



# STORIES ON COURAGE BY AAPNA COMMANDOS

# COURAGE STORY OF Ms. Simranjot Kaur

One needs to have the mettle to jot down their thoughts about this world. This is my story, and I am sure some of you will be able to relate to this narrative. I was 2.5 years old, and I had a major accident. My right eye got ruptured. Doctors operated on my right eye and told my parents that I would never be able to see with my right eye. Of course, like every other parent, they were disheartened, but they never expressed their sorrow or disappointment, especially when I was around.

So, I joined my school when I was 3.5 years old, and other kids started asking about my thick lens. But I never cared because, at that point in time, I was not aware of my situation. I used to tell them it was an injury and that no one should touch my spectacles. On the other hand, my mother started preparing me for debates and declamations in school. I used to actively participate in every contest at my school. When I stepped into my teens, my classmates started to make fun of me. I told my mother I was going to quit school because people do make fun of my oily hair and these big glasses, and I am not going to take this anymore. My mother asked me the question, "Do you want to prove them right?" Or you want to stand in front of them, make eye contact with them, and keep winning trophies and hearts all together. " It took some time to understand the sentence, but whatever she said made sense to me. I re-collected myself, packed my bag of courage, and I never looked back. I have no shame in saying that I work with one eye and these eyeglasses never hold me back. Someone has rightly said, "All happiness depends on courage and work.". Stay courageous, stay happy.





# Courage Story of Mr. Sukhamay Mukherjee

My story starts post 1<sup>st</sup> wave of covid in June 2020, my wife was pregnant and we are expecting around November December, and in the month of August the company for which I was working has decided to shut off operations as it has suffered huge losses. After knowing this we were tensed, and I started looking for work in a hurry. We were in a situation where there were no jobs in my city and was impossible for us to relocate. So, I joined in a Telecom Company as a sale man for Post-paid department.

First few months were easy till the training period, I cleared the training, meanwhile we became parents, things were beautiful at home but were getting worse day after day, month after month at work due to retail targets. We had to go through a lot, we have to hear a lot, I tried my best but somehow due to location and network service people were not attracted so much to the post-paid division as they can't afford, we were then left with no choice to keep our jobs we started fake logins, without letting customers know we started using their IDs for fake connections, which at that day or that time seems – AAJ TO HO GAYA, KAL KA KAAL DEKHA JAEGA...and this easiness slowly started growing with in us, we had to pay the bills from our salary for 3 months...This kept on going for few months till one fine day I decided enough of this cheating, I have to somehow get out of here, but before putting a step forward I have a family to feed, parents to look after, society to answer questions like – Ab kya karega? Kuch nahi mila to kya hoga? You are a man you can't quit..etc etc, I was getting negativity from every corner...but I had decided that I will not look back whatever happens, I Resigned!

I started looking for jobs on every possible platform I can and started preparing for Interviews. Finally, I was selected for Genpact, which again I can't join because of relocation issues which was informed to me later. I was saddened by this. Then like a saviour came Abhijit Sir and AAPNA...I joined AAPNA again right away without having a doubt in my mind, now two month have passed today and every morning I wake up with an excitement and grit that today I will make more efforts than yesterday....If I had not shown courage to myself and my family, if I had not been determined to get out for betterment, I would not have been here sharing my story, Yes it was courageous for me!



# Courage Story of Mr. Amit Kumar Jha

I am not sure whether my story comes under courage or not, but I feel that it's a story of courage to stand with the truth, stand against malpractice and courage to take a step forward from the comfort zone. In my community, malpractice has come for a long time that during the Thread ceremony (Janue) has to cut the goat in front of Goddess Kali. In 2005 I and my elder brother raised voices against such acts and told to the family that we will only adopt the thread(Janue) once this malpractice ends forever from our family.

We had faced lots of challenges from our relatives, at our native place and even within the family. But we have kept continued our battle against malpractice. Despite the challenges we were only thinking that our motive is correct, so we never stopped fighting for this cause. Finally, that day comes in 2012 when we had completed the thread ceremony without harming any animals and facing difficulties.

