

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Home Department
Civil Secretariat, Srinagar/Jammu

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Subject: Village Defence Guards Scheme (VDGS)-2022.

- Reference:** I. Order dated 01.06.2022, passed by the Hon'ble High Court of J&K and Ladakh in WP(C) 3262/2019, titled *Kewal Krishan and others vs. State of J&K and others with clubbed matters*.
II. Communication bearing F.No.17012/13/2021-S (JKL) dated 2nd March, 2022, of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Department of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs.

Government Order No.: 287-Home of 2022
,Dated: 14.08.2022

In pursuance of the approval conveyed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide referred communication and in supersession of the Government Order No.Home-293 of 1995, dated 30.09.1995, sanction is hereby accorded to the creation of the Village Defence Guards Scheme (VDGS)-2022, as per the details, forming **annexure** to this Order.

The Scheme shall come into operation w.e.f. 15th August, 2022 and shall have prospective effect.

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By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/-
(Raj Kumar Goyal), IAS
Financial Commissioner/
Additional Chief Secretary

No: Home-NGiv/76/2021-10 (CC 53282)

Dated: 14.08.2022

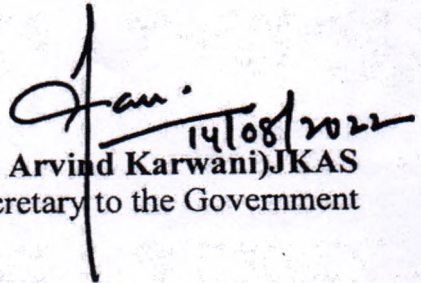
Copy to the:

1. Director General of Police, J&K.
2. Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department.
3. Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K.
4. Additional Director General of Police, Jammu.
5. Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir.

6. Divisional Commissioner, Jammu.
7. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.
8. All District Magistrates.
9. All Superintendents of Police.
10. Director Information & Public Relations, J&K.
11. Director Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K.
12. General Manager, Government Press, Jammu/Srinagar.
13. Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary, J&K.
14. Private Secretary to the Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department.
15. Incharge Website, Home Department.
16. Government Order file/Stock file.

Copy also to the:

Additional Secretary (JKL), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.


14/08/2022
(Dr. Arvind Karwani)JKAS
Additional Secretary to the Government

**ANNEXURE TO THE GOVERNMENT ORDER NO. 287-HOME OF
2022 DATED: 14-08-2022**

VILLAGE DEFENCE GUARDS SCHEME-2022

1. INTRODUCTION

The Village Defence Groups constituted in pursuance of the Government Order No.Home-293 of 1995, dated 30.09.1995, have over the years successfully ensured the safety and security of the identified vulnerable villages and supplemented the efforts of the Security Forces in safeguarding the internal security. Keeping in view the security scenario prevailing in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, more specifically, in the areas where the earlier Scheme was in operation, a need has been felt to revise the existing Scheme with a view to prevent the incidents of terrorist acts inspired and supported from across the border and to boost the security grid in the Union territory.

2. AIM

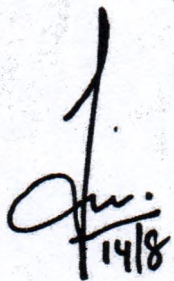
The aim of the Village Defence Guards Scheme (VDGs) is to organize a small group of volunteer armed civilians in the identified villages along the borders as well as in-depth areas of the Jammu division, with a view to instill sense of self protection and ensure the safety and security of such villages, infrastructural installations in and around them and to check the trans-border movement. Under the Scheme, the Village Defence Guards shall be charged with the responsibility of protecting community installations and infrastructure facilities within the defined areas of their village and the Village Defence Guards would conduct night and day patrolling in a systematic manner.

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3. COMPOSITION AND METHODOLOGY

- I. The areas/villages, where the earlier Scheme was in operation shall be considered as "more vulnerable areas" for the purpose of the Scheme and the arrangements made pursuant to the earlier scheme shall now be governed by the instant Scheme. Apart from these areas/villages, any other area/village, which may be considered as "more vulnerable area" by the law enforcement agencies, necessitating application of the Scheme to such other area/village, the Government in the Home Department shall by an order declare such area/village as a "more vulnerable area" for the purpose of the instant Scheme.

- II. Based on the assessment made by the law enforcement agencies, a group of armed civilians belonging to the "more vulnerable areas", not more than 15 in number in each group, who shall be designated as "Village Defence Guards (VDGs) shall be formed. The VDGs shall consist of the following categories:
- a. those in possession of a valid arms licence and to whom weapons have been provided by the J&K Police, determined by the District Magistrate/Senior Superintendent of Police concerned, keeping in view the credentials, of the volunteers' population of the village, its location and security requirement.
 - b. persons in possession of valid licence and weapons or willing to purchase weapons on their own.
- III. Each group will be called the "Village Defence Group" and shall be headed by a retired officer of the Army/CPMF/J&K Police.
- IV. The members of each group shall work on a voluntary basis and the selection shall be made carefully by the District administration, from amongst the Ex-servicemen and ex-policemen of the village and able-bodied young men, who have proficiency in the handling of arms/ammunition and are prepared to contribute towards the welfare of the community and security of the village.
- V. The Village Defence Guards (VDGs) shall be divided into the following two categories:
- a. **V1 Category:** The persons who shall be heading/leading/ coordinating the Village Defence Guards in the "more vulnerable areas" shall be paid Rs.4500/- per month.
 - b. **V2 Category:** The persons who are members of the "Village Defence Group" on voluntary basis shall be paid a uniform rate of Rs.4000/- per month.


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All the pending claims upto 14th August, 2022, would be governed in terms of the earlier Scheme.

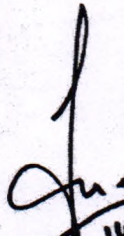
4. COMMAND AND CONTROL:

- I. Each Village Defence Group shall function under the supervision and direction of SP/SSP of the concerned District.
- II. Each Village Defence Group would be led/coordinated by the persons bracketed in V1 category, who shall also be authorized to make use of the police wireless facilities for passing and receiving messages having a bearing on their charter of duties.

- III. The Village Chowkidar and Lumberdar of the "more vulnerable areas" shall be instructed to assist the Village Defence Groups in carrying out their duties. They may also seek the assistance of the local villagers in the discharge of their duties, who would be duty bound to provide the necessary assistance and help. The District Magistrate shall invoke the necessary legal provisions to facilitate the discharge of the duties by the Village Defence Groups.
- IV. The District Magistrate concerned shall be responsible for dove-tailing the Village Defence Groups with the existing deployment of the Security Forces, both on the border as well as in the depth areas, in consultation with the Security Force Commanders, so as to ensure optimum utilization of manpower and the weapons.

5. CONCLUSION:

The Village Defence Guards Scheme is intended to inculcate an attitude of self protection in security matters amongst the local population and also to supplement the ongoing efforts of the security forces in dealing with the acts of subversion and trans-border movement. It is a manifestation of the will of the people to actively and voluntarily participate in the efforts to thwart the nefarious designs of the anti-national elements and to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of the nation.


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