

ARCHIVE



NSG upbeat as Oberoi hero returns to duty

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Fighting terrorists during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks last year, National Security Guard (NSG) commando P V Manesh suffered serious head injuries and was partially paralysed. He made a quiet return to the force a week before the first anniversary of the terror strikes, rejoining duty at the NSG Garrison at Manesar.

While the country's elite commando force is not officially observing the anniversary, the mood in 51 Special Action Group (SAG) is certainly upbeat on account of Manesh's return. "It is good to have heroes in the force. And the kind of bravery Manesh displayed, his return is surely a morale booster for his unit," a NSG source said.

For Manesh, who was awarded the Shaurya Chakra in March this year, the 12 months after 26/11 were all about treatment and getting back to work. This Naik from the Madras Regiment, who suffered serious head injuries in a grenade blast at Oberoi Hotel, first underwent treatment at the Navy Command Hospital in Mumbai for two months followed by a six-month stay at the Army's Research and Referral Hospital in Delhi. This was followed by ayurvedic treatment in Manesh's hometown Kannur in Kerala. He rejoined the NSG on

November 18 this year.

Getting back to active commando duty, however, still may be some distance away for this Black Cat Commando given the fact that he is still recovering from the paralysis in the right side of his body. The NSG too, is in no hurry to push him into strenuous routines. "He is currently undergoing a combination of ayurvedic treatment and physiotherapy. We are sure that he will recover fully soon and will resume normal duties," a NSG source said.

At the Oberoi hotel, Manesh was involved in room-by-room search operations and came face to face with the terrorists before killing one of them from close range. He fell unconscious due to the shrapnel injuries caused by the grenade explosion.

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