

# FORCENET

E-ZINE

Magazine for military veterans in the corporate  
December 2024, Volume VI, Issue 12

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FORCENET

# From the Editor

Dear Readers,

This month we celebrate the 17th Anniversary of Forces Network. This anniversary edition we have themed our edition as **“Persistence”**. Persistence is a hallmark of the human spirit, a quality that defines those who rise against adversity and embody resilience. For veterans, persistence is not just a trait; it is a lifeline, honed through the rigors of service and carried into civilian life. It is the driving force behind their contributions to society and their ability to overcome unique challenges.

In service, veterans confront obstacles most of us can only imagine. From the gruelling demands of training to the uncertainty of the battlefield, persistence becomes second nature. It is the voice that pushes them forward, even when exhaustion threatens to take hold, and the compass that guides them when the path seems impossible.

However, the true test of persistence often emerges after service. The transition to civilian life can be fraught with challenges—finding employment, adjusting to a slower pace, managing physical or mental health conditions, and navigating a society that may not fully understand their sacrifices. Yet, countless veterans face these struggles with the same determination they exhibited in uniform.

Veterans persist in transforming their experiences into strengths. They become entrepreneurs, leaders, and advocates, channelling their discipline and problem-solving skills into rebuilding lives and communities. Many work tirelessly to support their fellow service members, creating networks like our Forces Network which helps them with issues ranging from transition to job to house issues etc.

The persistence of veterans is a beacon for all of us, a reminder that no matter the challenge, perseverance can lead to progress. Let us celebrate their resolve, learn from their example, and commit to walking alongside them as they continue to shape our nation's future with strength and determination.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this edition. You can email me your feedback, directly at [forcesnetworkz@gmail.com](mailto:forcesnetworkz@gmail.com) . Stay resilient, stay curious, and venture boldly into the world of Cyber Security.

Yours Persistent



Capt Rajesh Nair  
Editor, ForceNet E-Zine



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## [A NOTE FOR THE READERS](#)

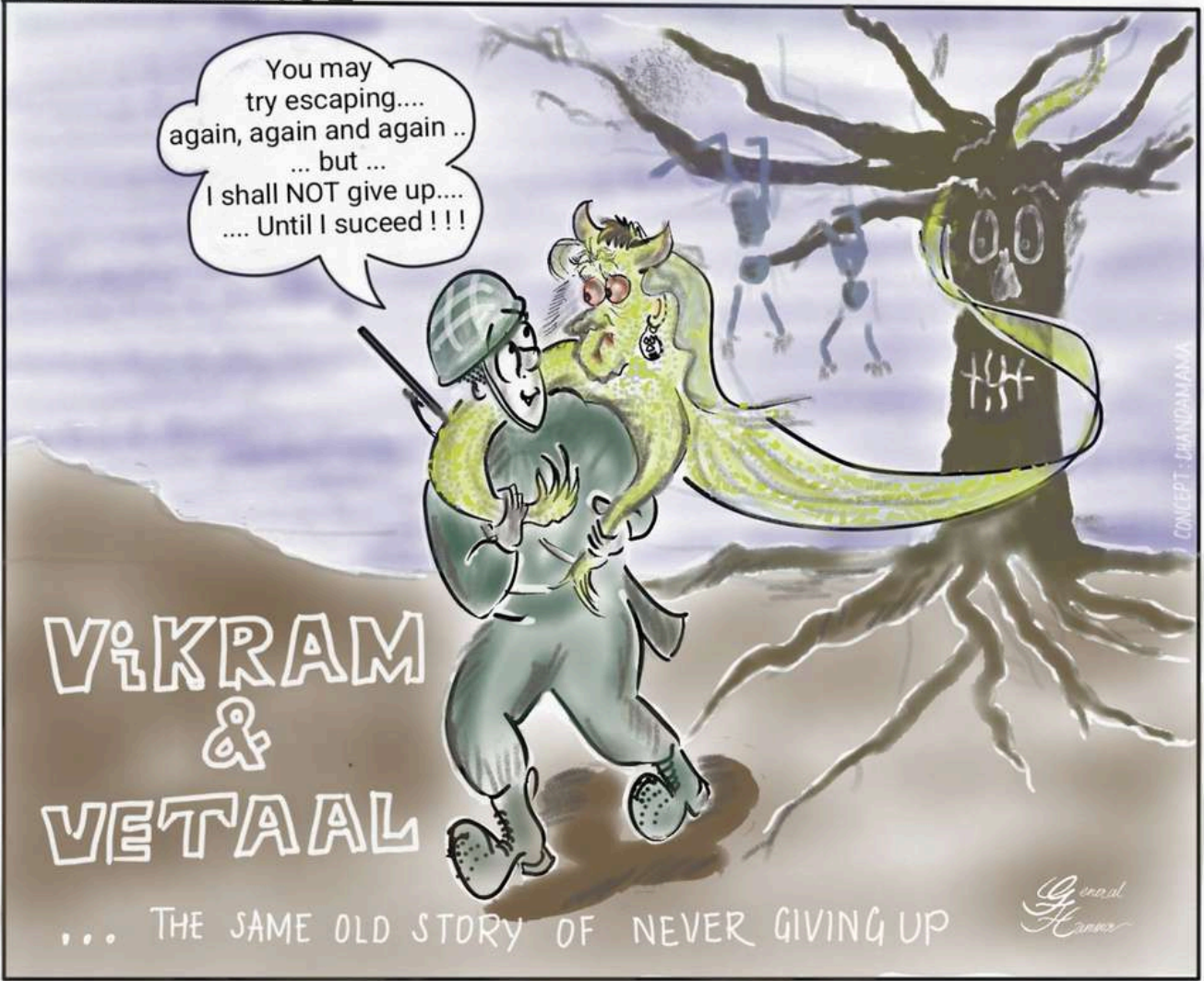
This is an interactive e-magazine with active links on many pages, including the advertisements, which can be used by just tapping or clicking on them.

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

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



# PERSISTENCE



Amit Dalvi



# History of Forces Network in Pictures



*28 Nov 2009 : Forces Network Lunch at Gurgaon. We had 28 members in attendance*



*15 May 2011: Lt Cdr Vivek Gupta, From Nortel Speaking at the Forces Network Lunch at the DSOI, Gurgaon*



16 Oct 2011: Forces Network Seminar at the DSOI, Gurgaon



02 Dec 2012: Rajiv Arora, A Director at Microsoft speaking at our Seminar at the USI, New Delhi





*Celebrating 1000 Members of Forces Network at the DSOI, Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi 11 May 2013*



*26 July 2015: L: Our First Seminar at a 5 Star Venue . R: Capt Sudarshan Reddy, President Securitas speaking at our Seminar*



*Getting Future Ready Seminar on 28 May 2017 at The Sheraton Saket, New Delhi*



*A CV Writing Workshop Organized by the Forces Network at the MDI, Gurgaon on 09 Sep 2017*





*Stretch to Stay Relevant Seminar 03 June 2018 at New Delhi*



*Our First Public M2C Transition Workshop 19 Aug 2018, New Delhi*



16 Sep 2018: L: Parag Pande MD, HR, Accenture Speaking at our Bangalore Seminar. R; Tea Break



09 Dec 2018 Deep Kalra, Founder, Make My Trip Speaking at the World of Opportunities Seminar at New Delhi





09 Feb 2019 : Forces Network M2C Workshop at IIM, Lucknow



14 Apr 2019: Forces Network M2C Workshop, New Delhi



28 May 2019: IQ Invited by DGR to Advise on Officers Resettlement



*25 Aug 2019: Forces Network Future Ready U Seminar New Delhi*



*20 Oct 2019: Forces Network M2C Workshop, New Delhi*



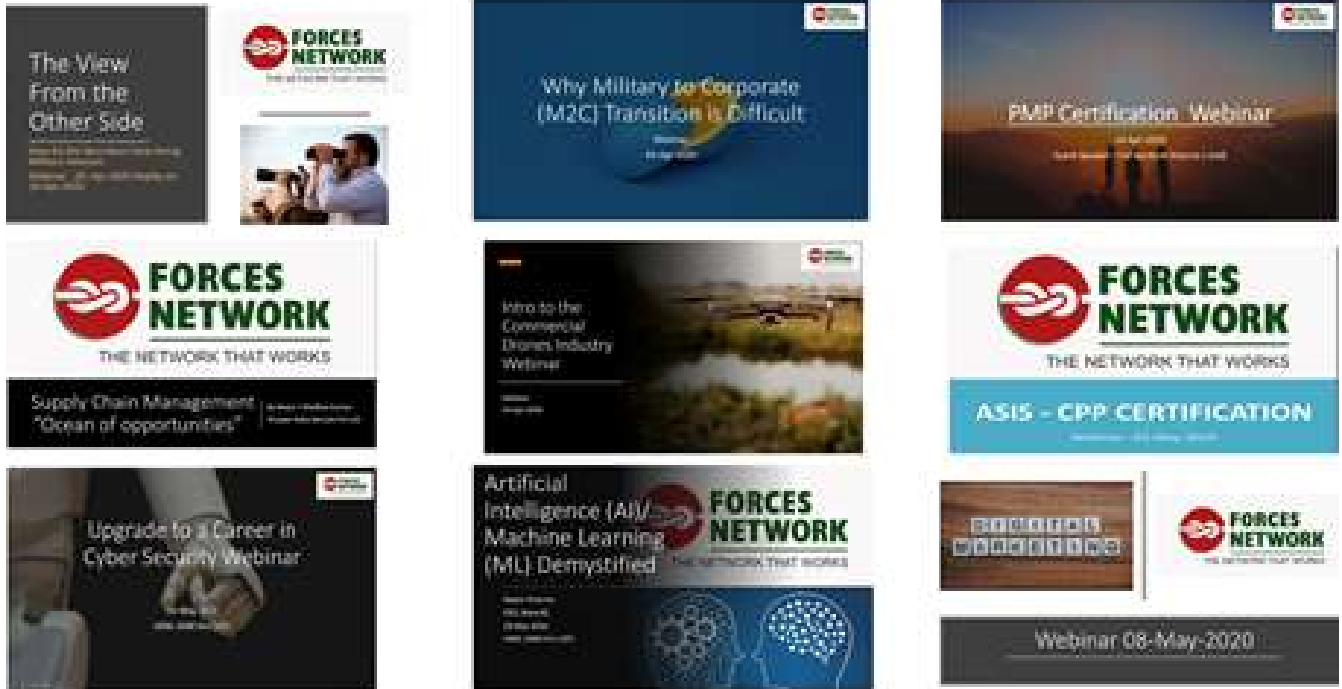


*14 Dec 2019 : AT the Military Literature Festival, Chandigarh*



*15 Feb 2020: Forces Network Lunch Chandigarh*

# Online Learning



Mar 2020- Dec 2021: Covid Period Online Learning







18 Sep 2022: TechTonic Seminar New Delhi



25 Feb 2024: Aerospace & Defence Seminar – Set to Soar New Delhi





08 May 2024: AWPO Summit at New Delhi IQ Being Felicited by the COAS



14 July 2024: The Career Sprinters Seminar New Delhi



# Meet the Cartoonist of the ForceNet E-Zine

Basis the feedback we received, this month we Feature “The Creative” the man behind the General humor that’s part of the E-Zine every month. He is the Most Important Man You Have Never Heard About – **Col Amit R Dalvi**. Col Amit R Dalvi has been the silent secret force behind the ForceNet E-Zine. He has been associated with the monthly magazine from the Dec 2019 Edition. Till date he has published cartoons in 60 editions of the ForceNet E-Zine.

## **IN INTERACTION WITH IQBAL SINGH**

**Colonel Amit R Dalvi** is an Artillery officer. He was commissioned in Dec 1994. He is an alumnus of NDA and Services Preparatory Institute (SPI), Aurangabad, now Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar and after his premature retirement in Mar 2018, he worked as Director at the SPI till Nov 2024. Later he briefly worked at the Institute of Management and Technology, Nagpur. At present he is based at Mumbai, pursuing his hobbies and interests. He has been associated with Forces Network Post his retirement and is the cartoonist who makes people smile with his sketch in the E-Zine.



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

**Amit:** I come from a civilian background. Childhood was spent in Mumbai. Looking back, I feel, I had the best of all worlds.

I studied up to class 10 in a Marathi medium school, Parle Tilak Vidyalaya, later joined the Services Preparatory Institute (SPI), Aurangabad, now known as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, then the NDA, the IMA and then the Artillery, (73 Medium Regiment). All these were the best and got these with little effort from my side.

A word about SPI. It is an Institute run by the Government of Maharashtra. It prepares young boys to be officers in the Indian Armed Forces. The God’s have been very kind to me. I got to command the same Regiment and later got a chance to be the Director of my alma mater, the SPI. It was like dream come true.

Achievements are no different from typical fauji life. Most satisfying are those during career in the Army and later at the SPI and IMT, I was able to make a small difference for good. Like I said, I was lucky to have got the chance. So that is in nutshell a quick run down about my journey so far.

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

**Amit:** As said earlier, after taking premature retirement, I got an opportunity to work as the Director at the SPI. I served there till November 2022. After this tenure, I was briefly looking after administration at the Institute of Management and Technology (IMT) near Nagpur. At present, I have taken a break from all activities to look after my father. He had a brain stroke and now he needs attention.



*With the SPI cadets at the NDA*

*With the students at IMT Nagpur*

**IQ: How did you become the Cartoonist of the ForceNet E-Zine? More importantly, considering it is a volunteer role what has kept you going month-on-month for more than 5 years?**

**Amit:** When I became a member of the ForceNet, I was learning to draw cartoons. (To be honest, the process is still going on). I asked Colonel Iqbal Singh, if I can send my cartoons or sketches. He not only welcome the idea but has been encouraging me all along. He, along with the editorial team helped me in the on-boarding. My sketches were very basic. With passage of time and many trial and error, I could refine these to some level. It is very evident if we go through the sketches of the last five years. All these years, it has been lot of fun. With various interesting topics, the challenge of bringing something new and thus trying different things always kept me going. Guidance from other artists from our ForceNet too has been associated key factor. These five years have passed like a breeze, very satisfying one.

