

KIRTI CHAKRA

SHRI PRADIP KUMAR PANDA, CONSTABLE 130 BATTALION, CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE (POSTHUMOUS)

On 30 December 2017 at around 0200 hrs, three heavily armed terrorists sneaked into the Lethpora camp in Jammu and Kashmir and entered a four-storeyed building. On receipt of information about the attack, the Valley Quick Action Team(QAT) from Srinagar and Range QAT of South Kashmir Ops Range (SKOR) and Anantnag rushed for Lethpora camp.

One militant was sighted near the perimeter of the camp. Constable Pradip Kumar Panda and Constable S Prakash of valley QAT were in the front to engage the militant. As they closed in on the location, the militant greeted them with heavy volley of fire. The militant was hiding in the undulating open ground and firing continuously. No effective cover was available to approach him without grave risk to life. Yet, Constable Pradip Kumar Panda along with his buddy Constable advanced through the open area adopting fire and move tactics. As they closed in, the militant tried to hurl grenades towards them. At this juncture Constable Panda, without caring for his life, came out of his cover and fired at the militant neutralizing him on the spot. After this, he along with his buddy was leading the task to clear the room from the ground floor and reach the top. After clearing the ground and first two floors, Constable Panda audaciously entered another room. The militant hiding in the room fired upon him. Despite being injured, he did not give up and continued to fire at the militant till he fell down but not before inflicting serious wounds to the militant. Later he succumbed to his injuries and attained martyrdom.

The Lethpora operation continued for more than 36 hours and was eventually repulsed successfully by CRPF.

Constable Pradip Kumar Panda displayed exceptional and conspicuous bravery, raw courage, utmost dedication and commitment to duty in fighting with terrorists and made supreme sacrifice for the nation.

KIRTI CHAKRA

15496659X SOWAR VIJAY KUMAR THE ARMOURED CORPS / 22ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)

On 02 August 2018, based on input regarding presence of terrorists in village Darsu in Jammu and Kashmir, an operation was launched. Sowar Vijay Kumar was the guide of party that laid initial cordon and covered most likely escape route. At around 0230 hours terrorists opened heavy fire towards his position to break cordon, undeterred he returned fire forcing terrorists to hide in maize field. At around 0915 hours as search was being carried out, terrorists brought down heavy fire on the search party. Sensing danger to his comrades, he came in open and directly engaged terrorists, thereby ensuring safety of the search party. In the firefight he got injured but eliminated one terrorist.

Despite being injured, he refused evacuation and under effective covering fire from his buddy, he crawled forward and eliminated second terrorist in hand to hand combat.

Sowar Vijay Kumar displayed indomitable raw courage and undaunting bravery beyond the call of duty in eliminating two hardcore terrorists and made supreme sacrifice for the nation.

SHAURYA CHAKRA

**G/5008469A RIFLEMAN JAIPRAKASH ORAON
4TH BATTALION THE ASSAM RIFLES
(POSTHUMOUS)**

Rifleman Jaiprakash Oraon, deployed in the State of Manipur, was part of a three member team tasked to establish a picket as part of Road Opening Party on 15 November 2017. The team started deliberate sanitization of the area at around 0530h. A group of 7 to 8 terrorists taking advantage of dense foliage, undulating ground and heavy fog sprung an ambush on the picket party and brought down heavy volume of fire using sophisticated Assault Rifles from close range. Rifleman Jaiprakash Oraon was hit on the chest. Despite being grievously injured, in a rare act of gallantry displaying raw courage, utter disregard to personal safety and dedication to duty, he immediately retaliated with Light Machine Gun bursts and brought down effective fire on the terrorists resulting in elimination of two hard core terrorists and injuring two more terrorists. The aggressive counter ambush and the violent speed of retaliation forced the terrorists to flee in panic.

Rifleman Jaiprakash Oraon displayed matchless dedication and undaunted courage during fight with the terrorists and made supreme sacrifice for the nation.

SHAURYA CHAKRA

14945605A SEPOY AJAY KUMAR THE MECHANISED INFANTRY / 42ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)

On 24 April 2018, Sepoy Ajay Kumar was deployed as Scout in the initial search during an operation in Jammu and Kashmir. At approximately 0640 hours, the battalion Ghatak Platoon started search for likely hideout area. While the parties were approaching the area, Sepoy Ajay Kumar and Sepoy L Roshan Kom performing the duties of scouts of Battalion Ghatak Platoon drew heavy volume of fire from terrorists. The scouts retaliated but were engaged with Grenades by the terrorists. Sensing grave danger to his party, Sepoy Ajay Kumar, deliberately depriving himself of cover and displaying raw courage and nerves of steel, fired back on the terrorist enabling his team to move to cover without sustaining any injury. In this engagement Sepoy Ajay Kumar eliminated a Category A++ foreign terrorist while sustaining gunshot wound on the head.

