





Independence Day, 2024 - Recipients of Gallantry Awards


S.No.	Rank and name	Service	Photo	Citation
KIRTI CHAKRA				
1.	IC-67028M, COLONEL MANPREET SINGH, SENA MEDAL, THE SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY/ 19 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY		<p>On 13 September 2023, Colonel Manpreet Singh, Sena Medal was heading a specific search and destroy operation in densely forested hills of a village in Anantnag District.</p> <p>As the terrorist hideout was located and identified, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in a bid to escape. Colonel Manpreet Singh, Sena Medal unmindful of his own safety, returned fire towards the escaping terrorists resulting in killing of one terrorist. Displaying extraordinary leadership the officer quickly reorganised the party to plug the escape routes. He continued to direct fire on the terrorists. However, in the ensuing gunfight Colonel Manpreet Singh, Sena Medal sustained severe Gun Shot Wound on the Forehead. Colonel Manpreet Singh, Sena Medal displayed raw courage and unparalleled leadership by leading from the front. His undaunting valour and quick decision making led to the elimination of one terrorist and preventing escape of other terrorists. The neutralized terrorist was later identified as affiliated to a proscribed terrorist group.</p> <p>For displaying conspicuous bravery, raw courage, exemplary leadership and excellent tactical acumen with sheer disregard to his own safety, Colonel Manpreet Singh, Sena Medal is awarded with “KIRTI CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)”.</p>


2.	IC-82153N, MAJOR MALLA RAMA GOPAL NAIDU , THE MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY/ 56 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY		<p>Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu, was the leader of an ambush party deployed in along the Line of Control in Kupwara District on 26 October 2023 for intelligence based counter infiltration operation.</p> <p>At 1010 hours, his scout spotted five terrorists. He immediately relocated his ambush to trap them. At 1025 hours, ambush was sprung, fierce fire fight ensued, and terrorists took cover behind boulders. The Officer under took surveillance operation and identified location of one terrorist. However the terrorists spotted him and opened heavy fire. Sensing danger to his troops, he ferociously closed in and killed one terrorist at point blank range and injured another terrorist, who brought down heavy fire on his party. The officer rolled over under volley of fire, pinned down the terrorist with fire, facilitating elimination of three terrorists.</p> <p>During search, fifth terrorist hiding inside cave, opened indiscriminate fire. The Officer dashed towards the cave, the terrorist threw grenades at him, missing him narrowly. Utilizing split second exposure of terrorist, he neutralized him.</p> <p>For planning and executing clinical operation, displaying nerves of steel and utter disregard to own safety while saving lives of own troops, resolute leadership and eliminating two terrorists, Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu is awarded with “KIRTI CHAKRA”.</p>
3.	9121885W, RIFLEMAN RAVI KUMAR , THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY/ 63 RD BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY		<p>Bravery has been the second nature of Rifleman Ravi Kumar. Even on 12 September 2023, he volunteered to be the leading Scout of Commanding Officer’s Quick Reaction Team in hot pursuit of terrorists.</p> <p>At around 1530 hours, while trailing the terrorists through extremely rugged terrain and dense foliage, he spotted two terrorists at very close range who</p>



				<p>were ready to fire. On being fired upon, reflexively he pushed aside his buddy towards safety, dived, took cover and retaliated fire. Despite sustaining a hit in the initial fire exchange, he continued to engage the two terrorists and grievously injured one. Simultaneously, he guided the other team members for cutting off the escape routes. He was bleeding profusely, nevertheless, he refused to be evacuated and continued to pin down the terrorists to prevent their escape till he eventually lost consciousness. While being evacuated, he breathed his last. Rifleman Ravi Kumar has made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of Indian Army. His act has epitomised valour, courage and selflessness in the face of grave danger. Neutralisation of two hardcore terrorists apart, his act has galvanised the complete Battalion. Rifleman Ravi Kumar awarded with “KIRTI CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)”.</p>
4.	<p>KPS-185686, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE HIMAYUN MUZZAMMIL BHAT, JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE/ C/O 19TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)</p>	ARMY		<p>On 13 September 2023, Deputy Superintendent of Police Himayun Muzzammil Bhat volunteered to lead the Special Operations Group (SOG) column with Army during specific search and destroy operation in densely forested hills of a Village in Anantnag District.</p> <p>As the terrorist hideout was located, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in a bid to escape. Deputy Superintendent of Police Himayun Muzzammil Bhat being unmindful of his own safety, fired back at the terrorists. In the ensuing firefight, Deputy Superintendent of Police Himayun Muzzammil Bhat sustained severe Gun Shot Wounds. Despite grave injury, Deputy Superintendent of Police Himayun Muzzammil Bhat continued to engage the escaping terrorist. He displayed rare courage and lead his column from</p>

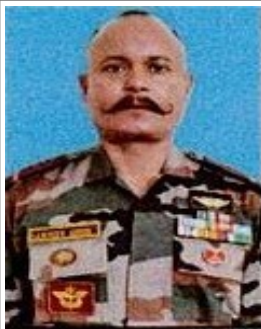
			<p>the front. His extraordinary valour led to the elimination on one hardcore terrorist.</p> <p>For displaying conspicuous astute courage, exemplary leadership and excellent tactical acumen with sheer disregard to his own safety, Deputy Superintendent of Police Himayun Muzzammil Bhat is awarded with “KIRTI CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)”.</p>
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SHAURYA CHAKRA			
1.	<p>IC-63508Y, COLONEL PAWAN SINGH, 666 ARMY AVIATION SQUADRON (R&O)</p>	ARMY	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>On 10 October 2023, Colonel Pawan Singh, Mission commander received information of multiple Priority-1 casualties from Camp II of Mount Nun whose condition was deteriorating rapidly.</p> <p>He took off immediately after carrying out calculated risk assessment for reconnaissance of causality and landing site. The area was totally devoid of any landing site and reference point. Landing at an unprepared elevation of 19270 feet has never been done and was beyond the helicopter’s power. He took a daring and skilled risk assessment of stripping the aircraft to minimum weight by removing doors, seats, survival pack and even minimum oxygen bottles. The aircraft again flew to the site inspite of adverse weather and unfavourable operating conditions. He with utter disregard to personal safety pushed his skill and professionalism to extremes even though incapacitated by blowing snow, extreme temperature and lack of oxygen. Carried out successful low hover evacuation of four expedition team members and one mortal remains.</p> <p>For his exemplary display of courage, decision making and daring rescue beyond the call of duty even at the peril of his life thus paving way to subsequent rescues of total of fourteen casualties from Camp II of Mount</p>