**IQ: Explain to us the process of creating a cartoon for the magazine each month? From where do you draw your creativity?**

**Amit:** It is actually a family activity involving my wife and son. As soon as the theme is conveyed, we have a few discussions on dinner or breakfast table. During these, some old stories are remembered or some imaginary scenarios are painted. I remember when the theme was Camaraderie, discussion went from adventures of school days of all three of us, then to the NDA and even to the covert help in getting a senior married off to a Pune girl in and around the jungles of the North East. So we decided that it can not one picture and has to be a bunch of these.



Then there was a theme on Taming the Tiger and it required no discussion. Better Half gave the idea and it was completed in no time.

The COVID era was a testing time. All of us were at different places. In that period, the drawings, the discussions on the sketches kept us charged up in otherwise a gloomy situation.



**IQ:** Your cartoons have also evolved a lot over the past years. Have you undergone any professional training for drawing cartoons? Tell us about your evolution as a cartoonist over the past years?

**Amit:** Oh yes, cartoons have indeed evolved over the past years. It has been associated wonderful journey. You can easily make that out

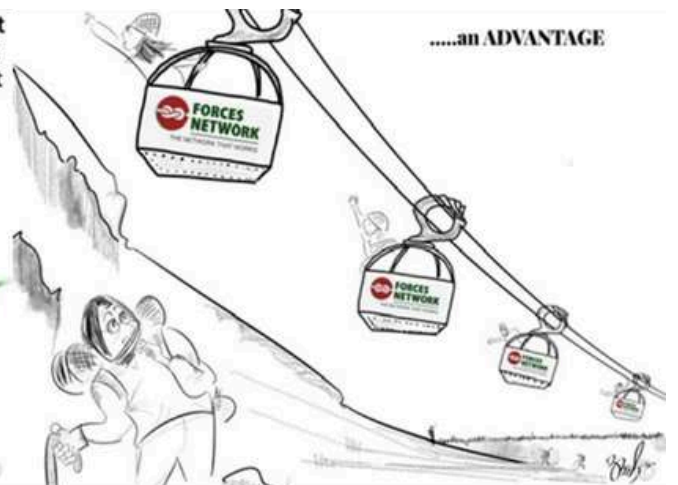
Initially, I started with drawing on paper with a pen/ pencil. I soon moved on to adding colours and experimenting with various mediums. This was the time when my tenures in field helped me to practise and improve a bit.

Sometimes this hobby helped me to win instant friends and other times it yielded me wrath of some persons in the higher echelons. (This led to me picking up a pen name or shall I say, a brush name General Humour. It saved me a few embarrassments later).

Around 2014, I bought a second hand iPad with Apple Pencil. With help of some apps, it became an entertaining process all along. I had to unlearn and re-learn the whole new process.

Now-a-days I am back to paper and trying various types of ink plus brushes. - It is like reinventing the wheel all over again.

In certain things I have become a bit comfortable. And somethings, specially drawing women still remains a huge challenge for me. I am working on it. Going back to basics, is always an interesting phase in life. And now, I am exactly at that.





**IQ: here have been many famous cartoonists globally as well as in India? Anyone who has impressed you or anyone whose style has influenced you?**

**Amit:** I started my journey when I was in the high school, with copying the cartoons from the famous cartoonists like Shri RK Laxman, Shri SD Fadnis, Shri Manjul, Shri Bal Thackeray and many others. The joy of making exact copy used to thrill me a lot then. Copying Indrajal comics and Astèrix (by illustrator Shri Albert Uderzo) still remains my all time favorites.

It took me some practice and guidance from some great creative minds, I was able progress a bit from copying to creating. I gradually shifted to drawing on my own.

Shri Mangesh Tendulkar was a famous cartoonist. I met him at Pune just couple of months prior to his demise. He explained me his works in detail with an enthusiasm of a nine year old. His tips about flow and compositions were unique.

About three years ago, I got in touch with Shri Satish Acharya. He is an editorial cartoonist, always drawing with clear lines and vibrant colours. Being an editorial cartoonist is a difficult preposition. He brings out absurdity in a very subtle manner. He continues to guide me even today.

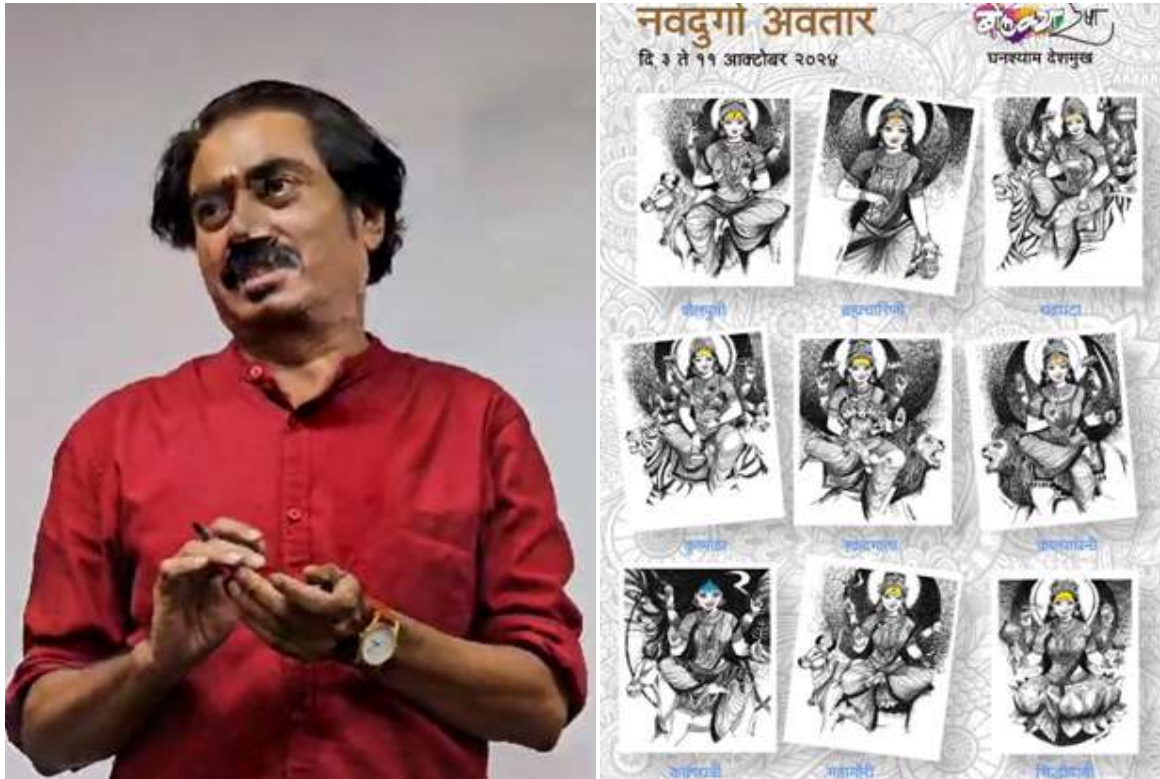


*Shri Satish Acharya*



*Added with explicit permission*

I have another mentor- Shri Ghanashyam Deshmukh. His cartoons are based on the daily routine. Though majority of his work is in Marathi, his art is and sense of humour is amazing. He is an accomplished artist who has a very versatile approach to the art. It is reflected in his creations.



*Shri Ghanshyam Deshmukh*

I came across Shri Vivek Prabhukuluskar this year at Cartoonists Combine event. He is an artist, who has excelled in different formats including cartoons. He suggested me certain basic things like holding of pen/pencil. These were so simple and basic yet I had never noticed those.

And then there are certain artists from our fauji clan. Captain Anshuman Chatterjee, Col Ramesh who are inspirations. I have not met either of them yet like many I simply adore their creativity. Some day I am sure I shall meet them in person and learn a few more things. It is always a great learning experience.

**IQ: Any important life lessons you learnt while drawing cartoons for the ForceNet E-Zine?**

**Amit:** The first and foremost learning is that it is indeed "**A Network that Works**". There was a period in my journey when everything was going astray. The only cartoons I drew in those days were for - The ForceNet e- Magazine. Rather I used to look forward to hear from Capt Rajesh, the editor, about the new theme.

So the process of drawing cartoons for our e-magazine has seen me through the thick and thin, it helped me to tide over through the hard times. It taught me not to give up and keep on toiling hard.



---

**IQ: What are the ingredients that go into the making of a good Cartoonist?  
What are the skills, information, knowledge a good cartoonist needs to have ?**

**Amit:** *(Following I would like to imbibe to reach to the next level. I am a learner and my response is from that perspective)*

Cartoons are meant to bring a smile so a good sense of humour is the most important ingredient. A witty line or a crisp picture can change the outlook. Ability to see a tough situation differently and to express it without hurting anyone is the ultimate asset for any cartoonist.

Along with sense of humour, cartoonist has to be frugal. Ability to say maximum with minimum. Be it lines or the caption or the punch line, use of too many kills the cat. Shri RK Laxman conveys far more with very few strokes of the brush. Shri SD Fadnis has rarely used even a punchline. Back home, if we go through Cdr Ramesh's recent series on Postings, he too conveys so much in his creations with so much less.

In skills, observation plays important role. Simple thing like shadow or creases on shirt can bring vibrancy to a sketch.

Subject knowledge too plays an important role. A Captain of Navy vis a vis that of Army have nothing in common except for the casual leave availed in the calendar year.

Also the language matters. The language pilots speak with the ATC and that a gunner speaks with the Gun Position Officer are different not only in the choice of the words but also the grammar of it.

Cartoons are very flexible and forgiving as far as size, shape and figures are concerned yet not every cartoonist is able to strike a chord with readers.

**IQ: What would be your message to any of the military personnel or veterans who wish to take up cartoonist either as a hobby or as a profession?**

**Amit: *For serving***, military career is full adventures. Rarely there will be a dull day. So if you just doodle it down to a few lines, faces or even objects it is a good stress buster.

For those ***who have hung the boots***, there has never been a more wonderful time than now to bash on regardless.

Only precaution one can take is be discrete. Washing dirty linen in public may best be avoided. **I leave it at that**

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

**Amit:** Family has been a great support.

Ladies of our household are teachers. My mother and wife both have been teachers. So education remains the P1. My father was a judge before shifting to banking. His life revolved around basic principles of honesty, loyalty and integrity. Childhood was never lavish but was well provided for. While growing up, were always kept on our toes. It all came handy later on in life.

My wife and son have been my best critics and the biggest fans. Both of them allow me a lot of freedom to pursue my passion. It includes leaving me alone, undisturbed for hours together or sometimes when I am stuck at a drawing, their suggestions help me to see the same idea differently.

*As I said earlier, I am really blessed.*





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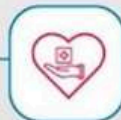


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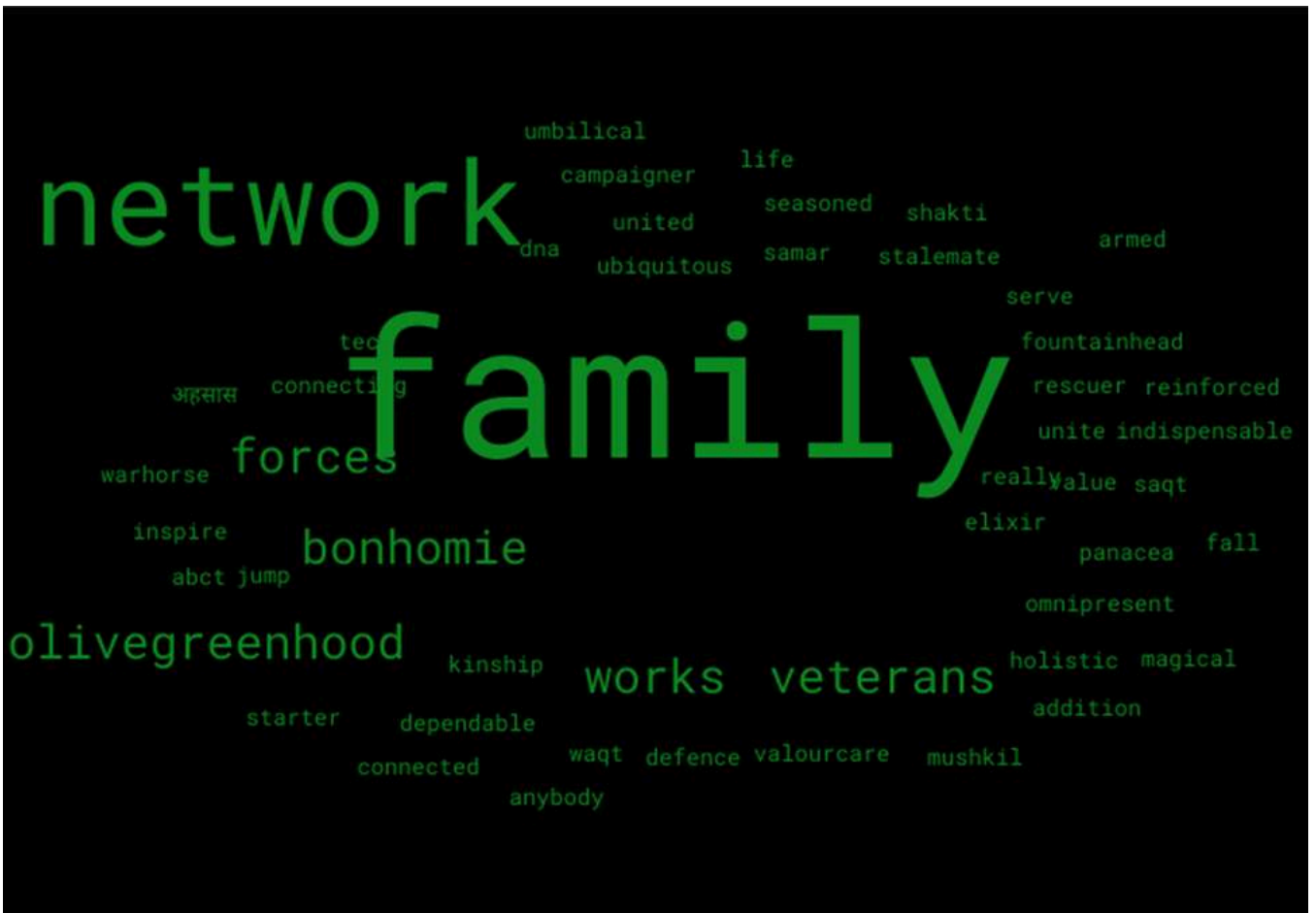
<sup>2</sup>Special discounts for women



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# One Word To Describe Forces Network

We asked our members to describe Forces Network in one word. We took their input as and generated to this word cloud.





