



METAMORPHES

Metamorphize the world into one

An introduction to the idea of Metamorphes
by
METAMORPHES FOUNDATION

METAMORPHES

Metamorphes is a group of spirited veterans committed to bring about a positive change in society. Globalisation, materialism and societal changes have resulted in erosion of some basic values and cultural traits that could harm the coming generations. We at Metamorphes are seized of these matters and endeavour to be the restitution catalysts and help our society metamorphose into being humane, valued and culturally strong.

Metamorphes is a non-political, non-religious and non-profit organisation working as a catalyst to a better society.

Vision



Create a value based society through the rich heritage of armed forces

Mission



- **Social Values:** Work towards an active participation of Armed Forces Veterans for encouraging sound values and ethical behaviour across the country.
- **Armed Forces Veterans & Veer Naaris:** Instill an enhanced sense of patriotism and discipline amongst the youth through media/ social media interface.
- **Armed Forces as Key contributors and influencers to National Policy, Strategy formulation and Nation Building:** Advocate policy advocacy groups to encourage / influence decision making processes through academic research.

More about our Mission



Social Values. *Bhaarat* is a nation that has been a beacon for the world since time immemorial. Our society has lived by and taught values, ethics, moral uprightiness and discipline to hundreds of generations of mankind. Our vibrant culture and religious texts have given us the gift of righteous living and extolled the virtues of social values and civic responsibilities. Unfortunately, materialism and aping the west without understanding the underlying logic have led to a broken value system.

Society at large has seen erosion of basic values and ethics. Respect for elders, caring for others, societal support system, civic responsibilities and social discipline have all taken a beating. These essentials were our recognition as Indians. It is our '*Astitva*' or '*Vajood*' (*essence of our existence*).



Metamorphes understands and puts faith in these essentials. The society today needs to hold on to these roots and nurture them into flowering trees. We endeavour to use all media forms to rekindle this spark, to reinstate these values, ethics and social discipline to bring about a social resurgence of righteous living.



Armed Forces Veterans & Veer Naaris. It has long been proven that the Armed Forces are a rock that holds a nation together. Their moral upbringing, discipline and selfless service to the nation has made them worthy of our salute. A soldier fights for his Motherland. For its Citizen. He does so with the belief that the nation stands by him till his last breath. These altruist braves amass huge and varied experience and expertise during their service. Society needs to understand and value them.

Post retirement these '*mashaals*' (torch beacons) do not lose their lustre. They continue to be huge repositories of guidance and expertise based on their unique and profound experience. Let us not allow these '*mashaals*' of altruism to die out in anonymity. Let us give them due respect and value their worth and most importantly utilise their experience for better nation building and bring the social change that we stand for. At Metamorphes we seek due recognition for Veterans and shall spread the word for deliverance.



Many soldiers give the supreme sacrifice. The famous epitaph at the World War II cemetery in Kohima says it all "*For your tomorrow, we gave our today*". Once a soldier becomes a martyr; it is the *Veer Naari* who continues the battle. Society needs to embrace these noble souls. Their sacrifice needs due recognition. It is 'payback' time and Metamorphes shall bring such stories to the attention of all. We shall also help such brave hearts to stand tall in society and contribute towards an enriching life ahead.



Armed Forces as Key contributors and influencers to National Policy, Strategy formulation and Nation building. The Armed Forces are a potent voice in national character building. The matured ethos and disciplined culture of the Forces and their understanding of national security make them indispensable advisors on national strategies and policy development.

Metamorphes aims to use advocacy forums and Forces participation in shall encourage research solid edifice as foundation and building blocks for our great Bhaarat nation.



this very potent resource through higher research to enhance Armed National decision-making process. We and advocacy to strengthen this rock-

We also look to be the catalysts to enhance the public image of the Armed Forces and help make them a unique, sought after and preferred service for the bright youth of the country.

Initiatives

To carry out its Mission, Metamorphes has undertaken these Initiatives:

The Lt Col Ajit Bhandarkar, SC Award.

An Award in the name of Lt Col Ajit V Bhandarkar, Shaurya Chakra, has been conceived in the memory of the supreme sacrifice made by Lt Col Ajit V Bhandarkar, during the call of duty towards the nation on the fateful day of 30th Oct 1999. He laid down his life fighting hardcore militants in Jammu and Kashmir. Ajit is an epitome of values and a role model for every patriot. The award has been propagated by Mrs Shakunthala Ajit Bhandarkar, his wife. For this award we are looking at a student from Standard 11, who befits the role in his school. The selected student would help projecting the image of ethical behavior in the school and s/he could be the brand ambassador recognised by His/Her actions to be emulated by students of younger classes.



