This is one of the first properties to come up in this area that is often called the Jewel of Kyari.

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You can walk in any direction from the resort and you'll land straight into the lushness of Jim Corbett National Park. The resort offers sumptuous breakfast to all guests, and in addition to this, you can also visit the nearby Tea and Maggi stalls for a quick bite too.

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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 UDAY K SHRIWAS

Major Abhishek Mani Sharma was commissioned into the Corps of Signals after passing out from OTA, Chennai in Sep 2000. He served with the Indian Army for 5 years, thereafter he moved to corporate & joined a Bank. He has more than 16 years of experience in Risk & Security domain working with prestigious organisations like ICICI bank, PROSEGUR, SAS, Microsoft & Bank of America. Currently, he is working as India SEA lead for Risk & Security for a Global MNC. Happily married to the love of his life, who is a professional designer. They both are blessed with a teenage son. He is professionally highly decorated with several Global Gold standard certifications.



Uday: Please tell us something about your background prior to joining the Army, and your subsequent Army career?

Abhishek: I belong to Dehradun & have studied in one of the best schools of the country, St Joseph's Academy. I am a science graduate with an MBA degree. I was a fresh management graduate when I decided to appear for the CDS exam & eventually joined Officer Training (OTA) in 1999. It was the year 1999 when Kargil war had just been declared and the whole nation was under the patriotic fever. I got commissioned into Corp of Signals on 02nd Sep 2000. I have been very fortunate to have worked in various units in different locations in North & NE Sectors. Post commissioning, I was posted in NE in Binnaguri before joining YO's at MHOW. Unfortunately, our YO's course was curtailed by a few weeks. due to the parliament attack in Dec. On my new posting I reported to a Division, which was one of the best & most prestigious Divisions in the Indian Army. I am blessed to have been posted to Siachen Glacier as a sparrow (Signal Officer in command) with added responsibility of base adjutant. I did my tenure of Glacier by spending memorable time at different posts. Post the Glacier tenure I had a very satisfying tenure as G3 & sparrow of a Brigade. Post my field I was posted to Chandimandir for my peace posting. With my contractual period of 5 years Short Service commission coming to end I opted out of the forces & prepared myself for the Corporate World.



Young Officer

Uday: Please give us more details about what you are presently engaged in?

Abhishek: Presently I am working with an MNC as Risk & Security Leader for India & South East Asia. My responsibilities include ensuring Life Safety of employee & Asset protection. I manage crisis & incident management for business along with supporting event & travel security.

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

Abhishek: When I moved out of the armed forces in 2006, I was not even aware of what the future holds for me & also did not know how to search for a job in the corporate world. But then I was confident & with guidance from seniors, colleagues & friends & blessings from the all mighty, started exploring opportunities. I applied for various jobs initially at a call centre as team leader, Taj Hotel, Reliance, ICICI, etc & finally joined ICICI Bank as Manager with RLOG Vertical in a leadership role. “God has been kind”.

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

Abhishek: Adaptability to the new contrasting & challenging environment. Acquiring specialized skills to suit the profile with a competitive atmosphere. Being agile & following the philosophy of Learn, Unlearn & Relearn came in handy in my transition to the corporate world.

I believe self-assessment is the 1st step, we need to have a candid SWOT analysis of oneself understanding strengths & weakness. Keep a growth mindset, take risks & follow - Learn, Unlearn & relearn Philosophy. A never say-die attitude, focussed approach, perseverance and a positive spirit were some of the traits I carried forward to my new roles in the corporate world. Keep learning & keep growing is the mantra.



Industry Recognition



With Better half



IFSEC Award for Jury Member

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

Abhishek: Corporate world has treated me well, so far so good. I have been fortunate to work with the best of the MNCs in my career, with best of the professionals in the industry & honoured to have worked with world's tall leaders. The exposure has been phenomenal & learnings have been immense.

I am recipient of "Honorary Membership & Badge of Honour" by Central Association of Private Security Industry (CAPSI) - The preeminent organization for security professionals in 2020. I have also won the leadership award of "Professional Excellence in Security Management" organised annually by CE Worldwide in collaboration with FMLA at the 113th award ceremony in 2019. Honoured to be on board of Jury member for IFSEC awards (IFSEC International is an annual trade fair and conference for the global security industry in collaboration with UBM a British business-to-business event's organiser headquartered in London, in the year 2018.

I also got the opportunity to share physical & digital platforms on various forums with the best industry professional by being a panellist & speaker at various industry forums. I am Certified Protection Professional (CPP) Gold standard in Security, Professional Certified Investigator (PCI) - Gold standard in Investigation & Certified Business Continuity Professional (CBCP) - Gold standard in Crisis & Business continuity.

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

Abhishek: What got you here will not get you there. So, keep learning new things everyday & keep growing. One should not stop the learning curve. Sharing few of my favourite learning quotes which I follow

- Learn, Unlearn & Relearn - Keep learning, upgrade your skills, both technical & soft skills
- It's ok not to know, it's not ok not to learn.
- To get something you never had, you must do something you never did.
- Dream Impossible & take initiatives
- Expand your network - Either you are NET Working or NOT working
- Be empathetic and help others
- I never lose, either I win, or I learn.
- Have a mentor to guide you. Don't shy from taking guidance.

Uday: What are your plans for the future?

Abhishek: No plans as such. Just go with the flow. Keep learning ,keep moving & keep growing. Give respect & gratitude to each other.

Uday: The VUCA world is a huge learning experience for all of us. 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?

Abhishek: I am a SME who is handling the crisis & VUCA environment. Adapting new technology, working in a virtual world with flexible working style has given a new dimension to Digital adoption. Fortunately, for me I did not face a major challenge, rather I am better off with the new arrangement & comfortable with WFH & Hybrid working style.



VUCA learning - Spending time with Family

The pandemic has made all of us realise that life is fragile & is worth living for. I believe we all have grown more empathetic & cornered towards each other's well being & happiness. Technology has made it easier for us to see each other, feel connected to our loved ones, friends, families. God has been kind that I have my friends & family who are always available to support me emotionally & spiritually. As in the army we say " This shall too pass" so just hold on & keep working.

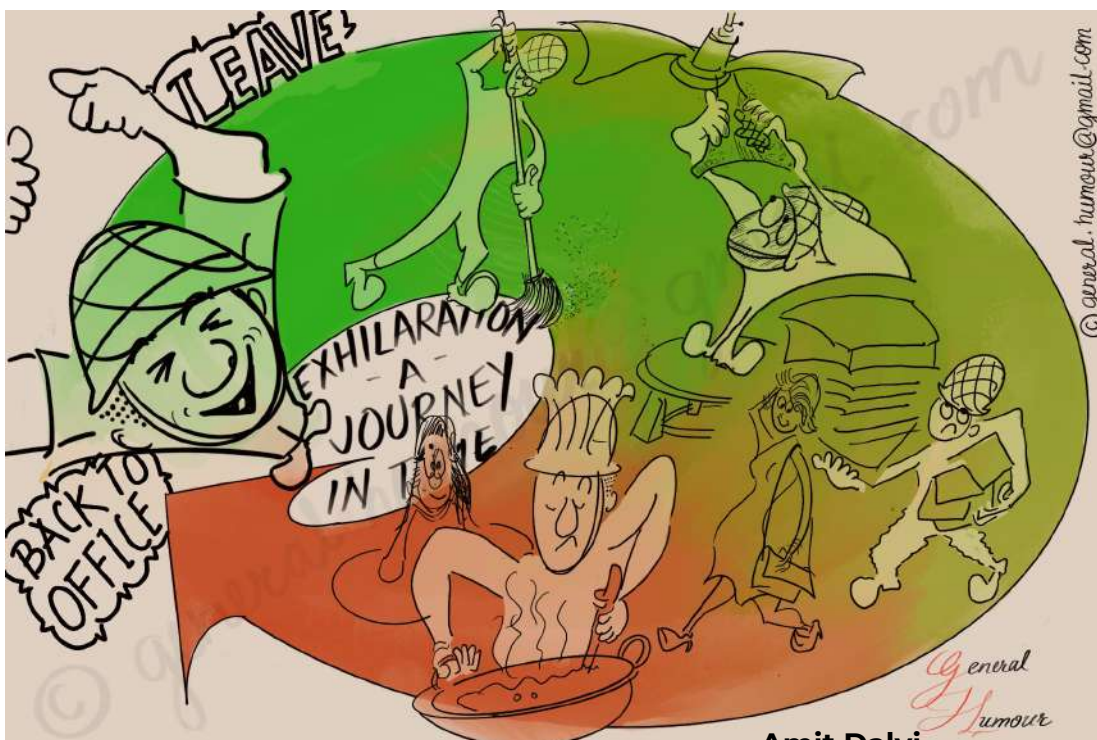
Uday: Do you have any other hobbies or interests, which you pursue passionately? And how?

Abhishek: I am a workaholic & love spending time with my family. I love listening or reading motivational posts, article that inspire me. Of late I have grown my interest in physical & mental well being, so squash is one game which I try to play regularly for physical fitness & mental agility. I try to support the Fauji fraternity through various mediums & whatsapp groups. Finally, I love to interact, connect & network with professionals & try to explore & keep up with technology.



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 Article, by clicking/tapping [HERE](#) - Author



ForceNetPreneurs

In this series we plan to showcase a few entrepreneur members of Forces Network who have achieved a reasonable degree of success in their business ventures. The aim being to celebrate their success as also to learn from them with a view to motivating more amongst our community to take up entrepreneurship as a full time vocation. Finally - we do need job creators in greater numbers than job seekers.

IN INTERACTION WITH UDAY K SHRIWAS

Cdr Clifford N Parakh is from the 80th Batch of National Defence Academy, commissioned into the Indian Navy. He is a Gunnery specialised officer, who is pursuing a career unheard of - **as an Illusionist** . He is an alumnus of St Joseph Academy Dehra Dun and is currently settled at Goa. Why did Clifford take up Magic as his profession? .Lets hear it from the horses mouth in this very unique interview with Illusionist Clifford.



Uday: Please tell us about the life you spent in Navy? What's the best thing that Navy life teaches you?

Clifford: I was Commissioned into the Indian Navy on 1st Jan 1993. I am specialised in Gunnery and had the rare opportunity of test firing a salvo missile as a preparation for the Kargil operations. I served 22 years in the Indian Navy and took premature retirement as a Commander in 2014 .

What is the best thing the Navy teaches me? In fact If I look at myself, all the positive traits that I have is because of my tenure in the Indian Navy. Punctuality, self-discipline, positive attitude and confidence are all traits that I have gained while serving the Navy.



Navy has instilled the qualities for my success

Uday: Any specific moment from your Navy Service which is your lifelong memory?

Clifford : Yes the highlight of my Navel career was certainly the successful test firing of salvo Missiles at sea. This was memorable because my ship was the third stand by ship for this very high profile salvo firing. As it was destined to happen the first and the second ship developed technical problems and I was fortunate to make history. This probably was also the first salvo missile firing by the Indian Navy post-independence.

Uday: As you started your life after Navy what's been your approach (preparation and research) to find your passion?

Clifford : I would like to answer this question starting with the following quote;
"Success is not the key to Happiness . Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing you will be successful."

Albert Schweitzer

They say that if you want to know your calling just close your eyes, imagine that if money was not a concern what would you do to keep yourself busy, the answer you get in all probability will be your calling. If you follow your calling you are following the path design for you by the creator, there will be no resistance because that's what you are made for and I realised that for me magic was my calling. When I did magic there was no effort involved. Things just happened with magic.

Now to find your calling is certainly not easy. Some people discover the calling late in their lives. I have been lucky to find my calling at the age of 33. And after that I made up my mind to follow my heart. I was born to entertain people and make them smile.



Bringing Smile to face

Uday: What was the reason for your choice to be an Illusionist? What's the role of family and friends in making such decisions?

Clifford : Look at nature, the birds are just flying. They are not trying to fly. The fish are just swimming in the water. It's so effortless. Similarly when you follow your passion its effortless. I chose to be an Illusionist because it came naturally to me. That does not mean that I did not put in time and effort in studying the art of Magic. I have spent years studying magic, drama, acting and humour. The 30 minute act of mine you see today is the outcome of 15 years of study and hard work.

My wife Radhika was the most important person behind me to help me to make this bold decision of following magic as my career. Leaving a sixth digit monthly salary and to walk a road rarely taken by anyone is not an easy decision to make. But Radhika encouraged me and wanted me to do what I love. Today she is always there helping me in my shows. She also performs a mind reading act in my corporate shows.



Partners on Stage and life

Uday: It is evident that you decided to choose a less traveled path and it certainly requires a lot of dedication to master the art. Tell us something about the early days in your life as an Illusionist and Magician?

Clifford : In the Civil Street it does not matter if you are a retired Commander or a Brigadier. No one will pay you money for free. At the start of my career I had to start from the scratch. Magic for the common man is a mode of entertainment only for children's birthday parties. A magician is considered as a kids entertainer. I also started performing magic for kids birthdays. But I needed to exploit my full potential. For me entertaining kids was fun but certainly no where near the challenging show I intended to perform. After performing for kids for a year, I approached the Local television channel and convinced them that I can give them a world class street Magic serial. Prime TV Goa launched the first magic serial in the history of Goa television called "Prime Ka Jadu". I did 40 serial on Prime TV. It can be viewed on YouTube now.



Show on Prime TV

Once I was on television I got popularity and the corporates started approaching me for corporate entertainment shows. I got an offer from India Got Talent and performed in IGT season 7. That's how my career took off as an Illusionist.

Uday: Would you like to talk about mentors and teachers who have guided you through your journey? Do you think mentors or teachers are really important in our life?

Clifford : If I did not meet my mentor Mr Edmundo Da Cunha, I certainly would have continued my career in the Navy. I would never have become an illusionist. When I met Mr Edmundo I was already a seasoned magician. My mentor did not teach me any magic but he made me realise the value of my art. As I have said magic for the common man is entertainment for kids in a birthday party. I too was of the same impression. Mr Edmundo is one of the top Illusionist of India and his top rates were Rs 2 lacs for a 30 minutes performance before the Pandemic struck the world and the entertainment industry. He made me realise the potential that I have in me and how magic can certainly be made a viable career.

Mr Edmundo was selfless and took me to his high profile shows and taught me things no book can teach. I consider myself very fortunate to have met him. Mentors and teachers are very important in our careers. The things you can learn from a master no book can teach you.

Uday: How was your experience as a performer and there must have been different kind of moments. Anything you would like to talk about which was a challenge and you could overcome that ?

