



STORIES OF HEROISM

(ASHOKA CHAKRA & KHETI CHAKRA WINNERS)



HISTORY DIVISION
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
GOVT. OF INDIA



This book, second in the series of publication 'Stories of Heroism' includes 39 Ashoka Chakra and 303 Kirti Chakra awardees. These awards are bestowed for conspicuous bravery other than in the face of the enemy.

'Stories of Heroism' is intended to serve the dual purpose of creating general awareness among the people about the deeds of bravery and also to record the inspiring acts of gallantry of these brave awardees.

It is hoped that this book will inspire the younger generation and inculcate in them the qualities of courage, bravery and self sacrifice.



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STORIES OF HEROISM

VOL II

(ASHOKA CHAKRA & KIRTI CHAKRA WINNERS)

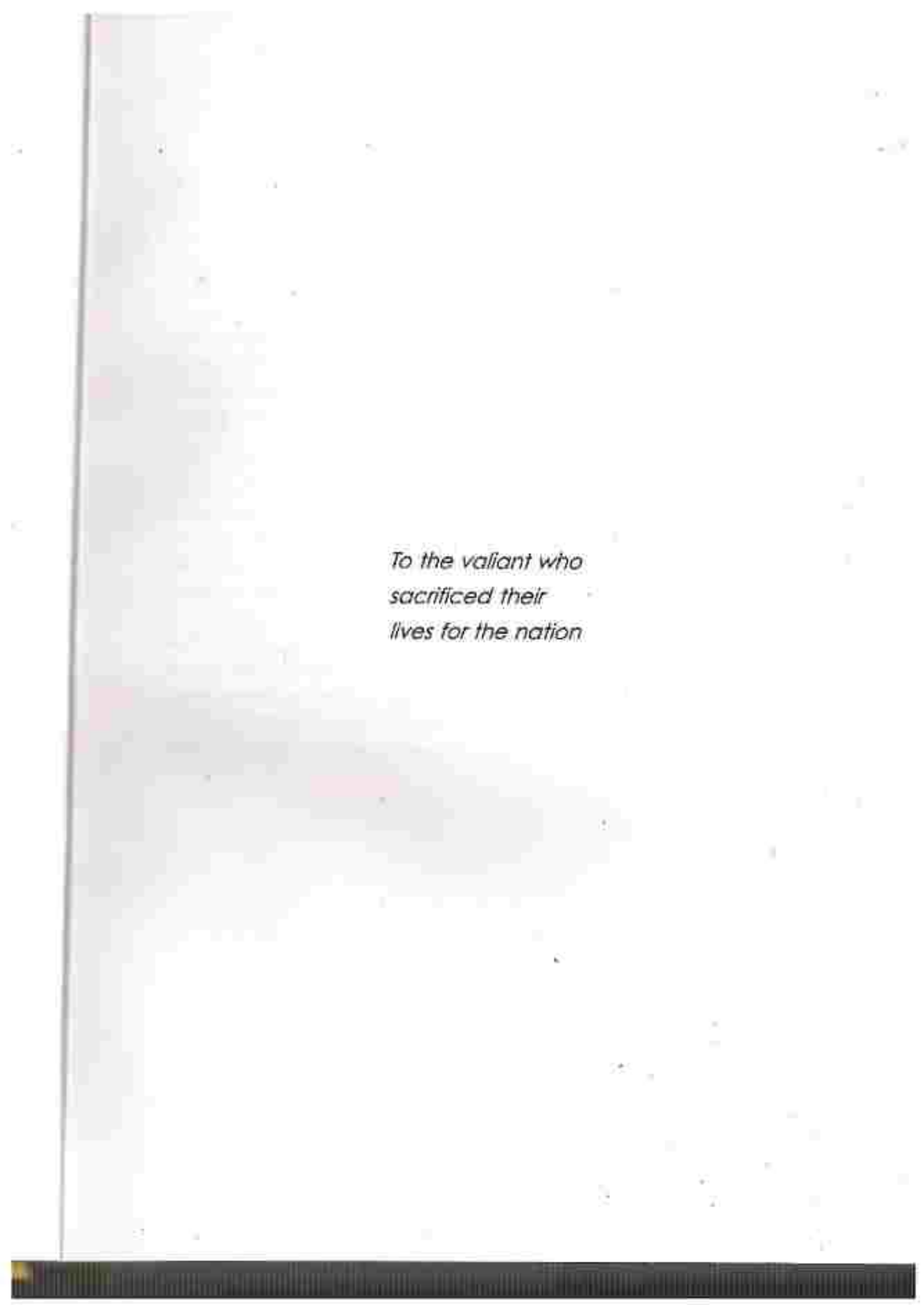
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HISTORY DIVISION
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
GOVT. OF INDIA
1997



*To the valiant who
sacrificed their
lives for the nation*

PREFACE

Gallantry evokes admiration. In India there is an old tradition of honouring the brave. The Vedas, the Epics and the Puranas bear evidence to this. The Ashoka Chakra and Kirti Chakra are now awarded for conspicuous bravery or some act of daring or pre-eminent valour and self sacrifice other than in the face of enemy. Many men of the Indian Armed Forces, Para Military Forces, Police Forces and Civilians have shed their blood or laid down their lives in performing their duties and have been honoured with Ashoka Chakra and Kirti Chakra. The History Division undertook the writing of this book to immortalise these deeds of bravery. This book is the second in the series of publications, 'Stories of Heroism' brought out by the History Division, Ministry of Defence. The earlier volume of 'Stories of Heroism' (Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra Winners) was published in 1995.

The compilation of this book was first undertaken by Dr. B. C. Chakravorty, Narrator. Dr. U. P. Thapliyal, former Director, History Division worked extensively on the manuscript and edited it. In this task he was assisted by Dr. D. C. Verma and Shri Jasvinder Singh, Dy. Directors. Shri Jasvinder Singh also shouldered the responsibility of seeing the book through the press. I am greatly obliged to them. Shri Y. C. Bhargava, Research Assistant collected necessary material for preparing the biographical accounts from different sources. Smt. Reva Dhanedhar, Asstt. Director, Shri Om Shanker, Asstt. Director (H) and Shri S. M. Ahmad, Research Assistant helped me in various measures. Shri N. K. Sagar, P. A. and Smt. Hemlata, Steno, typed the manuscript. I am indebted to these colleagues for their valuable cooperation. The work, of course, could neither have been taken nor completed without the encouragement and support given to us by the Ministry of Defence.


G B Singh
Director

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MEDALS AND DECORATIONS OF INDIA

शूरः सर्वे पालयति सर्वं शूरे प्रतिष्ठितम् ।

(The hero protects and cherishes all, and all things depend upon the hero)

The Ancient Period

The custom of rewarding the brave is as old as man. In early tribal societies the mantle of leadership always fell on the most valiant. Among the Indo-Aryans the brave Indra became the commander and the king. The soldiers were entitled to a share in the spoils of war commensurate with their contribution. The charioteers were entitled to one-fourth of the booty captured in war. Subsequently, it was ordained that spoils such as chariots, elephants, parasols, women and vessels would go to the brave who wins them. The lure of earthly rewards continued to inspire the braves for centuries to come.

In the Epic age the reward of heavenly bliss motivated the soldier to fight resolutely. In Gita, Krishna exhorts Arjuna to join the battle because in the event of victory the pleasures of earth will accrue to him and in the event of death he will ascend to heaven.

In the Mahabharata there is a reference that Janaka, the ruler of Videha, through his yogic powers enabled his soldiers to see the glory of the martyrs in the heaven and the ignominy of the cowards in the hell. He addressed them, "Behold there are regions endowed with great splendour for those that fight fearlessly; full of Gandharva girls, these regions are eternal and capable of granting every wish. There on the other side are the regions of hell intended for those that fly away from the battle. They would have to rot there for eternity in everlasting ingloriousness. The laying down of life (in battle) constitutes in respect of heroes, their happy door of heaven". The fallen heroes ascended the heaven in the escort of celestial nymphs.

The concept of gallantry found expression in the institution of *Vira-kala* (memorials of the gallant) in southern India. Such memorials are referred to in Sangam literature. When a soldier fell fighting, his compatriots marked the spot by raising there a stone bearing the name and fame of the fallen hero. Soon a literary convention standardised the procedure for erecting such memorials. Often these became the object of worship with people.

The custom of honouring gallantry by giving cash awards also prevailed in ancient India. The *Arthashastra* of Kautilya even specifies the awards for various acts of gallantry. "A hundred thousand (Panas) for slaying the king (the enemy); fifty thousand for slaying the Commander-in-Chief or the heir apparent; ten thousand for destroying an elephant or a chariot, a thousand for killing a horse; a hundred for slaying the chief of the infantry; twenty for bringing a head; and twice the pay in addition to whatever is seized". Similar views on cash awards are met in the Puranas and Niti works.

Enhanced pay and promotions were granted for distinguished performance in the battle-field. A warrior who broke the enemy array or saved his own front received royal treatment and doubled emoluments. He was also granted promotion and gifts such as jewellery and sandal-wood. The king was expected to promote soldiers for extraordinary bravery. Hoysala rulers promoted brave soldiers as *Garuda* i.e. life guard of the king.