# Founder's Note

## 17 Years of Forces Network - A Legacy of Empowerment and Transformation

**BY IQBAL SINGH**

It is with immense pride and a profound sense of fulfilment that I pen this Founder's Note on the 17th Anniversary of Forces Network. As we mark this significant milestone, it is a moment to reflect on our extraordinary journey, the tangible impact we have created, and the transformative psychological shift we have witnessed within our community. From humble beginnings as a small online community of 4 members in Dec 2007, we have grown into a 6800+ strong global network of veterans, united by a shared vision: "Better Together". It has been a long, laborious yet joyful journey of 17 years for me. Let me look back at the progress that we j have made and the impact that Forces Network has been able to create over these years.



*Humble Beginnings: Forces Network Seminar held at USI, New Delhi on 02 Dec 2012*

### **A Paradigm Shift in Veteran Transition: From Uncertainty to Empowerment**

Over the past 17 years, the landscape for veterans transitioning from the structured world of the military to the dynamic corporate world has undergone a remarkable transformation. Back then, very few military personnel sought premature release and those who did only stuck to employment in the traditional sectors of security and administration. Transitioning military personnel faced a significant barrier of lack of information, guidance and mentorship. For them these were sources were scarce and there was no clear pathway to a successful and rewarding civilian career. The transition process was often characterized by uncertainty, apprehension, and a sense of being adrift in uncharted waters. Most transitioning personnel had a rough time adjusting in their civilian environment often leading to a sense of helplessness and negativity. Forces Network was determined to empower the veterans

Forces Network, recognizing this critical gap, emerged as a pioneer in the field, introducing the concept of Military to Corporate (M2C) Transition Workshops in India. These workshops, both physical and online, have provided countless veterans with the necessary tools, guidance, and support to navigate the corporate world successfully.

Our journey began with a simple yet powerful belief – that veterans, with their unique skills, values, and experiences, are invaluable assets to the corporate world. We sought to bridge the gap between military service and corporate success, empowering veterans to forge fulfilling second careers.

### **Forces Network: A Catalyst for Veteran Empowerment**

Forces Network has played a pivotal role in empowering veterans through a multifaceted approach:

- **Creating a Supportive and Collaborative Ecosystem:** At its core, Forces Network is a community – a vibrant and supportive ecosystem where veterans can connect, share experiences, seek advice, and support each other. This shared understanding and camaraderie have been instrumental in easing transition anxieties, fostering a sense of belonging, and instilling confidence in veterans as they embark on their second innings.
- **Demystifying Diverse Corporate Verticals:** Recognizing that many veterans were unsure about which corporate roles aligned with their skills, we embarked on a mission to demystify various corporate functions. Our e-magazine has been a key platform for this endeavour, featuring articles and interviews that delve into diverse fields such as HR, sales, cybersecurity, physical security, risk management, and more. These articles provide veterans with insights into:
  - The roles and responsibilities within each vertical.
  - The required skills and qualifications.
  - The industry trends and growth opportunities.
  - Real-world examples and success stories of veterans thriving in these fields.
- **Facilitating Skill Development and Upskilling:** We firmly believe that continuous learning is essential for career growth, especially in today's rapidly evolving corporate landscape. We have consistently emphasized the importance of upskilling and reskilling, equipping veterans with the necessary tools and knowledge to stay ahead of the curve. We have made upskilling a hygiene habit in our community. Some of our key initiatives in this area include:
  - **ABCT (Anybody Can Tech) Program:** This innovative program has helped numerous veterans with non-tech backgrounds gain valuable cloud/ other technology certifications, opening doors to financially rewarding and satisfying careers in the booming technology sector.
  - **E-Magazine Articles and Interviews:** Our e-magazine features expert articles and insightful interviews that guide veterans on upskilling pathways, relevant certification courses, and emerging industry trends. We also share inspiring stories of veterans who have done exceedingly well in their civilian avatars .



- **Showcasing Veteran Entrepreneurs:** Realizing that very few veterans take up entrepreneurship we decided to educate and inspire the community towards this aspect. Entrepreneurship is a path that resonates deeply with the values of self-reliance, innovation, and leadership that are ingrained in military culture. Through the "ForceNetPreneur" series in our e-magazine, we celebrate the inspiring journeys of veteran entrepreneurs who have successfully launched and scaled businesses across diverse sectors. These stories serve a dual purpose:
  - They inspire other veterans to consider entrepreneurship as a viable and fulfilling career option.
  - They demonstrate to the corporate world the entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen that veterans possess.

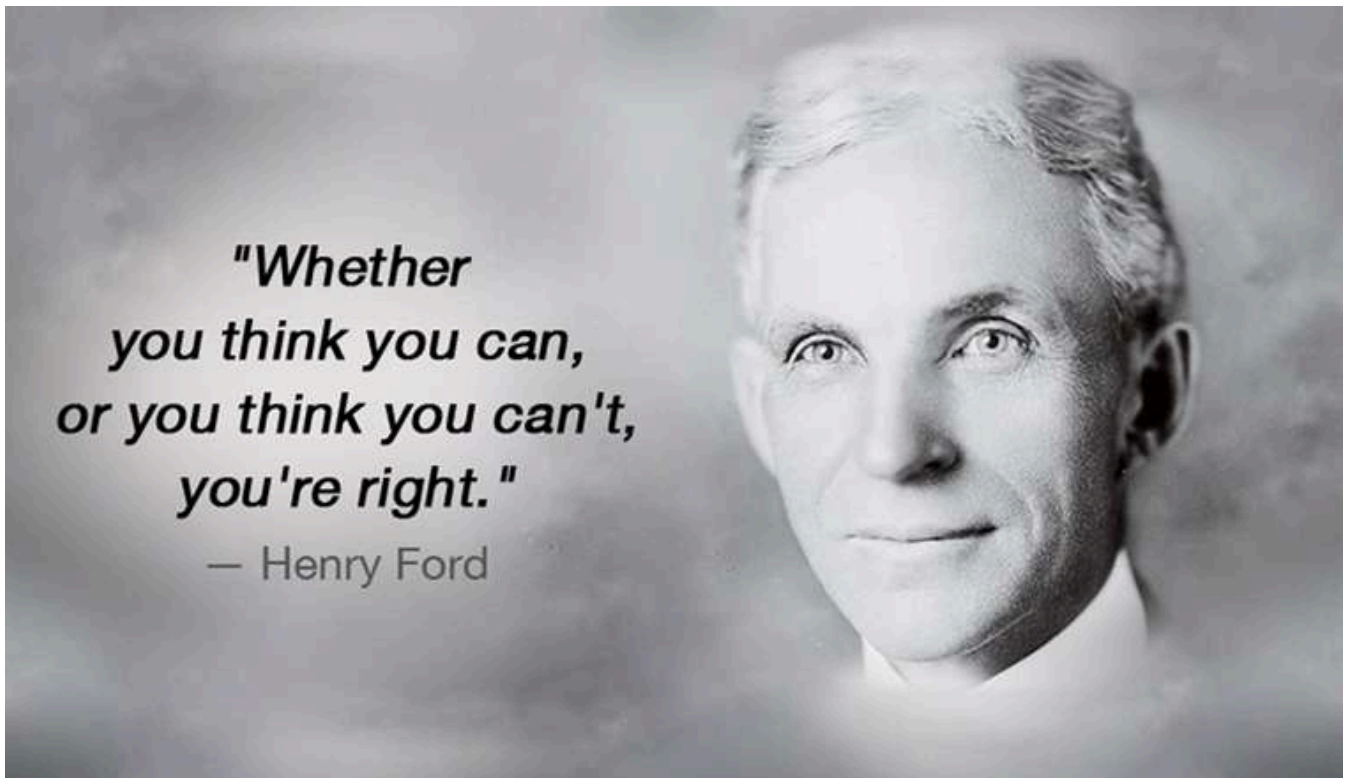


*This is how our Current Seminars look.  
The Career Sprinters Seminar on 14 July 2024 at New Delhi*

### **A Psychological Transformation: From Self-Doubt to Self-Belief**

Perhaps the most profound impact of Forces Network has been the psychological transformation it has fostered within its members. We have witnessed a remarkable shift in mindset, marked by:

- **From Dependence to Self-Reliance:** Transitioning from the hierarchical structure of the military, where roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, to the often ambiguous corporate world can leave veterans feeling uncertain and dependent. Forces Network has provided a sense of direction and confidence, empowering veterans to take ownership of their careers and navigate the corporate landscape with self-assurance.
- **Your Future Self is a Choice:** We have always propagated that while there maybe stereotypes working against you however you need to believe in yourself. If you do not believe in yourself no one else will. This reminds me of this Henry Ford quote:



*You need to win the battle within first before you can conquer outside*

- **From Isolation to Belonging:** The transition to civilian life can be isolating for veterans, who often miss the camaraderie and shared purpose of their military days. Forces Network has provided a vital sense of community, mitigating feelings of loneliness and creating a supportive environment where veterans can connect with like-minded individuals who understand their experiences. This sense of belonging has been crucial in fostering well-being and resilience during the transition phase.
- **From Diffidence to Self-Belief:** Imposter syndrome, the feeling of inadequacy despite evidence of success, is a common experience among veterans transitioning to new careers. Forces Network has played a significant role in instilling a renewed sense of self-belief, highlighting the transferable skills, values, and experiences that veterans bring to the corporate world.
- **Providing Inspiration:** The success stories shared within the network, featuring veterans excelling in diverse fields, serve as powerful examples and further reinforce this belief. By showcasing these achievements, we demonstrate that veterans are not only capable of succeeding in the corporate world but are often highly sought-after for their unique qualities.
- **Embracing a Growth Mindset:** Forces Network has fostered a culture of continuous learning and development, encouraging veterans to embrace a growth mindset. This shift from a fixed mindset, where abilities are seen as static, to a growth mindset, where skills and knowledge are seen as continuously evolving, has been crucial in enabling veterans to adapt to new challenges, acquire new skills, and thrive in the dynamic corporate environment.



- **Harnessing the Power of Networking:** One of the key pillars of Forces Network is the emphasis on professional networking. We encourage veterans to leverage the power of networking to build connections, expand their professional circles, gain industry insights, and explore new opportunities. This focus on networking has resulted in:
  - Increased access to job opportunities.
  - Mentorship and guidance from experienced professionals.
  - A broader understanding of different industries and career paths.

### **The Founder's Persistence: A Testament to Unwavering Belief**

This 17-year journey has not been without its challenges. There have been moments of doubt, obstacles to overcome, and the constant need to adapt to the evolving landscape of the corporate world. However, my unwavering belief in the potential of our veterans, coupled with the unwavering support of our community, has been the driving force behind our persistence. That incidentally is also the theme of this month's magazine.

The positive feedback, heartfelt testimonials, and the vibrant social media buzz we receive about our initiatives reaffirm the impact we are creating and fuel our determination to continue this mission. Witnessing the transformative journeys of our members, their career advancements, entrepreneurial ventures, and the positive impact they are making in their communities is the most rewarding aspect of this endeavour. It is a testament to the indomitable spirit of our veterans and the power of collective growth and support.

### **Looking Ahead: A Future of Continued Empowerment and Impact**

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering veterans and fostering a thriving community. We will continue to adapt, innovate, and expand our offerings, ensuring that Forces Network remains relevant, impactful, and a beacon of support for veterans navigating the ever-evolving corporate world.

Our vision for the future includes:

- **Expanding our Global Reach:** We aim to extend our network and resources to veterans across the globe, creating a truly global community of support and empowerment.
- **Deepening our Focus on Skill Development:** We will continue to invest in programs and initiatives that equip veterans with the in-demand skills and knowledge required to thrive in the future of work.
- **Fostering Entrepreneurship:** We will continue to support and celebrate veteran entrepreneurs, providing them with the resources and connections they need to succeed.

## A Message of Gratitude and a Call to Action

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member of the Forces Network for their invaluable contributions, unwavering spirit, and belief in our vision. Your stories, your successes, and your commitment to supporting each other are the heart and soul of this community. Together, we have demonstrated the power of collaboration, resilience, and the indomitable spirit of those who have served.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us also look ahead with renewed purpose and determination. Let us continue to support each other, share our knowledge and experiences, and champion the cause of veteran empowerment. Together, we will continue to scale greater heights and prove to the world that "Forces Network is the Network that Works" is more than just a tagline - it is a testament to the indomitable spirit of our veterans and a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

**Jai Hind.**



***Lt Col Iqbal Singh (retd)*** is an infantry officer commissioned in Dec 1987 who is now working with Google based at Gurgaon. He is the Founder of Forces Network. Iqbal took premature retirement from the Indian Army in 2008. He has in the past worked with Satyam Computers at Hyderabad and Nokia at Noida. He is one of the many successful veterans in the corporate to whom many veterans look up to for inspiration and mentoring. He is fond of public speaking, writing and training and loves to share his knowledge with others. He has mentored hundreds of military officers in their transition journey into the corporate world.