Clifford: Yes The Covid crisis was the most challenging phase I have had in my career. Covid hit India in March 2020. The entertainment industry came to a grinding halt just like the rest of the world. The art of Magic is a live art. To keep it alive you need to keep performing magic. I had the challenge to convert my show to an online show. I had to redesign my show to suit a virtual audience. Now the audience will only be amazed if the magic happens in their hands across the screen or they make all the

choices as I do the trick. This was a big challenge. The whole concept of a magic performance had to be redesigned. I designed a 30 minute show to suit a virtual audience. I did a trial show. The show went off well. But there were so many other technical challenges with regards to handling the different modes of the computer, adding music as you perform, proper lighting, setting up the background etc. My living room was converted into a studio.

I was one of the first magicians in India to do a corporate show online on 27 April 2020 . Hence there began my transition to an online magic performer.



Entertaining the Hitachi and NetApp teams in an online show

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

Clifford: Though I have performed on TV and even been a Participant of the prestigious 'India Got Talent', my goal is not to win a big reality show or be India's Number one Magician, because then the whole purpose of expressing your Art is lost. You are trying to beat a fellow contestant there. You are not expressing the emotion of Love or Joy through your art. To see the wonder in the eyes of your audience as you do the "impossible" and feel their surprise and awe at a sudden "miracle" that defies logic is as thrilling to the performer as it is to the spectator. My Goal is to keep performing the art of Magic every day of my life because that comes so naturally to me. When I perform I can see my audience so happy, and that's what I am alive for. The expression of happiness and thankfulness by my audience is the greatest Trophy I get back home daily when I return from my Shows.

Uday: What advice would you like to give to those Who want to pursue a career path similar to yours? Many give up and do not follow their dreams(passion), what would you like to tell them?

Clifford: I have realised in the 15 years that I have been in magic and five years into professional magic that magic should certainly not be taken as your primary career. Like a good businessman who does not put all his eggs in one basket you should certainly invest your time and money on at least two or three different careers. The situation in the pandemic is a testimony to the risks of investing everything in one career. For the last two years the entertainment industry has been totally down. Very famous singers and musicians were faced for the first time with such a crisis. They had to take up vocations like selling fish or making a cloud kitchen to survive.

Yes choosing a career in entertainment is certainly demanding. You might feel you are good but when you go out in the entertainment world you find yourself lacking in many aspects. So the only way out is hard work and dedication. As an artist you will have to continue to perform whatever shows you get for days, weeks, months and years until you make it big. If you are not dependent on your art, you will be persistent and you will certainly make a career out of it one day. On the other hand if you are dependent on your art for your daily needs, you will soon have to abandon your dream.

Uday: You would agree that officers have amazing potential. What would be your message for them so that they find their passion areas and make Enjoyable as well as Rewarding career out of that?

Clifford: Yes being an officer from defence background makes a lot of difference. Let me take my case itself. Today I am hired by large Corporates not mainly for the type of Magic I do. They hire me because they are confident that Illusionist Clifford will not come to their most prestigious show of the Year improperly dressed, or they are confident that the magician will handle the ladies and the high profile guests with utmost care and respect. As an artist you come as a full package. And that package includes your behaviour, punctuality and self-discipline along with the magic performance that you are giving your clients.

So as a retired Defence officer the stage it is already set for you when you enter the Civil Street. All you need to do is harness your qualities and traits that are already existing within you. As I have previously said there are only a few lucky people who find their passion in life. So if you are one of them you must not be indecisive, just to go ahead and follow your passion. I leave you with the following para to ponder over:

My mom always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I was 5 years old and went to school they asked me what I wanted to be when I grow up. I wrote down "happy". They told me I didn't understand the assignment and I told them they didn't understand life.

Uday: Would you like to share few experiences, which touched your heart immensely as an artist and as a man who can bring smiles on face and create happy moments?

Clifford: Yes as a performer they are a lot of special moments in my life. The most memorable one is as follows:

In the many effects that I do in my magic performance there is one where I sign a card and after I perform, I give that card away to the volunteer who is participating with me on stage. Now since this effect spoils a card and one card becomes less in my packet of cards, I have made it a standard practice to always sign the four of spades. In fact I have purchased a full packet of 52 cards which has all four of spades from a magic shop. This way whenever I give a card I just add a 4 of spades from this special deck into my main deck.

I happened to visit Japan in 2019. I was in touch with Mr Yuko, a Japanese magician who stays in Osaka. I told him that I will certainly spend an evening with him when I visit Osaka. Mr Yuki is a street performer, and performs daily evening in Osaka. When I visited him he asked me to accompany him for his Street performance of Magic. After he had performed his act of 60 minutes he invited me on the stage to do a trick. He introduced me as his friend magician from India. The crowd was mainly Japanese but they were some people from Asia as well. I decided to do my 4 of spades signature card trick. Since the Japanese do not understand English I decided to call a lady from Asia who was in the audience. When she came on stage I learnt that she was from India. I took the four of spades and I put my big signature on it so that the audience can see. I continued my effect with the four of spades. In this effect the card is put in the middle of the deck by the spectator and without touching the deck the card rises on top of the packet. After I had finished my effect I told the lady that I am going to give her this card as a remembrance of the magic effect that I had done. To my surprise she said "before I take that card let me also show you one magic. I want you to put that signed card in your pocket". I was very surprised that she also knew magic. So I did what she told me, and put the card in my pocket. She continued "now I will say the magic words abracadabra and the card from your pocket is going to come straight into my purse which I am holding", to my surprise she opened her purse and took out a card. It was the four of spades and had my signature on it. The whole crowd went crazy. I was shell shocked for a moment. I accompanied the lady off stage. The ladies name was Pooja. Pooja smiled at me backstage and said "Sir, you will not remember but I had visited Goa in 2014 and I attended your show. This four space is the same card that you gave me 5 years ago. I always carry it with me."!!!

I could not believe the coincidence that a person from India who attended my show meets me in Japan and attends another show of me, and happens to carry the four of spades which I gave her 5 years ago. That was the nearest I ever came to real magic in my career.



Audience participation is an important part

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

Clifford: My achievements as an Illusionist are as follows :

- Featured in India's Got Talent season 7
- First magician to feature in a magic serial on local television in the state of Goa
- First prize winner close-up magic at Palwal Haryana 2009
- Recipient of the Karamveer Chakra award (silver) 2019



India Got Talent - Season 7 Participant

Uday: Anything that you would like to add as a learning from your vast experience of having performed at varied places, different set of audiences, unusual settings?

Clifford: I have performed 3000 Plus shows in the past 15 years. I have performed in a variety of venues, from the Royal ballroom of Taj Udaipur lake Palace to a small stage set up on the roadside for Ganpati celebrations in Mumbai. The most important factors to be a successful entertainer are :

- You need to connect with the audience
- The Pacing of your show should be quick. If in your 45 minutes performance the audience start thinking " what am I going to eat for dinner today ?" your performance is a failure. For that to happen you need to learn how to keep the audience hooked for 45 minutes. That is what separates a professional from an amateur
- We need to understand that the artist is the largest prop on the stage not the magic tricks. It is how you do it not what you do.

Uday: Mrs. Clifford you being life partner, how would you like to describe this wonderful journey of both of you together?

Radhika: As a child I always wanted to be on stage. I also wanted to pursue modelling as my career. But because of my conservative folks that was not possible. Clifford getting into magic and illusions, gave me an outlet to live my dreams. Being with Clifford on his shows is like going for a trip to a magical land. You visit new places and venues , you meet different people who are so enthralled by your magical performance. I love to face the spotlight and be the centre of attraction . It's so satisfying taking people out from their real words into a world of Magic and making them forget their problems momentarily. No amount of wealth can buy that experience.

Uday: If someone wants to contact you how do they get in touch with you or see your performance?

Clifford: You can reach me on my email address radhycliffmagic@gmail.com. you can also visit website www.cliffmagic.com. You can see the performances on You Tube Channel "Illusionist Clifford" or contact me on Insatagram at illusionist_clifford.

Uday: Thank you so much for sharing your wonderful journey with us and we pray that your Magic spreads beyond all borders and brings smiles on faces!!!.

Clifford: Thank you for giving me this opportunity to be featured among my comrades.



***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 Article, by clicking/tapping [HERE](#) - Editor

Never forget the importance of living with unbridled exhilaration.

— Robin Sharma —

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 UDAY K SHRIWAS

Capt Abraham Chacko was commissioned into Artillery in 2003 after passing out from OTA Chennai. He proudly served for five years and went to IIM Calcutta before joining the corporate and has worked in various companies like century ply, Darvesh group, Longgulf, Lodhia group in India and abroad before starting his entrepreneurial journey in the manufacturing sector. He is presently the Managing Director of Ojas Industries based out of Kenya and is also the manufacturing partner of JK cement for East African region.



Uday: Please tell us something about your background prior to joining the Armed Forces and your subsequent Forces career. Special moments from your Army Days?

Abraham: NOT BY OUR MERIT BUT BY HIS GRACE

Every letter my mother has ever written to me has started with the above phrase and it has guided me throughout my journey so far. It is a great honor to be featured in this illustrious magazine and must also confess I am a bit intimidated by the Titans who have featured before me in this section.

I was born in a wonderfully happy Army family. Both my parents have had the privilege of donning the olive greens. My mother being a nursing officer and my father has retired from AMC as a Lt Col. My younger brother is a Project Manager. I have been a KV Student throughout and did my graduation from the Prestigious BMCC college in Pune before joining OTA Chennai in SS 76 Batch, Meiktila company. I was commissioned into 33 Med Regt. and had the honor of being posted to Siachen on my first posting. I was also a part of the new raising of 620 SATA Bty.

I have proudly served with some of the finest officers during my tenure in the army but a special mention must be made for Col Ravi Menon my first CO who was and still continues to be a great source of Inspiration. Late Brig Sandeep Sood an officer par excellence and an even better human being, whose kindness we recall with lot of gratitude. Col A K Pandey who by his personal example taught me to have high standards be it personal life or professional. Col Sanjaya Goswamy who has been a mentor and guide till date and is someone I really look upto.



My Hero - My Father

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

Abraham: The dream of joining Army was the only dream I had since I was a 5 years old. My parents putting stars on my shoulders and me saluting my father is and always will be the most cherished moment in my life. The thing with dreams is that once they come true and you don't have any other dreams one tends to get a bit restless.. Leaving the services was a desire to explore the unknown and finding new goals and dreams. Here I must give credit to my better half Shery who is a film director by profession. She had an unflinching faith that some thing good would work out and with that belief we were ready for the adventure of our lifetime.

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

Abraham: Presently I am the Managing Director of OJAS INDUSTRIES. We have two factories in Kenya. One factory specializes in production of Construction chemicals, whereas the second factory is a manufacturing partnership with JK Cement. It is indeed a rare honor to be the first company ever to be making Wall Putty for JK Cement catering to the entire East African markets. Also along with my business partners Mr. Lucky Sharma and Mr. Shashi Shirol we have business interests in Renewable Energy, Hospitality sector and IT Sector.

Uday: Please tell us about your vision as you prepared for your second career after Army? Any special preparation as you have spent most of your time out of India after transitioning from Army?

Abraham: Once the mind was made up to leave. I like most of my coursemates felt a tremendous amount of excitement and also there was a common feeling of lack of information about the outside world or the Corporate world. It would have been really beneficial had Forces network been in existence during our time, which would have acted as a guiding light for veterans in the transition from the uniform to corporate. I had applied for the DGR course and was fortunate enough to get through to IIM Calcutta which in turn gave me a platform for my foray into the corporate world. My inclination was always towards business development and sales. My personal belief is that getting into sales in the beginning of my corporate career did the magic for me.

Century Ply recruited me through campus placement as sales head for north Karnataka and Goa. By the Grace of god my performance was recognised and was given a promotion and moved to Kerala. While in Kerala I got an opportunity to move to Tanzania to work with Lodhia group of companies and I do consider Mr Arun Lodhia the chairman of Lodhia group as my corporate Guru from whom I have learnt a lot. From there I went on to work with Longulf trading and Darvesh group as General Manager East Africa before venturing out on my own in 2018.

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

Abraham: When we talk of challenges through my journey, it can clearly be segregated into two parts. First was the transition from uniform to corporate and the second was moving from India to a foreign country.

The first part took a bit of time as there was a lot of unlearning that was required before the new learning's came and the only way that can happen is to keep an open mind and not have preset notions. Another big challenge I felt was the perception or the mindset that corporate has about veterans. Most of the corporate felt that we are amazing in security and admin roles but areas like top management, sales and business development were frowned upon. Changing Mindsets is not an easy task it requires lot of blood and sweat and for me because I chose to go into sales it was really an uphill task. I had to prove myself every month be it achieving the sales targets or managing the team but it all seemed worth it when my then Regional Head in Century Ply Mr Bharat Rao called me after 4 months and said "*Captain Saab kamal kar diy apne, humne kabhi nahi socha tha ki ek army officer sales kar payaga*". My team had achieved 150% growth in sales so the key according to me is to bite a lot more than you can chew and then work harder than everyone else in the organization to achieve your goals. Another very important skill which I can't emphasize enough is Networking. I have always felt that veterans are a bit reluctant and shy networking outside their circle of coursemates or Unit officers and the reason could be the comfort zone. But we must make an effort to meet people from all walks of life and be rest assured it will be real eye opener.

The second Challenge :

I had penned down a few lines when I was in Tanzania which sums up my feeling as a expat in a new country.

"Is sarzameen par hum bhi apni kismet azmane aye hain
Haste chahre pe mat jao, seene mein faulad laye hain
Is sarzameen par hum bhi apni kismet azmane aye hain
Dushman toh bahut mile ,kuch dost bhi banaye hain
Is sarzameen par hum bhi apni kismet azmane aye hain
Naya shehar hain, anjane log hain par hum apna bhagwan saath laye hain
Is sarzameen par hum bhi apni kismet azmane aye hain"

Some of the Challenges when moving out of India to a foreign country are:

Lack of personal support systems : While serving in the forces we don't realize the wonderful support system our organization provides us and even once we are working in corporate in India we all have the support of our extended family and friends. But the moment you leave your country and go abroad your personal support systems become zero and you have to start from scratch.

Different Business culture : Every country has its own business culture and it takes a bit of time to understand and adjust

Language barriers: Language barriers also tend to make life difficult as an Expat.

Loneliness : Feeling lonely or alone is one common challenges expatriates face when they first move abroad and the key here is to build strong bonds with the people around you, it takes time but is really rewarding as you make new friends who become like family and support system.