The braves were honoured with land grants and relief in taxation. The family of the soldier who died fighting was given rent free land. Chivalric titles were conferred on distinguished soldiers. Selected few were honoured with a *Prasadapatta* i.e. a band or fillet of gold. In this connection *Todar* and *Gand Peridura* two Hoysala awards are of unusual interest. *Todar* was a golden badge with carvings conferred on soldiers promoted to serve as life guards to the kings. It was worn on the left foot. *Gand Peridura* was bestowed on reputed soldiers and was worn like an anklet on the right leg.

Medieval Period

In medieval period India was ruled by Turks, Alghans and Mughals. Sultanate kings honoured their soldiers with titles, degrees and names of honour, cash and privileges. The Mughals conferred high sounding titles such as Amir Khan (Lord of Riches), Zafar Khan (Lord of Victory), Sarbuland Khan (Lord of Exalted Position), Shujaat Khan (Lord of Bravery), Amir-ul-Umara, Khan-e-Khanan, Khan Jahan, etc.

The *Khilat* or robe of honour was bestowed in accordance with the status of the recipient. The seven piece *Khilat* the highest category, comprised a cap, a long gown, a close fitting coat, two pairs of trousers, two shirts, two girdles and a scarf. People in professions other than army were also entitled to this honour.

Other honours included the right to display the battle drum and *Mahi-e-maratib* (fish symbol). The latter could be granted only to nobles who commanded at least 5000 sowars. Vassal kings were bestowed with *Tugh*, *Atam* and *Aftabgir*. Cash awards were also given. Ornaments, palanquin, horse, chariot pearls and jewels were also granted to men of distinction. Among the medieval Indian awards there is nothing which could compare with the modern medals.

Modern Period

The institution of medals was introduced in India by the East India Company in the eighteenth century. Earlier medals for military service had been instituted by Queen Elizabeth in late 16th century. A campaign medal had been instituted for the Battle of Dunbar in 1650. A war service medal was instituted by Charles I in 1643 "to be delivered to wear on the breast by every man who shall be certified under the hands of their Commander-in-Chief to have done us faithful service in the forlorn hope". Thus began the history of the British war medals and decorations.

When East India Company acquired a political status in India in the later half of the eighteenth century, the British institution of war medals was in formative stage. The Company's institutions in India, therefore, influenced the growth of British medals and decorations in a substantial measure.

War Medals

The earliest medal issued by the Company on the Indian soil was to honour the native officers who had suppressed a mutiny at Monghyr in 1786. Next came the Deccan Medal (1778-84). It was the earliest Anglo-Indian medal to be awarded to all ranks. It was worn suspended from the neck by a yellow cord. This was followed by the Mysore Medal (1791-92) which was again awarded to all participant native troops. Srirangapatnam Medal was, however, awarded to all officers and men, European and native, who had taken part in the battle. It was struck in gold for high nobilities, in silver gold for officers and copper bronze for men. The ribbon was orange-watered and symbolised the emblem of Tipu Sultan.

In the first half of the 19th century the growing ambitions of the Company brought her into conflict with native states and bordering countries. This led to many wars. Consequently, many new medals were instituted to honour the braves.

Instituting a medal for the Nepal War, the General Order by the Governor General in Council dated 20 March 1816, said "the nature of the country and the climatic conditions were so novel to the native troops that a greater degree of merit must be attached to intrepidity under such circumstances, at the same time that a testimonial of exemplary behaviour in such a service must have more than ordinary value to those on whom it may be bestowed. Government has therefore determined that silver medals shall be presented to every native officer who actually served within the hills and to as many of the non-commissioned officers and privates as shall be recommended by the commanders of their respective Battalions for distinguished zeal of gallantry in the course of that duty".

Institution of many campaign medals resulted in manifold increase in the number of medals. To avoid such multiplications in the forties of the 18th century, the Army General Service Medal was introduced in the British Army. In other words, now the same medal could be given for all small wars or expeditions in a certain country or continent, with bars attached to the ribbon denoting the particular service for which the medal was awarded. The Company following the Home Government instituted Army of India Medal in 1851. Four General Service Medals were subsequently instituted to cover operations undertaken from 1849 to 1895, 1895 to 1898 and 1908 to 1928. To commemorate the 'Robert's march' from Kabul to Kandhar in 1880 a bronze medal called 'Robert's Star' was instituted. It is notable that a star was granted only when a major campaign was to be commemorated. A General Service Medal was granted for minor campaigns.

Gallantry Medals : The campaign or commemorative medals referred to above were granted to all participants in a war. But in this system there was no recognition for the gallantry of an individual. The Company, therefore, followed the British model in this regard. In the beginning the gallant deeds of

individual soldiers were recorded in the Despatches sent by the commander to the Governor General and by the Governor General to the Board of Control. These Despatches bear eloquent testimony to the bravery of many soldiers.

The Company also followed the custom of rewarding its soldiers with prize money. After the English defeated the Rohillas, the money that fell to the victors was distributed among soldiers in an equitable manner. At the end of Mysore War the spoils collected at Srirangapatnam were distributed among the generals and the soldiers. After the victory against the Marathas on 11 September 1803, the prize money amounting to 540 thousands rupees was distributed among the soldiers. The General Order by the Governor General in Council dated the 8 October 1803, runs "the Governor General in Council.....deems it to be the duty of this Government to anticipate the sanction of His Majesty, and of the Honourable the Court of Directors for the distribution of this sum, as a testimony of the applause and fortitude with which the British Government views the exemplary valour, discipline, zeal and firmness displayed by the army under the personal command of His Excellency General Lake during the present glorious campaign, and the memorable battle of Delhi".

At the end of Mysore War, Prize Committee directed that the state sword of Tipu Sultan be presented to General Baird in the name of the army as a testimonial of their high admiration of his courage and conduct in the assault. Governor General Lord Wellesley was presented a star and badge of the Order of St. Patrick, composed of Tipu's jewels by the Court of Directors, "For speedy and glorious termination of war."

Honorary colours and standards were conferred on Regiments for gallant performance. After the victory at Aligarh and Delhi in 1803 the participating units were granted colours.

The British sovereign granted the title 'Royal' to a service corps or regiment in recognition of distinguished service. In 1892 Indian Marine were awarded this title. Indian Air Force became the Royal Indian Air Force on 12 March 1945. Many services, corps and regiments of the Indian Army were awarded this title in recognition of their distinguished service. The use of this title was discontinued after India became a Republic.

The British custom of granting Battle Honours to units for distinguished performance in war was also introduced in India. Public monuments were erected to honour the dead heroes. Lord Wellesley ordered that "a public monument be erected at Fort William to the brave officers and men, European and natives who have fallen in the public services during the Aligarh and Delhi campaign". A similar order was issued by him to honour the gallants who laid down their lives in the battle of Assaye: "The names of the brave officers and men who fell at the battle of Assaye will be commemorated, together with the circumstances of action, upon the public monuments to be erected at Fort William to the memory of those who have fallen in public service during the present campaign."

Occasionally, the award of a medal was accompanied by land grants and hike in pay. In November 1817, the Governor in Council recommended promotion and enhanced pay to Jemadar Shaik Hussain and of Hunyhye for their fidelity and attachment to the Company. "It is the intention of the Governor in Council also to bestow on each a medal with a suitable inscription and to recommend to the Honourable the Court of Directors the grant to each on retirement from service and to their heirs in perpetuity land in inam in such part of the British territories as they prefer yielding an income equal to double the emoluments of the ordinary pension of the rank they may have held on their retiring from service".

In the early phase of the Company rule in India the following honours and awards were in use with the Indian Army :—

1. Mention-in-Despatches
2. Campaign Medals and Stars
3. Prize Money
4. Distinguished Service Medals
5. Pay Hike and Promotion
6. Land Grants

About the middle of the nineteenth century a system of military decorations was introduced in India. Indian Order of Merit (in three classes) was the earliest honour, instituted to recognise to the

gallantry of Indian officers and men. In 1856 Victoria Cross was instituted and it was subsequently made applicable to Indians as well. In 1857 the Victoria Cross and the Distinguished Conduct Medal were the only decorations which could be won by a soldier on the battle fields.

Indian Order of Merit, Military Cross and Indian Distinguished Service Medal were added to the list of awards in due course. There were also some medals which could be awarded to Indians and these included CIE, CEE, OBE, MBE, OBI(1), OBI(2), IMSM and EEM. This was the position of Indian Medals and decorations at the end of World War I.

After World War I, 4,20,000 acres of land was distributed among 5,902 VCO's and IORs in recognition of their distinguished service. Jangli Inam was granted to 14,100 recipients for two lives. VCOs, IORs and followers received Rs. 10.0, Rs. 5.0 and Rs. 2.5 respectively. 200 Jagirs were awarded to specially selected VCOs for distinguished service. Two hundred honorary commissions as King's Commissioned Officers were granted to selected VCOs.

During World War II some changes were introduced in the system of honours and awards. A gratuity of Rs. 200/- was sanctioned for the IDSM and Rs. 75/- for each bar thereto. From 15 February 1944, Indian ranks were made eligible for the award of Military Medals. The IOM was placed above the Military Cross in the order of precedence. The MC hereafter became the lowest gallantry decoration open to VCOs. The award of IOM was generally confined to VCOs and its grant to IORs was limited to outstanding act of leadership. The IDSM was placed above the MM and its award restricted to IORs.

These modifications in the institution of decorations and medals also necessitated some changes in the allowances attached to the awards. Earlier to World War II, winners of decorations were paid entirely by the Central Government. But during the war some Provincial Governments also introduced the novel custom of making grants of land or money to soldiers. The Punjab Government took the initiative in this matter in 1943.

