



allenge left in the army. Also, I realised that life should have a higher purpose — one that goes beyond high office, power and money.

Q: As CEO of Indus International School, what aspect of your job do you enjoy the most and which gives you great job satisfaction as well?

I enjoy learning and strategising. It gives me a sense of creation that I am contributing towards building the character and competencies of tomorrow's youth.

Q: What lessons did you learn in the army that are today, useful to you?

Self-discipline, organisational excellence, institution building, and taking pride in knowing one's culture, are some things all institutions can emulate.

['GENERAL' KNOWLEDGE]

From defending national borders to guarding Indian education, Lt Gen (retd.) Arjun Ray has come a long way. **Manisha Dhingra** chats up the army-man turned educationist

CHANGING TRACKS

"We are witnessing the 'commodification' of education. Anyone who has some money opens up a school. There is a need for legislating stricter controls on college and school education"

Q. Did you always plan to get in to the army? What was your original career choice?

Right from my school days, I was keen on joining the army. I also looked at playback singing, chartered accounting and law, but eventually picked the army.

Q. How long did you spend in the army? What designation did you start with?

I served for over 39 years in the Indian Army and then sought voluntary retirement on March 31, 2002 to set up the Indus International School in Bangalore.

Q: What made you switch from army to education?

My tenure as the Corps Commander of 14 Corps in Ladakh was the high-point of my career. To prevent insurgency from spilling into Ladakh from the rest of J&K, I launched Operation Sadbhavna, a socio-political strategy for conflict prevention. After its success, I did not find any real chal-

Q: Where is Indian education headed over the next five years?

There will be an increase towards privatisation in education. But quality is lacking — of teachers, curriculum and infrastructure. We are witnessing the 'commodification' of education. Anyone who has some money opens up a school. There is a need for legislating stricter controls on college and school education.

Q: Any advice to youngsters wanting to make a career in the field of education?

With globalisation, the education industry is opening up. As citizens become more empowered, they will demand quality education. It is already happening in international schools. With quality, there will be attendant demands on paying teachers better. Teachers in reputed and genuine international schools are better paid than professors in most technical colleges! The future of education as a career is very bright.