I moved to Africa in the year 2010 and the thought process behind it was the belief that Africa was going to be the last frontier and now 11 years down the line, I feel the world has woken up to the unlimited potential of the African continent and now every multinational worth its salt has their presence in Africa. I would definitely encourage Forces Network members to come to Africa especially East Africa if an opportunity comes their way. I am very sure you will find it a very enriching and rewarding experience.



Signing of Contract with JK Cement in Dubai

Uday: How do you plan to tackle the challenges thrown at you in this COVID-19 situation?

Abraham: Covid 19 was one major reality check in my opinion and no one was prepared for a pandemic of this magnitude. Me and my business partners actually took this time to do some soul searching and at that time our first priority was to take care of our employees. I am personally very grateful to God that we didn't have any lay offs or pay cuts for our employees, on the contrary we acquired and started four new companies which are all doing well and growing. Covid 19 actually reinstated in our minds the importance of having more than one source of income.

Uday: Lessons learnt which you would like to share with ForceNet members who want to take up Entrepreneurship?

Abraham:

*"Manzil Milegi ,bhatak kar hi sahi
Gumarah to wo Hain ,jo ghar se nikle hi nahin"*

- Mirza Ghalib

For me the journey has just about started and there is still a very long way to go. But I would like to share a few thoughts with the ForceNet members:

There is no right time to start: This is something which really needs to be understood. I have seen so many bright and enterprising people who are just waiting on the sidelines for every thing to be perfect before they start their entrepreneurial venture. And that perfect time never comes. The key is to start before you are ready and one has to take a leap of faith.

Dreamer and a Visionary: My firm belief is that people who want to be Entrepreneurs should be a healthy blend of dreamers and visionaries. Please have big and crazy dreams and it does not matter if the world thinks your ideas are crazy it will be fun to prove them all wrong and always remember that the world will be saved and changed by the Misfits and the dreamers. It is also imperative to have a vision for the future. You have to have a clear vision of what you want to create and then its all about translating your vision into reality

The road is rough: The ride is going to be bumpy and it is going to take everything you have to stay on. This journey will test your patience and give you more stress and sleepless nights than you can ever imagine. But the rough roads do lead to beautiful destinations and great adventures and when your dreams become reality it will be the greatest EXHILARATION you have ever known.

My genuine opinion is that all the members of Forces Network have what it takes and hope that more officers venture into business. I am absolutely sure they will do exceedingly well.

Uday: What are your future plans going forward?

Abraham: Way forward for us is going to be setting up factory's in four to five African countries in the next two years. We are also very excited about our companies which are dealing in Renewable energy and IT sector. The vision is to give employment to at over 10,000 people in the course of next five years. We are also exploring some exciting opportunities in the GCC region and in India particularly in the manufacturing sector .



With JK Cement Officials, at the launch

Uday: What about your hobbies or interests, which you pursue passionately? How do you make time for them?

Abraham: I am extremely fond of trekking, travelling, reading and music and spending time with my son Chacko who is a class 10th student. Wilber Smith has been my favorite author since I was in school and my favorite book is The Fountain Head by Ayn Rand. I Love ghazals and Urdu poetry and country music. Favorite singers are Kishore Kumar and Jagjit Singh. I also love to swim and manage to swim for at least an hour everyday. I think everyone has time its just a question of priority.



Pursuing hobbies with son

Quick Fire

Favorite Country?

India and Kenya

Favorite City?

Pune

Perfect Attire?

Suit

Academy?

OTA chennai

Favorite senior?

My Awesome and kind Over study Uday k Shriwas



With My Over Study

Course-mates?

Love them all but love Dheeraj Belwal, Amit Pachauri, Vikrant Gulani, Akshat Bharadwaj and Meiktila types a bit more.

Life?

Isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning how to dance in the rain.



Its a rare occasion when the under study and over study of Academy have come together for a interview in a magazine. Capt Chacko was understudy of Capt Uday (Mektila company) at OTA. Uday has interviewed his understudy in the above section. Its a moment of pride for both of them. We look to see more such success stories in future.



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

Risk always brings its own rewards:
the exhilaration of breaking through,
of getting to the other side; the
relief of a conflict healed; the clarity
when a paradox dissolves.

— Marilyn Ferguson —

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 change of stations. They possess very high adaptability skills, and immense potential as individuals. In this series we plan to showcase the achievements of such children of the members of Forces Network who are on the path to carve a niche for themselves through hard work, grit and determination, so as to provide adequate motivation to the others.

IN INTERACTION WITH UDAY SHRIWAS

Vansh is son of Col Varinder Luthra, He is an actor-producer currently based in Prague, and works full time in Deloitte Czech Republic. Graduating from Prague Film School as an actor, Vansh has acted in multiple films and international commercials. Apart from acting, Vansh has produced award winning shorts as well. His next projects in the pipeline are two feature films. In his Free time, Vansh loves to walk in forest and hike. Apart from that he runs on weekends and has completed the Prague full Marathon and ran multiple half marathons.



Uday: Please tell us about your childhood and the life you spent in an Army environment. What's the best thing that the Army life teaches you?

Vansh: How many kids can say both their parents serve for the Indian Army? I am one of those few. I remember being surrounded by the Olive green, Brasso, Madras Regiment tracksuits, the lush green of cantonments and the big Indian Army family.

During 99-2000, I was sent to a hostel, as my parents went to serve our motherland and I remember being teary-eyed and seeing news everyday about the changing situations a tour borders. I used to eagerly wait for that 2-minute call every evening from my parents to tell me that they're alive and well. Those days still are etched in my memory as if it was yesterday. One of the most important things I've learnt from the fauji life is being self-sufficient, not relying on someone else. The value of comradery, friendship and of course adaptability. Changing places, schools, friends; adaptability automatically sets in.

One of the other great values, which I am very grateful to my parents to have inculcated in me is respect. Respecting not only officers and their families but also our elders. Civilians would maybe never understand what 'Sahayak' Bhaiyas did for us and I considered them as my elder brothers, and I am still in touch with most of them. They have taught me a lot about life and respect. a fauji brat has always been a point of pride for me. We grow up all over the country, in different schools and with kids of diverse cultures. Leaving behind our friends and family and move to a completely new environment is not easy. It's a concept pretty hard to grasp for a child, but to be able to step outside that comfort zone and bubble, and to begin afresh even at such a

young age is what sets us apart. It brings about a certain level of maturity quite early on in our lives.

This ability to accept and adapt to all kinds of environments and situations now as adults was wired in our brains long back. I attribute my fauji upbringing through and through for making me the person I am today, hands down!

Uday: What has been your childhood dream and any specific moments from your early childhood which are inked in your memories related to that dream?

Vansh: I was always the attention seeker, and many times the centre of attention of



all the fauji parties. I remember a fancy dress competition in Kota, Rajasthan (where my parents were posted) my mom made me dress up as 'Pappu Pager' from some Govinda film then. I was 5 years old. My mom was constantly repeating the dialogue in the car, at the party and right before the stage in hopes that I would remember it and say it correctly on stage. With more than 50 fauji families present and many kids already on the stage, I went up and looked at my mother. Deafening silence, all eyes on me and I uttered: 'Mummy, mein kya bolu?'. All the families present there burst out laughing. That was my first acting gig and forgot the one single dialogue I was made to learn. What a start to my acting career.

Pappu Pager - The Start of Acting

Uday: As you started your college life what's been your approach (preparation and research) to get closer to your dreams?

Vansh: My mother wanted me to get a professional degree first before I plunged myself into the world of acting. And I am super thankful to her to push me in that direction. She didn't force me in any particular field but wanted to me to have a good bachelor's degree. Hence, I studied media communication from Symbiosis Pune. Later, I came to Prague, Czech Republic and studied acting for film and television at the reputed Prague Film School.

Uday: What was the reason for choice of a particular location and college? How did you prepare for your acting and Production career in the college?

Vansh: I am a big fan of Bollywood films, and the time I was growing more and more realistic films were being released. I as an actor wanted to learn the more subtle European style of acting, hence a film school in Europe was a no-brainer for me. I came to Prague, as the Prague Film School is very well reputed and many known professionals in Bollywood have studied here.

I'll be very honest; I didn't prepare much as an actor. I thought it's something in-built and My God! How wrong was I. This is as much as a craft as any other. But in the school, I was trained in various acting methods, dances, combat etc. and I understood the true value of this art-form.

Whereas, Production is something just came with instincts. I was acting in a film and the whole set was in shambles. I thought to myself 'I can't be a part of a film which is so unorganized'. I took the reigns of the whole production of the film and since then I call myself an actor/producer



The start of journey of an Actor and Producer

Uday: It is evident that you decided to choose a less travelled path and What was the Big motivation for doing so?

Vansh: Telling stories and making people laugh is something I learnt from my father. Maybe it's in the genes, maybe the upbringing, but I was always curious to tell stories and be the face of the story. Even in school, I was one of the few actors there, and I loved every single moment on stage. This love turned into love for films and then love for film acting.

The biggest motivation was winning the 'Best Actor Award' in my school. That day I realized, wow! There must be something in me. Maybe I am made for this.

Uday: Would you like to talk about mentors and teachers who have guided you through your journey? And why you think mentors or teachers are important in our life?

Vansh: I personally feel parents, family and friends are the biggest mentors in life. They teach you so many things knowingly and unknowingly, and I am ever grateful to my parents for making me the person I am today.

School is like a second home, and I still remember an incident from 2002, I was in the



With my Mentors "Parents:

third standard when one of the teachers made me the lead actor in one of the plays. That play changed the course of my life.

But the biggest turn came when my class teacher of 6th standard heard me mimicking Lalu Prasad Yadav, the then Railway Minister. She called me in front of the whole class, I felt she would humiliate me, but on the contrary, she asked me to share my talent with the whole class, and the whole class burst into laughter. Not only this, she went to many teachers around the school and told them about my talent which gave me immense confidence to go for what I want. I have watery eyes writing this. Thank you, P. Singh ma'am.

Uday: How was your experience there at your college (university)?

Vansh: Coming to Prague was my first abroad visit. I still remember climbing down the stairs from the plane and breathing a foreign air for the first time. The ride from the airport, it was so different, everything, the side of driving, the language, the culture.

At the beginning it was a huge culture shock for me, the people here are very different from India (in part due to the communist history) but also the weather. The college had international students, so it was great to be amidst students from 40+ countries, every conversation taught me something new, gave me a new perspective.

Education wise: IT WAS LIFE CHANGING. Right from my mindset i.e turned from a lazy slug to an achiever, to being physically fit and of course finding what my ultimate goal in life is. I found a purpose and if I can say this, I found a place in this world.

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

Vansh: Haha! This question is a tough one. My goal is to be as close to film making as possible and find the perfect balance between being an artist and a businessman. Art is nothing without money, and money is useless without art. I want to support artists, I want to tell stories, I want, like every human being I believe- to be remembered for what I gave back. The Godfather, the film will never die, the artists, directors, producers all will and most of the already have, but here is me even after 50 odd years in love with the film. I want to leave a mark.

Support for me is the most important, and even today I try and support young film making students. I try my best. Everyone should have an equal opportunity, and I fell I can make a difference.

The other big thing is, if through my films I can get a message across which touches someone's heart somewhere, I would be a happy man. Give someone hope, make someone feel loved, or even entertain someone and make them happy.

Uday: What advice would you like to give to those Who want to pursue a career path similar to yours ? Many give up and do not follow their dreams, what would you like to tell them?

Vansh: I'll answer the second question first. Honestly, I don't feel I am in a position to tell people about their life, even I am figuring out myself as I go. But from my own experience I know one thing for sure. NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

Let me rewind the clock a little bit. I was a 90KG, fat, bad at academics, bad at sports kid who couldn't even run 100m during sports day. But I found out the true strength of the human mind when I took the decision to change my life. I ran a marathon, two half marathons, I play an amateur table tennis league.

The other thing which many would consider impossible - heck, I considered it impossible too; is utilization of time. I have the same 24 hours as I did couple of years back. But today, I have a full-time job, I go to the gym, I run, I hike, I go on vacations, make films and run a production company, while teaching myself new skills and languages every day. I am sounding a bit arrogant but trust me it's the 18-year-old Vansh proud of its future self.

So, as I would say to myself during that excruciating 42km run, just tell yourself. 'You can do it too'. You're not the first to achieve anything, others have done it. You can too.



Nothing is impossible, you can do it

Back to the first question. Do everything you can in filmmaking. Acting, directing, writing, editing, sound. Once you find our passion or your liking. Just go for it. Or feel free to write to me. Maybe I'd of some help.

Uday: There is a huge potential, especially in fauji Kids. What would be your message for them?

Vansh : Humongous potential! Fauji kids are born different and brought up differently than the rest of the world. For me the biggest inspiration for us is in our own households. Epitome of physical and mental fitness.

My message to any fauji kid is even if try and become 50% of what our parents are we'd be more than successful. Apart from that the immense opportunities we get – Sports, swimming, culture, discipline these skills are invaluable. We just got to utilize them to the maximum.

Uday: Would you like to share any experience, which touched your heart immensely?

Vansh: While researching for our film 'Destination Paradise', we went to London to meet Indians who illegally crossed borders to reach London. They walked from West Russian border to Europe for 30 days straight. They hid in trucks and underneath trains which were going at 100+ kmph in extreme European winter, and all this pain just to reach a foreign country.

That moment I really thought to myself, what is it that this land has that ours doesn't. That for me was a very touching experience.

Uday: Any subjects/ social goals about which you are passionate, and people need to be sensitised about them?

Vansh: Equality. That is one of the subjects I want to talk about. Gender, Race, Religion – for me all men were created equal and we are no one to distinguish between them.

I feel, it's always a politicians/ powerful person's ego that is at work, and the crowd is a mere follower.

Uday: What is in store for us to look forward to from your side? Any movie or documentary you plan to produce and release in near future? How can our readers watch the same?

Vansh: Our first film 'Destination Paradise' is the biggest project of my life yet. My friends and I here have been working on the film for the past 2 years and we just finished the film. It is about an Indian immigrant who illegally comes to Europe to find a better life, but finds out maybe this is not the paradise he was looking for. For this film we managed to rope in a very famous and successful cast from Germany and the Czech Republic, and we got funded for this project from various European producers. We plan to send this film to the biggest film festivals in the world and get some recognition.