Sepoy Ajay Kumar displayed courage, exceptional valour and presence of mind in extreme challenging condition to neutralise a hardcore terrorist and safeguard his team and made supreme sacrifice for the nation.

PARAM VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL

1. IC-39438M Lieutenant General Pattacheravanda Chengappa Thimmaya, VSM
The Mechanised Infantry
2. IC-39590A Lieutenant General Harish Thukral, SM, The Infantry
3. IC-40098F Lieutenant General Dushyant Singh, AVSM, The Infantry
4. IC-38643F Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh Salaria, VSM, The Regiment of
Artillery
5. IC-39865H Lieutenant General Michael Mathews, VSM and Bar, The Corps of
Engineers
6. Vice Admiral Gurtej Singh Pabby, AVSM, VSM (40869-H)
7. Vice Admiral Ajay Kumar Saxena, AVSM, VSM, (50763-W)
8. Air Marshal Hemant Sharma, AVSM, VSM (15941), Aeronautical Engineer
(Electronics) **(Retired)**
9. Air Marshal Pandurang Narayan Pradhan, AVSM (16403), Flying (Pilot)
(Retired)
10. Air Marshal Hemant Narayan Bhagwat, AVSM, VM (16423), Administration
(Retired)
11. IC-38708K Lieutenant General Ashok Ambre, AVSM and Bar, SM, The Infantry
(Retired)
12. IC-40378P Major General Bollina Venkata Rao, VSM, The Corps Of Engineers
13. IC-40792N Major General Dev Arvind Chaturvedi, AVSM, SM, The Infantry

UTTAM YUDDH SEVA MEDAL

1. IC-40022F Lieutenant General Anil Kumar Bhatt, AVSM, SM, VSM
The Infantry, Headquarters 15 Corps
2. IC-40235P Lieutenant General Gopal R, AVSM, SM, The Infantry

ATI VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL

1. Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar, VM (16770) Flying (Pilot)
2. IC-39117P Lieutenant General Bhopendra Singh Sahrawat, SM, The Infantry
3. IC-39956M Lieutenant General Gurpal Singh Sangha, SM, VSM, The Infantry
4. IC-39996N Lieutenant General Rajeev Sabherwal, VSM, The Corps of Signals
5. IC-39464H Lieutenant General Milind Hemant Thakur, VSM, The Infantry
6. IC-38528F Lieutenant General Kapil Kumar Aggarwal, SM, VSM, The Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers
7. IC-39874K Lieutenant General Taranjit Singh, VSM and Bar, The Armoured Corps
8. MR-04434X Lieutenant General Rajan Singh Grewal, VSM, The Army Medical Corps
9. IC-41465P Lieutenant General Ajai Singh, The Armoured Corps
10. IC-41521H Lieutenant General Harsha Gupta, YSM, VSM, The Infantry
11. Vice Admiral Badhwar Vinay (02437N)
12. Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani, VSM (50884-W)
13. Air Marshal Mannepalli Baladitya, VSM (17230) Logistics
14. IC-40982A Major General Gurdarshan Singh Aul, The Infantry
15. IC-41858L Major General Codanda Poovaiah Cariappa, SM, VSM, The Infantry
16. IC-41912N Major General Tarun Kumar Chawla, The Regiment of Artillery
17. IC-42491H Major General Chandi Prasad Sangra, YSM, The Infantry

18. IC-43021K Major General Gulab Singh Rawat, YSM, SM, The Infantry
19. IC-39864A Major General Vikram Dev Dogra, The Armoured Corps
20. Rear Admiral Ravindra Jayant Nadkarni, VSM (02602-N)
21. Rear Admiral Kapil Mohan Dhir, VSM (02785-B)
22. Air Vice Marshal Mahendra Vikram Singh (17272) Medical
23. Air Vice Marshal Amar Preet Singh (17695) Flying (Pilot)
24. IC-40133Y Major General Sanjay Christopher Meston, SM, VSM, The Infantry
(Retired)
25. Air Vice Marshal Anil Kumar Gupta, VSM (16942) Aeronautical Engineering
(Mechanical) **(Retired)**
26. Air Commodore Manu Chaudhary, VM (19896) Flying (Pilot)

**SHRI KULDEEP SINGH CHAHAR, DEPUTY COMMANDANT
182 BATTALLION, CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE**

On 26 August 2017 at around 0400 Hrs, three terrorists sneaked into the District Police Line, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir. They were intercepted by the daring and alert CRPF troops who responded valiantly disorienting them from their target. Then the terrorists rushed towards the family quarters located opposite of the barracks.

