

13th Veeranna Aivalli Memorial Debate 2014 (November 08, 2014)

Welcome Address by Ashok Bhan, Chairman, J&K Regional Branch IIPA

Respected Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu Prof R D Sharma, our Chief Guest this afternoon Additional Director General of Police Dr S.P.Vaid, Smt Swarna Aivalli, Shri M.M.Khajooria, former DGP, Shri A.C.Chaturvedi, former DGP, Shri Kuldeep Khoda CVC and former DGP, Addl DGP Shri V.K.Singh, former IGP Shri O.N.Koul, Dean students Welfare Prof P.K.Srivastava, panel of Judges, Rapporteurs, esteemed Guests including Senior serving and retired Officers of J&K Police, members of the IIPA and academia, participating students, media persons, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have great pleasure to rise once again to extend you a very warm welcome for the 13th time in as many years on the prize distribution function of annual Veeranna Aivalli Memorial Debate which symbolizes the healthy bonds between Academia and the practitioners of public administration more precisely between faculty and students of Jammu University and affiliated colleges and Jammu and Kashmir Police with IIPA providing the platform for this strong relationship. Organized jointly by the J&K Regional Branch of IIPA and DSW University of Jammu this program has become a landmark event in the calendars of J&K Police, University of Jammu and the IIPA.

Successive Vice Chancellors of the University Prof R.R.Sharma, Prof Amitabh Mattoo, Prof Varun Sahni, Prof MPS Isher and now the present incumbent Prof R D Sharma have patronized the Regional Branch and helped strengthen bonds of partnership with the Public Administrators. What is more satisfying today is that Prof R D Sharma, the new Vice Chancellor is himself part of the IIPA family being a very

senior member of the organization. As DSW you have been very kind in helping us establish this event on a firm footing. The building and the seminar hall that IIPA owns today on a piece of land provided by the University of Jammu is also a result of this relationship. I welcome Prof R D Sharma, Vice Chancellor on this occasion.

I would like to complement from this platform faculty members of Business School, Law School, Political Science, Distance Education and Sociology in particular for regularly contributing in our capacity building programs. There is a sizeable presence of Academia from University of Jammu in our Executive Committee and key positions of Director Seminars Prof Alka Sharma, Jt Director Seminars Dr Komal nagar and Jt Secretary (Jammu) Dr Anil Gupta are all faculty members of the University. And let me say that they have been contributing enormously to the growth of the IIPA. I also want to put on record contributions earlier of Shri Attri and now of Shri Kulbhushan and their team of DSW in making this event a success during the past 13 years.

I welcome the faculty and students of the University to this function. Their presence symbolizes the police-academia-civil society synergy to discuss and debate some of the burning issues that the Indian state faces today. This healthy interaction does generate ideas for implementation by the practitioners of public administration.

Shri Veeranna Aivalli, founder architect of the Branch in whose memory we organize this Debate, would have been much pleased with this level of cooperation. It was his vision and due to his efforts that some of the best known academicians of both Universities of Jammu and Kashmir became members of IIPA. I pray and hope that this relationship grows and both academia and the public administration in the state benefits from it.

It was the Indian Police Service that brought Shri Veeranna Aivalli to Jammu and Kashmir from Dharwad in Karnataka where he was born and brought up. A 1966 batch IPS officer of J&K cadre he never looked back and made Jammu and Kashmir a new home. He was a great organizer and could see much ahead of his times. He was the brain behind establishing the J&K Regional Branch of Indian Institute of Public Administration and served as Honorary Secretary of the Branch for nearly two decades from its inception in 1979. He was dedicated to ideals of ethics in administration and good governance and created the Branch to spread this message.

A number of Police Officers and public administrators including IAS, IFS, KAS and KPS Officers and Engineers in particular got attracted to the fold of the IIPA courtesy Shri Aivalli who was held in great esteem in Government circles.

Jammu and Kashmir Police always played a pivotal role in fructifying dreams of Shri Aivalli during his lifetime and later when he suddenly passed away in harness in August 2002 as Chief of Country's Civil Aviation Security. Successive Directors General of Police Shri Gopal Sharma, Shri Kuldeep Khoda, Shri Ashok Prasad and the current incumbent Shri K. Rajinder Kumar have patronized this memorial function for the last 13 years. Top serving and retired Police Officers and admirers of Shri Aivalli and their spouses have been very gracious in sparing time every year to be here in his memory. I extend my gratitude and those of my colleagues in IIPA to you all. You have been a pillar of strength to us in this event as also a number of other programs that IIPA organizes. I welcome all my erstwhile colleagues from Jammu and Kashmir Police and their lady wives for being with us today.

Today we have with us a bright star of the Jammu and Kashmir Police as our Chief Guest. Dr S P Vaid is no stranger to the people of the State. He has won laurels in whichever capacity he served the State and the Country. He has occupied very important and challenging assignments and has been decorated for his distinguished service as well as bravery. I had the good fortune of watching his professional capabilities from close quarters. I am indeed proud of you Dr Vaid and Officers like you in the J&K Police, many of whom I see in the audience today- some retired, who spearheaded the fight against terrorism in our effort to make the State a safer place to live and neutralize the nefarious designs of our neighbour. I have great pleasure in welcoming our Chief Guest Dr Shesh Paul Vaid, Additional Director General of Police.

This annual debate in memory of Shri Veeranna Aivalli is perpetuation of a series of thoughts that he cherished some of which I have flagged. It is a tribute to Shri Aivalli as also the entire Jammu and Kashmir Police which has been in the forefront in fighting terrorism and securing lives of citizens. It is a tribute to the brave martyrs and those injured in terrorist violence like Shri Aivalli to maintain the integrity of the country. As you all know Shri Aivalli was seriously injured in the PHQ bomb blast on Jan 24, 1992 in Srinagar. He never fully recovered from the ill effects of the injuries received during the blast. Fortunately, with the grace of God some others like the present DGP K. Rajinder Kumar, our Chief Guest Dr Vaid and many others, some in the audience, survived serious injuries to continue contributing to our fight against terrorism and maintenance of order. I take this opportunity to salute martyrs from J&K Police and all Security Forces on this occasion.

I welcome Smt Swarna Aivalli and Girish Aivalli in our midst today. The presence of Smt Swarna Aivalli is always a source of inspiration for us.

It is very kind of you to have found time to be amidst us today as on every earlier debate. You are not here merely as spouse of Shri Aivalli but we recognize your personal contribution during the formative years of the Regional Branch. Even Girish and Nitish have contributing by making nameplates of dignitaries and helping organize meetings. Thank you for your kind gesture.

Our young participants have keenly debated for over four hours on a very contemporary subject. There is a widespread debate over deteriorating standards of higher education. While it is important to increase literacy, quality research and learning alone will take the country forward as a developed country. They have forcefully argued for and against the motion. I complement them for the positive energy and reasoning displayed during the debate. It has been a lively exercise. I leave it to the Rapporteurs to brief you on the arguments put forth during the debate.

I welcome my colleagues in the IIPA, the young students who participated in the debate and members of the media to this function.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen for sparing your time to attend this program to perpetuate the memory of a wonderful human being and distinguished police officer Late Shri Veeranna Aivalli.