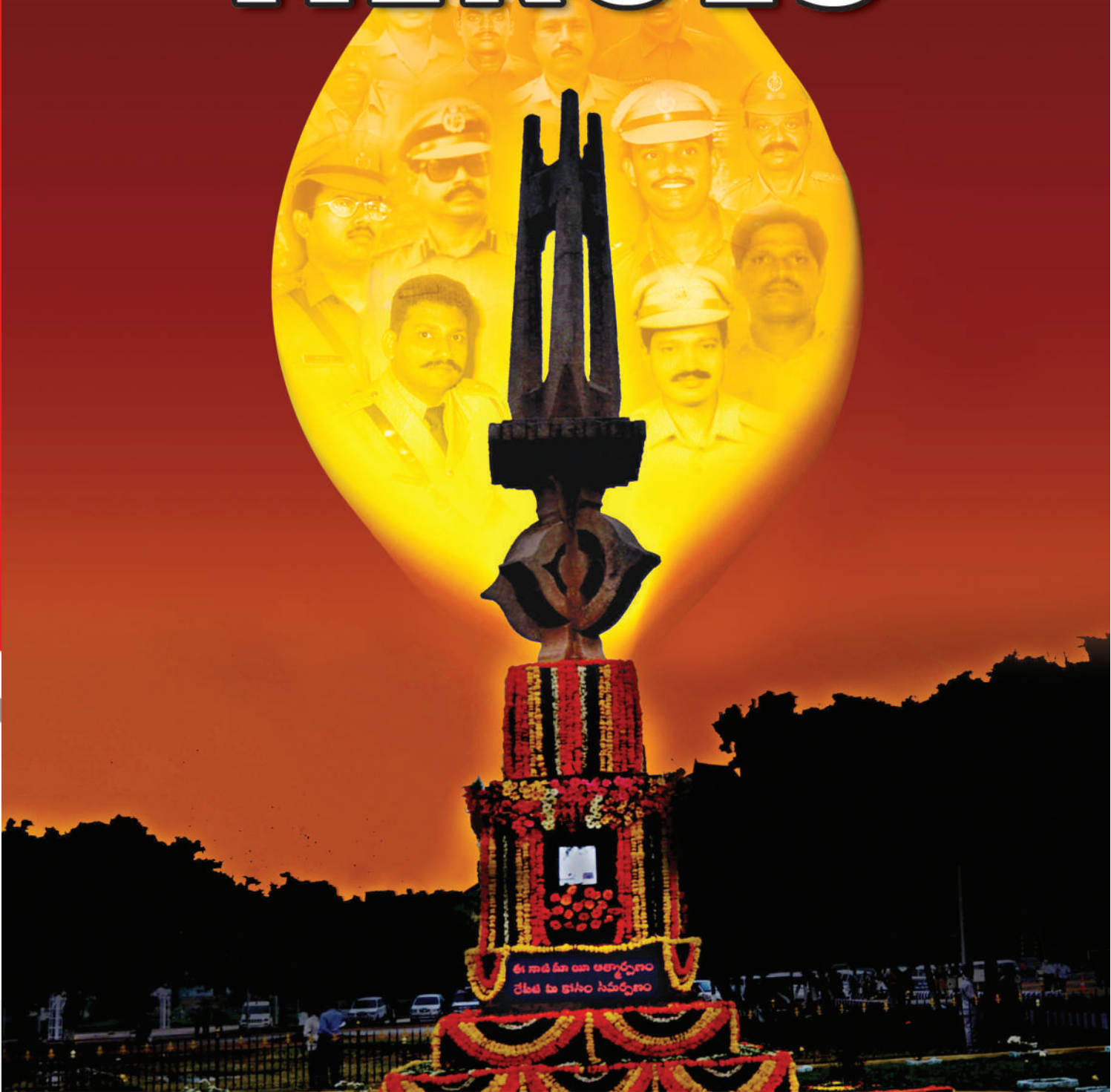


UNSUNG HEROES



A TRIBUTE TO THE POLICE MARTYRS

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PROBE TIMES

बंडी संजय कुमार
BANDI SANJAY KUMAR



गृह राज्य मंत्री
भारत सरकार
MINISTER OF STATE FOR
HOME AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



MESSAGE

Police department has been playing a very crucial role in safeguarding the society from anti-social elements, extremist and terrorist activities, which are detrimental to the development of a democratic society like ours.

I congratulate the State Police for their outstanding performance in maintaining peace, law and order in the state.

I offer my respects to those police personnel who have laid down their lives in the line of duty and for the safety and happiness of the common people.

It is our duty to remember the sacrifices made by the police personnel, on the occasion of Police Martyrs Day.

I also congratulate the 'Probe Times' team and wish them a success in bringing out the special issue titled "Unsung Heroes" on the occasion of Police Martyrs Day.

Bandi Sanjay Kumar

*Thank
You
for our freedom*

We Salute All the Heroes
of our Forces
who have and continue
to strive for the
Safety of our Society.

Jai Jawan Jai Hind

Shri Thandra Kashinath Reddy
Senior Congress Leader
Shadnagar Assembly Constituency





Director General of Police, Telangana

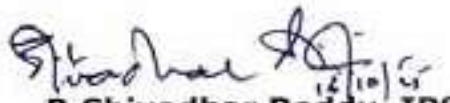


MESSAGE

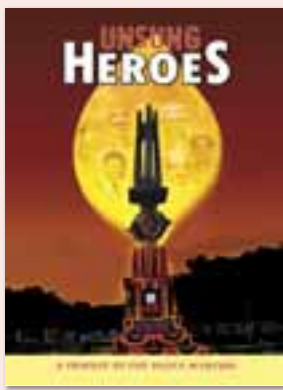
On this solemn occasion of Police Flag Day (Police Commemoration Day), I pay heartfelt tribute to the brave men and women of our police forces who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Their courage, dedication, and unwavering commitment to upholding the rule of law and protecting our society inspire us every day.

Let us remember their legacy with pride and continue to honour their service by working towards a just, safe, and peaceful society.

We salute our heroes in uniform — today and always.


B. Shivadhar Reddy, IPS
Director General of Police,
Telangana, Hyderabad.





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Salute
Police
Martyrs**

Chatrinaka Division Police



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A Life of Purpose, A Death of Valor

The Story of ASP Akash Rao Giripunje

He once held a secure, well-paying job in the banking sector – a life of comfort and predictability lay ahead, much like many others in his circle. Yet, Akash Rao Giripunje chose a different path. A path defined not by convenience, but by conviction.

From a young age, Akash carried within him the unwavering dream of wearing the police uniform a dream first sparked when his father, Govind Rao, gifted him a toy police uniform on his fifth birthday. "Be a soldier for the country," his father had said. That moment, simple yet profound, became the compass guiding his life.

Akash pursued his education at Kalibari School in Raipur and completed his graduation in Commerce eventually beginning his career at UCO Bank. But the call to serve a higher cause remained ever-present. Driven by an enduring passion to protect and serve, he made the courageous decision to leave behind the comfort of a secure job and prepare for the civil services.

In 2013, he cleared the Chhattisgarh PSC examination and was inducted into the state police service as a Group-1 officer of the 2013 PPS batch. Over the years, he earned the respect of peers and superiors alike for his integrity, courage, and unwavering dedication to duty. His service was decorated with multiple gallantry awards, each a testament to his bravery and commitment to public service.

Tragically, his noble journey was cut short on June 9, 2025. While leading a security patrol near Dondra village on the Konta-Errabore road, Akash stepped on a pressure-activated IED planted by Maoists. The explosion took his life on the spot. He was just 42 years old.

Akash Rao is a native of Raipur

He completed schooling from Kalibari School in Raipur

He earned Bachelor of Commerce degree from local college in Raipur

He was 2013 batch PPS officer

He was given gallantry medal in 2019

He is survived by wife and two kids



Actually Akash had planned to return home on June 11 to celebrate his daughter Navya's birthday. Instead, his body returned draped in the Tricolour, a heart-breaking homecoming no family should ever endure.

Akash Rao Giripunje lived and died with purpose. His story is not

just one of loss, but of a life dedicated to ideals higher than self, a reminder that true heroes walk among us, often quietly, until their sacrifice shakes the very soul of the nation.

May his memory endure as a beacon of valor and an inspiration for generations to come.

Rich Tributes paid to Police Martyrs

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday described the armed forces and police forces as pillars of national security.

Addressing the joint parade of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Delhi Police at the National Police Memorial on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, Rajnath Singh said the military and police function on different platforms, but their mission is the same - to protect the nation.

Policing can function effectively only when citizens work as partners and respect the law. When the relationship between society and the police is based on mutual understanding and responsibility, both prosper, he said.

Stating that adequate resources are being provided to the states for modernisation of the police forces, he called for optimal utilisation of resources, which can only be achieved through coordination and integration with security agencies.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday asserted that Maoists should join as partners in the nation-building and the country's development by shedding Naxal ideology.

Addressing the gathering at the Police Commemoration Day 2025 on October 21, Reddy commended the Telangana police for their exemplary service in rooting out the naxal menace in the state.

He recalled that 191 police personnel including six from Telangana, sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. He made special mention of Greyhounds commandos T. Sandeep, V. Sridhar, N. Pawan Kalyan, Assistant Commandant Banothu Jawaharlal, constables E. Pramod and B Saidulu.

Stating that his government was committed to the welfare of the police personnel, he said the untiring services of the police have made it one of the finest forces in the country. Reddy said adding that advanced technology must be increasingly adopted in policing to tackle cybercrime, drug menace and other technology based crimes.

In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister, N Chandrababu Naidu lauded the sacrifices of the police and the major achievements of the state police.

Stating that police have always been at the forefront in protecting citizens often risking their own lives, he assured them of government's full support in police welfare measures.

Naidu said that criminals are using advanced technologies to commit crimes, and the police must upgrade their systems and skills to stay ahead.

The leaders along with senior police officers offered floral tributes at the police memorials in their respective places to the police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.



Telangana Police Martyrs

Three commandos of the Greyhounds, Telangana's elite anti-Maoist force, laid down their lives while an assistant assault commander suffered critical injuries in the line of duty.

A team of the Greyhounds personnel was on a search operation at Pedda Gutta near Penugolu village in Wazedu Mandal on May 8, 2025 when the Maoists triggered a landmine blast killing three commandos and critically injuring an assistant assault commander.

The martyred commandos include Vadla Sridhar, N Pavan Kalyan and T Sandeep, while the Reserve sub-inspector Ranadhir was critically injured.

A native of Palvancho town in Kamareddy district, 26-years-old Sridhar joined the police force four years back and he was married to Srivani just nine-months ago. His family and the entire neighbourhood were devastated following his untimely death.

Another commando, T Sandeep, who attained martyrdom in the landmine blast is a native of Ghatkesar in Medchal district. Originally, he is a constable of the Armed Reserve wing of the Rachakonda police commissionerate. However, he chose to work with the elite Greyhounds unit.

He was married only three years ago to Pavani, who works as a software engineer. The third martyr in the incident, N Pavan Kalyan is a native of Kothamuddapadu village in Pedda Cherlopally mandal of Prakasam district. An original recruit of the Telangana Special Police, he chose to work in the elite Greyhounds unit.

The trio along with the injured assistant assault commander set an example of bravery and their commitment to safeguard the society.



T. SANDEEP



V. SRIDHAR



N. PAVAN KALYAN

The Brave Cop

Police Constable E Pramod was with his family when he received a call from colleague seeking his assistance in arresting a notorious criminal. He did not think twice but requested his nephew Akash to take him to the spot on motorcycle.



E. PRAMOD

The 48-year-old police constable chased the criminal and succeeded in catching him. But in the process, he received stab wounds at the hands of the criminal and succumbed to the injuries. Even his son-in-law Akash suffered knife wounds in the attack.

This gory incident happened on October 17 in Nizamabad town of Telangana. Acting on information that notorious criminal Sheik Riyaz was moving in Hashmi Colony, Central Crime Station (CCS) Sub-Inspectors Bheem Rao and Vittal rushed to the spot. They had called Pramod seeking his assistance in the operation. Riyaz was wanted in connection with several cases of theft and a murder.

Since he was at home, Pramod asked his nephew Akash to take him to Hashmi Colony on the motor cycle. However, Riyaz tried to give a slip by jumping into storm water drain. Immediately, Pramod began chasing the criminal and caught hold of him. The constable made the criminal sit on the bike while his nephew sat behind Riyaz.

When they were passing Vinayak Nagar, Riyaz managed to jump off the motor cycle and stab Pramod inflicting fatal injuries. Even Akash received knife injuries. The Sub-Inspectors trailing Pramod tried to catch the criminal but in vain and SI Bheem Rao also suffered injuries.

On receiving the information, IV Town police reached the spot and rushed Pramod to hospital where he was declared brought dead. He is survived by wife and three sons.

Director General of Police, B Shivdhar Reddy said the department and the government will extend all support for the bereaved family.

WHY POLICE COMMEMORATION DAY ON OCTOBER 21

On October 20, 1959, three reconnaissance parties were launched from Hot Springs in North Eastern Ladakh. While members of two parties returned to Hot Springs by the afternoon, the third one comprising of two Police Constables and a Porter did not return.

