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E-ZINE

Magazine for military veterans in the corporate
February 2023, Volume V, Issue 02

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To Know About

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ChatGPT-3

New Vistas



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From the Editor

Dear Readers,

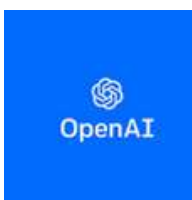
As always we are here on the first day of the month to serve you your monthly dose of your favourite magazine. There is a lot changing in the world, a war in Europe is creating disruption, there are tectonic shifts taking place in the world of Artificial Intelligence especially with the introduction of ChatGPT-3. All these open New Vistas and that is what we have selected as the theme for this month.

The world is a big place, and for veterans, it can feel even bigger as we transition to civilian life. The path ahead may seem uncertain, but it is important to remember that with every new day comes new vistas. As we leave the military, we are presented with new opportunities to explore. We can take advantage of the skills and experiences we gained while serving, and apply them in new ways. We can also seek out new challenges and push ourselves to reach new heights especially in new areas created by the process of creative destruction. As the old order changeth, yielding place to new we need to adapt as well.

But it's not just about the things we can do, or have done in the past it's also about the places we can go as also exploring things we may have never done in the past. The world is full of new horizons, and it's up to us to seize them. Whether it's through travel, education, upskilling or new experiences, we can broaden our perspectives and gain a deeper understanding of the world around us. It's not going to be easy, the road ahead may have obstacles, but it's important to remember that we are not alone. We have the support of our brothers and sisters in arms, and organizations like the Forces Network that are here to help us navigate this Transition.

So, let's embrace the unknown and set our sights on new vistas including newer areas of opportunities created by technological shifts. Let's make the most of this opportunity and see where it takes us. The world is waiting for us, and it's up to us to make the most of it. In conclusion, the world is big and full of opportunities. Let's embrace the New Vistas that come our way, and make the most of the skills and experiences we have gained while serving. We have the support of others, let's not be afraid to seek it, explore and go beyond the familiar. The road ahead may be uncertain, but it's worth to take the chance and explore.

Wishing you happy exploring of New Vistas



CHATGPT-3

This editorial was written by the CHATGPT-3
However, some minor modifications were made.

Capt Rajesh Nair



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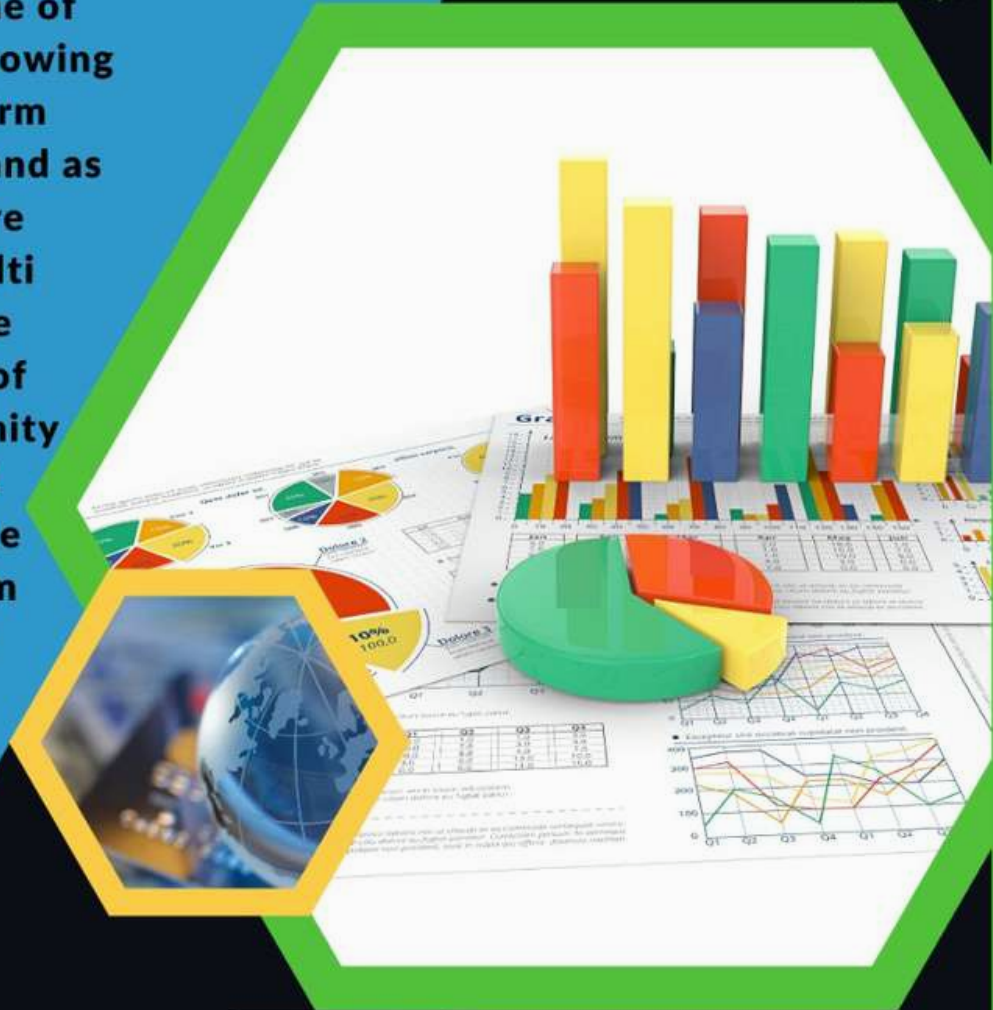
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[A NOTE FOR THE READERS](#)

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

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

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed within this e-magazine are the personal opinions of the authors and interviewees. The facts and opinions appearing in the articles thus do not reflect the views of Forces Network, and Forces Network does not assume any responsibility or liability for the same.

Star of Forces Network

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

IN INTERACTION WITH UDAY SHRIWAS

Capt. Vinod Narasimhamurthy was commissioned from Officers Training Academy into 2/9 Gorkha Rifles on 02 March 2002. Post his Army tenure, he has led the aerospace & defence practice at KPMG in India, he is currently an Associate Director with the Boston Consulting Group in its Public Sector practice as a core member of the aerospace & defense sub-sector. He has had the distinction of leading some of the marquee projects in aerospace & defence including the corporatization of the ordnance factory board.



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

Vinod: At the very outset, let me start by thanking Col. Iqbal, Capt. Uday and Capt. Rajesh for not only building this network of officers from the Services, but more importantly for maintaining the vibrancy in aiding folks to build their careers post-retirement. I am also cognizant of the singular honour being bestowed upon me through this interview and am grateful to you for the same.

I am an alumnus of the University of Mysore from where I graduated with a Bachelor's in Business Management. I had decided to pursue a career in the armed forces during my education and was elated and surprised in equal measure to find myself clearing the SSB in December 2000.

I was commissioned into the Second Battalion of the Ninth Gorkha Rifles in March 2002 and I joined the unit at Fort William, Kolkata. I was fortunate to have spent my time in olive greens with this wonderful unit that is singularly responsible for forging me into what I have become. The easy-going hill folk of 2/9 Gorkhas made me their own from day one and pushed me in their indomitable way to be worthy of their trust. While I wanted to continue my journey with the Indian Army, fate intervened and I was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder during the medical examination for permanent commission.



OTA Days

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

Vinod: Boston Consulting Group (BCG) is a premier global management consulting firm that was founded in 1963. It is well known for creating the “growth-share matrix” that is better known as the BCG matrix in the 1970s.

In my present role as an Associate Director in BCG, I am primarily expected to provide the requisite expertise required to successfully deliver projects (cases as they are called in BCG) that are related to aerospace and defence in India within the public sector practice. I am also expected to spearhead the development of intellectual property across the aerospace and defence value chain to provide the firm and its constituents with a comprehensive understanding of the sub-sector and the consulting opportunities that it offers.

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

Vinod: In all honesty, I am not sure I prepared myself at all for the transition out of olive greens. I had heard in passing about the resettlement programs being run by premier management institutions in India and applied after having superannuated.

It was during my time at XLRI Jamshedpur that I realized, not only did I know very little of the cutting-edge management concepts being taught, but I had also conveniently forgotten whatever little I had previously been exposed to. Hence, I did what I knew best – put my head down and ploughed through with copious amounts of help, guidance and coaching from friends and seniors. It is but a reflection of the quality of pedagogy at XLRI that I passed out with fairly good grades and had multiple job offers.



Div Sniper Competition - Winners

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

Vinod: The major challenge that I faced during the transition was understanding my interests and inclinations with regard to the business environment. Job offers were being rolled out by organizations that, according to me, typecast or boxed the abilities of an armed forces officer. To add to the confusion, there was a substantial amount of “random gyan” that certain types of jobs offer growth while others are coffins leading to an early grave. On the other hand, I was a 28-year-old with a very limited understanding of the corporate landscape, recently married, and desperately needed a job.

I relied heavily on the network of seniors and friends that I had built up at XLRI for guidance in enlarging my myopic view of where my interests aligned with the offers being rolled out. The community of veterans who had previously waded through the quagmire and were successfully engaged in their corporate endeavours provided as much support as they possibly could.

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

Vinod: My experience of working in the corporate domain has been very positive and when I look back at my career, it has been quite enjoyable. While I have missed the camaraderie of an infantry unit, I have been well-mentored and nurtured by my seniors in the consulting world. Over the course of the previous 15 years, I have had an opportunity to imbibe new skills across multiple domains and grow significantly as an individual.

Consulting as an area of business enterprise is relatively straightforward to understand but the skills required to contribute and to lead are quite diverse. I remember like it was yesterday when a domain expert went out of his way to teach me the basics of financial modeling because I had confessed to him that I had no practical experience in developing a financial model. I have found the consulting community to be quite pragmatic and open to imparting knowledge/ providing guidance whenever I have

had the humility to seek input from them. The community places significant importance on aiding a veteran in his/ her journey and takes pride in helping an individual who has served the nation.

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

Vinod: The one really big lesson that I have transferred from my days in the academy to the consulting world is that a team of dedicated individuals is more likely to ace a task than individual “Rambo’s”. I relied on my platoon in the academy to support my individual endeavours while I was an integral part of that team. Building efficient teams that are empathetic toward all members of the cohort is what I believe we as veterans are great at. It is the most natural thing for us having dedicated the bulk of our daily lives to conducting our everyday tasks aimed at betterment of a team.

Uday: How important is it to understand your own expertise and then to work towards upskilling in that domain so as to have a Better Outing in corporate?

Vinod: As I had mentioned previously, the most difficult aspect of my transition from the olive greens to the business environment was the sheer lack of understanding that I had of my expertise and interests. This may apply to all veterans who have not had a chance to either work in a business setup before joining the service or have not been exposed to any sort of commercial activity.

When we set sail on our corporate journeys, it is critical to orient ourselves to the GLD at the very least. Yes, there will be course corrections put into effect during the journey but it would be difficult to build a career without comprehending our strengths to build upon.

This is the most critical of areas where the veteran community needs to band together and provide assistance in a structured manner as is being done by the wonderful folks from the “Forces Network”.

Uday: We all have had great mentors and coaches in our Lives? Would you like to talk about them from your Journey in Fauj and in Corporate?

Vinod: I have been fortunate beyond my imagination to have been blessed with tremendous mentors throughout my time in Fauj and beyond who gave so much of themselves to my growth. While there are far too many to list down, three names immediately come to mind – first, my company commander, Col. M N Rai, YSM, SC (P) whose conduct I have endeavoured to emulate and model my functioning as an individual. Second, Lt. Col. Rajneesh Akhoury (Retd.) not only taught me golf in XLRI but has been my coach, guide, mentor, and more over the past 15+ years that I have known him. And the third individual is Amber Dubey, former partner aerospace & defence at KPMG who coached, pushed, and goaded me about building my brand within the firm and beyond.

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?

Vinod: The consulting world as we knew it was turned on its head with the entire globe suffering from the effects of the pandemic. A few days before the lockdown, the discussion I had with one of my seniors was that the entire thing was nothing but hype and that it would all fizzle down in a few days. While I am cognizant of the hardships endured by millions of our countrymen during the lockdown, it gave me time to connect with my colleagues and reflect on what kind of a world would we be living and working in once the lockdown is lifted.

The changes to the way we live and work post-pandemic has been so dramatic and far-reaching that individuals like me are still processing and trying to make sense of it. From public sector clients being open to remote working arrangements to conducting meetings virtually, some of the changes have been positive. Allowing employees to work from home in a knowledge processing industry like ours was long overdue and has not resulted in a reduction in productivity. Companies and individuals were forced to realize that work is merely a portion, an important but just portion of an individual's life and not the whole.

On the other hand, not having a physical connect and contact with colleagues and clients has been exceedingly difficult to manage. Calendar management to ensure that there are no redundant virtual meetings has now become an important task in itself.

The only piece of advice that I would like to proffer is that it is important to tell yourself, especially as you grow higher in the organization, that the relevance of skills that you possess is diminishing substantially. To be relevant in a dynamic world, it is important to have the humility to accept the need to upskill oneself and work towards it regularly.

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

Vinod: I have been an avid shutterbug for over two decades now. I am also a gym rat that aims to workout at least for an hour each day - I realized that consulting is a physically demanding endeavour and that exercise allows my brain to function at a fairly decent pace.

Uday: Top 5 Qualities that you feel are very important for excelling in the corporate world ?

Vinod: I feel that leaders should be empathetic, knowledgeable, honest, decisive and most importantly ethical.

Uday: One question that you think every officer should ask himself/ herself while preparing for his/her career after Fauj?

Vinod: Every officer preparing for his/ her career after Fauj needs to ask themselves whether they are financially prepared to weather the vagaries of transition for at least 06 months and whether they have had an open conversation with their family members and sensitized them about the journey they are about to embark upon.

