

Treasurable & Warm Moments**Vandana**
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After completing my engineering I joined a defence public sector with dreams to serve the nation. The work profile comprised of software development for various forces namely Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. During my years of service got an opportunity to get acquainted with the entire software development life cycle from collecting of requirements till field trials. The relationship has always been professional. We normally work in teams and four years back, while collecting requirements for a project, we met a soldier who was very polite and well mannered. His gesture pleased all of us. We interacted with him and he was kind enough to baseline the requirements before completion of his tenure and taught us lot of military tactics he had learnt over a period of years. We got to know that he had cleared the board in army and was due for next promotion. He got promoted shortly, was selected for a united nation mission and left. All of us were sad while he was departing. However we became friends over today's social media; the facebook. After serving for two years, he returned and got posted at ladakh. My phone had got formatted and I lost in touch. Also since the army is stationed at remote places under difficult terrain and weather conditions, it is very difficult to get in touch with them. One day I received a message on my phone from the same soldier that he was in town and if we could meet for a cup of tea/coffee. I met him after four years. He narrated his experiences of united nation mission like had to sleep with a poisonous snake beside a lake in jungle and woke up on hearing hissing sound. Had he not woken up maybe could have been bitten by a snake. He also stated that they were involved in patrolling every day and had to kill intruders to maintain peace in the posted area. He also said he was writing his second book on military tactics and was due for publication. Since there was very little time, all I could pickup for my soldier friend was a book without being sure about its contents. I also gathered during the conversation that the temperature was minus thirty six in ladakh and the unit had to shed blood in conditions where we cannot even stand. The meeting and conversation we had in the evening covered topics from the project status, tough life and challenges faced by the soldiers, book writing to spirituality and mythology. He also put honey on my biscuit and gave me one. It was a nice gesture to be treated so well. I was asked to write something on the first page of the book with name and date on it. I also was taught about throat music and heard the same after coming home. The evening was warm and moments very treasurable. I can never forget the care, guidance and gentlemanly behaviour of a soldier who protects the nation under difficult conditions while all of us rest peacefully. A lesson learnt includes every moment should be full of joy and happiness despite the challenges we face in our everyday life.