A team led by DSP Karam Singh set out early next morning in search of the missing personnel. At about mid-day, Chinese Army personnel opened fire from a hillock. The team led by Karam Singh valiantly fought back. However, ten of our brave police personnel attained martyrdom while seven others sustained

injuries. The injured were taken prisoners by the Chinese. Bodies of the ten personnel were returned only on November 13, 1959.

Those who laid down their lives in the fight include Puran Singh, Sharwan Das, Hang Jeet Subho, Iman Singh, Dharam Singh, Shivrath Prasad, Norbu Lama, Makhan Lal, Beg Raj, and Nonbu.

In a meeting of Police Inspectors General of all states in January 1960, it was decided that Police Commemoration Day should be observed on every 21st October to pay homage to the policemen who lost their lives while performing duties at Aksai Chin.



For people the National Police Day on October 21 'might be a special occasion as it reminds of our police force's valour. DSP Karam Singh, the man who, on this day in 1959 gave tough time to the enemy in the Hotsprings conflict, which, proved to be the prelude to the 1962 Sino-India war. DSP Karam Singh, hailing from Gujranwala in Pakistan, settled in Raikot in Ludhiana district after partition of the country, was on deputation with a central intelligence agency and posted in the Ladakh area as part of a contingent in view of suspicious activities in the region on the part of certain anti-national elements.

He was heading a company of 19 personnel, patrolling the Hotsprings area as usual on October 21 when he,

HOTSPRINGS HERO



KARAM SINGH

and his team was ambushed by Chinese troops in what was later described as onset of the growing Chinese intolerance towards India.

The team 'comprising mostly officials of border intelligence agencies repulsed the attack in a rare show of courage and nearly 10 of them lost lives while, rest of them, including, DSP Karam Singh, were captured by Chinese troops and detained in harsh conditions. They were, released on November 14, 1959, by China following intervention of then Foreign Minister Krishna Menon. Karam Singh, who, had lost toes to frostbite, was honoured with the President's Medal by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Since then the nation started observing the day as the Police Commemoration Day.

Are the Police Sacrificial Lambs?



Dr. S. SUBRAMANIAN

On that fateful day, on October 21, 1959, in the hostile terrain of Ladakh, 10 gallant policemen of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) fell to enemies' bullets in the altar of duty while safeguarding Indian territory from Chinese aggressors. Every year, police forces all over India observe October 21 as Police Commemoration Day, not only to pay homage to those brave ten, but also to remember and revere hundreds of policemen, who continue to give their today for our better tomorrow.

These sacrifices are made while defending the country from external threats, fighting internal antisocial elements, disintegrating secessionists, insurgents, terrorists and extremist elements, communal and divisive forces and criminals and ensuring peaceful conditions in society. Even as they are maligned and derided by others, policemen have always lived up to their credo - Duty unto Death. For these brave men, no bell tolls and a large section of society, which makes a hue and cry when an anti-national element or a terrorist dies in the hands of police, remains insensitive to the deaths of policemen while performing their duties. It is sad that the Government of India has not yet thought it fit to have a National Police Memorial in Delhi nor observe the Police Commemoration Day with due solemnity.

Police, day in and day out, face the Hamletian dilemma of to do or not to do. They opt for the former facing grave risks to their lives. Statistics of deaths of policemen in the line of duty is staggering and chilling. Nowhere in the world, so many policemen make the supreme sacrifices for their country. A research study indicates that nearly 45 per cent of the deceased police personnel in India were under 35 and 10 per cent of them were less than 25 years of age indicating that they were snatched away by death in the prime of their

life. Since Independence, police fatalities are more than the fatalities suffered by the defense forces in the four wars and the IPKF operations. Anti-national and anti-social forces are now targeting policemen and their families - casualties among them are being increasingly reported.

Can a liberal democracy afford to remain complacent in the face of these facts and figures? Shouldn't an effort be made to halt the trend and reverse the tide? It may be argued that risk to life is an occupational hazard for policeman. While an occasional loss of life is unavoidable and inevitable, the staggering numbers of deaths as compared to other countries should make us ponder over the causes and consider possible solutions to reduce police fatalities.

Lack of Role Clarity: What is the role of police? Is police a civilian organisation to prevent and detect crime and maintain civil order as adumbrated in the Police Act of 1861 or a force to fight elements of destabilisation and low intensity conflicts? Police are armed, trained and mentally equipped to be an unarmed service eschewing use of force and avoiding deaths to citizens in their operations. Legal and procedural requirements stress on this aspect. When pitted against the elements of destabilisation, police often find that they are ill-equipped, ill-trained and mentally not prepared to adapt to conditions of urban and rural guerrilla warfare. Even the paramilitary forces are not trained or equipped specifically to fight low intensity conflicts. It is high time that the role police is clearly defined and one wing of the police is specially trained and equipped to deal with low intensity conflicts and guerrilla warfare launched by the Maoists.

Review of Procedures and Legal Norms for Police Operations: At present, police are operating under legal norms and procedures evolved over 100 years ago, when the situation was idyllic. These norms are now no way appropriate to deal with the elements of destabilization prevalent today. There should be a clear-cut differentiation between the legal norms and procedures applicable to law abiding citizens and those to be followed in respect of anti-nationals and anti-socials who defy the existence of the nation. As observed by an American Jurist, Bill of Rights is not a suicide pact entered into by the USA with its enemies for its own destruction. While citizens, who subscribe to the concepts of Rule of Law and Equality before Law and who accept the State as a holistic social organisation, should be

entitled to have all the rights and privileges guaranteed to the citizens by the very same system which they seek to destroy.

Motivation and Morale of Police: Self-esteem is an essential component to motivate humans. Police are often condemned and denigrated as an organisation for the faults of a few individual members. Policemen are expected to don the mantle of an ideal citizen and in spite of the best training, leadership and guidance, in large human organisations, there will always be a few black sheep. While ruthless efforts are to be made to weed these out, the entire police organisation should not be condemned. People should support police for their right actions and punish the errant squarely. Media and non-governmental organisations can play a vital role in this.

Separation of Law enforcement and Order maintenance: One of the debilitating roles of police is order maintenance. Contrary to popular belief, Law and Order do not go hand in hand and law is not an instrument of order and frequently it is its adversary.

Order under Law implies rational restraint upon rules and procedures used to achieve Order. Order under Law, subordinates the ideal of conformity to the ideal of legality. Order maintenance demands initiative and quick action and Law emphasises on procedures and circumspection and demands conformity with procedures and adherence to norms or legality. As it happens during communal riots policemen have to enforce Order against the will of the society. On such occasions, policemen become the islands of sanity amidst the ocean of hatred and bigotry. There is an urgent need to bifurcate the roles of Law Enforcement and Order Maintenance by having two distinct wings in the police service.

Empower the Police: Police need functional autonomy when dealing with elements of destabilisation. They are to be provided with the required legal, administrative, financial and infrastructural support. Since police are meant to serve the people, people should take active interest in forcing the government to provide the required tools to the police. The police modernisation programme of the Government of India is too meager and ineffective to deal with the multiple threats being faced by the country.

Give up Police Bashing: Society should realise that policing is its own function and police organisation is only a substitute to spare them from actual physical participation. Active cooperation between the public and the police are required and NGOs and public-spirited citizens can promote this. Police bashing should be given up as the favourite pastime and instead police backing should become the credo. An indifferent society will get an indifferent and inefficient police service. Constant interaction and close supervision by the society will keep the police organisation in the right path. Police leadership should also ensure that there is more transparency in the working of the police organisation to invoke public confidence and cooperation.

Civil Society - Be Truly Civil: It is heartrending to see well-

BALIMELA MARTYRS



meaning members of civil society, who shed copious tears when an anti-national, militant or a disintegrationist is killed or maimed in police operations, keep mum when police personnel are killed in cold blood. Are the police personnel not citizens of India who are entitled to enjoy the same privileges like any other citizen in the country? Or shall they remain sacrificial lambs of the society? It is time, the so called civil society activists realised their obligations to protect impartially all citizens which include policemen.

Society Gets the Police it Wants: Police are there to protect the society from unlawful elements. Quality of a society is reflected on the quality of police service it has. Unless the society takes active interest in creating an ethical and lawful police organisation, the quality of police in India will not improve. Police in India has stood as a bulwark against all forces of disintegration and destabilisation and let the society help it to continue to provide peaceable conditions to enable the nation to become a prosperous and powerful one.

(The author is Padmashri awardee and former Director General of CRPF and NSG and Founder Director of SPG)

Purging of Naxalism

A Tale of

Relentless Battle

In the process of subduing the left wing extremism in Telugu States, Police force has lost hundreds of its valiant officers and constables who fought a fierce battle.



H J DORA

The peace that our society enjoys today did not come that easy. With limited resources and unsophisticated weapons, our police force had to sacrifice many lives in the process of getting rid of the left wing extremism from Telugu States and bring back social order to the society. It has been a gory story of bloodshed and murders. It cost the police force lives of hundreds of its young officers and constables in the combat against those extremists who had resorted to mindless attacks on policemen.

The Naxalite problem began way back in 1966 when the movement gained momentum in West Bengal after the Naxalbari incident. Scores of youngsters from Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts were attracted to the Naxalite ideology and left their studies in universities to join the Naxalbari movement.

Violence was rampant in Srikakulam district in those days. Hacking of zamindars, looting money and foodgrains and distributing them among poor was the order of the day. Concrete steps were taken by the then government and the police department, particularly under the leadership of the then Chief Minister Vengal Rao. However, during the Emergency in 1975-77, the Naxalite movement lost its influence in the society due to stern actions by the police.

After the 1977 general elections, the Congress was defeated and a new government was formed by The Janata Party, which was sympathetic towards Naxalite leadership. Also, the Naxalite leaders who were arrested during emergency came in contact with Janata Party leaders in prisons. As a result enquiry commissions were appointed against encounters, cases were registered against many police officers in different states.

The Naxalite leaders did not stop their. Instead, they intensified their efforts to restart the movement. This time, several front organisations were started. Separate organisations were formed for students, advocates, youth and farmers and farm labourers while armed units remained under cover and led the movement a head.

The front organisations started huge campaign, filed cases in various courts including High Court against police officials who worked hard. The outside world was unaware of the propaganda tactics and the Naxalite violence was hushed up. Instead, the front organisations used to depict police actions as oppressive acts.

The movement took several turns in Telugu States. For a long time, Naxalites used to destroy public properties such as school buildings, MDO and MRO offices, telephone exchanges and RTC buses. Later, radical youth and student organisations and farm labourers organisations resorted to atrocities in villages. At this stage people were fed up and started slowly hating Naxalites. However, they preferred to keep mum as the armed units of the extremists supported by the people up to certain extent. Naxalites used to create terror by way of violence and also by organising meetings with huge gatherings. They used to kill and mutilate their targets to terrorise people.

In the process, educated youth began distancing from the movement. Also, group wars within the Naxalites started sprouting apparently weakening the movement. Feudal and bureaucratic systems were clearly visible in the movement. However, it has to be admitted that the police department was left behind in tackling Naxalites due to which Naxalites went on strengthening their arms base.

People, elected representatives and employees were left with no other option but to follow their diktats. Businessmen also danced to their tunes. In the process, Naxalites began attacking police stations to loot weapons and kill police personnel. People began losing confidence in the police department in the face of Naxalite attacks as police could not protect themselves and the police stations. In this backdrop, it was necessary to give better training to the police personnel who were fighting the extremists. Along with training, modern weapons and other gears were procured from other countries and supplied to the ground level personnel. New police station buildings were constructed in place of the old ones, which were equipped to withstand Naxalite attacks. Communication system was modernised and the intelligence system began functioning effectively.

The moment police started fighting back at the armed units, people began reposing confidence in the police again. Steps were taken to improve self-confidence among the special police, Greyhounds and Reserve Police personnel and several incentives were given to them. Compensation was given to those who heroically participated in exchange of fire and dared for supreme sacrifice. Promotions were given to the men who arrested and participated in the war against Naxalites. Police personnel began showing enthusiasm as a result of auxiliary promotions. It was then the Naxalite leaders and rebels started surrendering to the police. The surrendered Naxalites expressed their interest to join the mainstream. A conducive atmosphere was created for the surrendered Naxalites by speaking to the government and announcing a policy for the rehabilitation. Scores of Naxalites were attracted to the policy and the movement was weakened.

Also, several armed dalams were wiped out and Naxalites lost scores of weapons while many others joined mainstream due to which the movement was badly damaged. Having no other option, the Naxalites moved away from United AP to other parts of the country where they were safer. All this could happen only because of the supreme sacrifices made by scores of policemen and officers. Most of those who laid down their lives were very young and had families to support. They just began their lives with dreams of having a better future, but all dreams shattered when they fell to the bullets and bomb blasts. It is heartrending to see their families, living in eternal grief and misery.

Police personnel of all ranks worked as a team and achieved results quickly. It is truly a miracle that a 40-year-old atrocious and violent movement has completely been wiped out. I pay my respects to all those police personnel who made sacrifices in the line of duty.

(The Author is former DGP of United AP)

A work of Heart

A Great Memorial for Martyrs

The police martyrs' memorial pylon in the Shivkumarlal Stadium, Goshamahal, Hyderabad, is an imposing and evocative memorial to the police. Deeper meanings are embedded in the architectural design of this pylon. Here are some details about this memorial pylon.

It was sculpted by late Sri PT Reddy. This exquisite work of art hides in every corner and every cranny deeper meanings and encrypted message of inspiration. The pylon is a fitting memorial to the pride and glory that the police sacrifices so typically exemplify.