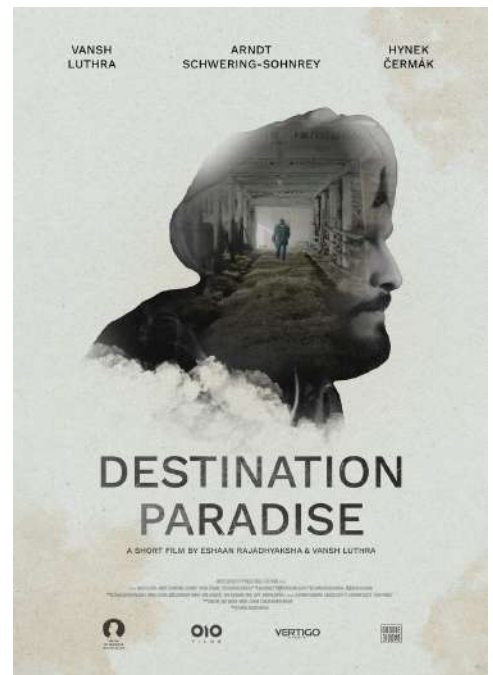
I'll soon be seen in one of the biggest blockbusters of 2022, with one of the biggest

stars in Bollywood. It's a small role, but a big step for me in my acting career. Apart from that I am producing a full-length film in India right now, which would be shot in 2022, if Covid permits.

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

Vansh: Oh! I have a lot to learn, lot to achieve, and 'miles to go before I sleep'. So far, I've acted in multiple commercials and short film. And I recently wrote, acted in and produced a high budget short film.

For this film, I became a Sikh didn't shave or cut hair for 2 years and lost 26 Kgs to be fit for the role. This for me was the toughest and the most accomplished I feel.



My Future Project



The Change brought for my movies

Uday: I recollect you saying that you are juggling multiple things in your life? Give us glimpse of this part of your life?

Vansh: Yes, as I mentioned earlier, I am working for around 16 hours a day. I have a full-time job at a big corporate here in Prague, I go to the gym, I go for a run, I am running a production company here and trying to make it big, all this while working on various films and projects in India and Europe.

I must say, every night I sleep a peaceful man.

Uday: Anything that you would like to add as a learning from your vast experience of having met people from different countries and varied cultures?

Vansh: I have learnt a lot from various cultures, there are so many things we could learn from each other. From Europeans I learnt to be punctual, respect not only others but our time as well. I feel we as Indians lack that a lot.

From Americans I learnt self-confidence. It is astonishing how confident they are, and maybe that's why they are one of the strongest nations in the world. Biggest army, biggest film industry, biggest music industry, you name it.

Indians for me are the most loving, caring and understanding in the world. We have this in-built care and empathy I feel.

Uday: Thank you Vansh. We wish you all the very best for your future projects and pray you attain great heights.

Vansh: Thank you Sir, It was my pleasure being interviewed by you for Forces Network.



***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 Article, by clicking/tapping [HERE](#) - Editor

Stand tall on the summit after a tedious climb. Take in the remarkable scenery and the exhilaration of accomplishment. But don't pause for long; there are greater mountains to climb while you still possess the drive and capacity to do so.

~ Author: Richelle E. Goodrich

Tech Corner

Cyber Security: A Primer - Part III

BY ATUL KUMAR

(This is going to be a six article series on the subject, starting Aug 2021.

This is the Third part of the Article in the series by the Author)

In the article in last month edition we discussed threats and attacks we are likely to face in the cyber world. Now that we have become familiar with fundamentals of cyber security and range of threats and attacks we shall navigate through different usage of internet and allied security issues in the upcoming article next month.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR EMAIL CLIENTS



How do email clients work?

Every email address has two basic parts: the user name and the domain name. When you are sending email to someone else, your domain's server has to communicate with your recipient's domain server.

For example, let's assume that your email address is aksingh@example.com, and the person you are contacting is at rbsharma@anotherexample.org. In very basic terms, after you hit send, the server hosting your domain (example.com) looks at the email address and then contacts the server hosting the recipient's domain (anotherexample.org) to let it know that it has a message for someone at that domain. Once the connection has been established, the server hosting the recipient's domain (anotherexample.org) then looks at the user name of the email address and routes the message to that account.

How many email clients are there?

There are many different email clients and services, each with its own interface. Some are web-based, some are stand-alone graphics-based, and some are text-based. There is usually an email client included with the installation of your operating system, but many other alternatives are available e.g. Hotmail, Yahoo Mail, Gmail and Outlook.

Each email client may have a different way of organizing drafted, sent, saved, and deleted mail. Familiarize yourself with the software and protect yourself and your contacts by following good security practices. You can have more than one email client through browser-based services that you can access from any computer. Because these accounts are maintained directly on the vendors' servers, they don't interfere with other email accounts. Free email accounts are also effective tools for reducing the amount of spam you receive at your primary email address. Instead of submitting your primary address when shopping online, requesting services, or participating in online forums, you can set up a free secondary address to use.

What risks are associated with free email services?

Although free email services have many benefits, you should not use them to send sensitive information. Some of the elements you risk are:-

- **Security** - If your login, password, or messages are sent in plain text, they may easily be intercepted. If a service provider offers SSL encryption, you should use it. You can find out whether this is available by looking for a "secure mode" or by replacing the "http:" in the URL with "https:"
- **Privacy** - You aren't paying for your email account, but the service provider has to find some way to recover the costs of providing the service. One way of generating revenue is to sell advertising space, but another is to sell or trade information. Make sure to read the service provider's privacy policy or terms of use to see if your name, your email address, the email addresses in your address book, or any of the information in your profile has the potential of being given to other organizations. If you are considering forwarding your work email to a free email account, check with your employer first. You do not want to violate any established security policies.

Why can email attachments be dangerous?

Some of the characteristics that make email attachments convenient and popular are also the ones that make them a common tool for attackers:

Email is easily circulated - Forwarding email is so simple that viruses can quickly infect many machines. Most viruses don't even require users to forward the email—



they scan a users' computer for email addresses and automatically send the infected message to all of the addresses they find. Attackers take advantage of the reality that most users will automatically trust and open any message that comes from someone they know.

Email programs try to address all users' needs - Almost any type of file can be attached to an email message, so attackers have more freedom with the types of viruses they can send.

Email programs offer many "user-friendly" features - Some email programs have the option to automatically download email attachments, which immediately exposes your computer to any viruses within the attachments.

What steps can you take to protect yourself and others in your address book?

- **Be wary of unsolicited attachments, even from people you know** - Just because an email message looks like it came from your mom, friend, or boss doesn't mean that it did. Many viruses can "spoof" the return address, making it look like the message came from someone else. If you can, check with the person who supposedly sent the message to make sure it's legitimate before opening any attachments. This includes email messages that appear to be from your ISP or software vendor and claim to include patches or anti-virus software. ISPs and software vendors do not send patches or software in email.
- **Keep software up to date** - Install software patches so that attackers can't take advantage of known problems or vulnerabilities. Many operating systems offer automatic updates. If this option is available, you should enable it.
- **Trust your instincts** - If an email or email attachment seems suspicious, don't open it, even if your anti-virus software indicates that the message is clean. Attackers are constantly releasing new viruses, and the anti-virus software might not have the signature. Especially in the case of forwards, even messages sent by a legitimate sender might contain a virus. Don't let your curiosity put your computer at risk.
- **Save and scan any attachments before opening them.**
- **Turn off the option to automatically download attachments.**
- **Apply additional security practices** - You may be able to filter certain types of attachments through your email software or a firewall

What is spam?

Spam is the electronic version of "junk mail." The term spam refers to unsolicited, often unwanted, email messages. Spam does not necessarily contain viruses—valid messages from legitimate sources could fall into this category.

How can you reduce the amount of spam?

There are some steps you can take to significantly reduce the amount of spam you receive:

- **Don't give your email address out arbitrarily** - Email addresses have become so common that a space for them is often included on any form that asks for your address—even comment cards at restaurants. It seems harmless so many people write them in the space provided without realizing what could happen to that information. For example, companies often enter the addresses into a database so that they can keep track of their customers and the customers' preferences. Sometimes these lists are sold to or shared with other companies, and suddenly you are receiving email that you didn't request.
- **Check privacy policies** - Before submitting your email address online, look for a privacy policy. Most reputable sites will have a link to their privacy policy from any form where you're asked to submit personal data. You should read this policy before submitting your email address or any other personal information so that you know what the owners of the site plan to do with the information.
- **Be aware of options selected by default** - When you sign up for some online accounts or services, there may be a section that provides you with the option to receive email about other products and services. Sometimes there are options selected by default, so if you do not deselect them, you could begin to receive email from lists those lists as well.
- **Use filters** - Many email programs offer filtering capabilities that allow you to block certain addresses or to only allow email from addresses on your contact list. Some ISPs offer spam "tagging" or filtering services, but legitimate messages misclassified as spam might be dropped before reaching your inbox. However, many ISPs that offer filtering services also provide options for tagging suspected spam messages so the end user can more easily identify them. This can be useful in conjunction with filtering capabilities provided by many email programs.
- **Report messages as spam** - Most email clients offer an option to report a message as spam or junk. If yours has that option, take advantage of it. Reporting messages as spam or junk helps to train the mail filter so that the messages aren't delivered to your inbox. However, check your junk or spam folders occasionally to look for legitimate messages that were incorrectly classified as spam.

- **Don't follow links in spam messages** - Some spam relies on generators that try variations of email addresses at certain domains. If you click a link within an email message or reply to a certain address, you are just confirming that your email address is valid. Unwanted messages that offer an "unsubscribe" option are particularly tempting, but this is often just a method for collecting valid addresses that are then sent other spam.
- **Disable the automatic downloading of graphics in HTML mail** - Many spammers send HTML mail with a linked graphic file that is then used to track who opens the mail message—when your mail client downloads the graphic from their web server, they know you've opened the message. Disabling HTML mail entirely and viewing messages in plain text also prevents this problem.
- **Use privacy settings on social networking sites** - Social networking sites typically allow you to choose who has access to see your email address. Consider hiding your email account or changing the settings so that only a small group of people that you trust are able to see your address. Also, when you use applications on these sites, you may be granting permission for them to access your personal information. Be cautious about which applications you choose to use.
- **Don't spam other people** - Be a responsible and considerate user. Some people consider email forwards a type of spam, so be selective with the messages you redistribute. Don't forward every message to everyone in your address book, and if someone asks that you not forward messages to them, respect their request.

What is BCC?

BCC, which stands for blind carbon copy, allows you to hide recipients in email messages. Addresses in the To: field and the CC: (carbon copy) field appear in messages, but users cannot see addresses of anyone you included in the BCC: field.

To reduce the risk, encourage people who forward messages to you to use BCC so that your email address is less likely to appear in other people's inboxes and be susceptible to being harvested. To avoid becoming part of the problem, in addition to using BCC if you forward messages, take time to remove all existing email addresses within the message. The additional benefit is that the people you're sending the message to will appreciate not having to scroll through large sections of irrelevant information to get to the actual message.

Using IM & Chat Room Safely

What are the differences between some of the tools used for real-time communication?

Instant messaging (IM) - Commonly used for recreation, instant messaging is also widely used within corporations for communication between employees. IM, regardless of the specific software you choose, provides an interface for individuals to communicate one-on-one.

Chat rooms - Whether public or private, chat rooms are forums for particular groups of people to interact. Many chat rooms are based upon a shared characteristic; for example, there are chat rooms for people of particular age groups or interests. Although most IM clients support "chats" among multiple users, IM is traditionally one-to-one while chats are traditionally many-to-many.



Bots - A "chat robot," or "bot," is software that can interact with users through chat mechanisms, whether in IM or chat rooms. In some cases, users may be able to obtain current weather reports, stock status, or movie listings. In these instances, users are often aware that they are not interacting with an actual human. However, some users may be fooled by more sophisticated bots into thinking the responses they are receiving are from another person.

What are the dangers?

- On line identities can be elusive or ambiguous. People may lie about their identity, accounts may be compromised, users may forget to log out, or an account may be shared by multiple people. All of these things make it difficult to know who you're really talking to during a conversation.
- Users are especially susceptible to certain types of attack - Trying to convince someone to run a program or click on a link is a common attack method, but it can be especially effective through IM and chat rooms. In a setting where a user feels comfortable with the "person" he or she is talking to, a malicious piece of software or an attacker has a better chance of convincing someone to fall into the trap.
- You don't know who else might be seeing the conversation - Online interactions are easily saved, and if you're using a free commercial service the exchanges may be archived on a server. You have no control over what happens to those logs. You also don't know if there's someone looking over the shoulder of the person you're talking to, or if an attacker might be "sniffing" your conversation.
- The software you're using may contain vulnerabilities - Like any other software, chat software may have vulnerabilities that attackers can exploit.
- Default security settings may be inappropriate - The default security settings in chat software tend to be relatively permissive to make it more open and "usable" and this can make you more susceptible to attacks.

How can you use these tools safely?

- **Evaluate your security settings** - Check the default settings in your software and adjust them if they are too permissive. Make sure to disable automatic downloads.
- **Be conscious of what information you reveal** - Be wary of revealing personal information unless you know who you are really talking to.
- **Try to verify the identity** of the person you are talking to if you need to have a degree of trust in that person, either because you are sharing certain types of information or being asked to take some action like following a link or running a program.
- **Don't believe everything you read** - The information or advice you receive in a chat room or by IM may be false or, worse, malicious. Try to verify the information or instructions from outside sources before taking any action.
- **Keep software up to date** - This includes the chat software, your browser, your operating system, your mail client, and, especially, your anti-virus software.

Staying Safe on Social Network Sites

What are social networking sites?

Social networking sites, sometimes referred to as "friend-of-a-friend" sites, build upon the concept of traditional social networks where you are connected to new people through people you already know. The purpose of some networking sites may be purely social, allowing users to establish friendships or romantic relationships, while others may focus on establishing business connections.

Although the features of social networking sites differ, they all allow you to provide information about yourself and offer some type of communication mechanism (forums, chat rooms, email, and instant messenger) that enables you to connect with other users. On some sites, you can browse for people based on certain criteria, while other sites require that you be "introduced" to new people through a connection you share. Many of the sites have communities or subgroups that may be based on a particular interest. e.g. Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn etc.



What security implications do these sites present?