				Nun, Colonel Pawan Singh is awarded with “SHAURYA CHAKRA” .
2.	IC-75329L, MAJOR CVS NIKHIL , 21 ST BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES)	ARMY		<p>Major CVS Nikhil, team leader of the Special Forces, demonstrated exceptional operational acumen and gallantry during an Operation near the Indo-Myanmar border. His leadership and profound understanding of the operational dynamics led to the successful elimination of two Cadres of Valley Based Insurgent Group, thwarting their infiltration into Indian Territory.</p> <p>On 23 November 2023, with precise intelligence indicating the imminent threat, Major CVS Nikhil astutely deployed his troop to lay a meticulously planned ambush along the likely infiltration route. Upon establishing surveillance, he, alongside the scout, identified and challenged a group of armed cadres attempting to breach their ambush site. In the face of indiscriminate enemy fire and without regard to personal safety, Major Nikhil and his scout engaged the insurgents, trapping them in a kill zone. Despite being under heavy fire, the officer's exceptional marksmanship and courageous pursuit resulted in pinning down the insurgents. Exhibiting exemplary field craft, Major Nikhil out maneuvered the insurgents with precision, thereby identifying and directly eliminating a most wanted insurgent with accurate firing.</p> <p>The Officer's tactical brilliance and leadership were instrumental in not only thwarting the infiltration but also dismantling the group's leadership. For his extraordinary valour and leadership going beyond call of duty, Major CVS Nikhil is awarded with “SHAURYA CHAKRA”.</p>


3.	IC-78151L, MAJOR AASHISH DHONCHAK, SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY/ 19 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY		<p>On 13 September 2023, Major Aashish Dhonchak, Sena Medal was part of a specific search and destroy operation in densely forested area in Anantnag District. As the terrorist hideout was located and identified, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in a bid to escape. Major Aashish Dhonchak, Sena Medal being unmindful of his own safety brought down retaliatory fire in the direction of the terrorists. In order to protect his column, the officer selflessly gave cover fire without caring for his own safety. In the ensuing firefight the officer sustained severe Gun Shot Wounds. Even after being severely wounded the officer continued to pin down the terrorist though precision fire allowing his team to take cover and further eliminate the terrorist. The officer displayed raw courage and gave the true definition of leading from the front. His undaunting valour unwavering commitment and decision making led to the elimination of one terrorist. The neutralized terrorist was later identified as Category 'B' terrorist.</p> <p>For displaying conspicuous gallantry beyond the call of duty leading to elimination of one hardcore terrorist, Major Aashish Dhonchak, Sena Medal is awarded with “SHAURYA CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)”.</p>
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4.	IC-81185K, MAJOR TRIPATPREET SINGH , ARMY SERVICE CORPS/ 34 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY		<p>Since January 2022, Major Tripatpreet Singh has exhibited exceptional valour and inspiring leadership in six successful operations, resulting in elimination of nine hardcore terrorists.</p> <p>On 04 January 2024, upon receiving specific input regarding presence of terrorist in a Village in Shopian District, as mission leader, he immaculately planned and swiftly cordoned the target location, laying an unconventional cordon.</p> <p>After prolonged fire and efforts to force the terrorist to abandon his advantageous position went in vain, the officer, crawled inch by inch, braving deadly fire, closed-in and forced the terrorist to move out. Undeterred being face to face with the terrorist, Major Tripatpreet held his nerves and displaying raw courage in the face of grave mortal danger, neutralised the hardcore terrorist in a deadly close quarter battle. The neutralised terrorist was later identified as Category 'A+' terrorist.</p> <p>For displaying outstanding leadership, supreme gallantry and intrepidity beyond the call of duty and eliminating one hardcore terrorist, without any collateral damage, Major Tripatpreet Singh is awarded with “SHAURYA CHAKRA”.</p>
5.	IC-83064F, MAJOR SAHIL RANDHAWA , THE REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY/ 34 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY		<p>Since June 2022, Major Sahil Randhawa has exhibited inspiring leadership during conduct of four successful operations, resulting in elimination of multiple hardcore terrorists.</p> <p>On 16 November 2023 at 1200 hours, upon receiving specific input regarding presence of five terrorists in a village in Shopian District, he immaculately planned and swiftly cordoned the target location, trapping all the terrorists. At around 2300 hours, three</p>

				<p>terrorists tried to break cordon under indiscriminate fire and grenade blasts. Sensing danger to own troops, Major Sahil Randhawa alongwith his buddy stealthily and swiftly relocated and intercepted them. Undeterred being face to face with the terrorists, the officer held his nerves and displaying raw courage in the face of grave mortal danger, neutralised one terrorist at extremely close range and engaged another, enabling his buddy to neutralise the other terrorist. The neutralised terrorist was later identified as Category 'A' terrorist.</p> <p>For displaying conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity beyond the call of duty and eliminating one and injuring another hardcore terrorist, without any collateral damage, Major Sahil Randhawa is awarded with "SHAURYA CHAKRA".</p>
6.	JC-583083P, SUBEDAR SANJEEV SINGH JASROTIA , 5 TH BATTALION THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR RIFLES	ARMY		<p>During a counter terrorist Operation on 16 September 2023, Subedar Sanjeev Singh Jasrotia was the ambush party commander along the Line of Control in Baramulla District. On being alerted by the early warning detachment regarding movement of four armed terrorists across the Nala, he re-sited his ambush party and maintained tactical surprise.</p> <p>Displaying exemplary tactical acumen, Subedar Sanjeev Singh Jasrotia allowed the armed terrorists to move inside his killing zone. From his covered position, he challenged the group of terrorists, who immediately opened fire in his direction. Subedar Sanjeev Singh Jasrotia immediately fired accurately at the terrorists pinning them down. One of the terrorists occupying a dominating position in the folds of Nala was firing at the ambush party. Subedar Sanjeev Singh Jasrotia with utter disregard to personal safety crawled towards</p>