October 21 is when we recall the supreme sacrifices made by the police martyrs in the cause

of the country and in its defence. It is at the base of this pylon that wreaths are laid and respects are paid. Thus, the pylon has great significance. It is at this pylon that the police personnel take out their parade to pay their respects to the departed. The very sight of the pylon inspires the police personnel. This is the only police memorial in both the Telugu states.

The rectangular pylon represents the police, who bears the responsibility of protecting law and order on his powerful shoulders. The rectangular window represents transparency, honesty and dedication. The eye on the pylon represents the sharp eye of the police, his micro analytical and observation powers, his alertness and transparency. The summit represents the valour and the bravery of the police.

The red granite represents the capabilities and the dedication to the duty. The pylon represents all these and much more. The sharp tips of the pylon are fine-balanced, artistic and eye-arresting. The pylon represents the aspirations, efforts and the dedication of countless police personnel. The sculptor and the cops have been immortalized by this imposing pylon.



The need for Value based Leadership in Police



AK MOHANTY

There is a dire need for value-based leadership at all levels. What is needed is a leadership with deep sense of purpose, honesty, integrity, personal excellence, humility, sense of justice, fair play, impartiality, equality, courage, conviction, confidence and ability to inspire and arouse the force.

All police officers have passed out from the portals of training institutions taking a pledge to honour and abide by the spirit of the Constitution of India, uphold the rule of law and discharge his or her responsibility without fear or favour and serve all sections of the society without bias and with equal devotion. Why then a day does not pass without allegations of police inefficiency, corruption, indifference, partiality etc., making a news.

What is coming in the way of police to earn the love and confidence of public and redeem their pledge? Is it absence of personnel excellence of the police leadership? Is it compromise with unlawful and illegal activities? Is it politicisation of police? Or is it the surrender of conscience of the police leadership?

Reasons could be one or many of these. But there seems to be only one solution. That is the need for value-based leadership at all levels - a leadership with deep sense of purpose, honesty, integrity, personal excellence, humility, sense of justice, fair play, impartiality, equality, courage, conviction, confidence and ability to inspire and arouse the force.

It is the value-based leadership that can stimulate change and remove the prevailing cynicism in service. Doing

the right things in right way is possible. And that takes me down to the memory lane of April, 2009 when the election process was already on in Andhra Pradesh. In an unexpected development, the incumbent DGP was removed and I was appointed as the DGP at the instance of Election Commission of India. My selection surprised me because I never expected this to happen.

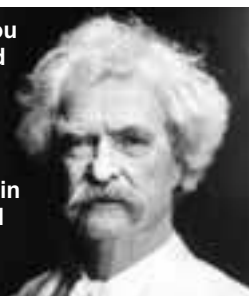
I was only a few days old in the post when I received a call from a very influential and highly-placed functionary in government. 'Mohanty, it seems you have not called on the Chief Minister as yet. I suggest you do it immediately and seek his guidance and blessings'.

I politely tried to reason out my inability to do so. My answer was considered improper and pat came a reply that was more of a veiled threat. "Well Mohanty, I just told you so as a well wisher. The decision is up to you. But remember how much I have suffered in my career for not being tactful and practical in situation like this". This prompted me to be more determined to discharge the responsibility entrusted to me. Aftermath of election however I was shocking and shattered the conscience of many in the state. I was removed from the post and my predecessor was reinstated even before the formation of council of Ministers. Many pitied my wisdom and few in power ridiculed me! But I emerged stronger in my mind and resolved not to surrender, come what may. A disciplinary proceeding that followed on false and fabricated material could not put me down! Instead I feel rewarded in getting the love, affection and respect from people across the State even three years after retirement though the tenure of DGP for me lasted only 59 days.

Another unforgettable incident relates to what is popularly known as 'Save Democracy Movement' which

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you did not do, than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bow lines, sail away from safe harbour, catch the trade wind in your sails, explore, dream and discover.”

-Mark Twain

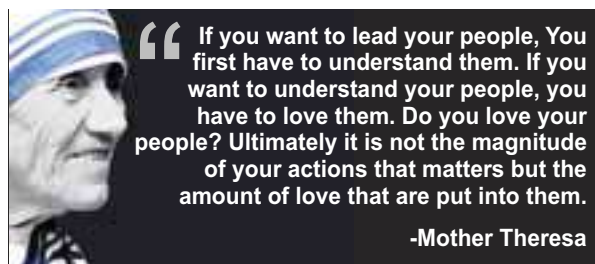


occurred as sequel to the dismissal of the then CM Late Shri NT Rama Rao by the Governor. More than hundred MLAs were lodged in NTR camp in Ramakrishna studio under Chikkadpalli police station limits. They were provided security cover on their request. Suddenly one night, a very senior officer summoned me to the police station. He gave me a dressing down and asked the deployment to be withdrawn. We had to carryout the instructions. But sensing something amiss, I pooled up personnel on night rounds in other police stations and positioned them at strategic points. Mid night drama witnessed a large number of musclemen descending on the area only to beat a retreat on seeing the unexpected presence of the policemen. An early morning call greeted me with a warning of serious consequences for my “misconduct!” But by providence, I escaped the wrath as by 10 AM Shri NT Rama Rao was invited to be sworn in as Chief minister of Andhra Pradesh.

What surprised me some time later was to see that some of the very same MLAs who cried hoarse for suppression of their democratic rights, wanted me to deny permission to an opposition protest against Shri NT Rama Rao on his Tour to North Coastal districts. I was the Commissioner of Police, Visakhapatnam. Several calls to reject the request for peaceful demonstration did not find favor with me. As the day was closing by, I received the warning “CM would be angry and you should know the consequences.” Demonstrations were permitted to uphold the democratic rights. The then Chief minister alighted and passed through massive demonstration of detractors. Later in the evening, I was asked to meet the CM early the morning in the next day. I reached the circuit house around 5 AM. I was advised by few who claimed to be close to the CM not to say anything and only listen to him and the rest will be taken care of by them to protect my interest. As I entered the room, the CM thundered: “How dare you misbehave with my people and call them by names. I have not posted you here to work against my party men.” He appeared agitated and angry and not prepared to listen to my version. Yet I replied with all the calmness at my command saying ‘sir, I am here because you ordered this posting. If you feel that I am unsuitable for the post you may say so and I have no hesitation to quit right now’. There was no reaction and he asked me to leave the room.

I returned slightly disturbed and few hours later received the CM at the stadium for inauguration of South zone police Games. The CM commenced his address to a huge gathering and I retreated to the conference room in the stadium. Suddenly a junior officer appeared and requested me to come to the dais as the CM was looking for me. As I stepped on to the dais, to my great surprise CM embraced and raised my hand to the delight of the gathering and the photographers and announced that this Commissioner will be continued here as he is doing well.

The scene next I witnessed was quite in contrast to what happened early in the morning at the Circuit House. Those who avoided me in the morning were all sweet and



honey. Broad smiles greeted me and some of the public representatives even and touched my feet. For a while I wondered what was happening but answer was very obvious, CM is happy and therefore loyalist must show their happiness. But what I realized is that doing the right things in right way does get recognized one day or the other.

I am tempted to narrate these incidents with a fond hope to remove the feeling of despair, dejection, helplessness and cynicism from the minds of the Police leadership. Several such incidents occurred time and again in my career. On every occasion it was right versus wrong, threat versus courage, perversion versus conviction, honesty versus lure and temptation, fear versus confidence, mission versus expediency and power versus ethics and every time the winner was the ethics and the value. Police leadership may not be able to earn the stature of Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Theresa, Abraham Lincoln and Nelson Mandela but certainly can muster courage and will to respect core values of life.

The contemporary society is facing extraordinary challenges due to Terrorist violence, Drugs syndicates, Land grabbers, Fraudster who needs to be immobilized. The issues of corruption class and caste conflict, injustice and loss of faith of people in governance needs to be addressed with courage and confidence. Police leadership in particular cannot shy away from their onerous responsibility. The unholy alliances of unscrupulous politicians and bureaucrats should come to an end.

All the leadership level should be aroused and trained to display professional excellence. Top leadership should embrace the concept of Servant-Leadership approach and adopt the mission to serve others before self. They must display emotional commitment to the cause of the people and rule of law overcoming fear, apprehensions and greed. The society should muster courage to boycott the self-serving and unethical functionaries.

It is only value driven Leadership that can prevent and reduce the tensions, conflicts and ultimate breakdown. It is time to rekindle a value-based leadership not just in law-enforcing agencies, but across every government agency. A just social order greatly depends on value-based leadership and value-based actions. Now we should live our dreams and not our fears. Take the road less traveled and that will make all the difference.

(The author is former DGP of United AP)

Police, the favourite whipping boys



JOGINDER SINGH

In fact, it is for the rulers to decide as to what is in the best interest of the country. Despite umpteen communal riots over the years, the Government appears to be clueless on how to handle them. Serious diseases require surgical operations. But this is usually forgotten in the quest for vote bank politics.

Already ill-equipped and far out-numbered, the police also are handicapped by the political interference in their work. Vote Bank or appeasement politics are taking their toll on the police, who are involved in controlling riots, says former CBI director Joginder Singh.

A communal riot in UP's Muzaffarnagar city on September 7 this year led to the killing of a TV reporter and 50 others as per the latest count. The genesis of the riot was in August when a boy was killed by two brothers belonging to another community in Kawal village for molesting their sister. This led to a back-lash which claimed the lives of both the brothers and several others.

The irony of the whole thing is that the latest bloodshed came a day after the Centre issued an alert to seven states, including UP, over communal polarization and rising hostilities ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. UP has seen a spike in communal violence since Samajwadi Party came to power in March, 2012. The communal riots left at least 95 dead in 50 recorded clashes as per the State Government. But, the Intelligence Bureau report puts the figure at 110.

If a disease is not treated in time, it is bound to aggravate. The same is true of any riot. In the matter of dealing with riots, quite often, those on the spot are not given a free hand and a remote control tells them to how to handle the situation.

Post-riots, the standard response is to set up an inquiry committee or commission. The commission goes by the affidavits filed before it. Sometimes, it takes decades for an inquiry to be completed, just as inquiry into Ayodhya demolition took 15 years. There is no fixed time-frame for any judicial inquiry as umbrage is taken by the inquiry officer if he or she is told to complete the probe within a

given time-frame. The result of all these so-called inquiries is zero.

In fact, human nature is volatile and unpredictable. No one knows as to what will be the tinder fuse. The Government feels that a universal remedy to any thing affecting law and order is the police, who are stymied by the orders not to use force or open fire.

It has been rightly said that "the citizen expects police officers to have the wisdom of Solomon, the courage of David, the strength of Samson, the patience of Job, the leadership of Moses, the kindness of the Good Samaritan, the faith of Daniel, the tolerance of the Carpenter of Nazareth (Jesus Christ), and, finally, an intimate knowledge of every branch of the natural, biological, and social sciences. If he had all of these, he might be a good policeman"

In fact, it is for the rulers to decide as to what is in the best interest of the country. Despite umpteen communal riots over the years, the Government appears to be clueless on how to handle them. Serious diseases require surgical operations. But this is usually forgotten in the quest for vote Bank politics.

The first line of defence to deal with any riot is the police. Every state in the country, UP included, have never examined whether the police force is adequate, whether it has adequate training facilities to deal with complex problems such as these.

Uttar Pradesh has one of the lowest police to population ratio. There are just 74 Policemen per 100000 persons as against the United Nations norms of 240 Policemen per one Lakh persons. Mind you, this is with reference to the total sanctioned strength. With security often seen as a status symbol, the Uttar Pradesh government is spending

a whopping Rs.120 crore every year to provide security cover to around 1,500 VIPs, as per the official records.

Besides, the Police are informally told not to open fire on rioters as it could prove electorally dangerous for the party in power. Former Home Minister P Chidambaram has said: "inadequate and ill-equipped police force is the reason for the present sorry state of affairs of policing in the country. And policing a country with insufficient police stations and inadequate and ill-equipped police forces makes the task almost formidable. We need to at least double the police strength and create necessary infrastructure to impart them quality training to improve the policing in the country. The police-population ratio for the whole country is about 130 per 1,00,000 persons, which is much lower than the international norms". UP is a communal tinder box and the atrocities against the SCs are abnormally high. But the state's police force has only 1,49,168 personnel as against the 3,68,260 sanctioned posts as on January 1, 2011. It means an overwhelming 60 per cent vacancies in the UP police. On the same date, the country had 25 per cent vacancies in its all police forces - 5,01,069 vacant posts against the total Police sanctioned strength of 20,64,370 posts.

As many as 22,87,799 cases, including 4,401 cases of murder, were registered in UP in 2011. This is the highest number of registered crime cases in any state in India.

I hasten to add that I do not plead that the Police should use force indiscriminately. But, when a riot happens, one should make hold the local elected representative equally responsible as they failed to gauge and understand the public mood. Forget about adequate police force, the Police do not get even the budget for fuel consumption of their vehicles. A senior police officer from UP told me that when an honest SHO raised the question of not having the money to get his jeep repaired, replace tyres and to buy fuel, he was pulled up by his seniors, who slammed him for not being able to 'manage such small matters.'

