



## **BORDER SECURITY FORCE**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **HON'BLE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & FOREST SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR GRACED THE OCCASION OF 'SWACHH BHARAT SWACHH HIMALAYA'**

**New Delhi, dated 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015** : The Border Security Force will be completing 50 years of dedicated service to the nation on 1st December 2015 and celebrating 2015 as the Golden Jubilee Year. To commemorate this year, BSF organizing a number of events. On the occasion of Golden Jubilee Year, among other functions, an impressive campaign '**Swachh Bharat Swachh Himalaya**' in Himalayan region at 45 days long campaign was carried out by BSF from 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015 to 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015.

Today during the last leg of 'Swachh Bharat, Swachh Himalaya' campaign, two programmes were organized for the participants. One programme was organized at India Gate, New Delhi and another programme was organized at BSF Ashwini Officers Institute, Nizamuddin, New Delhi.

At about **0730 Hrs**, Indian athlete and film actor Shri Praveen Kumar (Arjuna awardee), played the famous character of "Bheem" in television serial "Mahabharat", participated in the welcome ceremony and appreciated the role of 'Swachh Bharat, Swachh Himalaya' campaign team at a function which was organized at **India Gate, New Delhi**. Around 300 civilian cyclists were joined the rally to encourage the Bordermen and show their solidarity for BSF 'Swachh Bharat, Swachh Himalaya' campaign. The Bordermen family were highly motivated and entourage by the presence of 300 civilian cyclists.

At about **0900 Hrs**, **Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for Environment & Forest**, flagged in the 'Swachh Bharat, Swachh Himalaya' campaign of the BSF at a function which was organized at **BSF Ashwini Officers Institute, Nizamuddin, New Delhi**. During this occasion, Shri D K Pathak, IPS, Director General Border Security Force, senior officers and Jawans of BSF were also present.

During his speech, Hon'ble Minister for Environment & Forest, Shri Prakash Javadekar congratulated Shri D K Pathak, IPS, Director General BSF and all participants 'Swachh Bharat Swachh Himalaya' campaign. Hon'ble Chief Guest Shri Prakash Javadekar lauded the BSF for undertaking the noble campaign as part of its Golden Jubilee expedition, said that vigorous cleanliness campaigns need to be conducted before cleanliness becomes a way of life for the country.

On this occasion, Director General Border Security Force, Shri D K Pathak also addressed the gathering and said that we the sentinels of the borders are not only confined to our assigned duties, but are also donning the garb of Sentinels of the Environment. We, as messengers of “Swachh Bharat-Swachh Himalaya Campaign” are reaching out to the remotest dwellers of Himalayas, playing a catalytic role to sensitize the populace about various important aspects of daily life that contribute to degradation of the nature and jeopardizing its balance. Measures to strike a healthy balance between man’s needs and nature & preserving the nature for generations ahead will be discussed & disseminated during the expedition. He further said that we as responsible citizens of India, work with sole aim to contribute towards saving and preserving our environment, by involving the masses and will continue with our endeavours with endless perseverance.

The Aim of the campaign was to create awareness amongst civil populations and various other stake holders pertaining to ensure basic cleanliness in day to day life starting from our own dwelling, besides various measures for ensuring cleanliness of Himalayas encompassing Glaciers, the holy Ganges and connected environmental issues of the Himalayan valleys and foot hills enroute.

This 45 days long expedition was conducted in four phases from 12<sup>th</sup> October, covering approximately 1500 Kms across three states. 07 Officers and 38 SOs & other ranks of BSF participated.

During the first phase a Mountain Biking Expedition left from New Delhi to Gangotri covering 1000 Kms propagating ‘Swachh Bharat Swachh Himalaya’ message.

The second phase involved a trekking expedition from Gangotri Dham to Goumukh Glacier. The team undertook the cleaning of the Goumukh Glacier alongwith collection and disposal of approx 450 Kgs garbage.

On the third phase a ‘white water rafting’ expedition started from Gangotri to Rishikesh cleaning the Ganga River enroute.

The fourth and concluding phase a Cycling Expedition from Rishikesh to New Delhi is now on campaigning for a safer environment.

The expedition also organized a series of free medical camps and interacted with groups of civil society enroute to spread awareness about cleanliness in daily lives.

The local people, dignitaries and media very well appreciated this praise worthy work done by BSF.

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