



## GLAXOSMITHKLINE ANNOUNCES SURAKSHA KAVACH PROGRAMME

***-Protecting lives: National Bravery Award winners honored at the launch of a programme promoting wellness for the individual and society***

**New Delhi, January 25, 2006:** GlaxoSmithKline, the leading vaccines company in India, today introduced the Suraksha Kavach Programme that aims to create and cultivate the importance of protection and promote wellness in society. GlaxoSmithKline launched this unique social responsibility drive by participating and complementing the Government's initiatives in recognizing the National Bravery Award winners.

On the eve of India's 56<sup>th</sup> Republic Day, GlaxoSmithKline, in association with the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW), held a special ceremony to honour the exemplary courage of the children who were selected for this year's National Bravery Award. The children were each presented a citation, a 'Suraksha Kavach' trophy and a pledge to protect them with GlaxoSmithKline vaccines.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sanjoy K Datta, Director, Clinical R&D and Medical Affairs, GSK Biologicals – South Asia said, "We are extremely privileged to honour the achievements of these seventeen brave children. Their contribution is inspiring and their heroic deeds truly represent protection. They are

ambassadors for the 'Suraksha Kavach' programme, whose objective is to instill the importance of protection and wellness for individuals, families and society at large. Through these children, the programme aims at creating, cultivating and rewarding the importance of protection in the society."

- GlaxoSmithKline will provide vaccines for the National Bravery Award winners
- The Awardees would act as ambassadors for prevention of diseases and to spread the message of moving from "illness to wellness"
- These children across India and are in the age group of 11-18 years and have been selected by a high powered panel constituted by ICCW for this prestigious Award

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GlaxoSmithKline in India is an affiliate of GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals (GSK Biologicals), one of the world's leading vaccine manufacturers, located in Rixensart, Belgium. Belgium is the centre of all GlaxoSmithKline's activities in the field of vaccine research, development and production. GSK Biologicals employs more than 1000 research scientists who are devoted to discovering new vaccines and developing more cost-effective and convenient combination products to prevent infections that cause serious medical problems worldwide. In India, the division leads the represented vaccine market with a 51% market share.

In 2004, GSK Biologicals distributed more than 1.5 billion doses of vaccines to 168 countries in both the developed and developing world, an average of 45 doses per second. Approximately 140 million of the 1.5 billion vaccine doses delivered last year were combined pediatric vaccines that protect the world's children against a

minimum of 3 and up to 6 diseases in one go. For information, visit GlaxoSmithKline's website at [www.gsk-bio.com](http://www.gsk-bio.com).

GlaxoSmithKline - one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies - is committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer.

**About the Indian Council for Child Welfare & National Bravery Awards**

- The Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) is a premier national voluntary organization in the field of child welfare / development. ICCW was established in 1952 and operates through an extensive network of 32 State / UT Councils and their district councils.
  - The ICCW started the National Bravery Awards in 1957 – one of its most prestigious programmes. The award was to recognise and honour children who performed outstanding deeds of bravery and selfless sacrifice.
  - The first award was given in 1957, when two children -- a boy and a girl -- were rewarded for their presence of mind and courage.
  - Since then the ICCW has conferred awards on children below the age of 16, every year.
  - Applications for the awards are received from various sources such as the central/state government departments, panchayats, zilla parishads, school authorities as well as state and Union territory councils for child welfare.
  - The selection is made by a committee constituted by the ICCW, comprising representatives from the secretariats of the President and the vice-president, various ministries, as well as the Central Social Welfare Board, the police, All India Radio, Doordarshan and leading NGOs such as the National Bal Bhavan, SOS Children's Villages of India, R K Mission and experienced ICCW members.
  - The Awards are presented by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India prior to Republic Day every year. The children participate in the Republic Day parade and call on several dignitaries throughout their stay in New Delhi including His Excellency, the President of India.
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