



BORDER SECURITY FORCE

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PRESS NOTE

BSF DEDICATES 2016 AS “DIVYAANG YODHA VARSH”

FLAG OFF CEREMONY OF INFINITY RIDE 2016 THE PARA CYCLING EXPEDITION OF BSF AND ADITYA MEHTA FOUNDATION AT MANALI BY HE ACHARYA DEVVRAT, THE GOVERNOR OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

Border Security Force, the world's largest border guarding force was raised in 1965. Making humble beginning with 25 Battalions, drawn from different states, the legend that was born in 1965 has today become a formidable epic. The Border Security Force has since then has etched its history in golden letters as country's 'First Line of Defence'. The crucial role played by the BSF in the liberation of Bangladesh during 1971 Indo-Pak war is unforgettable. BSF is also credited with having played a vital role for the eradication of Militancy in Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and tackling insurgency in the North- East. Border Security Force has an unrelenting chronicle of unmatched achievements and acts of valor that make us stand tall in the eyes of our countrymen. It has earned more than 2000 decorations to mark these achievements. More than 1700 brave hearts have laid down their lives on the altar of duty and attained Martyrdom.

2. With the onward march of the nation's development, the BSF's mandate and tasks kept growing with ever lingering threats to nation's safety and security. The force now stands like an impenetrable shield not only at Bangladesh and

Pakistan borders, guarding 6387 Kms of the borders with our life but also aids the nation in law & order and disaster management. With our growth oriented agenda, the importance of trade across landports on the border and containment of illicit trade has assumed greater significance amidst security concerns that govern the core charter of border guarding forces. BSF also remains at the forefront in discharging its responsibility towards nation building and social growth in every way.

3. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (DEPwD) is running the **Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)** for creating universal accessibility in built environment, public transportation and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) ecosystem. Hon'ble Prime Minister, while chairing a meeting before launch of Accessible India Campaign (AIC) had desired that the campaign be made a mass movement by involving citizens in various States and sensitizing the society towards disability and the need for accessibility.

4. Always eager to contribute in nation building, Border Security Force has resolved to mark the year 2016 as the year of "Divyang Yodha."

5. The concept of infinity ride is basically of Mr Aditya Mehta, the convenor of Aditya Mehta Foundation. The foundation started in the year 2013 with the vision to help the athletes with disabilities. In a society where disability is still a stigma, AMF aims to turn them into achievers and heroes of our nation. Ms. Stuti Kacker, Chairperson National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Mr J.K. Mehta, Ms. Pallavi Mehta, Ms. Shilpa Reddy, Ms. Reginna Cassandra and Akhil Akkineni are the trustees of the organization.

6. Being the first Indian to win double silver medals in Asian Para-Cycling Championship with five Limca Records himself, Aditya Mehta initiated the INFINITY RIDE, the second edition of which was held in August 2015. The AMF is raising fund through these infinity ride missions to help the Divyangjan (PWDs). Aditya Mehta has conducted many sessions for counselling Divangjan to help them to cope with both the mental and physical trauma. These counselling sessions were conducted for the disabled in various central police forces. AMF managed to counsel more than 350 officers from BSF and other para-military forces who had injuries sustained in the line of duty, and motivated more than 150 of them to take up sports. Around 50 civilians also showed their interest for the same. From the very beginning, Border Security Force stood as a solid support for all the rides of AMF.

7. Aditya Mehta Foundation is supported by Border Security Force to organize this event too and also in providing the needful for the participants all through the ride.

8. This Para Cycling Expedition has been flagged off today on 5th Aug 2016 at Nehru Park, Manali by HE Acharya Devvrat, The Governor of Himachal Pradesh. HE Acharya Devvrat was received and welcomed to the occasion by Shri Rajni Kant Mishra, ADG (HR) of BSF. His Excellency Acharya Devvrat appreciated and applauded the efforts of BSF and AMF for this courageous initiative in the line of empowerment of Divyangjan. The function was attended by Shri Anil Paliwal, Inspector General BSF, Punjab Frontier, Shri Aditya Mehta, convenor AMF, Senior officers from Himachal Pradesh and many distinguished personalities.

9. The Para Cycling Expedition from 5th to 15th Aug 2016 is led by Shri R K Negi, Commandant BSF from BSF Institute of Adventure and Advance Training (BIAAT). The 34 member expedition is participated by 13 riders from BSF, 03 from CRPF and 18 from Aditya Mehta Foundation. This expedition aims to reach Khardung La on 15th Aug 2016 by conquering Himalayan heights after covering 583 Kms where Hon'ble Minister of State (Home) Shri Kiren Rijiju will be flagging them in.

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