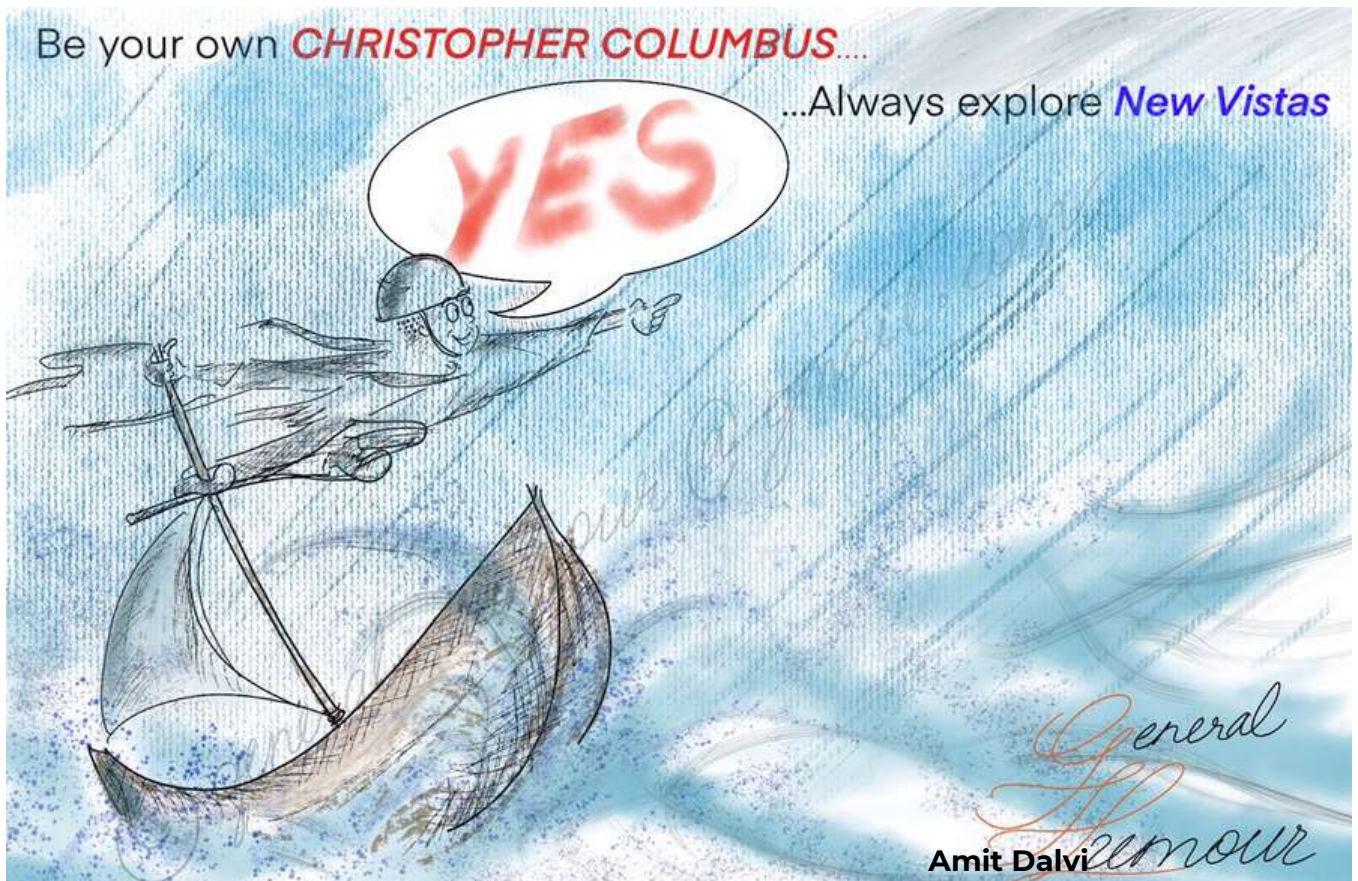


With Family



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

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



Expatriate Interview

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

IN INTERACTION WITH RAJESH NAIR

Lt Col Harinder Sood, YSM (Retd), an alumni of National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy belongs to 2 PARA (SF) and 17 PARA. Having had an illustrious Army career, he is now a Senior Programme Management Officer at United Nations Headquarters at New York, USA. He currently backstops the UN peacekeeping operations (PKOs) as well as special political missions (SPMs) in the Middle East, Europe, and Central Asia regions.



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

Harry: I joined the National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakvasla, in 1982. I remember I was delayed because I was finishing up my Pre-Medical Examination at Dayanand Anglo-Vedic (DAV) College, Chandigarh. I am a Punjabi, with our centuries' old ancestral presence in Village Shanker, in District Ludhiana, but Chandigarh is where I grew up. I would have been a doctor if I had not joined the Army. I was pretty good all-round - with studies, sports and extracurricular - and stood 19th in the University Merit List.

I remember I had my Services Selection Board (SSB) interview at Bangalore (now Bengaluru). I have very fond memories of my travel from Chandigarh to Bangalore (it was my first train journey), my SSB interview (especially my one-to-one interview with the Chief Instructor at the end), as well as my stay at Bangalore, where the local people are also very nice.

Following the training at NDA and then at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) at Dehradun, I was commissioned on 14 June 1986. I was the only one from my Course to have become a Paratrooper. There were two other course-mates of mine who went into the PARAS on probation, and they were both very good, but somehow, they could not get selected. I got lucky, I guess! I was commissioned into 17 Parachute Field Regiment - an excellent Unit, with excellent, truly professional officers; with lovely, caring lady-wives; with excellent Junior Commissioned Officers and Men - Crème de la Crème. I was blessed to have been commissioned into 17 PARA even though there had been pulls to get me into other Units as I was about to get commissioned.

My first operational experience came soon after my initial trainings - the Parachute Basic Course at Paratroopers Training School, at Agra, and my Platoon Weapons Course at Infantry School, at Mhow. This was my second Parachute Basic Course though because I had completed one earlier while I was at IMA. I was part of the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka. My Unit was the first one to be inducted there in late-July - early-August 1987. We travelled by a Military Special train from Agra (which was our Base) to Madras (now Chennai), and from there we boarded a Landing Tank Ship (LST) of the Indian Navy. The LST has a flat bottom, which makes getting sea-sick even quicker (☺), though the real purpose of the flat bottom is for the LST to stay upright after it grounds on an unprepared beach. So, after a longish, nauseating ride, we literally hit the shore at Kankesanthurai (colloquially known as KKS) at the northern tip of Jaffna, to establish a beachhead there, with no docks or piers. It was a great start to an operation (which of course ended up becoming extremely bloody later). We travelled by road from KKS all the way to Trincomalee and Batticaloa, warmly welcomed by the locals as well as the Sri Lankan Army. However, in about a month, another operational requirement emerged in north India and the Regiment, being PARAS, was air lifted out of Sri Lanka at short notice for acclimatization at Harshil (now in Uttarakhand). I was however left there to bring up the remaining elements, which was another happy, memorable experience for me as a young Second Lieutenant.



Patrolling at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka - OP PAWAN - 1987

My next operational experience came just a year later in November 1988 when we were tasked at zero-warning to rescue the President of Maldives, Abdul Gayoom, from a coup. I was doing Combat Free Fall (Skydiving) Course at that time. This operation put India on the world map for special operations, especially because President Gayoom had requested assistance from the United States (whose Navy's Seventh Fleet was just a couple hours away) and the United Kingdom. But we were the first ones to respond, and within a matter of hours, we were in Maldives by direct IL-76 aircraft flights lasting four hours one-way. Overnight on 3 November 1988, with 6 PARA in the

lead, we had rescued the President and later arrested the mercenaries, the coup-makers. The President, relieved and grateful for our lightning response, opened the airport canteens for us as a host to help ourselves. Also, one of the best Lobster meals I have had was in Maldives, during/immediately following the special operation with the then Brigadier FFC Bulsara (Commander of the 50th Independent Parachute Brigade), Colonel KKK Singh (Commanding Officer of the 17 Parachute Field Regiment) and Major Vinod Bhatia (the Brigade Major). By the end of the week, having successfully accomplished the mission, we flew back to Agra. I re-joined my Skydiving Course and completed it a few months later in May 1989.



During OP CACTUS - At Male International Airport - Maldives - 1988

In February 1991, during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the elite 17 PARA, I set the record of being the first man in India to have parachute-jumped from a free-flying hot-air-balloon. During that time, then Maj Gen Krishan Mohan Seth, AVSM (later Adjutant-General of the Indian Army, and still later, Governor of Tripura, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh over different periods), invited me to serve as Aide-de-Camp (ADC) with him when he took over as General-Officer-Commanding of 11 Infantry Division of the Indian Army, headquartered at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. I joined him and Mrs. Veena Seth in April 1991 for what was to be a blessing for the rest of my life, for they are both truly exceptional. My own parents had left for the US when I was still in NDA, and they took me in just as their own, and this remains true to this day. Personally, it seemed like being the most loved child in the Division, and professionally, a remark from the Deputy General-Officer-Commanding of the Division at my farewell summed it up when he said that the General-Officer-Commanding (i.e. General Seth) had more trust in me than any other officer, including himself. Following this memorable tenure, I did the Long Gunnery Staff Course following which I was retained as an instructor for future courses. Then, in 1997, I was selected for General Cadre, and I joined the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment (2 PARA), another elite Unit, then led by an excellent officer and gentleman, Colonel BPS Gill. In fact, both 2 PARA and 17 PARA had been instrumental in the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971. In 1998-99, I completed the Defence Services Staff College Course, and soon after that, underwent conversion to Special Forces with the Battalion.

I had barely completed the conversion with the Battalion that another zero-warning operation found its way to us. Late night one day in early-May 2000, Col BPS Gill called me to his office around 9:30 PM, informing me of a potential out-of-area (OOA) contingency (of which details were yet to be available) and asked me to be at Army Headquarters at New Delhi next morning (about 4 hours' drive away) before it opened. He passed orders for necessary arrangements within the Unit, I organized overnight, and at about 4:00 am, left by road for New Delhi. I reached the Director General of Military Operations and as the information was shared with me, I iteratively planned and prepared load tables for a potential airborne deployment to Sierra Leone for a potential rescue operation. This depended on the political decision whether to launch the Special Forces, the mission, time available, type of aircraft available, number of commandos, number and type of equipment to be carried, how long to be self-sufficient for etc. none of which was as yet clear, which is usual in such situations.

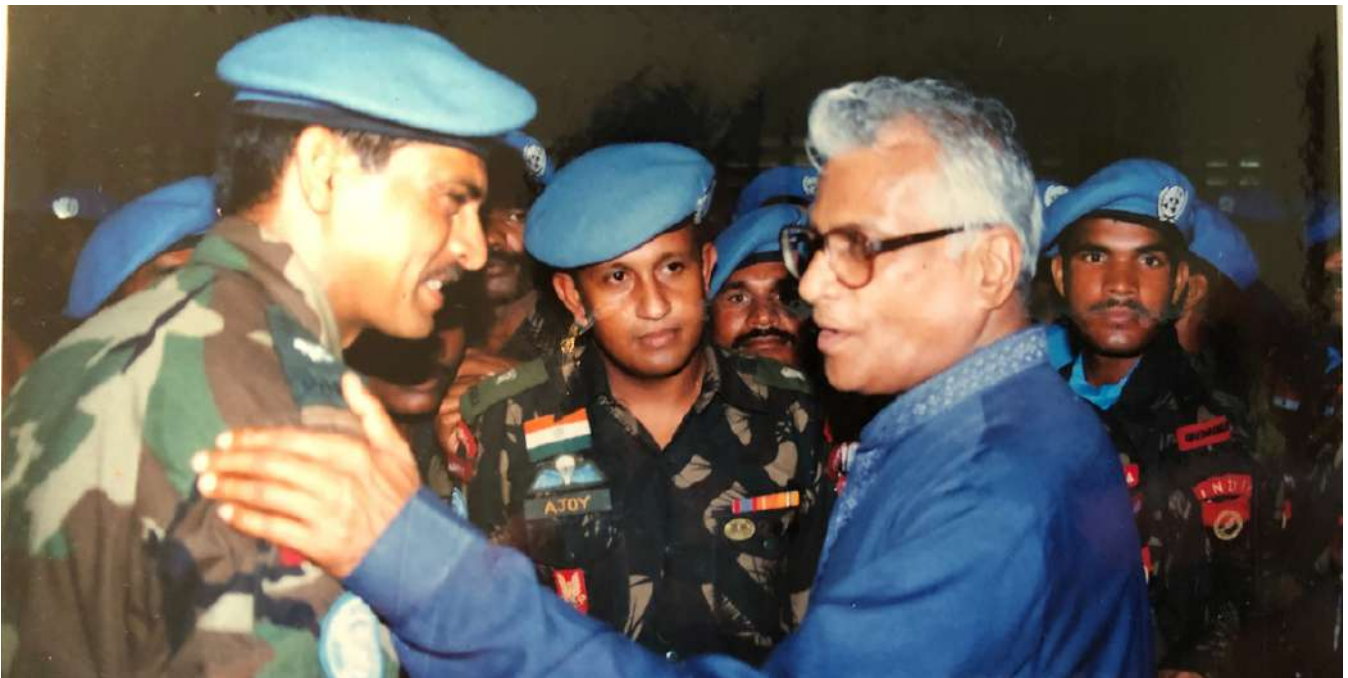
The then Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, took a decision at around 5:00 pm that day to launch the Special Forces (i.e. me and my Assault Team). Like most such decisions, political decision having been taken, the implementation needed to follow quickly before the window of any possible opportunity got lost. I quickly informed the Commanding Officer (Col BPS Gill) on the phone, before starting back from New Delhi, so that he could get as much time as possible to consider the development. On 16 May, without any passports, I and my Assault Team left for Sierra Leone by a chartered flight. Nineteen hours, three fuelling stops later (during which we could not even get off the runway/ramp let alone the plane), we landed at night in Sierra Leone.



With British SAS Officers - OP KHUKRI - Sierra Leone - 2000

I learnt from the Force Commander early next morning that three rescue missions awaited me there (one of 23 Indian peacekeepers, which was our weakest link; one of a crash-landed MI-8 helicopter; and the third of 222 Indian peacekeepers plus 11 Military Observers, one each from a different country, who were all held hostage). However, there was no actionable intelligence to help me, nor the minimum necessary resources (not even maps!). After unabated multilateral political negotiations and diplomatic efforts, the 23 hostages got released, the desire to retrieve the MI-8 helicopter waned, but the operation for me to rescue the 233 hostages went ahead. It was an extremely successful operation, unprecedented in the history of the United Nations. It deserves a book by itself, which will be my project in the coming years.

Subsequently, I went to study abroad in 2001, did a Master's Degree in International Relations from Princeton University of the Ivy League, came back and joined the Special Group, and then, after a difficult period, left the Army to be with my ailing father and family.



With Defence Minister, George Fernandes - OP KHUKRI - Sierra Leone - 2000

IQ: Please give us details about what you are presently engaged in your professional role and where are you based out of? What's different the new country?

Harry: I presently work for the United Nations at its Headquarters at New York, USA, as an International Civil Servant. I serve in the domain of peacekeeping and am embedded in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations. I have served in various capacities over my last 20 years in the UN, and I currently cover the UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions in the Middle East region and the Europe and Central Asia regions. This involves advice, planning, reporting to the Security Council, briefings to Troop / Police-Contributing Countries and intergovernmental bodies and coordination with several departments as well as UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes for start-up of

field missions, their sustainment, and eventually their drawdown and liquidation. Before I joined the United Nations at New York, I used to visit the US during my annual leave from the Indian Army since my parents and siblings were settled in the US. Some of my fondest memories visiting the US over 30 years back are of a country where there is individual freedom and where, simultaneously, law and order is respected and implemented, where low-level corruption (say, among police officials) did not exist, where the society seemed connected by basic courtesies of people exchanging greetings on the street, where one's spoken word was believed without it drawing scepticism, where people generally offered to help, and of course almost everything in the US was big and clean, things like that.

