



Col. Suhail Zaidi (Retd)
Director General
MAIT

Col Suhail Zaidi (Retd) is an Army veteran with a distinguished background in the Corps of Signals and expertise in Electronics & Telecommunication engineering. Throughout his illustrious 23-year military career, he demonstrated a remarkable cross-functional skill set, excelling in both technical and administrative roles.

With his deep understanding of secure Voice & Data Networks, Col Zaidi spearheaded the conceptualization, engineering, and maintenance of robust communication infrastructures across various media, including Microwave, Optical Fibre, Satellite, and legacy copper. His contributions extended to leading the Information Systems at the Corps Headquarters, where he ensured seamless connectivity and operational efficiency.

Col Zaidi's career also encompassed pivotal roles in Military Intelligence and Counter Insurgency operations, where his tactical acumen and strategic thinking significantly contributed to the success of critical missions. Moreover, his involvement as a member of the Services Selection Board and Recruiting Directorate highlights his commitment to identifying and nurturing exceptional talent within the armed forces.

Following his premature retirement in 2017, Col Zaidi transitioned into the civilian sector as the Head of ICT at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). In this capacity, he took on the responsibility of capacity building and policy advocacy in vital sectors such as IT & ITeS, Cybersecurity, Telecom & Broadband, and eCommerce. The industry-led CII National committees, under his aegis made substantial contributions to the nation, promoting growth and innovation in these critical sectors.

One of Col Zaidi's most notable achievements was the conceptualization and successful creation of the CII-Tata Communications Centre for Digital Transformation

(CDT). This initiative focused on guiding organizations through their transformative journey by leveraging technology. By assessing their current digital state and providing tailored solutions, CDT empowered businesses to enhance their competitiveness on a global scale. Under Col Zaidi's guidance, CDT's portfolio expanded to include digital services, DXcel® Rating, cybersecurity initiatives, capacity building programs, awards/recognition, and numerous outreach programs.

In June 2023, Col Suhail Zaidi joined the Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology (MAIT) as Director General. With his extensive experience and leadership, he is poised to drive MAIT's mission of fostering growth and innovation in the technology sector, advocating for policies that promote hardware manufacturing and strengthening industry collaboration.