				<p>Nala under heavy fire using folds of the ground and neutralised the terrorist from a very close range with his assault rifle while injuring two more fleeing terrorists.</p> <p>For displaying unparalleled courage, selfless devotion and conspicuous bravery in the line of fire and neutralising one hardcore foreign terrorist and injuring two more, Subedar Sanjeev Singh Jasrotia is awarded with “SHAURYA CHAKRA”.</p>
7.	<p>JC-288663P, NAIB SUBEDAR P PABIN SINGHA, THE REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY/ 56TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES</p>	ARMY		<p>Naib Subedar P Pabin Singha was commander of ambush deployed along the Line of Control in Kupwara District on 25 October 2023, for intelligence based counter infiltration operation.</p> <p>On 26 October 2023, at 1010 hours five terrorists were spotted and he immediately relocated ambush to trap them and prevent their escape. At 1025 hours, ambush was sprung and terrorists retaliated with heavy fire, lobbying grenades, pinned down own troops. Sensing danger to own troops, Naib Subedar Singha with disregard to own safety, crawled under volley of heavy fire towards the terrorists and fired at them from close range and neutralized one terrorist. Other terrorists spotted him and fired at him fiercely and threw grenades at him, missing him narrowly. He rolled over to his side and fired back at the terrorists, pinning them down. Two terrorists tried to escape, he immediately dashed forward, changed his location, fired at the terrorists and preventing their escape, pinning them down, facilitating their elimination.</p> <p>For displaying courage, nerves of steel, utter disregard to own safety while saving lives of own troops, exceptional leadership and eliminating one hardcore terrorist, Naib Subedar P Pabin Singha is awarded with “SHAURYA CHAKRA”.</p>

8.	4494574P, SEPOY PARDEEP SINGH , THE SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY/ 19 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY		<p>On 13 September 2023, Sepoy Pardeep Singh was part of a specific search and destroy operation in densely forested area in Anantnag District.</p> <p>As the terrorist hideout was located and identified, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in a bid to escape. Sepoy Pardeep Singh the leading scout, being unmindful of his own safety, brought down retaliatory fire towards the terrorists. In order to protect his column, Sepoy Pardeep Singh selflessly gave cover fire to his column at great personal risk. In the ensuing firefight Sepoy Pardeep Singh sustained Multiple Gun Shot Wounds. Individual held his position and continued to pin down the terrorist along with Major Aashish Dhonchak, Sena Medal which allowed his team to take cover and further eliminate the terrorist. His undaunting valour and unwavering loyalty towards his team led to the elimination of one terrorist. The neutralized terrorist was later identified as category 'B' terrorist.</p> <p>For displaying conspicuous gallantry in ensuring safety of his team and ensuring elimination of one hardcore terrorist, Sepoy Pardeep Singh is awarded with “SHAURYA CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)”.</p>
9.	SPO-825, SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER ABDUL LATIF , JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE/ C/O 33 RD BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY		<p>Abdul Latif, a Special Police Officer with District Reasi since four years, is a brave, dedicated soldier who has been actively participating in operations.</p> <p>On 04 September 2023 at 0545 hours, two armed terrorists approached his house seeking food and assistance. Despite being outnumbered and without weapon, retaining composure in face of heavily armed terrorists, he initially gained their confidence posing himself as Over Ground Worker. Displaying presence of mind, he first gained trust, then moved his family to safety.</p>


				<p>Thereafter, before moving out of the house on pretext of getting food, he discreetly locked room in which the terrorists were resting and also other exit of the house and alerted the nearest post. He called his brother to maintain watch over the house till he guides approaching columns. On arrival of forces, he actively participated in kinetic operations leading to neutralization of one foreign terrorist.</p> <p>The conspicuous gallant act displayed by Abdul Latif marked by steely nerves and unmatched heroics in face of imminent threat to his family and himself is unparalleled. For resolve, patriotism and bravery leading to elimination of a terrorist, Special Police Officer Abdul Latif is awarded “SHAURYA CHAKRA”.</p>
10.	04823-K, Capt Sharad Sinsunwal , INS Kolkata	NAVY		<p>Capt Sharad Sinsunwal (04823-K) is presently the Commanding Officer of INS Kolkata. The ship was deployed for Operation ‘Piracy in the Gulf of Aden,’ from 16 Dec 23 onwards. The deployment was triggered by continuous missile attacks by Houthi rebels on merchant vessels. A total of 27 attacks took place during the time Kolkata was in the region, severely damaging 13 ships and resulting in loss of lives of sailors. Several of these hits took place within a few miles of Kolkata, thereby putting the ship in real and continuous danger. An additional threat was from Somali pirates, who were using the unrest in the region to highjack merchant vessels. Notwithstanding these dangers, Kolkata repeatedly rendered assistance to missile-hit merchant vessels, rescuing 67 lives and freeing 17 hostages from pirates. Four incidents stood out.</p> <p>On 22 Feb, Merchant Vessel Islander was attacked 70 nm SE of Aden by two anti-ship ballistic missiles. The vessel called desperately for help. Captain</p>


Sharad Sinsunwal took the bold and selfless decision of rushing his ship to Islander's assistance, despite the high possibility of the next missile hitting Kolkata. In the fading light and rough seas the Captain sent an explosive disposal and medical team from Kolkata on the merchant vessel, rendering it safe for further voyage.