After this, I realize that if your intention and motive is good then you must show courage to stand with them and keep working for the same.

# Story on Courage- Ms. Priyanka Gurnani

**Here is my short real-life story, will best explain how to face your fears head on –**

Once I and my husband were returning from a temple when we happened to pass by a narrow lane. On one side of the lane was a huge water tank, and a tall standing wall on the other. On that wall was a troop of monkeys. And monkeys being the way they are, didn't let us cross the road. They were all screaming and screeching at us. Also, the lane was so narrow, we had no other way to escape. Unable to think of anything else, we started marching in the direction away from them. The monkeys were not done yet and they started running behind us! We were terrified and just kept on running. While one monkey from the troop was about to bite me, an old man who was passing by, exclaimed, "Fight your fears"! As soon as I heard these words, a wave of courage hit me. I turned around and stared back at the monkey. Much to my surprise, the monkey frightened and fled away! Monkeys won't stop but found other pray – a dog, who started barking and howling when they encircled him and, but this doesn't help, instead one of the monkeys pounced on him. Seeing this my husband felt pity on dog and went ahead to rescue him. He picked up brick and frightened monkeys. Monkeys turned back and ran away and this way he saved a crumpled little dog. This simple incident teaches us an important lesson in life. With determination, courage, and fearlessness, one can pass through any obstacle.



## Courage Story – Ms. Swati Gupta

The story which I will be sharing here is the story which I have heard from my elder sisters about my mother .The incident happened before I was born .In around 1996 My father suffered from a disease for which Doctor's advised him operation .He was operated 2-3 times within 1996 to 1998 because of failed operations ,during this span he suffered lot of anxiety and depression .

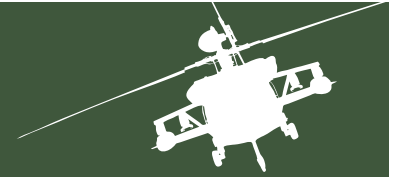
My father was on bed rest around 2.5 years .My mother during this time handled her daughters ,their education and moreover my father's extreme condition of physical and mental health and my old grandparents .During this time my elder sister got her nerve issue for which she was not able to see anything properly for around a long period of time. But my mother during this worst time stood as a courageous pillar to the family .She never felt weak, nor she gave up during this phase .My sisters says that Maa used to smile and say " Sab thik ha Sab saath ha ,sab thik ho jayega " .

To face everything with utmost believe and optimism that everything is fine(When situation is worse), and everything will be going to be fine shows the courage of a woman to face any difficult challenge in life.

As said by my mother "Sab thik ho jayega" problems got solved. My father and sister are absolutely fit and fine .

Courage is a resistance to fear, not absence of fear .Courage is our judgement that something is more important than the fear.

# Courage Story of Mr. Yogesh Jain



It's a story of me when I was in US - Illinois (Lincolnshire) back in 2012. Few fellow mates & I made a plan to visit Chicago over the weekend but like as usual all backed out at last minute. I left alone to take a decision and go for a ride. Initially I also thought to cancel but then realize – this is the last weekend I have, before coming back to India and I don't want to lose out this once in a lifetime opportunity. So hired a taxi and reached Chicago. I was clueless about the city, the favourite places, no map, no guide, no outgoing/incoming calls facility, was also scared of robbers especially having passport in my bag but I overcome all the fears, negative thoughts running in mind, explored the place as much as I can in 8-10 hrs of my short trip. I kept checking with passer-by multiple times before boarding any local train, or taxi, or Metra (like metro, to inter-connect major cities), reached out to many unknown faces to click my photograph, know about places etc.

Thoroughly enjoyed the ride and finally landed safely in my hotel at night. That day I truly realize the power of this quote – “Courage doesn't mean, you don't get afraid. Courage means you don't let fear stop you.”



