PRESS RELEASE

BSF DEDICATES THIS YEAR AS “DIVYAANG YODHA VARSH”

For the last fifty years, BSF has been the first line of Defence for most of the Indo-Pakistan border and the Indo-Bangladesh Border. Other than successfully protecting these borders against adversaries, BSF has also matched upto the Nation’s expectations in situations like Punjab militancy, Kashmir problems, in law and order duties and also during election duties across the country. In the process BSF has earned more than 2000 decorations and also lost 1700 of its brave personnel who sacrificed their lives on the altar of duty.

2. A still larger numbers of our personnel who fought valiantly in all these actions have been injured and rendered disable. Our effort has always been to reintegrate them into the society and support them. Other than medical facility, they are helped with grants and aid and also a substantial disability pension. However, BSF also directly supports its 204 disabled personnel who are part of the Force. This effort is to make them literally “stand on their feet” and give them back their confidence and self-respect.

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3. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is running the **Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan** for creating universal accessibility in built environment, public transportation and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) eco-system. 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 “Divyaang Yodha.” For the same, detailed Divyaang Yodha Skill Mission has been planned with a series of activities. To launch the yearlong activities and kick start our continued commitment to the cause, a Para-Cycling event, an expedition from **Manali to Khardungla** has been planned. The aim of the event is psychological empowerment of the disabled persons, to make them able to overcome their mental inhibitions and to start leading a normal life. To build training expertise, the BSF has co-opted “Aditya Mehta Foundation,” a body that helps to train athletes with disabilities to pursue sports. The expedition is scheduled to start on Aug 05, 2016 from Manali, Himachal Pradesh and shall terminate at Khardungla, J&K on Aug 15, 2016 with the hoisting of the Tricolour at Khardungla.

5. His Excellency, the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Acharya Dev Vrat Ji, has given his kind consent to grace the occasion to Flag off the rally on 5th Aug 2016 at Mall Road, Nehru Park, Manali. The rally culminating at Khardungla after covering 583 kms of Himalayan heights, will be flagged in by Hon’ble Minister of State for Home Shri Kiren Rijiju on 15th Aug 2016.

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6. BSF also plans to establish an institute for skill development of its divyaang employees. This would be set up at the BSF camp in Chhawla. The institute will initially undertake activities like

- Para Sports training,
- Computer skills development, and
- Communication skill development courses.

However, to make the effort systematic, a study would be conducted to analyse the training needs for divyaang empowerment. Later newer avenues will be explored and also incorporated in our training calendar.

7. This effort would not only go a long way in restoring the pride of our personnel, who always believe in JIWAN PRAYANT KARTAVYA, but also inculcate a sense of confidence and belongingness amongst all our brave men. They never give up on their duty of serving the nation, and the nation will never give up its responsibility in taking good care of them. With this in mind BSF declares this year as the Divyaang Yodha Varsh. BSF reiterates our commitment to take full care of all our brave men and women who have dedicated their lives to the security and integrity of this country, without a care for their lives or limb.

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