Even I, as a district police chief, took up the matter of raising the Stationary Grant from Rs 2 per month, and the prisoners diet allowance of 75 paise per day, I was curtly told that I had to manage with whatever money was made available. I had to write to my superiors that the paper on which I wrote my letter was the last piece of paper left in the office and that no further correspondence should be expected from me. Only then could I get some stationery, but I had to put up with lot of invectives.

The things have not changed. There is a Punjabi saying that the sweetness would be in proportion to the sugar you add. You get the police you deserve. The Communal problem in India is getting further worse as the governments are only resorting to verbal diarrhea. Transfer or suspension of police officers is no solution to the problem. It will only help further garbling the issue and will further mislead people. The unity of the country comes first and it mustn't be allowed to be sacrificed at the cost of vote Bank or appeasement politics. Government should realize that its actions speak louder than its words.

(The author is Senior IPS Officer, Retd.)

HYDERABAD'S HALL OF FAME

The list of police martyrs is countless and the gallantry endless...Every time there's a challenge, a new story of bravery is etched and at every road turn, there's a milestone of a martyr's sacrifice. The State capital of Hyderabad too has its share of martyrs.

ACP Sattaiah, on duty in the narrow bylanes of the riot-torn Old City of Hyderabad, fell to Quadeer's bullet. The blood that flowed out from supreme sacrifice added to the ochre of the skies at the dawn. That was December 12, 1990. A year later, brave ACP Krishnaprasad died battling dreaded terrorists. He breathed his last, but not before busting a whole terror module.



On 12, 2005, a powerful bomb explosion ripped through the office of the commissioner of the task force in Somajiguda, barely a 100 metres from the then Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy's official residence. Home Guard Satyanarayana, on duty at that fateful moment, died on the spot.

On May 18, 2009 home guard Balaswamy was on duty at Nagulabanda in the Old City. They were regulating the traffic and keeping peace. Suddenly, fanatic Viqaruddin and his accomplice came on a two-wheeler and fired indiscriminately. While constable Rajendraprasad suffered grievous injuries, Balaswami succumbed. Wily Viqar founded extremist organization Tehrik e Galba Islam and was fomenting communal tensions in the city.

On May 14, 2010, Viqar struck again, this time in Khilwat area of Old City. There was heavy police deployment in the Old City on the anniversary of Mecca Masjid Blasts. Constable Ramesh, a native of Madanapalle, was deployed at Khilwat. A masked Viqar came on a bike and fired at the police picket. While two of the constables had a providential escape, Ramesh wasn't lucky enough.



These are no mere names and the dates are no mere footnotes of history. They tell the story of the continuous saga of supreme sacrifice. Their memories should be perpetuated and their exploits should be told and retold for the posterity. The police martyrs commemoration day is a solemn occasion to recall their sacrifices and pay our humble homage.

Cops are not Extra Terrestrial



S.A. HUDA

A constable's job is that of a garbage man, keeping the streets clean while everyone else in the community throws all kinds of garbage - emotional, psychological, social, religious, political and economic-into it. If he is sweeping it under the carpet, then he is incompetent. If he is avoiding it, he is shirking his responsibility. If he is getting too much into it, he starts stinking.

Cops in the street toiling to steer clear the road of traffic congestion, trying to frisk travellers during an emergency situation, going to investigate a crime in your locality or keeping sentry of an important building - they make constabulary, the face Indian police.

The questions here are how they are being perceived by the general public and how pivotal are their roles in improving police-community relations? The constabulary, who according to the national average, constitutes 90 per cent of the police force, and therefore it is apparent that why I use the word 'pivotal'.

A man in the street, the most common denominator in the community, comes across the constabulary more often than the officers of the higher ranks who constitute the remaining 10 per cent. The community's perception, response and reaction to the police as an organisation depend on the common man's perception, response and reactions to the constabulary. As a result this vast body of men form, what is termed as the 'cutting edge' whether blunt or sharp, for the police-community relations. The kind of social strata they come from, their educational background, their promotional prospects in future, their induction process into the subculture, the years of service they have put in, their stay in one particular station and finally their slot in the social hierarchy, apart from other things, are important variables in their role conceptualisation.

The job of a constable is that of a garbage man, who is supposed to keep the streets clean while

everyone else in the community throws all kinds of garbage - emotional, psychological, social, religious, political and economic-into it. If he is sweeping it under the carpet, then he is incompetent. If he is avoiding it, he is shirking his responsibility. If he is getting too much into it, he starts stinking.

The constable has other extensions of his personality beyond the much flaunted stereotype of the "cop-robber syndrome". Psychologists see this as an extension of the eternal cop-thief game we all play in childhood. Just because a constable puts on a khaki uniform he does not become different from others in the community. He is not extra-terrestrial. He is part of it as someone's son, brother, husband and father. Being a constable, he plays only one role from a given set of roles.

A Delhi police constable when approached by this author as a student in a Delhi Transport Corporation Bus Stand near the Central Secretariat paid him his bus fare. A 'Bobby' in England helps a little girl by getting her cat from the tree top or lends a helping hand to a hapless husband take his wife writhing in labour pain to the hospital or points out the correct address to a stranger. Also Bobby helping blind men or old ladies cross the road is a common sight in the UK.

All these aspects of a constable's life should not be overlooked by the community when dealing with him. It came as a surprise when some responsible members of the community did feel that the 'blunt edge' is necessary for maintaining the law and order because the fear psychosis is one of the aspects of controlling the criminals and anti-social elements.

However, that should not become an end in itself.

Let every constable get the Principles of Police Conduct by heart and follow it scrupulously to establish a good rapport with the community.

Principles of Police Conduct

Police must respect and uphold the rights of the citizens as guaranteed by the Constitution of India.

They should enforce the law firmly and impartially without fear or favour, malice or vindictiveness.

They should recognise and respect the limitations of their powers and functions. They should not usurp or even seem to usurp the functions of the judiciary and sit in judgment on cases. Nor should they avenge individuals and punish the guilty.

In securing the observance of law and maintaining order they should use the methods of persuasion, advice and warning. Should these fail and application of force become inevitable, only the minimum required in the circumstances should be used.

They must recognise that they are members of the public with the only difference that in the interest of the community and on its behalf they are employed to give full time attention to duties which are normally incumbent on every citizen to perform.

They should realise that the efficient performance of their duties will depend on the extent of ready cooperation they receive from the public. This in turn will depend on their ability to secure public approval for their conduct and actions and to earn and retain public respect and confidence.

They should be sympathetic and considerate to all the people and should be constantly mindful of their welfare. They should always be ready to offer individual service and friendship and render necessary assistance to all without regard to their wealth or social standing.

They should always place duty before self, should remain calm and good humoured whatever be the danger or provocation and should be ready to sacrifice their lives in protecting those of others.

They should always be courteous and well mannered. They should be dependable and unattached, they should possess dignity and courage, and should cultivate character and the trust of the people.

The integrity of the highest order is the fundamental basis for the prestige of the police. Recognising this, they must keep their private lives scrupulously clean, develop self-restraint and be truthful and honest in thought and deed, in both personal and official lives, so that the public may regard them as exemplary citizens.

(The author is Senior IPS Officer, Retd.)



ZIA-UL-HAQ HONEST TO THE HILT

A DSP going to a wedding function on a bicycle, living in a house that is simple and unostentatious! That was Zia-ul-Haq, the Kunda DSP. Known for honesty, simplicity and without the trappings of the power that a police exudes, Zia had endeared himself to the people. People remember him for his honesty and simplicity.

Zia came from a very backward area of the state. His family was equally backward. Father was a factory labour and it was his toil that enabled Zia to become a police.

As a police officer, Zia soon became extremely popular with the people. He had endeared himself to everyone in Devaria and in his stint at Kunda too, which is part of UP strongman Raja Bhaiya's constituency, he won the hearts of the people. His simple ways and honest working style made him popular. It is exactly because of this that he had frequent run-ins with political biggies.

On March 2, 2013, the DSP came to know that there was unrest in Belipur village. There was arson and attacks by the supporters of local sarpanch Nanhe Yadav, who was slain by his rivals. Zia rushed his forces and went to the place. However, goons, supposedly close to the minister, attacked him, badly mutilated the body and shot him in the head and chest with his service revolver. The government came up with its template responses like "The government would come down heavily on the culprits and who so ever high and mighty found involved in the incident won't be spared." But, the people of Kunda stood up for their beloved DSP. They took out marches and organized protests. There were hartals. This unnerved the Government. It soon had to order an inquiry into the DSP's murder.

Heroes

Don't live for Eulogies!



DR. RS. PRAVEEN KUMAR

The only light of hope in the entire gloom was a band of few committed officers and men, who were willing to carry guns on one shoulder and coffin on the other. They always hid their pain with a veil of smile and salute. Are they not scared of death? May be not. They didn't appear like that. Only loyalty mattered for them. Where do we find such priceless loyalty?

*October is the holy month for all cops.
So I can afford to speak from my heart.*

I am not the one who had obsession to wear uniform in my early life. I joined police by chance, not by choice. There were moments, even when I regretted my decision. Strangely, the more I wanted to shed khaki, the stronger it stuck to my crust. This September, I have touched the milestone of 18th year in my expedition!

I had absolutely no idea about peaks and valleys in this mission while I was preparing for civil services or during training. Only the pride of being an IPS officer, carrying a gun, being saluted by people and other little perks kept me going initially. Honestly, I didn't have clear idea of the real purpose. Nor was I mature enough to search for meaning in life.

But, the cold-blooded massacre of 16 constables in a pre-dawn raid by the Maoist insurgents in Khammam district in 1997 made me realize how perilous is the world of policemen. It did not take much time to realize that leadership is not just an ornamental noun, but a verb loaded with massive responsibility. Was I cut out for this task? I wasn't sure.

I took a step back. This was not the life that I dreamt for, after a grueling preparation. None of the victims in the raid was my blood relative so as to seek vengeance. I could have led a comfortable life of scientist in the green houses without dying like these hapless men. Many such thoughts encircled me for quite a while. My trainer sensing my mood counseled me to not to waste this great opportunity. Instead work on "adapting to adversity" and "stay focused". May be his words had a deeper purpose. So I clung to khaki, unwillingly though.

It was during my tenure as Assistant Superintendent of Police in Bellampalli in Adilabad district that I was struck with blandness of the challenge, desolate terrain, and coupled with rickety atmosphere. But the incident of gruesome killing of constables, Seshaiiah and Sanjeeva Reddy in the market of Bellampalli by the killer squad of insurgents barely five minutes after they left my office deeply impacted my attitude towards my men. It was not the grief of their sudden death, but the resilience of the families that left me flummoxed. It gave me the access to the impermeable world of our constabulary. How is that these people are so spirited that even death is not able to distract them? Honestly, their resolve left me ashamed. These are not the men who are enthused by accelerated promotions or packets of cash reward we give them for 'good work'. There is something else. That curiosity made me burrow deeper.

In Warangal, another epicenter of conflict, I was maddened by the vengeance and violence that pervaded the myriad lanes, black granite boulder hills, and cotton fields. The only light of hope in the entire gloom was a band of few committed officers and men, who were willing to carry guns on one shoulder and coffin on the other. They always hid their pain with a veil of smile and salute. Are they not scared of death? May be not. They didn't appear like that. Only loyalty mattered for them. Where do we find such priceless loyalty?

I rarely cried after I grew as an adult. Policing further hardened my emotional identity. Even my father's death couldn't shake me, but death of my buddies like Sanjeev and Wesley in action suddenly demolished the iron wall I had built against such surge of emotions. What is common to all of us? May be the same tribal instinct of collective

MOTHER MAKES SUPREME SACRIFICE



Not just police, even police families made supreme sacrifices for the country. A case in point is Uma Maheshwari, mother of SI Dharmendra.

It was the deadly night of March 11, 2005 when marauding Maoists descended in drones on Chilakaluripet police station in Guntur. Dharmendra was high on Maoist target list. When they could not find him in the police station, the marauders laid a siege to his quarters. Dharmendra's mother Uma Maheshwari, wife and his children were at home. As deathly terror knocked the doors, Uma Maheshwari shut the doors quickly and rushed the children and daughter in law into the bed room. The Maoists initially tried to detonate the bedroom. When they couldn't, they tried to break the door open. But, Uma Maheshwari held the door tightly. Thinking Dharmendra was blocking, the Maoists fired indiscriminately at the door. One bullet pierced her chest. She fell down and lay lifeless in a pool of blood, but not before she saved the children and daughter-in-law. Dharmendra, who managed to escape from the Maoist attack, came to know of his mother's supreme sacrifice only the next day. But, he did not forget the call of duty even the hour of utmost grief. He first saluted his superior R Prasad, who too died in the dastardly attack. Then, he walked slowly to where his mother's mortal remains were kept. His hands quivering, whole body trembling and eyes raining inconsolable tears. As he saw his mother, Dharmendra broke down.

unconscious passes through all our neurons.

It is recklessly sadistic to hurl abuses at the policemen. More hurtful is hanging them to the hook for their 'turnout' and 'gait' everyday when there is deluge of fear all over. We should always ask ourselves when we take their salute, whether we deserve such selfless respect and unwavering loyalty. Salute is not a mere everyday gesture that can easily be ignored, even if one has no time. It is a live thread through which the trust shuttles at a lightening speed. Irrefutably, this trust is the core to the police conduct in society.

