

► Personality of the Week ◀

Yashpal Sharma: Tireless leader of masses**DR SUSHIL SHARMA**

Integrity, consistency, empathy, relentless determination, a binding moral compass and the ability to motivate common populace within the inviolate ethical and ideological framework of politics are the essential attributes of a true leader. Regrettably such ideals have largely been missing in present day world and consequently we have been left with a numbered leaders who believe that arrogance, ignorance, obduracy, boastfulness and scape-goating have no place in the lexicon of elevating leadership. One such leader, who left us alone few days ago, significantly holds value of a true leaders and earned popular epithet like 'Chacha', 'Sher-e-Poonch' and 'Sharma Sahib'. Though the name of Sharma Sahib emerged in political circles during a popular and widespread agitation in 1978, his concern for human creed was known to everyone who knows him since his childhood. Right from school days, he started organising his colleagues towards various social issues and made measurable impact on their lives. A keen reader, who not only lived but also propagated the philosophy of Bhagavad Gita, Mahatma Gandhi, Leo Tolstoy, Swami Vivekananda and Maulana Abul Kalam through his social actions. A cursory glance at major highlights of his life reveals how well he understands the issues concerning people sharing varied socio-economic characteristics and how successfully he suggested workable solutions

to mitigate their grievances from time to time. At this juncture, it is pertinent to mention that his Karmaboomi (Poonch) besides performing low in 3A's scale of Accessibility, Availability and Affordability has host of other problems bearing national and international significance viz., issues of PoJK Displaced section in 1947, ceasefire violations across LoC and terrorism. Dealing with such problems require indomitable will and awareness of national and international legal framework which I feel Sharma Sahib, being a law graduate and social researcher, has successfully handled. A paper published by Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (2010) and a special acknowledgement of his contribution in a famous work 'Poonch: The Battlefield of Kashmir' (KD Maini) in this respect bears ample testimony to this fact.