# Courage Story of Mr. Hardik Shah

This story is when I learnt the biggest life lesson of courage. I always liked to take risk in life at various stage and one of the risk I took was left the comfortable life of living at home and went to explore the world starting from Mumbai – on my own. There are numerous challenges one has to face when he/she starts living alone away from home, be it for education or for occupation. When I was very new to city of Mumbai and hearing different incidents of various types about Mumbai had created an impression in mind. The biggest challenge was to rent an apartment as the societies had a rule to not rent the apartment to unmarried boys. One day we managed and convinced one owner to rent the apartment through broker. It was a great deal, as rent was reasonable, the apartment we rented was also very good and there was no deposit (which kept us guessing). Just only clause was that we needed to pay the rent of 6 months in advance. Which was fair deal. Now comes the real twist. In about 2 months time, when the Diwali was near and we all room mates were planning to go to home town for Diwali, we got call from broker that we need to vacate the apartment as the owner is coming back and he wants it before Diwali. We told, this is not possible as we have paid in advance and our agreement also is for 11 months. We all are going to hometown for Diwali and will be back and then we will see. He got angry and threatened us to throw away our luggage and fought with us. I was scared a little and also worried that where would I go now. My room mate was Kamal. He was much more smart and courageous than me. He told me, we take our valuables with us during Diwali and keep the beddings etc in the home. We reduced the risk and went for Diwali and had a great time with Family. When we came back, to our shock, the lock was broken of the house and someone clearly went inside.

We straight away went to broker and asked if he entered the house. He said, yes, the owner wants it and he went inside. He also told that “You need to vacate the apartment today only”. Kamal was smart, he had newly purchased mobile phone and he told him, I have recorded everything. And I am going to police station and filing an FIR for breaking into my house. Now, you see what I am capable of. I was shocked to see his tone and courage and was pleasantly surprised. The broker immediately toned down and apologized. Also, called the owner that, I will manage another apartment till these boys find the room. Also, explained that he broke into the house so he could go to the jail. We got ample time to search for much better apartment. This incident had a lasting impression on my mind and after that, I applied this courageous stance in all the difficult situations in life.

Most of the time, the problem itself got resolved by just facing that with courage. I apply this to my working as well. If there is a tough situation, or tough client or difficult project to handle, I enjoy it and also face it with more courage and conviction.



# Courage Story of Mr. Naveen Satywali

When we talk about courage, we can have lots of things to share but since, I had lots of learning with my tenure with AAPNA, I am proud to share some of moments, which I had with AAPNA! My Story starts almost 3 years back when I joined AAPNA, and It was a courageous decision for me to join AAPNA as that time, I was the only one who was supposed recruit resources for the company. Initially I found it difficult as I was managing complete recruitment cycle alone but with a span of few days, I understood completely that AAPNA has strong commando culture, and we need to have courage and determination to perform our duty every hour with competency. If you say, how I got that confident, I will say it was the culture of AAPNA and Guidance of my HR Head Mrs. Sanghamitra Roy and with her belief, In November 2019, I got my first team member Yashika and then we never looked back, and there was a time when we did a record 27 joining's in the span of 3 months. We were very happy with our progress as a recruitment team but suddenly COVID came, and complete scenario got changed. We were unable to hire with the same pace as people were having more choices to choose jobs as it became a WFH opportunity for most of the IT people. It was a new normal, and things became difficult for recruitment team but believe me, we were discouraged with market scenario, but we never lost our courage as team. We kept motivated our self and by the time our team kept growing and the company also had great growth in the Market with the continuous demand of our IT services, since Covid Started. Here I am talking about our courage story with reference to recruitment challenges but not to forget AAPNA also showed great courage by giving full salary and appraisal to their employees in the difficult Covid ERA, even when the future growth was uncertain. Now when I see today, our team has expanded a lot but every day we have lots of challenges as a hiring team and our most demotivating moment usually comes when, we hear that someone is leaving the company for their personal growth. It may be a big stepping stone for them but believe me every time we pluck up the courage for one more hiring and "HUM APNI TEAM SE YE HI BOLTE H, HIMMAT NI HARNI H, MOTIVATED RAHNA H AND HIRING HO JAAAYEGI". Here, we also want to share that it always feel bad when someone to whom you have hired, leaves the company. Thanks for reading Such a Long Story and Believe me these lines also came with a courage of writing 😊 and at last want say I am very proud of My whole HR TEAM for all support.

