

Brief Profile: Major VP Sharma (Retd)



VP Sharma is a technology professional with over 33 years' global experience in Telecommunications / Networking domains.

An alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, Pune, he served in Indian Army (Corps of Signals) for 16 years from 1985 to 2001. During his career in Army, he has served in many operational assignments and military technology projects in India and internationally.

He transitioned to corporate world in 2001. From 2001 to 2010, he worked in telecom sector during the years of hyper-growth. During this period, he worked for Airtel, Ericsson and Nokia Siemens Networks in senior positions. An expert in organizational and business transformation, he setup and managed the first Network Operations Centre of Ericsson in India, first 3G operations in Malaysia and Managed Services business of NSN India. At NSN, he led the business transformation to profitable growth.

From 2011-2017, he was Technology Director with Cisco Systems, where he setup and managed Global Technology Support Organisation and Cisco's Reliance Jio Network Operations.

In 2017, he left his corporate career and along with three of his close friends (two from Cisco and one retired Army Brigadier) setup a social enterprise, Gramonnati Trust. Gramonnati aims to support rural transformation through technology and entrepreneurship. Its mission is to develop 10,000 rural entrepreneurs over the next five years from amongst youth, women and ex-soldiers.

Gramonnati is actively working in Pondicherry and border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in J&K with Indian Army on a number of programs. More details are available on the website www.gramonnati.org

As part of the mission of developing rural entrepreneurs from amongst retired soldiers, he has co-founded Gratitude Farms Private Limited, an Agritech Company that specialises on Organic Farming and Aquaponics (www.gratitodefarms.co.in). The focus is on developing retired soldiers and rural youth in this field with limitless potential for a country like India. Organic Farming, particularly when it is practiced with a synthesis of best traditional knowledge and latest agricultural technologies, offers tremendous potential for livelihood and self-employment with good income.

He is an Executive Committee Member of Sri Aurobindo Society (www.aurosociety.org), a global not-for-profit NGO based out of Pondicherry.

He lives in Pondicherry.

He is an alumnus of IIT Kanpur (M Tech, EE), and Military college of Telecom Engineering (BE, E&C).

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