Similarly it takes no time to take potshots at policemen, but if one goes to their homes and takes a peek into their hearts, he would then understand the pain. Policemen deserve gallantry for facing every odd in their personal life. Congested accommodation in Erady type cubicles (thank goodness, they are now demolished!), children not doing well, wives turning neurotic, peer pressures, trying to be conformist in the subculture, unrealistic expectations from the families in the village, lack of social support, being on call always, staying in the ring, invasive media, crises and the endless list of woes afflict police life.

It takes no time to abuse policemen on the streets, in the tweets, and in the posts of Facebook. Let's not forget, for every hundred people who feel secure because of a policeman, one child in the police lines is robbed of his parental affection. Be cautious next time when you recklessly brand police children as 'spoiled lot'.

Every time you reach home early and your property is recovered intact or a murder case is detected, policeman runs the risk of death and divorce much earlier than all of us.

It is enigmatic to me, even today as to how men in uniform, jump into action despite being abused by everyone. May be it is a tribal instinct that is innate to the policemen to react to a dangerous stimulus. May be it is the faith that their bosses would take care if something goes wrong. Perhaps, this is the reason why we have more policemen willing to die on duty than any organized body of employees of the state in the world.

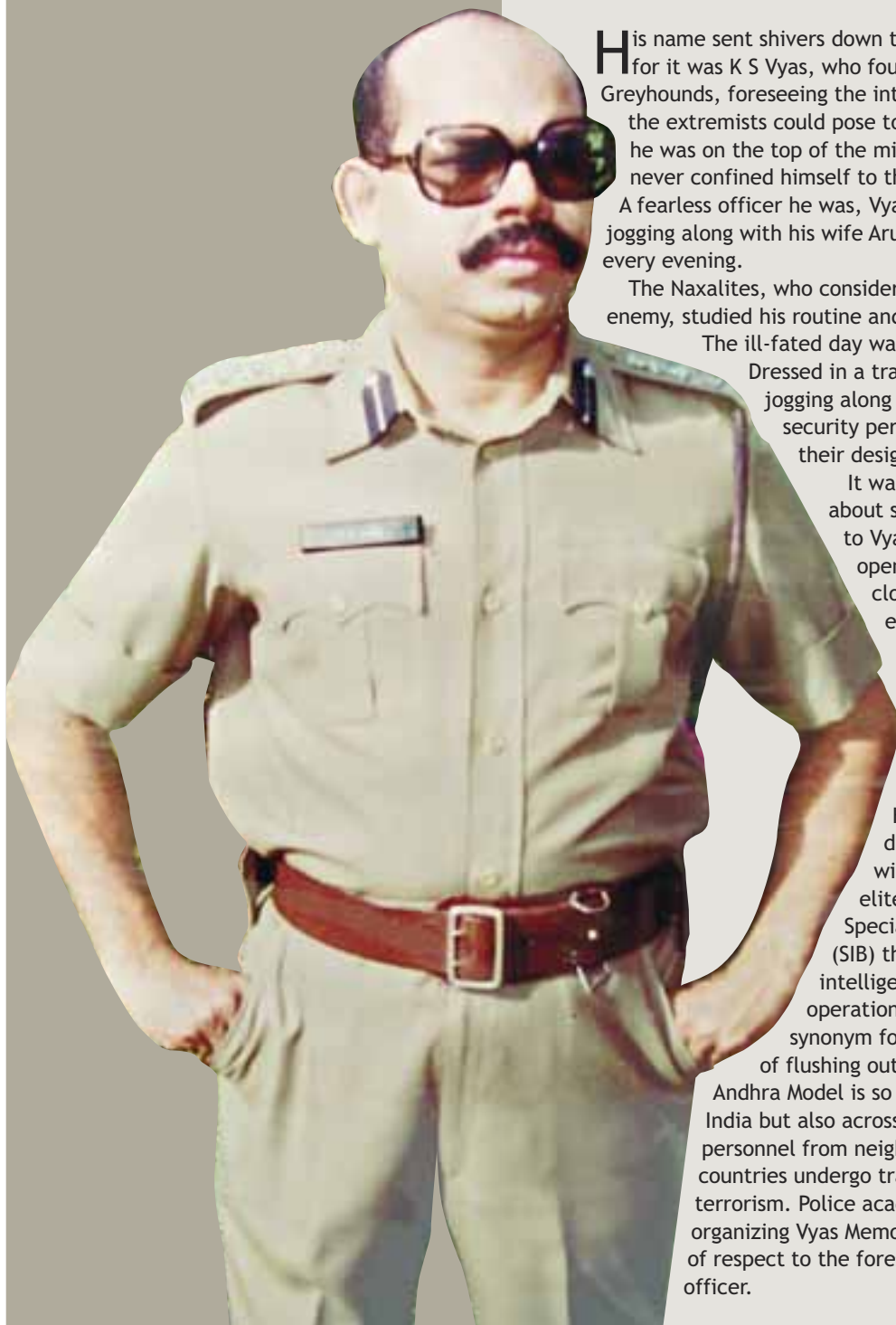
The phrase 'unsung heroes' sounds very weird to me.

Strangely, unlike many, policeman doesn't crave for any recognition. I took part in many funeral processions of policemen (including those ill-fated 36 who met watery grave in Balimela, Orissa) who died at the altar of duty. In every procession, sadly I found very thin civilian presence. Barring a few exceptions, no statues are erected for police martyrs and no streets are named after them. Even if it happens, it is only a police affair. Herman Goldstein, the famous police thinker says no free society is comfortable with the people who enforce law to safeguard its being. Police understands this axiom better than anyone. Not surprisingly, the police families are unfazed by this utter lack of concern of society. They simply digest the grief and localize it to "the lines". Shockingly, many ill-fated families do not even know why their sole breadwinners never returned to home again.

Heroes don't live for eulogies.

(The author is former Senior IPS Officer)

THE ROLE MODEL



His name sent shivers down the spines of Naxalites for it was K S Vyas, who founded the elite Greyhounds, foreseeing the internal security threat the extremists could pose to the society. Though he was on the top of the militants' hit list, Vyas never confined himself to the protected corridors. A fearless officer he was, Vyas used to go for jogging along with his wife Aruna Vyas in LB Stadium every evening.

The Naxalites, who considered him their bitter enemy, studied his routine and planned their assault.

The ill-fated day was January 27, 1993.

Dressed in a track suit, Vyas was jogging along with his wife while the security personnel were waiting at their designated place.

It was around 6.30 pm when about six persons came close to Vyas, surrounded him and opened fire from very close range. The extremists hurled a bomb while fleeing and used the commotion as a cover for safe escape.

Vyas was rushed to Osmania General Hospital where he was declared dead. Credited with setting up of the elite Greyhounds and Special Investigation Branch (SIB) that provided

intelligence support for the operations wing, Vyas became a synonym for the 'Andhra Model' of flushing out the Naxalites. Today,

Andhra Model is so popular not only in India but also across the world that police personnel from neighbouring states and countries undergo training in combating terrorism. Police academies have been organizing Vyas Memorial Lecture as a mark of respect to the foresighted and courageous officer.

A TRUE LEADER

Like a true leader, Young IPS Officer, Paradesi Naidu inspired his men by leading from the front. He joined in police service only six years ago and was aged just 30 years when he laid down his life in the line of duty



“Do not worry about me! See that our arms are safe. Fight them to the last man standing.... Do not let the enemy escape!”

These are the words of a true leader, who inspired his men in the face of death, to fight the Maoists. How brave and how courageous must be the man who ordered his men even as both his legs lay severed in a landmine blast and was bleeding profusely?

That was Paradesi Naidu, the first IPS officer in united Andhra Pradesh to make the supreme sacrifice while fighting anti-national forces.

It was November 14, 1993. Naidu, then Superintendent of Police of Mahbubnagar district, was coming back from Somasila after inspecting the RTC bus and the forest guesthouse that the Maoists had blasted earlier. Somasila is a river coast village in the thick of Nallamala forest, the stronghold of Maoists those days.

Senior police officers opine that given the situation, there was no need for him to make a personal visit to the Maoist attack site. In fact, he was advised not to do so. But, a courageous man he was, Naidu chose to visit the Maoist attack site because he wanted to boost the morale of the people as well as his own men. He is known to lead from the front.

Despite knowing the treacherous terrain and the foxy Maoist strategies, Paradesi Naidu decided to go to

the scene of offence himself. He hired a private bus to visit the attack site. But the village was strategically located and offered locational advantage to the Maoists.

As his convoy was returning, Maoists detonated a landmine critically wounding Naidu, DSP Narsing Rao and several others. Despite grievous injuries and severe blood loss, Naidu motivated his men to fight back. It was his motivation and guidance that made the police fight back the Maoists for over two hours. However, the enemy outnumbered Naidu's team. The Maoists opened indiscriminate fire after detonating the landmine targeting the private bus used by Naidu's team.

He fought till the end and later breathed his last. Besides Naidu, Sub-Inspectors A Shivaprasad, T Kishore Kumar, head constable MV Ranga Reddy, police constables Sheikh Haider, YVS Prasad, MD Jahab Iqbal, Jayaramulu and S Subhash were martyred in the fight. Bus driver Saleh Miyan too died in the dastardly attack.

Paradesi Naidu was the second son of justice G Ramanujulu Naidu. A gold medalist in MA (Economics) and a cricketer of repute, Naidu never shirked from responsibilities and always led from the front. Even while staring at a certain death he conducted himself like a true blue man in Khaki. His smiling face and friendly demeanor endeared everyone. His memories continue to linger long after he is physically gone.



O valiant hearts who to your glory came

Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;

Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,

Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

It was Thomas Jefferson who said that the tree of liberty must be watered by the blood of patriots. And the police have never lagged behind in making supreme sacrifices. A sniper waiting in dark, an ambush at the hairpin bend, a landmine waiting to explode or a grenade about to be hurled at.... The police have dared them all and braved it all. The martyrs etched stories of valour, courage and sacrifice with the blood surging from their gaping wounds.

IPS MARTYRS SUPREME SACRIFICE

Since Independence, a whopping 36,684 policemen died on call of duty. This year 191 policemen martyred throughout the nation. Every year, police personnel die fighting anti-socials, mafias, Naxals, terrorists and smugglers. Like in all other uniformed forces, even in the police department, several officers have made supreme sacrifices. The list of gallantry and bravery is long.

It begins with GS Arya, the 1950 cadre IPS officer from Uttar Pradesh, LB Sewa, a 1958 Assam-Meghalaya cadre officer, and K Panchapagesan, a 1974 batch officer. While Arya was IG of Mizoram, Sewa was DIG and Panchapagesan was SP. They were known for their derring-do. Together, they launched several successful offensives against the Mizo rebels and their names spelt terror for the insurgents. On January 13, 1975, a day before the Sankranti, terrorists in police uniform sneaked into the police conference room, where the three officers were holding a meeting. They shot the three officers from close range and felled them.

During the heights of the Khalistani terror, the Punjab police displayed exemplary valour. Many a police officer were felled by the terrorists. Avtar Singh Atwal, the Jalandar IGP. He was killed on April 25, 1983 while returning after prayer at the Golden temple. He was unarmed when the terrorists attacked him.

1982 batch IPS KRS Gill and 1979 batch officer AS Brar were killed by the Khalistani terrorists. These were highly motivated officers known for their courage and fearlessness. They were posted as SSP and Additional SP of Patiala respectively. On the fateful day of December 14, 1987, they were attacked while they were jogging. They were badly outnumbered and went down fighting.

Gobindran, who worked as an SP and successfully fought the Khalistanis, made the supreme sacrifice when a terrorist's bomb rocked his office. He was commandant of the 75th battalion of the Punjab Armed Police in Jalandhar.

Patiala SSP Sheetal Das was killed in a shootout with his ASI. The ASI was found to have links with the Khalistani terrorists. When he tried to arrest the ASI, the latter fired at him. In the shootout, Das suffered bleeding injuries and died, but not before killing the traitor.

Daulat Singh Negi, a dynamic officer known for his hugely successful operations against ULFA terrorists in Assam, is the next IPS to make the supreme sacrifice. He was SP of Dibrugarh. At that time Dibrugarh was terrorist infested. But, Negi was made of a sterner stuff. He was ambushed while returning from a raid. He went down fighting.

IPS officer AK Arora was adjudged best IPS probationer during this training. During his stint in



MAHESH M. BHAGAVAT, IPS

Jodhpur, he died due to a bomb explosion. He suffered grievous injuries on June 28, 1986 and was rushed to a hospital, where he was under treatment for almost a month. He died on July 7, 1986.

Ravikanth Singh was a bold officer who has successfully foiled many anti-national activities of the insurgents in Assam and had proved to be a thorn in their flesh. Singh was posted as S.P., Tinsukia. He was attacked by the insurgents while on the way to his office on May 16, 1996. He died fighting bravely.

Vedprakash, who was SP, Mokokchung of Nagaland was the prime target of NSCN ultras. He was attacked on August 26, 1994 while returning from his office. His two bodyguards and the driver also died in the mishap.

RN Hopingson was a dynamic officer known for his courageous operations against the extremists in the trouble-torn state of Manipur. He was killed in a surprise ambush on June 2, 1995.

Raman Prakash was a very courageous officer who never failed to take initiative in any task placed before him. He was posted as Addl.S.P., Panchmahal District, Godhra, when he was killed in an accidental bullet firing while conducting an operation meant to trap a man-eater panther that had been terrorizing the villagers. He was martyred on May 2, 1995.