# Courage Story of Ms. Deepika Soni

Courage is the choice and willingness to confront agony, pain, danger, uncertainty, or intimidation. To overcome cowardice and fear, we should move out of our comfort zone and face it upfront. Sharing here few instances, which I feel related to courage. Working life is different from school life and college life. After entering to working life Many things were new to me. Although I always showed courage to do best and right things in my school life and college life. But it was something different. My faith in myself was decreasing day by day. I think a little more courage is required to believe in a person who does not have believe in himself/herself, which few AAPNAities have shown.

I remember an incident when it was just one and half month completed after my joining at Aapna Infotech. Yogesh Sir asked us in the QA fresher's group for two names for two new projects, Although I didn't know much about the work which he was going to give me, but still with some courage I have nominated myself for the project. After that we had conversation for new project and during conversation, I said with a low voice, having less faith in myself, I don't know if I will be able to do the task properly and at that time Yogesh sir said, "But I know you will be able to do". I don't know if Yogesh sir remembers this or not, But it was nice to hear this. Then I started working with first project with Arushi Mam. After few days I met Abhijit Sir in a meeting and while conversation he asked me about my project and as he said I asked Arushi, "Today Abhijit met me in the corridor, and he was asking me about CX-Choice – what project it is?". And then after a week I started working in that as well. Abhijit, Yogesh and Arushi, these three leaders showed "Trust Courage" on me that I will be able to do the given task. Then the "Courage to work" waken up inside me with full enthusiasm and I am trying to grow my abilities and having a belief in giving the best in any situation. Really wants to thanks you all. Once you have courage, you can accomplish anything in life.

# Courage Story of Mr. Abhijit Roy

I would like to start by saying that my first response to the word “Courage” was that, I am not courageous. And, then I started reflecting on the word, and what it really means. I finally got clarity when I heard GC Hemant Singh giving his talk on courage, and realized, that most of the times we confuse between bravery and courage.

As I internalized the word, I realized that I have made many a courageous decision in my life, and I start by listing a few of them. I think one of the early decisions I made was to leave my job, and start off on my own, just 1 year out of college. I had no business background, or any money. I was not strong in academics, and I would not say, I was very job worthy, so having landed a job with some difficulty, I worked hard on it. Within a year, I was doing quite well, and thoroughly enjoyed the same. After 12 months of extreme hard work, I wanted to take a break, and applied for leave of 1 month. This was shot down, by my boss, and I felt this was very unfair. In hind sight, I guess, this laid the foundation for what is AAPNA infotech today, where I strive to provide fair treatment to all team members. Every member should work like a business owner, and therefore have the right to make decisions like a business owner. Well, that day, I left my job, and started my entrepreneurial journey, although I knew nothing of what I will do, or had any financial or advisory background. In looking back, I think that was quite a courageous decision.

After about 10 years, and a decent growth journey, I was stuck in my career growth, and I figured it was because of lack of exposure. So, I just shut down the business, and went on to join a job, and also get some international exposure. I landed in US, working for one of the fastest growing mortgage companies in the US. Needless to say, I worked hard, and soon started doing very well. In spite of receiving countless awards, I did not have the sense of fulfilment. On deep reflection, I realized two things – 1. There is huge wastage in large organizations 2. It’s extremely difficult to get the sense of achievement in a large organization, as you are a very small COG in a very large machinery. So, I left, and came back to India, to restart my entrepreneurial journey. I think this was the most courageous decision I made in my life, as I left a very plush job, and a fat pay check, to jump into a life full of uncertainties. Well, I can tell you, I have enjoyed the journey tremendously, and I realized that a smooth ride is never any fun.







