

# J&K Police

## NEWSLETTER

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### POP AT STC TALWARA

*"Always be polite and friendly to needy but equally tough to antisocial and anti-national elements...."* – DGP, J&K.



*CM, J&K, addressing the Jawans at the POP*

Speaking at the function of Attestation cum Passing-out-Parade, of the 4<sup>th</sup> batch of 992 recruit constables, held at Subsidiary Training Centre (STC), Talwara ( Reasi) on May 20, Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, called upon the policemen to rise to the occasion and redouble its efforts to mount more vigilance and alertness to

*"...I would look forward and wait when other states of the country would requisition our state police for assistance in the maintenance of law and order and other security affairs....."*

– DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH,  
CM, J&K.

fight the Pak sponsored terrorism.

Congratulating the *jawans* on the completion of their training, the Chief Minister exhorted them to prove their mettle in the field, by putting into practice the skills they have learnt during the training, and excel in professional ventures.

The Chief Minister Praised the state Police for having emerged as one of the finest forces in the country.

Earlier the Chief Minister inspected the parade and took salute at the march-past.

The function was attended by S/ Shri Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy, MOS (Home), J&K, A. K. Suri, DGP, J&K, RV. Raju, Director, S.K., Police Academy, Udhampur, Ram Lubhaya, DIG,SSG, A.K. Gupta, DIG Armed, Jammu, Ravinder Kotwal ,DIG, SKPA, Udhampur, Shalender Kumar, D.C. Udhampur and H.K. Singh, SDM, Reasi besides prominent citizens and parents of the out going recruits.

Mr. Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy, MOS (Home), J&K also addressed the *Jawans*. Lauding the role of J&K Police force, he said that the state Police was in the forefront in combating Pak sponsored militancy in the State.

In his address, Shri A.K.Suri, DGP, J&K, impressed upon the *jawans* to be impartial, brave, dedicated and honest in the execution of their duties. Recounting the sacrifices of the officers and *jawans* of the state police during the last 12 years of militancy, the DGP said, "Nation can never forget their sacrifices and we stand committed to the welfare of the families of the martyrs".

Recruit constable **Ganesh Kumar** was declared 'All- round- best trainee' of the batch, who was given one rank promotion. Recruit constable **Sabzar Ahmad** stood first in "Indoor" while recruit Constable **Subash Chander**

got first position in "Outdoor". Both of them were given a cash prize of Rs. 5000/-, certificate and memento by the Chief Minister. Recruit constable **Rajinder Singh** secured first position in 'Range Classification', who too bagged a cash reward of Rs. 3000/- and a certificate.

Shri Radhavinod Raju, Director, SK Police Academy, Udampur, gave the performance appraisal of STC, in his welcome address.

Mementos were presented to C.M, Dr. Farooq Abdullah and MOS (HOME), Shri Khalid Najeeb Soharwardy by the D.G.P.

#### MASS CONTACT PROGRAMME

❖ Shri A.K. Suri, DGP, accompanied by Shri P.L. Gupta, IGP, Jammu, visited the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri on May, 24. The places visited included Mandi, Poonch, Tatapani and Dharamsala. He met various deputations and cross section of people there and appreciated their role in fighting the enemy's wicked designs. He also complemented the people of the area for extending cooperation to Police and Security Forces in combating terrorism as also in maintaining law and order. The DGP ordered, on the spot, the conversion of 26 SPOs as Police Constables and out-of-turn promotion to four police personnel, in recognition of their outstanding performance in counter-insurgency operations.



*DGP, J&K, addressing the Villagers at Dewan Garh, R.S. Pura*

❖ To acquaint himself with the problems of the people and to interact with the public, DGP, J&K, visited the border areas of R.S. Pura on May, 18. He was accompanied by Shri P.L. Gupta, IGP, Jammu zone. He exhorted the people to remain in close touch with Police and other Security Forces and also to remain vigilant against the movement of anti national elements.

❖ A police-Public Meet was held at Baribrahmana, Jammu, on May, 04. The meet was attended by Shri Dilbagh Singh, DIG, Jammu - Kathua Range, Shri Farooq Khan, SSP, Jammu and Shri Kuldeep Khajuria, SHO, Police Station Baribrahmana.

#### DARBAR HELD

❖ A *darbar* was held at DPL, Jammu on May, 06. Addressing the *darbar*, Shri P.L. Gupta, IGP, Jammu

zone, said that the Police personnel performing their duties honestly, sincerely and with dedication shall be encouraged but indiscipline caused by way of unauthorized absence, overstay from leave, non performance of duties and perfunctory working shall not be tolerated. "We are duty bound to protect lives and property of public at any cost. The people have some expectations from Police and all of us should ensure that we come up to their expectations," he added.