In course of time, decorations such as Distinguished Service Order, Military Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Cross, Indian Order of Merit, Conspicuous Gallantry Medals, Distinguished Flying Medal, Air Force Medal, Military Medal and Distinguished Service Medal were instituted. The Indian soldiers were entitled to all decorations of the British Army.

Post-Independence Period

After India became independent in 1947, a new system had to be devised to replace the British colonial system of medals and decorations. The Operations Jammu and Kashmir, which started in October 1947, introduced an element of urgency to the issue. Immediately, a Committee was appointed to examine the need of instituting gallantry awards for Indian Armed Forces. The Committee suggested the Chakra series i.e. Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra in June 1948.

The awards were sought to be instituted by a Royal warrant as India was still a dominion. But owing to some reservations on the part of the British these were instituted by the Government of India on the Republic Day i.e. 26 January 1950. Thus a new era of honours and awards commenced in India. These institutions of the Indian Republic viz. Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra were to be conferred respectively for acts of most exceptional gallantry, exceptional gallantry and gallantry in the face of the enemy and were to rank above all the decorations awarded to the Indian personnel earlier. The General Service Medals 1947 was instituted to recognise the general operational service. The number of Indian decorations and medals has since increased manifold.

Then came into vogue the Ashoka Chakra series (in three classes), Vishisht Seva Medal (in three classes) was instituted in 1960. This was later redesignated as Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ali Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal. Yudha Seva series comprising Sarvottam Yudha Seva Medal, Uttam Yudha Seva Medal and Yudha Seva Medal is the most recent addition to the list of decorations.

In between, campaign medals such as Samar Seva Star, Raksha Medal, Poorvi Star, Paschimi Star, Sangram Medal, Vidisha Seva Medal and General Service Medal were instituted. Long service and good conduct medals were instituted from time to time and these comprise Meritorious Service Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, 30 Years Long Service Medal, 20 Years Long Service Medal and 9 Years Long Service Medal. The commemoration medals include Indian Independence and Anniversary Medal. The number of Indian national awards was seven in January 1950. It grew to 10 in March 1952, to 27 in November 1954, to 40 in January 1973, to 51 in June 1976 and to 55 in January 1981.

The Ribbon

The ribbon forms an integral part of the medal. How this came about is best explained by Steward in his book, *ABC of War Medals and Decorations*. "The rout of the Spanish Armada in 1588 probably gave the incentive to Good Queen Bess to commemorate the auspicious occasion by the issue of medals in gold and silver and we may reasonably assume that they were given for personal decoration to the leading officers engaged in the defeat of the Armada or that the recipients thought that by wearing this they would show respect to the queen and thus established the custom of wearing Medals presented by the sovereign for war service. A specimen of these medals with rings and chain for suspension, probably from the neck, can be seen in the British Museum".

The medal was thus associated with some sort of medium which helped its display. To start with it was perhaps a chain. Subsequently, the chain was replaced by a ribbon. The Deccan Medal, first of its kind for military service in India, instituted in 1784, was worn suspended from the neck by a yellow cord run through a medal loop. The ribbon in its present form came into vogue much later. The 'Naval Riband of England' and the 'Military Riband of England' are the two earliest of the class. The latter was used for the Army Gold Medal and Cross 1805-14 and the Waterloo and General Service Medal 1847.

The recipients of Srirangapatnam and First Burmese War medals also used this ribbon. The use of Military Riband of England with the medals instituted by the East India Company, in India was indeed strange. Lord Ellenborough, the Governor General of India (1842-44), favoured a Military Riband of India depicting an oriental sun-rise on the lines of the Military Riband of England. It was used for Kelat-i-Ghilzee, Jellalabad, Afghanistan and Sind Medals and the Maharajpore and Punniar Stars. With the growing number of medals, some new ribbons were introduced. The Ghaznee Medal was issued with a separate ribbon. Thereafter, each new institution was accompanied by a new ribbon. It is notable that all ribbons conveyed some meaning or message by means of colour or colour combinations.

The ribbons for the medals of Indian Republic have been chosen after considerable thought. The purple ribbon of the Param Vir Chakra symbolises conspicuous bravery. Purple is the colour of the heart. Its old association with Victoria Cross confers it with a special dignity.

A pattern is perceptible in the choice of Indian ribbons. These are generally made in saffron, white and green, the colours of the Indian National Flag. Army red, Navy blue and Air Force blue are used in the medals exclusive to these services. Generally speaking in the ribbons, the red symbolises courage and bravery, the saffron self-sacrifice and dedication to service, the green growth and auspiciousness, white purity and glory and blue devotion and sacrifice. Occasionally, the red symbolises Indian Army, the dark blue Indian Navy and the light blue the Indian Air Force.

Symbols

But for the symbol it bears, a medal is a piece of metal. The symbol bears some relationship with the action it intends to commemorate. To illustrate the point the Srirangapatnam Medal which was instituted to commemorate the British victory over Tipu Sultan in 1799, represented the British lion trampling over a tiger symbolic of Tipu Sultan. The whole ensemble indicated the victory of the British Army over Tipu Sultan. The reverse of the medal represented the storming of the fort with the meridian sun above. It symbolised the successful assault on the fort at a time when the sun was in its full glory.

Considerable attention has been paid to the symbolic aspect of the decorations and medals of the Indian Republic. The choice of *Vajra* (thunderbolt) to serve as the symbol for Param Vir Chakra amply proves this. *Vajra* was the *amoghha-asthra* (unfailing weapon) of Indra, the vedic god of war. He wielded it to kill Vritra, the demon of drought and death to release the life giving waters for the benefit of mankind. According to a Puranic story, *Vajra* was made of the bones of sage Dadhici, who sacrificed his life for the protection of good.

The choice of star symbol for Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra and the Vishisht Seva Medal series is also no less meaningful. The star, a heavenly body known for its firm, steady and fixed position symbolises everlasting glory. According to Indian mythology, Dhruva, a boy of firm determination was assigned a position in northern hemisphere by Lord Vishnu.

Another widely used symbol in Indian medals is *Chakra*. It occurs on the Indian National Flag and Ashoka Chakra series of medals. The *Chakra* is symbolic of activity and forward movement. The

Buddhists adopted this symbol in the series of religion calling it the *Dharmachakra*. The preaching of the gospel by Lord Buddha was denoted with the *Chakra* symbol. This symbol is also called Ashoka Chakra.

Ashoka lions form the obverse or reverse symbol on many Indian Medals. This motif when represented with the motto *Satyameva Jayate* represents the National Emblem. The four lions symbolise the universal application of *Dharma*.

Perhaps a brief description of the Ashoka Chakra series of awards may not be out of place here. After the institution of Vir Chakra series of awards in 1950, a need was felt to institute an award to honour the gallant deeds performed by Armed Forces personnel and also civilians, other than in the face of the enemy. In view of this, the President of India instituted the Ashoka Chakra series of awards on 4 January 1952. It comprised three categories called Ashoka Chakra Class I, Ashoka Chakra Class II and Ashoka Chakra Class III. This nomenclature of the award underwent a change on 27 January 1967, when Ashoka Chakra Class I was renamed as Ashoka Chakra, Ashoka Chakra Class II as Kirti Chakra and Ashoka Chakra Class III as Shaurya Chakra.

The medal of Ashoka Chakra is circular in shape, one and three-eighth inches in diameter with rims on both sides and made of gold-gilt. On the obverse of the medal, a replica of Ashoka Chakra, surrounded by a lotus wreath, is embossed. On the reverse of the medal the words "Ashoka Chakra" are embossed both in Hindi and English. Two lotus flowers separate the Hindi and English versions. The ribbon of the medal is made of green coloured silk divided in two equal parts by an orange verticle line. The green in Indian mythology is symbolic of life and earth and orange of dedication and sacrifice. The combination of green and orange in the ribbon perhaps symbolises sacrifice for the protection of life and earth. Originally, the orange verticle line also indicated the class of the award.

The Ashoka Chakra Class II, or Kirti Chakra was instituted along with the Ashoka Chakra on 4 January 1952. It is exactly shaped like Ashoka Chakra excepting that it is made of silver and bears on the reverse the words "Kirti Chakra" both in Hindi and English. The ribbon is again green coloured silk divided into three equal parts by two orange vertical lines. These lines originally indicated the class of the award.

The Shaurya Chakra or Ashoka Chakra Class III was also instituted on 4 January 1952. It is also shaped like Ashoka Chakra excepting that in its case the metal used is bronze. On the reverse, the words Shaurya Chakra are embossed both in Hindi and English. The ribbon is again green coloured silk divided into four equal parts by three orange verticle lines. These lines originally indicated the class of the decoration.

