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In 8 months, cop reunites 73 kids with their parents

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New Delhi: In the past three days, constable Sunita, posted in west Delhi's anti-human trafficking squad (AHTU), has traced a 7-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl and a pair of siblings aged 6 and 9. But that's just part of Sunita's eight-month-old mission during which she has tracked down 73 missing children. The police constable is now set to be rewarded with an out-of-turn promotion under Delhi Police's scheme for missing children.

The seven-year-old boy, who vanished from Vikaspuri on February 20, was living with his grandfather after his mother passed away and his father turned an alcoholic. He was tracked with the help of CCTV footage in west Delhi. The 13-year-old girl had gone missing from her house in Mayapuri on February 15 and was traced using mobile phone surveillance based on leads given by her family. As for the siblings, they had disappeared from Kanjhawala on February 16.

Constable Sunita joined Delhi Police in 2014 and spent her initial days in the police control room and the senior citizen cell before being transferred to AHTU a year ago.

Rather than depend on technical help, she adopted the method of talking to parents and getting to know about the missing children to generate leads regarding their possible whereabouts. Understanding that the first few hours or even the first few days were crucial in such cases, Sunita put maximum efforts in the initial period after the missing complaint was lodged.

The trick worked. As the leads flowed in, the constable followed them up using various means, including surveillance, and proved successful in tracking down the children.



MAKING PRESENCE FELT: Sunita joined Delhi Police in 2014

Prashant Gautam, DCP (West), said that 15 of the 73 children recovered by Sunita were less than eight years old and the remainig between 8 and 16 years in age.

"She recovered four minor children in just three days and united them with their families," pointed out Gautam. "Constable Sunita has been working hard in this field and her name is being recommended for an out-of-turn promotion to the rank of head constable as per the existing policies in order to recognise her dedication to duty and to inspire others too."