*IGP, Jammu Zone addressing a Darbar at DPL, Jammu*

#### NEW CRIME BRANCH OFFICE INAUGURATED

❖ Crime branch office in Srinagar was shifted to new location at exhibition complex, Srinagar on May, 06. DGP, J&K, inaugurated the new location. With the shifting of the Crime Branch to the new location, all the required facilities will be available under one roof which include collection of crime data, banking of data and communication etc.



*DGP, J&K, Inaugurating the new Crime Branch Complex*

#### 3 POLICE PERSONNEL MARTYR

❖ Head Constable **Fateh Mohmad**, SG. Constable **Kuldeep Singh** and SPO, **Uttam Singh** attained martyrdom in a *fidayeen* (suicidal) attack at District Police Lines, Doda, on May, 29. Shri Khalid Najeeb Soharwardy, MOS (Home), Shri A.K. Suri, DGP, J&K, and Shri P.L. Gupta, IGP, Jammu zone visited Doda on May, 30 and paid homage to Police martyrs.

# SEEDS OF PEACE:

## VILLAGE DEFENCE COMMITTEE (VDC) MEMBERS IN J&K

-Shesh Paul Vaid, IPS

That was the afternoon of September 18, 1994, a day when Gokal Singh, a native of Bagankote - a hamlet of beautiful land of high mountains and thick forests, located in the rugged mountainous terrain of Gota Chessana area of Reasi (Udhampur district) questioned to himself: Am I simply going to be a mute spectator and watch the gruesome murder of innocent villagers, rape of young women, loot and plunder at the hands of the perpetrators of a systematic terror campaign and surrender before them as a sitting duck and allow them to stride into anybody's house and barge into any bedroom? Or shall I, instead getting slaughtered as a coward, resist and fight, with whatever resources available, and, even if I get killed, I shall end while demonstrating the measures of humanity and universal standards of basic moral decency? Time was running short and Gokal Singh had to decide and act fast as a group of terrorists, equipped with modern and sophisticated firearms, had been sighted trekking towards Bagankote. Against the grim and imminent threat of terrorists, he decided to do what few dare to do: to fight valiantly till last breath with honour and dignity and embrace death, if destiny willed, smilingly, for a just cause!

Gokal Singh, an ex-serviceman and a respected person of the locality, a symbol of bonding, had longed for a cause-to work for peace. He had a belief, firmly rooted, that fight against terrorism was itself a way of making peace. His belief inspired the despairing villagers, who vowed to join the 'peace carnival' and the mission-"Fight Terrorists" began.

Plan initiatives were designed to thwart the game plan of the terrorist's unforeseen stunts and a strategy to take them by surprise was chalked out, which was followed by action on ground. Equipped with his 12 bore gun, Gokal Singh positioned himself at a strategic place along the footpath, leading to the village, and so did Kapoor Singh, some yards away. Pannu Ram, Neelam Singh and other villagers, equipped with agricultural tools like axes, spades and sickles etc, ambushed themselves near by. With this, the count down for the ensuing fight with terrorists began.

A group of terrorists, equipped with lethal automatic weapons, taking strides in a most carefree manner, appeared on the scene, for accomplishing their terror plan. Little did they know that their nemesis, in Gokal Singh and other villagers, were waiting to greet them in the manner they may have never before been greeted. The insatiable killers must not have even imagined that they shall get killed at the hands of those innocent villagers whose blood they wanted to spill. The myth, that terrorists were all powerful and no body would resist them in a remote village, more so when there were no security forces, was exploded by the very pulling of trigger of the 12 bore gun by Gokal Singh. A cartridge pierced through the body of a terrorist, who rolled down screaming and succumbed to his injury. Although Gokal Singh's 12 bore weapon was no match to the weapons of terrorists yet he fought valiantly, and, even when he was hit by a bullet, bleeding profusely and gasping, he kept his promise to fight till end and gunned down two more terrorists. Motioning his face to the young and old villagers, who surrounded him in ambush, he said, 'I have discharged my duty-now comes your turn- you have to complete my unfinished task- come on - join me- fight them - finish these villains of peace or else you shall get finished'. The response was: A close quarter battle between the villagers and the remaining terrorists. The villagers, equipped with agricultural tools, pounced upon the terrorists as a result of which one of the terrorists was grievously injured. Even the dogs joined the villagers in the fight against terrorists. Gunshots rang out from the automatic weapons of the terrorists and Pannu Ram also met with the tragic end. The fight continued and the stiff resistance, offered by the

villagers prompted the terrorists to flee, leaving behind the bodies of their dead comrades.

For the saddened young daughter of Gokal Singh, the tragic death of her father inspired her to "Fight terrorists" and to work for peace: "My father's death hit me very hard. His death gave me a more realistic attitude towards peace and nobody can do anything to stop me now" was her first reaction when I met her, immediately after the occurrence, during my visit of the area, as SSP, Udhampur. The daughter of Pannu Ram was no less bubbling with energy and enthusiasm. Both were appointed in police department.

