

RDC EXPERIENCE

NAME: ASHMAN DHALIWAL

REG NO: CH19SDN331087

RDC camp notice was the last thing I expected during pandemic and lockdowns. Well, that was gateway to competitions and challenges. Firstly, I cleared the basic selection for RDC best cadet as only one cadet from whole unit was going to be sent to NCC Academy Ropar, for which 8 more cadets were selected out of 200 cadets via Drill selection, interview, GK and knowledge tests. Then we had 2 weeks' time to clear another selection in which 4 made it through. A month worth of hard work could see light at the end of the tunnel, when finally, during the Group selection my name was enlisted among 12 Cadets out of total strength of all wing cadets of Chandigarh group. Suited up in Combat uniforms, we were off to Ropar on 20th November. After documentation and Covid checks, we cleaned and settled in our Barracks. Initially we were in 7-day quarantine, during which we had time to interact with other group cadets and work on ourselves. On 8th day we had Drill test and all other tests to make it into next camps. On the last day of DCAT camp I saw the strength of the cadets reduced to 1/3rd, as those who didn't perform well had to go home. By the start of Pre RDC-1 we were briefed with schedule and training for next 10 days. Initial 3-4 days were difficult as we were pushed beyond our limits physically. After 1-2 days, the picture could be seen clear who is making to next camp, but there was an update on height criteria which confused everyone and changed that picture of who will progress further. I was 1.5 cm short than the minimum height detailed and many were above the set height. This saw many cadets including me, marking their end of the journey. We attended training the next 10 days knowing that we weren't going to Delhi, but we knew that we were the only ones sent by our units to learn and we were the only ones who will prepare the next batch of cadets at our places, who will come to Ropar next year. During this camp we were stressed out mentally and physically but I appreciate the Officers, PI staff and all others involved who were at our doorsteps to help us with everything they could so that we can focus on our development and perform well. During the last 4-5 days of camps, everyone was emotional that many of us would never meet again and experience such good days learning and training. The mess and meals were so good during last camp that I specially met the Commanding Officer of 3PB Battalion, Ropar who was Col Siddharth, to appreciate his organization of camp. We left the camp on 20th December for home, we were greeted with goodbyes from everyone which surely brought tears to the eyes and I was happy for my campmates who progressed to Delhi.

Camp Days were like 'Sweetened Days of Hell '