



## **BORDER SECURITY FORCE**

Block No. 10, CGO Complex,  
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### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **FLAG OFF CEREMONY OF BSF MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITION-2018** **BY COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE,** **HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE),** **MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS**

Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports flagged-off today the second expedition to Mount Everest of BSF Mountaineering team at Ashwini BSF Officers Mess, Nizamuddin, New Delhi in a well-attended event.

2. BSF Mountaineering team was formed in 1976 under the able leadership of Col P P S Cheema. The newly raised team then scaled Mt. Harmukh (16,870 ft) and Mt Nun (23,409 ft) in the initial days of its formation. Despite many ups and downs, BSF mountaineering team also scaled the Mt. Everest in the year 2006. The team was led by Shri S C Negi, DIG and other participants included Shri Loveraj Singh Dharmashaktu. Shri S C Negi then himself became the oldest Indian at the age of 56 years and highest ranked Police Officer in the world to scale the Mount Everest.

3. Shri Loveraj Singh Dharmashaktu, Assistant Commandant BSF is the first Indian, who successfully scaled the Mount Everest six times since 1998 (He has participated with other teams also). For his outstanding contribution towards this adventure sports, Govt. of India had conferred him with Padma Shri in 2014.

4. The 25 membered BSF Mountaineering Expedition team, flagged-off today is led by Padma Shri Loveraj Singh Dharmashaktu, Assistant Commandant. The reputed participants of this expedition include 03-Officers, 03-Subordinate Officers, 17-Other Ranks and 02-Medical Staff.

5. Adventure training creates a sense of fearlessness, boldness and the ability to take risks, besides fostering the qualities of comradeship and a capacity to sustain prolong adverse weather conditions. Mountaineering is an ultimate adventure activity in which participants push their limit and achieve their goal by exposing themselves to the highest order of mental and physical hardship, which includes exposures to low atmospheric pressure, thin air, subzero temperatures, snow blizzards and many other harsh climatic conditions. Such training activity instils the essential qualities in bordermen to perform number of operational duties in hostile, remote, inaccessible areas infested with the militancy/ anti national elements.

6. The aim of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BSF Mt Everest Expedition is **“To Pay reference to the “Goddess of Sky” by hoisting Tri Colour and BSF flag on the Mt. Everest-8848 mtr with clean and save glaciers campaign”**.

7. While addressing the gathering, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Hon'ble Minister

said – ***“The forces should prepare themselves for war during peace time, but the peace time preparation cannot be equal to actual war conditions. BSF is accepting new challenges like a daredevil soldier. Scaling Everest is a big challenge in itself”***. Hon’ble Minister also conveyed best wishes to the BSF Mountaineering team.

8. On the occasion, DG BSF Sh K K Sharma recalled the achievements made by the mountaineering team of BSF and conveyed best wishes to them. During the occasion, besides Ex members of BSF Mountaineering team, officials from CAPFs and jawans were also present.

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