The second incident took place on 04 Mar 24 at about 1500h. Merchant Vessel MSC Sky II was attacked by two Houthi ballistic missiles and was on fire. Its 13 Indian crew immediately called for help. Once again, Captain Sharad Sinsunwal took the fearless decision of charging into the missile probability area and rendering assistance. Furthermore, notwithstanding the danger posed by the fire on MSC Sky II, the Captain sent his team onboard. They, inspired by the leadership and determination of their Captain, rose handsomely to the occasion and extinguished the fire in 3h 30min.

The next incident took place at about 1605 h on 06 Mar 24, wherein Merchant Vessel True Confidence, was hit by two Houthi missiles and was ablaze. For the third time, Captain Sharad Sinsunwal took his ship into the missile threat zone to rescue the crew, who had abandoned the ship. This was despite the increased frequency of missile attacks and increasing belligerence from the Houthis. Captain Sharad Sinsunwal located the crew members of True Confidence in a small life raft in the open sea and initiated the operation of rescuing them using helicopter and boat, in a very rough weather. Out of the 24 crew members, three had died in the missile attack and three more had suffered critical injuries like amputated leg, facial burns and shrapnel in intestine etc. The complex task of bringing the survivors from the liferaft to

				<p>Kolkata required coordination of multiple teams in a dynamic and tense situation, with the ever present threat of missile attack. Captain Sharad Sinsunwal led by personal example, working tirelessly with each team while maneuvering his ship optimally to avoid ballistic missiles. His actions resulted in all survivors being rescued.</p> <p>The last incident took place from 13-15 Mar 24, when Kolkata intercepted the hijacked Merchant Vessel Ruen. 35 pirates were holding the crew of 17 Bulgarians and Myanmarase as hostages. The pirates were armed with Rocket Propelled Grenades, machine guns and AK 47s. They fired on Kolkata and continually threatened to kill the hostages. In a calibrated and decisive manner Kolkata coerced the pirates into submission. This involved firing multiple different kinds of weapons at the pirates over a period of 40 hours, while ensuring the safety of the hostages. To accurately direct the firing Captain Sharad Sinsunwal had to position himself in the direct line of fire. His brave and intelligent action resulted in the surrender of all 35 pirates and rescue of all 17 hostages.</p> <p>In planning and executing these operations in the face of missile danger and pirate attack, Captain Sharad Sinsunwal displayed boldness, quick decision-making, leadership, selflessness and commitment to duty. He repeatedly placed his life at risk and motivated his crew through personal example. For actions taken by him to rescue the 21 crew members of True Confidence, fighting fire to save the ship MSC Sky II, rendering assistane to Islander and rescuing 17 hostages on Ruen from heavily armed pirates, Captain Sharad Sinsuwal is awarded “SHAURYA CHAKRA”.</p>
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11.	<p>44003-F, Lieutenant Commander Kapil Yadav, INS Visakhapatnam</p>	NAVY		<p>Lt Cdr Kapil Yadav (44003-F) is undertaking the duties of Assistant Engineer Officer (AEO) onboard. The ship whilst deployed for Op PoG received distress call from Merchant Vessel (MV) Marlin Luanda, an oil tanker carrying highly inflammable Naphtha, at 2220 h on 26 Jan 24 due to a major fire onboard post missile attack. The ship immediately responded and proceeded to provide assistance and reached in the vicinity of the distressed vessel at 0400 hrs on 27 Jan 24. Due to the lack of the firefighting expertise and the increasing fire onboard the Master of MV Marlin Luanda requested for assistance. The command decision was to assist the distressed vessel which had a crew of 27 people (24 Indians, one Bangladeshi and two Sri Lankan nationals).</p> <p>The Officer volunteered to board the MV Marlin Luanda and fight fire. The MV was carrying Naphtha, a highly hazardous material as enlisted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200). It's an extremely flammable material that causes irritation to eyes and affects central nervous system/ respiratory system if inhaled and proves fatal if swallowed. On reaching the merchant vessel, the Officer used his technical expertise to quickly understand the system onboard the MV. When the initial firefighting did not yield desired results, he prepared a metal plate by welding the metal sheets onsite. The Officer continued to fight fire valiantly and with complete disregard to his personal safety, walked through the raging fire in temperatures excess of 700° C amidst harmful gases and covered the hole on the fuel tank, due to the missile impact, by the metal plate. This proved instrumental in cutting off</p>
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				<p>the oxygen supply and aided in extinguishing fire that was raging for last 18 hours and brought under control after six hours of continuous firefighting.</p> <p>The Officer has displayed immense grit, determination and leadership qualities in face of adversity wherein the raging flames were already creating havoc for last 18 hours. He disregarded his personal safety and continued to fight fire. His gallant act and technical expertise, where other coalition warships despite being at the scene of action were hesitant to offer help, has projected Indian Navy's image positively and has immensely amplified its reputation world over. The same was also reflected by the message from the Master of the vessel in distress. The Officer's unwavering grit, fighting spirit and the resolve under adverse conditions saved invaluable lives and are keeping with the highest values of service and merits recognition. Lieutenant Commander Kapil Yadav is awarded "SHAURYA CHAKRA".</p>
12.	<p>31215, WING COMMANDER VERNON DESMOND KEANE VM, Indian Air Force/ 27 Sqn AF</p>	AIR FORCE		<p>On 24 Jul 23, during a sortie on Jaguar fighter aircraft, he experienced unprecedented Oil 1 and Oil 2 failure warning. The warning indicated a major Oil system malfunction warranting immediate shut down of both engines to prevent their imminent seizure. Such a situation had never occurred in the past and actions for such system failure have not been envisaged. The pilot while maintaining calm composure, decided to shut down the left engine and initiated recovery using the right engine for the closest runway. While on approach, at an altitude of 2500 feet, the right engine failed catastrophically. The aircraft was now in a powerless glide, losing altitude rapidly and approaching densely populated Gorakhpur</p>