I remember I had my US driving license (an important identification document) on the sixth day of my first arrival in the US on tourist visa. That's when I had never driven a left-hand-drive vehicle before, and I did so after undergoing all tests – written exam, eye (vision) test, and road test (by a police officer) and without paying any money except for the licensing fee. Another aspect I noted was that people worked hard – for instance, people at the cashier's desks at the stores normally stood for their 8-hour shift except for a half-hour break in-between that they get, and while it may cost fair bit of money, service-providers generally do a professional job, including cleaning up after the work.

In my experience, things have changed somewhat since then, but still there are many aspects that we could emulate back in India. For instance, almost everything in the US is logic based, there is generally a thought-out rationale behind public policy, and improvements are made on a regular basis depending upon experience and feedback. Above all, I think it is the individual freedom that is the most valuable, wherein one can live his/her life without the fear of being judged. Of course, everything is not perfect even in the US, and the US could also benefit by learning from other countries, especially from India.

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

Harry: Mine was quite a unique situation, I think. After I joined the NDA, my parents left for the US. They wanted to pull me out from NDA, but somehow, I was destined to join the Army. I had an envious career in the Army – served in the elite units, made lasting friendships and relationships, participated in three high-profile operations abroad in addition to those in India including in Kashmir, got decorated... I am told that I was among the highest profile officers when I left. It was undoubtedly a very difficult decision for me to leave the Army with a little over two years left for me to complete 20 years of service, but my father, who was extremely unwell, needed me at that time.

Also, there was some disillusionment that I saw in the Army. There were people (army officers) who were parochial, bureaucratic, and unfair, which was kind of hard for me to accept, especially when one sacrificed a lot in service of the Nation. I would have been dead four times.

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

Harry: I have fortunately been a good all-round student. So, even in the Army, I was able to do well in various courses, including Long Gunnery Staff Course and Defence Services Staff College Course, and was selected for good instructional and staff appointments. So, as I served, I continued to seek educational qualifications, including by taking study leave to study abroad at an Ivy League University (which I was lucky to be selected by). So, I hold four Master degrees – in International Relations, Defence and Strategic Studies, Weapon Systems and their Applications, and Business Administration. I think, combined with my experience, it helped me to get selected to serve in the United Nations.

IQ: How did Forces Network help him in your Transition?

Harry: I had of course left the Army before I joined the Forces Network (a Network that I compliment Iqbal for creating, for I have noticed the time and effort that Iqbal and his colleagues put in towards helping the officers in their transition). I attended one of the IT courses and it was a sheer pleasure. In addition, the Forces Network provides a good, well-managed platform for connectivity among officers from the same background.

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

Harry: The biggest challenge I faced was the dilemma because of the timing of my transition. I was doing very well in the Army and had already completed nearly 18 years of service on one hand and had to be with my ailing father who was abroad on the other. Luckily, I have a very loving and supportive family, so I already had a base in USA, and I had visited the country earlier on several occasions. That said, I think our Army service does make us all adaptable enough to be able to withstand the challenges of such transitions and eventually overcome them.

IQ: Would you like to share important learnings as you grew up in the outside world?

Harry: I still remain in public service, but I think the learnings are not drastically different. I learnt that people who are good, are generally good everywhere, i.e. even if they are not in the know of a certain domain, they will be able to learn quickly and perform well in short order. Secondly, unlike the Army, which provides for a managed career, in the United Nations as well as in the corporate, one has to essentially manage one's career oneself. There is a good side to it, but there is also a not-so-good side to it. Thirdly, I think Army provides an environment where egos tend to get inflated. One has to be conscious of it, because actual competence does matter in the outside world, even though other factors count as well.

IQ: What is your team like, and how is it working in a place (a new country) ,full of different cultures and individuals from varied backgrounds?

Harry: USA itself is a country of immigrants, but for me, one of the nicest things working for the United Nations is to be able to meet and serve with people from all over the world – to meet children from all over, to meet indigenous people from all over, to see exhibits from all over. On the other hand, one has to just imagine how hard it can be to work with just one government, and you realise how much harder it can be to work with 193 of them (193 being the number of member states of the United Nations). Different cultures and backgrounds of course lead to friction at times, but at the same time, the diversity provides the richness to a debate or a discussion. It all comes with the territory as they say.

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

Harry: I think the most important factor is adaptability, which is already a strength and an advantage for the Armed Forces' Officers. This, accompanied by the drive that most of us have/develop, can assure success for any officer. On the other hand, I think one has to shed any inflation in ego that Army generally provides an environment for, as I mentioned earlier.

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

Harry: Mine has continued to be a public service journey, though on the civilian side this time, and in an international field. For what the United Nations stands for, and for what it represents to the people of the world, it has been a good ride so far. That said, there is primacy of politics at the United Nations, and that is often constraining for the Organization. So, sometimes, it leads to frustrations, not only in mandate delivery, but also in Human Resources matters.



With Kenyan Defence Minister, Raychelle Omamo and Japanese Ambassador - TPP Inauguration, Nairobi, Kenya - 2015

IQ: What are your future plans going forward?

Harry: I have a permanent contract with the United Nations. So, as of now, it seems I'll complete my remaining service with the Organization until I retire. Then, I might consider delving into the corporate world at leadership level, consultancy, or even politics, if I think I can serve the country and the world better.

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

Harry: Firstly, I think, without our fully realising it (because of our young age while we serve in the Army), the Armed Forces do prepare us quite well as individuals to be achievers, notwithstanding some of the weaknesses of our Armed Forces. So, we should be thankful for that.

Secondly, it is important to keep studying alongside (it is a lot easier these days) and get educational qualifications which can ensure competitiveness in the world.

Thirdly, other than our initial tests when we joined the Armed Forces, we don't really have to manage our own career. In the outside world, it is not so. So, to the extent possible, and right (noting the security considerations for the Armed Forces), it is important that officers remain in touch with the world outside of the Armed Forces, especially if they intend to later make a transition.

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

Harry: Until recently, I led an innovative and hugely successful Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP), which I had launched as an outcome of the first-ever Peacekeeping Summit held in 2014. I started with about \$40 million and expanded it year-on-year with increases in:

- 1) funding to over \$80 million;
- 2) geographic locations from East Africa to ASEAN region to West Africa,
- 3) number of required enabling capabilities;
- 4) number of languages for the training; and,
- 5) number of supporting Member States. It has been subsequently highlighted at three Summit-level meetings and several Defense Ministerials.

Before that, as Chief of a Section, my team established and administered contracts of over \$3 billion in complex settings, with an annual expenditure of \$1 billion. During this assignment, I was able to nominate and secure an award by the UN Secretary-General to one of my Teams for 'Efficiency'.

Before that, I spent a year in Liberia, as Chief of the first Integrated Office of a Peacekeeping mission and the UN Country Team (i.e. Agencies, Funds and Programmes) wherein, I played a central role in the Mission-Country Team integration, secured \$1 million from our Peacebuilding Fund for prison reform in Liberia, and supported World Bank's commitment to quick impact projects such as rehabilitation of roads for operations as well as delivery of public services to communities.

Prior to that, as Head of Office of Assistant Secretary-General for Mission Support, I helped in the successful creation of Department of Field Support, by preparing departmental positions; engaging Member States, legislative bodies, and Executive Office of the Secretary-General; briefing stakeholders including the Press; and liaising with HQ departments and field missions.



At UN TPP Launch in ASEAN - Vietnam - 2018



With my Son - Ishan - At Princeton University - 2020

IQ: Tell us more about your family?

Harry: I just have one 11-year-old son, who goes to school. But I have a large parental family. I have one sister in Chandigarh, and three sisters and two brothers in the US.

IQ: In a busy world, how do you pursue hobbies or interests?

Harry: I think, overall, I have been a doer kind of a person. I now believe in the dictum of 'enjoy the journey' as distinct from waiting for a destination. There have been times, when I have been really, really, busy, when I could not pursue my hobbies and interests, but by and large, I think mine has been a good journey so far.



With Messi's Wax Sculpture - At Madame Tussauds



Iqbal Singh is the Founder of Forces Network. Iqbal is an infantry officer who is today working as a senior tech executive in a Big Tech company. Iqbal apart from two technology degrees has a slew of industry certifications spanning across IT service management, Cloud, AI/ML and Project Management. Forces Network is a passion project for Iqbal – one where he is seeking to create impact and make change happen for good. He is a keen technology enthusiast who firmly believes in breaking barriers to learning technology and making it accessible as well as easy. He has mentored thousands of veterans and guided them on to successful corporate careers in his 15 years of running the Forces Network.

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

Women Power

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

IN INTERACTION WITH UDAY K SHRIWAS

Mrs. Neelam Hundal was born in an olive-green family and got married into another olive-green family. She is a postgraduate in Mathematics and Education with more than 18 years of teaching experience in various reputed Army and public schools. Recently post getting an opportunity to pursue her hobby and train herself as an actress, she moved into acting and has already done some Punjabi serials. She is blessed with two sons.



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

Neelam: Thank you Captain Uday for providing me this opportunity to connect with my extended Faujji family. I have been married to an Infantry Officer for almost 22 years now. By profession, I am a Maths teacher with education qualifications of MSc Mathematics and Med, having almost 18 + years of teaching experience in various reputed Army and Public Schools across the country.

Ever since my childhood, I was very focused and motivated to channelise my creative side, that is why in this stage of my life I wanted to pursue my interests and my love for theatre never died down. So recently, in a bid to explore my passion and interest, I decided to implement a career shift and have started acting in a Punjabi Serials.



Clippings from serial

Uday: What is it that inspired you to embark on the acting and media journey?

Neelam: Since the very early days of my life, I was always interested in creative fields to include creative writing, theatre and drama. The zeal to perform creatively in front of crowd use to bring me utter joy. Over the years I transitioned into becoming a teacher and I made most out of it.

But during the period of COVID induced lockdown, I believe life gave me another opportunity to actually work on something I really loved. But at that time, I took it only as a hobby. Coming from a family, where I was always provided with an opportunity to explore my interests and passion had already helped me to turn into a successful teacher. In spite of this, somehow, somewhere that zeal to perform in front of the audience and to captivate them had always been there. So, taking cue from these and making best use of the COVID lockdowns, I enrolled myself into different online classes and to provide finishing touches to my theatre and acting skills. So, managing my responsibilities as a teacher, a mother and a wife, I made the most out of it and was successfully able to gather and grasp the basic knowledge of acting.

In my view, being an actor is not only just devoting your time into one particular role but this profession gives you the opportunity to play the role of so many different people, in just one life time. You don't have to be professionally qualified to undertake or to go through so many different roles. With basic skills of acting and dialogue delivery, one is able to perform these roles with ease. Acting is this one passion and one profession wherein you can be undertaking so many different roles of different walks of life and still is your own person and this truly inspired me to continue on this journey and by God's grace and well wishes of family and friends, I am seeing myself on a very defined path now.



Clippings in Zee Punjabi

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

Neelam: Not only being in Army Officer's better half, but also as an Army Soldier's daughter, the Indian Army has offered me with different opportunities and has given me a confident outlook to go about my life. Coming from a very small city in Punjab, I feel if I would have just stayed put in that particular place with very restricted opportunities had it not been for the Indian Army.

Teaching in various Army Public Schools and interacting with students of every possible background further facilitated my learning, both at professional and personal levels. In addition meeting different set of people after every two years, who are so accomplished in their own ways, has helped me to broaden my outlook and perspectives. Courtesy Army, not only my friend circle has grown; I have also grown in my experiences and personal outlook.



With Childrens of APS

Uday: Why acting? Please give us more insights about your world of performing arts?

Neelam: Acting is a tough but extremely rewarding and most importantly fun career choice. You get opportunity to embody another person and tell that story from their perspective. All you need is to love what you do and persevere. Acting has allowed me venture further in expression than my own nature would permit me. It is a form of art that requires the participation and yields a unique satisfaction. One gets an opportunity to don different roles in different settings with different relationships, is what I like the most about the world of performing arts.

Uday: Would you like to share the detail of your work and your acting career pursuits?

Neelam: When I started my drama classes, I realized that maybe this is something that now I can finally explore and I saw myself settling in with the idea of being on the TV. Shifting the base to Delhi provided me further opportunities to be in a few advertisements. In the meantime, I was continuing to audition for different roles and it so happened that, I got selected for a lead role in Punjabi Serial **“Dheeyan Merian”** which is on air from Monday to Saturday.

I consider myself to be very lucky because I did not have to struggle that much by the God's grace. I kept giving my best and I was getting the answers. The lead role has offered me a platform to launch myself. I do have a number of offers from Mumbai and Chandigarh. But for the time being, I am concentrating on my role in 'Dheyaan Merian' and not considering any more roles. My younger son is going to be in final class of the school and this is a crucial time for him. For the time being, along with my role in the Punjabi serial, which is now on air, I plan to concentrate on his studies.

Uday: You must have had interesting interactions with some of the best visionaries, performers in your acting career and what would you like to say about their way of life? What are the personality traits of such personalities?

Neelam: Yeah, during this brief career of acting I met with Master Saleem during an Antakshari show, Dr Rahul Bhuchar a very renowned theatre artist and actor, associated with Felicity Theatre at Delhi. Virendra Rathore of Join films, producer director Mr Sumit Mittal, and a very renowned actor Mr Rakesh Bedi.

These personalities motivated me in pursuing my acting career. I got the opportunity to interact with them during my journey and from them holistically I picked up lot of qualities. Be it the way of speaking or the delivery of your expressions. I have learnt to be passionate for my job, down to earth in their dealings with co actors, their humbleness, loyalty and truthfulness to their work. To give their best in the scene, irrespective of any personal situation, is what I have learnt from them.



Uday: We all have Mentors and Guides in our professional world and they are a great influence. Could you please tell us about them from your life?

Neelam: Yes, you are very right. My first ever mentor is Mrs Nayana Sagar with whom I connected online for the purpose of reading an English play. She is a great actress and a wonderful human being. Later, I joined her in contact mode, to learn theatre skills at Felicity Theatre in New Delhi.



With my mentor Nayana Sagar

There I got an opportunity to meet Mr Sachin Joshi who is again a great professional actor. Both of them have helped me to fine tune my acting skills and to learn the nuances of theatre and acting in front of camera. I realized during this period that it is not just the acting skills which you require, but there are so many other different other qualities which one needs to totally imbibe. Both of them facilitated my confidence and enabled me to reach, where I am today. Not only did they inspire me but also motivated me that age is no bar and it holds no significance at all.



At felicity theatre with my mentor Mr Sachin Joshi

Uday: What is your biggest source of inspiration?