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



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16 Dec

**JAI HIND!**



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**DAY**

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# Survey: Members Speak

Thanks to all the love and affection showered by all of you the Forces Network will be completing 17 years of founding on 04 Dec 2024. We intend to commemorate the occasion by publishing a special edition of the ForceNet E-Zine - our monthly e-magazine with this theme.

So, we called upon all members who have a fond memory, story, anecdote or an incident to share related to Forces Network to pen their thoughts in the form of an article, poem, story.

## Here are the questions we asked them:

- 1.Members who have a fond memory, story, anecdote or an incident to share related to Forces Network please pen your thoughts in the form.
- 2.Forces Network - your learning partner
- 3.How Forces Network helped me?
- 4.One notable memory you have about Forces Network that you may like to share?
- 5.Anything else about Forces Network that you may like to share?
6. One word you will use to describe the Forces Network?





## Lt Cdr Jayant Bhargava

Army/Infantry/ Maratha LI, DOR:  
2006 Years in Corporate: 17 years

Self Employed  
Hustler

### Linkedin

In/ jaybhargava

### One Word

Amazing



## Col Ali Akhtar Jafri

Director Government Affairs  
Dell Technologies

### One Word

Brothers

### Anything else?

It's truly a Network that works!

**How Forces Network helped me?** It's a very professionally proactive network. Members try to extend whatever info that they can provide in response to any query. When I reach out to the Network for inputs, I am quite sure of getting a few useful inputs.



# Gp Capt Indranil Maitra

Self Employed -  
Equity PMS

**Notable memory** It was the Covid time and many of us needed to automate our cleaning chores. I approached the Forces Network for a high level connect with a dishwasher company to get a quick delivery. There was a pronto revert from Capt Uday Shriwas who got all ends tied up for an immediate delivery of an IFB dishwasher. He gave the family a WOW experience! Ever grateful to him and the network for that level of support.

## Linkedin

[https://www.linkedin.com/in/indranil-m-546a30a?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_campaign=share\\_via&utm\\_content=profile&utm\\_medium=android\\_app](https://www.linkedin.com/in/indranil-m-546a30a?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=android_app)

## How Forces Network helped me?

It's a very professionally proactive network. Members try to extend whatever info that they can provide in response to any query. When I reach out to the Network for inputs, I am quite sure of getting a few useful inputs.

## Anything else?

It has made quite a few facets of life pretty easy. Info on the best Credit cards/Forex cards, visa processing fine-print, staycation and travel nuggets, general business gyan all are so easily made available by this ever-helpful network.

## One Word

सर्वोत्तम





# Lt Cdr Varun Kumar Dhand

Manager Security -  
State Bank of India

**How Forces Network helped me?** Forces Network works like a family where everyone has to contribute. I can proudly say after 6 years of my association since 2018. Forces Network anniversary coincidentally falls on Navy Day and I had spent 11 years in Indian Navy. So it is a continuation of journey through Forces Network from where I had left Indian Navy. Forces Network has hand-held me more than a couple of times from clearing Az 900 cloud certification from Microsoft to publishing my articles and book reviews. Col IQ sir along with Capt Rajesh Nair our Editor of The ForceNet E-Zine encouraged and appreciated me of my improved writing skills. It is due this encouragement that today I am now writing my own book. Kudos to Forces Network...The Network that always work.

## One Word

Family

## Linkedin

[https://www.linkedin.com/in/varun-dhand?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_campaign=share\\_via&utm\\_content=profile&utm\\_medium=android\\_app](https://www.linkedin.com/in/varun-dhand?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=android_app)

## Fond memory, story, anecdote or an incident.

Dear Forces Network Members ...My association with Forces Network is been for 6 years

**Notable memory** I was doing ABCT- III ( Any Body Can Tech Course run by the Forces Network) Course with Col Iqbal Singh as the Trainer.(3rd Batch: the highest number of students that cleared the Microsoft examination till date). I still remember how as members we formed A whatsapp group and did peer learning which helped us to clear our doubts apart from the learning imparted by Col IQ sir. This helped me a lot in clearing my exam due to which I hold the Az-900 CCloud Certification from Microsoft! Thanks Forces Network !! It was an amazing and life transforming experience.

## Anything else?

ForceNet E-Zine Magazine has evolved over period of time. Editorial team is always open to receiving feedback from the readers and also publishes them in magazine. They started a feedback coloum where readers appreciate writer's work and share feedback. I also got to know of our magazine's cartoonist , Col Amit Dalvi. I proposed an interview of his. I am glad that the Dec 2024 Issue carries his interview.



# Lt Col (Dr) Rajan Malhotra

Medical Advisor (Trust) -  
Maharaja Agrasen Hospital,  
Punjabi Bagh

## Learning Partner

Forces Network provides us the opportunities to learn the field you name it, every member is eager to help you with perfect answer to your query/problem

## How Forces Network helped me?

Whenever you want help for getting accommodation for your journey/ holiday trips Forces Network members are always their to help you.

You name the topic someone will come forward with answer and best possible help including Job offers for you and if you are offering job then with suitable candidates.

## Linkedin

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rajan-malhotra-2a5b5663/>

## Fond memory, story, anecdote or an incident.

Joined in 2013 while doing IIM Lucknow course when some fellow Officers told me about Forces Network and I am very Happy and proud of being Forces Network Family

**Notable memory** Lots of memories are there but one Seminar I attended long back at hotel Lalit on 26 JULY 2015 was memorable to me which showed lots of talent within us.

## Anything else?

I believe Forces Network is the best platform I have come across in my life. Here members help each other without self interest.

## One Word

Perfect Profession Network

# Anniversary Article

## My Time at Forces Network E-Zine

*BY ANISH JAIRATH*

Working for a magazine has always been an exciting and enlightening experience, but one particular assignment during my eight months at ForceNet has left an indelible mark on my career and perspective: writing about army veterans transitioning into the corporate world.

At first glance, the transition from military service to corporate life might seem straightforward—both environments value discipline, leadership, and teamwork. However, the nuances of this shift are far more complex. During my tenure, I had the privilege of learning the stories of multiple veterans and also understanding how they were able to capitalize on their abilities fully after their time in the military.

Through my articles, I aimed to shed light on both the strengths and the areas where additional support is needed for veterans entering the civilian workforce. I explored topics ranging from the importance of each role in the corporate setting and how various divisions of multiple Fortune 500 companies run to the personal stories of resilience and adaptability that veterans embody. I had the chance to gain insight into veterans who had excelled in multiple fields, whether it was making an impact in corporate superpowers or establishing their firms and companies. Their determination and success were truly eye-opening, it showed me what an individual can achieve with determination and the want to get better and everything they plan on doing.

One of the key takeaways from my experience was the realization that the successful integration of veterans into the corporate world benefits not only the individuals but also the organizations that embrace their talents. Companies that actively seek to hire veterans often find themselves enriched by diverse perspectives and a culture of dedication and loyalty.

Reflecting on those eight months, I am grateful for the opportunity to highlight the invaluable contributions of defence veterans in the corporate sector. Their stories serve as powerful reminders of the strength that comes from diverse experiences and the importance of creating inclusive environments where everyone can thrive.

I am extremely grateful for the change this magazine offered to me at the start of the year, and I am very thankful for the opportunities this stage provided for me to grow and experience new things, some of which also put me out of my comfort zone to learn new things and pick up new skills.



I am very grateful for my mentors during this tenure at the magazine, Rajesh Nair, Uday Shriwas and Iqbal Singh, who guided me through my journey over the past eight months. They were tough but fair and made sure that the work I produced was up to par with the best of my abilities and ensured that I was successfully able to give out the message the magazine, and I aimed to spread through this portal. Without their trust in me, I wouldn't have been able to gain the confidence to do this job and learn all the meaningful things and lessons which I will carry on for the rest of my life.

Thank you for providing me with such a great platform, and I hope to have this impact on all my future endeavours.



**Anish Jairath** is currently pursuing his undergraduate degree in Journalism at the University of Regina, aiming to leverage his strong research and writing skills to excel across various media platforms, including print, television, and online social media. Anish's goal is to seamlessly integrate his capabilities to create compelling content that engages audiences across different mediums. He is committed to staying updated with the latest trends and technologies in journalism and media, as he understands the importance of adaptability in this ever-evolving industry. By developing skills in digital storytelling, data journalism, and multimedia production.

Please provide your invaluable opinion/feedback on this Article, 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](mailto:forcesnetworkz@gmail.com) by 20th of every month.**



***Stark colour combination & beauty of nature @ Nubra Valley:  
iPhone 13 - By Nalin Jaini***





***Praying Mantis - Pic taken @ Captain's Camp, Sirsi (Karnataka)-  
By Capt Sujay Hegde***

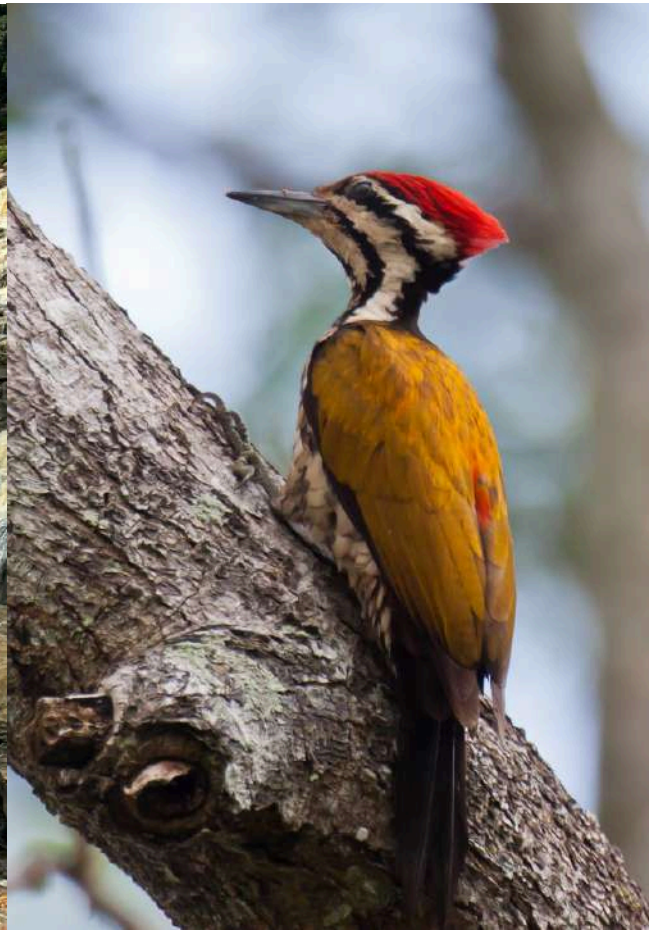


***Malabar Parakeet - Pic taken @ Captain's Camp, Sirsi (Karnataka)  
Capt Sujay Hegde***





***Natural Water Falls of Ranchi***  
***By Col Bhupinder S Rai***



***Common Flameback - Captain's Camp,  
Sirsi (Karnataka)***  
***By Capt Sujay Hegde***



***And Miles to Go before I Sleep***  
***By Col Dinesh Dutt Sharma***





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# Knowledge Bytes

## Opportunities in Real Estate and Career Pathways

BY SATHISH RAJENDREN

*THE FUTURE IS NOT A DESTINATION WE ARRIVE AT; IT IS SOMETHING WE BUILD THROUGH OUR ACTIONS AND CHOICES.*

As someone who has studied in Army school in Bangalore and navigated to real estate sector, my career trajectory led me to my current position as a Senior Executive Director & Head of Knight Frank, a role that grants me the opportunity to shape the strategic direction of a leading real estate advisory firm while mentoring the next generation of leaders. In this capacity, I am deeply committed to fostering an environment where innovation, adaptability and ethical practices are prioritized.

One of the most transformative experiences in my career has been learning to unlearn outdated practices and embrace innovation. The real estate sector is in a constant state of flux, influenced by emerging technologies, sustainability mandates and shifts in customer preferences. By staying ahead of these trends and nurturing a culture focused on innovation, I have successfully driven organizational success and contributed significantly to the industry's overall growth.





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## **Giving Back and Empowering Others**

Beyond professional milestones, I am genuinely passionate about empowering individuals to unleash their potential in the real estate field. Through my active involvement in industry networks, forums, and mentorship programs, I dedicate myself to guiding others as they navigate their career paths and transition into corporate roles. Many individuals possess valuable transferable skills and with appropriate support and guidance, they can excel in various domains, including facilities management, engineering, and executive leadership.