U. P. THAPLIYAL

THE ASHOKA CHAKRA

- Firstly : The decoration shall be in the form of a medal and styled and designated the "**ASHOKA CHAKRA**" (hereinafter referred to as the Chakra).
- Secondly : The medal shall be circular in shape, one and three-eighth inches in diameter, with rims on both sides. The medal shall be gold gilt. On the obverse of the medal shall be embossed a replica of Ashoka's Chakra in the centre, surrounded by a lotus wreath. Along the rim, on the inner side, shall be a pattern of lotus leaves, flowers and buds. The rim of the medal and that of Ashoka's Chakra together with its spokes and hubs, shall be polished, the remaining surface being toned to constitute a dull background. On its reverse shall be embossed the words "Ashoka Chakra" both in Hindi and English the two versions being separated by two lotus flowers. The fittings shall be of a standard pattern. A seated pattern of decoration shall be deposited and kept.
- Thirdly : The medal shall be suspended from the left breast by a riband of one and a quarter inches in width. The ribbon shall be of green coloured silk divided into two equal segments by an orange vertical line. The green colour denotes Auspiciousness and orange Renunciation and Sacrifice.
- Fourthly : The Chakra shall be awarded for most conspicuous bravery, or some act of daring or pre-eminent valour or self-sacrifice otherwise than in the face of the enemy.
- Fifthly : The Chakra also be awarded posthumously.
- Sixthly : The decoration shall be conferred by the President.
- Seventhly : The names of those persons upon whom the decoration may be conferred, shall be published in the Gazette of India, and a Register thereof maintained under the direction of the President.
- Eighthly : The persons eligible for the decoration shall be :—
 - (a) Officers and men and women of all ranks of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, of any of the Reserve Forces, of the Territorial Army Militia and of any other lawfully constituted forces.
 - (b) Members of the Nursing Services of the Armed Forces.
 - (c) Civilian citizens of either sex in all walks of life, other than members of Police Forces and of recognised Fire Services.
- Ninthly : If a recipient of the Chakra shall again perform such an act of gallantry as would have made him or her eligible to receive the Chakra, such further act of gallantry shall be recognised by a Bar to be attached to the riband by which the Chakra is suspended and, for every subsequent act of gallantry, an additional Bar shall be added and such Bar or Bars may also be awarded posthumously. For every such Bar, a replica of Chakra in miniature shall be added to the riband when worn along.
- Tenthly : The miniature medal which may be worn on certain occasions by recipients shall be half the size of the Chakra and a scaled pattern of the said miniature medal shall be deposited and kept.
- Eleventhly : The President may cancel and annul the award of the Chakra and the Bar to any person and there upon the name of such recipient in the Register shall be erased and the recipient shall be required to surrender the insignia; but it shall be competent for the President to restore the decoration when such cancellation and annulment has been withdrawn.
- Lastly : The notice of cancellation or restoration in every case shall be published in the Gazette of India.



13730
Havildar
Bachittar Singh
2 Sikh
Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Hav Bachittar Singh, son of Sardar Rur Singh was born in the year 1916 in village Lopo, district Ferozepur, Punjab. He was enrolled in 2 Sikh on 10 January 1934. He had seen action in the North African desert during World War II.

After India became Independent in 1947, the ruler of Hyderabad State endeavoured to seek complete independence despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of the people desired to join the Indian Union. An extremist party called razakars took control of the power in the State and its depredations adversely affected the life in the adjoining Indian districts. The worsening situation in Hyderabad State left India with no option other than to show the recalcitrant monarch the path of sanity through military means.

Operation Polo or the Police Action against Hyderabad was launched in the early hours of 13 September 1948. In this operation the 2 Sikh forming part of the 'Kill Force', played a crucial role in the Naldurg area. At 0400 hours the B Company with Hav Bachittar Singh commanding the leading platoon, established a road-block to intercept the enemy. He saw two vehicles approaching his position from Naldurg. He ordered one of his men to fire on the vehicles, and himself accompanied by a soldier rushed forward to capture the vehicles along with their escort. Despite firing by the occupants of the vehicles Hav Bachittar Singh continued his charge and succeeded in his mission.

After some time the enemy opened fire on his platoon from a strong-hold. In order to dislodge the well entrenched enemy, Hav Bachittar Singh opened attack on the strong-hold with skill and determination. When he was about 30 metres away from the objective a Light Machine Gun burst, injured him in the thigh and he fell down. But despite the injury he crawled forward to the LMG post and lobbed two hand grenades on it. This silenced the LMG.

But Hav Bachittar Singh had suffered a grave injury. Knowing that his end was nearing he refused evacuation and medical assistance. Still he continued to encourage his men to capture the objective. Inspired by his courage the men fought hard and captured the enemy strong-hold.

In this action Hav Bachittar Singh displayed unsurpassed valour exemplary devotion to duty and bold leadership. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Baijnath Singh Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Baijnath Singh son of Shri Roop Singh was born in 1926 in village Chachipura, district Bhind, Madhya Pradesh. He belonged to a distinguished family with long military tradition.

On 22 October 1969, in the morning, Mohar Singh and Udal Singh of village Malpura (Bhind) left for their field as usual. At about 0700 hours, the gang of Saru Singh, a notorious dacoit of the area, armed with lethal weapons, shot them dead in an ambush. On hearing the firing, the villagers of Malpura and Rahauli Uwan rushed to the scene and started firing at the dacoits. Taking cover under "Jawar" stalks, the dacoits managed to escape. While retreating they killed one more villager.

Being attracted by the sound of shooting, Shri Baijnath Singh of village Chachipura set out from his home with his rifle in hand. The villagers warned Shri Baijnath Singh not to risk his life by pursuing the dacoits, as they were in good strength and heavily armed. But this could not deter the brave man and he rushed in the direction of firing. After about one kilometre he saw the gang of dacoits coming towards him. Undaunted, he challenged the dacoits, who replied with fire. Although the gang comprised about 25 dacoits, this did not unnerve Shri Baijnath Singh. He continued the fight single-handed for half an hour. Subsequently, as he found himself surrounded by the dacoits on all sides, he decided to shift his position. While shifting the position, he was over powered by the dacoits and shot dead.

In fighting against armed robbers Shri Baijnath Singh displayed outstanding gallantry and courage. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Bhure Lal Ashoka Chakra

Shri Bhure Lal son of Shri Nanhu Lal was born on 20 March 1938, in village Bajrang Garh, district Guna, Madhya Pradesh. He joined Madhya Pradesh Police on 20 June 1965 and served it for 7 years.

On the night of 14/15 July 1970, information was received that Nahar Singh, a notorious dacoit of district Guna, was hiding with his gang in the jungle of Gid Kho. Shri Bhure Lal decided to verify the fact and went to the jungle at a great risk to his life. Information was found correct and he informed the police. As it took the police some time to plan an ambush, it became necessary to confirm the presence of the dacoit gang again.

Shri Bhure Lal again went into jungle with his muzzle-loading gun at the dead of night. Ignoring his personal safety, he went very close to the gang of dacoits. Nahar Singh spotted him and fired at him. But Shri Bhure Lal, an alert and swift person, not only managed to take cover in time, but also fired back at him. He aimed so accurately that the dacoit dropped dead. When another armed dacoit tried to run away Shri Bhure Lal chased him and pounced upon him. In the mean time, the police party also arrived and the dacoit was arrested.

Shri Bhure Lal displayed exemplary courage and bravery in fighting against armed dacoits of Chambal Valley. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra.



2883
Flight Lieutenant
Biswas, Suhas, GD (P)
Indian Air Force
Ashoka Chakra

Ft Lt Suhas Biswas son of Shri Samuel Biswas was born on 9 September 1924, in Calcutta, West Bengal. He was commissioned in Indian Air Force as G.D. (P) on 24 April 1944.

On Sunday, the 3 February 1952, Ft Lt Suhas Biswas was piloting a Devon aircraft carrying six senior military officers—the Army Commander, Western Command, the Chief of the General Staff, the Quarter-Master General, one Divisional Commander, the Military Secretary, and the Deputy Director of Supplies and Transport, Army Headquarters from Lucknow to Delhi. Soon after the aircraft left Lucknow at about 1800 hrs. the port engine developed serious trouble and caught fire. Flight Lieutenant Biswas tried hard to extinguish the fire but could not succeed. He, therefore, decided to force land. Although it was getting dark, but there was still some light which enabled him to choose a flat piece of ground for landing. During the descent from a height of 1620 meters, the burning port engine fell out and the aircraft went out of control. Ft Lt Biswas, however, managed to bring it back under control. He then switched off the other engine, and made a successful hefty landing under the worst conditions. Thus a major disaster was averted.

Ft Lt Suhas Biswas displayed great presence of mind, high navigation skill, inspiring leadership and bold courage in the face of a near disaster. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra.



Shri Chaman Lal Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Chaman Lal son of Shri Gurdas Mal, was born in village Habit Pindi, district Gurdaspur, Punjab.

During the Indo-Pak War 1965 Shri Chaman Lal was serving as Fireman with Northern Railway in a goods train at Gurdaspur railway station. On 12 September 1965, the goods train was subjected to heavy strafing by some Pakistani aircraft. As a consequence the train and three tanker-wagons carrying diesel oil caught fire. One tanker wagon even exploded. Noticing the fire and apprehending the imminent disaster, Shri Chaman Lal, rushed to the spot to save the other tanker-wagons. In complete disregard for his personal safety, the Fireman uncoupled the tanker-wagon affected by the fire. By the time he completed this dangerous operation, he was enveloped by the flames of the burning tanker and was soon burnt to ashes. As a result of his courageous action, the other wagons of the train could be removed to safety. Shri Chaman Lal, not only prevented the destruction of the remaining wagons and valuable stores but also saved the lives of the people who were present at the railway station.

In this action Shri Chaman Lal displayed exemplary courage, foresight and sense of self-sacrifice. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



IC-3472
Lieutenant Colonel
Chitnis, Jagannath Raoji
1/3 Gorkha Rifles
Asnoka Chakra (Posth.)

