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When Country Walks Extra Mile For the Betterment of Families of Martyr

Generally, the Country's administrative service comes in line of criticism for bureaucratic procedures and red tapism. This time, the Country's third pillar of democracy has significantly shouldered its responsibility and took a voluntary initiative wherein the Indian Administrative Service Association (IASA) members, comprised of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers, will be adopting the families of the martyrs to ensure that the children of the martyrs get quality education. The officers will not be required to provide any direct financial assistance to the adopted family, but support its members on a sustained basis. Members of the family will of course receive timely financial assistance also under the government's compensatory policy. With this, the family will live with a sense of security and assurance that the country is taking care of them in hour of crisis and tragedy.

Under this program, nearly 600-700 young officers of the past four batches of the IAS (2012-2015) will be asked to adopt at least one family in the area of their posting. At this stage, the young officer of rank Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Additional Divisional Magistrate or District Magistrate level officers will approach the families of martyrs who belong to their areas of posting. They will act as facilitators to help the families get their dues like pension, gratuity, or allotment of services like gas agency, petrol pump, jobs etc. and assist their wards to get admission in schools and colleges. If desired by the family of the martyr, the officer can facilitate training of the wards in specific skills under the government's Skill India or Digital India programs. If the dependent family members of the martyr are interested in starting a business or a start-up, the IAS officers will help them out through financial



institutions. Other officers, or those officers from state civil services, can also adopt such families voluntarily.

In this direction, the IASA has requested the central government to issue the necessary instruction to institutionalise this mechanism at the earliest. The Association is already in contact with the state government to seek the details of martyrs and their families residing in their state. Such details will also be sought from the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Affairs about martyrs from armed forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). This is a 'make a difference' initiative by the IAS officers to energise the established administrative machinery and help the families of martyred soldiers in an effective and sustained manner.

The Association passed the requisite resolution at an Annual General Body meeting which concluded on 29th April, 2017 at Hyderabad. Interestingly, Telangana was the first State to adopt the resolution on 27th April, 2017 after the Indian Civil and Administrative Service (Central) Association, New Delhi, decided to adopt a family of the martyred soldiers and police forces.

Along with the administrative officers, other responsible citizens of the country have also offered to shoulder responsibility towards the families of Martyrs. Film Star Akshay Kumar donated Rs. 9,00,000/- to each of the families of the twelve Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) men who were martyred in an ambush in Sukma, Chhattisgarh, on the morning of March 11, 2017. Soon after the incident, Akshay Kumar approached the Union Home Ministry and requested for the bank account numbers of the family members of the martyrs and transferred the amount on March 16, 2017. Similarly, on April 28, 2017, the former Indian Cricket Captain Gautam Gambhir announced that Gautam Gambhir Foundation will bear the educational expenses of the children of 25 CRPF personnel killed in a recent attack on CRPF by Naxals on April 24, 2017 in Sukma district of Chattisgarh. The Foundation has already initiated steps in this direction and is committed to take care of the educational expenses of the wards of these martyrs.



For the welfare of the families of men and officers from the armed forces and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), both Central and State governments have provided various kinds of assistance and support. In this direction, volunteer initiative by the IAS officials and responsible citizens of the country uphold the national interests and contribute to the relief of the families in their hours of crisis. Such noble initiatives will also ensure that the families of the security personnel may live with a sense of security and assurance that the country is taking care of them. With better access to education and quality life, this initiative will provide them with the necessary environment to recover and develop in their respective fields of choice.



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