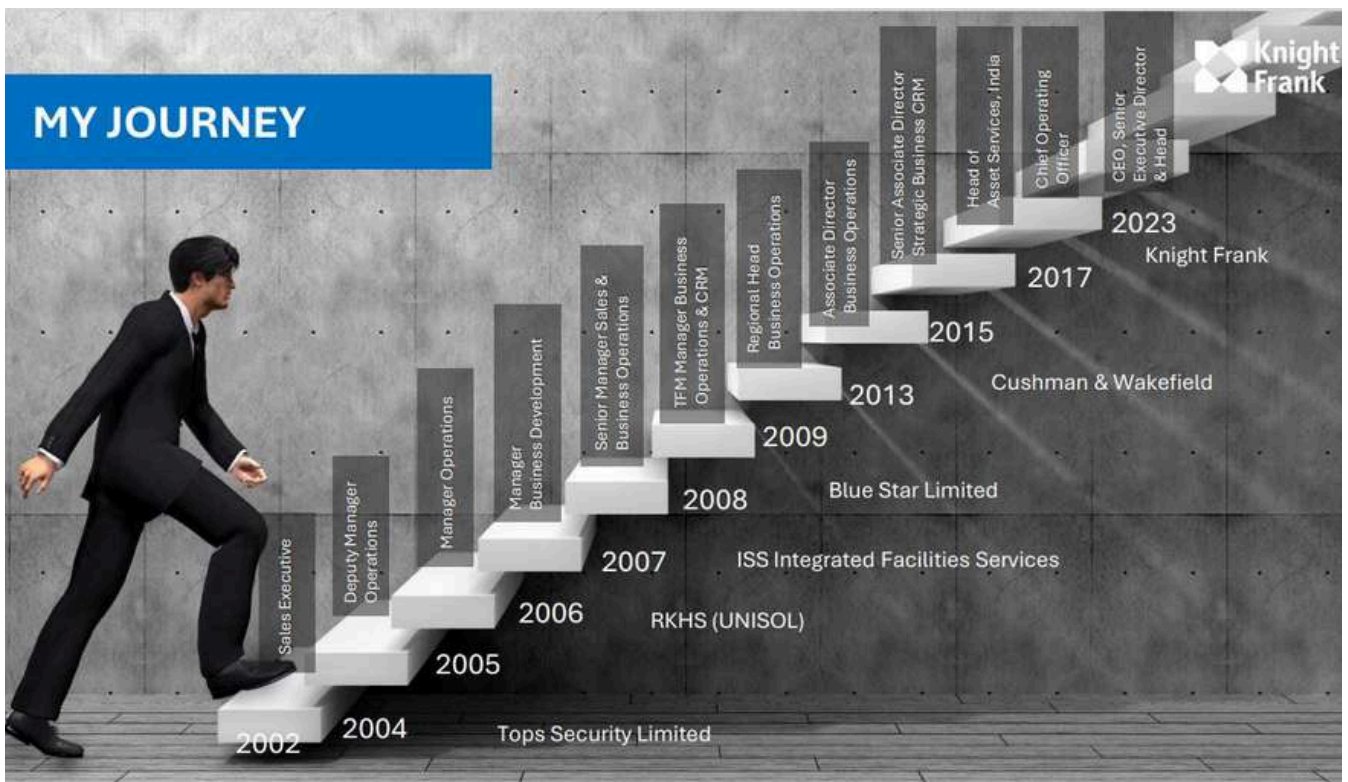
I firmly advocate for lifelong learning, seeing it as a foundational pillar of success in this rapidly evolving landscape. Whether through formal certifications such as the Facility Management Professional (FMP) or informal avenues like industry workshops and seminars, continuous education is vital. Additionally, networking plays a critical role; establishing connections with industry leaders and peers can unlock new opportunities and foster professional growth.

## **Building a Future in Real Estate**

Success in real estate depends on collaboration, innovation and an unwavering commitment to excellence. The sector's rapid evolution, driven by sustainability initiatives, smart infrastructure and technological advancements, continuously generates new opportunities. From green construction to digital property management, the field is abundant with potential for those willing to adapt and challenge established norms.

Real estate is not merely a career; it is a platform for shaping the future. As urbanization increases, and a global emphasis on sustainability intertwines with the adoption of cutting-edge technologies, the sector offers infinite possibilities for growth and innovation. For both veterans and aspiring professionals, the key lies in harnessing existing strengths, committing to lifelong learning, and taking bold steps to lead in this dynamic landscape.

As I reflect on my journey, I remain inspired by the possibilities that the real estate sector offers—not just for personal career advancement but also for making substantial contributions to the communities in which we operate. Each step I have taken has reinforced my belief that the real estate industry is about more than transactions; it is about creating spaces where lives unfold, businesses flourish, and communities thrive.



*My Journey*

I hope this narrative not only demonstrates the potential in real estate but also inspires others to pursue their passions in this vibrant field not just for individual career development, but for making a lasting impact on the communities in which we operate. Each step I've taken has reinforced my belief that real estate is about more than mere transactions; it is about building spaces where lives unfold, businesses thrive and communities flourish.

Throughout my career, I have witnessed how collaborative efforts can lead to innovative solutions to the challenges we face. By fostering an environment where diverse voices are heard and valued, we can create more sustainable and resilient developments that cater to the needs of future generations. My goal is to continue nurturing this culture of inclusivity and innovation at Knight Frank and throughout the real estate industry.

As I look to the future, I remain committed to helping others realize their potential while actively contributing to the industry's transformation. My journey has taught me that success is not solely measured by personal achievements but by the collective progress we make together. By empowering the next generation of leaders, particularly those from diverse backgrounds, we can ensure a more equitable and sustainable future in real estate.

As someone who has witnessed the immense potential of veterans transitioning into the corporate world, I have always believed in the unmatched value that armed forces personnel bring to the table. Their discipline, adaptability and leadership skills are assets that align seamlessly with the demands of the real estate sector, especially in areas like safety operations, asset management & strategic corporate real estate management.

At Knight Frank, we have actively embraced this vision by recruiting talented individuals from the armed forces. These veterans have proven instrumental in strengthening our workforce, bringing unique perspectives and unparalleled dedication to various roles. By aligning their unique skills with industry needs, we not only empower these individuals but also contribute to building a resilient and forward-thinking organization. For me, this journey is a testament to the transformative impact veterans can have on shaping the future of the corporate landscape.

In conclusion, the opportunities in real estate are vast and ever-evolving. With a focus on adaptability, collaboration, and continuous learning, we can navigate the complexities of our industry and seize the possibilities that lie ahead. Whether you're a veteran entering the field or a seasoned professional seeking to innovate, I encourage you to embrace this journey with enthusiasm and determination. Thank you for allowing me to share my experience and insights. I hope they inspire you to explore the rich opportunities that await in the dynamic world of real estate.



**Sathish Rajendren, FRICS, SLCR, MCR, DMS, CFM, AIFL, C.I.D**

*Senior Executive Director & Head -Knight Frank.*

*He is Laureate Indian Achievers Award, Senior Business Leader & INSEAD alumnus with over 21 years of rich experience in Corporate Real Estate for Occupiers, Developers, Investors & Government for Facilities and Asset Management. Currently heading Consulting, Facilities & Asset Management Business line for India managing a portfolio of 320+ Million SFT. A member of Knight Frank's Global Council for driving Purpose, Values & Behaviors, Part of India Advisory Board & APAC Board member for Occupier Strategy & Solutions working closely with our Global & APAC teams to take this business to next phase of growth by providing strategic leadership with a strong track record of performance in dynamic situations. Sathish Served as Global Board of Director at CoreNet Global. Prior to Knight Frank, Sathish worked for Cushman & Wakefield as Senior Director & Head of FM & Asset Services – India.*

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# Knowledge Bytes

## When We Met

BY ANEETA SHARMA



My association with the Forces Network started back in 2023 when my husband mentioned a submission-call for an online platform run by a dear friend. At that time, the name did not register as much as the hope it raised that one of my random musings might find a home. All of you, who want to create a niche for themselves as wordsmiths, will agree that the one dream which keeps us going is an opportunity to get published honestly and truly with no strings attached. Because in today's world, it may have become easy to pay one's way to publication but the satisfaction of having your work printed because someone believes it is read worthy.....that is the heart's true yearning.

I promptly sent in my submission, fingers and toes crossed because the only dark edge to the otherwise silvery cloud was the probability that the painstakingly crafted, labour-of-love might be rejected.... a fear which most self-designated writers must live with. Therefore, it came as a pleasant surprise when the article was accepted and published in the very next edition.

Thereon, a beautiful literary-bond was minted even though initially I was skeptical about the outreach of a purely online platform. Being a bit of a conservative with an old-school approach, I revel in the aroma of pages fresh from the printing-press and am convinced that readers prefer real-time books and magazines which they can hold and flip through; as opposed to their online versions.

Honestly, I had a niggling doubt that what I had penned would be lost somewhere in the virtual annals, without whetting the appetite of too many discerning readers.

Perhaps only a fellow-writer can relate to my immense pleasure when a gentleman approached me during a social and complemented me for one of my articles. And another took the time to personally email and appreciate my writing style and language. In those precious moments, my need to express myself in words was validated. I am sure all the scribes who write for Forces Network would also have had similar experiences which must have inspired them and given an edge to their craft. Because this is one warm and vibrant fraternity which firmly believes in going all the way when it comes to extending encouragement.

I take this opportunity to extend my warm gratitude to Col Iqbal Singh, the pioneer who engineered this unique platform. And to the entire team for keeping the flag of the ForceNet E-Zine soaring for 17 long years. Best wishes for the years ahead and God speed!



**Aneeta Sharma**, w/o Col D D Sharma, is an educator with 26 plus years of teaching experience across the country. She is an active member of the Council for Global Education, Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry WICCI). She hails from a family steeped in military traditions. She is the author of *Home Run* (Notion Press) a contemporary fiction set in an Indian backdrop and *A Handful of Dewdrops* (Evince Pub), a collection of poems inspired by real life visuals. She runs a blog with TOI titled *Random Musings* and her works have been published by *Visual Verse* (Canada), *Kitaab International* (Singapur), *Setu* (Pittsburg) , the *Undiscovered* (Om International) & *Indian Periodicals*. She runs a YouTube channel for her bilingual poetry (@aneetasharma27). You can connect on Instagram @aneetasharma27.

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# Knowledge Bytes

## YEMEN: THE CIVIL WAR, HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND RESOLUTION

BY SUNIL KOTNALA



### Introduction

Until the beginning of the Russian-Ukraine conflict, the Yemeni civil war was much in the news. On 24 February 2022, Russia declared war on Ukraine. The advancement of the mighty Russian Army into Ukraine was a counter magnet to the Yemeni Civil War, and this news retreated and faded away from the media and thus from human memory. All significant resources and funding to contain the civil war and the humanitarian crisis that had thus arisen were diverted to a war that had worldwide ramifications. The Yemenis or the Yemenites were left 'High and Dry'.

### Yemen's Geostategic Significance

History is replete with examples of how a country's strategic location can become a bane instead of a boon. Yemen, because of its geostategic positioning, was and is no different. Domestic unrest supported by foreign powers seeking a foothold in Yemen led to conflicts that plunged the country into revolts and civil wars.

Yemen's position in the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea, and other strategic islands gives it a vantage point on the Strait of Bab al-Mandab. This strait serves as a gateway connecting the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, thus controlling major trade and oil routes between the East and the West. The geographical location is of immense importance to international stakeholders for strategic, political, and economic benefits. Saudi Arabia and Iran, being its immediate neighbours, have more enormous stakes

in it and thus are constantly vying to gain control covertly or overtly over Yemen's strategic location to consolidate their regional influence and superiority.

### **Genesis of the Crisis**

As was prevalent in the Sultanates, Imamates and the monarchical states of the Middle East, the Yemenis also had their share of uprisings, revolts, assassination attempts, and coup d'états. The ruling Imam, Mohammed-Al-Badr, was finally disposed of in 1962. Abdullah Yahya Al-Saleh, an officer in the Yemen Army, led the coup with his cohort of military officers and established a republic. Badr had survived the assault on his palace in Sanaa' and organised a coalition of the tribals against the republican government. Saleh desperately appealed to Egypt; thus, the first Egyptian troops set foot in Yemen. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia, driven by tribal border considerations, previous agreements with the Imamate, and the presence of Egyptian troops, supported the opposition. The battleground between Egyptian President Abdel-Al-Naser and Al-Badr was transformed into an international conflict and diplomacy.

Yemen at that time was divided into the North and South Yemen. Although the North was predominantly republican Shias, the South was Marxist Sunnis under the influence of the USSR.

From 1962 onwards, Saleh tried desperately to put in a unification treaty between the South and the North and, in 1990, managed the unification of Yemen. However, his attempt was unsuccessful, as the Civil War broke out in 1994. Nevertheless, he emerged victorious and tried to strengthen his position, hoping his son would take over. This proposal faced strong opposition from his Vice President and Army Chief, AbdRabbuh Mansur Hadi, whom he wanted to replace.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) had, in the meantime, become influential in Yemen. On 12 October 2000, the AQAP carried out a suicide attack on the USS Cole off the Port of Aden, in which seventeen US service personnel were killed. Since then, the American Senate has granted Yemen \$850 million in aid to conduct counterterrorism operations.

By this time, there was large-scale unrest and civil disobedience in Yemen against the rising prices, inflation and Sunni Islamisation influence from the South. In the North, the Houthis, a sect of Shi'a Muslims supported by Iran, started gaining prominence in the politics of Yemen. Under the leadership of



Zaidi religious leader Hussein al-Houthi, the Houthis emerged as an opposition movement to Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh, whom they accused of corruption and being backed by Saudi Arabia and the United States. As the influence of the Houthis increased in the North, the South was being overrun by Al Qaeda. Saleh was still trying to get his son to take over as the Army Chief, which led to clashes between the forces loyal to him and Hadi. As a result, the once-powerful Army of Yemen became weak and directionless and was unable to stop the onslaught of the now-powerful Houthis from the North. With almost no resistance being offered by the Yemeni Army or forces loyal to Hadi, who was now the President of Yemen, the Houthis captured Sana'a, the capital of Yemen, on 24th September 2014. This led to the resignation of Prime Minister Mohammed Basindawa and later the resignation of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi and his ministers on 22 January 2015 after Houthi forces seized the presidential palace, residence, and vital military installations, and the formation of a ruling council by Houthi militants on 6 February 2015.