Social networking sites rely on connections and communication, so they encourage you to provide a certain amount of personal information. When deciding how much information to reveal, people may not exercise the same amount of caution as they would when meeting someone in person because

- the internet provides a sense of anonymity
- the lack of physical interaction provides a false sense of security
- they tailor the information for their friends to read, forgetting that others may see it
- they want to offer insights to impress potential friends or associates

While the majority of people using these sites do not pose a threat, malicious people may be drawn to them because of the accessibility and amount of personal information that's available. The more information malicious people have about you, the easier it is for them to take advantage of you. Predators may form relationships online and then convince unsuspecting individuals to meet them in person. That could lead to a dangerous situation. The personal information can also be used to conduct a social engineering attack. Using information that you provide about your location, hobbies, interests, and friends, a malicious person could impersonate a trusted friend or convince you that they have the authority to access other personal or financial data.

Additionally, because of the popularity of these sites, attackers may use them to distribute malicious code. Attackers may be able to create customized applications that appear to be innocent while infecting your computer without your knowledge.

How can you protect yourself?

- **Limit the amount of personal information you post** - Do not post information that would make you vulnerable, such as your address or information about your schedule or routine.
- **Remember that the internet is a public resource** - Only post information you are comfortable with anyone seeing. This includes information and photos in your profile and in blogs and other forums.
- **Be wary of strangers** - The internet makes it easy for people to misrepresent their identities and motives. Consider limiting the people who are allowed to contact you on these sites.

- **Be skeptical** - Don't believe everything you read online. People may post false or misleading information about various topics, including their own identities.
- **Evaluate your settings** - Take advantage of a site's privacy settings. The default settings for some sites may allow anyone to see your profile. You can customize your settings to restrict access to only certain people. Also, be cautious when deciding which applications to enable, and check your settings to see what information the applications will be able to access.
- **Use strong passwords** - Protect your account with passwords that cannot easily be guessed. If your password is compromised, someone else may be able to access your account and pretend to be you.
- **Check privacy policies** - Some sites may share information such as email addresses or user preferences with other companies. This may lead to an increase in spam.
- **Use and maintain anti-virus software.**

Keeping Children Safe Online

Children are especially susceptible to the threats that social networking sites present. Although many of these sites have age restrictions, children may misrepresent their ages so that they can join. By teaching children about internet safety, being aware of their online habits, and guiding them to appropriate sites, parents can make sure that the children become safe and responsible users.



What unique risks are associated with children?

When a child is using your computer, normal safeguards and security practices may not be sufficient. Children present additional challenges because of their natural

characteristics: innocence, curiosity, desire for independence, and fear of punishment. You need to consider these characteristics when determining how to protect your data and the child.

You may think that because the child is only playing a game, or researching a term paper, or typing a homework assignment, he or she can't cause any harm. But what if, when saving her paper, the child deletes a necessary program file? Or what if she unintentionally visits a malicious web page that infects your computer with a virus?

Online predators present another significant threat, particularly to children. Because the nature of the internet is so anonymous, it is easy for people to misrepresent themselves and manipulate or trick other users. Adults often fall victim to these ploys, and children, who are usually much more open and trusting, are even easier targets. The threat is even greater if a child has access to email or instant messaging programs, visits chat rooms, and/or uses social networking sites.

What can you do?

- **Be involved** - Consider activities you can work on together, whether it be playing a game, researching a topic you had been talking about (e.g., family vacation spots, a particular hobby, a historical figure), or putting together a family newsletter. This will allow you to supervise your child's online activities while teaching her good computer habits.
- **Keep your computer in an open area** - If your computer is in a high-traffic area, you will be able to easily monitor the computer activity. Not only does this accessibility deter a child from doing something she knows she's not allowed to do, it also gives you the opportunity to intervene if you notice a behavior that could have negative consequences.
- **Set rules and warn about dangers** - Make sure your child knows the boundaries of what she is allowed to do on the computer. These boundaries should be appropriate for the child's age, knowledge, and maturity, but they may include rules about how long she is allowed to be on the computer, what sites she is allowed to visit, what software programs she can use, and what tasks or activities she is allowed to do.
- **Monitor computer activity** - Be aware of what your child is doing on the computer, including which web sites she is visiting. If she is using email, instant messaging, or chat rooms, try to get a sense of who she is corresponding with and whether she actually knows them.
- **Keep lines of communication open** - Let your child know that she can approach you with any questions or concerns about behaviors or problems she may have encountered on the computer.

- **Consider partitioning your computer into separate accounts** - Most operating systems give you the option of creating a different user account for each user. If you're worried that your child may accidentally access, modify, and/or delete your files, you can give her a separate account and decrease the amount of access and number of privileges she has.
- **Consider implementing parental controls** - You may be able to set some parental controls within your browser. To find those options, click Tools on your menu bar, select Internet Options..., choose the Content tab, and click the Enable... button under Content Advisor.

In the upcoming article next month we shall understand web browsers and security issues related to on line activities.



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

The effect of the
indulgence of human
affection is a certain
cordial exhilaration

Tech Corner

The Indian IT Act: Sec 67 - Transmitting Obscene Electronic Material

BY ASHWIN PRADHAN



Transmitting obscene electronic material is covered by section 67 of the Information Technology Act.

What is Cyber Law?

In order to arrive at an acceptable definition of the term Cyber Law, we must first understand the meaning of the term law. Simply put, law encompasses the rules of conduct:

- That have been approved by the government, and
- Which are in force over a certain territory, and
- Which must be obeyed by all persons on that territory.
- Violation of these rules will lead to government action such as imprisonment or fine or an order to pay compensation.

The term cyber or cyberspace has today come to signify everything related to computers, the Internet, websites, data, emails, networks, software, data storage devices (such as hard disks, USB disks etc) and even electronic devices such as cell phones, ATM machines etc.

Thus a simplified definition of cyber law is that it is the “law governing cyber space”.

With businessman Raj Kundra's arrest for alleged pornography, the pornography laws which are in force in India are now in focus. In view of these recent events this write up is an endeavor to acquaint readers with nuances of cyber law related to prosecution under the Indian IT Act 2000.

Prevalent use of social media platforms in our daily and business environment, may expose us to accidentally receive adult content or content with sexual overtones in a chat group that we may be a part of. Hence it becomes imperative to understand the implications of the same.

Cyber laws and their applicability vary across the broad spectrum of countries. What is considered simply sexually explicit but not obscene in UK may well be considered obscene in India. For instance, Indian laws are much stricter regarding pornography as compared to the UK laws, which allow adult consent to create and consume such content. While watching porn is not illegal in either country, the curbs are there on its creation, publication, and distribution. Any obscene material that includes children, however, is completely illegal in both countries. Since the UK allows for distribution of "adult" content with the consent of the participant, the laws there include provisions for age verification of persons, who access such content online. However, we do not find any such provisions or guidelines for citizens in India.

In India, all manufacturing, publishing, and distribution of pornography is illegal. Watching or having such content on a personal device, however, is not illegal. Various governments across the globe have tried to regulate the content being circulated on internet by blacklisting sites and enforcing stricter laws, but they have fallen short to curb the menace. Pornography on the Internet is available in different formats. These range from pictures and short animated movies, to sound files and stories. The Internet also makes it possible to discuss sex, see live sex acts, and arrange sexual activities from computer screens/ media platforms. Although the Indian Constitution guarantees the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression, it has been held that a law against obscenity is constitutional. The Supreme Court in its definition has considered obscenity as "offensive to modesty or decency; lewd, filthy, repulsive. Other than the Information Technology Act, other Indian laws that deal with pornography include the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act and the Indian Penal Code.

This article explains what is obscene and lists the acts in relation to such obscenity that are illegal. To understand what constitutes obscenity in the electronic form, Section 67 of IT Act states as under:

- Punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form.

Whoever publishes or transmits or causes to be published or transmitted in the electronic form, any material which is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest or if its effect is such as to tend to deprave and corrupt persons who are likely, having regard to all relevant circumstances, to read, see or hear the matter contained or embodied in it, shall be punished on first conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees and in the event of second or subsequent conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years and also with fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees.



If we read the above statement, there is no specific definition of obscenity or pornography which has been explicitly spelled out in the Law. This leaves us with a very ambiguous situation vis-à-vis the applicability of laws and its reach.

This article explains what is obscene and lists the acts in relation to such obscenity that are illegal. To understand what constitutes obscenity in the electronic form,

Let Us Analyse The Relevant Terms.

Any material in the context of this section would include video files, audio files, text files, images, animations etc. These may be stored on CDs, websites, computers, cell phones etc. **Lascivious** is something that tends to excite lust. **Appeals to**, in this context, means “arouses interest”. **Prurient interest** is characterized by lustful thoughts. Effect means to produce or cause some change or event. Tend to deprave and corrupt in the context of this section means “**to lead someone to become morally bad**”.

Persons here refers to natural persons (men, women, children) and not artificial persons (such as companies, societies etc).

In view of the above, let us look at the word obscenity carefully in order to understand or explain it what constitutes obscenity. To be considered obscene the content transmitted or viewed must satisfy at least one of the following conditions: (1) it must tend to excite strong sexual desire, or (2) it must arouse interest in strong sexual thoughts, or (3) it must cause a person to become morally bad.



The above conditions must be satisfied in respect of a person who is the likely target of the material. This can be understood from the following illustration:

Illustration: Rajiv creates a mobile app which provides biology tutorials. The app has a chapter on sex education and changes in human anatomy at puberty. The mobile app is targeted at higher secondary school students. Pooja is one such student who is browsing the app. Her illiterate young maid servant happens to see some explicit photographs on the app and is filled with lustful thoughts.

This content on the app would not be considered obscene. Since it is imperative that certain information about the subject must be disseminated pictorially hence use of explicit images may be warranted. It is under very rare circumstances that an illiterate person would see these explicit images. To understand the acts that are punishable in respect of obscenity in the electronic form, let us analyse the relevant terms.

Publishes means “to make known to others”. It is essential that at least one natural person (man, woman, or child) becomes aware or understands the information that is published. Simply putting up a website that is never visited by any person does not amount to publishing.

Illustration: Rajiv has just hosted a blog containing his articles written in Malayalam. Rajiv has not published the articles. He has stored his article on a common shared drive. Rajiv has still not published the articles. His co-worker, who does not understand a word of Malayalam, accidentally accesses Rajiv’s blog on the shared drive. Rajiv has still not published the articles. Pooja, who understands Malayalam, reads Rajiv’s blog, and reads some of his articles. Now, Rajiv has published his articles.

Transmits means to pass along, convey, or spread. It is not necessary that the “transmitter” understands the information being transmitted.

Illustration: Rajiv has just hosted a website containing his articles. Pooja uses an Internet connection provided by Internet service Provider (ISP) to visit Rajiv’s website. Internet Service Provider has transmitted Rajiv’s articles to Pooja. However, service providers employees are not actually aware of the information being transmitted by their computers.

Causes To Be Published means “to bring about the publishing of something”. It is essential that the actual publishing must take place.

Illustration: Rajiv has just hosted a website containing his articles. An automated software released by Noodle Internet search engine indexes Rajiv’s website. But no human being has still used that index to read these articles. Noodle has not caused Rajiv’s articles to be published. Based upon the index created by Noodle, Pooja reaches Rajiv’s website and reads some of his articles. Now, Noodle has caused Rajiv’s articles to be published.

Information in the electronic form includes websites, songs on a CD, movies on a DVD, jokes on a cell phone, photo sent as an email attachment etc.

CASE LAW: Avnish Bajaj vs. State (N.C.T.) of Delhi [(2005)3CompLJ364(Del), 116(2005)DLT427, 2005(79)DRJ576]

Summary of the case

Avnish Bajaj, CEO of Baazee.com, an online auction website, was arrested for distributing cyber pornography. The charges stemmed from the fact that someone had sold copies of a pornographic CD through the Baazee.com website. The court granted him bail in the case.

The major factors considered by the court were:

- (1) There was no prima facie evidence that Mr. Bajaj directly or indirectly published pornography,
- (2) The actual obscene recording/clip could not be viewed on Baazee.com,
- (3) Mr. Bajaj was of Indian origin and had family ties in India.

Background

Avnish Bajaj is the CEO of Baazee.com, a customer-to-customer website, which facilitates the online sale of property. Baazee.com receives commission from such sales and also generates revenue from advertisements carried on its web pages. An obscene MMS clipping was listed for sale on Baazee.com on 27th November, 2004 in the name of “DPS Girl having fun”. Some copies of the clipping were sold through Baazee.com and the seller received the money for the sale. Avnish Bajaj was arrested under section 67 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and his bail application was rejected by the trial court. He then approached the Delhi High Court for bail.

Issues raised by the Prosecution

- (1) The accused did not stop payment through banking channels after learning of the illegal nature of the transaction.
- (2) The item description “DPS Girl having fun” should have raised an alarm.

Issues raised by the Defence

- (1) Section 67 of the Information Technology Act relates to publication of obscene material. It does not relate to transmission of such material.

(2) On coming to learn of the illegal character of the sale, remedial steps were taken within 38 hours, since the intervening period was a weekend.

Findings of the court

- (1) It has not been established that publication took place by the accused, directly or indirectly.
- (2) The actual obscene recording/clip could not be viewed on the portal of Baazee.com.
- (3) The sale consideration was not routed through the accused.
- (4) Prima facie Baazee.com had endeavored to plug the loophole.
- (5) The accused had actively participated in the investigations.
- (6) The nature of the alleged offence is such that the evidence has already crystallized and may even be tamper proof.
- (7) Even though the accused is a foreign citizen, he is of Indian origin with family roots in India.
- (8) The evidence that has been collected indicates only that the obscene material may have been unwittingly offered for sale on the website.
- (9) The evidence that has been collected indicates that the heinous nature of the alleged crime may be attributable to some other person.

Decision of the court

- (1) The court granted bail to Mr. Bajaj subject to furnishing two sureties of Rs. 1 lakh each.
- (2) The court ordered Mr. Bajaj to surrender his passport and not to leave India without the permission of the Court.
- (3) The court also ordered Mr. Bajaj to participate and assist in the investigation.



Capt Ashwin Pradhan was commissioned in Arty Sata regt. on Mar 2003. He is a IIM Graduate in Operations with over 18 years of experience in Information Security, Risk & Compliance management, Physical Security management and Facilities management. Currently working with Maersk GSC in Site Office Management team. He is a certified Dip In Cyber Law, Digital Evidence Specialist, Internet Investigation Specialist, Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), Certified Ethical Hacker V9, Certified Information Security Consultant, Certified Professional Forensic Analyst, Certified Lead Auditor in Information Security Management System (ISMS) ISO 27001:2005.