Seeds of village defence and peace were sown by Gokal Singh and Pannu Ram. Their sacrifice had an indelible impact on the minds of villagers. Having gauged the success of the efforts and the depth of the commitments of the martyrs, the villagers were convinced nevertheless that they can take on the militants and defend their lives and properties. They had the will to fight terrorists and had begun to mobilize people and initiate process for a cause. I realized the cause they represented and readily consented to provide every possible help to villagers, when approached. Among other things, I committed myself to recommend their demand, for issuing fire arms, to the government and follow the matter vigorously, during the course of my meeting with the villagers.

A plan was conceived and it was discussed with the then IGP, Jammu zone, Shri A.K. Suri ( present DGP), who authorized me to issue ten .303 rifles to the villagers, after getting a nod from the government, pending formal sanction. The Bagankote incident, thus, gave birth to the concept of "Village Defence Committees" in the state. General K.V. Krishna Rao, the then Governor, Dr. S.S. Blowria, the then Principal Secretary, Home, Shri M.N. Sabharwal, the then DGP, Shri A. K. Suri, the then IGP, Jammu zone and Shri Kuldeep Khoda, the then DIG, Udhampur- Doda range took the lead in constituting the Village Defence Committees. Dr. Blowria drafted the blue print of the VDCs and an order, for constituting the VDCs was issued by the Home Department in the year 1995. The order enjoined upon District Magistrates and SsP to constitute VDCs in far flung militancy prone areas. A number of VDCs, each consisting of 07 to 10 persons, drawn from all communities, were constituted in the districts of Doda and Udhampur and 05 to 07 rifles were issued to each VDC.

At present, 2826 VDCs exist in the state of J&K in the districts of Doda, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch, Baramulla and Kupwara and also along the international border in the districts of Jammu and Kathua. They are doing yeoman's service.

When challenges are great, determining success is never simple. Gokal Singh and Pannu Ram, through the success of their efforts, commitment to a cause and act of valour, succeeded in defining the true measure of a man. They longed for a Vision: to live in peace and free from fear, with rights protected and secured. ....With a Commitment: to spare no effort in defending their rights.

Bagankote village has the honour of forming the first VDC. It can be rightly said that the constitution of Village Defence Committee (VDC), Bagankote, was the vision of Gokal Singh and Pannu Ram and this was translated in to reality by the state administration.



*Dr. S.P. Vaid, IPS, has adorned important postings in various positions such as SSP, Udhampur, DIG, Baramulla-Kupwara Range, DIG, Jammu-Kathua Range and DIG, Srinagar-Budgam Range. Bestowed with vision, the professional Police man in him is always vigilant to the changes in the society. At present, he is posted as DIG, Crime and Railways, J&K.*



۱۸ مئی کو جناب گوپال شرما، ایڈیٹل ڈی، جی، پی، اے، اے، جموں و کشمیر پولیس، واقعہ بے مالو (سرینگر)، میں پولیس ملازمین کی سہولیات کی خاطر پبلک کال آفس اور STD مرکز کا رسم افتتاح پر عمل آتے



۲۰ مئی کو سب ڈیویشن ٹریننگ سینٹر ٹلوڑہ (ریاسی) میں منعقدہ پاسنگ آؤٹ پریڈ کی تقریب کے موقع پر ریاستی وزیر اعلیٰ، جناب فاروق عبداللہ، یادگار نشانی (memento) پیش کرتے ہوئے۔



۲۳ مئی کو ضلع بڈگام کے دوران فائدہ دہیا توں میں ریاستی پولیس کے سربراہ، جناب اشوک کمار صوری، کی نگرانی میں "موقعہ پری بھرتی عمل" کا منظر۔



۳۱ مئی کو ضلع پولیس لائن ڈوڈہ میں منعقدہ "کبڈی ٹورنامنٹ" کی اختتامی تقریب پر پولیس سب ڈویشن کشتواڑ کی فاتح ٹیم "نرانی" کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہوئے۔



کانٹینٹل گھوڑا احمد، حصہ تھانہ پولیس ملے، جس نے ۲۷ مئی کو دوران انجام دی فرض منصبی جام شہادت نوش کیا، کے جسد خاکی کو جناب کے راجندر اکار، انسپیکٹر جنرل پولیس کشمیر زون اور جناب فاروق احمد، ڈپٹی انسپیکٹر جنرل پولیس سرینگر بڈگام رینج، کندھادیے ہوئے۔



گڈ ٹیڈ آفیسرس میس سرینگر میں ۵۸ مئی کو سب ڈویشن شدہ ریاستی پولیس کے افسران اعلیٰ اور ریاستی پولیس کے سربراہ جناب اشوک کمار صوری کے مابین "ہاتھ گر عمل" کے سلسلہ میں منعقدہ تقریب کا ایک منظر۔