

## THREE CISF SNIFFER DOGS RETIRE, 'ASSET TO DELHI METRO UNIT'

# 8 yrs on, Sony, Rocky & Romeo call it a day

ARNABJIT SUR  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

AS THEIR handlers wrapped a ceremonial medal around their backs, gave them a cake and bid them a formal goodbye with flower petals, three explosive-detecting CISF dogs of the Delhi Metro unit retired Wednesday.

Accompanied by their handlers, the dogs — Sony, a female German Shepherd; Rocky, a male Golden Retriever; and Romeo, a male Cocker Spaniel — retired at the CISF's Sainik Sammelan after serving the unit for at least eight years.

CISF officers said the three dogs have retired after an eventful career of detecting un-

manned items and baggage across Delhi Metro's crucial stations and have proved to be an asset for the security unit.

Sony served the unit from February 2015 to March 2023. "It was very quick in detecting any suspicious items and helped secure the stations in a very effective manner," said an officer. Sony is suffering from a health issue owing to a tumour in its spleen and could not attend the ceremony.

Romeo has served from October 2013 to March this year. Rocky served the unit from April 2014. "Both Romeo and Rocky have age-related issues too. When they were inducted after being trained for three months, they were very active and agile,"



Rocky and Romeo retired at the CISF's Sainik Sammelan

said the officer.

An officer added that it was very emotional for them to see the dogs retire as they had a close relationship. "All dogs in our unit

have two primary handlers, a main handler and an assistant. Throughout these eight years, these dogs become more than friends for handlers," said an-

other officer.

"Sniffer dogs are deployed for clearance of unattended baggage or objects for possible threat of IEDs containing explosives. The K9 team of dog squad on an average carries out mass checking of 700-800 baggage per day," said the officer.

Jitendra Rana, Deputy Inspector General, CISF, said: "After a lifetime of work, our K9 team partners have hung up their hats. We have already procured three more dogs and they are being trained."

At the end of the retirement ceremony, the dogs were taken to a decorated vehicle which took them to NGO Frenelcoes, where they will be put up for adoption.