Lt Col Jagannath Raoji Chitnis, son of Dr Raoji Gopal Chitnis, was born on 20 August 1918, in Satara, Maharashtra. He was commissioned in 1/3 Gorkha Rifles on 12 April 1942. During his distinguished service career he earned many medals.

In June 1956, Lt Col Chitnis was commanding 1/3 Gorkha Rifles in the Naga Hills. On 14 June while proceeding from Mokokchung to Zunheboto in a convoy of 8 jeeps, his platoon was attacked by about 100 hostile Nagas near the 21 Milestone. The hostiles were armed with light machine guns, Sten guns and rifles. In this attack, Lt Col Chitnis and four of his men were wounded. The platoon halted 150 meters short of the hostile bunkers.

The Commanding Officer then ordered a bayonet charge on the hostile bunkers. He led the assault keeping himself in the forefront. With his Sten gun he killed one hostile and wounded another. At this stage a hostile Light Machine Gun, located at a flank, subjected his party to withering fire. Though weakened by a leg injury, Lt Col Chitnis made a frontal assault on the Light Machine Gun Post. He was again grievously wounded, this time in the stomach, and fell 15 meters short of the hostile post. However, despite grave injuries he continued to encourage his men to carry on the battle against the hostiles. The men inspired by his example fought valiantly and cleared the position of the hostiles, who suffered heavy casualties including 20 dead.

Lt Col Jagannath Raoji Chitnis not only saved his men from the jaws of death but also inflicted heavy losses on the hostiles. He continued to lead his men till the last breath and thus set fine example of conspicuous bravery and leadership for which he was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Dhanpat Singh Ashoka Chakra

Shri Dhanpat Singh was a resident of village Kharehta, district Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

On the night of 27 February 1967, armed dacoits raided the house of Shri Daduram in village Kharehta. Daduram and his wife were mercilessly beaten and tortured by the dacoits to elicit information about the valuables kept in the house. When Daduram became unconscious his wife revealed the place where the ornaments were hidden.

Meanwhile, their neighbour in the adjoining house had heard the noise. He peeped through the window, flashing his torch. The dacoits fired at him, but he managed to escape and informed the villagers. Meanwhile, another villager Shri Dhanpat Singh, who heard the gun fire, at once grabbed his lathi and rushed out of his house. He asked the people who had collected there to follow him. Sensing the danger, the dacoits started firing indiscriminately and some villagers ran away in scare. But Shri Dhanpat Singh rallied the villagers and advanced to the house of Daduram. At this the dacoits, who were throttling Daduram's wife to know about other valuables, got frightened and made off with things worth Rs. 40,000.

Shri Dhanpat Singh along with other villagers chased the dacoits, who opened fire and injured a villager. Then Dhanpat Singh, armed only with a 'lathi' pounced upon the ring leader who was carrying a 12 bore gun. He grappled with him, snatched his weapon away and with the help of villagers overpowered him. At the same time he urged the villagers not to allow the other dacoits to escape. Ultimately, the villagers succeeded in retrieving the entire property of Daduram and capturing the dacoit leader.

In fighting the armed dacoits to protect his neighbour, Shri Dhanpat Singh displayed exemplary courage. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra.



Shri Govind Singh Ashoka Chakra

Shri Govind Singh son of Shri Maharaj Singh was born in village Gour, district Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh.

On the night of 4 January 1966 armed dacoits raided the house of Maharaj Singh of village Gour. During the raid they kept on firing indiscriminately to keep away the villagers. Two sons of Maharaj Singh, however, managed to come out of the house and shouted for help. Hearing their shouts a number of villagers came out to their rescue. The dacoits fired at them and injured two villagers. The villagers, carrying lathis and spears faced the dacoits, who were equipped with fire arms, boldly.

Shri Govind Singh scaled over the wall of the house and jumped about 3 Metres down into the courtyard where the dacoits had tied his father with a rope and were torturing him. He, joined by Shri Takhat Singh another brave villager, threw themselves upon the dacoits. During the ensuing encounter Maharaj Singh, Takhat Singh and two other villagers were killed and Govind Singh and his brother were seriously injured.

It was a grave situation, however, Hukum Singh and Lakhan Singh, two brave villagers, fought their way into the house and cornered two of the dacoits. One of them managed to escape through a hole bored in the tiled roof but the other was trapped and locked up inside a room.

In this action against the armed dacoits Shri Govind Singh displayed exemplary gallantry and courage. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra.



JC-47692
Naib Subedar
Gurnam Singh
Bombay Engineer Group
Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Nb Sub Gurnam Singh, son of Shri Teja Singh was born on 18 August 1935, in village Bhullar, district Amritsar, Punjab. He joined the Bombay Sappers on 28 August 1965. For distinguished service in the Army he earned many medals.

On 28 September 1973, a demonstration was arranged by the College of Military Engineering, Pune, for the visiting staff and student officers of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington (Madras). One item of the demonstration was the actual firing of the Charge Line Mine Clearing, an explosive device for clearing of enemy minefields. Nb Sub Gurnam Singh, an eminent and expert instructor in Mine Clearing, was detailed to fire this explosive charge under simulated battle conditions. In this task he was to be assisted by a party of seven sappers.

While Nb Sub Gurnam Singh was in the process of setting up and preparing the Charge Line Mine Clearing for firing, the tail initiator of the charge got prematurely actuated. He at once realised that the entire explosive was likely to blow up within a matter of seconds. Realising the danger to the lives of the men under his command, he immediately ordered them to run to a safe distance. Then in utter disregard of his personal safety, he set upon the hazardous task of uncoupling the actuated tail initiator in order to render the Charge Line Mine Clearing completely safe and to ensure the safety of the equipment and also to avoid the upsetting of the proceeding of the demonstration. But, inspite of his best efforts he could not prevent the explosion within the time available at his disposal. There was a terrific explosion and the Naib Subedar was blown to pieces. Nb Sub Gurnam Singh made the supreme self-sacrifice in order to save the lives of the men under his command.

In this action, Nb Sub Gurnam Singh displayed most conspicuous gallantry, leadership, and devotion to duty in the best traditions of the Indian Armed Forces. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Hukum Singh Ashoka Chakra

Shri Hukum Singh was a resident of village Gour, district Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh.

On the night of 4 January 1986, armed dacoits raided the house of Maharaj Singh in village Gour. They also kept on firing indiscriminately to keep away the villagers. Meanwhile, Govind Singh and his brother, both sons of Maharaj Singh managed to come out of the house and shouted for help. A number of villagers, including Hukum Singh, came to their rescue. The dacoits fired at them and injured a villager and the brother of Govind Singh. The villagers, carrying only lathis and spears, faced the dacoits who were well equipped with fire arms. During the encounter Maharaj Singh, Takhat Singh and two villagers were killed and Govind Singh and his brother were seriously injured.

However, despite these killings Hukum Singh and Lakhan Singh with two other villagers fought their way into the house and cornered two dacoits. One of them managed to escape through a hole bored in the tiled roof of the room but they succeeded in trapping and locking up the other dacoit inside a room. This unnerved the other dacoits and they quickly disappeared from the village. In the meantime, the police reached the spot and arrested the trapped dacoit.

In fighting the armed dacoit Shri Hukum Singh set a shining example of gallantry and courage. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra.



Shri Jagirdar, Vijay Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Vijay Jagirdar was born in Jamuna Nagar, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. He was a brave and courageous man.

On 1 November 1984, in the evening, a mob of about 150 people attacked the house of Shri Balbir Singh, in Jamuna Nagar, Indore. The mob armed with knives and sticks, was determined to assault Shri Balbir Singh and his family. Shri Vijay Jagirdar, a neighbour of Shri Balbir Singh, realising the gravity of the situation, came forward to face the mob. He pleaded with the mob to desist from attacking innocent Balbir Singh and his family members. When all persuasion failed he physically prevented the mob from attacking the house of Shri Balbir Singh. However, in this effort he suffered serious injuries at the hands of the mob, and fell unconscious. He was taken to the hospital, where he succumbed to injuries within half an hour.

Shri Vijay Jagirdar displayed most conspicuous bravery in saving the family of his neighbour at the cost of his own life. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



IC—53763
Captain
Jasram Singh
Rajput Regiment
Ashoka Chakra

Capt Jasram Singh, son of Chaudhary Badan Singh was born on 1 March 1935, in village Bhabokra, district Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in Signal Corps on 12 April 1953. On 13 October 1963 he was granted Emergency Commission in Rajput Regiment. Subsequently, he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In October 1968 a unit of Rajput Regiment was deployed in Mizo Hills. On the night of 30 October 1968 information was received that about 50 hostiles armed with Light Machine Guns, rifles and Sten guns had moved towards a village in the Mizo Hills. Capt Singh, who was on patrol duty in that area, immediately marched towards the village with two platoons. At about 0430 hours, on approaching the village his patrol came under heavy fire on both flanks from a hostile dominated feature and overran the hostile position. The hostiles, who could not face the fury of the assault, abandoned their position, leaving behind two dead, six wounded, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Another group of three hostiles also surrendered the same day.

In this encounter, Capt Jasram Singh displayed most conspicuous gallantry and leadership. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra.



