

A great achievement by one of our ex- student Mr. Gurpreet Kuldeep Singh Vij has joined Indian Army. He is in the selected 90 out of 450000 participants who appeared for the exam. His views after getting selected and joining the Indian Army.

Army is not a career, it is a 'Way of life'. I realized the exact meaning of this after I joined the Officers Training Academy - Gaya. OTA Gaya, raised in July 2011, is the third pre-commission training (PCT) academy of the Indian Army with a planned training capacity of 750 cadets. The aim of the academy is to train Gentlemen Cadets to become part of a professionally competent commissioned officer corps of the Indian Army. The academy is located amid an estate of approx. 870 acres in a hilly terrain of Paharpur at Gaya.

Since childhood, my only dream was to don the Uniform and my passion converted into a kind of craziness. I would sometimes buy imitations of the uniforms and flaunt them like a crazy guy. When it was time to finally apply and go through the grueling process of selection for the forces, I was actually fortunate to have cleared it in my first attempt. Normally, that doesn't happen, at least, not very frequently. After, I got through my Services Selection Board (SSB), I joined the 38th batch of the Technical Entry Scheme at OTA, Gaya. I always feel that the values I picked up at The Orchid School, went a long way in getting me mentally prepared for taking on these challenges and also shaping my thought process to be recognized and viewed by the Board as potentially worthy of the prestigious academy. I sincerely thank my teachers at the school for imbibing these in me.

Now, I will be completing my first term here on 9th June' 2018 and I won't lie to say that the training is easy. It is actually tough and also very strict. The routine at the academy justifies the motto of the academy 'Shaurya, Gyan, Sankalp'. Every aspect of the training is designed to build in these values in the Gentlemen Cadets (GC's) that join the academy. One does not get time to take care of even the most basic needs and one is always on his own. I mean, from washing clothes to ironing them is all a self-preparation. Mind it, one has to earn the privilege of using a washing machine. This is just one example, many other such privileges have to be earned through hard work and achievements.

Sleeping is also actually a kind of a privilege as one has to find out time for the same and it all one's own 'bandobast'. We actually do not live in present, we always prepare ourselves for the future. This habit for preparing ourselves for the future is built in at the academy. It is said "The more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war". One is given some free time but that is again to prepare the uniforms for the next day. Yes, Uniforms, (Actually for every quarter of the day we have a different uniform), study something for the next class, plan how to ensure that one gets that next meal. In army there is no sorry or thank you. One has to do what is told to him and has to get it done, what he has committed. One does not apologize for a mistake, he faces consequences and learns that he does not repeat it again.

All that I have mentioned above sound a bit harsh, but actually they are all designed to make a GC, a good leader, a thorough gentleman, Empathetic and above all, tough as he has to get ready for a tougher life ahead in the forces. After all he is expected to be a Fauji. And finally I feel, at the end of all this, training is actually, fun. We do get lighter moments and we celebrate all festivals, though in a slightly different mood and a slightly different style. I can keep writing pages and pages on the daily routine at the academy, but to cut the long story short, at the heart of every activity, every challenge there is a proud feeling of doing something for the nation, for our people and for our Tiranga. This feeling always keeps us moving and looking forward for more.....

Jai Hind!!

Gurpreet Kuldeep Singh Vij  
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Ex Student – The Orchid School.