# Courage Story of Mr. Abhijit Roy continued....

Over the years, I have learnt, that one of the biggest challenges that people typically face is “FEAR of FAILURE”. I think this stops them from making courageous decisions. I have seen, many people, far more qualified and talented than me, lead a very boring and STRAIGHT life, while mine has been full of excitement, and as stated earlier, this excitement is from the rough patches. It’s the rough patches which bring the best out of you, and when you overcome the same, the sense of victory is unmatched.

In 2016, I got a big break in my business, and we won our biggest deal ever. From there, the life of AAPNA changed, and we started an upward trajectory. By 2017, we had stabilized this growth, and I had two choices – 1. To milk this potential, and make a lot of money, which is a route taken by most 2. Embark on a journey to build a GREAT organization. I guess all of you (readers of this story), know, that I have chosen the second path. This means, ongoing investment of time and money into building. This means, constantly ensuring that we do not dilute our core values, in spite of many external pressures. I guess, I demonstrate extreme courage, every time I do this. When I describe, what I want to build, most of my well wishers, think it is a DREAM. I truly believe in this DREAM, and working tirelessly towards this goal.

Thanks to project IMPACT for making me think of this truly amazing WORD.

# Courage Story of Ms. Sanghamitra Roy

As learnt yesterday in Commander Hemant session, Courage is all about Character and your believes that drives your action. So, this is a story, experience that happened 22 years ago. I was travelling along with Indranil, who was barely 2-3 years old at that time, from Australia to US via Japan where I had few hours halt. I was very young and naïve, and I had to take first domestic flight to Sydney from Melbourne, then international flight to USA via Japan. And its very safe, if you are not going out of the airport and just you need to take care of your passport, not to handover the same to anyone. I was traveling alone with a kid, 24 hours journey, end to end and different time zones, so I was anyways very tensed and nervous. My brother-in-law who was traveling the same day same time, but different flight from Melbourne to Sydney said once I reach Sydney he will also be there and assist me to reach international airport.

Bad Luck! Nothing happened as planned, due to bad weather his flight reached Sydney as scheduled, and mine could not land in Sydney due to bad weather and came back to Melbourne, and thereafter, nothing happened as per itenary. Everything was changed, I had to reschedule my next flight, reached Sydney missed my connecting flight to USA, again rescheduled and was put in a flight, where now I have to stay in Japan, overnight in a hotel, going out of the airport, in a complete unknown city and next day again take the flight to USA. All these, without cell phone, without speaking with anyone, comforting you or reassuring you, and even with very limited resources in those days, you are just on your own figuring out what next, that too with a kid, I felt, is the ultimate challenge that life can through at you. I had too choices, cry at the situation, come back home, without taking the forward journey, which will entail huge loss, OR be strong and march forward, conquering your fear of uncertainties and having believe in yourself, whatever happens I will survive this ordeal. Be safe and take care of Indranil. Went with the flow and reached USA. Amazing part of this whole story is, after going thru this ordeal, it gave me immense self-confidence, and from that day I never looked back.

# Courage Story of Ms. Sanghamitra Roy continued...

Many a times my team asked this question, kaise karenge – and my answer always is if you believe we can do it/or we do not have a choice, we have to do it: then its done. As then your mind start solving the problem and looking for solutions, rather than the roadblock. Multiple times specially in HR and during Covid, we had to change track, jump into unknown territory and action overnight, be it online joining, processing salary, team engagement, changing policy to change and adapt to the changing scenario, taking care of team anxiety, fears and concerns, came without warning or any preparation and we had to tackle them all head on. AAPNA going completely virtual, as most of the HR-work is pen and paper related and implementing newer process and tools internally and or the whole organisation, like HROne, RMS Naukri portal. Letting go of the two offices, one completely newly build, was roller coaster ride for us. Rapid changing of the hiring and joining scenario and statistics, as shared by Naveen, was all part of the journey. And am happy to say WE as a team emerged as winner and that's the bottom line. All is from: Courage> Character> believe > Self Confidence.