				<p>town. Since the only serviceable engine had also seized, the situation warranted an immediate ejection. The pilot while displaying superlative flying skills, controlled the aircraft, turned away to prevent loss of civilian life and property in case of a probable ejection and jettisoned empty fuel tanks clear of populated area. He simultaneously decided to attempt relight on the left engine and successfully revived it. He then deftly controlled and recovered the aircraft safely off a single engine.</p> <p>During these multiple life-threatening situations, the officer displayed exceptional courage, perseverance and composure in recovering a gravely stricken aircraft. His undaunted courageous decision to remain with the stricken aircraft while displaying superlative piloting skills and exceptional situational awareness ensured the safety of a valuable national asset and precluded a probable loss of lives and property on ground. Wing Commander Vernon Desmond is awarded “SHAURYA CHAKRA”.</p>
13.	<p>32754, Squadron Leader, DEEPAK KUMAR, Indian Air Force/ AFS Hakimpet</p>	AIR FORCE		<p>On 25 Aug 23, he was authorised to fly an instructional night sortie in a Kiran aircraft along with a trainee pilot. The sortie was being flown during dark night. While going around after a low overshoot, the aircraft experienced a bird hit resulting in engine flame out. At this stage of flight, the undercarriage had been retracted and was in the process of going up. He promptly assessed the situation and took a decision to force land the aircraft straight ahead. He simultaneously directed the flight cadet to lower the under carriage. Despite limited cues available in the night, he used his exceptional judgement and superlative flying skills to force land the aircraft on the runway. The available length of the runway after landing was just about 1000</p>


				<p>feet, wherein his prompt actions of switching off, braking and engagement of arrester barrier resulted in safe stopping of aircraft, with minimum damage. These actions gain more credence considering the shorter than normal runway at Hakimpet, dark night conditions offering less cues to the pilot for force landing and in an extremely compressed time frame for reacting.</p> <p>During this life-threatening situation, the officer displayed exceptional courage, perseverance and composure in recovering a gravely stricken aircraft. His undaunted courageous decision to force land the aircraft on a dark night required superlative piloting skills and exceptional situational awareness, thus ensuring the safety of a valuable national asset and precluding a probable loss of lives. Squadron Leader Deepak Kumar is awarded “SHAURYA CHAKRA”.</p>
14.	145063492, Shri Pawan Kumar , CT/GD, 201 COBRA, CRPF (POSTHUMOUS)	MHA		<p>An operation against armed naxals in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh was executed on 30/01/2024. A team of 201 COBRA & 150 Bn CRPF were earmarked for establishment of New FOB at Tekalgudium, PS Jagargunda, Distt-Sukma, Chhattisgarh on 30/01/2024.</p> <p>As per plan, total 289 Commandos of 201 COBRA in the following groups viz, Group-1 (team no 04, 05, 06 of B/201 COBRA) Group-2 (team no 07, 08, 09 of C/201 COBRA) Group-3(team no 16, 17, 18 of F/201 CoBRA) under overall command of Sh. Dinesh Kumar Singh Deo, 2-1/C left from FOB Bedre on 30/01/2024 & moved tactically towards the proposed FOB site. The above three coys reached safely near proposed FOB Site at Tekalgudium. The outer cordon at the designated areas were placed by the respective Coys. CT/GD Shri</p>

			<p>Pawan Kumar participated in the operation with his team ie. team no 09 of C/201 COBRA</p> <p>At around 1215 Hrs on 30/01/2024, few personnel of C/201 noticed the presence of armed and uniformed Naxals who were advancing towards outer cordon from south and south west direction and intimated the matter to concerned commanders. Suddenly Naxals started large volume of BGL fire and small arms fire from South and South-West Directions upon Group-02 i.e. of C/201 COBRA. Then the commanders on ground warned and challenged the uniformed armed CPI (Maoist) cadres loudly to surrender but they intensified their fire with BGL, automatic & semi- automatic weapons. In self defence, Commandos of C/201 COBRA retaliated with same amount of fire on Naxals.</p> <p>Team 09 of C/201 COBRA engaged in an intense gunfight with Naxals. The group of Commandos including CT/GD Pawan Kumar put their life in high risk by placing themselves ahead of all fighting troops to stop the advancing Naxals by firing fiercely and caused casualty to Naxals and thus stopped their Movement CT/GD Shri Pawan Kumar showed great composure, bravery and fought with the Naxals without losing his temper. He countered frontal attack despite eminent and gravest life- threatening situation in which he continued his fire towards the group of naxals resorting heavy firing and ultimately neutralized the naxals at the cost of risking his own live. CT/GD Pawan Kumar was fighting fearlessly and valiantly, and in the process he shot down couple of Naxals.</p> <p>During this encounter, the intensity of firing from the Naxals was heavy and fierce It was absolutely unbelievable and astounding that the Naxals could have such a</p>
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				<p>huge fire power. Their volume of fire increased continuously with many more numbers of BGLs. Sensing the gravity of situation, Shri Pawan Kumar and his teams engaged the Naxals and resorted to a pitched battle leading to fierce encounter which lasted for around 4 hours. He fired in the direction from where the heavy fire was coming and advanced using fire and move tactics. Effective targeted fire from CT/GD Shri Pawan Kumar made a huge impact as some Maoist cadres were forced to retreat and were seen fleeing away carrying dead bodies and injured personnel. In this fierce battle, many Naxals were seen hitting with number of bullets leading to their killings/injuries. Naxals faced heavy losses in terms of lives, many Naxals were hit and collapsed. However, it was more important to carry the injured troops and hold the cordon area than recovering bodies of Naxal and their weapons.</p> <p>During the open gunfight, seemingly, sniper of naxal targeted Shri Pawan Kumar and hit him in forehead and was killed. Shri Pawan Kumar displayed exceptional bravery, exemplary courage and adroit use of military acumen in such life threatening grave situation inflicting heavy casualties and injuries on PLGA Bn and made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation. CT/GD Pawan Kumar is awarded “SHAURYA CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)”.</p>
15.	135033377, Shri Devan C, CT/GD, 201 COBRA, CRPF (POSTHUMOUS)	MHA		<p>An operation against armed naxals in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh was executed on 30/01/2024. A team of 201 COBRA & 150 Bn CRPF were earmarked for establishment of New FOB at Tekaigudium, PS Jagargunda, Distt-Sukma, Chhattisgarh on 30/01/2024.</p>