Reacting to the situation, Shri Kuldeep Singh Chahar, Deputy Commandant and Unit Quick Action Team (QAT) evacuated most of the residents to safety. However, the occupants of the blocks, where the terrorists had positioned themselves, were yet to be rescued. To accomplish this task, Shri Kuldeep Singh Chahar and Head Constable Dhanawade Ravindra Baban alongwith their team kept on moving inside the building to search for the terrorists.

While the duo was moving ahead, the terrorist opened a barrage of bullets towards them. However, they continued to advance in an attempt to pin down the terrorist who was frequently changing his position. Seeing them uncomfortably close, the terrorist unleashed a heavy volume of fire at the duo. The deadly bullets hit Head Constable Dhanawade Ravindra Baban. Before the terrorist could change his position, the duo hit the terrorist leaving him grievously injured. The terrorist in a desperate attempt lobbed a grenade towards the duo to block their advance and reposition him self beneath the stairs. Meanwhile, condition of Head Constable Dhanawade Ravidnra Baban was deteriorating. Subjecting to grave risk, Shri Kuldeep Singh Chahar evacuated him. After herculean efforts for approx. 20 hours, all the terrorists were neutralized by the troops in a fierce gun battle.

Shri Kuldeep Singh Chahar, Deputy Commandant showed gallantry and indomitable courage in the face of imminent death.

SHAURYA CHAKRA

SS-43745F MAJOR PAWAN KUMAR THE JAT REGIMENT / 34TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES

In September 2017, a top terrorist and the longest surviving terrorist of the valley whilst infiltrating back from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir by taking cover of darkness, thick foliage, boulders and folds of the ground was effectively engaging own troops with deadly fire. The dreaded terrorist could have been engaged only with accurate indirect fire. Major Pawan Kumar realising the gravity of situation and danger to safety of own troops, undaunted by heavy volumes of fire, displaying raw courage, used folds of the ground to crawl towards the terrorist and closed in the distance. He lobbed a grenade at the terrorist forcing him to expose himself and in a fierce encounter shot him dead from a close quarter.

Major Pawan Kumar displayed perseverance, dedication to duty, unmatched bravery and raw courage in elimination of a hardcore terrorist.

SHAURYA CHAKRA
IRFAN RAMZAN SHEIKH

During intervening night of October 16/17, 2017, some militants cordoned off the house of Mohd Ramzan Sheikh, a political activist in Jammu and Kashmir. When Irfan Ramzan Sheikh, his elder son, aged about 14 years opened the door, he found three militants in the verandah of the house armed with AK series rifles and grenades. Sensing that the militants could harm his family, he exhibited highest degree of courage and faced the militants for some time so as to avoid their entry inside the house. In the meantime, his father came out from the house and the militants pounced upon him, resulting in scuffle. Irfan Ramzan Sheikh did not think for a moment for his personal safety and pounced upon the militants for safeguarding the life of his father and other family members. The militants resorted to indiscriminate firing resulting in severe injury to his father. However, Irfan Ramzan Sheikh did not lose courage and continued to engage in scuffle one of the militants who resorted to indiscriminate firing upon his father resulting in severe injuries to the militant as well. On seeing one of their associates injured, the militants tried to flee away. However, Irfan Ramzan Sheikh chased them and they left the body of their associate militant.

Irfan Ramzan Sheikh exhibited the extraordinary show of bravery and maturity in such a small age.

SHAURYA CHAKRA

G/5016407P RIFLEMAN RATHVA LILESH BHAI 4TH BATTALION THE ASSAM RIFLES

Rifleman Rathva Lilesh Bhai, deployed in the State of Manipur was part of three member's team tasked to establish a picket as part of Road Opening Party in November 2017. The team started deliberate sanitization at 0530 hours. A group of 7 to 8 terrorists taking advantage of dense foliage, undulating ground and heavy fog sprung an ambush on the picket party and brought down heavy volume of fire using sophisticated Assault Rifles from close range. In the initial burst of terrorist fire, two of his team members including Rifleman Jaiprakash Oraon were hit. In a rare act of gallantry, Rifleman Rathva Lilesh Bhai dashed down and crawled under heavy terrorist fire towards Rifleman Jaiprakash Oraon. Sensing Rifleman General Duty Jaiprakash Oraon was hit, he took Light Machine Gun from him. In a series of quick actions, exhibiting raw courage, presence of mind and tactical acumen, Rifleman Rathva Lilesh Bhai moved close to terrorist position and brought down effective fire, thereby eliminating two hardcore terrorists and inflicting injury to two more terrorists. The aggressive counter ambush and violent speed of retaliation forced the terrorists to flee in panic.

