



## **BORDER SECURITY FORCE**

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

## **FELICITATION OF BSF MOUNTAINEERING TEAM BY HON'BLE UNION HOME MINISTER SHRI RAJNATH SINGH – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUCCESSFUL MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION**

On 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018, the 7 and 8 members (Total 15 Members) BSF mountaineering team led by Padma Shri Loveraj Singh Dharmshaktu, Assistant Commandant and Sh Avinash Negi, Dy. Commandant respectively scaled the summit and unfurled the Indian and BSF flag on Mt Everest. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> expedition of BSF mountaineering team to the highest peak of the world.

2. The team members have been facilitated today in a befitting ceremony at BSF facility Nizamuddin, New Delhi by Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister in the presence of BSF and Media fraternity.

3. This team was flagged off on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 by Hon'ble MoS (independent charge) for Sports and Youth affairs Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore from New Delhi.

4. This expedition was special in a way, that all 15 registered members of the team scaled the peak and offered reverence to the goddess of sky. Also the team have taken the spirit of cleanliness drive in the expedition with the motto of clean glaciers clean Himalaya, this team has brought down 700 Kilogram of left over garbage by other mountaineers. The team leader Padma Shri Loveraj Singh Dharmshaktu has also become the first Indian who have reached Mt Everest for 7 times.

5. Welcoming Hon'ble Minister and the guests, DG BSF Shri K K Sharma said that BSF team achieved this feat with their hard work and dedication. He said that BSF men and women draw strength from the steadfast work ethos of the force and set their goals for the highest. He added that to attain these heights, the time tested training regimes of the force aids to it. DG BSF mentioned the hard work of Shri Dinesh Upadhyay, IG BSF who himself is an ace mountaineer for the inspiration and the hard work of bringing the team to the table. Shri Sharma said that it was Mr. Dinesh Upadhyay's idea that our mountaineering team shall also carry the cleanliness mission.

6. Speaking to the occasion Hon'ble Home Minister lauded the double achievement of BSF team, first scaling the peak and second carrying out the cleanliness drive. Shri Rajnath Singh said that BSF efforts for taking cleanliness drive to Himalaya will definitely take our message to world. BSF is known for making any task possible, whether it is Border Security or scaling the highest peak.

7. BSF mountaineering team has been formed in 1976. After that it has not only climbed many peaks but also skied down from Kedar Dome (22,410 Ft) and given a new dimension to the adventure sports traditions of the force. In 2006, the first mountaineering expedition to Mt Everest was also the newsmaker for Shri S C Negi DIG, who became the highest ranking police officer at the age of 56 to lead the team and reach Mt Everest. Shri Loveraj Singh Dharmshaktu was also part of that expedition. With 7 times successful climb to the highest peak, Mr. Dharmshaktu is now an institution in itself for mountaineering.

8. The cleanliness drive carried out by BSF mountaineering team members has got international attention as **Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC)** have appreciated in recognition of the team's exemplary work in cleaning 700 Kgs of garbage from the Mt Everest. The SPCC further mentioned in their letter of appreciation that "**May team BSF initiative inspire many more climbers to keep Himalaya mountains clean for future generation**".

9. The function culminated with determined promise by the BSF mountaineering team to bring more glory to BSF mountaineering history with the holistic efforts of environment protection to inspire future generation.

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