

**SPEECH OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MEGHALAYA SHRI V  
SHANMUGANATHAN AT THE BSF OUTPOST AT SHELLA  
LOCATED ALONG THE INDO-BANGLA BORDER**

It gives me immense pleasure to be with you all today. The Border Security Force is a key element of our border security apparatus and counter-insurgency operations. BSF has always been the first responder on the borders with Bangladesh & Pakistan and has been continuously discharging its responsibilities with dedication and commitment since its inception in 1965.

Since my taking over as Governor of Meghalaya, it was my desire to visit BSF, BOPs & see myself how brave Jawans of BSF are guarding our International Border with Bangladesh.

It is gratifying to see that BSF personnel are drawn from all the States as per their population ratio. You all have come away from your home leaving your family behind for this noble cause. It's a great sacrifice of BSF personnel for national cause. I am aware that inspite of hardships due to remoteness of the location, extreme climatic conditions and geographical features like thick jungle, rivers, nullahs etc. You are performing your duty day in day out without caring for your personal comforts.

I have been told that since its inception in Dec 1965, BSF has galvanized the border guarding efforts on Indo-Pak & Indo- Bangladesh borders. The Force has also played a pivotal role and contributed immensely towards all facets of nation security. Being the world largest border guarding force it has glorious all facets of nation security. Being the world largest border guarding force it has glorious saga of valour, sacrifice and dedication and stood upto every challenge which country has faced during last 50 years.

During the nascent years of its raising the Force was tasked to assist Mukti Vanini during Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971. The gallant act & supreme sacrifice of 9 BSF personnel in re-capturing BOP Killapara near Dalu (WGH) from Pakistan, is an example of highest level of patriotism.

Since then the gallant journey of BSF is continuing in the form of fighting militancy & restoring peace in Punjab, counter-insurgency and operations in J&K, fighting insurgent in North East & now fighting Maoists (Anti Naxal Operations) besides its primary role of guarding Indo-Pak & Indo-Bangladesh Borders.

During this Golden journey of BSF, more than 1600 personnel have laid down their lives in the line of duty, which speak for itself about the commitment to the national security, patriotism & high order of professionalism. The above supreme sacrifices of BSF has been duly recognized by Govt of India by awarding one Mahaveer Chakra, 11 Veer Chakra, 5 Kirti Chakra, 12 Shourya Chakra & more than 1100 gallantry medals, which is a matter of great pride for all of us.

On March 23, 1931 at 7:15 pm, 24 year old Bhagat Singh with two of his comrades, Raj Guru and Sukhdev were stepped on to the gallows at Lahore's Central Jail without a trace of fear in them. Two hours earlier, their lawyer, Mehta Pren Nath met Bhagat Singh and in the words of the lawyer, Bhagat Singh was walking in his death cell "as the tiger walks in his cage". They walked joyously hand in hand to the scaffold, raising the slogan: *Inqilab Zindabad*. The entire jail echoed the same slogan.

The magistrate asked Bhagat Singh about his last wish. His reply was: "We would like to be born again and again and be hanged for the same cause for which we are being hanged now." Climbing the scaffold, Bhagat Singh addressed the magistrate and said: "You are lucky that you ordered our hanging because you will witness how revolutionaries face death for their ideals and thus become immortal."

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's famous slogan also sparked the fire of patriotism in the hearts of many Indians during the fight for independence. He said: "You give me blood, I'll give you Freedom". Even today, these words don't fail to inspire and move us. He resigned from the Indian civil service to join the freedom struggle.

Bose left India in 1919 for England with a promise to his father that he would appear in the Indian Civil Services (ICS) Examination. He went to study in

Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge and matriculated on November 19, 1919. He came fourth in the ICS examination and was selected but he did not want to work under an alien government which would mean serving the British.

As he stood on the verge of taking the plunge by resigning the Indian Civil Service in 1921, he wrote to his elder brother Sarat Chandra Bose: “Only on the soil of sacrifice and suffering can we raise our national edifice”.

Finally he resigned from his civil service job on April 23, 1921 and returned to India.

Field Marshal K.C. Cariappa was undergoing his basic training in IMA. As a man of discipline, he was very organised and dedicated. One day, while he was standing in the training ground for his uniform check up, an incident took place which made a huge difference to his life. Like the others, he was standing with his full uniform on the ground. His uniform was neat and clean. He was standing directly under the sun and by the time the officer came to check him, a drop of sweat from his forehead fell down on his belt which was of brass. Due to this, the polish was ruined and there was a stain in his belt. When the official saw this, he became angry and asked Cariappa to make five rounds of the ground i.e. a total of 5 kms. Cariappa, without any single word or complain completed his punishment with dire sincerity. He followed the order with all his heart. Today, he recounts this incident as the best day. He says that since he obeyed his master that day, today he is able to lead his team with due respect.

I am sure the troops of 123 Bn BSF will continue to work with full zeal and enthusiasm in guarding the borders of Khasi Hills. Their presence in this area will provide a great sense of security to border population. It's a matter of great happiness that BSF personnel are also undertaking Civic Action Programme like imparting training in various skills and training for induction in CAPFs and State Police etc.

I am confident that Force will come up to the expectation of the country in the time to come and will carry the legacy of its moto “JEEVAN PRAYANT KARTAVYA”.

I extend my best wishes to all BSF personnel and their families. May the Force continue to achieve excellence and inspire through its deeds of courage and valour.

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