				<p>As per plan, total 289 Commandos of 201 COBRA in the following groups viz, Group-1 (team no 04, 05, 06 of B/201 COBRA) Group-2 (team no 07. 08. 09 of C/201 COBRA) Group-3(team no 16, 17, 18 of F/201 COBRA) Group Commander Sh. Jitendra Kumar, 2-I/C, under overall command of Sh. Dinesh Kumar Singh Dao 2-1/C left from FOB Bedre on 30/01/2024 & moved tactically towards the proposed FOB site. The above three coys reached safely near proposed FOB Site at Tekalgudium. The outer cordon at the designated areas were placed by the respective Coys around 1030 hrs. CT/GD, Shri Devan C participated in the operation with his team ie team no 09 of C/201 COBRA</p> <p>At around 1215 Hrs on 30/01/2024, few personnel of C/201 noticed the presence of armed and uniformed Naxals who were advancing towards outer cordon from south and south west direction and intimated the matter to concerned commanders. Suddenly Naxals started large volume of BGL fire and small arms fire from South and South-West Directions upon Group-02 i e. of C/201 COBRA. Then the commanders on ground warned and challenged the uniformed armed CPI (Maoist) cadres loudly to surrender but they intensified their fire with BGL, automatic & semi- automatic weapons. In Self Defence. Commandos of C/201 COBRA retaliated with same amount of fire on Naxals. Volume of fire of Naxals increased continuously with many more numbers of BGLs. Sensing the gravity of situation, CT/GD, Shri Devan. C, and his teams engaged the Naxals and resorted to a pitched battle leading to fierce encounter which lasted for around 4 hours. He fired in the direction from where the heavy fire was coming and advanced using fire</p>
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				<p>and move tactics Effective targeted fire from CT/GD, Shri Devan. C, made a huge impact as some Maoist cadres were forced to retreat and were seen fleeing away carrying dead bodies and injured personnel. In this fierce battle, many Naxals were seen hitting with number of bullets leading to their killings/injuries. Naxals faced heavy losses in terms of lives, many Naxals were hit and collapsed.</p> <p>While negotiating the open patch tactfully CT/GD, Shri Devan. C, along with other commandos, faced heavy volume of fire by Naxals. He retaliated and managed to duck down Naxals with his aimed and heavy fire and navigated this dangerous patch. During this intense firing, CT/GD, Shri Devan. C was hit multiple times by the Naxals, but he fought bravely despite heavy bleeding and forced the Naxals to retreat. CT/GD, Shri Devan. C showed great composure, bravery and fought the Naxals without losing his temper. He countered frontal attack despite eminent and gravest life threatening situation in which he continued his fire towards the group of naxals resorting heavy firing and ultimately neutralized naxals at the cost of risking his own life</p> <p>CT/GD, Shri Devan. C displayed exceptional bravery, exemplary courage and adroit use of military acumen in life threatening grave situation inflicting heavy casualties and injuries on PLGA Bn. and made the supreme sacrifice in service of the Nation. CT/GD, Devan C is awarded “SHAURYA CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)”</p>
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16.	8459, Shri Lakhveer, Dy Commandant, 201 COBRA, CRPF	MHA		<p>An operation against armed naxals in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh was executed on 30/01/2024. A team of 201 COBRA & 150 Bn CRPF were earmarked for establishment of New FOB at Tekalgudium, PS Jagargunda, Distt-Sukma, Chhattisgarh on 30/01/2024.</p> <p>As per plan, total 289 Commandos of 201 COBRA in the following groups viz, Group-1 (team no 04, 05, 06 of 8/201 COBRA) Group-2 (team no 07, 08, 09 of C/201 COBRA) led by Group Commander Sh. Lakhveer, DC & Group-3 (team no 16, 17, 18 of F/201 COBRA), under overall command of Sh. Dinesh Kumar Singh Deo, 2-1/C left from FOB Bedre on 30/01/2024 & moved tactically towards the proposed FOB site. The above three coys reached safely near proposed FOB Site at Tekalgudium. The outer cordon at the designated areas were placed by the respective Coys.</p> <p>On 30/01/2024, few personnel of C/201 noticed the presence of armed and uniformed Naxals who were advancing towards outer cordon from south and south west direction and intimated the matter to concerned commanders. Thereafter, seeing the sensitivity and probable threat perception, Sh. Lakhveer, DC alerted all the teams, directed them to be intact and take position, and prepared for possible Naxal attack. Suddenly Naxals started large volume of BGL fire and small arms fire from South and South-West Directions upon Group-02 ie. of C/201 COBRA. Naxals intensified their fire with BGL, automatic & semi-automatic weapons. In Self Defence, Commandos of C/201 COBRA retaliated with same amount of fire on Naxals on the direction of Group Commander of Group 2. Sh. Lakhveer, DC was the first person to inflict casualty on the Naxals as he successfully</p>
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			<p>fired upon Naxals who came very close to him. He himself came in open ground without caring his own life with CGRL Dett to motivate and give them direction to fire on groups of naxals. Naxals were trying to come closer taking advantage of thick vegetation and Nallah but troops of C/201 COBRA under able command of Group Commander Sh. Lakhveer, DC hit them hard and neutralized many of them. During effective retaliation of heavy fire of CGRL, 51 mm Mortar and UBGL etc, position of troops was exposed and it was very difficult to advance towards Naxals because there was a large open area between Naxals and troops. After an intense fight of approx 01 hour Sh. Lakhveer, DC and team commanders of C/201 COBRA decided to change position of their teams as naxal started encircling and trying hard to cut the teams from Eastern side. He directed the team and changed their position tactically from low open ground to comparatively high and dominating area, which was around 100-150Mtrs behind the existing position. Sh. Lakhveer, DC, Group Commander C/201 COBRA held his position near a bund where C/201 COBRA was fiercely fighting with the Naxals, Suddenly a BGL blasted on the head of Sh. Lakhveer, DC and injured him. Due to this injury, Sh. Lakhveer, DC was bleeding profusely from his head, but he maintained his composure and calmness and tied his patka/scarf to stop the excessive loss of blood. Despite being seriously injured he fought valiantly and commanded the troops effectively. Sh. Lakhveer, DC observing a large open tract of land directed teams of C/201 COBRA to take positions in the fringes at the end of the open patch where there was sufficient cover available and</p>
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				<p>directed the fire towards the open patch from where the Naxals were advancing so that their advance be stopped by inflicting heavy causality if they advance through the open patch.</p> <p>On arrival of WhAP vehicle near his teams, Sh. Lakhveer, DC who was seriously injured and still commanding his teams, helped injured personnel to evacuate. Sh. Lakhveer, DC remained present on ground with his troops to keep motivating them as well as continuously fought with enemy. After waiting for a long time for WhAP to come again to evacuate the remaining injured personnel he decided to evacuate them on foot as they were continuously losing blood. He and his troops without caring for their own lives evacuated the four injured personnel upto the FOB area. Sh. Lakhveer, DC himself evacuated CT/GD Manoj Nath on his shoulders without caring for his own injury. Sh. Lakhveer, DC also ensured supply of ammunition from FOB area to encounter site by using MPV. During this encounter, the intensity of firing from the Naxals was heavy and fierce. It was absolutely unbelievable and astounding that the Naxals could have such a huge fire power. Their volume of fire increased continuously with many more numbers of BGLS. Sensing the gravity of situation, Sh. Lakhveer, DC and his teams engaged the Naxals and resorted to a pitched battle leading to fierce encounter which lasted for around four hours. He ordered his troops to fire in the direction from where the heavy fire was coming and advanced using fire and move tactics, and also directed to fire CGRL and other area weapons to control the situation Fire of CGRL and other area weapons like 51 Mm Mortar and UBGL made a huge impact as some Maoist cadres were forced to retreat and</p>
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				<p>were seen fleeing away carrying dead bodies and injured personnel. In this fierce battle, many Naxals were seen hitting with number of bullets leading to their killings/injuries. Naxals faced heavy losses in terms of lives, many Naxals were hit and collapsed. However, it was more important to carry the injured troops and hold the cordon area than recovering bodies of Naxals and their weapons.</p> <p>Despite having serious BGL blast injury on his head, Sh. Lakhveer, DC displayed a great composure of commandership and kept fighting, motivating and leading his troops. He moved from the encounter site after ensuring that all injured have been safely evacuated.</p> <p>Sh. Lakhveer, DC showed unparalleled courage, fortitude and conspicuous gallant action blended with adroit military acumen, without caring for his own life in gravest life threatening situation, and thereby saved many lives of the troops and neutralized many hard-core PLGA cadres. Deputy Commandant Lakhveer is awarded "SHAURYA CHAKRA".</p>
17.	88837, Shri Rajesh Panchal , Asstt Comdt, 201 COBRA, CRPF	MHA		<p>An operation against armed naxals in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh was executed on 30/01/2024 A team of 201 COBRA & 150 Bn CRPF were earmarked for establishment of New FOB at Tekalgudium, PS Jagargunda, Distt-Sukma Chhattisgarh on 30/01/2024</p> <p>As per plan, total 289 Commandos of 201 COBRA in the following groups viz Group-1 (team no 04, 05, 06 of B/201 COBRA) Group Commander Sh. Dinesh Kumar Singh Deo, 2-1/C. Group-2 (team no 07, 08,09 of C/201 COBRA) Group Commander Sh. Lakhveer, DC & Group-3(team no 16, 17, 18 of F/201 COBRA) Group Commander Sh. Jitendra Kumar, 2-1/C, under overall command of</p>