Neelam: Without a doubt my biggest source of inspiration has always been my husband. Not only has he motivated and facilitated to become a better version of myself but has continuously inspired me to move on in life with my head held high. Talking about what truly inspires me about him, is his utter dedication and hard work to continuously move forward in life. He has taught me one thing that one should never be satisfied with where they are right now rather we should keep pushing our utmost boundaries to be the true best self of ourselves and that competition is with one self only. Besides being a very respectable and reputed officer in the Indian army,

he is also a very academically oriented and an author. Having somebody so motivated in my life has actually made me realise my true potential and has made me understand that life is too short to stop somewhere and one must make the most of every moment in our lives.

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

Neelam: I love everything about Army. But if I have to select two or three things about Army, then I think the first would be the professionalism and the satisfaction of doing something for the motherland. That feeling is supreme and unmatched. Among other things, the opportunity to meet so many equally competent persons belonging from different parts of the country, the self confidence about meeting the challenges on a daily basis, I like, most about Army life.



My Inspiration

Uday: Live in the present moment and/or plan for the future? What's your Mantra?

Neelam: I live by the Mantra of staying in the present and also staying a little intoned to your future goals because right now whatever you are investing in and you are cherishing in your present moment is always going to reap success in the future and is always going to yield you with good results in the future. At the same time one must also keep their past in the mind and not repeat certain uncomfortable decisions that they had stumbled upon and keep dwelling on the present and stay put and stay focused in the present moment.

Usually at times people worry about what's going to happen in the future, how it is going to even affect them. Just because of fear, we don't really start in the present. So for me I never really hoped for something big. I naturally had a vision for myself, but I kept investing my time into this creative field, creative journey that embarked by writing articles for newspapers and magazines. I even got the opportunity to produce my work as a co-author in the Anthology named "You Are a Star".



All of these have yielded me these small little baby steps, which have pushed me towards something which I wasn't expecting for myself. My suggestion to everyone out there is to have a brief moment with them in the present. Stay put, stay motivated. Challenges will come. They will try to come and knock you down but you have to use your wisdom from the past to make the most out of it in the present and go with your head held high into that unknown future because trust me if you've invested a good amount of time in your present you can expect something positive in your future. So always remember to stay put where you are and make the most out of it and remember the time tested adage, 'Time Waits for None'.



Uday: As an Aspiring and confident women in the world of entertainment how's been your experience?

Neelam: As an outsider and with my initial foothold in the world of entertainment, I can surely say that the industry is open to anyone with a zeal and passion for the work. One has to have a fire to succeed and the sky is the limit for that person.

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

Neelam: One of the most heartfelt moments I have experienced till now is when I bagged this role for "DHEEYAN MERIAN". I was very overwhelmed. I was rather in dilemma should I take this opportunity or should. I was focused and oriented towards my family, as I had to take care of my younger son. You will not believe, but for a moment I had almost refused the role being offered. But then, my family had rallied around me to support and motivate me for my passion. My elder son, who is studying medicine, told me and I quote, "Mom, you have devoted so much time to us, now is actually your time to live and Shine. You don't worry about us, we will be fine. You go and pursue your passion". I



At APS

family, as I had to take care of my younger son. You will not believe, but for a moment I had almost refused the role being offered. But then, my family had rallied around me to support and motivate me for my passion. My elder son, who is studying medicine, told me and I quote, "Mom, you have devoted so much time to us, now is actually your time to live and Shine. You don't worry about us, we will be fine. You go and pursue your passion". I was fully supported by my brothers, Lt Col Bikram Singh, Harpal Singh, My neice Umang Randhawa, my sons Karanbir, Jaibir and complete family, during those few hours of dilemma. So a big thanks to my loving family.



Still from a Serial

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

Neelam: Naturally just like every other person even I came across some tough challenging times which did turn out to be total 180 degree in my life. Firstly, I was never really expecting for this instant success but by God's grace and my continuous dedication and passion I landed up with this role. Now, while looking back I can say that, I am so comfortable and so much at peace with my day to day routine. If you talk about challenges right now, I don't think I have any.

But yes, in the beginning when I stumbled upon this lead role, I had a kind of performance anxiety. Or you can say that I had this performance pressure, because I wanted to live up to those expectations which everyone was expecting from me. Surely enough I was able to surpass that stress and I was able to stay motivated to my work.

Initially, the commute between my place of residence at Delhi and Chandigarh, where the shoot is happening was a bit stressful for me. But now I think, I have been able to overcome that stress. Also, when you start working in a totally alienated environment and especially in such a formal setting, you are naturally in a state of stress because there are people with you, who are much more experienced in this field. And you can rather be little intimidated by that.

But my nature has always been to always take out the best qualities from those people and not be intimidated but rather learn those qualities and try to stay at par with them. So considering that I was in Dilemma of whether I should even start this. I let go all the fears and I jumped straight into it. Since my heart was at right place and I had a support of my family I knew what I was doing I continue to grow out of it and none of these challenges now seem to be as challenges to me anymore and rather they were a fun and frolic ride, which I seem to be enjoying now and I really look forward to such more adventures to come.



Still from Serials



HDMC 14 course with Commandant

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

Neelam: My advice would be that, "Ladies, Please get up and go out, World is yours". Use the opportunities being provided by Army to overcome your challenges and inhibitions and follow your passion. The proliferation of IT has opened up a totally new domain of online learning. Learning must never stop. No one can claim to know everything, so learn on a daily basis. And remember, there is no age limit to excel.





Uday: You have also been actively involved in the field of teaching, which I believe is also your passion. So, how come you decided to make this transition to acting at such a stage in life?

Neelam: Teaching as a passion has not dwindled and the acting like teaching has always been in the background. I am a learner for life and teaching is one thing which will always be very dear to me. In fact, I am open to pursuing both my passions simultaneously.

Uday: You must have realised over the years through constant interaction, that there is enough talent for acting within our defence fraternity. So, what would be your guide lines to such potential candidates, in case they wish to get into this field?

Neelam: As I said, there is no dearth of talent within our extended fauji family. I would advice that opportunities do not come knocking on your door. One has to move out and pursue them. Until and unless, the concerned people / agencies will not come to know about your qualifications and interests, how would one connect with you? With the Social Media, it has indeed become easy to increase your visibility. Last but not least, one should not let one odd disappointment to stop you from following your passion and dreams.



Uday: There is also an unmistakable apprehension about the functioning of this industry in the minds of the public. What have been your experience so far, and your views about it?

Neelam: I was also apprehensive of this fixed negative image about the industry in the minds of the public. My experience, till now, has been opposite of this misconception. My interaction with the people from industry has generally revealed a very positive, helpful and supportive image. Yes, I still have an apprehension about this image about the industry, but one odd incident does not define the image of the entire industry. My message in this regard to the aspirants for the industry would be to take your time, have faith in yourself and not to attempt any short cuts.



Perfect Family Picture

Uday: What are your other hobbies and do you get time to pursue them now?

Neelam: I love writing and singing. With this changeover, that has taken a backseat temporarily. But with me settling down, I am sure I will be able to find time to pursue them as well.



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

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

Author of the Month

COMMANDER Kochery C Shibu

IN INTERACTION WITH RAJESH NAIR

Kochery C Shibu, the bestselling and Award - winning author of *Men and Dreams in the Dhauladhar*, graduated from the prestigious National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, in 1981. He has served in the Indian Navy and commanded two warships. Post his retirement, he has executed hydroelectric projects in the Cauvery River basin in Karnataka, Beas River basin in Himachal and Teesta River basin in Sikkim. He holds a postgraduate degree in Defence Studies from Chennai University, and MA in English literature from Pune University.

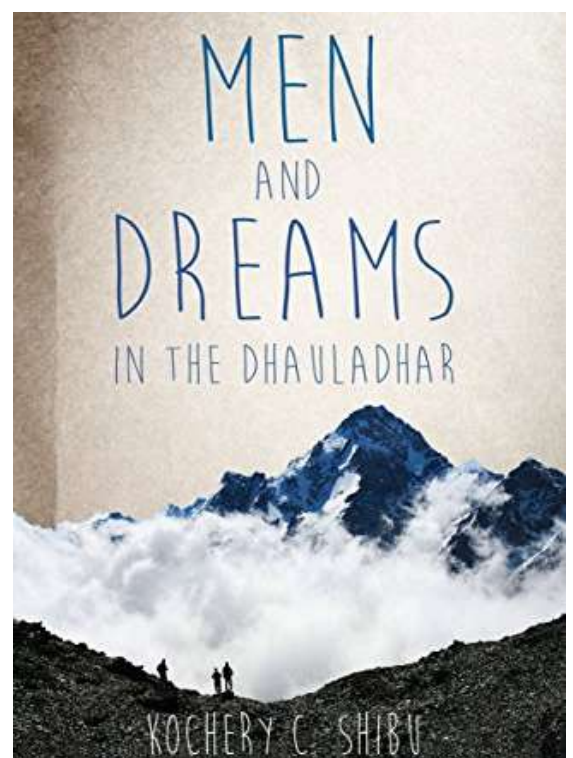


Men and Dreams in the Dhauladhar was his debut fiction novel which was published in 2015. The novel is about the extra ordinary events in the life of the ordinary workers at the hydroelectric project sites. Shibu has changed track from the snow clad mountains, to the blue oceans, and has been associated with the setting up of a shipping company in India. *Faith and the Beloved* is his second book, which is mystery thriller, published in 2020. Many of the characters in the novel are inspired from those whom he has encountered during his extensive travel. The author has been awarded the readers' choice award for the best Mystery and Thriller novel for 2022.

Kochery C Shibu was born in Kochi, Kangarapady and now lives in Bangalore with his wife and daughter.

Rajesh: Please tell us something about your journey in the Armed Forces?

Shibu: I am an EX NDA-officer of 60th course NDA. I was part. Of the 129 Pilots course as an AF cadet. Didn't make the grade, so decided to join the Navy and was commissioned into the executive branch in 1984. I was fortunate to have been a Div. officer in NDA from 1987 to 89 and during that period I did MA in English literature from Pune university. I specialised in Anti-Submarine warfare and commanded two warships before taking pre-mature retirement in 2005



Rajesh: How satisfying was your Navy career?

Shibu: It was indeed very satisfying.

Rajesh: What did you do after you retired from service?

Shibu: I was working with a private sector hydroelectric projects group and was the headmaster for the setting up of hydroelectric projects in the Cauvery basin and the Beas River basin. Shifting to a completely new domain and learning the technical details and the nuances was possibly the best part. The execution of the hydroelectric projects is challenging and does come with a certain element of risk, which makes it interesting. I signed off with the execution of a 100 MW hydroelectric project in Sikkim, in the Teesta River basin.

I shifted tack from the snow-clad mountains to the blue oceans and have been spear heading the setting up of a shipping company in the private sector since the last five years

Rajesh: What inspired you to write a book? How did it all start?

Shibu: Writing has always been with me since my school days. During the service career, the writing was focussed on strategy, tactics, and anti-submarine warfare. Many a fiction novel have been abandoned along the line after a few pages. It was after I took pre-mature retirement and whilst I was working on the hydroelectric project at Himachal that I was able to take the time out to write the first fiction novel titled **“Men and Dreams in the Dhauladhar”**. The book took me 3600 Man writing hours and four years to complete. Another year went in editing and publishing. The book was published in 2015. The book trailer link for the readers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWODV6I6zUI>

The second book was a mystery thriller titled “Faith and the Beloved” and it took nearly 1800 Man writing hours to complete and was published in 2020.



Book launch at Kolkata

Rajesh: Any friends/guide who have been a part of your journey in publishing your latest book?

Shibu: The publishing of the book itself has been learning experience and most of it was learning on the job.

Rajesh: Please share briefly about the contents of your book?

Shibu: Men and Dreams in the Dhauladhar, the first book was mixture of three genres. The classical style of writing riding a thriller in the background and the technical details of the project forming a third aspect. The book has received critical acclaim. The second book was a mystery thriller set on a vast geographical canvas and capturing a wide spectrum of characters. As the title suggests, it is a mystery thriller which has won a reader's choice award in 2022. The book trailer link is given below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77H13nwLOMg>



Book launch at Chennai with commodore Garg and Prince of Arcot

Rajesh: Why mystery and Thriller?

Shibu: The war games form the backdrop. The only difference in the novel is that the author has to create every character and every scenario himself. He also needs to work out time and space to match the details. In many ways a mystery thriller is like a one-man war gaming.

Rajesh: A book is a great friend for everyone. How would you like to explain this? Would you recommend some books for the members of Forces Network?

Shibu: The cliched answer would be that the reader lives many lives through the characters in the books they read. As the saying goes in the armed forces "battles are fought and won in the minds of people". Reading books does widen the horizons of the mind and enhance the capacity to understand problems and find solutions. Wide range of reading habits is a must to develop a thinking mind which can win battles.

The readers could read
“Men and Dreams in the Dhauladhar” &

“Faith and the Beloved”.

<https://www.facebook.com/salisafaque/posts/pfbid033h9LnvPJ1zqcoxNwT5bWbnzeh1RkJVwtHyYa9snBZpK3WvLw4DUGQvsfRZGpcW9kl>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=6664476580245664&set=a.526198820740168>



Book launch at Bangalore with Air Marshal SRK Nair and Maj Gen Suresh



Book launch at Mumbai with RAdm Punit Chadha and Commore Jayayraj



Book launch at Mumbai with V Adm Ghormade



Book signing at Mumbai airport

Rajesh: How does one contact you for guidance, help or suggestions?