Rifleman Rathva Lilesh Bhai displayed gallantry with utter disregard to his own safety, tactical acumen and dogged determination during fight with the terrorists.

**JC-414217H NAIB SUBEDAR ANIL KUMAR DHAYIA
FIRST BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES)**

Naib Subedar Anil Kumar Dhayia was Second-in-Command of the detachment deployed in the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, tasked to intercept terrorist movement from their launch pad.

Based on information gained and profiling of target, a detachment was launched in December 2017 to intercept terrorist movement. Naib Subedar Anil Kumar Dhayia volunteered to place Improvised Explosive Device on the Track Junction. At 0500 hours on 04 December 2017, employing exceptional field craft, he crawled with his buddy to within 100 metres of the launch pad and displaying nerves of steel, sited the Improvised Explosive Device with stealthily. Steadfast and vigilant, after almost 36 hours of continued surveillance, he observed movement of five hostiles at Track Junction. Once in the killing area, he detonated the Improvised Explosive Device with precision and brought down aimed fire from his personal weapon at a range of 180 metres eliminating three hostiles.

Naib Subedar Anil Kumar Dhayia displayed valour, inspiring leadership, outstanding tactical acumen and strong resolve during the operation against terrorists.

**SHRI ZILE SINGH, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT
180 BATTALLION, CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE**

On 30 December 2017 at around 0200 hrs, three heavily armed terrorists sneaked into the Lethpora camp and entered a four-storeyed building. On receipt of information about the attack, the Valley Quick Action Team (QAT) from Srinagar and Range QAT of South Kashmir Ops Range (SKOR) and Anantnag of CRPF rushed for Lethpora camp. Shri Zile Singh, Assistant Commandant of Range QAT(SKOR) with his buddy Constable Rajendra Kumar Nain moved to evacuate the trapped personnel from the building. Amid the heavy firing, troops rescued about ten personnel from building, and then advanced to engage the terrorists hiding in attic area.

When Constable Rajendra Kumar Nain was hit by a terrorist's Armour Piercing Incendiary (API) round in the chest, Shri Zile Singh charged on the terrorists with the covering fire from his fellow officer and neutralized him on the spot. The Lethpora operation continued for more than 36 hours and was eventually repulsed successfully by CRPF.

Shri Zile Singh, Assistant Commandant displayed bravery, raw courage, utmost dedication and commitment to duty, indomitable will and passion in fighting with the terrorists.

SHAURYA CHAKRA

9108390L HAVILDAR JAWEED AHMAD BHAT, SENA MEDAL 9TH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES)

A veteran of anti terrorist operations, Havildar Jaweed Ahmad Bhat, despite suffering from an injured ankle, volunteered to be part of the troop deployed along the Line of Control to intercept terrorist infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir.

In January 2018, movement of eleven heavily armed hostiles trying to infiltrate along the Line of Control was observed by own troops. The troop immediately launched to cut off the hostiles who opened indiscriminate fire and scattered in the dense undergrowth when intercepted by own troops. Own squad drew intense fire from a group of hostiles hiding in the undergrowth. Discerning grave threat to own troops, Havildar Jaweed Ahmad Bhat, displaying superlative battle craft, closed in with the hostiles while maintaining his calm and shot dead two hostiles and grievously injured another one at close quarters.

Havildar Jaweed Ahmad Bhat displayed gallantry, dogged determination, unflinching resolve and exceptional battle craft while single handedly eliminating two enemy soldiers and grievously wounding one.

**5757174A HAVILDAR KUL BAHADUR THAPA
9TH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES)**

Havildar Kul Bahadur Thapa, an avid mountaineer and combat diver, was part of the troop deployed along the Line of Control to prevent enemy attacks on own posts in Sunderbani Sector. In February 2018, movement of four heavily armed hostiles, opposite own post, trying to infiltrate was observed by own troops. Discerning the threat to own posts, Havildar Kul Bahadur Thapa immediately launched his squad. Undeterred by the unforgiving terrain, leading his squad, he crossed the freezing river and scaled a steep cliff to position the squad and established contact with the hostiles. In the ensuing firefight, own troops were pinned down by intense hostile fire. Sensing the grave threat to own troops, Havildar Kul Bahadur Thapa crawled under the hail of bullets to reposition himself and eliminated two hostiles at close range as also grievously injured other two by throwing grenades.

