

Col. Rajesh K. Sharma (Retd) is a second generation Army officer hailing from Jawalamukhi (Adhe di Hatti) area of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. He got commissioned on 09 June 1990 as an Infantry officer into 17 JAKRIF Regiment with a long history of bravery and battle honours after graduating in science stream from Kurukshetra university. He has served for 23 years in various ranks and thereafter took premature retirement.

During the service, in addition to working in various appointments, he has served at **Siachen Glacier**, the most rugged & inhospitable region having severe climatic conditions which is the world's coldest, highest and costliest battlefield. He remained deployed for 15 years in Counter Insurgency Operations in J&K State. Successfully took part and led many anti terrorist operations with less manpower, least collateral damages and destroyed the huge terrorist infrastructure. Being a tough soldier, he is well conversant with the challenges and difficulties, accepting momentous responsibilities, chasing the goals with firmness and maintaining patience in highly volatile situations. He has been awarded with five COAS commendation cards for gallantry, distinguished service & devotion to duty. As a professional soldier, he inculcated the deep spirit of supreme sacrifice in the service of nation which makes the service of Army an entirely different from other services. He is a trained assessor from DIPR, Delhi and stayed associated with SSB as Group Testing Officer to select the best capable and potential Army Officers. He has undertaken variety of specialized courses namely, Physical Training Course, Young Officers Course, Commando Course, Inventory Management Course, Digital Satellite Imaging Course & Management Course to get himself equipped to perform the best leader role and a skillful soldier. Besides, did PG Diploma in Human Rights, MBA, Diploma in Network Administration

& Cyber Security, Diploma in Information Technology and various certified courses in HR. Currently, pursuing his Phd from Central University of Himachal Pradesh under Centre for Kashmir Studies with Hybrid Warfare as the main topic.

He is fond of Natural Farming and focusing to promote and popularize the same among all levels of farming community regardless of landholdings for better yield with low cost investment in the absence of costly synthetic chemicals used in farming procedures in various forms and ensuring chemical free environment for all living organisms. He has been practicing the Natural Farming at his native village, *Masrer* by having planted over 2500 varieties of fruit plants as well various low chilling varieties including apple, cherries, tea leaves etc. He has a passion for pursuing this technique enthusiastically and regularly visiting the doing well ventures coming out of such practices and also collaborating with Master Trainers across the country who undertook such practices profitably. As a social activist also, he has a commitment to society to assist it in its socio-economic development.