Shibu: They can go through the various interviews and talks I have given which are available on youtube and fb and Instagram . sharing a few links below :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrNh-MwYDlc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VukYTIvzIJM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7syYB71xIac>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zG-ZkTVum3s>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgUh_WjBlm0&t=1s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Nmc28Kip4g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOh8I1bz03s>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXURGJGTIIQ>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlbiB6CGIWo>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaVnOnxU1vU>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5E1BH0beZOU>

They can contact me on the email ID kocherycshibu@gmail.com

**SALISMANIA.com Best Mystery & Thriller Book of the Year Award
2022 Winner - Kochery C Shibu**



2022 best mystery and thriller

Book name: Men and Dreams in the Dhauladhar;

Publishers: Niyogi Books;

Available on: Amazon,

Price: Rs. 395/- (Paperback)

Link:https://www.amazon.in/Men-Dreams-Dhauladhar-Kochery-Shibu/dp/9385285009/ref=sr_1_1?crid=37AKBRC9LO9WT&keywords=men+and+dreams+in+the+dhauladhar+by+kochery+c+shibu&qid=1673963158&prefix=men+and+dreams+in+the+dhauladhar+by+kochery+c+shibu%2Caps%2C202&sr=8-1

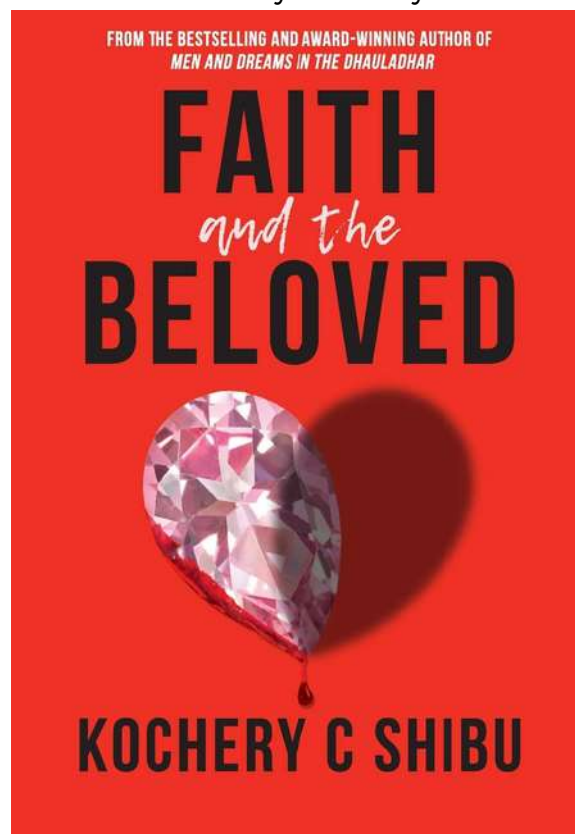
Book name: Faith and the Beloved:

Publishers: Niyogi Books;

Available on: Amazon,

Price: Rs. 199/- (Paperback)

Link: https://www.amazon.in/Faith-Beloved-Kochery-Shibu/dp/9354082882/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1F8N1PSUTPQBR&keywords=faith+and+the+beloved+by+kochery+c+shibu&qid=1673963255&prefix=faith+and+the+beloved+by+kochery+c+shibu%2Caps%2C249&sr=8-1



Capt Rajesh Nair is from the 75th Course, OTA, and was commissioned into 14 Maratha Light Infantry. Post Army service, he has worked in the field of administration for more than a decade, having worked with companies like Wipro, Mahindra Automobile, Tata Communications and Credence Global Solutions.

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

Moment In Time

We have started with a Photography section “**Moment in Time**” to provide an outlet for creative side of our esteemed members. The rules for submission are as under:-

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

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



The Catch - By Col J Sharma



A Flamingo take off....
By Col J Sharma



Pied Kingfisher of Bharatpur -
By Col J Sharma



Yawn of a Pelican
By Col J Sharma

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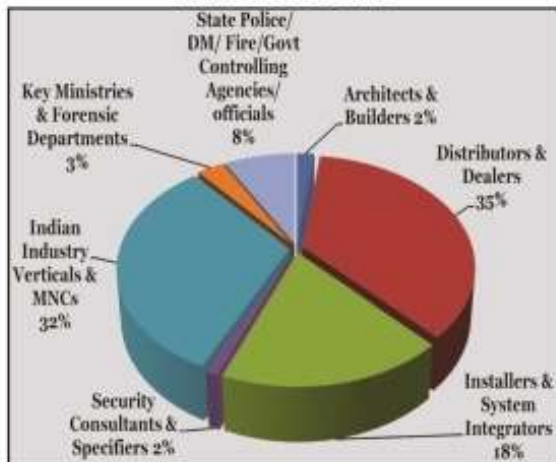
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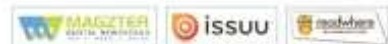
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Tech Corner

Penetration Tester An Exciting Role in Cyber Security

BY IQBAL SINGH

Introduction

As part of our series to demystify Cyber Security as a vertical this month we will introduce you to an exciting and rewarding role called Penetration Tester. A Penetration Tester's job, also known as a "pen" tester, is to identify security vulnerabilities in a company's internal systems and outward-facing applications. In other words, a pen tester performs simulated cyberattacks on a company's computer systems and networks. These authorized tests help identify security vulnerabilities and weaknesses before malicious hackers have the chance to exploit them. They have a range of tools to test the network, web application, or product. They also document the research and findings to be helpful in the future and develop and design new penetration tools.

Pentesters are often employed in one of these three ways:

- As freelancers who work with business clients on a contractual basis.
- As part of a company that provides specialised pen testing services for enterprise clients
- As part of the in-house team within an organisation, working to protect its data



Today, penetration testers are in high demand due to the rising prevalence of cyberattacks. As high-profile security breaches become more frequent, sophisticated, and complex, the chances of becoming the target of a successful hack are also increasing rapidly. To mitigate these security risks and prevent data breaches, organizations rely on penetration testers to identify and fix security vulnerabilities in their systems and networks.

Benefits of Penetration Testing

- 1 Determines the probability of a cyber attack
- 2 Assures whether the organization is functioning under the acceptable limit of security risks
- 3 Assesses the potential impact and repercussions of a successful attack
- 4 Achieves regulatory compliance as per industry standards (HIPAA, ISO/IEC 27001, PCI DSS, etc.)
- 5 Evaluates the efficiency of various security solutions
- 6 Prioritizes security risks as low, medium, and high severity
- 7 Uncovers poor internal security policies
- 8 Helps the incident response team perform better
- 9 Protects sensitive data
- 10 Improves business continuity
- 11 Maintains customer trust and brand image
- 12 Checks on organization's preparedness to deal with unforeseen events
- 13 Plans defensive strategies for prevention against possible cyber-attacks, SQL injection attacks, DDoS attacks, and several others.

Benefits of Penetration testing

Tasks And Responsibilities of a Penetration Tester

The day-to-day tasks of a pen tester will vary depending on the organization. Here are some common tasks and responsibilities you may encounter in this role:

- Perform tests on applications, network devices, and cloud infrastructures
- Design and conduct simulated social engineering attacks
- Research and experiment with different types of attacks
- Develop methodologies for penetration testing
- Review code for security vulnerabilities
- Reverse engineer malware or spam
- Document security and compliance issues
- Automate common testing techniques to improve efficiency
- Write technical and executive reports
- Communicate findings to both technical staff and executive leadership
- Validate security improvements with additional testing

The Responsibilities Of A Pentester

On a typical day in this role, you might work on one or more of these tasks:

- Develop penetration tests. You create experiments and design simulations that test and evaluate security measures already in place.
- Observe and report findings. Once you run these tests and simulations, you create reports that show your findings. When you do, you may be required to explain complicated InfoSec issues in plain terms that people outside of IT can understand.
- Offer plans and solutions. After you evaluate a network, you might work with people in management positions to fix breaches and remove vulnerabilities in the company's networks and other IT infrastructure.
- Stay ahead of hackers. Security hackers look for ways into exposed systems, and so you may work on making sure they do not breach into the networks you protect.

Skills For A Penetration Tester

Penetration testers use a range of hard skills or technical abilities to do their job well. Here are a few examples of those skills:

- Coding and scripting: When working on individual assessments, a tester with coding and scripting knowledge tends to be faster. Typically good knowledge of programming languages like particularly Java, Python, BASH, Perl, and Ruby is desirable.
- Understanding of vulnerabilities: Most testers quickly solve threats using an automated approach. Testers who can handle vulnerabilities when a basic automated process is unavailable are truly valuable to organisations.
- Familiarity with networking protocols: An in-depth knowledge of networking and networking protocols like TCP/IP, UDP, ARP, DNS and DHCP helps you understand how hackers operate.

- Knowledge of system administration practices: As a penetration tester, you are required to know how servers and networks work together. This way, you can be more effective at locating threats and spots where breaches could occur.
- Security tools: You may use plenty of security tools as part of your work as a penetration tester. The more familiar you are with the various tools, the more appealing your resume is to a hiring manager or human resources professional. Some commonly used tools are Metasploit, Wireshark, and Burp Suite.
- Operating system knowledge: To breach and hack a network to conduct an assessment, make yourself familiar with its associated operating systems like Windows, Linux, and MacOS operating systems.
- Network Forensics Tools: Typically tools like NetIntercept, NetDetector, and OmniPeek.
- Latest remote access technologies.
- Data encryption techniques.
- Threat modelling and cyber security assessment tools.
- Technical writing and documentation skills.


PenTesters are highly skilled professionals responsible for detecting, exploiting & reporting vulnerabilities before malicious actors find them. It is without a doubt a security's best practice –when done right. Here's what makes a great PenTester.

EDUCATION

Professional PenTesters usually have education in **computer sciences**, but also a **real passion** for understanding **how software work** and **how malicious hackers think**.

SKILLS

Great pentesters are skilled in **Network, WiFi, Systems, Web & Mobile App Security**, but also in **Defense Evasion, Adversary Simulation, Social Engineering** tactics and **Reverse Engineering**



CAREER PATHS

Pentesters are becoming increasingly popular. They can work **in-house**, as **consultants**, **freelance**, and even start their **own security firm**.

TOOLS

Great penetration testers master practical tools such as **Metasploit, Nmap, BurpSuite, Wireshark, Nessus, Powershell, Ruby, John the Ripper**, and more.

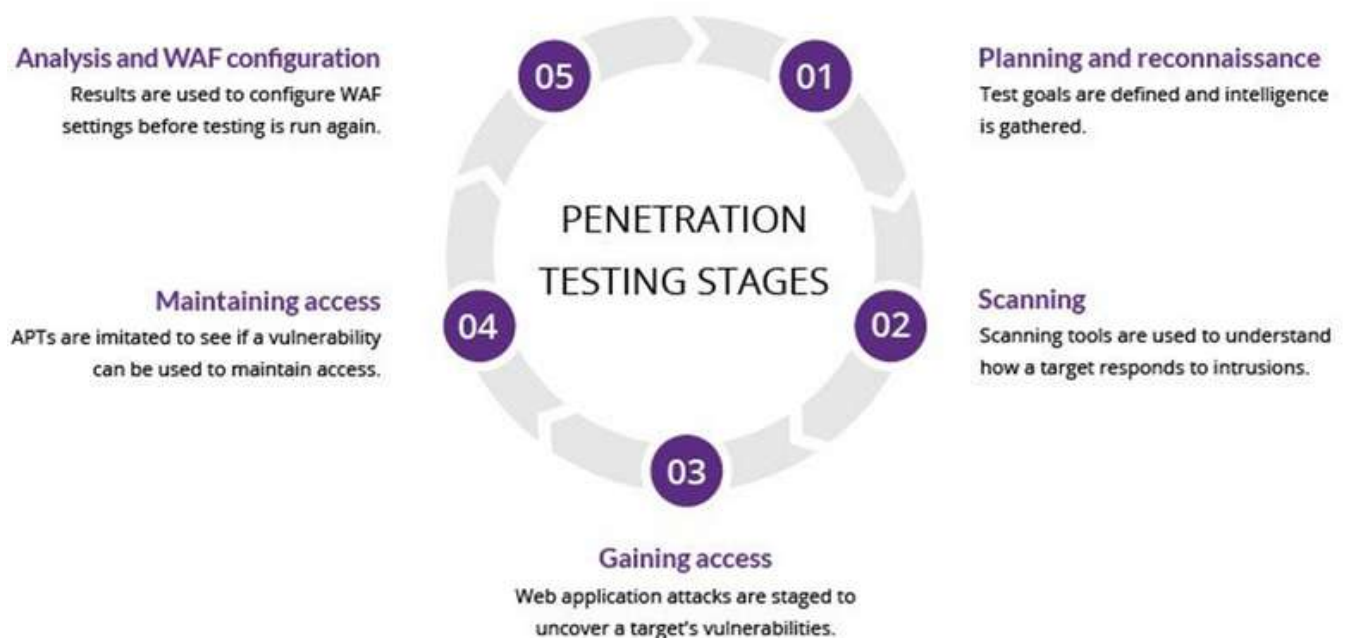
Anatomy of a Great Pen Tester

Soft Skills Required: Aside from the technical skills the following soft skills are required:

- **Working with teams:** Penetration testers work as part of teams, which means you may report to a senior pentester when you start out.
- **Vocal, non-confrontational communication:** Often, you may be required to explain findings to people unfamiliar with technicalities. Being able to explain vulnerabilities and solutions efficiently and patiently makes you an efficient InfoSec expert.
- **Written communication:** Having strong writing skills can help you write reports of your findings to management.

Penetration Testing Stages

- The pen testing process can be broken down into five stages.



The Five stages of Pen Testing

1. Planning and Reconnaissance: The first stage involves:

- Defining the scope and goals of a test, including the systems to be addressed and the testing methods to be used.
- Gathering intelligence (e.g., network and domain names, mail server) to better understand how a target works and its potential vulnerabilities.

2. Scanning: The next step is to understand how the target application will respond to various intrusion attempts. This is typically done using:

- **Static analysis** – Inspecting an application's code to estimate the way it behaves while running. These tools can scan the entirety of the code in a single pass.
- **Dynamic analysis** – Inspecting an application's code in a running state. This is a more practical way of scanning, as it provides a real-time view into an application's performance.

3. Gaining Access: This stage uses web application attacks, such as cross-site scripting, SQL injection and backdoors, to uncover a target's vulnerabilities. Testers then try and exploit these vulnerabilities, typically by escalating privileges, stealing data, intercepting traffic, etc., to understand the damage they can cause.

4. Maintaining Access: The goal of this stage is to see if the vulnerability can be used to achieve a persistent presence in the exploited system— long enough for a bad actor to gain in-depth access. The idea is to imitate advanced persistent threats, which often remain in a system for months in order to steal an organization's most sensitive data.

5. Analysis: The results of the penetration test are then compiled into a report detailing:

- Specific vulnerabilities that were exploited
- Sensitive data that was accessed
- The amount of time the pen tester was able to remain in the system undetected

This information is analyzed by security personnel to help configure an enterprise's WAF settings and other application security solutions to patch vulnerabilities and protect against future attacks

Pathway to a Penetration Tester as a Career

Typically, it takes one to four years of work experience in the cybersecurity industry to land your first job as a penetration tester. You need to gain a comprehensive understanding of programming and hacking skills in addition to data protection and open source security tools before you can advance to a highly specialized role in penetration testing. You can start by working in lower-level IT positions like security administrator, network administrator, network engineer, or web-based application engineer. These jobs will help you learn more about the specific strengths and weaknesses of security strategies used by businesses.

Build Programming and Hacking Skills: Penetration testers must have a solid understanding of enterprise cybersecurity systems and tools that can be used to breach them. This expertise needs to be built over time with considerable personal efforts and dedication. You will have to devote time to study the protocols used by new security software packages and ways to exploit their vulnerabilities. You need to continually educate yourself on the latest trends in network and application security, threat modelling, and cryptography.

A Formal Training Program/ College Degree: You can either rely on a Computer Science major to gain foundational knowledge or take specialized hacking courses to build software skills. If attending college is not an option, you can enroll in a training program to learn about the tools and techniques of ethical hacking in a structured environment. Taking online certification courses is also a great way to start building pen testing skills with no prior experience.