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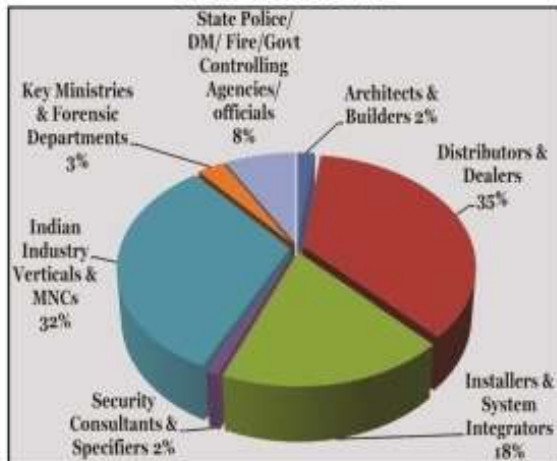
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Knowledge Bytes

AN AVIATOR'S PORT OF CALL?

BY KRISHNARAJ NAMBIAR

The Kaveri Basin lay serene as the cab cruised away towards the southern reaches of Pondicherry State. Meandering through lush green paddy farms dotted with groves of pristine Arjuna trees clutching the ground with interlocking roots, one could steal a glimpse of a grizzled Giant Squirrel dart across the shadows of the benevolent canopy. The old French town of Karaikal nestled in such surrounds about half an hour away.

My move out of the Olive Greens as well as OG flying overalls, now looked to a second stint in Corporate; a welcome experience that one took in the stride; a new 'Port of Call' in civil life. For a soldier, in much spoken of 'second life', the port environment can be a welcome challenge and a momentous opportunity. Set in aquamarine, the Business of ports is unique in its environs for its peculiar administrative and security parameters. Quite like the high walls of the famed Lions Gate that welcomes Sixth term NDA cadets during their Camp TRISHUL at Mumbai Naval dock, the commercial ports are also governed by strict security requirements involving internationally recognised compliances. Ports are considered national assets and like most of other industrial infrastructure, even if private, come under security concern of the local and state government by way of being counted in as 'Essential Services'.

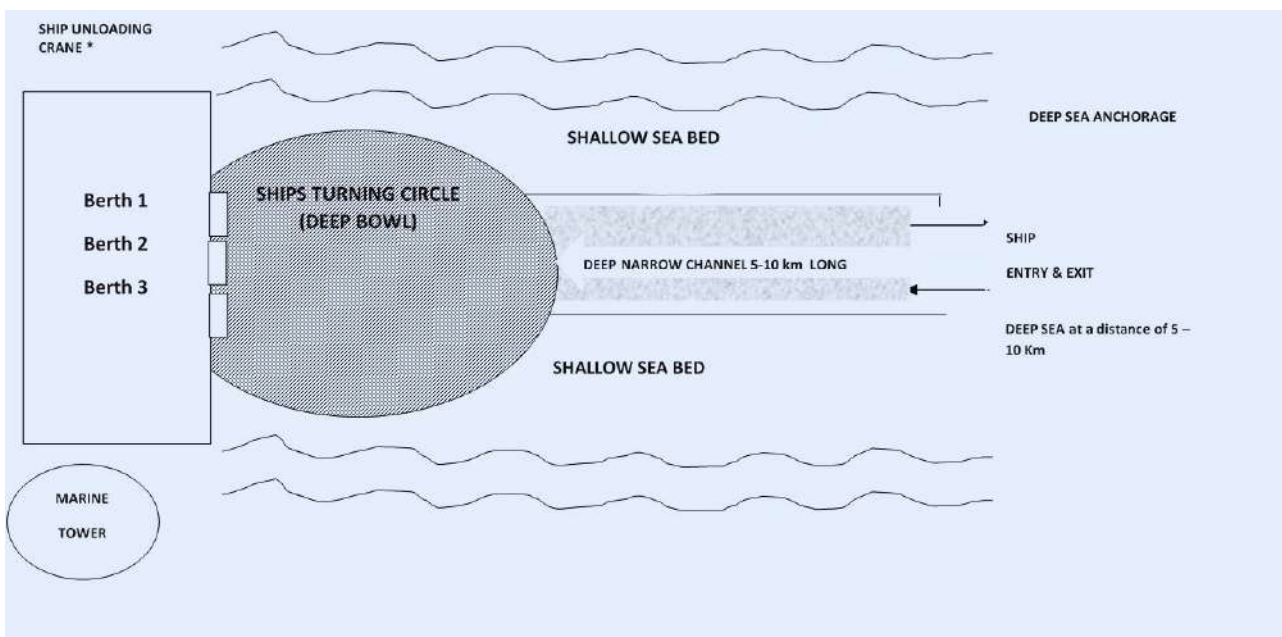
Much like a Forces operational set up, a commercial port would also have four major entities viz an 'Operations' department, an 'Engineering' department, an 'Accounts/Customs' and an Administrative department which includes Security and CSR. The Marine operations department is usually headed by a "Chief Operations Officer" who would also be the (Marine) "Port Facility Security Officer" (PFSO). He is generally an Ex-Master of a Merchant Ship with loads of sea faring and commercial shipping experience. In other departments there would be suitably qualified and experienced heads. There would be an Administration and Security head, a Mechanical operations head as well as a Accounts head who coordinates with the Customs Officials.

A word on the ports; as known to all, either it would be containerisation based or General cargo based. While containers handling is dictated by the road infrastructure in the hinterland, the size of a port would be based on the 'Penetrated Market', The 'Available Qualified market' and the 'Potential market' with connectivity. Generally ports operations support cargo handling and import/export of industrial loads. In order to facilitate movement of bulk cargo, ports are usually connected to the railway

network which again calls for specialised security controls and administrative support. Some Ports also become Ferry terminals depending on governmental directives. The Ports handle International and National trade cargo thus they fall under the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) and Safety of Lives at Sea (SOLAS) agreement obligations; India is a signatory to both of the agreements/code. In the administrative department that includes Security and CSR/ Liaison, port are well advised to bring in an ex service officer with his experience in security and administration, liaison and public administration contact. The military experience adds to security requirements and officers are well suited to handle Port compliance requirements.

Layout of a Port

Ports have large tracts of around 500 to 1000 acres of land with Reception zones, Admin Building, Customs notified Zone, Container Zone, Ware houses, Tank Farms and Marine control Tower etc. Closer to sea, berths abutting deep turning circle of ships are a sight by itself. The security set up takes care of the entry exit and transport cargo traffic circuit 'In and Out' of a "Customs Notified Area" designate by the government. Closer to water along the berths there is a large "Turning Circle" a deep bowl dug into the sea bed for ships to turn and align themselves alongside with the help of 'Tug Boats' all the while their hull and keel clear of the sea surface/bed below. The marine edge of a port would be as given in sketch below:-



SKETCH: PORT CHANNEL AND TURNING CIRCLE (DEEP)

Functional Level:

Basic security involves technical monitoring and manpower issues. The peculiarities of a port layout call for primary orientation in three aspects. Firstly the need for experienced waterman ship oriented security personnel and supervisors; preferably an Ex-Navy person / petty officer could be suitable for the role. Secondly the ability of guards to be swimmers as the jetty and berths are manned by security personnel who may not be able to don life jackets on duty. Third but not the least significant is the

ability to discern between local fishing boats and unknown boats with suspicious intent. The peculiar structural layout of the port is given here as a sketch. In order to allow ships that may have deep draught a channel is dug out into the sea right up to and beyond the anchorage area; they are marked either side with buoys that are anchored to the sea floor. Electronic security covers entire port with a CCTV network backed up by cameras on high masts lending a bird's eye view all over; complementing the high mast CCTV are the analytical cameras at the gates monitoring cargo vehicles. In addition the Port has an elaborate administrative back up of Horticulture section, Canteen facilities, Medical centre, hygiene and sanitation staff etc. to handle the two thousand plus staff moving in and out in three 8 hourly shifts or in day time schedules.

Senior Leader level:

At a raised level of responsibility the role of service officers comes into play; their involvement can be sub divided into five aspects requiring foresight and compliance awareness.

First of there is the Navigation Safety at Ports Committee (NSPC) compliance. Ports in India are approved by the NSPC. The chairman of NSPC advises the central govt of safe entry berthing operations and exit from the port. The function requires coordination with the chief hydrographer and Director General of Light Houses and Light Ships for enhancement of safety of private ports.

Second directional level awareness and compliance is that of International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code). The ISPS Code is a part of "Safety of life at sea" convention (SOLAS) where compliance is mandatory for the 148 contracting parties to SOLAS, including India; this came into force on 01 July 2004. This code prescribes various responsibilities to governments, shipping companies, ship board personnel, and port facility personnel to detect security threats and take preventive measures against security incidents affecting ships or port facilities used in international trade. On Board there would be a "Ship Security Officer" and port facility would have a "Port Facility Security Officer" (PFSO). In India, The PFSO is generally the Chief Operating Officer who is largely from marine profession. The ISPS code has to be suitably facilitated by port authorities and security plays a major part in the role.

The Third directional level awareness is the coordination aspects of cargo operations with transport agencies and Railways. Transport agencies handle and operate cargo trucks, as many as 600 to 1000 trucks may transit through the port in a day. They need to be analytically monitored by Digital Cameras for accounting of all vehicles handling the bulk cargo and despatch at the port. Manning the bottlenecks, ensuring optimal traffic circuit and accounting correctness of trucks with digitisation platforms of the port software is a major challenge for the security as well as the cargo operations team- an ideal zone of activity calling for intuition and experience.

Those at directional level have another aspect to look at, and that is the ensuring of HR compliances in the work force in the port facility. Due to the dynamic nature of employment, the plug in plug out availability of labour, seasonal nature of cargo such as fertiliser etc the compliance of HR norms implementation comes down to the security set up. An interesting challenge at the senior levels.

Fifth and Final directional issue that sometimes brings in a conundrum is that of local support and CSR. For a manpower heavy organisation, local labour and local support go hand in hand. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a Samaritan effort by a profit making company towards the society which includes the local government authorities as well as local bodies in nearby villages. The government would look at a larger canvas for CSR, the fine balance that has to be drawn is an art that has to be perfected by senior leadership at the industry. Local government support is equally important as the local villager's good will in neighbourhood.

Statutory Compliances. National awareness and environmental protection has come up in a big way. At the end of the day from a corporate point of view, you are a committed member of the team that has been entrusted with the functional efficiency at the site. Business comes first and therefore compliance has to be met. Compliance, do remember, is a must, it requires a safe handling to ensure operations". This is a fine line that the leadership has to handle; this should not be delegated down as the consequences can be severe. A Certain amount of foresight and experience would serve the purpose well; not to speak of plain "common sense" that is ever reliable!



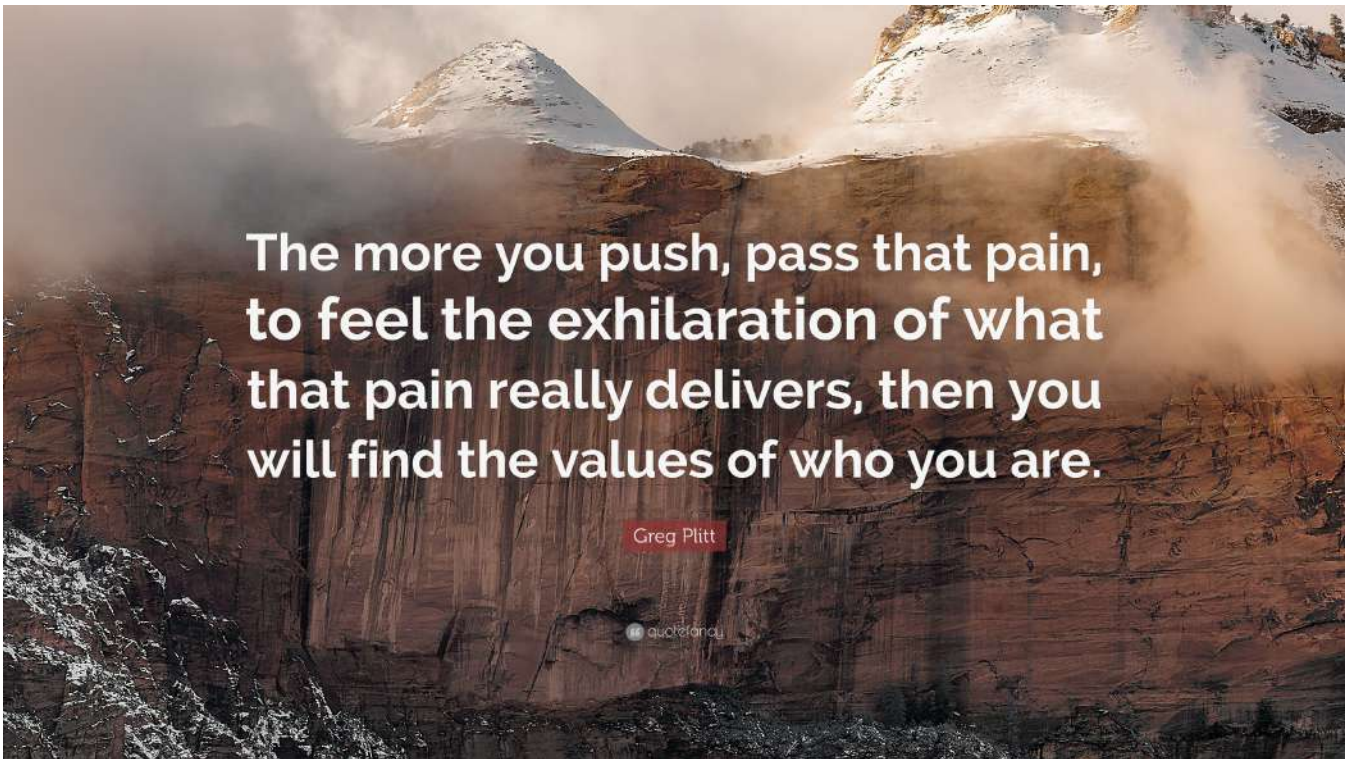
Port is huge Eco-system which calls for a 24x7 personality.

As the sun rises on the horizon, Ports are well into their shifts, buzzing with activity. There is the movement of huge Ship Unloading Cranes, the shifting of cargo from ships to shore, hundreds of cargo trucks moving out of port, rail rakes laden and covered snaking silently out of the port- it has to be seen to be cherished! Port is a 24x7 cycle that calls for a 24x7 personality to come up to exacting standards of corporate business. For a soldier moving out of uniform the responsibility would be an ideal one in senior leadership at any port. And the final word- Crisis management comes with foresight and pre planning that is second nature to the men in uniform of the Armed Forces; accustomed to leading from the front.