In the same year, Saudi Arabia formed a coalition of Sunni-majority Arab states to intervene in the Yemeni civil war. The coalition includes: Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Sudan, The United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The United States, United Kingdom, France, and Canada back the coalition. Western countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, and Canada, have also sold arms to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and other coalition members. Thus making this war murkier with international players and stakeholders.

To reign in the Houthis, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have been leading an air campaign in Yemen since 2015 and have carried out more than 30,000 airstrikes in Yemen, with around 28% of those strikes targeting civilian areas. According to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), the air campaign has killed almost 24,000 people, including nearly 9,000 civilians.

A persistent conflict between the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG), with support from the Saudi-led coalition, and the de-facto authority (DFA) (also known as the Houthis) that is aligned with Iran has resulted in a severe economic and humanitarian crisis.

## **Humanitarian Crisis**

The situation in Yemen remains the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The conflict has caused at least 377,000 deaths and has forcibly uprooted more than 4.5 million people from their homes. Over one-third of the three million refugees have been displaced within Yemen since 2015, and 2022 alone saw 234,000 new displacements. Millions of people are scattered in camps for displaced persons with little food and poor hygiene. Yemen remains among the top six largest internal displacements in the world.

As per UNHCR estimates, 17 million people—more than half of the population are suffering from high levels of food insecurity. The conflict and economic collapse have significantly damaged public services, which were already limited in Yemen. Only 50 per cent of health facilities and 65 per cent of schools are currently functioning, leaving more than 2 million children out of school. Nearly 90 per cent of the population has no access to publicly supplied electricity. Key public service employees, including Yemeni health workers and two-thirds of all Yemeni teachers, have not received a regular salary in years.

The UNHCR estimates that about 76%, or 21.6 million people, need human assistance and protection services. This is believed to be the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

Medical supplies are chronically short, and only half of health facilities fully function. In 2017, the country suffered the largest-ever outbreak of cholera since records began. More than a million people were thought to have contracted it that year; at least 3,000 people died.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further compounded the situation. The health workers estimate that the figures available may be only 70% of the actual cases reported. Many affected areas do not have the available basic medical facilities, so the figures reported are inaccurate. Yemen hosts around 99,877 refugees and asylum seekers, 70 per cent of whom are Somali and 20 per cent Ethiopian - making Yemen the world's fourth largest host of Somali refugees. Much of the refugee and asylum-seeking population live in unsuitable accommodations without access to water in the overcrowded and impoverished neighbourhoods of Aden and Sana'a.

## **International Response to the Humanitarian Crisis**

The inter-agency humanitarian evaluation (IAHE) covered one of the largest and most significant humanitarian responses by Inter-Agency Standing

Committee (IASC) partners. The review found that despite multiple political, bureaucratic, and geographical challenges, the humanitarian response in Yemen scaled up impressively and slowed the collapse of essential services. In so doing, lives were saved and suffering alleviated.

Although these may be some positive signs, the overall situation in Yemen remains critical. Continued fighting prevents shipments of food and fuel from entering the country. Hospitals do not have diesel fuel to operate generators during power cuts, and ambulances have run out of gasoline. Stocks of antibiotics and critical medical supplies have been depleted. Large-scale corruption in distributing aid material is a significant challenge for the agencies. The danger to the lives of the aid workers and collateral damage are impediments to the smooth flow of food, medical care items and protection. The conflict in Yemen drew international response both in terms of military assistance as well as humanitarian aid. Various agencies have been working relentlessly in Yemen to mitigate the hardships of the conflict. Some of the principal agencies are listed below.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), now UNCF, is helping treat severe acute malnutrition in children by providing essential therapeutic food and medical supplies. Children are also being helped with victim assistance and education on mines and explosive remnants of war.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supports, Interventions, including emergency food assistance, Medical treatment and vaccination support for children, Emergency obstetric services for women, Blankets and household goods for displaced families, Hygiene kits and water treatment supplies to reduce the spread of disease.

USAID partners support populations in need across Yemen by providing access to safe drinking water, emergency food assistance, malnutrition screening and treatment, primary health care services, and protection support. The United Nations Population Fund's (UNPF) priority is to ensure that all Yemeni women and girls can access services vital to their health, well-being, and lives. As part of the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, UNPF delivers: Reproductive health services, with a focus on emergency obstetric and neonatal care to, reduce maternal mortality and morbidity. Protection services for women and girls to prevent and respond to different forms of violence. Emergency life-saving packages for all newly displaced persons through the Rapid Response Mechanism.



The United Nations High Commissioner (UNHCR) for Refugees leads the Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), and Shelter/Non-Food Items clusters as part of the inter-agency humanitarian response to assist those most in need in Yemen. In addition, UNHCR remains the only agency addressing the protection and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers nationwide. UNHCR's response focuses primarily on protection interventions, shelter support, CCCM services, cash assistance, peaceful coexistence and social cohesion projects, and comprehensive refugee response. Today, the Operation has a well-established presence across the country. It covers most of its 22 governorates and 333 districts.

Save the Children has been working in Yemen since 1963 as one of the largest aid organisations in the country. Since March 2015, it has reached more than 5 million children in Yemen with life-saving assistance. It supports over 200 health facilities across Yemen to deliver vital nutrition services for babies, children, and mothers. Islamic Relief is a leading humanitarian organisation in Yemen, with thousands of field staff and volunteers nationwide. Their projects include Life-saving food aid, Access to clean water and sanitation, Sustainable livelihood efforts, health response for cholera, emergency aid for internally displaced people, and winter solutions to the Conflict.

Other than material and human resources, including a skilled workforce, The United States, Saudi Arabia, Germany, and the European Union were the top four donors last year.

### **Ending the Conflict**

Many resolutions resulting from meetings and negotiations have yet to arrive at a lasting peace or solution to the six-decade-old conflict. The fundamental challenge in achieving a sustainable resolution of the current conflict in Yemen is that the issues at stake are fundamental to Yemen's identity and history. It is also true that no effort—domestic, regional, or international—to address Yemen's persistent issues of political disenfranchisement, economic marginalisation, and social inequity has succeeded. But the more significant effort to find a durable end to the conflict and establish a path to an overarching political resolution has been mainly left to the United Nations and other international actors.

At a time when the United States is focused on responding to Russia's war in Ukraine and stepping up efforts to deal with China and climate change, the Yemen war remains a challenge for regional and global security, and the conflict represents one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.

No mediation effort to go beyond CBMs, whether domestic, regional, or international, can succeed without knowing that the Houthis military adventure has ended. Thus, the principal challenge for potential negotiators is to find the means to apply pressure on the Houthis.

The recent launch of Houthi Drone missiles into the Red Sea also signals that the failure to prevent a Houthi military victory in Yemen will present a sustained threat to freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb. With some 10% of the world's maritime commerce passing through that vital waterway, global trade and economy depend on maintaining it as a secure sea line of communication.

Internationally, the UN has listed specific steps that can be taken to ensure the resolution of conflict, lasting peace, and the reconstruction of Yemen, which have been discussed during Yemeni negotiations. Support the new U.N. initiative to expand the scope of consultations to include key Yemeni stakeholders, including civil society, women's and youth groups, tribes, southerners, the diaspora, and others.

Sustain efforts to achieve a comprehensive ceasefire between the Houthis and government-aligned forces, including reopening the Sana'a airport and, relieving blocks on Hodeida port and holding the parties accountable for their response. Make clear that the Houthis will not be accepted as a legitimate participant in negotiations while they continue their military operations in Yemen and across the border. Re-designate the Houthis as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) if they continue to resist efforts to advance the political negotiations to end the fighting or use the cover of talks to continue their military campaign.

Engage the Saudi and Emirati leadership to encourage their continued efforts to promote a unified Yemeni leadership committed to resisting Houthi aggression, finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict, and paving the way for resolving longstanding Yemeni grievances. Ensure their commitment and buy-in in the post-war reconstruction and redevelopment process.

Continue to coordinate closely to address Saudi and Emirati security concerns, including the provision of needed weapons to defend against Houthi cross-border attacks, while emphasising the need to seek an end to coalition military operations within the context of an overall ceasefire, including an end to Houthi cross-border operations.

Address problems in economic management in government-held areas to eliminate corruption, reduce inflation, and resolve obstacles to the economy; strengthen the performance of commercial banks; stabilise the Yemeni riyal; and promote U.N. mediation on economic issues to end economic dislocations that victimise innocent civilians.

With the IMF and World Bank, advanced mechanisms to restart oil and gas exports with revenues to fund essential services, pay civil servant salaries and fund the Social Fund for Development. Make clear to the Houthis that the U.S. will respond kinetically to further actions that threaten freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, Bab el-Mandeb, or the Gulf of Aden.

## Conclusion

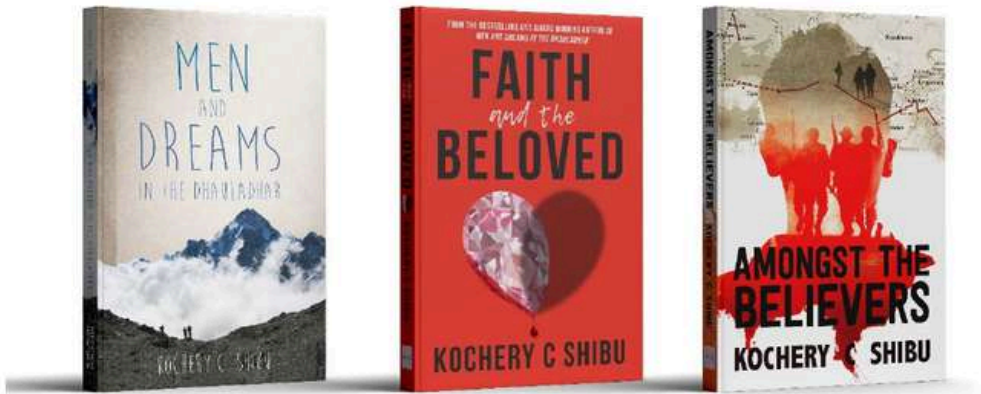
The phrase "it is easier said than done" applies to every word in Yemen's context. It is also true that there is much at stake for the international community in Yemen. The humanitarian crisis, with a potential drought that can bring about widespread devastation, is looming large in Yemen and cannot be brushed aside. Therefore, the nations providing military assistance and agencies providing humanitarian aid must keep up their efforts until the conflict is resolved.



**Col Sunil Kotnala** a third-generation Army officer, was commissioned in the 5th Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles Regiment and commanded a Special Operations battalion in the Garhwal Himalayas on the Indo-Tibet Border. In his 25 years of service, he has a broad operational spectrum, his varied and intriguing experience in these areas gave him a deep insight into the genesis and mechanics of insurgency and terrorism. He has led two successful mountaineering expeditions to Mount Trishul - A Ski expedition and Mt. Shivling in the Garhwal Himalayas. He voluntarily retired from the army to pursue his childhood passion for writing. In 2017, he published his first creation in the form of a book 'Holy Warriors. His second book,' BattleField Jaffna,' is based on an actual operation by the IPKF in Sri Lanka. His third book, 'The Archers,' is inspired again by an actual operation in Kashmir. Both these books were published in 2023.

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Kochery C Shibu, the bestselling and award-winning author of '[Men and Dreams in the Dhauladhar](#)', and '[Faith and the Beloved](#)', is a graduate of the prestigious National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla. He has served in the Indian Navy and commanded two warships. Post his retirement, he has executed hydro-electric 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 an MA English Literature from Pune University. Shibu has changed tack from the snow-clad mountains to the blue oceans, and has been associated with the setting up of a shipping company in India.

'[Amongst the Believers](#)', a suspense thriller, is his third book. A passionate and committed writer, Shibu creates a magical world of fiction built around a well-researched background.

# Knowledge Bytes

## JOIN FORCES NETWORK AND ALIGN WITH SUCCESS

*BY TARUN PRATAP SINGH*

### 1. THE SUBJECTIVITY OF SUCCESS

Success is a highly subjective term, often defined differently by each individual. In modern times, success is predominantly measured by financial parameters—how much money one earns or accumulates. However, this was not the case a century ago. Success has always had a broader meaning.

For someone struggling with health issues, achieving a state of good health is a significant success. Similarly, for those dealing with strained relationships, attaining harmony and cordiality is a milestone of success. Success can also mean achieving a long-cherished dream or goal, no matter how unique it may be to the individual. Furthermore, for those on a spiritual path, being able to commune with God or the universe and attaining spiritual realization is the ultimate success.

Thus, success is not confined to financial prosperity or material abundance; it is deeply personal and varies from person to person, based on their aspirations and circumstances.

### 2. REDEFINING THE APPROACH TO PROBLEMS AND SUCCESS

At one point, I began reflecting on how I approach problems and success. My brain has a unique way of processing issues—it doesn't see problems as others might. This perspective stems from my understanding of the term "problem," as defined in the dictionary. The Oxford Dictionary describes a problem as something that requires a solution. In essence, every problem is an opportunity to solve or overcome something. This mindset drives me to focus on the mechanics of the issue and find a solution rather than dwelling on the problem itself.

Initially, like many others, I associated success with financial abundance and the accumulation of wealth. My perspective on success was subjective and rooted in financial outcomes. However, as I delved deeper, I realized that success encompasses much more. This realization led me on a journey of extensive reading, studying, and understanding success from various perspectives.

I examined the lives of highly successful individuals, explored energy concepts, occult sciences, and spiritual viewpoints. Through this exploration, I uncovered a fundamental truth: all successful people, regardless of their field or approach, share a common underlying factor. This discovery was instrumental in reshaping my understanding of success and its broader implications in life.

### **3. THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND SUCCESS**

Through my study of successful individuals, one key factor emerged consistently: a belief in a higher power as their driving force. Whether they referred to it as God, the universe, or another guiding entity, they credited their success to this force and expressed profound gratitude toward it. Successful people also acknowledged the support of those around them—friends, family, mentors, or teams—who played pivotal roles in their journeys.