Veer Naari campaign.



Respect to our Martyrs, who have made a supreme sacrifice, has always been a part of Indian Armed Forces ethos and culture. As a consequence of this ingrained value system, the welfare of Veterans and Veer Naris remains an important facet of the soldiering. Today Indian Armed Forces have a fully functional and responsive organization, which not only addresses the concerns of the Veteran community in a holistic manner, but also looks after the delivery of care and compassion to our Veer Naris. It endeavours to redeem the grievances, especially those related to pension, health care and other entitlements to our veterans/Veer Naris with minimum delay. Concurrently it is looking at the concept of welfare in its broader context to address the aspect of '**expectations and aspirations**'. However there have been cases where there has been a disconnect here we desire to connect with maximum Veer Naaris in the far flung areas into the deep interiors of the country where we can reach out and further the grievances which have not been still taken care of.

Nation Talks. This is a series of videos on interesting current and important topics. The videos feature interviews and panel discussions on contemporary issues by leading experts and thinkers in these fields. We would like to bring forth viewpoints that would lead to better awareness, safety and well being of the society. At the same time, these videos would help citizen understand social issues with an unbiased rational perspective.



Veterans Outreach.



Veteran outreach for societal integration of veterans and catalyse their support for an ethical valued India.

Short Films.



Metamorphes has a vision of an empowered and united India. Of a society rich in civic discipline and social values. We aim to use the audio-visual media to convey such messages to the masses. Short films based on values, culture and civic responsibilities are being developed to spread our message. To make an impact and metamorphize the world into one.

Research and Advocacy.

The defense forces comprising of the three services are mandated to defend our borders from external threats. The modern warfare has evolved into more dynamic areas including use of soft power and operations in the grey areas where the nation faces challenges beyond the conventional threats. The use of electromagnetic spectrum, cyber warfare, space technologies, use of social media to influence the thought and actions of the people of the country are some of the recent issues.



The defense personnel undergo a very rigorous selection procedure and are trained for the defense of the country under very trying circumstances. They are exposed to high level of technology, team spirit and leadership skills. These skills and experiences are scarce in the normal academic streams. The defense personnel are an important asset that can be harnessed for development of Human Resources for the new opportunities and avenues in defense preparedness including defense design and manufacturing. This will lead to using the best talents in national development and a formal method for forward integration in the defense preparedness and manufacturing.

It is proposed to integrate the defense personnel in research and development in higher education institutions to create opportunities in defense preparedness and strategy. We at Metamorphes propose to create chairs, support academicians, researchers to delve into the large and ever growing field of defense and strategic studies. It is proposed to create a group of highly trained defense personnel in state of art and futuristic defense issues.

Founding Members

Metamorphes has been the collective brainchild of committed veterans with dynamic and vibrant ideas seeking confluence in a rightful cause for betterment of society.

Meet our founding members:



Col Pankaj Goel. An alumnus of the NDA and Air Defence gunner to the core, Pankaj has seen service in many operational areas including Siachen. An alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad, he is an operations person and connects with ground for results. Pankaj is principled, ethical and quality driven leader with extensive experience both in the corporate and the Armed Forces. Networking is something that he adores.

Philanthropy is his best suit, giving back to the society with creative ventures under him with compassion at the forefront. An artist and thinker, Pankaj has ventured into the academic arena and founded a university in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

Pankaj (based at Dehradun) is the *National Coordinator for Metamorphes.*



Sqn Ldr Ashwani Puri. An alumnus of the NDA and an accomplished Fighter Pilot, Ashwani has seen service in many operational areas. He established the prestigious *Indian Institute of Advanced Research* in Gandhinagar, Gujarat to conduct cutting edge research in Bio Technology and associated fields. A philanthropist and thinker, Ashwani has been the driving force for many social and academic ventures.

Ashwani (based at Ahmedabad) is our *Idea Coordinator.*



Maj Gen Anuj Mathur, VSM. An alumnus of the NDA, Anuj was commissioned into 10th Battalion of The J&K Rifles Regiment. He is a graduate of DSSC and has done his MSc (Strategic Sciences) from University of Madras and LLB Academic from MLS University with top honours. He has commanded an Area and a Sub-Area as a General Officer.

