



## **BORDER SECURITY FORCE**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **KASHMIR SCHOOL CHILDREN CALLED ON HON'BLE HOME MINISTER SHRI RAJNATH SINGH**

A group of 40 school children consisting of 20 girls and 20 boys hailing from remote and far flung areas of Kashmir region called on Hon'ble Home Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh at Conference Hall (Room No.119), MHA, North Block, New Delhi. The students in the age group of 10-15 years are on a Bharat Darshan Tour from 4<sup>th</sup> November to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 organized by the BSF.

2. The concept of Bharat Darshan Tours for the children from Jammu & Kashmir started from the year 2000. Bharat Darshan Tours are conducted every year. The entire expenditure on the tours is met by BSF out of the funds provided by the MHA, which includes Dress, Travel Expenses, Boarding and Lodging etc.

3. Addressing the young children, Shri Rajnath Singh said that India is a country of unity in diversity and advised them to share the beauty and diversified culture of India in helping the country grow in a unified manner and getting stronger each day. He lauded the Border Security Force (BSF) for arranging the Bharat Darshan tour for the children from the Kashmir region, to witness the rich cultural heritage and diversity, which is the identity of our nation.

4. Sh. D.K. Pathak, IPS, DG BSF welcomed the Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and apprised him of the composition of the group of children and that all children belong to remote areas of Kashmir. Bharat Darshan tour has widened their horizons and gave them an opportunity to see the diversities of the nation.

5. The children then shared their experience of visit to different historical places and thanked the BSF and the Government of India for organizing tours of this nature.

6. The children who are selected for Bharat Darshan are mainly from poor families of remote areas of Kashmir. They are selected by liaison with village heads, schools, teachers and locals through officers of Border Security Force.

7. This tour is conducted to expose them to the historical, cultural and social profile of the country and the progress made in Industrial, Technological and scientific fields and also to inculcate in them a sense of pride for the nation. During the tours, they visit places of historic and cultural importance in different parts of India.

8. As part of the programme, they were taken to Mysore, Bangalore, Agra, Ajmer, Jodhpur, Jaipur and Delhi. During the tour they had an opportunity to enjoy Metro Train ride in New Delhi, also visited historical monuments like Taj Mahal and India Gate etc.

9. Efforts were made to give their experience of the vastness and the rich cultural heritage of India. These tours provide them an opportunity to interact with the people of different cultures, religions and languages and found to be having a long lasting impact on the children, their parents and others in the area.

10. During the year 2014-15, Border Security Force conducted 4 Bharat Darshan tours, 2 for Kashmir children (1 each for girls and boys) and 2 for Jammu children (1 each for girls and boys).

11. BSF is organizing such programmes since 1999-2000. Till date 1499 children from J&K have participated in BSF sponsored 52 Bharat Darshan Tours.

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