**Captain
Jatar, Damodar Kashinath
Air India International Corporation
Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)**

Capt Damodar Kashinath Jatar, son of Shri Kashinath Shriram Jatar, was born on 10 January 1914, in Buldhana, Maharashtra. He took up the flying career in 1935, and subsequently joined the Tata Airlines in 1937. Later he joined the Air India International Corporation. Many of his family members have served the Indian Armed Forces with distinction.

On 11 April 1955 Capt Jatar was piloting "Kashmir Princess" a Constellation aircraft of the Air India from Hong Kong to Jakarta. It was carrying, amongst others, some Chinese delegates for Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung. At about 0453 hours local time, when the aircraft was at an altitude of 5500 metres, in the vicinity of Natuna Island in the South China Sea, an explosion took place in the starboard wheel-well. Soon afterwards, an intense fire developed and spread rapidly over the right wing of the plane. The whole interior of the aircraft, including the cockpit, was filled with smoke. The situation was very grave and there was no landing ground within 185 kilometres.

At this juncture without hesitation or fear, Capt Jatar decided to ditch his kite. He carried out all precautionary measures for an emergency landing and gave precise orders to all members of the crew for compliance. This eliminated panic and confusion. He then made a quick and accurate selection of the spot for ditching the aircraft in the sea. This bold decision saved three men who swam across to the shore. But the Captain had to pay for his courage with his life.

In taking this bold decision on emergency landing Capt Damodar Kashinath Jatar displayed exemplary courage and sense of self-sacrifice. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



18576
Havildar
Joginder Singh
2 Sikh
Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Hav Joginder Singh, son of Shri Sham Singh was born in 1922 in village Datewas, district Bathinda, Punjab. He was enrolled in 2 Sikh on 30 November 1940.

In April 1955, 2 Sikh was deployed in Khuzarni area of the Naga Hills. The Naga hostiles were very active in this area and were resorting to ambushes against the security forces very frequently. The situation was indeed grave.

On 24 April, a convoy of three jeeps carrying important stores to Phake, a forward post, under the escort of Hav Joginder Singh was ambushed by the hostiles near Mile-stone 18. As the convoy was negotiating a bend on the road the hostiles suddenly opened Light Machine Gun fire from the nearby hillock, wounding Hav Joginder Singh (who was sitting in the leading jeep with a Star gun in the right leg). But the NCO was made of a sterner stuff. Ignoring the enemy fire he jumped out of the jeep and rushed forward to attack the hostile post. In the process he was wounded again in the right shoulder. But even this injury could not deter him from pursuing his objective. He continued the assault along with six members of his party, who were greatly inspired by his leadership. When the havildar was only 25 Metres away from the hostiles, he was again wounded in the stomach by another Light Machine Gun burst. He fell down on the ground but did not give up. In spite of serious injuries, he crawled forward, threw two hand grenades on the hostiles Light Machine Gun post, and silenced the gun.

The brave NCO refused the dressing of his wounds. He urged his men to continue advance and capture the objective. Finally, the hostiles were forced to flee from the jungle, leaving behind some equipment and ammunition.

Hav Joginder Singh succumbed to his injuries on the spot. But his inspiring leadership enabled his men to destroy the hostile Light Machine Gun post, which had blocked the supply of much-needed stores to the forward post.

Hav Joginder Singh displayed outstanding leadership and courage in this action. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



4050561
Naik
Joshi, Bhawani Datt
9 Garhwal Rifles
Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Bhawani Datt Joshi son of Shri Khyali Ram was born on 14 July 1952, in village Chaprun, district Chamoli, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 9 Garhwal Rifles on 14 July 1970.

In June 1984, 9 Garhwal Rifles was deployed in Amritsar, Punjab in connection with operation Blue Star. On the night of the 5/6 June 1984, the Company of Naik Joshi was ordered to gain a foothold in an important part of building complex. The building complex which had been heavily fortified, was strongly held by highly motivated terrorists. The gate to it was sealed and blocked. But the gate had to be opened up. As soon as a hole was made in the gate, heavy volume of fire came on the Garhwal platoon there. This seriously hampered the progress of the operation.

At this juncture, the Commanding Officer asked for volunteers to tackle the terrorist positions. Nk Joshi volunteered to undertake the mission. Unmindful of the obvious danger and his personal safety, Nk Joshi personally led his section in this assault. He killed one terrorist with his carbine and bayoneted another to death thereby clearing the way for his platoon to capture the objective. Though injured by now, he pounced upon another terrorist, who was firing from behind a cover, but was mortally wounded in the process. His cool courage enabled the Company to capture the objective.

In this action Nk Bhawani Datt Joshi displayed most conspicuous bravery resolute determination, cool courage and exemplary devotion to duty. He laid down his life in the highest traditions of the Indian Army and was decorated with Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Lajjaram Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Lajjaram, son of Shri Naunatram was born in September 1934 in village Churhela, district Morena, Madhya Pradesh. He was a brave and courageous person.

On the night of 12 September 1954, a gang of dacoits armed with 303 rifles and muzzle loading guns, forcibly entered a house in Churhela village. The dacoits snatched the ornaments that the housewife was wearing. When she raised alarm for help they shot and wounded her.

At that time Shri Lajjaram and his friends Shri Tej Singh and Shri Purshottam were sleeping in a neighbouring hut. They were woken up by the gun shot and the cries of the victim. They decided to help the woman. With lathis they attacked the well armed dacoits. Shri Tej Singh even succeeded in snatching a muzzle-loading gun from a dacoit. The dacoits now concentrated their fire on three brave villagers. They were not, however, cowed down by the bullets and continued fighting with the lathis till the end. Shri Tej Singh received 4 bullet wounds and a sword cut and was killed on the spot. Shri Lajjaram and Shri Purshottam suffered two bullets each and died in the hospital, subsequently.

In his effort to protect the life and honour of a neighbour, Shri Lajjaram laid down his own life. For setting a shining example of gallantry and valour, he was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Lakhan Singh Ashoka Chakra

Shri Lakhan Singh was a resident of village Gour, district Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh.

On the night of 4 January 1956, armed dacoits raided the house of Maharaj Singh in village Gour. They kept on firing indiscriminately to keep away the villagers. However, Govind Singh and his brother, both sons of Maharaj Singh managed to come out of the house and shouted for help. Many villagers including Lakhan Singh, came to their rescue.

The dacoits kept on firing and injured Govind Singh's brother and a villager. The villagers were not discouraged. Carrying lathis and spears they faced the dacoits who were well-equipped with fire-arms. Shri Govind Singh scaled over the wall of the house and jumped about 3 metres down into the courtyard where his father had been tied with a rope and was being tortured. He along with Takhat Singh, threw themselves upon the dacoits, who fired at them. In this encounter Maharaj Singh, Takhat Singh and two other villagers were killed and Govind Singh and his brother were seriously injured. Despite this, Lakhan Singh and Hukum Singh fought their way into the house and cornered two dacoits. One of them managed to escape through a hole bored in the tiled roof of the room but the other was trapped and locked up in a room.

In fighting the armed dacoit Shri Lakhan Singh, set a shining example of gallantry and courage. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra.



JC-30385
Subedar Major
Limbu, Kharaka Bahadur
8 Assam Rifles
Military Cross,
Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Sub Maj Kharaka Bahadur Limbu, son of Shri Artha Bir Limbu, was born in village Mantri, Pukhri, Imphal, Manipur. He was enrolled in 8 Assam Rifles on 5 December 1929. Earlier he had won Military Cross for gallantry.

In 1961, 8 Assam Rifles was deployed in Naga Hills. On 26 April 1961, Sub Maj Limbu, took over the command of a platoon and was asked to capture a position well dug in and barricaded by a long palisade covered with bamboo sticks and situated in an inaccessible jungle ravine. Due to impregnable defences around the position it was extremely perilous to attack it.

At 0400 hours, on 26 April, Sub Maj Limbu, in complete disregard of his own personal safety, ran through hostile fire to the stockade, beat down a portion of it and with a handful of men stormed the nearest bunker. He himself rushed through the defenders counter attacking him, shot down two of them and captured two rifles, before being wounded mortally. With a rifle bullet inside him, he dragged himself forward undaunted, hurled two grenades into a bunker and then shot down three more hostiles. While breathing his last he encouraged his men to break the defences to destroy the hostiles. Sub Maj Limbu made the supreme sacrifice, but the hostile stronghold was broken. It led to the eventual collapse of the hostiles in this area.

In this action Sub Maj Kharaka Bahadur Limbu displayed outstanding leadership courage and gallantry, in tune with the highest traditions of the Assam Rifles. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



IC-17696
Captain
Mehra, Ummed Singh
Rajputana Rifles
Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Capt Ummed Singh Mehra, son of Shri Kunwar Singh was born on 21 January 1942, in village Janakanday, post office Khetikhan, district Almora, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned in Rajputana Rifles on 11 June 1967. Earlier he was awarded General Service Medal 1947 with the clasp Naga Hills.

On 4 July 1971, Capt Mehra, while on duty in a village in Nagaland, apprehended a person suspecting him to be a supplier of rations etc to a party of hostiles, camping in a thick jungle in the vicinity of the village. The suspect agreed to lead the troops to the hostile camp. Capt Mehra informed his Battalion Headquarters and volunteered to accompany the army column which was being sent to raid the hostile camp. The strength of the hostile party was considered to be approximately 30 and it was equipped with Light Machine Gun and rifles.