All the Best & Jai Hind!



Brig Krishna Raj Nambiar was commissioned in 1987 into the Artillery, he opted for Aviation training, whereby he had extensive operational tenures in Arunachal, Nagaland & Ladakh including Siachen Glacier. After DSSC he was Grade 1 Operations officer in Sikkim. As CO he commanded 193 Medium Regiment in Kashmir valley. He was DS at Senior command Wing Army War College where he had the opportunity to be the coordinator for 'Decision Making Management sessions' with IIM Indore. While in service he completed PGD HR and LLB. He is also UGC NET cleared for professor grade. He took premature release in 2017 after commanding two Brigades. In corporate he has served one tenure as a General Manager of an NGO and two tenures as Vice President. He is presently a senior leader at a Port in South India.



The more you push, pass that pain,
to feel the exhilaration of what
that pain really delivers, then you
will find the values of who you are.

Greg Plitt

quotation

Wisdom Bytes

Exhilaration is The New Normal

BY PUNYASLOKA PANDA

Accept the Challenge so that you can feel the exhilaration of Victory...

George S Patton.



It's an overflow of happiness, a laugh which is beyond control, a laugh where your stomach aches and tears roll down your eyes, it's an excitement and liveliness, its exhilaration. Its deep bliss, like a kid's fist bicycle ride after numerous falls, hear a favorite song, or have a long and uncontrollable laugh with friends. Its contagious and does not respect social distancing (a demoralizing word of today); when we witness someone else's exhilaration, it usually makes us full of warmth and joyousness too.

Its 18 months and counting, all began some time ago, with an emotional and intellectual shock: the reality that this pandemic was shutting down, or at least, radically changing our world. The present pandemic has been a global emergency, one that no one would ever like to repeat or re-live. Organizations across the globe irrespective of their size or market capitalization were found in a survival mode; a new, more all-inclusive, holistic outlook of business operations emerged. Students, Interns, middle managers, and leaders grabbed approaches outside of their respective functions or business units to innovate & improve. An abundance of communication, thinking and devising out of box solution, and transparency; this probably, led & self-evolved to a crash course in crisis management, interpersonal connectivity and sharpening of problem-solving skills. It was and has been (possibly will continue to be) exhausting, pulling us to our limits and yet, in a way, it has been an unexpected gift and exhilaration. We as a species **improved our tolerance** and evolved to the new normal.

Many Organization have achieved an intense period of growth and development in last 20 months. We created a new level of business acumen as we joined business survival or crisis task forces formally and informally. We connected with new and existing colleagues more intimately, building new levels of trust. We learned, enhanced, and succeeded in our survival techniques – from a 360-degree business view we evolved to 360-degree empathetic view, into our colleagues' lives, and often, into their hearts. We conversed like never with our teams, our peers, and our

customers. Hearing our colleagues on the other end of the conversation quieting a child, hearing a neighbor’s pet barking, speaking over birds chirping outdoors or a curious grandma making an appearance in the background. We all at the other end of the line, patiently waited for calm in their personal environment or smiled and enjoyed the unintentional commotions; we paused when we could re-engage with them in conversation. We re-embraced our lost patience; we rewired our outlook to be more compassionate and we recollected our humane side, surprising even ourselves. Probably, every time after/during any such conference calls we smiled, laughed, and exhilarated. Working through the uncertainty of the pandemic in last 20 months we haven’t realized but we have cultivated new levels of listening, expressing vulnerability and compassion, and experiencing camaraderie like never. We did all this, quite successfully, even though we were communicating through speakers and screens.

	Known to Self	Not known to Self	<p>We have been given the opportunity to know ourselves like never, we choose to invest the time to pause, to ponder, reflect, recount, and contrast the old and the new. Many of us would have discovered and many would be still in the reflection phase to discover something about themselves, as we emerge from the intermittently visited fourth quadrant of the Johari Window of self-awareness: “the unknown”. How we will react to situations that we have never faced before in our lives, knowing the unknown is exhilaration.</p>
Known to Others	Open	Blind Spot	
Not known to Others	Hidden	Unknown	

There would have been many surprises in how a team presented itself during this unforeseen time. In many situations the supervisors, once apprehensive, distrusting, and micromanaging their team showed up as stronger, more empathic leaders. Maybe, it was because these supervisors couldn’t be as hands-on day to day, so as they moved away from micromanagement, they were able to recognize the true potential, strengths, and capabilities of their teams for the first time. Similarly, there has been an amplification in the behavior of the direct reports, with strengths and weaknesses. Intellectual stimulation and creating interpersonal connections with other working warriors led to transformative survival strategies and the business has thrived through the pandemic; the energy adrenaline at work has probably been never so high. This has emerged as another level of exhilaration in many. Every tough time brings with it a new learning, this period of processing and reorientation can be viewed as the time to raise our awareness of the changes triggered by the crisis and review our own individualities as leaders. During times of crisis, individual purpose can be a guidepost that helps people face up to uncertainties and navigate them better, and thus mitigate the damaging effects of long-term stress. People who have a strong sense of purpose tend to be more resilient and exhibit better recovery from negative events. Purpose can be an important contributor to employee experience, which in turn is linked to higher levels of employee engagement, stronger organizational commitment, and increased feelings of well-being.

“He who has a ‘why’ to live for can bear with almost any ‘how’ ...

.. Man in Search of Meaning, Victor Frankl’s reference to Nietzsche

It’s a time to assess our expectations and opinions of what constitutes a healthy, thriving team and corporate culture in the context of a healthy and functioning world. It’s time to reorient our views and re-wire our thoughts, as we begin to think beyond this moment in time, what are the things (new visions, influences, and actions) that we as leaders want to take with us and what are those things (old thoughts, behaviors & expectations) that we need to leave behind. More specifically, as we will transit into a post-pandemic world and an entirely new business landscape, how will we be asking team members and colleagues to put positive crisis-cultivated beliefs and practices on display as we move back.

In the new normal, working with only Plan A & Plan B will be archaic. We’re quickly learning this as we consider the logistics of working together again. The old model of 10 people sitting in a meeting room doesn’t fit our current environment. What’s the ideal physical setting – fewer people in the same space on any given day and possibly in parallel, a larger alternative space that allows teams to collaborate. During the past several months we have all experienced a new sense of mission and purpose. We found a true north, even if it is purely focused on survival and getting our people (across families, across industries, across companies and countries) to the light at the end of the tunnel.

The present pandemic one day be a moment in time, in the past and forever stamped as a health and economic crisis. To move forward, it’s imperative that we pause to truly understand the lessons learned. What are the beliefs, and behaviors that we will leave behind; the ones that no longer serve us and others in our evolving work environments. We may also need think what are the beliefs that we build during the pandemic, the values, behaviors, and leadership practices that we want and need to bring to our organization today and tomorrow. One thing which we all will want to take with us will be our exhilaration at every phase of learning.



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 Article, by clicking/tapping [HERE](#) - Author

Knowledge Bank

Chevening Scholarship - Fully Funded Scholarship for Master's Degree in the UK

BY BIDISHA PANDEY

The Chevening Scholarship is a fully funded scholarship for one year master's degree in UK universities. This scholarship is awarded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and covers all expenses including tuition, living expenses and airfare.

Chevening Scholarships enable outstanding emerging leaders from all over the world to pursue master's degrees in the UK. If you have the passion, ideas, and influence to provide solutions and leadership needed to create a better future, you must apply!

Who is eligible?

Anyone from a 'Chevening' eligible country, with an undergraduate degree, and two years of work experience, aiming to pursue a one year master's degree in the UK is eligible. Individuals wanting to pursue a second degree are also eligible provided you can clearly explain why it will help you fulfil your career plan to influence positive change in your home country.

Every year around 40-45 students from India are selected for this prestigious scholarship. One is required to return to home country on completion of the course.



UK Chevening Scholarships

Application Procedure

The Chevening application starts with your personal details, work experience details, resume/CV followed by the four main essays which demonstrate your leadership capabilities, networking ability, which courses you would like to pursue in the UK and lastly, your career plan and how you would benefit from the Chevening community.

On the basis of these essays, one is shortlisted for an interview. Also, one requires to submit two reference letters once shortlisted for interview.

The final results are announced in June.

One needs to apply to the colleges separately through their respective portals, and apply for this scholarship separately through the Chevening website. The selection procedure by the university would be separate and Chevening would be separate, and both happen parallelly. In the end, one needs to be selected for Chevening and have an unconditional offer from the university to avail the scholarship.

Application Timeline

The process of selecting Chevening Scholars takes a minimum of eight months from the application deadline to when applicants are conditionally selected for an award. The applications for 2022 scholarships are now open, and the deadline for the same is 03 Nov 2021. The ones shortlisted for the interview shall be notified in February. The reference letters are usually required to be submitted by end February by those who are shortlisted, followed by interviews in March and April. The final results are announced in June. If one is conditionally selected for Chevening, one should have an unconditional offer letter for Master's Degree from one of the three universities mentioned in one's Chevening application.

Some Tips for the Application

- The four Chevening essays are the backbone of your application. The four, when put together, should be enough to convince the selection committee that you are clear as to why you wish to pursue that particular degree and what are your plans later.
- Chevening looks for leaders who can contribute to the development of their respective countries on completion of the degree. The more your goals are in line with national development, or important impact areas in your country, the better it is! It is also advisable that one goes through what UK is doing in India and how UK is supporting India in development.
- When one chooses the three courses at three universities in the application, make sure that the three are similar, if not the same. This is important as the career plan can't be different for every course. All three should be in alignment with your trajectory and future plan.

- It is advisable that one chooses the three universities tactfully. One of them can be a university where you are sure you shall get an unconditional offer and the other two can be more competitive. With this, the possibility of getting conditionally selected by Chevening, and then not being able to avail the scholarship because of not being able to get an unconditional offer from any of the three universities is eliminated.
- Interaction with former scholars, essay reviews and mock interviews are a must to crack the scholarship. Feedback from people who have gone through the process will help you further refine your essays and interview skills.

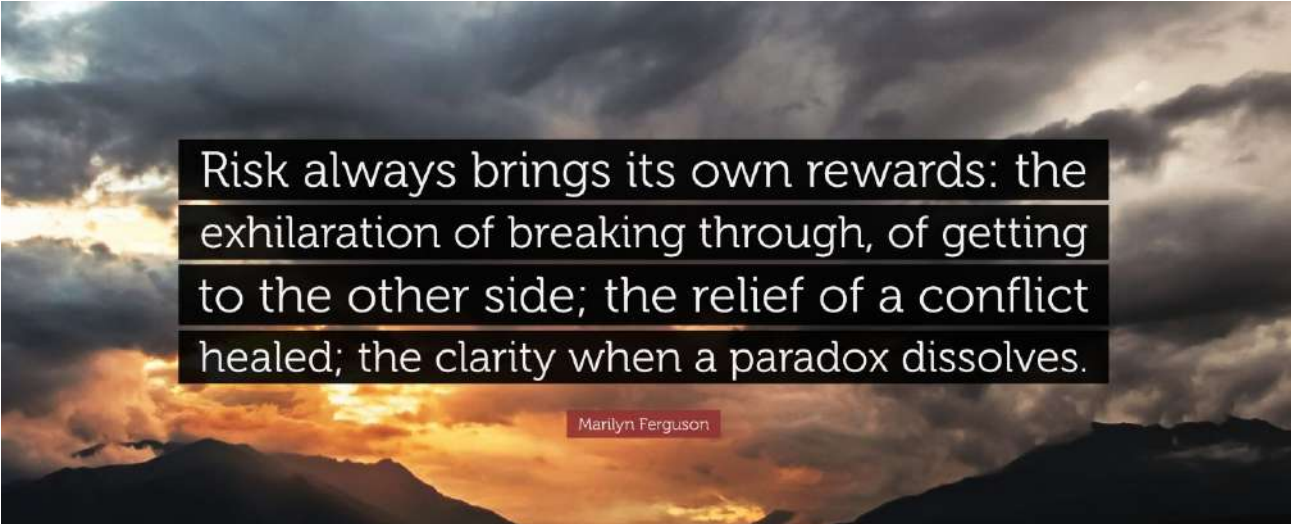
More information and details regarding the scholarship are accessible on <https://www.chevening.org/>

Best of Luck!



***Lt Cdr Bidisha Pandey** recently completed her ten year tenure in the Indian Navy in July 2021. She has led the Naval Marching Contingent twice on Rajpath in the year 2014 and 2015 as part of Republic Day Parade celebrations. She has also represented the Indian Navy in the trans-atlantic Cape to Rio 2017 ocean sailing expedition. She is currently pursuing MSc Prosperity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at University College London and has been awarded the prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office for the same*

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

A background image of a sunset or sunrise over mountains, with a dark, cloudy sky. The quote is overlaid on a black rectangular background.

Risk always brings its own rewards: the exhilaration of breaking through, of getting to the other side; the relief of a conflict healed; the clarity when a paradox dissolves.

Marilyn Ferguson

Leisure

Creativity is De-stressing & Rejuvenating

BY MEENA ARORA

(Click on the link in the end to check your Passion Activity)

Baking came to me when my little daughter whined for cakes during the Covid lockdowns. Over that she wanted a perfect cake with cream swirls and nice decorations. I kept ignoring her demands for few months but finally had to step into the unexplored territory.

Going for small creamy cupcakes seemed to be the safer option, so I watched many YouTube videos and recipes online, arranged for the ingredients and jumped into the baking arena. To no one's



surprise the first lot of cupcakes were a complete disaster, some were under cooked and some as hard as bricks. Now this made me more interested in it as problem solving is another of my great hobbies. I soon figured out that baking is not only about correct recipe but also a good oven, obviously it had to (how could I've taken all the blame). So, we bought a new big oven & from there my never-ending crusade with baking started.

The starting reasons may be the demands of my family, but very soon baking, icing, and decorating grew on me as a real passion. I baked cakes with many flavours, worked with fondant and sugar pastes, experimented on cheesecakes, & then moved on to very exotic styles along with tall & elegant structuring.

During the ill-fated days of pandemic, I baked small cakes of hope and happiness for my friends and family. The creativity and focus involved in the ornamental cakes kept me going. A beautiful cake, with exotic aroma and taste gives me immense happiness and great sense of achievement. It's a feeling that only a passionate creative person will understand.

A fervent hobby gives you a great drive and pulls you out of any kind of depression and anxiety and takes you into a zone where you forget yourself & all your worries in the flow of deep involvement. You even lose track of time which helps you to find happiness that eventually de-stresses & rejuvenates the suppressed energies and positivity. I urge you to follow your passion and put your emotions and creativity out on that what you love irrespective of the profession you may be in.