A compelling reinforcement of this idea can be found in *The Psychology of Money*, a book that has gained significant traction recently. The author emphasizes, in various ways, that success is not purely about following a clear-cut mechanical path; it often involves an intangible driving force or support system.

Similarly, insights from historical works like Napoleon Hill's *Think and Grow Rich* and *The Richest Man in Babylon* further validate this perspective. Written nearly a century and a century and a half ago, respectively, these books delve deeply into the concept of attributing success to higher forces and collaborative efforts. Whether discussing millennials or billionaires, the underlying message remains consistent: gratitude, faith in a higher power, and acknowledgment of collective support are integral components of success.

### **4. THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENT IN SUCCESS**

Success is never solely the result of an individual's actions, though actions are undeniably critical. Beyond personal efforts, another significant factor contributes to success: the environment. This includes every person, place, situation, and even living and non-living organism an individual interacts with. These elements, when aligned harmoniously, create the support system necessary for success.

Many successful people attribute their achievements to moments when others stepped in at the right time—be it through financial aid, encouragement, or collaboration. Whether through an unforeseen benefactor, a supportive community, or favorable circumstances, success often depends on external factors aligning with one's internal efforts. It's never just the ideas in a person's



mind that determine success; countless brilliant ideas occur to individuals daily. However, an idea can only flourish when nurtured by the right environment.

Just as a seed cannot germinate without soil, water, and nutrients, success requires an ecosystem that supports growth. For a plant to bear fruit, its surroundings must provide sustenance and care. Similarly, an individual can only achieve success when their environment—the people, places, and circumstances around them—works in harmony with their goals. Without this essential support, success becomes unattainable.

## **5. EXAMPLES OF ENVIRONMENT SHAPING SUCCESS**

The influence of the environment on success is vividly illustrated by the life of Henry Ford. Despite lacking formal education, Ford became a billionaire. How? He understood the power of collaboration and environment. Recognizing his limitations, he surrounded himself with experts, forming a team that could execute his ideas and bring his vision to life. His success wasn't solely about his ideas but also about his ability to create a supportive and capable ecosystem.

This principle is echoed in *The Psychology of Money*, which highlights numerous examples of successful individuals whose achievements were shaped by people and circumstances around them. Billionaires, unlike many others, often acknowledge the role of specific individuals or situations in their success. Their unique mechanics hinge on leveraging the environment to support their goals.

An age-old saying by our forefathers encapsulates this wisdom: "जैसी संगती, वैसे आप होते हो" (You become like the company you keep). This emphasizes how one's environment and associations directly influence their path.

A modern example of this principle can be found in the story of Dhirubhai Ambani. Early in his career, earning just ₹200 a month, Ambani was known for spending a significant portion of his earnings in high-end hotels and restaurants. When questioned, he explained that the value of ideas he received from such environments far outweighed the expense. A tea at a roadside stall might inspire an idea worth ₹5, but a tea at the Taj Hotel could spark a ₹200 idea, thanks to the stimulating environment it provided.

These examples reinforce the importance of cultivating a supportive and inspiring environment. Success is not merely about individual effort or ideas—it is about nurturing those ideas within a conducive ecosystem that fosters growth and innovation.

## **6. ASTROLOGY AND THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENT IN SUCCESS**

The significance of environment in shaping success is not just a philosophical or modern concept—it is deeply rooted in the ancient science of Astrology. Astrology, known as Jyotish, is one of the six Vedangas (limbs of the Vedas), essential for understanding and studying the Vedas comprehensively. Without the knowledge of Astrology, a proper study of the Vedas is incomplete.

Astrology emphasizes this connection through its study of the Bhavas or houses in a person's life chart. There are 12 houses, each representing a specific aspect of life. The third house, is associated with the environment, neighbors, and subconscious mind. This house beautifully illustrates the interplay between one's surroundings and their internal mental processes. Remarkably, it is also linked to fame and recognition in life, demonstrating how one's environment directly influences their path to success.

In my research on Astrology, I found that a malefic presence in the third house often leads to disturbances in a person's subconscious mind. Such disturbances reflect negatively on their environment and can hinder their potential for success. When analyzing a birth chart, the accuracy of predictions based on the third house highlights the profound impact of environment on an individual's life. Astrology thus provides a systematic and precise method of understanding how external surroundings and internal states are interconnected.

This ancient wisdom underscores that our environment is not only a factor in shaping our subconscious but also plays a crucial role in determining our success, fame, and the work we accomplish in life. The insights from Astrology align seamlessly with modern observations, reinforcing the timeless relevance of this concept.

## **7. SPIRITUAL AND ENERGY CONCEPTS: THOUGHTS SHAPE REALITY**

The profound connection between thoughts and reality is a recurring theme across various energy and spiritual concepts. This principle is rooted in ancient philosophies and continues to resonate in modern literature. The idea that "what you think is what manifests in your life" has been explored and emphasized across diverse schools of thought.

For those interested in ancient Indian philosophy, the Vimansa philosophy of Vedanta delves deeply into this concept. Modern readers can find similar principles in books like Louise Hay's works, *The Power of Your Subconscious Mind* by Joseph Murphy, or the widely popular *Law of Attraction*. These texts consistently highlight the transformative power of thoughts, affirming that our mental focus and beliefs shape the events and circumstances we encounter in life.

Whether rooted in ancient spiritual teachings or modern self-help movements, the message remains the same: our thoughts act as the blueprint for our reality. This reinforces the need for mindfulness and positive thinking, as they directly influence the energy we attract and the outcomes we achieve.

## **8. CHANGING THE SUBCONSCIOUS MIND TO TRANSFORM LIFE**

If you want to overcome challenges, achieve success, or bring about positive change in your life, the starting point lies in transforming your subconscious mind and altering your environment. The interplay between the subconscious mind and the environment is profound; changing one inevitably influences the other, creating a ripple effect that reshapes your reality.

Many spiritual and life coaches emphasize actionable practices like journaling. Why journaling? Because there is a deep connection between the subconscious mind and physical actions, particularly involving the hands. This connection is even highlighted in Astrology, where the third house governs not just the subconscious mind but also the hands. Writing or engaging in manual skills initiates a change in mental patterns, which in turn influences the environment around you.

Practices like Tai Chi illustrate this principle beautifully. By simply moving your hands and body in a deliberate manner, you alter the energy within and around you, affecting both your subconscious and external circumstances. Such practices demonstrate how physical actions can catalyze profound inner transformations.

This universal principle is echoed across various modalities, philosophies, and techniques. Whether through Tai Chi, journaling, or other methods, the core idea remains the same: change your environment and subconscious mind to change your life. While the tools and explanations may differ, their essence is unified. For those seeking success, the simplest and most powerful step is to work on these two aspects. By aligning your internal and external worlds, you create a foundation for meaningful transformation.



## 9. THE POWER OF FORCE NETWORK: A SYMBOL OF ALIGNMENT AND ENERGY

If you ask me how to bring about change and align your life with success, my answer is simple: join Force Network. When I first encountered Force Network, the name itself sparked a sense of immense energy and purpose. The organization, with over 7,000 veterans working towards a shared cause, is a remarkable force, embodying strength, action, and alignment. Achieving this scale and mission is no small feat.

Names hold power, and Force Network exemplifies this truth. The name itself resonates with the energies of Sun, Mars, and Mercury—an astrological combination that is nothing short of extraordinary. Let me explain why this matters:

**Sun:** Represents the soul's purpose and the source of all energy in the solar system. It signifies clarity, vitality, and the foundation of life. To have the Sun's energy behind a mission means aligning with a higher purpose and receiving unparalleled support.

**Mars:** Known as the commander, Mars translates purpose into action. It drives energy, strategy, and execution. For any endeavour, actions aligned with purpose are critical, and Mars embodies this dynamic.

**Mercury:** The magnifier and communicator. Mercury amplifies what it touches and facilitates seamless communication and adaptability. It ensures that efforts not only align but also expand and resonate on a greater scale.

The name Force Network seamlessly integrates these energies. Sun provides the purpose, Mars executes the actions, and Mercury magnifies and communicates the impact. It is this synergy that makes the organization not just a network but a powerhouse of transformation.

The organization's logo further emphasizes these attributes. The red in the logo signifies Mars' energy, while the structure and design symbolize the harmony of Sun, Mercury, and Mars working together. The moment I saw the name and logo, I felt an alignment with my own purpose and actions, knowing that this was an environment where great things could be achieved.

Force Network is not just an organization—it's a place where purpose, action, and magnification converge, creating a platform for profound personal and collective growth.

## **10. MEETING COLONEL IQBAL: THE EMBODIMENT OF FORCES NETWORK'S ENERGY**

Joining Forces Network was a decision I made even before meeting its leader, simply based on the power and resonance of its name. However, it's said that the strength of a herd is determined by its leader, and my conversation with Colonel Iqbal cemented my decision. Speaking to him was not just a meeting—it was an experience, an insight into the energy that drives this remarkable organization.

Colonel Iqbal embodies the very essence of the planets associated with the name Forces Network: Sun, Mars, and Mercury. His energy and vision align perfectly with the organization's ethos. Despite his years of service and accomplishments, he remains tireless, always focused on the purpose, and perpetually thinking ahead. He has a unique ability to be present in the moment, a quality that is rare and invaluable.

In a world where many of us are caught between the delusions of past regrets and future anxieties, Colonel Iqbal stands out as someone who lives in the present. His empathetic demeanour, sharp insights, and forward-thinking approach make him a leader worth respecting and learning from. His presence not only inspires confidence but also demonstrates the values that Forces Network represents.

This alignment between the leader and the organization's core energy is a testament to its success. Colonel Iqbal's leadership over 17 years has guided Forces Network to where it is today, and it continues to thrive under his stewardship. For anyone seeking purpose, alignment, and direction, meeting Colonel Iqbal is an experience that can change your perspective and solidify your commitment to something greater.

## **11. FORCES NETWORK: A PATH TO TRANSFORMATION AND GROWTH**

Forces Network has grown from a small group of visionaries into a thriving community, expanding every day as people join to create a ripple effect of transformation. It is not just an organization—it is a platform where individuals find purpose, direction, and tools to enhance their lives. If you want to elevate your life, activate the energies of Sun, Mars, and Mercury, align your subconscious mind, and achieve fame and success, I strongly recommend joining Forces Network.

This network, under the leadership of Colonel Iqbal, provides unparalleled support to veterans transitioning from the armed forces to civilian life. Colonel Iqbal's regular posts and initiatives are a testament to his commitment to helping others navigate this significant life change. The life of an army officer often involves daily firefighting, dealing with unforeseen challenges that demand constant readiness. While this prepares officers to face adversity, it sometimes creates a cycle of focusing on immediate battles, causing them to lose sight of the larger purpose—the ultimate war of life.

Forces Network helps its members shift this perspective. It encourages them to think beyond daily struggles and focus on their broader missions and goals.

Joining this network is not only about personal growth but also about contributing to a community that thrives on giving and sharing. The spiritual principle of reciprocity—what you give out returns to you multifold—forms the foundation of this network. Just as the old song says, "Tu 10 paisa dega, tarko 1 lakh dega," this core value underscores the power of helping others.

Forces Network is a beacon for anyone seeking transformation, growth, and alignment. It is a network that works, driven by purpose, energy, and the collective efforts of its members. By joining, you align yourself with a powerful force capable of bringing meaningful change to your life and the lives of others.

## **12. INTROSPECTION: THE ROLE OF TIME, PEOPLE, AND SITUATIONS IN SUCCESS**

For those reading this, I invite you to introspect and validate this perspective by revisiting your own past. Reflect on the most successful periods of your life—those moments when everything seemed to align perfectly. Ask yourself: during those times, were you surrounded by supportive people? Did situations unfold seamlessly to create opportunities? Were results manifesting effortlessly as if the universe was conspiring in your favor?

We all experience such phases in life. These are the golden moments when every action seems to yield positive outcomes, when help arrives unexpectedly, and when everything aligns with our desires. Now, contrast this with challenging phases of your life—times when nothing seemed to go right. No matter how hard you tried, results were disappointing, wrong people entered your life, and unfavorable situations dominated your reality.



Astrology provides an intriguing explanation for these patterns through the concept of dashas (planetary periods). It suggests that during favorable dashas, the right people, opportunities, and circumstances enter your life, aligning perfectly to manifest your goals. Conversely, during unfavorable dashas, the opposite happens—challenges arise, and the environment becomes less supportive.

Self-introspection offers a clearer understanding of this dynamic. By examining your own experiences, you can recognize the profound influence of time, people, and circumstances on your achievements. Success is not just about actions but also about the environment and timing that shape the results. Reflecting on this will deepen your awareness of how external factors align with internal efforts to create success or challenges.

### **13. A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE: FORCES NETWORK SEMINAR**

My experience during the Forces Network seminar was nothing short of transformative. One of the most remarkable moments was sharing the space with Dr. Lal of Lal Path Labs, a luminary in his field. Being in the same environment as someone so accomplished felt like a blessing, and it set the tone for the entire seminar.

The speakers invited by Colonel Iqbal were from diverse fields, each bringing unique experiences and perspectives. Just being in a room with such accomplished individuals elevated my energy and inspired me. The networking opportunities were unparalleled—I met many people, enriched my knowledge through their insights, and gained a better understanding of various aspects of life and career transitions.

The seminar wasn't just an event; it was an enriching experience. Meeting other individuals who are also navigating career transitions offered fresh perspectives and reinforced the idea that learning from others' experiences is one of the most powerful tools for growth. There is nothing more elevating in life than sharing space with experienced and accomplished people.