Earning Professional Certifications: A professional certification provides solid evidence of your skills to recruiters and hiring managers. Many reputable organizations offer highly sought-after penetration testing credentialing programs, both online and offline. The most widely-recognized certifications include:

- Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)
- Licensed Penetration Tester (LPT)
- Certified Penetration Tester Professional (C|PENT): The C|PENT program is a comprehensive course with an innovative and multidisciplinary curriculum that helps cybersecurity professionals polish their skills and gain proficiency in performing effective penetration tests in real-world enterprise network environments. The program covers advanced Windows attacks, IoT and OT system hacking, bypassing filtered networks, exploit writing, single and double pivoting, advanced privilege escalation, and binary exploitation.
- Certified Expert Penetration Tester (CEPT)
- CompTIA PenTest+
- Certified Mobile and Web Application Penetration Tester (CMWAPT)
- Offensive Security Certified Professional (OSCP)

You'll need to pass one or more exams to obtain most of these certificates. It might also be necessary to obtain several of these certifications, especially if you are applying for a senior position.

Transition Into Penetration Testing: With a few years of experience and a range of technical skills under your belt, you can start looking for your first penetration testing job. You can use popular job sites like Indeed, ZipRecruiter, and LinkedIn or specialized cybersecurity job boards such as Cleared Jobs and Dice to look for open positions. The job of a penetration tester also offers excellent upward mobility with roles like IT security architect, security consultant, cybersecurity analyst, and cybersecurity manager.

Penetration Testing Methods

External testing: External penetration tests target the assets of a company that are visible on the internet, e.g., the web application itself, the company website, and email and domain name servers (DNS). The goal is to gain access and extract valuable data.

Internal Testing: In an internal test, a tester with access to an application behind its firewall simulates an attack by a malicious insider. This isn't necessarily simulating a rogue employee. A common starting scenario can be an employee whose credentials were stolen due to a phishing attack.

Blind Testing: In a blind test, a tester is only given the name of the enterprise that's being targeted. This gives security personnel a real-time look into how an actual application assault would take place.

Double-Blind Testing: In a double blind test, security personnel have no prior knowledge of the simulated attack. As in the real world, they won't have any time to shore up their defences before an attempted breach.

Targeted Testing: In this scenario, both the tester and security personnel work together and keep each other apprised of their movements. This is a valuable training exercise that provides a security team with real-time feedback from a hacker's point of view.

What is the Average Penetration Tester Salary?

Several factors affect the earning capabilities of a penetration tester, most importantly experience, location, education, and qualifications. The average annual salary for a penetration tester in the United States is USD 87,845, with mid-career and experienced professionals making upwards of USD 100,000 (PayScale, 2022). Similarly, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS; 2022) reports that information security analysts earned a median annual income of USD 103,590 in 2020.

Employment of information security analysts is anticipated to grow by 33% between 2020 and 2030—much faster than average, according to the BLS (2022). Demand for qualified penetration testers is only expected to rise in the future as more industries go digital, increasing the need for new and creative solutions to prevent hackers from accessing sensitive information.

Average Salary for Penetration Tester



	Countries	Average Salary for Penetration Tester		Countries	Average Salary for Penetration Tester
	USA	\$ 88,012		Israel	₪ 180,000
	Malaysia	RM 60,000		Spain	€ 30,521
	Germany	€ 57,221		Australia	AUS 83,128
	India	₹ 611,030		Mexico	\$ 201,072
	United Kingdom	£ 38,62		United Arab Emirates	AED 219,000
	France	€ 42,216		Netherlands	€ 48,000
	Italy	€ 26,500		Saudi Arabia	SAR 159,000
	Brazil	\$ 96,996		New Zealand	NZ\$ 80,000
	Canada	C\$ 74,726		Switzerland	97,000 Fr.
	South Africa	R 356,000		Singapore	S\$ 58,281

Average Salary of a Penetration tester Across Geographies

Conclusion

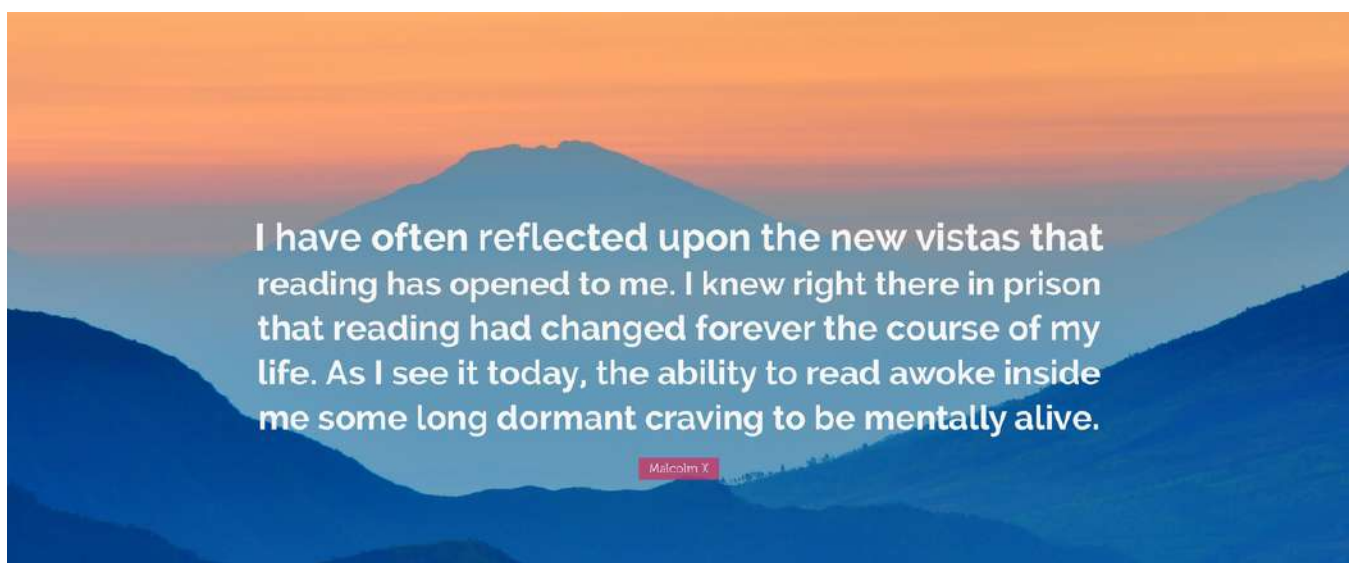
Cyber security is one field that's growing by leaps and bounds, and that's an easy one for an experienced IT professional to move into. Cyber security is needed in just about every industry, including manufacturing, finance, government, legal, retail...you name it! It's needed by every size business, and by both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

While pivoting into a career in pen testing is certainly not easy it is doable with sound planning and consistent effort. Penetration Testing is a hard core technical role which is an exciting and financially rewarding career with an extremely bright future, that makes the effort to rewards ratio extremely attractive. In fact one of reasons that pen testers demand a premium is because not only is the supply is lesser than the demand but also due to the fact that the skills required are not easy to acquire. For veterans this can be a suitable career provided one starts upskilling earlier - it definitely requires at least a couple of years efforts. Since the future demand is going to be huge I would strongly recommend that veterans look at this career seriously. They certainly can make it big in this field.



Col Iqbal Singh is the Founder of Forces Network. He is an infantry officer currently in a tech role. He is fond of walking all the talk that he himself espouses, learning new technology, shattering old myths and curating new age training curriculum. Iqbal works with a Big Tech firm based at Gurgaon.

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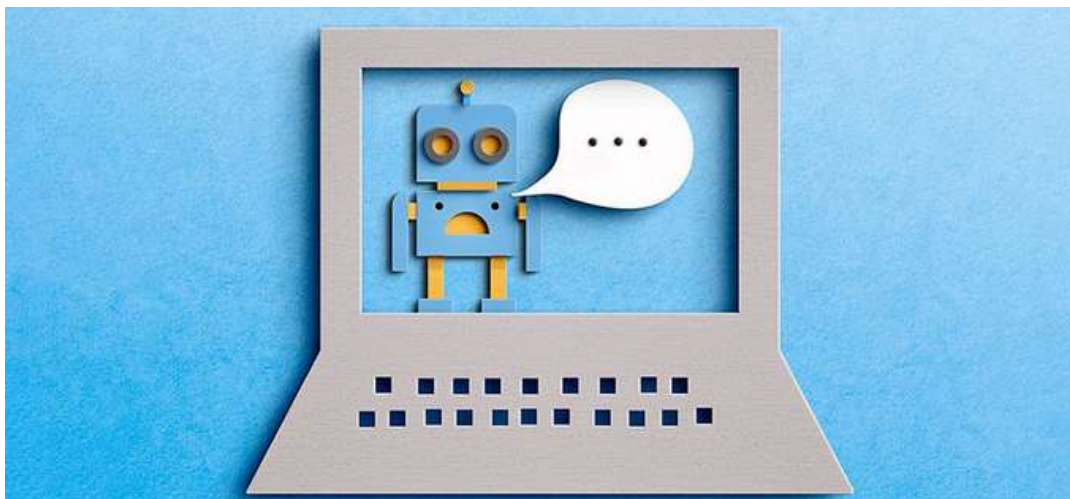
Tech Corner

ChatGPT-3 – Taking The World By Storm: Demystified

BY IQBAL SINGH

Introduction

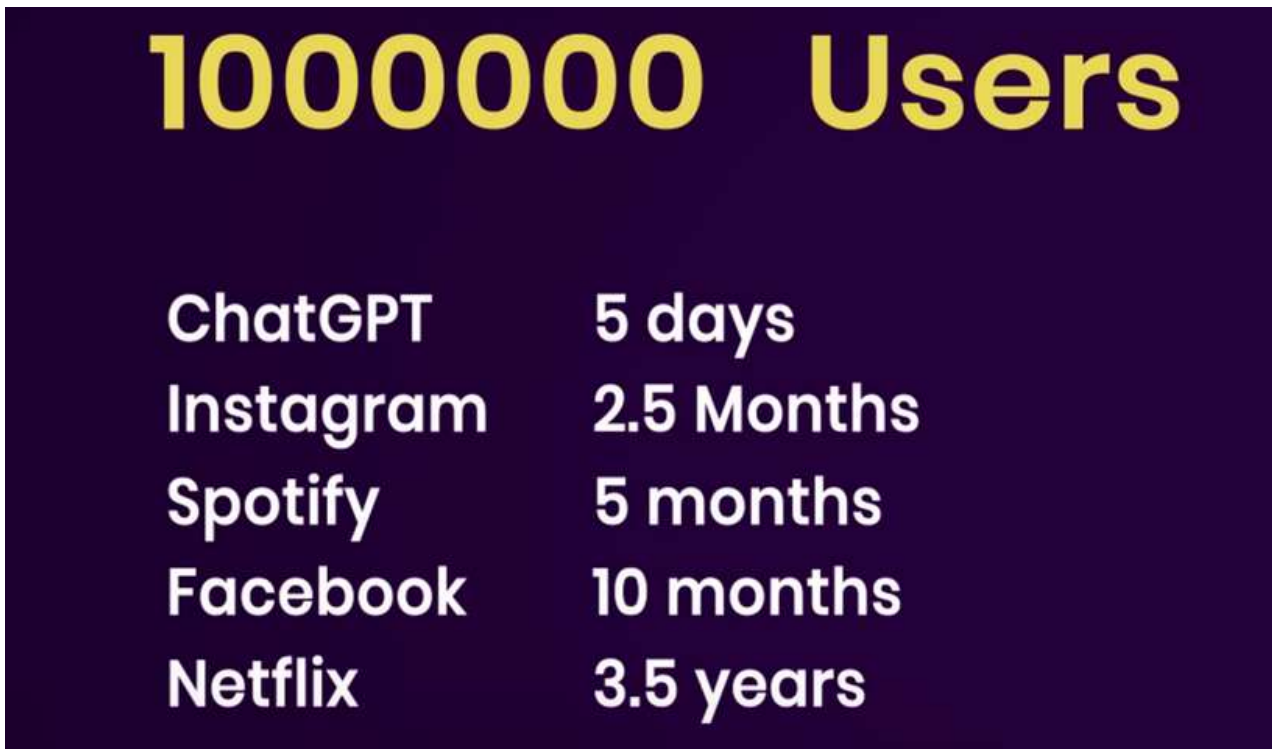
Unless you have been living under a rock it is likely that you would have at least heard the name ChatGPT-3 – the latest sensation to hit the world – literally taking it by storm. There are thousands of tweets about it with numerous mind-blowing use cases which you can see for yourself if you search Twitter for #gpt3 hashtag. ChatGPT-3 also garnered a lot of attention at the World Economic Forum 2023 at Davos where it continued to wow companies and curious users alike over its impressive functions, as well as sparked debates over its ethical applications to the real world. Even Gautam Adani, the world's third-richest person with a net worth of \$121 billion said that he's been trying out OpenAI's ChatGPT – and admitted to using it just a little too much. "The recent release of ChatGPT (I must admit to some addiction since I started using it) is a transformational moment in the democratization of AI given its astounding capabilities as well as comical failures," Adani wrote in a LinkedIn post published after attending the 2023 World Economic Forum.



Chatbots Are Coming to take over the World? Question is Are you Ready?

GPT-3, or the third-generation Generative Pre-trained Transformer, is a neural network machine learning model trained using internet data to generate any type of text. Developed by a company called OpenAI, it requires a small amount of input text to generate large volumes of relevant and sophisticated machine-generated text. ChatGPT is, quite simply, the best artificial intelligence chatbot ever released to the general public.

It is built on top of OpenAI's GPT-3 family of large language models, and is fine-tuned with both supervised and reinforcement learning techniques. ChatGPT was launched as a prototype on November 30, 2022, and quickly garnered attention for its detailed responses and articulate answers across many domains of knowledge. Even though it's uneven factual accuracy was identified as a significant drawback it garnered 1 million users in a mere 5 days. Following the release of ChatGPT, OpenAI's valuation rose steeply and is currently valued at \$29 billion.



Time taken to Garner 1 Million Users by Some Prominent Companies

For most of the past decade, A.I. chatbots have been terrible – impressive only if you cherry-pick the bot's best responses and throw out the rest. In recent years, a few A.I. tools have gotten good at doing narrow and well-defined tasks, like writing marketing copy, but they still tend to flail when taken outside their comfort zones. But ChatGPT feels different. Smarter. Weirder. More flexible. It can write jokes (some of which are actually funny), working computer code and college-level essays. It can also guess at medical diagnoses, create text-based Harry Potter games and explain scientific concepts at multiple levels of difficulty.

How Does It Work?



Is it Man Vs Machine or Man And Machine?

