

Hospitality forum honours 8 war veterans on anniversary

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Varanasi: Eight war veterans, who have made sacrifices for the country, were felicitated by the Hospitality Purchasing Managers Forum (HPMF) on the first day of the two-day annual convention held for their eighth anniversary in Varanasi.

Among the veterans honoured was Deepchand Kayyat Nashik, who lost his legs and his right wrist during a war.

Apart from Nashik, the veterans who were honoured were Major General Dilawar Singh, JW Nalin Talwar, Subedar Uday Ram, Brigadier Sushil Bhasin, Lt Colonel Ramesh Kumar Chhetri, Commander Keshav and Major Aval Sethi. Each of the veterans selected for the honour now work for the development of the society.

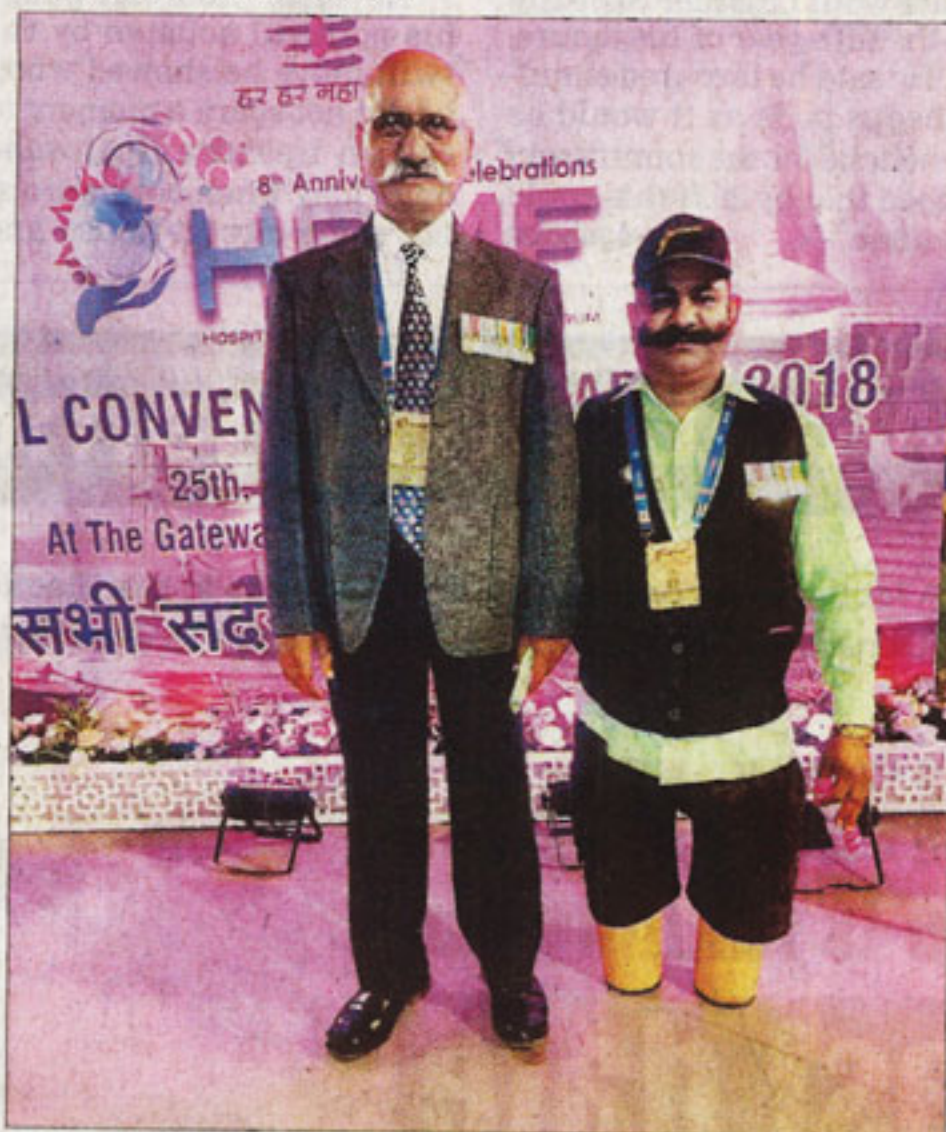
Among these, Major General Singh works in the area of youth development. JW Talwar, who was in the Air Force and served during the Kargil war, had, in addition to that, been present during 26/11 attacks in Mumbai as well as during the Parliament attack of 2001. During 26/11, he killed two terrorists and now works to help people achieve sobriety.

Subedar Uday Ram works with farmers, while Col Chhetri works with liver donors. Aval Sethi, a decorated officer, who is known to have killed many terrorists, works with PROTEGA and supports the third gender.

Nitin Nagrale, founder and general secretary of HPMC, said that the honour was part of the HPMC tradition. "Last year, we honoured social reformers, including a gentleman who sold his property worth crores and donated it to an ashram. He now works in the same ashram. This year, we thought why not felicitate those who have secured the borders of the country,"



Photographer Darshan Satoskar



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(Above) The veterans seen during the event in Varanasi; (L) Subedar Uday Ram and Deepchand Kayyat Nashik

SACRIFICES HONoured

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Subedar Uday Ram, Brigadier Sushil Bhasin, Commander Keshav, Lt Colonel Ramesh Kumar Chhetri & Major Aval Sethi

he said.

Nagrale said that it was Deepchand's story that led him to the other men. Deepchand was the first person Nagrale contacted and

promised him that he would be felicitated. "While I was thankful to have officers across ranks, I broke protocol and honoured Deepchand first," said Nagrale.