

Aspiration & Inspiration.....



Abhishek Pandey

Aspiration is a long term hope or goal, that everyone of us possess and experience. To achieve aspirations, individual must have persistence, perseverance, patience, focus on solutions & not problems, a sense of positivity, mental robustness with grit and imagination with a capacity to assess, align and act as per demand of situation and accept ways of life that can steer to practical action with visible results. Abhishek Pandey's story manifest the role of his aspirations which never allowed his emotions to hijack his ambitions. His constant movement despite numerous challenges yielded practical results by converting Adversaries To Possibilities. Abhishek demonstrated traits of a leader & soldier with phenomenal adaptability, courage, conviction, commitment, devotion, determination and focused approach.

He was born in small city of Jaunpur-Uttar Pradesh-India and completed his studies till class 12th from Jaunpur -U.P. He Qualified National Defence Academy [NDA] examination conducted by Union Public Services Commission thereafter interview conducted by Services Selection Board [SSB] under the aegis of Indian Armed Forces [Ministry of Defence] consisting of specialized interviewing & selection officers. He joined the NDA on 21st Dec 1990 under 107 course of NDA

based on his all India merit. He successfully completed his NDA training on 22nd Nov 2004 and joined Indian Military Academy as Under Officer Trainee of Indian Army on 11th Jan 2005 called Gentleman Cadet [GC].

It was in the month of September-2005, he was in final term as Under Officer Trainee with exemplary records on outdoor trainings, academic performance demonstrating outstanding out turn of work-merit amongst his batch mates and scheduled to become Commissioned Officer of Indian Army in Dec 2005. The entire batch was undergoing live field firing practice in Sep-2005 at Asan - IMA field firing range practicing Rocket Launcher cable of firing varied Ammunition against fortified bunkers, advancing tanks & troops. Each Gentleman Cadet is mandatorily required to successfully fire Rocket Launcher on the designated target allotted by Directing Staff, Appointment held by the Selected Officer called Instructor of IMA. The Rocket Launcher firing is carried on rotation basis as it involves one loader & separate firer. A very uncommon situation encountered in the history of IMA at the firing point of rocket launcher on Sep-2005 when Abhishek was loading HEAT [High Explosive Anti Rank Ammunition] and same ammunition exploded at the firing point creating aberrant life situation with physical injuries & trauma which Abhishek with his perseverance has turned into Possible Opportunity

When Abhishek opened his eyes, he found himself at Military Hospital Dehradun with his Left Hand above elbow and thumb of right hand amputated with multiple splinter injuries on his chest & face. It took over Nine [09] months constant care & observation in Military Hospital to come out from physical injuries. His batch mate passed out as Commissioned Officer of Indian Army in Dec 2005, leaving him undercomplete stress, remorse trauma with aberrant situation at the age of twenty years and finally he was moved out from IMA dt 13th June 2006 and life became an uphill struggle for him. Repeated pleadings were made before the concerned Indian Army Authorities but with no veil. Even considering his age of twenty



years, no artificial prosthesis was provided to him. A vintage version of wooden mechanical hand was provided by the Artificial Limb Centre, Pune under the aegis of Indian Army against payment recovered from him. *He had to undergo arduous journey and struggle to get basic support from stake holder & functionaries to restore his dignity.*

His asset is his grit, mental robustness, adaptability with value education and skills which he honed up at NDA & IMA. He can very well imagine trending challenges in civil fraternity towards restoring his dignity and at first stage accepted his condition and equipped himself to write in protracted manner with his four fingers which was completely new and unacquainted situation for him created after the accident. It was Mrs. Anupama Singh wife of then Chief of Army Staff General J.J. Singh responded with sense & sensibility and initiated step to provide him requisite financial support for his All India CAT-Management Entrance Examination. Abhishek Qualified CAT in first attempt got admission in Faculty of Management Studies, Banaras Hindu University Varanasi in July 2006. He completed MBA with specialization in Marketing and awarded Gold Medal for securing first position in marketing discipline. He Joined IDBI Bank as Assistant Manager on dt 15th June 2009 during campus recruitment exercise at FMS BHU-U.P. He qualified All Indian State Bank of India Officers Examination and Joined State Bank of India as Deputy Manager on 05th April 2010 and is currently serving as Branch Manager of SBI. He is happily married and blessed with a daughter.

The story of Abhishek generates inspiration and act as force multiplier for policy makers, citizens and state for inclusive future and inclusion as essential part of development.

Tapash Chatterjee is a decorated officer of the Indian Army. He combined his vision with his man management skills to conceptualize and implement the mission 'Ability Beyond Disability' as First Nodal officer in conjunction with Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India & Indian Army. The Mission was aimed at restoring the dignity of persons with disabilities, strengthen the grassroots & community level activities by connecting rehabilitation professionals with those in need, residing in remote, under-served and border areas of the country. The mission found its mention in the Niti Ayog reports for outstanding achievements. He is regular contributor to the **"Behind The Headlines"** column of the Indian Interdisciplinary Research Journal Disabilities & Impairment est. 1987 and strong advocate of social entrepreneurship and adding positive value to society through empowerment & development.