Forces Network left me feeling energized and inspired, with a positive impact that lasted for days after the event. What makes this network truly exceptional is the genuine support and camaraderie among its members. The group operates like a well-oiled machine, with members ready to help each other around the clock. This level of active participation and collaboration is rare and incredibly fulfilling to witness and be a part of.

To anyone reading this, I humbly urge you not to doubt for even a moment whether you should join Forces Network. Whether you are transitioning careers or not, simply attending these events or being an active member of the group will bring tremendous value to your life. The benefits are countless, and for those who are already part of this community, they know these truths better than anyone else.

### **CONCLUSION: THE FORCES NETWORK ADVANTAGE**

Forces Network is not just an organization—it is a transformative community that embodies purpose, energy, and collective growth. With over 7,000 veterans actively working toward shared goals, it offers an unparalleled platform for learning, networking, and personal development. The benefits of joining Forces Network are immense. It connects you with a diverse group of accomplished individuals who share their experiences, insights, and support. Whether you are transitioning from a career or seeking to elevate your personal and professional life, the network provides invaluable resources, mentorship, and a supportive ecosystem.

Led by visionary leaders like Colonel Iqbal, Forces Network is built on the principles of collaboration, empowerment, and mutual growth. The energy of its name resonates with the astrological power of Sun, Mars, and Mercury—aligning purpose, action, and communication to create a truly magnetic environment. Its events, seminars, and daily interactions leave members inspired, motivated, and equipped with actionable insights.

For anyone seeking change, success, or simply a strong support system, Forces Network is the place to be. It is a community that thrives on shared experiences and mutual support. Joining it is not just a step forward in your journey; it is a leap toward transformation, growth, and a purpose-driven life.



#### ***Maj Tarun Pratap Singh***

- Energy Coach and Spiritual Guide \* Founder Sanidhya
- Reiki Grandmaster \* Astrologer
- Numerologist \* Akashic Records Reader
- Ancestral Healing Facilitator \* Oracle Card Reader
- Quantum Jump Facilitator
- Family Generation Issues Healer
- Qualified Teacher from Diana Cooper School of White Light (UK, Britain)

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# Information

## Celebrating Our Heroes: The First Delhi NCR Community Event for Veterans & Families by Salesforce Delhi Community

*BY VINEET ARORA*

On October 26, 2024, I had the immense honor of hosting a significant milestone at IIT Delhi—the first Delhi NCR Community Event for Veterans. This gathering was dedicated to honoring the sacrifices made by our Veterans and their families while providing them with a vital introduction to the Salesforce ecosystem. As I stood before a diverse audience of Veterans, their families, and supporters, I felt a profound sense of pride and gratitude for the opportunity to connect and empower our community.

### **A Day of Gratitude and Reflection**

The day began promptly at 10:30 AM, with a warm welcome that set the tone for our gathering. I expressed my heartfelt appreciation to the Veterans and their families, acknowledging the sacrifices they have made for our country. This event was more than just recognition; it was a commitment to give back to those who have given so much, offering them new opportunities to thrive in their post-military lives.

The central theme of our event was to provide a platform that introduced our Veterans and their families to the Salesforce ecosystem, equipping them with the knowledge and tools they need to succeed in the ever-evolving tech landscape. It was an exciting opportunity to explore how the skills acquired during military service can be seamlessly translated into rewarding careers in technology.

### **Inspiring Stories of Resilience**

As I took the stage, I shared my own journey as a Veteran, discussing the unique challenges we face post-retirement and the importance of leveraging community support. I introduced **Vetforce**, an equality group within Salesforce dedicated to uplifting Veterans, military families, and allies. This initiative reflects my passion for fostering an inclusive environment where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.



Following me, **Abitha Mohan**, MBCI, captivated us with her powerful story of resilience. She recounted her journey of balancing family life with a demanding career, detailing the setbacks she faced and overcame on her path to joining Salesforce in 2021. Abitha's experience showcased the strength and determination within our community and inspired many to pursue their dreams, regardless of the obstacles.

Next, **Colonel Gourav Ray** sir provided invaluable insights on transitioning from military to corporate life. His leadership lessons were relevant not only to Veterans but also to anyone navigating significant career changes. Colonel Ray's ability to draw parallels between military leadership and success in the corporate world encouraged attendees to leverage their unique experiences.

**Yudhisther**, an expert on Salesforce, engaged the audience with practical insights on how to begin their learning journey within the Salesforce ecosystem. He introduced **Trailhead**, Salesforce's educational platform, and encouraged everyone to install the Trailhead Go app. The enthusiasm in the room was infectious as attendees eagerly participated, completing their first badge together. This interactive segment highlighted our commitment to continuous learning and community engagement.

Following Yudhisther, **Bhanu Dasgupta** enriched our day by guiding participants through the Trailhead platform. He shared essential tips on setting career goals and navigating the Salesforce ecosystem, empowering attendees to take meaningful steps toward their professional aspirations.

Finally, **Dimple Pande** addressed the crucial topic of Military Veteran Recruitment. She provided strategic insights on building a career network and navigating the recruitment process, equipping our Veterans with tools to enhance their career prospects and inspiring them to approach their job searches with confidence.

A highlight of our event was the presence of **Colonel Iqbal Singh**, the founder of **Forces Network**. His dedication to creating a supportive platform for Veterans resonated deeply with the audience. Colonel Singh shared his vision for empowering Veterans through community engagement and networking, reinforcing our shared mission to uplift and support one another as we navigate new career paths.

## **A Day to Remember**

As the event drew to a close, I felt a tremendous sense of fulfillment. The day was filled with joyful interactions, inspiring stories, and a spirit of camaraderie that left a lasting impression on all who attended. We took selfies, shared swag, and enjoyed a delicious spread that fostered connections and laughter throughout the room.

I expressed my immense gratitude to every Veteran and family member who joined us, as well as to the remarkable speakers who made this event such a success. This gathering was not just a celebration; it was a commitment to support and uplift our Veteran community by introducing them to the Salesforce ecosystem and ensuring that those who have served continue to thrive in their post-military lives.

As we wrapped up, I observed the renewed sense of belonging and empowerment among all attendees. We had come together not just as individuals but as a unified community, embodying the spirit of support that is essential to our mission. The success of this inaugural event lays a strong foundation for future gatherings, promising continued inspiration, growth, and connection for all involved.

I look forward to building on this momentum, fostering a community where Veterans can continue to share their experiences, learn from one another, and support each other in every step of their journeys within the Salesforce ecosystem. Together, we can create a brighter future for all who have served our nation.

Commander Vineet Arora (Retd.)

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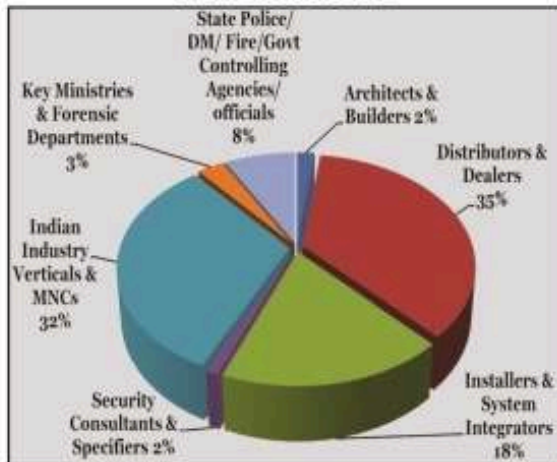
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# ***STAR POET OF FORCES NETWORK***



***Cdr Srivatsan V***

Thanks for being such an enthusiastic, supportive and contributing member of the Forces Network

# Better Together

*BY CDR SRIVATSAN V*

Seventeen winters since we first convened  
In digital spaces, where veterans gathered,  
Seeking new purpose beyond uniform days.  
What started as pixels has grown into trust -  
A beacon of hope in transition's storm!  
6900+ strong now, our Network stands firm,  
A testament built on collective dreams  
Where artillery veterans master code,  
And cavalry officers lead tech teams,  
Breaking old barriers with fearless resolve!

"Better Together" - this truth guides our path  
Thru' corporate labyrinths & boardroom wars.  
See how they stride now thru' civilian halls,  
Armed with certifications, minds prepared,  
Their military precision transformed  
For battles fought in different terrains!  
The fog of uncertain tomorrows lifts  
As knowledge flows thru' our trusted space.  
Each query answered strengthens the chain  
That binds us still in this second life,  
Where duty finds new forms to serve!

In virtual halls we've built something rare:  
A fellowship of understanding deep,  
Where wisdom passed grows wisdom earned,  
And every victory shared lights the way  
For those who follow in our wake!  
Seventeen years of lighting uncertain paths,  
Of proving that soldiers can reinvent  
While keeping intact their core of steel.  
The Network stands, a guardian true,  
For generations of veterans to come -  
All bound by trust, all marching forward still,  
Together better, as we've always been!!!

# An Ode to Forces Network

*BY LT COL IQBAL SINGH*

A beacon bright, a guiding light it stands,  
Forces Network, uniting valiant hands.  
From India's armed forces, strong and true.  
They've served their time, now paths anew.

No longer bound by uniform's embrace,  
They navigate the corporate space.

With skills honed sharp, in service of the land,  
They bring their strength to industry's demand.  
In cybersecurity's realm, they find their might,  
Defending systems, day and night.

From network security, a watchful eye,  
To incident response, threats they defy.  
With CISSP, CEH, certifications bold,  
Their expertise in digital defence, untold.

Risk management, their strategic art,  
Protecting data, playing a vital part.  
But more than tech, it's the spirit they convey,  
A dedication deep, that lights the way.

A mission-driven ethos, strong and clear,  
to guide their comrades, quell any fear.  
Mentorship's embrace, a helping hand,  
Supporting veterans, across the land.

They share their wisdom,  
lessons learned with pride.  
From battlefield to boardroom,  
side by side.

Forces Network, a testament to their name,  
A legacy of service, an enduring flame.  
From olive green to suits of corporate hue,  
Their dedication shines, in all they do.

**Contd...**



So let us praise this Network, strong and vast,  
A brotherhood of veterans, built to last.  
For in their unity, a power we see,  
A Force for good, for you and me.

## **A Sonnet on Forces Network**

*BY LT COL IQBAL SINGH*

So let us praise this Network, strong and vast,  
A brotherhood of veterans, built to last.  
For in their unity, a power we see,  
A Force for good, for you and me.

A network strong, of veterans so bold,  
From India's forces, stories to be told.  
In tech they thrive, their skills of old,  
In new domains, their worth is now extolled.

From signals, software, to the cloud they soar.  
Their discipline, a beacon, shining bright.  
Through mentorship, they open many a door.  
For comrades seeking corporate light.

With purpose true, they guide and they inspire.  
A bond unbreakable, their spirits fire.  
From battlefield to boardroom, they aspire,  
Their legacy of service, a burning pyre.

Forces Network, a name that stands so tall,  
A testament to courage, answering the call.



# A Haiku

*BY LT COL IQBAL SINGH*

Veterans unite, Tech skills honed for new domain, Forces Network strong

## Forces Network: A Symphony of Service and Skill

*BY LT COL IQBAL SINGH*

A symphony of service, strong and bold,  
Forces Network, a story to unfold.  
From India's armed forces, they arise,  
With skills refined, reaching for the skies.

The pages of their e-zine,  
stories they impart,  
From veterans thriving,  
playing a vital part.1

In every sector,  
their expertise is sought,  
A testament to the battles they have fought.  
With IQ , a leader in the field,  
With ABCT program, tech skills are revealed.  
Any Body Can Tech, a mantra they embrace,  
Opening doors, expanding every space.

From technical experts to managers so grand,  
Forces Network, united hand in hand.  
They rise to challenges, with courage and with grace,  
Leaving an impact, in every time and place.

So let us celebrate this network, strong and true,  
A beacon of inspiration, for me and for you.  
Forces Network, a name that echoes far and wide, A testament to service, an  
unwavering tide!

# Forces Network- साथ साथ

BY CAPT UDAY K SHRIWAS

कुछ है 2007 की बात  
6-7 दोस्त बैठे थे साथ  
तब किया था  
इक़बाल ने आगाज़,

और फिर क्या,  
कहते हैं ना  
की लोग मिलते गए और  
कारवां बनता गया

और देखो  
आ गये हम आज यहाँ  
यूँही चलते साथ-साथ,

फौज और फौजी  
बड़े उम्दा और बेहतरीन  
ये दो शब्द और ये जज्बात  
कदमताल कह लो  
या करो अम्बूश की बात  
गाना एक ही याद  
तू जब है साथ  
तो फिर क्या डरने की बात

इसी बुनियाद की बदौलत  
है अपने नेटवर्क की  
कुछ अलग ही बात है

कुछ पुछ लो  
फिर देखो कैसी होती है  
जवाबों की बरसात  
और हाँ ,है यहाँ मिलता है  
हर मर्ज़ का इलाज



हम सब ने  
अपना कुछ प्यार दिया  
और बनते बनते  
एक सिलसिला बन गया

हर बार और बार बार  
यहाँ होती एक ही बात  
फौजी जो आये बाहर  
उसका हम मिलकर देंगे साथ

कभी बनकर दोस्त  
कभी बनकर गुरु  
सदस्य करते हैं  
यहाँ बस ज्ञान की बात है

कभी ना होगी कम  
यहाँ प्यार की बरसात

और हां चाहे हो ट्रांजिशन  
या कोई सर्टिफिकेशन की बात  
हां चाहें कोई और भी हो बात  
याद रहे हमेशा  
फोर्सस नेटवर्क है  
हमेशा हर कदम  
खड़ा  
कंधे से काँधान मिलाएं  
तेरे साथ, मेरे साथ  
हम सबके साथ,



**LOOKING FORWARD FOR THE FORCES NETWORK GATHERINGS ACROSS  
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