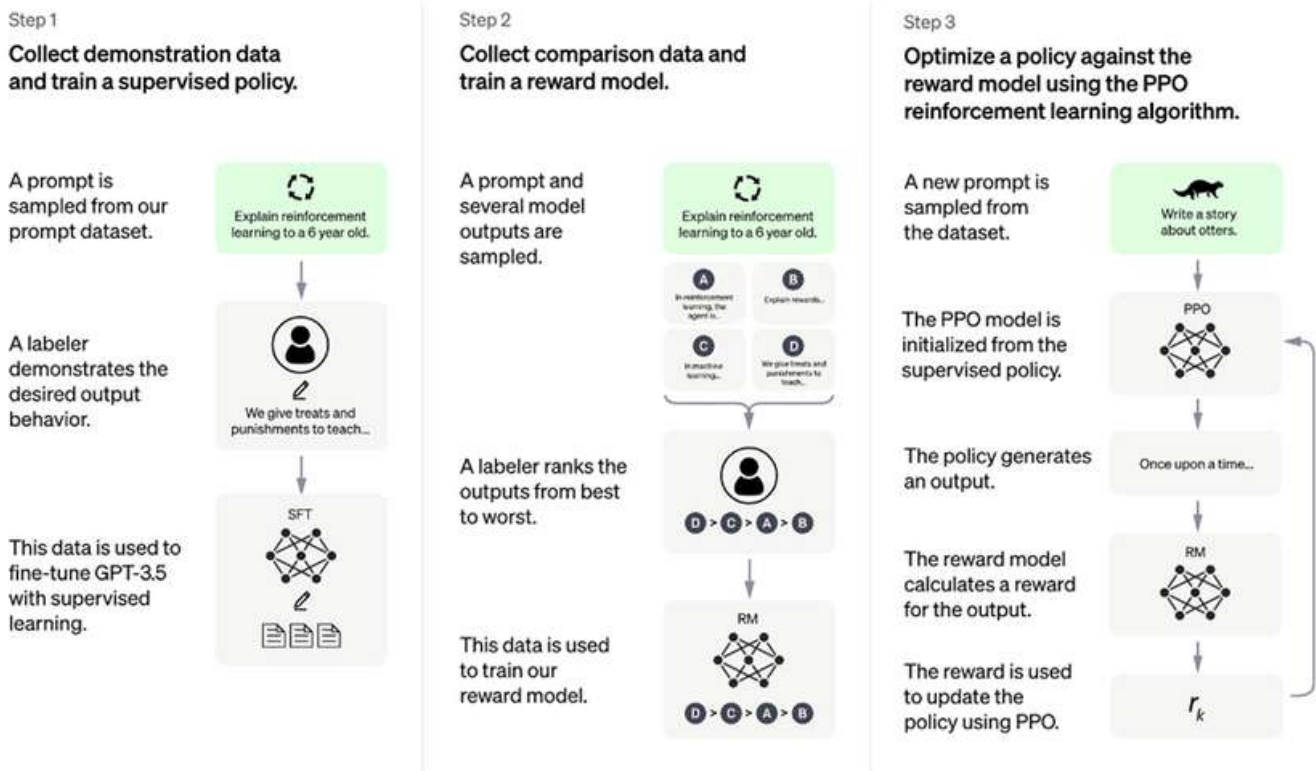
On the face of it, GPT-3's technology is simple. It takes your requests, questions or prompts and quickly answers them. As you would imagine, the technology to do this is a lot more complicated than it sounds.

ChatGPT-3 uses a Large Language Model, or LLM which is a deep learning algorithm that can recognize, summarize, translate, predict and generate text and other content based on knowledge gained from massive datasets. Large language models learn from huge volumes of data. As its name suggests, central to an LLM is the size of the dataset it's trained on. But the definition of "large" is growing, along with AI. The model was trained using text databases from the internet. This included a whopping 570GB of data obtained from books, webtexts, Wikipedia, articles and other pieces of writing on the internet. To be even more exact, 300 billion words were fed into the system. As a language model, it works on probability, able to guess what the next word should be in a sentence. To get to a stage where it could do this, the model went through a supervised testing stage.

Large language models are among the most successful applications of transformer models. They aren't just for teaching AIs human languages, but for understanding proteins, writing software code, and much, much more.

This means that it has a neural network machine learning model that can take input text and transform it into what it predicts the most useful result will be. This is accomplished by training the system on the vast body of internet text to spot patterns in a process called generative pre-training. GPT-3 was trained on several data sets, each with different weights, including Common Crawl, WebText2 and Wikipedia. GPT-3 is first trained through a supervised testing phase and then a reinforcement phase. When training ChatGPT, a team of trainers ask the language model a question with a correct output in mind. If the model answers incorrectly, the trainers tweak the model to teach it the right answer. The model may also give several answers, which trainers rank from best to worst.

To illustrate here is an example. Here, it was fed inputs, for example “What colour is the wood of a tree?”. The team has a correct output in mind, but that doesn’t mean it will get it right. If it gets it wrong, the team inputs the correct answer back into the system, teaching it correct answers and helping it build its knowledge. It then goes through a second similar stage, offering multiple answers with a member of the team ranking them from best to worst, training the model on comparisons. What sets this technology apart is that it continues to learn while guessing what the next word should be, constantly improving its understanding of prompts and questions to become the ultimate know-it-all. Think of it as a very beefed-up, much smarter version of the autocomplete software you often see in email or writing software. You start typing a sentence and your email system offers you a suggestion of what you are going to say.



How ChatGPT-3 Works

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) describes algorithms (such as ChatGPT) that can be used to create new content, including audio, code, images, text, simulations, and videos. Recent new breakthroughs in the field have the potential to drastically change the way we approach content creation.

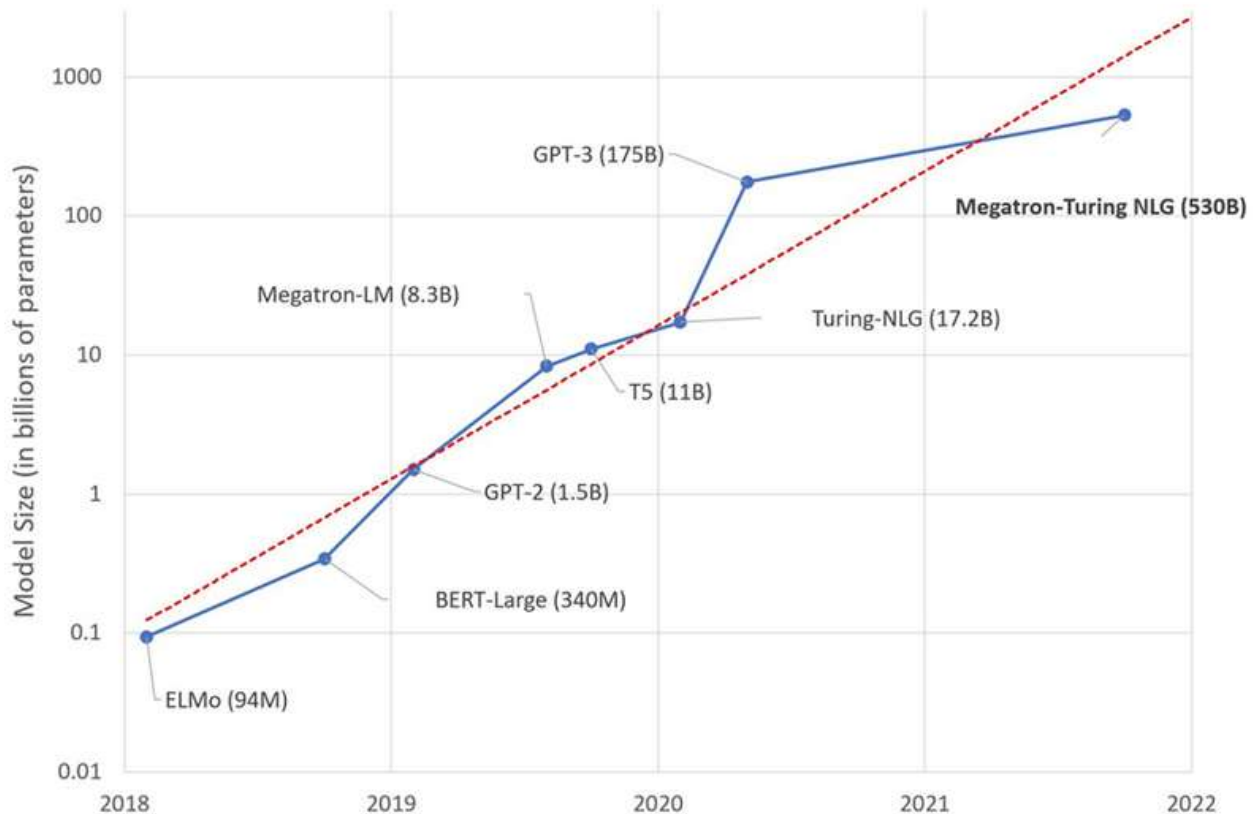
What Makes ChatGPT-3 Standout?

While ChatGPT-3 is certainly not the first Transformer based language model it was preceded by models like ELMo, BERT, Turing-LNG, Megatron and others, however it is the most powerful and successful of them all. GPT-3 has more than 175 billion machine learning parameters and is significantly larger than its predecessors -- previous large language models, such as Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers (BERT) and Turing NLG. Parameters are the parts of a large language model that define its skill on a problem such as generating text. Large language model performance generally scales as more data and parameters are added to the model. The large number of parameters is what makes it stand out from other models.

Parameters of transformer-based language models



Various Transformer based Language Models Vs Parameters



The Evolution of the Transformer Based Language Models

History of GPT-3 Evolution

Formed in 2015 as a nonprofit, OpenAI developed GPT-3 as one of its research projects. It aimed to tackle the larger goals of promoting and developing "friendly AI" in a way that benefits humanity as a whole. The first version of GPT was released in 2018 and contained 117 million parameters. The second version of the model, GPT-2, was released in 2019 with around 1.5 billion parameters. As the latest version, GPT-3 jumps over the last model by a huge margin with more than 175 billion parameters -- more than 100 times its predecessor and 10 times more than comparable programs. Earlier pre-trained models -- such as BERT -- demonstrated the viability of the text generator method and showed the power that neural networks have to generate long strings of text that previously seemed unachievable. In 2020, Microsoft invested \$1 billion in OpenAI to become the exclusive licensee of the GPT-3 model. This means that Microsoft has sole access to GPT-3's underlying model.

ChatGPT launched on 30 November 2022 and was free for public use during its research phase. This brought GPT-3 more mainstream attention than it previously had, giving many nontechnical users an opportunity to try the technology.

The Future of GPT-3

OpenAI and others are working on even more powerful models. There are a number of open source efforts in play to provide a free and Non licensed model as a counterweight to Microsoft's exclusive ownership. OpenAI is planning larger and more domain-specific versions of its models trained on different and more diverse kinds of text.

Others are looking at different use cases and applications of the GPT-3 model. However, Microsoft's exclusive license poses challenges for those looking to embed the capabilities in their applications. Microsoft has discussed incorporating a version of ChatGPT into applications such as Word, PowerPoint and Microsoft Power Apps. It is unclear exactly how GPT-3 will develop in the future, but it is likely that it will continue to find real-world uses and be embedded in various generative AI applications.

Benefits of GPT-3

Whenever a large amount of text needs to be generated from a machine based on some small amount of text input, GPT-3 provides a good solution. Large language models, like GPT-3, are able to provide decent outputs given a handful of training examples.

GPT-3 also has a wide range of artificial intelligence applications. It is task-agnostic, meaning it can perform a wide bandwidth of tasks without fine-tuning.

As with any automation, GPT-3 would be able to handle quick repetitive tasks, enabling humans to handle more complex tasks that require a higher degree of critical thinking. There are many situations where it is not practical or efficient to enlist a human to generate text output, or there might be a need for automatic text generation that seems human. For example, customer service centers can use GPT-3 to answer customer questions or support chatbots; sales teams can use it to connect with potential customers. Marketing teams can write copy using GPT-3. This type of content also requires fast production and is low risk, meaning, if there is a mistake in the copy, the consequences are relatively minor.

Another benefit of GPT-3 is that it is lightweight and can run on a consumer laptop or smartphone.

What are the Risks and Limitations of GPT-3?

While GPT-3 is remarkably large and powerful, it has several limitations and risks associated with its usage.

Limitations

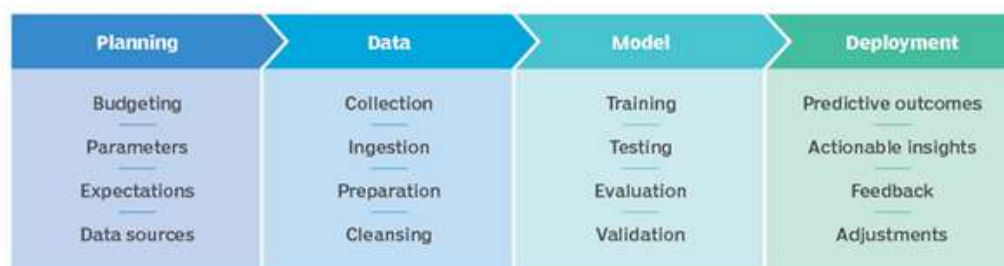
- Pre-training. GPT-3 is not constantly learning. It has been pre-trained, meaning it doesn't have an ongoing long-term memory that learns from each interaction.
- Limited input size. Transformer architectures -- including GPT-3 -- have a limited input size. A user cannot provide a lot of text as input for the output, which can limit certain applications. GPT-3 has a prompt limit of about 2,048 tokens.
- Slow inference time. GPT-3 also suffers from slow inference time since it takes a long time for the model to generate results.
- Lack of explainability. GPT-3 is prone to the same problems many neural networks face -- their lack of ability to explain and interpret why certain inputs result in specific outputs.

Risks

- Mimicry. Language models such as GPT-3 are becoming increasingly accurate, and machine-generated content may become difficult to distinguish from that written by a human. This may pose some copyright and plagiarism issues.
- Accuracy. Despite its proficiency in imitating the format of human-generated text, GPT-3 struggles with factual accuracy in many applications.
- Bias. Language models are prone to machine learning bias. Since the model was trained on internet text, it has potential to learn and exhibit many of the biases that humans exhibit online. For example, two researchers at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey found that GPT-2 -- GPT-3's predecessor -- is adept at generating radical text, such as discourses that imitate conspiracy theorists and white supremacists. This presents the opportunity to amplify and automate hate speech, as well as inadvertently generate it. ChatGPT -- powered on a variant of GPT-3 -- aims to reduce the likelihood of this happening through more intensive training and user feedback.

Rooting out bias along the modeling route

Bias comes in many forms—missing data, corrupted data, data selection, data confirmation, confounding variables, overfitting and underfitting, and algorithmic interpretations—and can be introduced and identified at any point during the care and feeding of a machine learning model.



Rooting Out Bias in the Model

How to Get Started With ChatGPT

ChatGPT is in beta right now, and you can get started by going to chat.openai.com. Click "Sign Up" to set up your account. Once you've created your account, ChatGPT will provide examples of what you can do with the tool, and help you through the process of running your first queries.