Havildar Kul Bahadur Thapa displayed gallantry, tactical acumen and outstanding leadership in combat, while killing two enemy soldiers and grievously injuring two hostile civilian accomplices, and prevented own casualties during the action.

**IC-62648Y LIEUTENANT COLONEL ARJUN SHARMA
6TH BATTALION THE JAT REGIMENT**

Based on inputs regarding presence of four foreign terrorists in an area in Jammu and Kashmir, an operation was launched in March 2018. During search, four terrorists were seen running towards a Nala. Lieutenant Colonel Arjun Sharma with utter disregard to personal safety, leading from the front, jumped into the Nala and chased the terrorists boldly. The terrorists opened heavy fire and lobbed grenades on the officer at close range. Displaying uncommon valour and exceptional leadership, he eliminated the first terrorist at eight meters. He reoriented the cordon ensuring the terrorists remain trapped. At approximately 1000 hours, the terrorists tried to escape. However, the officer immediately engaged and eliminated the second terrorist. Subsequently the terrorists were engaged with grenades and small arms fire leading to elimination of four foreign terrorists.

Lieutenant Colonel Arjun Sharma displayed exemplary leadership, swift action and outstanding valour with complete disregard to personal safety and prevented a major terrorist strike.

SHAURYA CHAKRA

IC-76425M CAPTAIN ABHAY SHARMA, SENA MEDAL FIRST BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES)

In April 2018, Captain Abhay Sharma, SM laid an ambush along the Line of Control. At 1310 hours, the party spotted movement of 10 hostiles carrying weapons and moving towards own post. He quickly deployed his party at two locations and at an opportune time he along with his buddy opened fire and neutralised two terrorists. Displaying exceptional battle craft, he provided cover fire enabling his buddy to disengage and move to safety. Thereafter, displaying exemplary leadership, he crawled under support fire of his buddy and shot down another terrorist at close range.

Captain Abhay Sharma, SM exhibited composure, exceptional tactical acumen under heavy fire and resolute leadership and successfully executed the ambush neutralizing terrorists without any casualty to own troops.

SHAURYA CHAKRA

**IC-73080L MAJOR IMLIAKUM KEITZAR
4TH BATTALION THE 4TH GORKHA RIFLES**

On 09 June 2018, Major Imliakum Keitzar went in pursuit of terrorists hiding in the inhospitable and snow bound terrain in Jammu and Kashmir, crawled in the steep and rugged high altitude terrain ahead of fence and closed in on to terrorists braving their heavy volume of fire. The officer killed the first terrorist by closing in on to him and firing Multiple Grenade Launcher at close range. He further moved tactically towards the second terrorist and showing his raw courage shot him on his head risking his life to the terrorist's spray of bullets. Sensing the presence of another terrorist, he endangered his life yet again and eliminated the third terrorist.

Major Imliakum Keitzar displayed courage, selfless devotion, leadership and gallantry and personally eliminated three terrorists.

SHAURYA CHAKRA

**IC-76258F MAJOR ROHIT LINGWAL
9TH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES)**

Major Rohit Lingwal was deployed in Jammu and Kashmir for conduct of counter infiltration operations. He was able to obtain intelligence about a likely reconnaissance activity of a hardcore terrorist. The terrorist was to lead a group for conduct of major attack on own post on the Line of Control. Major Rohit Lingwal led his troop through mine fields ahead of own defences and laid multiple ambushes for protracted period. In July 2018 on one afternoon, he observed the terrorist approaching own posts. He alerted his troop and started closing in towards the terrorist. Displaying outstanding field craft and nerves of steel, he maintained surprise till the end and shot him dead at close quarters. His action thwarted a major hostile action on own troops.

Major Rohit Lingwal displayed gallantry, outstanding leadership, meticulous planning and perseverance in eliminating a hardcore terrorist.

**IC-66057P LIEUTENANT COLONEL VIKRANT PRASHER
10TH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES)**

In August 2018, presence of a category A++ terrorist was confirmed in a specific area in Jammu and Kashmir. Lieutenant Colonel Vikrant Prasher, alongwith three other ranks displaying extreme mental agility and situational awareness, closed in on the terrorist leader in a busy market place. A firefight ensued between the small groups of terrorists and the four valiant soldiers at extremely close range. Unmindful of the fire and risks, Lt Col Vikrant Prasher skillfully and accurately eliminated the terrorist leader while the other terrorists disappeared amongst the crowd. Lt Col Prasher skillfully retrieved his small team from the volatile crowd in quick time with tremendous professional grit.

Lt Col Vikrant Prasher displayed bravery, superior tactical expertise, ingenuity and unorthodox approach leading to surgical elimination of a hardcore terrorist.