At 1730 hours, on 5 July 1971, Capt Mehra as second-in-command, proceeded towards the hostile camp with a column of 80 men. The column marched for 12 hours over difficult hilly terrain and crossed two nullahs, which were in spate due to continuous rains. At about 0545 hours on 6 July 1971, while 500 metres short of the hostile camp, the column was divided into three parties—one to act as reserve and the other two to mount attack on the camp from two directions simultaneously. When the party led by Capt Mehra reached within 30 metres of the camp, hostiles opened fire. Capt Mehra also ordered his men to open fire, and himself led the charge on the camp firing from his Sten Machine Carbine. He shot dead the hostile sentry, but received grievous bullet wounds in his abdomen and right hand during the attack. Despite profuse bleeding, he continued to encourage his men to charge the hostiles camp. The hostiles were unnerved and started running away in panic.

Meanwhile the other party also rushed into the camp. Trapped under the cross firing of the two parties, the hostiles fled leaving behind their dead, arms and ammunition and some important documents. Capt Mehra, succumbed to his injuries.

In this encounter, Capt Ummed Singh Mehra, displayed conspicuous gallantry and leadership. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



IC-22479
Major
Misra, Bhukant
15 Kumaon
Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Maj Bhukant Misra, son of Shri B.L. Misra was born on 15 June 1941 in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned in 15 Kumaon Regiment on 2 August 1964.

In 1984, 15 Kumaon was deployed in Amritsar to take part in operation "Blue Star". On the 6 June 1984 a Company of the Battalion commanded by Major Misra, was tasked to clear the terrorists from a heavily fortified building complex, as an attempt to do so had failed on the previous day. At 0440 hours the Company advanced behind an Armoured Personnel Carrier, which was soon hit by anti tank fire of the terrorists. The Company then came under effective fire of automatics and suffered eight casualties. Realising gravity of the situation Maj Misra, in total disregard to his personal safety, rushed forward to lead his company. He asked his men to follow him and made a charge on the base of the building. His bold act greatly inspired his men and they followed him to the objective.

At this stage Light Machine Gun from a post effectively stopped the advance of the company. Maj Misra, disregarding his personal safety, crawled up to the position and destroyed the Light Machine Gun by lobbing a hand grenade. While attempting to enter the building he was mortally wounded by a machine gun burst.

In this action, Maj Bhukant Misra displayed most conspicuous bravery, cool courage, and inspiring leadership in the highest traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



Smt Mishra, Neerja Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Smt. Neerja Mishra daughter of Shri Harish Bhanot, was born on 7 September 1953, in Chandigarh. Affectionately called "Lado" by her parents, she showed great promise as a child. She completed her education from St. Xavier's College, Bombay and joined Pan American World Airways on 16 January 1986.

On 5 September 1986, Smt Neerja Mishra was a member of crew of the Pan American Airways flight from Bombay to New York via Karachi, as Senior Flight Purser. At Karachi airport a group of four heavily armed hijackers rushed to the aircraft on the tarmac. Showing great presence of mind and quick reflexes, she shouted "Hijack". This alerted the flight crew who immediately escaped, thereby immobilising the aircraft.

With the exit of the flight crew, she took command of the situation and helped keep the terrified passengers calm. She deftly managed the situation and prevented the trigger-happy hijackers from going berserk. When the power in the aircraft went off suddenly she helped a number of passengers to escape through the emergency door. Now she became a marked target for the hijackers. One of these criminals grabbed her from behind and shot her dead. Her loyalty to the passengers of aircraft in distress was of an exceptional order indeed.

Smt Neerja Mishra, displayed the most conspicuous bravery in the face of the grave adversity and saved many lives, unmindful of the safety of her own life. In appreciation of this act of most conspicuous bravery she was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Munnilal Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Munnilal was a resident of village Vinayaki Abadi, P. S. Rahatgarh, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. He was a brave and courageous man.

On 12 April 1972, at about 1930 hours, a gang of 14 to 15 dacoits equipped with fire-arms entered village Vinayaki Abadi, district Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. Munnilal, who saw the dacoits entering the village, immediately alerted the villagers. With a determination to foil the dacoity, he started organising the villagers. In the village there were only two persons with fire-arms. Munnilal posted one of them at a safe place and instructed him to fire at the dacoits as soon as they came within the firing range. He asked other villagers to be watchful and fire in the event of necessity. He then organised the villagers in groups, equipped them with lathis and led them to surround the dacoits, in utter disregard of his personal safety. Shri Munnilal himself challenged a dacoit with his lathi. When the dacoits found that the villagers were determined to put up a strong fight, they fired at Shri Munnilal, killing him on the spot. But the heroic fight put up by the villagers under the leadership of Shri Munnilal had already frightened the dacoits. Despite superior fire power at their command, they ran away from the village. By handling the situation successfully, Shri Munnilal saved the lives and property of the villagers, although he laid down his own life in the encounter.

Shri Munnilal displayed exceptional boldness, leadership and sense of self sacrifice in fighting armed dacoits. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



9920311
Lance Havildar
Mutup, Chhering
Ladakh Scouts
Ashoka Chakra

L Hav Chhering Mutup, son of Shri Phunchok Rabges was born on 18 May 1948 in village Likor, Leh (Ladakh) Jammu & Kashmir. He was enrolled in Ladakh Scouts on 23 June 1985. He was made Hony Nb Subedar.

During 1985, Ladakh Scouts was deployed in a forward location in Jammu and Kashmir. L Hav Mutup was entrusted with the command of a patrol in the area. On 21 February 1985, he was asked to accomplish an extremely difficult assignment at a forward location. On this day the weather was extremely hostile. High altitude, severe winds, heavy snow and blizzards made the going difficult. But L Hav Mutup was not discouraged. He gallantry led his patrol from fold to fold and accomplished the assignment.

During this mission L Hav Chhering Mutup displayed conspicuous gallantry, cool courage and exceptional devotion to duty. He was decorated with Ashoka Chakra.



4167546
Naik
Nirbhay Singh
15 Kumaon
Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Nirbhay Singh son of Shri Nand Singh Sisodia, was born on 1 May 1958, in Jhalawar, Rajasthan. He was enrolled in 15 Kumaon on 1 January 1978.

In 1984, 15 Kumaon was deployed in Punjab to conduct anti-terrorist operations. NK Nirbhay Singh was commander of the Light Machine Gun detachment with the "A" Company.

On 6 June 1984, 'A' Company was tasked to clear an important building complex, which was heavily fortified and strongly held by highly motivated terrorists. As the Company advanced towards the objective, it came under heavy fire and suffered many casualties. The advance came to a halt. At this stage, the Company Commander rushed forward, all by himself, towards the building. Seeing the Commander charging in the face of intense fire, Nk Nirbhay Singh ordered his Number 2 to follow him. They reached the base of the building quickly, mounted a Light Machine Gun there and started firing to provide cover to the Company Commander.

At this stage the Light Machine Gun detachment came under intense machine gun fire of the terrorists from three to four directions. However, the Naik, despite heavy firing continued to remain in the open covering the move of his commander. There he spotted a Light Machine Gun firing from a post hole endangering the life of the Commander. He immediately charged towards the Light machine Gun exposing himself to grave danger. There he was hit by a machine gun burst on the leg. Undeterred by the injury he crawled towards the Light Machine Gun post and lobbed a hand grenade into it. The post was silenced but in the process, the Naik was hit by a burst of machine gun for the second time and killed, instantaneously.

Nk Nirbhay Singh thus displayed bravery, courage and devotion to duty of an exceptionally high order and laid down his life in the highest traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



SS-30122
2/Lt Pithawalla
Cyrus Addie
17 JAK Rif
Ashoka Chakra

2 /Lt Cyrus Addie Pithawalla, son of Shri Addie Pithawalla was born on 13 January 1957, in Bangalore, Karnataka. He was Commissioned in 17 JAK Rif on 1 September 1979.

In 1981, 17 JAK Rif was deployed in Manipur for conducting counter insurgency operations. 2/Lt Pithawalla led a company in these operations. On 6 July 1981, he was ordered to cordon and search Tekcham area in Manipur with a view to apprehend armed extremists reported to be there.

2/Lt Pithawalla led his men through a marshy and difficult terrain for seven kilometres. When about 200 meters from Tekcham hill, the extremists commenced firing on his party. But in total disregard of his personal safety, he charged on the extremists with lightening speed. When 50 metres short of the target, he saw an extremist, trying to escape. Although he could have shot him dead, he decided to capture him alive. While on chase Pithawalla was wounded in the right shoulder by gun shot from the extremists. But unimindful of the injury, he led the charge and captured the extremist. The booty was no other than Bisheswar Singh, the top most PLA leader. Despite serious injury, he refused evacuation and continued to lead his men in a combing operations till 0600 hours the next morning. In these operations seven extremists were killed and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was captured.

In this operation 2/Lt Cyrus Addie Pithawalla displayed exemplary bravery and inspiring leadership. He was decorated with Ashoka Chakra.



Shri Purshottam Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Purshottam, son of Shri Naunatram was born in 1934 in village Churhela, district Morena, Madhya Pradesh. He was a brave and courageous person.

On the night of 12 September 1964 a gang of dacoits armed with .303 rifles and muzzle-loading guns, forcibly entered into a house in village Churhela. The dacoits snatched the ornaments on the person of the house-wife. When she raised alarm for help they shot and wounded her.