Right now, ChatGPT is free to use – but the company admits they may need to monetize in the future to deal with "eye-watering" compute costs.

Illustration of Usage

I gave the ChatGPT the following instructions and this is what is produced.

"Write a hindi English mix poem for a retiring military man seeking a civilian career"

समय की शांति के बाद, एक सैनिक नई कार्य की तलाश, सफलता की यात्रा के लिए, सफलता के पथ पर मार्गदर्शन पुरानी बातें भुलाकर, नयी ख्वाबों के साथ खुद को खोजें, सफलता की ओर जाकर, सफलता की यात्रा पर सफल।

English Translation:

After the peace of time, A soldier seeks new work, For the journey of prosperity, Guiding towards success.

Forgetting old times, Discover oneself with new dreams, Going towards success, Successful on the journey of success.

Describe ChatGPT-3 in simple terms to a layman

ChatGPT-3 is a computer program that can understand and respond to human language. It can answer questions, write stories, and even have a conversation with you. It's like having a smart personal assistant that can understand and respond to whatever you say. It's been trained on a lot of different text from the internet, so it has a lot of knowledge about many different things. Think of it like a robot that can understand and talk like a person

ChatGPT-3 is a computer program that can understand and respond to human language. It's like having a very smart robot that can understand what you say and respond in a way that makes sense. It's been trained on a lot of text from the internet, so it can understand and write in many languages and can answer a wide range of questions. It's like having a helper that can understand what you want and give you information or complete a task for you.

What are the new age careers that a transitioning military veteran can easily take up with some upskilling?

There are several new age careers that a transitioning military veteran can take up with some upskilling, such as:

- **Cybersecurity:** With the increasing need for security in the digital world, cybersecurity has become a highly in-demand field. Veterans with experience in intelligence or IT can easily transition into this field with the right training and certifications.
- **Data Analysis:** Veterans with experience in intelligence, logistics, or data management can transition into a career in data analysis. With the increasing amount of data generated by businesses and organizations, the demand for professionals who can analyze and interpret this data is on the rise.
- **Project Management:** Veterans with experience in leading teams and managing resources can transition into project management, which involves overseeing the planning, execution, and closing of projects.
- **Information Technology:** Veterans with experience in IT can take up careers in software development, network administration, or system administration.
- **Robotics and automation:** veterans with experience in mechanical engineering and electronics can upskill and take up careers in robotics and automation.
- **Renewable energy:** Veterans with experience in engineering, project management, and operations can take up careers in renewable energy field like solar, wind energy, hydroelectricity etc.

It's important to note that veterans should research and find the best fit for their skills and interests, and continue to develop their skills through training, education, and certifications.

Conclusion

Generative AI and other foundation models are changing the AI game, taking assistive technology to a new level, reducing application development time, and bringing powerful capabilities to nontechnical users. What this means is that one could draw art without any artistic skills, compose a song without being a musician, write computer code without knowing programming, author an article without any writing skills and much more. This could have profound ramifications for all of us in the future. It could mean that more than technical skills other skills like critical thinking may gain primacy.

The rise of generative AI has the potential to be a major game-changer for businesses. This technology, which allows for the creation of original content by learning from existing data, has the power to revolutionize industries and transform the way companies operate. By enabling the automation of many tasks that were previously done by humans, generative AI has the potential to increase efficiency and productivity, reduce costs, and open up new opportunities for growth. As such, businesses that are able to effectively leverage the technology are likely to gain a significant competitive advantage.

Finally, the pace of innovation and progress in this field is only going to get further accelerated in the times to come. The only way one can stay on top of one's game is by keeping in touch with the latest advances in these technologies, learning them and more importantly understanding as to how we can deploy these in our business, careers and life to make them more productive.



As new Vistas open remember the future belongs to those who prepare for it!



Col Iqbal Singh is a veteran who founded Forces Network. He has always had a passion for gaining new knowledge and learning technology. He is an infantry officer who transitioned into a tech role. He currently works for a Big Tech firm based at Gurgaon.

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Wisdom Bytes

A VOYAGE BEYOND THE HORIZON

BY KRISHNA RAJ

*"The whole art of War consists of guessing at what is on the other side of the Hill "
- Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, during the
Napoleonic wars. CE 1815.*

Another epitome of military lore is the famous poem by Lord Alfred Tennyson that is imbued in every soldier's life in instalments or in varying proportions. Much like the brave charge of the light brigade, most of the soldiering life moves at lightning speed. The charge of the light Brigade...

Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs, but to do and die,
Into the valley of death,
Rode the six hundred....

Life in Uniform

Take your own example, for much of the so called youngster days that the fledglings join their Regiments and Paltans, after Commandos – you are a leader. And as though in a jiffy, the Seventh hallowed year across the JC course comes a tad too soon.

Behold he has arrived into the folds of the Field officer – the man responsible for all the shortcomings of the band of troops that are thrust onto him to lead. All curious to see their leader react in face of trouble. And let me assure you, all of us have felt it- the 120 pair o' eyes boring into ones back! And you delivered...

Rest of the time zone in Olive greens zips by - Trotting on the heels of the young Major is the new charters awaiting him is the quest for LGSC Tank Tech/BSW and then the PSC /TSC /M tech. Crossing the hurdles of the AE period brings the swashbuckling keen eyed Field Officer to the doorstep of the Lt Colonel/ Colonel. Either he is on his way to more responsible challenges or he was found his peace in ERE most suited to his profile or experience. Yet Again some opt for study leave to pick up the nuances of the civvy street only to be harnessed by the service back for compulsory five years tenure where he largely loses track of what he gained. Then some hang up their boots for greener pastures ... and then it is curtains to Olive greens, and soon..

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day...

Remember, the 'Elegy written in a country churchyard' – By Thomas Gray...

The flash-back for many a Veteran is a stereo type of sorts -been there done that. A rollercoaster ride that ran its course in full. Not very surprisingly many opt for further utilisation in the same organisation in different form taking the back into the safe environs. The re-employed continue...

So we come back to **New Vistas.**

While in Uniform we also find many is gents having taken their pay Slip a bit seriously, investing in Mutual funds, micro investments and the likes where he or she got involved in financial tenets.

Another avatar is the instructor element in the forces formulated pedagogy in the training institutes, guiding curriculum a beacon of hope to the next generation of student officers. This talent of the instructor fades with another posting to another establishment.

Yet another line of officers take interest in Land investments that appreciate as they move up in service so at the end of their service and finally are able to pick the ripe apples in their twilight years of service.

Cut to the twenty first century India more so in the second decade, & beyond. Outside the OGs, the 150k Billionaire is recorded in India, Metros are sprouting from class B cities, Metro lines are streaming across these cities as Fastag goes on line - the civvy street is flush with upskilled generation of Employers and employees. A confident Officer who decides to go it alone in the Civvy Street would want to start a company and be the MD. And we are not discussing Hand me Downs here. Woe beget someone who defies him...

Perennial is the argument between the entrepreneurs and employee within- Royal Rich Headache or an assured pay-check on the Table on the first of the month? Further guided by circumstance of capital requirements, in the prime of life, the balance tilts slowly towards the monthly wages option. What they all have in common the unbroken thread of the unfathomable zeal to empower themselves. After all, they have been deep selected to become an Officer and lead men when their counterparts were in Postgraduate colleges trying to woo the other half.

For those stalwarts seeking new Vistas, the mantra goes like this- Preparatory is the best part of training and training is the best preparation for war. Yet again an adage - Remember the famous line of Louise Pasteur -

Fortune Favours The Prepared Mind.

New vistas did not come calling at the lawns of someone basking under a shade. Quoting from "*Fluke*" a book by the redoubtable mathematician Joseph Mazur, "*Fluke*" The more one is Mobile more are the Possibilities of anything happening with him. If things are happening, you are moving!! So says the **"Maths and myths of coincidence."**

So goes it for the soldier landing on the Civvy Street. A minimum of two years of mental preparation is best for the regular guys. This may not be so for those who have an Ecosystem waiting for them and side is for of relations/friends/ NRI Et Al. Those salt horses who foray into the open seas have to empower those selves is various hues. In this Zone, certain initiatives like ABCT - "*Anybody can tech*" and webinar such as - As introduction to digital marketing, covering Google any business 'And Facebook platforms' help as an exposure to what live ahead in Civvy Street for the entrepreneur.

How many of the serving or recently retired folks know that "Google my business" will help you take your venture across to searchers just as out 10 odd km around your designated map location. It is not your large region and not even you city, but well short of even 10 miles and if your shop lies in the fringes of a city, you have missed out 50 % of the effect.

Taking the bull by the horns is an Idiom that may sound inviting and challenging; much water has to flow under the bridge and many a slip has to pass between the cup and the lip for One to hit the pay dirt or getting to their manna.

Getting organised, the five Major pointers to seek from within before an aspiring veteran goes into new Vistas.

- Know yourself and know your Inner engineering.
- Know yourself and know your Endurance.
- Know yourself and know your Terrain.
- Know yourself and know your IT.
- Know yourself and know your Finances.

The Inner engineering: The uniform box that continues to lingers on the Attic is the 'inner peace' that a Fauji took a piece of on his release. If the inner engineering gears you up at 5 am every morning and you are on a jog or a brisk walk 7 days a week, you are primed to pick up something much earlier.

The Endurance: As a promoter once asked my friend, a PMR seeking Colonel. And I quote **"Col Saab, Kya aap 9 se 10 ghanei ki Kadi mehnat daal payengey roz ? Hamne Suna hai fauj mein bahut aaram hai..."** .

Not Just that – please be ready to work in the shadow on 8 days leave as National Holidays and 24 days privilege leaves in a year.

Know your Terrain: Your terrain is your comfort zone. The lie of the land is what you are familiar with, the rolling tank Country –the folds of the country, deployment areas command of ground etc. Cut to the mountains and you have Defilades areas gradient, tree line and grain of the country. If trained solders could switch from one terrain to another over a week of acclimatisation, there is seldom a doubt that new vitas in the chivvy street are much of a benchmark to attain.

The only logistical challenge is the remaining service or useful age. Early forties and the Soldier into second life is ready to smell some real leaves. New vistas these call upon the Soldier sailor or air man by asking three further question:

- 1.What did I remotely do is service calls up the civvy street colours?
- 2.How close did I come to decision making levels?
- 3.How much of responsibility did I handle?

The answers to the above would guide you- it could be as a PMG of an army school, it could be the Remote sensing cartographic course in Pune one attended, it could be a CMM capsule on warehousing and Logistics or it could be experience as a children Summer Camp Guide officer. Home on to your Core competence and your comfort zone of work life balance.

Know Your IT: All those who have been in staff know that IT awareness is primary to all walks of life in the Civvy Street. A laptop, a Carry bag is a part and parcel as the paper free culture is supreme. No paper - no printer no Colour or Black & White cartridge, NO AMC maintenance of the IT peripherals ... that's how the story goes. Sincere efforts have to be made to take on this **New Vista** while in uniform such that typing on laptop and Document Storage on Cloud etc. Information storage and retrieval is passé. The course popularly known as **ABCT** has been lauded by one and all. The forays of Col Iqbal Singh who now for the coveted Google has been a pioneer in the field of such empowerment of armed forces Warriors. New Vitas need the new Uniform, that of basic IT awareness.

Know Your Finances: Final zone of New Vistas is the 10 meter jump of the finances. While everyone is fairly aware of his or her asset /liability position, many may not have studied their pay slips with much curiosity during their service – other than the final Bank remittance column!

In any tactical situation, the course of action is often decided by the logistic reach. The same is with finances in corporate. No funds, no investment and no new vistas. As the adage goes, do not march on an empty Stomach. Always carry one meal in the pack, and one inside and a bottle of water i.e. some liquidity in terms of land / shares of equality for ready liquidity.

“Heroism doesn’t happen bursts of glory
Small triumphs sometimes change course of history”

Welcome to New Vistas !!



Brig Krishna Raj Nambiar was commissioned in 1987 into the Artillery, he opted for Aviation training. As CO he commanded 193 Medium Regiment in Kashmir valley. 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.

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

It's through curiosity and
looking at opportunities in
new ways that we've always
mapped our path.

—
MICHAEL DELL

Members Speak

Brotherhood & Camaraderie - Forces Network

BY AALIYA RAZA

I have grown up in awe of the Forces Network and how helpful everyone is to each other. With my dad being in the Indian navy, my childhood years were spent moving from one naval town to another, forming lasting bonds at each place. He left Navy in 2008 and thereafter we had very little interaction with our Navy friends.

I recently really understood the strength of this network on my trip to Nepal. I was on a group trip with my friends from Hong Kong, and on our way back on a Saturday evening, I had an immigration mishap. Only upon emigrating out at the airport, I was told about the requirement for an NOC letter for Indian citizens when leaving from Nepal to a third country, in my case, Hong Kong. Being the only one of my friends that was stuck, I was stressed about my different options at the time and decided to stay for a few more days and try my luck at the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu on Monday. Meanwhile, my father, equally worried for his daughter alone in a foreign country, utilised power of the Forces Network to find someone positioned at the embassy in Nepal to guide me.



In the span of 36 hours until Monday morning, the forces network aided in connecting my father to the Defence Attaché positioned at the Nepal Embassy and helped me set up a meeting with him. Me being utterly confused trying to understand the steps required for the NOC letter, was not expecting the extremely generous host the DA

was. He helped me weigh all my options available over a calming cup of tea and figure out the best course of action. Even though I ended up flying back to India the next day, I am utterly grateful for how understanding and helpful the DA was, and it was all because of Forces Network. He invited me to dinner in his residence in the evening and Madam made me feel completely at home. Next day he helped and made sure that I had no issues at the airport the second time. I have never felt prouder to be a navy kid and am very happy that my father has such a reliable network with him even years after retiring.

A big shout for the brotherhood and camaraderie among members of Forces Network

Cdr Syed Shahid Raza IN Retd. Engineering Branch. who took PMR in Oct 2008, had drooped a mail in the group for help, to his daughter in Nepal. The article is the aftermath of what happened on ground with Aaliya in her words.



***Ms. Aaliya Raza**, daughter of Cdr Syed Shahid Raza (IN) Retd. Engineering Branch. She has done her undergraduate studies from HKUST Hongkong in Decission Analytics in Year 2021. Presently working at Hong Kong with Glassbox AI as Product Manager*

If somebody offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes – then learn how to do it later.

RICHARD BRANSON



LOOKING FORWARD FOR THE FORCES NETWORK GATHERINGS ACROSS THE GLOBE;

Incase you do, don't forget to share the photos along with Names

Do you desire to be a Member of this awesome Group, which is not restricted by National boundaries?

Forces Network is a 'Closed Group'. It is open only to the Commissioned Officers of the Indian Army, Air Force and Navy.

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For more information and details, visit:
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