He is a motivational speaker and is also actively involved in spreading awareness concerning National Security through variety of means. He is the President of Mathur Sabha, Jaipur, a more than 80 years old organisation undertaking community development and social welfare activities, President of ABPSSP, Rajasthan, Vice President FANS, Rajasthan and an honorary CEO of a group of companies and Firms in Jaipur.

Anuj (based at Jaipur) is our *Veterans affairs coordinator*



Capt (Dr) Probal Kumar Ghosh. Probal is an Alumnus of the NDA and is a former SEAS Fellow. He has had the rare privilege to be the Lead Co Chair and India Representative to two consecutive CSCAP International Study Groups wherein he along with delegates from nearly 23 countries prepared two Memorandums that were forwarded to ARF Summit meetings for discussion. Probal has been a Senior Researcher in many strategic think tanks including the Observer Research Foundation, CAPS and the NMF (which he helped in establishing). He has been a Research Fellow at the IDSA and was the prestigious Kothari Fellow at the USI.

A Navy veteran and a former Guest Professor at the Stockholm University (CPAS) he has written extensively on his subjects of specialization and is a sought-after speaker/ presenter at seminars and by institutions around the globe. He is also a frequent strategic commentator on National and International TV channels.

Probal (based at Delhi) is our *Research and Advocacy coordinator*. He is presently on a sabbatical.



Ms Shakunthala Bhandarkar. A Veer Naari and wife of our dear departed friend Lt Col Ajit Bhandarkar, SC, Shakunthala is an accomplished Educator, Academic Consultant and Counsellor in Bangalore. She has taken up the mantle for alleviating the issues faced by Veer Naaris and has done yeoman service in this field. She has also authored a book on her decorated soldier husband.

Shakunthala (based at Bangalore) is the *Veer Naari coordinator* for Metamorphes.



Ms Priti Prakash. A journalist of 20 years, Priti writes and reports on Foreign Affairs, and is a Political Commentator and Travel Blogger. With experience of both print and electronic media, she is Editor FacenFacts news, digital media.

Priti (based at Delhi) is our *voice*; the *Media coordinator* at Metamorphes.



Col (Dr) Ram Athavale. Ram has been an alumnus of the NDA, Army War College and the DSSC. He has three decades of outstanding service and had commanded an Armoured Regiment in operations. A specialist in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) security and risk mitigation, he has been a Key Advisor on CBRN matters to the MHA and MoD. He has also been a Key CBRN Expert with the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence for Eastern and Central Africa region. Dr Athavale has authored a pioneering book on CBRN Incident Management in India titled *Toxic Portents*.

A prolific writer and speaker at international and domestic seminars and symposiums on CBRN matters, Dr Ram is a Visiting Faculty at University of Rome, Italy for the Master CBRN course and at a few select Indian universities too. Get more of him at <https://chebiran.com>.

Ram(based at Pune) is our *Outreach, Research and Publication* coordinator.



Lt Col Nishant Kaura. Alumnus of NDA, Nishant has served in the Infantry, First Gurkhas for approx. 26 years. He has done tenures at Siachen and other operational areas. Battle Casualties Management at Army HQ earned him the COAS Commendation. He was Project in charge of construction of the prestigious Army Marksmanship Unit at Infantry School which included Olympic standard shooting ranges for our Army Shooting Team.

As a Veteran he has worked in construction of National highways, power plants and renewable energy plants, specifically Solar. He has deep interest in cutting edge IT development and has worked with Airtel, Accenture and HP among others for Software development and Training. Currently he enjoys creating web-based application projects for his clients.

Nishant (based at Delhi/Dehradun)is our *IT and Web Services* Coordinator.



Capt Sudhir Prabhu. Sudhir is also an alumnus of NDA & served very few years in the 3rd Madras. An accident however curtailed his career in the Army & he got into his family business in the MSME Sector. Having bagged the prestigious UDYOG PATRA Award and the KLN Award for sustained growth, his company has now been recognized by INDIA 5000 MSME AWARD for the year 2020 for Quality and Excellence.

Sudhir(based at Bangalore) is our *Technical and Business Management* Coordinator.



Lt Col Ramesh Menon. Ramesh, an alumnus of the NDA, has a rich experience of over 22 years as an Infantry officer. He has also worked in senior positions in the IT and real estate Industry. His interests include blogging and creative writing.

Ramesh (based at Bangalore) is our *Business Development Coordinator*.

GET IN TOUCH

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