				<p>Sh. Dinesh Kumar Singh Deo 2-1/C left from FOB Bedre at 0410 hrs on 30/01/2024 & moved tactically towards the proposed FOB site. The above three coys reached safely near proposed FOB Site at Tekalgudium about 0930 Hrs on 30/01/2024. The outer cordon at the designated areas were placed by the respective Coys around 1030 hrs. During this operation, team no 08 of C/201 COBRA was commanded by team commander Sh. Rajesh Panchal, AC.</p> <p>On 30/01/2024, personnel of C/201 noticed the movement of some civilians initially, after some time troops of C/201 COBRA was the first to notice the presence of armed and uniformed Naxals who were advancing towards outer cordon from south and south west direction and intimated to the concerned commanders. Thereafter seeing the sensitivity and probable threat perception, team commanders alerted all the teams, directed them to be intact and take position, and prepared for possible Naxal attack. Suddenly Naxals started large volume of BGL fire and small arms fire from South and South-West Directions upon Group-02 ie of C/201 COBRA</p> <p>Then commanders warned and challenged the uniformed armed CPI (Maoist) cadres loudly to surrender but they intensified their fire with BGL, automatic & semiautomatic weapons. In self defense, Commandos of C/201 COBRA retaliated with same amount of fire on Naxals on direction of Group Commander of Group 2 (Team No 07, 08, 09 of C/201 COBRA) Sh. Rajesh Panchal, AC successfully fired upon Naxals who came very close to him. He showed great composure, bravery and fought the Naxals without losing his temper. This was the first hold point, where the commandos of</p>
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				<p>C/201 COBRA stopped the advance of Naxals under the able command of Group Commander Sh. Rajesh Panchal, AC. On heavy firing of BGL, Automatic and semi-automatic weapon from Naxal side, Sh. Rajesh Panchal, AC ordered his team members to retaliate with heavy firing of area weapons and personal weapons. Naxal started to target C/201 COBRA with concentrated fire of BGL and snipers, during effective retaliation by heavy fire of CGRL, 51 mm Mortar and UBGL etc, position of troops has been exposed. After an intense fight of approx 01 hour Sh. Rajesh Panchal, AC with other team commanders of C/201 COBRA decided to change position of their teams as naxal started encircling and trying hard to cut the teams from Eastern side. He directed his team members to change their position tactically from low open ground to comparatively high and dominating area, which was around 100-150 Mtrs behind the existing position. Simultaneously Team 07 and Team 08 of C/201 COBRA engaged in an intense gunfight with Naxals. It was during this period that Sh. Rajesh Panchal, AC showed the ultimate leadership qualities. Naxal started indiscriminate firing on his team from South & South West direction from automatic/semiautomatic weapons as a bigger formation of Uniformed Armed Naxals spreading in small groups. He was virtually cornered by Naxals and considering his life in grave risk and imminent danger he launched counter attack on naxal without caring for his own life. As naxals positioned themselves on elevated ground in different small groups behind the trees in safe cover leading to virtually face-to-face gun battle between Sh. Rajesh Panchal, AC and PLGA cadre. During this gun battle, he got bullet injury in his right hand.</p>
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				<p>Despite injury, the officer commanded the troops effectively. He was successful in keeping his team intact and motivated them all along to fight the Naxáls fearlessly and also continued his fire towards the group of naxals resorting heavy firing and ultimately neutralized naxals.</p> <p>During this encounter, the intensity of firing from the Naxals was fierce. Sensing the gravity of situation, he engaged the Naxals and resorted to a pitched battle leading to fierce encounter which lasted around four hours and ordered his troops to fire in the direction from where the heavy fire was coming and advance by fire and move tactics. Naxals faced heavy losses in terms of lives; many Naxals were hit and were collapsing. But it was more important to carry the injured troops and hold the cordon area than recovering bodies of Naxal.</p> <p>Despite having serious bullet injury, Sh. Rajesh Panchal, AC showed unparalleled courage, fortitude and conspicuous gallant action blended with adroit military acumen, unmatchable professionalism in gravest life threatening situation and neutralized hardcore PLGA cadre. Asstt Comdt Rajesh Panchal is awarded “SHAURYA CHAKRA”.</p>
18.	115162617, Shri Malkit Singh , CT/GD, 201 COBRA, CRPF	MHA		<p>An operation against armed naxals in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh was executed on 30/01/2024. A team of 201 COBRA & 150 Bn CRPF were earmarked for establishment of New FOB at Tekalgudium, PS Jagargunda, Distt-Sukma, Chhattisgarh on 30/01/2024.</p> <p>As per plan, total 289 Commandos of 201 COBRA in the following groups viz, Group-1(team no 04, 05, 06 of B/201COBRA) Group Commander Sh. Dinesh Kumar Singh Deo, 2-1/C; Group-2 (team no 07, 08, 09 of C/201 COBRA) Group Commander Sh. Lakhveer,</p>