DCP VK Mehta was a stickler for discipline. While being posted as DCP, Port Division, he responded to a clash between two communities at garden reach PS area of his division where a few incidents of bomb throwing and arson had been reported. To restore order, he himself was at the forefront in chasing the mob of miscreants. In the case, he and his security aid got separated from the others and later they were found dead on March 18, 1984.

Lohardaga SP Ajay Kumar Singh, a 1995 batch officer and Superintendent of Police Lohardaga district of undivided Bihar, laid down his life at the altar of duty in the ambush laid by Maoist Communist Centre ultras near Peshrar village in Lohardaga district on October 4, 2000. He was on a visit to Peshrar village where incident of firing by Naxalite was reported earlier. Acting on a tip-off, when he along with four Jawans

of Bihar Military police were approaching the scene in the Gypsy vehicle, a mine was blasted followed by ambush firing by the outlawed, eventually leading to martyrdom of Ajay. He is the first IPS officer who was slain in uniform while bravely confronting the ultras in Bihar state. He was known as a brave, courageous, upright and dutiful police officer. A product of Netrahat School and IIT Kharagpur, Ajay was a hardcore professional, extraordinarily devoted to his work and duty. At the same time he was a family man, very supporting and dutiful husband who got married to Anupam Saxena (IPS batch mate). His act of bravery is recognized by country by awarding him with President's Police Medal for Gallantry posthumously.

On 03-01-1991, as Superintendent of Police, Dhanbad, Randhir Prasad Verma got information about a bank dacoity being committed in the Bank of India branch of Dhanbad city. He immediately rushed to the spot and launched an operation against the dacoits. In the firing that ensued, he was fatally wounded and died on the spot. As a Police officer he eliminated many criminal gangs. He was posthumously awarded the gallantry award Ashok Chakra. The Government of India also issued a Commemorative postage stamp in his honour in 2004.

Vandana Malik: She is the first and the only woman IPS to attain martyrdom. A much admired officer even during probation days, she was ASP (under training) at Lamshang Police Station, Manipur. She was killed along with one constable Mangi in an ambush by the members of People Liberation Army (PLA) at Konthoujam Lamkhai on April 8, 1989. On the fateful day, officer-in-charge (OC) of Lamsang Police Station Vandana Malik and her team were heading to an examination centre of the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) on security duty. Around 3 pm, the suspected militants launched the ambush killing Miss Vandana Malik on the spot and injured four police constables critically. One sten-gun, one .38 revolver, two rifles and some ammunitions were taken away by the suspected militants after the incident.

Ajit Singh: He was extremely brave and dedicated officer renowned for his bold action against the terrorists. On May 8, 1991, he received information about an encounter in a village in Tarn Taran District. In the ensuing crossfire between the terrorists and the police he was badly injured but continued fighting. He later succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. He was DIG, Border Range, Amritsar at the time of his martyrdom.

Mohammed Amin Bhat: On February 2, 2004, terrorists, who claimed to belong to Save Kashmir Movement, fired upon Bhat, who was DIG, Crime and Railways at Barzulla. He was coming out of a mosque after Eid prayers. He was critically wounded and breathed his last at the hospital. Bhat was a

conscientious officer and was instrumental in reviving the intelligence unit during early 1990s. He was the first among the senior police officers to be killed in J and K. He was an experienced officer who had served the UN peace-keeping mission in Kosovo.

T. Thangthuam: This 1979 batch IPS officer was IGP Manipur. His convoy was ambushed at Oinam Bazar in Senapati district. Critically injured Thangthuam was admitted to a hospital, where he died on December 31, 2005.

KC Surendrababu was the SP of Munger in Bihar. He supervised anti-Naxal operations under Jamui police station and Kajra Railway station on January 4, 2005. While returning, the Naxals set off a landmine near Gangta killing Surendrababu, his bodyguard, driver and four other policemen on the spot.

Binodkumar Chowbey is the first SP rank officer from Chhattisgarh who became a martyr in the fight against the Naxals. He played a key role in smashing the urban network of the Maoists in Raipur and Bhilai.

He was SP of Rajanandgaon and worked tirelessly to fight the Maoists. On July 12, 2009, the Naxals ambushed his team near Madanwada and exploded landmines. Later, they opened fire. The police, under Chowbey's leadership returned the fire. But, 26 policemen, including Chowbey died fighting. He was awarded Kirti Chakra posthumously.

Young Narendra Kumar had launched a determined campaign against illegal mining in Morena region of Madhya Pradesh. As an ASP of the district, he led several operations against illegal miners. On March 8, 2012, he was run-over by a tractor while personally conducting an operation against criminals involved in illegal mining of sand stone.

Pakur district Superintendent of police Amarjit Baliyar and his four men died in a Maoist attack on July 2, 2013 in Damini forest of Jharkhand's Dumka District. Their convoy was attacked while returning from a security review meeting in Dumka, a divisional headquarter. A gun battle ensued between the police force and Naxals following the ambush, in which Baliyar went down fighting. Gallantry, courage, motivation, derring-do, fighting spirit The police forces of India have plenty of them. They have shown their mettle in more than one battle. They looked straight into death and laughed fearlessly. They died for our new dawn. Our heartfelt tributes to these great leaders, who led by example and put them in the line of fire first before their subordinates. It's time to honour the fallen. Salutes to the brave police officers!

(The author is Addl. DGP, L&O, Telangana)



VANDANA MALIK

IPS MARTYRS

NAME OF THE OFFICERS	BATCH	CADRE	DATE OF MARTYRDOM
G.S. ARYA	1950	UP	13-01-1975
L.B. SEWA	1958	AM	13-01-1975
K. PANCHPAGESAN	1974	UT	13-01-1975
A.S. ATWAL	1964	PUNJAB	25-04-1983
V.K. MEHTA	1972	WEST BENGAL	18-03-1984
A.K. ARORA	1984	RAJASTHAN	07-07-1986
K.R.S. GILL	1982	PUNJAB	14-12-1987
A.S. BRAR	1979	PUNJAB	14-12-1987
SITAL DASS	1976	PUNJAB	19-08-1988
VANDANA MALIK	1987	MT	08-04-1989
DAULAT SINGH NEGI	1976	AM	19-07-1990
R.P. VERMA	1974	BIHAR	03-01-1991
AJIT SINGH	EC-1968	PUNJAB	08-05-1991
GOBIND RAM	1975	PUNJAB	10-01-1991
K.S. VYAS	1974	AP	27-01-1993
G.P. NAIDU	1987	AP	14-11-1993
VED PRAKASH	1989	NAGALAND	26-08-1994
RAMAN PRAKASH	1990	GUJARAT	02-05-1995
R.N. HOPINGSON	1992	MT	02-06-1995
RAVI KANT SINGH	1987	AM	16-05-1996
C. UMESH CHANDRA	1991	AP	04-09-1999
AJAY KUMAR SING	1995	BIHAR	05-10-2000
Md Amin Bhat		J & K	02-02-2004
K.C. SURENDRA BABU	1997	BIHAR	05-01-2005
T. THANGTHUAM	1979	MT	31-12-2005
ASHOK M KAMTE	1989	MAH	26-11-2008
HEMANT KARKARE	1982	MAH	26-11-2008
Binod Kumar Coubey	1998	MP	12-07-2009
NARENDRA KUMAR	2009	MP	08-03-2012
Amarjit Baliyar	2003	Zarkhand	02-07-2013
Baljeet Singh	Non cadre SP	Punjab	27-07-2015



HEMANTH KARKARE, IPS 26/11 HERO

A 1982 batch IPS officer, Hemant Karkare was an engineering graduate from Vishveshvarayya Regional Engineering College in Nagpur. He chucked attractive jobs at National Productivity Council and Hindustan Lever for the rough and tumble of an IPS officer. Even during his initial days as an IPS officer, he showed rare spark and did not shirk away from arresting political leaders during 1993.

Karkare took over the investigation of the multi-crore shoe scandal and was also in charge of the narcotics division in Mumbai. He had also worked in Austria for seven years. He became the head of ATS in January 2008.

Karkare solved the serial bomb blasts in Thane, Vashi and Panvel. He also handled the July 2006 Mumbai local train blasts case. An art lover, he created over 150 wooden sculptures in Chandrapur during his stint there.

On the fateful day of November 26 when terrorists attacked Mumbai, he was about to sit for dinner when he got the news. A quintessential policeman that he was, he immediately rushed to the spot. With his comrades Ashok Kamte and Vijay Salaskar, he was in the thick of action moments later only to meet a heroic end. He shall forever remain an icon for Indian policemen and women.

UMESH CHANDRA, IPS

LIVES FOR EVER

For the people, he was like God. For fellow policemen, he was a source of inspiration, a picture-perfect of honesty and integrity. For his subordinates, he was never a boss but a leader most adored. For Naxals and anti-socials, he was terror incarnate. And all of this in a brief span of mere 33 years.

That was Chadalawada Umesh Chandra for you. For his countless admirers and subordinates, he was simply 'Umesh Sir.'

As one crosses, Sanjiva Reddy Nagar Crossroads, one finds Umesh Chandra in bronze standing upright, as if putting his best foot forward to go on call of duty. That was the very spot where this extraordinary cop fell to the Naxal bullets.

He was a policeman who raised the standards of police administration and was an exemplary officer known for his high degree of honesty, integrity and professionalism. Umesh Chandra was an exemplary cop who lived and died for the society. He was the embodiment of courage and quintessence of sincerity. A great leader, able manager, a pristine humanitarian and a person who believed work was worship, that is Umesh Chandra for you. In Kadapa, he tamed the wily factionists and in Karimnagar, he crushed the treacherous Naxals. Wherever he went, the people and police alike adored him.

During his stint in Warangal, he founded the Police Jagruthi Brundam to take on the Maoists misinformation through cultural events and folk art forms. Providing amenities to the policemen's families was very close to his heart and he always strove to ensure that his men were happy. The loyalty he commanded from his men was exemplary. His Kadapa days would also be remembered for the flood relief works that his men undertook under his able guidance.

Umesh Chandra struck terror in the hearts of the anti-national forces. Naxals found the going tough when Umesh Chandra was at the helm. He believed in taking the Naxals head on and used to be in the forefront of the campaigns.

It was September 5, 1999. That morning was like any other mornings and as ever, sprightly Umesh Chandra left for his office at about 10 AM. He was in his Maruti Van and his driver Satyanarayana and gunman Ramachandra Reddy accompanied him. Even as the van stopped at the red signal at Sanjeeva Reddy Nagar Crossroads, red terror did a deathly dance in broad day light. Brave Umesh, who was injured in the shootout, tried to come out of the vehicle and fight the killer Naxals. But it was already too late. His gunman Ramachandra Reddy and driver Satyanarayana followed their master in his final journey.

Born in 1966 in Pedapudi village of Guntur district, Umesh Chandra did his post-graduation in Osmania University. He joined the IPS in 1990. His encounters with the Naxals in Warangal and Karimnagar and his stint at Kadapa, showed his mettle. He was also instrumental in setting up of the police computer centre as the Assistant Inspector General. Married in 1994, he was blessed with a son.



SMILING COP.. AND SUPREME SACRIFICE

Searing and sweltering heat that was at its peak ahead of an impending monsoon...

It was May 29, 1991. The place was Rajavommangi in East Godavari district. DSP K Venkata Swami Goud was busy with some files in his office. There were some constables guarding his chamber and some more outside. The office was like a boiling cauldron due to the oppressive heat. A cool glass of water given by a constable was the best thing that could happen amid such heat.

Goud started to reach for his home. As he sat in his jeep, the phone rang from inside the office.

The DSP halted and scampered into his office to take the call. Every call is important in this Naxal-infested area and every small lead could help in making a major breakthrough. But as he was taking the call, colours changed in his face. The brow was furrowed and the pain was all too visible. The Naxals had set the huts of tribal constables in Lagarai village.

"We need to go to the village the next morning," he said as he left for the day. The morning next, the police team was ready for Lagarai. The cops were sullen and worried. The DSP was worried too thinking of the fate of the families of the cops from tribal groups. "Is tormenting poor tribals the revolution that the Maoists want to enact," he repeatedly asked himself.

He knew it was the Naxals, who perpetrated this heinous crime. The Naxals obviously did not want the tribals to get educated and join the police. The Naxals were worried that this could mean curtains for their activities. The jeep was forging ahead slowly and a bit cautiously. But, the DSP's mind was racing.



The vehicle crossed Nellimetla village and was going towards Rajavommangi. Driver Ramana is an expert driver and drives effortlessly causing little disturbance. He is the safest driver and DSP Goud doesn't tire saying this time and again. Suddenly there was a massive sound and an explosion. The vehicle was thrown into the air and it came down with a thud.

In moments, the unthinkable happened. The Naxals exploded a land mine and they were waiting in ambush. Both DSP Goud and Ramana lay lifeless in a pool of blood. Five more cops were injured too. The Naxals began incessant fire. Their plan was to kill all the cops and run away with their weapons. But, despite the injuries, the cops were ready to return the fire and they were fiercely determined to fight back.

Soon, the Naxals realized that discretion was better part of valour and scooted away. The policemen - RSI M Ravi Kumar, Constable Madan Mohan and Head Constable B Prabhakar not just foiled the Naxal attack, but also saved several precious lives.

