

defence line

Capt Ravee's Fireball Group is rated as one of the top 10 companies in India in the field of private security. And he attributes his success & achievements to the Indian Army



PHOTO: JARUL SINGH

# In safe hands

MUNIESHWER A SAGAR

**A**SCHOOL teacher to an Army Captain, to a security manager in a private company, to now an owner of a Rs 20-crore company, Capt Ravee (ret'd) is a man of many talents and armed with a rich experience of different fields.

Capt Ravee, CEO, Fireball Group, and Secretary General, Association of Private Detectives of India, and Central Association of Private Security Industry, is moulding the future of the private security industry in the country and the world. All this, he says, was not possible without his six-year stint in the Army. "Whatever I have achieved in life is because I served in the Army. The Indian Army is a way of life, it is the best finishing school in the world. Every aspect of personality, be it leadership qualities, communication, correct pattern of thinking and excelling under high stress environments, is inculcated in the Indian Army."

Son of a former Army officer, Ravee decided to join the Indian Army after graduation through

OTA. "Not only my father, but most of my other family members and friends were in the Army so it was not a difficult decision to join the Army," says Capt Ravee. After his training at OTA Madras, he was commissioned as an officer in one of the most prestigious Regiments of the Indian Army, 11 Gorkha Regiment. During his tenure in the Army, he was chosen to command the 11 Gorkhas contingent in the Republic Day Parade in '95, which earned the best marching contingent award.

In '95, Capt Ravee had to make a tough decision. The regulatory five-year period of his short service commission in the Indian Army was over, and he had to decide whether to continue in the Army or make a name for himself in the civilian world. "There were monetary issues, and the aim to work for the betterment of society in my own position which guided me in my decision making. Also, during six years of my service in the Army, I could hardly be with my wife Vibha," he explains.

So, the decision was made, and after leaving the Army, Capt Ravee joined Surya Hotel in NFC

as security manager, supported always by his wife Vibha. "I started to develop a panache for the security industry. My expertise in the field increased and when employed at Ericsson India I was chosen as member of the security committee of the Atlanta Olympics '96. After Ericsson I was picked up by British Gas India as Head, Administration, HR and Security." He continued to enhance his security know-how by gaining experience from an international learning centre in the United Kingdom, The Ericsson Academy in Malaysia, security seminars in Greece and other similar international events.

In '98, it was time for Capt Ravee to make another important decision in his life. He and wife Vibha decided to start their own business. "With a financial backup of Re 1 we started the Fireball Group. Our group provides for total security solutions — from man-guarding to electronic surveillance to detective and investigation services for the corporate sector." Now the group is rated as one of the top 10 companies in India in the field of security agen-

cies, says Capt Ravee.

His expertise, skill, drive and success made him the natural leader for the industry in the country. In 2005 he was chosen to the post of Secretary General of two national organisations in the field — Association of Private Detectives of India and Central Association of Private Security Industry. For Capt Ravee this is just a beginning. "My next big project in the country is to develop education in the field of security and intelligence. Also, I am working on an international project which will help different nations solve problems of terrorism and achieve better understanding."

And Capt Ravee gives all the credit for his success to the Indian Army. "It's the best organisation in the world. I have worked with several Fortune 500 companies, but they are no match to the high standards of performance of the Indian Army. In every aspect of an officer's life — excellence is the guiding force. The attention given to detail is amazing. I will always be indebted to the Indian Army for my achievements and success in life."