				<p>DC & Group-3(team no 16, 17, 18 of F/201 COBRA) Group Commander Sh. Jitendra Kumar, 2-1/C, under overall command of Sh. Dinesh Kumar Singh Deo, 2-1/C left from FOB Bedre at 0410 hrs on 30/01/2024 & moved tactically towards the proposed FOB site. The above three coys reached safely near proposed FOB Site at Tekalgudium about 0930 Hrs on 30/01/2024. The outer cordon at the designated areas were placed by the respective Coys around 1030 hrs. CT/GD Shri Malkit Singh participated in the operation with his team ie. team no 06 of B/201 COBRA</p> <p>Naxal started to target troops of 201 COBRA with concentrated fire of BGL and snipers, during effective retaliation by heavy fire of CGRL, 51 mm Mortar and UBGL etc, position of troops was exposed and it was very difficult to advance towards Naxals because there was a large open area between Naxals and troops. After an intense fight of approx 01 hour, troops of C/201 COBRA decided to change position of their teams as naxal started encircling and trying hard to cut the teams from Eastern side Team members planned to change their position tactically from low open ground to comparatively high and dominating area, which was around 100-150Mtrs behind the existing position. Accordingly, Team 07 and Team 08 started moving towards Team 06 of B/201. After some time heavy fire was opened upon Team no 06 of B/201 by the Naxals. Commandos of Team No.06 retaliated with heavy fire stopping the advance of Naxals & repelled the advance of Naxals much more effectively.</p> <p>During open gunfight, naxal targeted CT/GD Pawan Kumar and he received bullet injury in his head. In an attempt to recover the body of CT/GD Pawan Kumar who</p>
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				<p>was at that time not known as dead, commandos of team 06 provided cover fire and CT/GD Malkit Singh without caring for his personal safety amongst heavy fire of Naxals moved forward towards CT/GD, Pawan Kumar. He launched counter attack on naxal without caring for his own life. As naxals positioned themselves on elevated ground in different small groups behind the trees in safe cover leading to virtually face- to-face gun battle between CT/GD, Malkit Singh and PLGA cadre. But before he could reach Pawan Kumar, CT/GD, Malkit Singh got hit at chest during this gallant action. Despite receiving bullet injury, he continued his fire towards the group of naxals and ultimately neutralized naxals. During this encounter, the intensity of firing from the Naxals was fierce, which lasted around 4 hour. In this fierce battle, many Naxals were seen hitting with number of bullets leading to their killings/injuries. Naxals faced heavy losses in terms of lives; many Naxals were hit and were collapsing. Despite having serious bullet injury, CT/GD Malkit Singh shown unparalleled courage, fortitude and conspicuous gallant action blended with adroit military acumen, unmatchable professionalism, without caring for their own lives in gravest life threatening situation thereby saved lives of their troops in gravest life threatening situation and neutralized hardcore PLGA cadre. CT/GD Malkit Singh is awarded “SHAURYA CHAKRA”.</p>
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