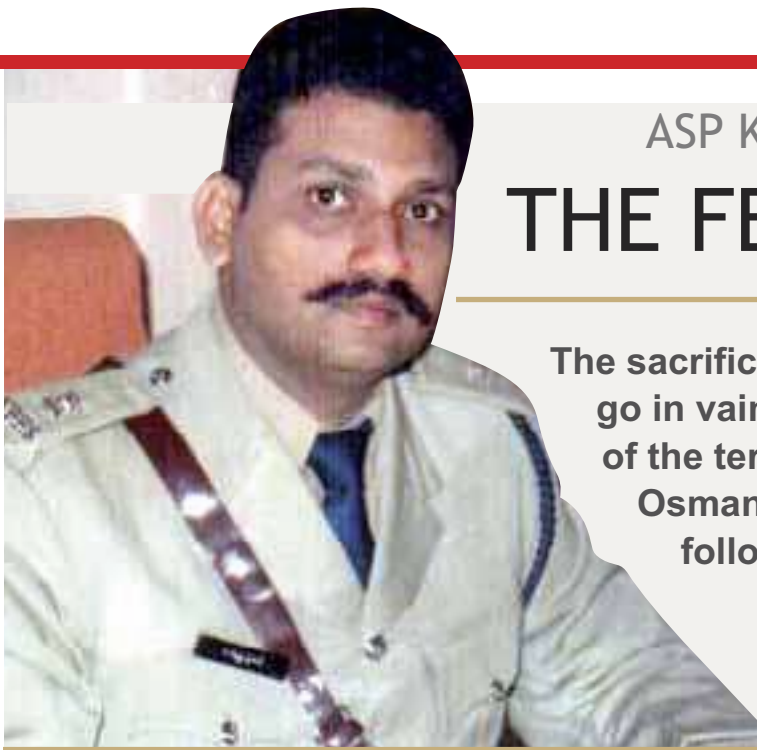
KV Goud came from a poor family



in Bakkem village of Veepanagandla mandal in Mahabubnagar. His father K Kishtaiah Goud was a toddy tapper. He studied in Rani Mahadevi college at Gadwal where he had a chance to meet IAS officer Krishnaiah and retired SP Seetaram Reddy. He was so deeply inspired by them that he had instantaneously decided to take Group I exams. As a probationary DSP in Proddatur of Kadapa district and as town DSP in Kadapa, he made a name for himself. In Kadapa, he busted fake note gangs and narcotics racket. In 1989, he joined the elite force Greyhounds and stood as a role model for all colleagues. He won accolades from officials and the people alike.

He played a stellar role in rescuing Congress leader P Sudheer Kumar from the clutches of Naxalites. He used arrested Naxalites as route guides and reached Brahmanapalle, where Sudheer Kumar was kept hostage.

The Government posthumously awarded him with President's police medal in 1996 and Chief Minister's Shourya Padak in 1997. Goud's greatest quality was to be able to smile through all vicissitudes. He never allowed the smile to eclipse from his face despite the troubles and tribulations. His colleagues still remember his wide-eyed grin.



ASP KRISHNAPRASAD

THE FEARLESS COP

The sacrifice of the two cops did not go in vain. The female associates of the terrorists, who also came to Osmania Hospital for treatment following injuries suffered in the police firing, were nabbed and the entire module was busted.

It was the morning of November 29, 1992 and colder days were just setting in. Additional Superintendent of Police Krishna Prasad was about to have breakfast when he received a phone call.

Despite being a diabetic, he decided to forego breakfast and left for office telling his wife that he has to go. Around 2 pm she called him up to enquire whether he had his grub. She also asked him whether he took medicines. Krishna Prasad replied in the affirmative and said he had an important assignment. He also told her that he might come home late.

The important assignment was to nab terrorists who were taking shelter in a hideout in Brindavan Colony in Tolichowki. The hideout was identified on the basis of the inputs given by two suspected terrorists nabbed a day before. He took his team to the hideout.

While few men were holding the nabbed terrorists that pointed at the hideout, Krishna Prasad and his gunman Venkateswar Rao knocked at the door. The terrorists, who were highly alert, sent their female associates to open the door. The female associates tried to prevent Krishna Prasad and his gunman from entering the house, to enable the terrorists load their automatic rifle.

The terrorists opened fire with AK-56 rifle towards the cops standing at the door. Head Constable Venkateswar Rao was the first to receive the bullet wounds and slumped down. Armed with just service revolver, Krishna Prasad returned the fire, while the women associates of the terrorists rushed out of the house raising false alarm.

Though his gunman fell to the bullets of the

terrorists, Krishna Prasad stepped inside the house with no second thought. The terrorists opened indiscriminate firing with the automatic rifle. Krishna Prasad went down fighting.

In the melee, the terrorists managed to escape, while other members of the police team rushed Krishna Prasad and Venkateswar Rao to Osmania Hospital where they were declared brought dead.

However, the sacrifice of the two cops did not go in vain. The female associates of the terrorists, who also came to Osmania Hospital for treatment following injuries suffered in the police firing, were nabbed and the entire module was busted.

Subsequent interrogation revealed the Pakistan's ISI sponsored terror module and that led to arrest of Mujeeb and encounter of another killer in exchange of fire with security personnel in Kashmir.

His life reflects the story of a brave, and duty conscious cop fighting extremists, mafia and terrorists. As part of his job, Krishna Prasad had to work in Nowgong and Tezpur districts of Assam when agitations were at peak.

Krishna Prasad was born on July 31, 1950 in Katuru Village, Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh. His father Gaddam Venkatappaiah worked as Inspector of Police while mother Venkata Subbayamma was a housewife.

He was active in NCC and sports when he was student. Poetry and photography were his hobbies. He was married to Janaki and blessed with daughter Deepthi and son Vivek. Unfortunately, his wife Janaki and daughter Deepthi succumbed to Corona virus in 2021.

KARANAM PRASAD

A HERO IN LIFE AND DEATH

He is a true hero, someone who believed in what he was fighting for. For him, it was country first, everything else next. In life and in death, Greyhounds inspector Karanam Varaprasada Rao displayed exemplary courage.

His team had broken the back of Maoists in the all-important Kanchala forest on the strategic Khammam-Chhattisgarh border in a shootout that lasted for well over three hours on April 18, 2013. Kanchala is close to Chintalnar, where the Maoists had killed 70 policemen in 2010.

Among the dead Naxals was Marri Ravi alias Sudhakar, secretary of Karimnagar-Khammam-Warangal (KKW) division, which controlled the key K-N area committee. The other Naxals were all members of the committee. The police recovered four self-loading rifles, one carbine, two 303 weapons, two Insas rifles, a country-made weapon, one pistol, a single bore barrel gun, three mobile phones, 10 memory cards and seven sim cards. The police, who had credible information that over 100 Naxals were camping in Tuvvarti village; launched a massive operation in the area.

It was a hugely successful operation and Karanam Prasad played a stellar role in it. As the Greyhounds were being evacuated in a helicopter, some Naxals, who were hiding began firing at it. The chopper made good its escape, but Karanam Varaprasad suffered grievous bullet injuries. He breathed his last in the forest region.

He lived a hero's life and died a hero's death. He is the only police officer to be martyred in AP this year. The Ashok Chakra was awarded posthumously for his valor, courageous and brave action.





GREYHOUNDS

An elite force that flushed out ultras



K RAJA SHIKHAMANI

One of the gravest threats to the internal security of the country, Maoist violence, has left the Union and state governments baffled. The Government of India has time and again admitted that Left wing Extremism is a huge menace that the country has been facing.

But the two Telugu states in the entire country - Telangana and Andhra Pradesh - have been able to chase away the Maoists. Its police force has been so successful in counter-Maoist activities that the outlaws have been flushed out of the state. They have fled to other parts of the country for survival.

The success story of the Police of the two Telugu states is also evident from the Union Government's offer to Maoist affected states of giving financial assistance if they replicate Greyhounds model. The Union Government's proposal clearly establishes the success of the elite Greyhounds in confronting Maoist menace.

But the success did not come overnight. The united Andhra Pradesh Police had to sacrifice hundreds of its personnel before chasing out the Maoists. For decades since 1960s, the Maoists, better known as Naxalites, ruled the countryside amidst fickle and frail government policies.

The local police were not trained to tackle the armed guerrillas functioning in the garb of an ideology. The front organisations used several forums including the media to show the anti-Naxalite operations in bad light. Also, since the local police could not handle the Naxal menace, people lost confidence in the law enforcement agency.

It was during this period, IPS officer K S Vyas came up with the idea of starting a specialized force to deal with the critical situation. It was in 1989, steps were taken to start Greyhounds. Even before the specialized force began its operations, some people tried to abolish it at the behest of Naxalites. As a result, the name of Greyhounds was changed to Special Security Force (SSF) and its services were utilised for various other purposes.

The talks held with Naxalites during this period failed and the outlaws resorted to mindless violence. It was only then the significance of a specialized force was realised and the SSF was again renamed as Greyhounds. And Greyhounds was assigned with the exclusive task of fighting Naxalites.

Meanwhile, in an unfortunate turn of events, the founder of Greyhounds, Vyas was assassinated by the

Naxalites when he was jogging at the LB Stadium along with his wife Aruna Vyas on January 27, 1993. Incidentally, Vyas was the first IPS officer to be killed by Naxalites.

However, Greyhounds continued its fight against Naxalites with the inspiration drawn from the sacrifice made by Vyas and achieved success.

But the success was not merely because of the armed power. Behind the success of the elite unit is the toil of intelligence wing. There is no use of having any number of commandos with sophisticated weapons when they are not given the targets to shoot.

It is the intelligence wing that worked hard round the clock for almost two decades to zero in on the hide outs of Naxalites. Today, Police of the two Telugu states know every development of Maoists on the ground irrespective of the state borders, thanks to its intelligence network and technological advancements. But, Police of the two Telugu states will not cross their limits and operate in their own borders.

The Greyhounds does not recruit personnel directly. It only takes personnel on deputation from other units such as Telangana Special Police (TSP), Andhra Pradesh Special Police (APSP) and District Armed Reserve wings of the local police after testing their strengths. The paramilitary force of the two states, i.e. TSP and APSP, are the main feeding units for the Greyhounds.

The selected personnel aged less than 25 years would be given commando training to fight Maoists in the thick jungles. The Greyhounds training is very tough and very effective that even paramilitary forces, police forces from other states and even neighbouring countries are sending select personnel for training at the Greyhounds academy.

The Greyhounds commandos are deployed in jungles after analyzing the intelligence inputs and in perfect coordination with the district police units to function through local police in specific situations.

The gallant organization has been making enormous sacrifices. Despite tough training, its commandos face various health problems, particularly viral fevers and knee joint pains because of the terrain in which they work.

Dozens of Greyhounds personnel were killed in the line of duty so far. Of this, 36 personnel were killed in just one incident at Balimela, in the state of Odisha. A local police officer failed to keep the movement of the Greyhounds unit a secret resulting in the great loss. The inefficiency of the local police officer made a huge damage for the elite unit.

Eight years later, the Greyhounds teams avenged the killing of their comrades in an encounter near Balimela Reservoir killing 24 Maoists including two state committee members. Ever since, Greyhounds commandos worked hard with reignited dedication and flushed out the ultras from the Telugu states. It is not an exaggeration to say that the name Greyhounds sends shivers down the spine of the Maoists.

(The author is S.P.,Retd.)

BALIMELA MARTYRS



Sacrifices dot the Battle against Left Wing Terrorism

introduction of technology by the police department in the communication field that has caused the turnaround, helping in establishment of a peaceful Telangana State leading to the decline of the Maoist movement



V. NAVEENCHAND

On a cold night on the 1st of March, 1989, two police constables Somaraj and Rahman Khan were performing night beat duty on Phullong Bridge in Nizamabad Town. They stopped a rickshaw and wanted to search a young man's bag. They asked his name and wanted to frisk the bag. The young man said: So you want to see what is there in this bag" and in a giffy whipped out a 9MM Pistol and fired at them. While Somaraj died on the spot, Rehman Khan was grievously injured.

As a young Deputy Superintendent of Police of Nizamabad Sub Division, I reached the spot immediately and shifted the profusely bleeding Rehman Khan to the District Headquarters Hospital and Somaraj to the Hospital Mortuary. Mercifully, Rehman Khan recovered after two months of treatment, but Somajar's family lost its sole breadwinner. After a few days Donta Markandeya alias Shankar, District Committee Secretary, Nizamabad, issued a statement claiming that it was he who shot Somaraj and injured Rehman Khan. He mocked at the Police Department for not carrying sophisticated firearms. He said the cops had pestered him with questions and that they 'got what they deserved.' He warned that all the officers who were harassing



Somaraju

the people during night duty would meet with similar fate. A few months ago while under practical training in Vishakapatnam District, I was taught that while on beat duty the police personnel should always check bags, baggages of suspicious persons as house breaking tools can be easily hidden in the clothing. It was clear to me that the victims Somaraj and Rehman Khan were suspecting the stranger to be carrying such instruments and wanted him to show what was inside the bag. Further it was clear to me that Nizamabad town is as vulnerable for the cops on duty as the other extremist-affected areas in the district.

There was a spike in Left wing extremist violence in the late '80s' in the North Telangana district of Nizamabad. As the CPI-ML Peoples war declared Telangana to be a struggle zone, instances of attacks on police personnel showed a marked increase. In a struggle zone, it was essential for the Peoples War cadre to keep up the morale by regularly killing police persons. This would demoralize the State forces and establish the supremacy of the armed militant dalams in the countryside.

