

**Ministry of Home Affairs**  
**(Central Reserve Police Force)**

**New Delhi,**  
**Dated 09<sup>th</sup> February, 2017**

**Subject: - DG, CRPF meets with Hon'ble President of India with CRPF MOTIVATED KASHMIRI FOOTBALL PLAYERS**

Football is a very popular game in Jammu and Kashmir. The valley has produced top class players who have gone on to play at both national and international level. Mr. Abdul Majid was the trail blazer of this region. He has captained the National side and has many international achievements to his credit. The present sensations like Ishfaq Ahmed and Mehrajuddin Wadoo are the products of this tradition.

2. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has a similar history of excellence in sports. The Force has in its ranks one Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, 02 Padma Shris and 16 Arjuna Awardees.

3. The CRPF also has the policy of encouraging sports in its areas of deployment. In this direction, CRPF in Kashmir partnered with Football Next Foundation to help deserving players to get into professional football career in Spanish Football League LA LIGA.

4. A three-member selection committee consisting of Mr. Anit Ghosh (Indian Football Team 1994 to 1999), Mr. Ishfaq Ahmed (with Kerala Blasters in Indian Super League) and Mr. Hilal Rasool Parray, who is amongst the panel of 8 esteemed coaches, conducted trials for all the 'under 19' youngsters identified as players with promise. Based on the results of the trials, we are proud to announce the selection of BASIT AHMED for Centre Forward and MOHAMMED ASRAR REHBAR for Winger. It is worthwhile mentioning here that this will be the first time an Indian player will be seen playing for a Spanish LA LIGA Club.

5. DG CRPF Shri. K.Durga Prasad himself accompanied both the players and called on the Hon'ble President of India on 08/02/2017 and proudly introduced both these players, who were mentored with active CRPF support. Hon'ble President congratulated the two Kashmiri players on being the first India playing in the Spanish Professional League matches and wished them a bright future in the football. The selected players left for Span today morning i.e. on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February to live their dreams, CRPF wishes them best of luck for a bright future.

**Sd/- 09/02/2017**  
**Public Relation Officer**