Intriguingly, you may have innumerable interests and hobbies, but you probably have only one or two extreme passions. The difference is in the intensity and how seriously you take them. Hobbies may be relaxing but, believe me, passion strongly drives you crazy.

Let's examine whether the activities you are seeking are your hobbies or passion. Attempt this FREE questionnaire below and check yourself. Click here to know about your passion activity.

<https://lnkd.in/dZ-Z6RBs>



Sqn Ldr Meena Arora has served in the Indian Air Force for ten years. Thereafter, she has devoted herself completely to counselling and training. She is a competent Life Coach, Counsellor & NLP Trainer. She takes Personal Sessions (One on one's) and conducts Workshops in Schools, Colleges and Corporates. She also associates with organizations in creating specific training content, customized presentations, videos and audios, especially, utilizing her knowledge and awareness of Psychology and Neuro Linguistics Programming.

Transition Tales

This feature is about sharing the stories of those military veterans who have planned and executed their Military to Corporate (M2C) Transition very smoothly, as well as successfully. The aim behind sharing is to inform, educate and inspire others who may be planning for transition, and seeking answers and motivation to make it a similarly smooth journey.

IN INTERACTION WITH E-ZINE TEAM

Col Apurva Tandon is an alumnus of IMA and was commissioned into 37 (Coorg) Medium Regiment in Dec 1989. He has had extensive experience in Anti Terrorist Operations in J&K. Col Apurva Tandon has also been an Instructor Class B at the prestigious National Defence Academy. After completing the command of 170 Medium Regiment, he was posted as Director of the critical ASTROIDS project at the Directorate General Information Systems at the Army HQ. He decided to take PMR in July 2012 to explore life out of uniform in the Corporate World, dabble in entrepreneurial ventures and indulge full time into some of his passions like reading, writing, music and working pro bono for an NGO to support education for underprivileged children from the slum areas of Delhi NCR



In this month's interview we feature Col Apurva Tandon, who has authored a book on Transition from Uniform to corporate.

Team: You were doing well in the army still you choose to take premature retirement and work towards your passion. Can you please share your story in detail? Did you plan for it? And, what preparations did you make for this transition?

Apurva: My transition tale is not the usual well planned, covered all bases and had a smooth transition story that the readers have been reading in this section. On the contrary, mine was an impulsive, driven by the heart and a tumultuous transition.

But my tale is also a tale of surviving the tumultuous transition and coming out EXHILARATED from the journey. To celebrate my successful survival after a rough start, I decided to write a long delayed book with an anecdotal account with some words of wisdom from a career officer who decided to take the dreaded plunge of PMR with very little planning and preparation. This was the wisdom that I was desperately seeking when I had decided to take the plunge

I am an antithesis of a planned Premature Retirement (PMR) because I actually did not plan it at all. I had nothing ticked in the usual check list that one prepares before taking a life changing plunge like a PMR but I had strong reasons to quit which I believed in.

I was doing reasonably well professionally with the usual career courses and instructional postings under my belt, but I was also aware that in the steep hierarchical pyramid, being part of a highly qualified and a strong peer group/batch for promotions, I may have reached my peak as a selection grade colonel in the Army. A large number of officers get to this stage and each one of us decides to face it in their own way based on the circumstances. I had lived by the mantra of “You Only Live Once” all my life till that stage and hence I decided to listen to my heart that urged me to move on and explore life beyond uniform. There were several factors which were pitted against this decision like age, financial stability, upskilling for a corporate innings, etc. However, instead of doing too much of overthinking, I decided to jump in and figure it out as part of the journey



Team: You wrote a book on the transition, what made you write and how did you go about it?

Apurva: The book was long delayed since I conceived the plan of writing a book of my experience in June 2012 while I was still in uniform, in attendance on a conference call interview for an MNC. I was being interviewed by a panel of six different business heads in four different countries.

As the interview progressed, I realized and felt the fear of the unknown gradually leaving me and making me more and more at ease with every passing minute. The two-hour interview ended with the proverbial ‘we will get back to you’; but somehow, my gut told me that I had nailed it. That day, I decided that I would write a book on my transition after five years – recounting it as turbulent or smooth. I felt, that, either way, there would be a lesson in it for the readers.

The book came in three years late and earlier this year, it was completed thanks to the 2020 lockdown and the time it gave all of us to catch up with our creative pursuits. I felt that a book like this was long overdue from someone who had taken the plunge with practical advice for those out there swimming blindly after taking the plunge or standing on the jumping board confused as hell and scared shit for what lies ahead of a premature retirement from the comfort of a stable life in uniform.

“The 10 Meter Jump” my maiden literary venture was released worldwide with a global launch on 26 January 2021 and is doing decently well on Amazon with multiple reprints by the publisher and is being widely read not just by service officers on the cusp of a transition but a large number of civilians planning transition from an established career to a career they are passionate about

Team: Would you give a brief of the book?

Apurva: Yes, I am sharing some advice from my book for the readers planning their transition or the ones who may have taken the plunge but are still not clear how to navigate the pool or which side of the pool they want to come out from. For the seasoned veterans like me, I am sure it will evoke a sense of Déjà vu

Physical and Mental Fitness: As part of mid and senior level leadership roles in the corporate, be prepared to clock at least 2 times more work than what you are currently clocking in whichever rank or appointment you may be in uniform. The luxury of travelling short distances for work in cantonments may become a distant dream unless you are lucky to get a job close to where you live. Another piece of advice. Between you, your wife’s workplace -if applicable and your children’s school, try and ensure that you are living close to atleast two out of the three locations. You could preferably be the one travelling the farthest. This will avoid the unnecessary stress of the entire family travelling long hours and will eventually affect the family time and happy moments. Start working on that belly if you have started developing one from long hours at sundry sedentary staff jobs. You will need more mental and physical fitness than ever before to cater to the new environment, long working hours, and long-distance travel.

Networking while in service : This in my opinion is the most important preparation for the second innings. Forums like Forces Network are tailor made for networking and one should try and become part of such Networks while in service once you have started planning or even while toying with the idea of a transition

Look for course mates /friends from the industry and get yourself invited for relevant seminars and events. Don’t let go of paid opportunities to attend a relevant seminar or webinar. Make a visiting card for yourself without revealing too much of your armed forces appointment. Interact with leaders and decision makers from the industry and make sure you leave your visiting card with them for a better recall later.

While interacting, keep in mind the adage “You do not get a second chance to make the first impression” Every interaction with a potential employer during these networking events will be like an Elevator Pitch for you. Plan on how to introduce yourself and your passion for working for the industry in as simple and crisp manner as possible. Practice this in front of the mirror like you did for that debate competition in school or that inspection briefing as the officer briefing the reviewing officer

Increase your awareness around the industry that you see yourself working in. read news related to it, do researches around it and make notes. Do an extensive research around the subjects when attending seminars. While interacting, you may not come across as an expert but as a person having thorough knowledge of the subject.

Once I had made up my mind that I wanted to start my second innings in the Soldier Survivability Industry, I ensured that I had full knowledge of how the businesses work and the process within the Indian Defence, Police and Paramilitary ecosystem for introducing new technology and soldier survivability products. I had started working on my list of contacts and networking grid about a month before I hung my uniform. It enabled me to hit the ground running and much to the delight of my new employers, I already had a meeting set up with an important stakeholder on my day 1 at work

Corporate Governance over family Run Businesses: We in the armed forces come from an environment of mutual trust and respect as also stability and recognition of efforts. Workplace Politics are there in every profession and the armed forces are no different. However, in the armed forces as also in a company being governed like a good corporate ethics , you are working among equals in the sense that the CEO has risen through the ranks and provides that motivation and hope of career progression for every hard working employee to see themselves there at some point in their lives In a family run business, if the CEO turns out be an entitled family member working within a coterie of loyal followers and throwing his/her weight around, it can become stifling for your armed forces upbringing. However, this totally depends on the industry and the role you chose for yourself

Common Wrong Notions around Veterans on the Civvie Street: There exists a number of pre conceived and wrong notions around veterans on the civvie street and unfortunately we the veterans are solely responsible for creating these notions. My belief is that we as veterans are in a unique situation once we are out on the civvie street looking for a job. We draw a lot more scrutiny than our civilian counterparts looking for a similar or the same role. The pre conceived notions that exist around veterans are

- Veterans are too rigid and conformists and hence can get difficult to handle in a tricky situation which requires flexibility of thoughts and actions
- Veterans are a better fit for security or admin jobs only
- Veterans carry their hearts on their shoulders and can get emotional for minor issues and resign from their jobs at the drop of a hat

All the above notions have probably been created over a period of time due to actions of a handful of veterans but have become a stereotype notion for all veterans in most of the organizations. The reason, like I said earlier, is the fact that we are under a lot of scrutiny and judgement at every stage almost like a celebrity. A good behavior or conduct and performance is taken as a given for a veteran coming out from an organization which has the highest amount of public respect and regard. However, a minor misconduct / under performance gets noticed immediately and can spiral out of control as this breaks the halo and the belief that everyone has around a veterans being a perfect human being!! So be prepared for all that unwanted attention that will come your way on this journey



Things to avoid at all costs as a corporate leader

- Abusive language or intimidation of your subordinates in any manner.
- Cuss words: This may be ok with the peer group but never in front of subordinates or else it will be the new language on the floor even when you are around!!
- Partial behavior towards a particular employee. Even if he / she is your star performer, these stories always end up with HR with added salt and pepper especially if the other sex is involved.
- Cribbing about your boss in front of the subordinates. Don't we do it all the time while in uniform? But resist the temptation at all costs.
- Making an ego issue with a subordinate however big or small the issue may be. The subordinate will become an instant celebrity on the floor and you may end up on the losing side.
- Arrogance which is quite apparent. As leaders, we are taught to have controlled arrogance which is also essential at times for pushing your agenda but remember the word CONTROLLED!!

Bragging v/s Sharing

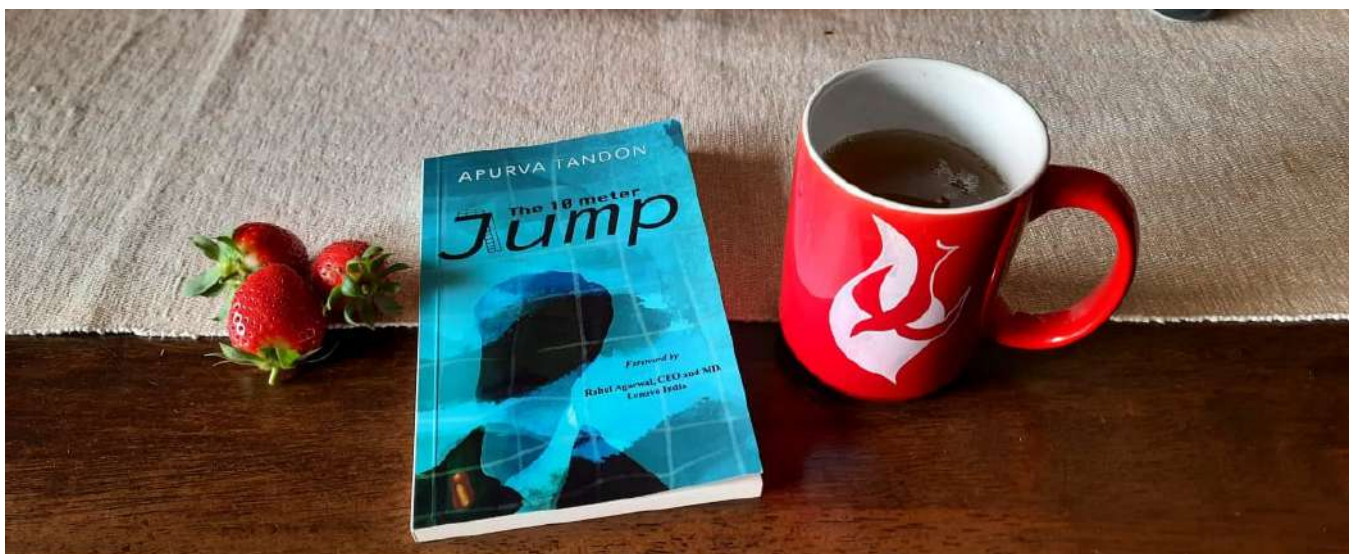
- Everyone knows your background and respects you for it
- Don't go around bragging about what you did as a youngster when you were their age. Instead, draw a parallel to a tough situation at hand to something similar that you handled while in uniform and how you tackled it.
- Be a good storyteller and not that pain in the ass uncle trying to impress everyone with his stories of bravado

Conclusion

I have been a voracious reader from a very young age and have been dabbling into writing articles or editing regimental newsletters etc during my time in the uniform but the success of my first book gave me a huge inspiration and motivation to start writing more often. I have written short stories for two upcoming anthologies and my second book is already at the drawing board stage

My book is an anecdotal account of the experiences that I have had in my over nine years of experience out of uniform in the corporate world. It also has advice based out of factual experiences shared with me by fellow veterans that I have come across during my journey

However, each one of us has our own way of dealing with life situations and hence our experiences may not be the same and it's a great idea to write down and share your experience which can benefit a lot of other people in your shoes and looking for help. So I urge all you readers to start journaling your experiences good, bad or ugly (There is a lesson in each!) and start planning to write a book and leave a legacy for generations



Matrimonials

Grooms Desired

A suitable match is sought by Col Sudhir Handa for his daughter. The daughter was born on 29 Jul 1991 and is 5'4" tall. Her education qualification is BSc Biotechnology, MBA and BEd. She had worked with AXIS Bank post her MBA but has switched to teaching to pursue her passion. She is now employed with Army Public School as teacher. Father is serving and the family would be settling at Zikharpur. Her mother is a home maker. She has one younger brother who is working with MNC post his MBA. A boy is desired who is defence officer or well settled. They are Punjabi Khatri. Contact for additional details.

Col Sudhir Handa can be reached at +91-9858519335 and sudhirhanda67@gmail.com for any additional details.

FOR INFORMATION

The matrimonials are published free of charge in this magazine, as of now,

This facility is available to only the officers from the three Services, serving and retired. Also for families of deceased officers.

You need not be a member of the Forces Network, to avail this facility.

Please fill the form at <https://forms.gle/NdN5pZcUTtb2Qkf46> to submit the details for the matrimonial.



CV Writing MDI- Sep 2017

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M2C, Indore - Oct 17