

"SAM MANEKSHAW'S LEGACY: INSTILLING MILITARY DISCIPLINE FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE"



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FROM THE DESK OF CHAIRMAN

Introduction

Recently I had a chance to see an interesting upcoming movie on India's finest military leader and field marshal, Sam Manekshaw. I took this as an opportunity to narrate his biography from what-ever I have learned about his over the year... In fact, I believe, we all professionals should also have a discipline similar to being practised by the military.

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw stands as a towering figure known not only for his strategic brilliance but also for his emphasis on unwavering discipline.

Understanding Sam Manekshaw's Leadership

His leadership style was characterized by a firm commitment to discipline as a bedrock principle. His ability to inspire and lead troops through the intricacies of complex military operations was grounded in a disciplined approach. The military, under his command, became a well-oiled machine, where each component functioned with precision – a testament to the transformative power of discipline.

Early life

Sam Manekshaw, often referred to as "Sam Bahadur," was born as Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw on April 3, 1914, in Amritsar into a Parsi family. In early age, he was commissioned into the British Indian Army. He served in various capacities during World War II, including in the Burma campaign against the Japanese.

Post independence, he played a pivotal role in the integration of princely states into the Indian Union after independence in 1947.

He was quite famous for his wit and sense of humor. His quick wit and ability to inject humor even in serious situations were well-known among his colleagues. His humorous anecdotes and quotes have become legendary, adding a unique dimension to his public persona.

I somewhere read, during an official visit to China, he was introduced to a Chinese general who, upon learning that he was from India, remarked, "You know, we fought a war with you in 1962 and we defeated you."

Without missing a beat, he responded with his characteristic humor, saying, "That may be true, but it takes a great nation to lose a war and come back in such a short time for a friendly visit."

This response not only defused any tension in the situation but also showcased his ability to handle delicate diplomatic matters with a touch of humor.

Indo-Pak Wars:

His leadership during the 1947 Indo-Pak War over Kashmir and the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War was pivotal. He was appointed as the Chief of the Army Staff during the 1971 war, and under his command, the Indian Army achieved a decisive victory leading to the creation of Bangladesh. His actions during critical moments in India's history, such as the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, reflected a deep sense of nationalistic duty.

His strategic decisions were guided by a commitment to the security and welfare of the nation. In fact to maintain discipline and reputation of Indian army, he had strict instructions forbidding looting and rape and stressed the need to respect for refugees.

Post-Retirement:

After his retirement too, he was often sought after for his views on military and strategic matters.

Awards and Honors:

He received several awards and honors for his distinguished service, including the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan, two of India's highest civilian awards.

Death:

Sam Manekshaw passed away on June 27, 2008, at the Military Hospital in Wellington, Tamil Nadu, India, at the age of 94.

Owing to the controversies in which he was involved post-retirement, it was reported that his funeral lacked VIP representation, and no national day of mourning was declared which, while not a breach of protocol, was not customary for a leader of national importance. The funeral too, was poorly represented, with just minister of state for defence Pallam Raju attended it. However in a rare gesture, the government took a decision to give a state funeral

His legacy extends beyond his military achievements; he is admired for his integrity, courage, and contributions to the nation. His nickname "Sam Bahadur" reflects the deep respect and affection with which he is remembered by the people of India.

Applying Military Discipline to CA Life

Time Management: In the military, deadlines are not mere suggestions; they are imperatives. Similarly, in the world of Chartered Accountancy, meeting regulatory deadlines and client expectations is crucial. Military-inspired time management skills can help CAs prioritize tasks efficiently and navigate the demanding timelines inherent in financial audits.

Attention to Detail: Much like military planning, financial analysis demands meticulous attention to detail. A disciplined focus on accuracy can uncover critical insights and mitigate risks, contributing to the overall success of financial endeavors.

Teamwork and Collaboration: The military thrives on the synergy of teams working towards a common goal. In CA firms, collaboration is equally vital. By fostering a culture of teamwork and shared responsibility, CAs can enhance their effectiveness in addressing complex financial challenges.

Accountability: The military instills a deep sense of accountability within its ranks, a trait equally valuable for Chartered Accountants. Taking ownership of one's responsibilities and decisions is integral to maintaining trust with clients and stakeholders.

Conclusion

As we pay homage to Sam Manekshaw's legacy, let us recognize the enduring value of military discipline in the world of Chartered Accountancy. By embracing the principles of time management, attention to detail, teamwork, and accountability, CAs can elevate their professional standards and contribute to a culture of excellence. In this symbiotic relationship between military discipline and CA life, the seeds of unparalleled success are sown.

Thank you all..... Always in Gratitude

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