

Significance of Chetak

Lieutenant General ML Tuli, PVSM (Retd)

The design of the formation sign CHETAK (Figure 1), portrays a horse with the torso of a man. The horse is shown poised in a bid to spring for action and the torso is depicted in a power-packed stance of the soldier launching the spear at the target. Taken together the formation sign depicts instant alertness for aggressive action to face any challenge. The character of this amalgam is to be symbolic of the optimum readiness of the formation towards the performance of its allotted role.

The horse is an age old element of war which has generated decisive manoeuvres derived from its intrinsic mobility. The man wielding the spear characterises the dogged determination of a soldier, to blunt any thrust of the enemy, with undaunted courage. The integration of these two ingredients of war exudes offensive spirit which is considered to be of vital significance in the type of operational role allotted to the Corps.

The area of operations of the Corps abounds with the achievements of legendary war heroes who gallantly defended the territorial integrity of their homeland. The horse was their main instrument of war. The steadfastness and valour of the soldier to safeguard the honour of their homeland was surpassed only by the acts of supreme attachment and devotion of the horse to its companion of war.

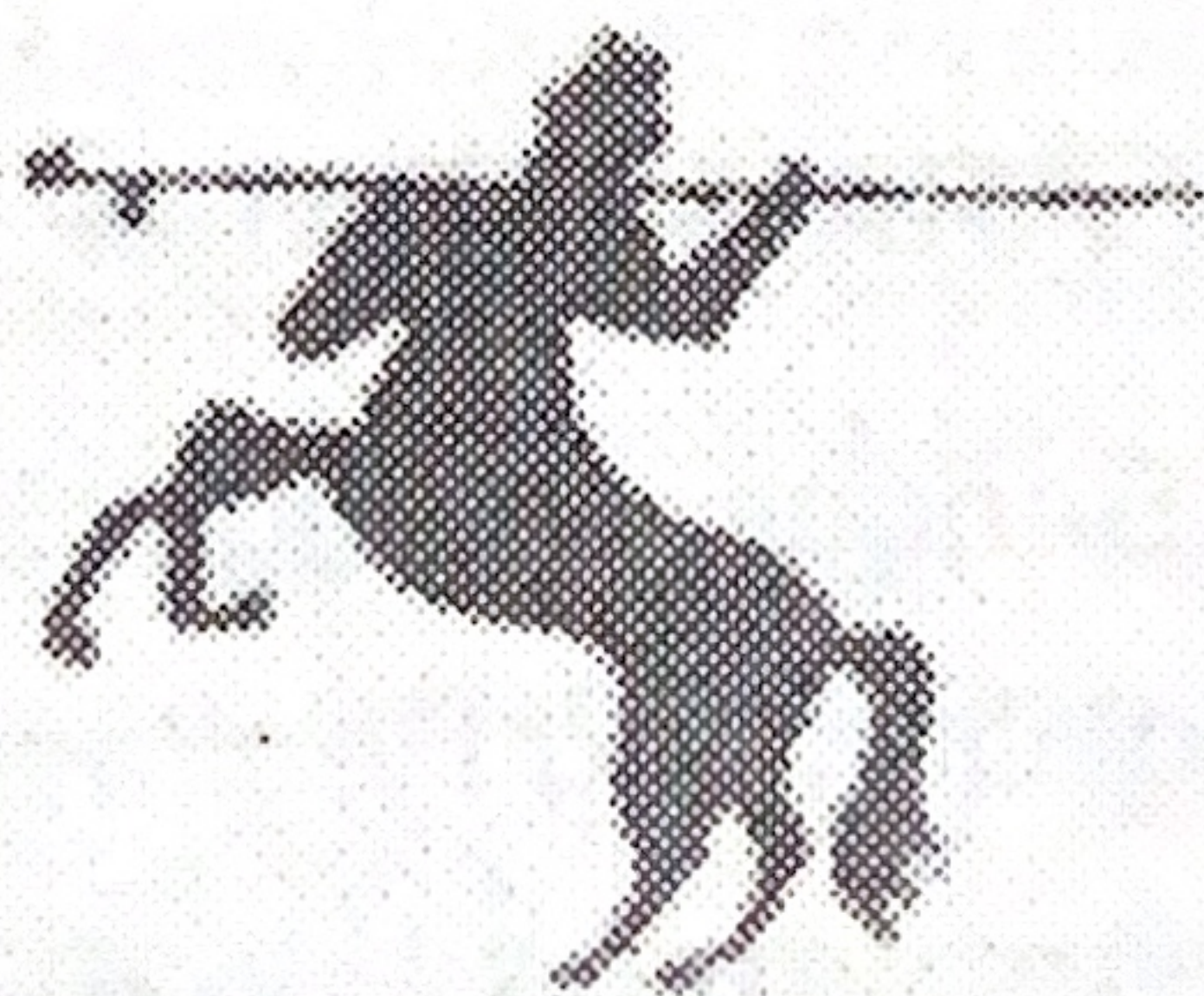


Figure 1

Lieutenant General ML Tuli, PVSM is a former Vice Chief of the Army Staff. He conceived and designed *Chetak* as a formation sign of a corps in the year 1979.

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The famous battle of *Haldighati* (July 1576 AD) is represented all over Rajasthan by the historical drawing showing the famous Maharana Pratap of *Mewar*, mounted on his equally famous and gallant steed, Chetak with one foot raised upon the elephant of the Mughal Prince, Salim, while his rider has his lance propelled against his foe. The Mughal prince was saved only by the steel plates which protected his *Howda*.

The chosen symbol of the Corps represents all this and motivates all those who have the proud privilege of serving under this symbol to live up to this great background and beholdens them to do their best both in peace and war to bring even more glory to this famous name CHETAK and to work hard, play hard and when the time comes to fight hard to see this flag fly in all its splendour higher and higher.

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of the Indian Army, 1750-2003, Volume I,
(Indian Cavalry / Armoured Regiments).

Captain Ashok Nath (Retd)