



## **CITATION FOR THE 2004 MOUNTBATTEN MEDAL**

Shri Gajanan Ravikant Bhokare, aged 22 years, is a resident of Pune and member of the Rashtriya Life Saving Society (India).

On Sunday 18 July 2004 he, and three fellow lifesavers, were having a picnic at the Bushi Dam near Lonavala, some 60 miles from Pune, India. During the rainy season the place draws revellers and picnickers in tens of thousands from Mumbai and Pune. So it was on this Sunday. At about 3.30 pm there was a commotion with people shouting that a man had drowned. Being trained lifesavers, the four reacted immediately and rushed to the scene of the accident. They took in the situation and decided to try and rescue the individual. Gajanan dived repeatedly in 20 feet of deep brown, monsoon muddied water and finally located the victim. Although there was a current on the surface of the water at the depth of 20 feet it was very dark, quiet and still. Garajan brought the victim to the surface and with the help of his three companions landed him on the shore. A quick examination revealed that the person had no pulse. CPR was commenced and continued by the foursome till breathing was regained. They then climbed down the rocks carrying the unconscious victim to the road. They persuaded a car driver to carry them to a hospital. A nursing home refused to take him in but Gajanan and party were finally able to admit the individual to a hospital.

It must be mentioned that this rescue was affected in very difficult circumstances. The victim had quite obviously taken to much drink as beer poured out of him with every breath and chest compression making the resuscitators sick in the process. Yet they continued till the victim resumed breathing. Carrying the unconscious person down the slope on the rocks was difficult and persuading a car driver to carry the victim to a doctor was not easy.

At the time 19-year-old Pramode Vasant Jadav from Deonar, Mumbai was admitted to the hospital he was unconscious but breathing. Unfortunately the hospital was unable to cope with the victim's condition, as he had experienced immersion in water for more than ten minutes and he died two hours later.

Notwithstanding the subsequent death of the casualty it was a heroic and courageous rescue on the part of Shri Gajanan Ravikant Bhokare in difficult and dangerous conditions. He put his lifesaving training to excellent use and for his bravery is awarded the 2004 Mountbatten Medal. Garajan's three fellow lifesavers were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Indian Society for their part in the rescue and resuscitation.

**For his outstanding action Shri Gajanan Ravikant Bhokare is awarded the 2004 Mountbatten Medal**