The fight against Left wing

extremists has been long and hard and it is one tenacity of Telangana Police, their preparedness for the supreme sacrifice, quality of leadership on the field, political will, establishment of specialized forces, superior training and firepower, and most importantly, rejection of the ideology of violence and hatred, well-framed surrender and rehabilitation policy, better transport systems and introduction of technology by the police department in the communication field that has caused the turnaround, helping in establishment of a peaceful Telangana State leading to the decline of the Maoist movement.

A few months earlier an armed dalam of CPI-ML Peoples war caught police constable MD. Qutbuddin from Pallikonda village under Bheemgal police station limits, tied him to an electrical pole in the heart of the village, shot him dead in broad day light in the presence of the villagers despite their repeated requests to spare him. Qutbuddin had gone to the village to meet a relative. The dalam labeled him as a special party Police Constable, Gunman of the then Sub Inspector, SK. Junnoo and brutally killed him. The only mistake committed by the constable was to visit his relatives in an extremist-



Qutbuddin

AFZAL'S SACRIFICE DOES NOT GO IN VAIN

Fourty Kilometers from Hyderabad, Rachakonda was once the heaven of Naxalites. The Rachakonda Dalam was a dreaded group that terrorized people at will. The name spelt fear. While the Naxal activity was at its peak, four young, sprightly constables decided to take the Goliath head-on. The assiduously worked to create awareness about the perils of Naxalism.

Naturally, this wasn't to the liking of the extremists. They did not like anyone to challenge their might. So they hatched a plan to attack the quartet.

Accordingly, they conducted recce of the weekly shantie at Choutuppal, where the four youths often frequented in their rented house. They fixed February 27, 2000 as the day to eliminate them.



However, three other members of the group were out of station on that fateful day. Only Afzal was in town. The Naxals, who lay in wait for Afzal, waited for his to come out of his room in Survel Road and sit on his motor vehicle. It was around 6.30 PM. At that instant, they pounced on him and sprayed bullets. As many as 20 rounds were fired from the stengun and the pistol that the Naxals carried. Afzal slumped down and died on the spot. Afzal is no more, but his ideals continue to live. The Naxals have been flushed out of the area and they find that they are no longer welcome in the area. Afzal's sacrifice did not go in vain.

affected area. The Telangana Police Department suffered serious casualties during the Left Wing terror movement from 1978 to 2007. Several bravehearts gave their lives in the line of duty. We salute them for the supreme sacrifices made by them.

For the CPI-ML Peoples War, later renamed as CPI Maoist party, the reason for killing the policeman was to ensure their supremacy. It was the Policemen who challenged the Maoists in the hinterlands of Telangana. In this Low Intensity Conflict, the general public which initially supported the extremists due to the ideological pull, had turned against the mindless violence unleashed by the Maoists.

In due course, this change in attitude turned the tide in favour of the police department when information about dalam movement started flowing regularly to the police, thanks again to the selfless work of the Police Constabulary. In Medak district, a militant was brutally beaten by a Maoist dalam for not repaying debts. A Special branch Constable befriended the militant and a successful operation was conducted against the dalam that was taking shelter in the house of the village sarpanch. There are several such successful operations that made the top leadership of Maoists to leave Telangana, once their strong-hold.

While the results in anti-extremist operations came later, the loss of life suffered by Telangana Police forces was considerable. The Left Wing extremists used landmines to kill scores of Police officers and men. Bold officers were targeted and killed in full public view to serve as a deterrent to other officers. Other humble cops on routine duties were killed without compunction by the Maoists.

Over a period of time the tactics of not reaching a so called scene of crime by Police, using villagers at times as human shields, the concept of road-opening parties, checking of culverts and bridges paid dividends and police casualties showed a declining trend.

Operationally, the policy of targeting senior Maoist leadership has hit the Left Wing Extremists the hardest, giving a respite to the Telangana Police for planning new and more effective policies. By means of better interstate co-operation, advanced technology, intelligence-based operations, the so called dreaded Action Teams could be neutralized.

The concept of Action Team was devised by the Maoist leadership as a sure-shot reprisal mechanism against high-ranking political leadership and senior police officers. So, it is important to work on the weaknesses in the system to save the lives of the protectees.

(The author is Senior IPS Officer, Retd., Telangana)



GOPI REDDY YEDULA

Close Encounter with Death

Normally, evenings in a police station are relatively more relaxed. The cops let down their hair and stretch a bit. But, that evening was different. It was 13 years ago, but seems just yesterday for me!

The relative calm in Tirumalgiri police station was shattered when Naxals descended on it all guns blazing. A hail of bullets, intermittent grenade blasts and a barrage of invectives pierced what was to be a quiet evening. Located on Warangal-Nalgonda border, the station was on Naxal radar for quite sometime.

The Naxals had their plan ready. Darkness slowly descended as sun, on guard all through the day, was readying up to retire beyond the hills on the western horizon. The Naxals moved in surreptitiously. Their first target was the electric transformer. Moments later, the village was wrapped in pitch darkness. Before the cops on duty at the police station could realize, death befell on them. Bullets were whizzing past. The cops inside were terrified and confused. It was at this stage that our superiors decided to go to the rescue of the beleaguered friends caught in a Naxal assault. The brave officer led from the front. In about 20 minutes the reinforcements reached the ground zero. I was part of the team.

We crept ahead. We were a mere 100 metres from the police station under assault. It was pitch darkness disrupted by intermittent sparks from the firing from both sides. We realized the police station was under siege from all directions. Some Naxals were sniping from atop of a nearby hostel building. As I crept ahead, I suddenly found something sticky, gummy on the ground. I closely held a torch towards that direction. I was careful enough to ensure that the beam of light did not give away my position to the enemy. In the light, I saw it was blood. Close by, someone lay dead! I did not know whether it was a cop or a Naxal.

Could there be many more lying dead? That very thought sent a chill through my spine. I realized I was getting closer to death. I suddenly charged ahead screaming and shrieking, firing bullets at the invisible enemy. We battled for one hour. But, it seemed eternity.

The guns fell silent an hour later. The enemy may have retreated, I felt. I was able to hear frantic shrieks from the roof of the police station. We called out the names of the police personnel inside the station. Initially, the cops inside were apprehensive. But, they soon realized we were friends. The police rushed into the station from all directions. Bullet pouches tied to the waist, guns in hand and helmets on head, their faces were red with rage. Anger was all-pervading. They wanted revenge and retribution on the Maoist marauders. The scene inside the police station was like a battle field. Sharpneds, pieces of glass and other things were strewn all around. An unexploded grenade gaped at the terrified police personnel.

In a corner, a constable was found dead. He was shot while taking aim. His death, I presumed, was sudden and swift. Another constable lay dead on the stair. We went around the station taking stock of the situation and estimating the losses. From the roof guard's position, we saw the body of a Naxal lying on the foreground of the police station. We went close to the body and beamed our torch lights at it!

It was a woman Naxal. A gun was lying by the side of the lifeless Naxal. Her hands clutched a fuse wire. The police bullet pierced through her head while she was trying to fix a mine.

Had the mine been blasted? I shuddered at the very thought. At least 15 cops would have died. Would she have realized her socialist dream if the cops were killed?

There was no room for emotions, no time for sentiments. We began sanitizing the area, organizing searches, taking up frisking, cordoning of areas and looking for the Naxals. For us, the police engaged in fighting the anti-national forces, life is a walk through a veritable mine field, with a hail of bullets welcoming us. We march on regardless!

Years after Tirumalgiri attack, I still hear the frantic shrieks, feel bullets raining all around and the deafening sound of explosions just a few paces away as if in a nightmare.

(The author is President, Telangana Police Association)



Bademiya and Sriram Reddy

A SON REMINISCES ABOUT HIS BRAVE FATHER

“Beta... We are here to protect the lives of the civilians. If we worry about our own life, how will we be able to save their lives? How can we discharge our duties fearlessly?”

These were the words that Buchi Reddy uttered when his son asked him about Naxal threat to his life. And when the crunch time came, Buchi Reddy was not found wanting. He took the Maoist bullets on the chest and breathed his last in the camp office.

“That was November 6, 1986. It was about 8.45 PM. The Naxals attacked my father in a stealthy way,” recalls Buchi Reddy’s son Ashok Reddy.

Buchi Reddy hailed from a family of farmers that had little education, but gave a portion of their home to house a primary school. He did his post-graduation before joining the police.

“My father was a conscientious police officer. He was always posted in sensitive areas and was



Late Buchi Reddy

never found wanting in the discharge of his duties. He was always known as a tough officer,” Ashok Reddy recalls.

“When criminals were arrested, he used to first counsel them. He used to explain to them what would befall on their families. This brought a change in the criminals. Many of them shunned the wrong path and got reformed,” says Ashok Reddy.

As Peddapalli DSP, he had fought the Naxal violence. He eliminated 11 Naxalites, five of them eliminated in one shootout. “My father’s driver

used to alert us about the lurking danger of Naxal attack. But, my father always brushed those threats aside. For him, call of duty was more important than his own life,” says Ashok Reddy.

Buchi Reddy was born at Faizabad in Medak district on June 2, 1934 and died on November 6, 1986. In between, he led a life of dedication, dexterity and determination.





The Saviours of Parliament

It was the most dastardly attack. The highest seat of Indian authority, symbol of its sovereignty and the temple of the democracy was under attack on 13 December 2001. It was a day when darkness of terror descended on Indian Parliament. But, it was also the time when security personnel on duty lit up the lamps of courage by burning their lives.

Five terrorists tried to bulldoze their way into Parliament. They rammed the car of Vice-President Krishnakanth, got out and began firing indiscriminately. CRPF jawan Kamlesh Kumari, who was posted at Iron Gate No 1, just next to Building Gate No 11, the main entrance for VVIPs coming to Parliament, was the first to notice them. At around 11.40 AM, she heard gunshots and grenade blasts. Kamlesh wasn't armed to fight anyone, least of all terrorists on a suicide mission. Despite this, she did not waver from her duty. She ran towards the main gate and shut it. The terrorists shot her killing on the spot. Eleven bullets struck her in the belly killing her instantaneously. She died but her alertness ensured that the terrorists' design stood completely foiled.

The security personnel on duty shot dead the terrorists in a gun fight that lasted more than an hour. But, this success was not without its price. Five policemen, a Parliament security guard, and a gardener were killed, and 18 others were injured. But, not one of our MPs and leaders were allowed to be attacked. Today, while Afzal Guru is a pseudo-secular icon and peons are sung to him, martyrs like Kamlesh Kumari and others are consigned to be mere footnotes in the long history of terrorism in India.



MEMORY OF MEDAK MARTYRS

The blood stains still remain and so does the pain of losing the beloved ones. The people of Medak still recall the police martyrs who fell to Maoist bullets in the district. The attacks on the police stations in Papannapet and the police convoy in Shivvampet still rankle the people of the district.



From left: Habid Hussain, Prasad, Raghunandan, Narsimhulu and Ramchandrar

Martyrdom at Papannapet

Like Shivvampet, the police blood was also spilled in another incident. This martyrdom that shook the people's conscience is that attack in Papannapet. It was the night before the Vinayak Chaviti on September 13, 1999. The clock showed it was 1.10 AM. Everyone was fast asleep. The Naxal marauders chose to attack the police at that ungodly hour. Some 70 armed Naxals attacked the police station. They felled down sentry Prasad and shot head constable Raghunandan, constables Ramchandrar, Narsimlu and Abid Hussain. SI Sattaiah had a providential escape. The people erected a memorial for the slain policemen. But, these lives were not sacrificed in vain. Today, the Maoist movement is all but dead in Medak. Relentless pursuit by the police personnel has ensured that the Maoist movement has all but disappeared from Medak. The people of Medak live peaceful and secure lives thanks to the sacrifices of police personnel.

Pillutla Martyrs:

On November 16, 1997, the Maoists laid a death trap for the police through the jungle routes of Pillutla. They lured the police into their trap by detonating the house of TDP leader Gopal Reddy. The police led by Toopran DSP Balasubrahmanyam visited the village the next day. He was accompanied by CI Venkat Swamy, SB Zamadar Pentaiah, 12 constables, locals Narsimha Reddy, Mutyalu, Nagireddy, Padmaiah and Venkatesh. They decided against going in a vehicle and went on foot as a precautionary measure. But, the Maoists blasted the landmine as they reached a culvert en route. The DSP, CI, head constable Pentaiah, constables Laxman, Srinivas, Shujat Ali and local guide Narsimha Reddy died on the spot. The incident sparked an outrage and the public at large condemned the Naxals for the dastardly attack. Sixteen years after the attack, the people still recall the martyrdom. A statue of Balasubrahmanyam was installed in Toopran. On every November 17 and October 21, their sacrifice is recalled.



From left: Balasubrahmanyam, DSP, Venkataswami, CI, Pentaiah, HC, Constables Laxman and Sujayat Ali

The Martyrs of Karakagudem land mine blast (1997)



As many as 16 policemen and two civilians were killed when Maoists blew up Karakagudem police station in Khammam district on January 10, 1997. Maoists raided the police station, opened fire at policemen. Later, they blew up the building and took away over 30 weapons.

Freedom was Earned with Courage, Sacrifice, and Dreams. Let's honor the Legacy.

100 HEROES of INDIA

THE TALE OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE



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