At that time Shri Purshottam, Shri Tej Singh and Shri Lajaram the three villagers were sleeping in a neighbouring hut. They were woken up by the gun shot and the cries of the victim. They decided to help the woman. With lathis they attacked the well armed dacoits. Shri Tej Singh even succeeded in snatching a muzzle-loading gun from a dacoit. The dacoits now concentrated their fire on the three brave villagers. They were not, however, cowed down by the bullets and continued the fight to the end. Shri Tej Singh received 4 bullet wounds and a sword cut and was killed on the spot. Shri Purshottam and Shri Lajaram suffered two bullet wounds and died in the hospital, subsequently.

In his effort to protect the life and honour of a neighbour, Shri Purshottam laid down his own life. For setting a shining example of gallantry and valour, he was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



Ashoka

IC-5261

Captain

Rai, Man Bahadur

11 Gorkha Rifles

MC, IDSM, Ashoka Chakra

Capt Man Bahadur Rai son of Shri Ram Singh Rai was born on 10 January 1914, in Darjeeling, West Bengal. He was enrolled in 10 Gorkha Rifles on 17 July 1930. He was granted commission in 11 Gorkha Rifles on 27 August 1948. He had been decorated with Military Cross and Indian Distinguished Service Medal. He subsequently rose to the rank of Major.

In 1961, 11 Gorkha took part in a series of actions against a body of hostile Nagas, entrenched in densely wooded hilly region, interspersed with numerous ravines. Towards the end of April 1961, he led a platoon at the dead of night through two hostile positions into the main stronghold. A fierce attack was launched and after a bitter fighting he was able to dislodge the hostiles from that position.

On 3 May 1961, Capt Rai led a platoon attack on strongly fortified hostile position, situated at steep slopes of a ravine. This position which was dominating the surrounding area, could be approached only frontally. But realising that heavy casualties would follow if he made a frontal attack, Capt Rai crawled with half a platoon, through the surrounding thick undergrowth. He then scaled up the steep side of the position through a hail of close range fire. On sighting the hostile position he advanced towards it, threw two hand grenades and killed a few hostiles. He then charged into them firing as he went on, and killed two more. His fearless assault spurred his men to action and so demoralised the hostiles that they fled into the thick jungle. The hostiles lost ten men in the encounter and left behind two rifles, one 12 bore gun and one tommy gun. The attack dealt a crushing blow to the hostiles. Subsequently, Capt Rai performed many such acts as an Officer of 8 Battalion of Assam Rifles and Village Guards Organisation of Nagaland.

Capt Man Bahadur Rai's bold leadership, indomitable will power and disregard for personal safety was a source of inspiration to his comrades. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra.



IC-37068
Captain
Raina, Jasbir Singh
10 Guards
Ashoka Chakra

Capt Jasbir Singh Raina son of Shri K S Raina was born on 5 July 1955 in Shimla (H P). He was commissioned in the Brigade of Guards on 3 Sept 1977.

Before the launching of operation 'Blue Star' it was considered necessary to find out the details of the fortification made by the terrorists in a building complex. On 3 June 1984 Capt Raina of 10 Guards was assigned this task. He undertook this dangerous mission and went inside the complex in civilian clothes. Though he was being trailed by the terrorists throughout his mission, he brought very useful information about the layout of the building and the fortifications inside it.

On the night of the 5/6 June 1984, 'B' Company led by Capt Raina was tasked to flush out terrorists from a religious place. The objective of the Company was a three storeyed building with underground tunnels, manholes and basements. As soon as, the leading platoon of the Company entered the complex through the main entrance, it came under heavy fire of Light Machine Guns and automatic weapons from all sides. At this juncture Capt Raina-unmindful of the risk to his safety, forged ahead through intense fire of automatic weapons. He exhorted his men to maintain the momentum of the operation despite heavy casualties. He kept on moving at the head of his Company clearing room after room. In the process he was hit on his knees by a burst of fire from point black range and was seriously wounded. But he continued to lead his men till he slumped due to the excessive loss of blood. By then the mission had been accomplished. Even at this stage the Captain had to be evacuated much against his wishes. His bravery and inspiring leadership was crucial to the success of his company's mission.

In this action Capt Jasbir Singh Raina displayed most conspicuous bravery, inspiring leadership and exceptional devotion to duty. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra.



IC-7415
2/Lt Raman
Polur Muthuswamy
3 Sikh Light Infantry
Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

2/Lt P M Raman, son of Major (Dr) P K Muthuswamy was born on 4 December 1934, in North Arcot district, Madras. He was commissioned in Sikh Light Infantry on 2 June 1955.

In 1956, 3 Sikh Light Infantry was deployed in Naga Hills to conduct operations against the Naga hostiles. On 3 June 1956, 'A' Company of this battalion was ordered to attack Chephema Village in Kohima, at dawn, to clear a hostile stronghold. As the Company reached Chephema at 0500 hours, it encountered heavy hostile fire from the village. At this juncture 2/Lt Raman, who was commanding No. 2 platoon of the company, was asked to clear the village of the hostiles. But as he entered this village, intense fire was directed on him from light Machine Guns, Sten guns, and rifles. Owing to mist and low visibility he was unable to determine the exact location of the hostile position, and the hail of bullets from the hostiles made any advance impossible.

Suddenly, there was a break in the thick mist. 2/Lt Raman could now see some hostile movement in the vicinity of a hut. Seizing the opportunity he rushed towards the hut, and in the first burst of his Sten gun, killed two hostiles. There a third hostile, who was hiding nearby hurled a grenade which narrowly missed him. 2/Lt Raman kept on advancing and with another burst of his Sten gun he killed one more hostile. Here a hostile threw another grenade at him, which teared through his hat and injured him. But he pursued the assault relentlessly. This demoralised the hostiles completely and they took to their heels. This gallant officer continued to press on and killed one more hostile. The position was thus cleared.

Now a hostile fired a burst from his Sten gun, from point blank range wounding 2/ Lt Raman in the groin. But he did not give up and hurled a grenade at his attacker. The injured hostile was seen dragging himself on to a nearby bush. The mist now started lifting. 2/Lt Raman shouted for his men to push forward and dislodge the remaining hostiles. Inspired by him the men cleared the village. In this action the hostiles suffered 5 killed and 3 wounded, and lost 1 SBML gun and some ammunition.

In clearing this well prepared hostile position 2/ Lt Raman made the supreme sacrifice. He had not yet turned twenty-two. His gallant action stands out as a shining example of leadership and selfless devotion to duty in the best fighting traditions of the Indian Army. 2/Lt Polur Muthuswamy Raman was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



IC-39994

Lt

Roperia, Ram Prakash
26 Madras
Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Lt Ram Prakash Roperia son of Shri Bhal Singh was born on 10 June 1959 in Hissar (Haryana). He was commissioned in the Madras Regiment on 19 December 1981.

In 1984, 26 Madras was deployed in Amritsar to take part in operation 'Blue Star'. Lt Ram Prakash was officiating commander of the 'C' Company when on the night of 5/6 June 1984 it was tasked to secure the first floor of a building complex. The complex was heavily fortified and strongly held by highly motivated terrorists. Moreover, the few staircases leading to the first floor of the building were effectively covered with automatic weapons by the terrorists. Lt Roperia, therefore decided to climb up to the first floor of the building with the help of ladders. But in the face of effective machine gun-fire of the terrorists, three attempts to climb up to the first floor failed and any further attempt appeared difficult.

At this juncture Lt Roperia asked for volunteers to accompany him. In utter disregard for personal safety he accompanied by Nb Sub Keshy led the fourth attempt and succeeded in climbing to the first floor. The indomitable courage and outstanding leadership of Lt Roperia inspired his men to reach the objective.

Lt Roperia then began clearing the bunkers despite heavy machine gun fire. His men cleared the complete first floor of the building. He then decided to link up with 'D' Company which was on the ground floor and led his men to clear the staircase. The moment he opened the door of the staircase, he was fired upon by the terrorists. Lt Roperia lobbed two hand grenades and entered the staircase. There an injured terrorist fired at him wounding him seriously in the shoulder and neck. Despite serious injury, he fired at the terrorist and killed him. Then in complete disregard for his personal safety, he climbed down the staircase and established link with 'D' Company. On reaching the ground floor he collapsed due to exhaustion and excessive bleeding. He was evacuated to hospital but could not be saved.

In this action Lt Ram Prakash Roperia displayed exemplary bravery courage, leadership and devotion to duty in the highest traditions of the Indian Army. He was decorated with Ashoka Chakra posthumously.



12396
Squadron Leader
Sharma, Rakesh
Indian Air Force
Ashoka Chakra

Sqn Ldr Rakesh Sharma son of Shri D N Sharma was born on 13 January 1949 in Patiala, Punjab. He was commissioned in the Indian Air Force on 13 June 1970. Subsequently, he rose to the rank of Wing Commander. He was distinguished MIG pilot. During Indo-Pak War, 1971, he flew more than 20 operational missions and volunteered for some most dangerous assignments.

In January 1982, when it was decided that an Indian would go into space on a Russian spaceship, Sqn Ldr Rakesh Sharma volunteered for this very challenging mission. After a very rigorous selection process which included a most exacting medical test, he was selected as one of the two cosmonaut candidates. He underwent training at Yuri Gagarin Centre in USSR, where he applied himself with total devotion and dedication and won acclaim from Soviet Space experts. Sqn Ldr Sharma completed a most arduous training schedule, with distinction and with exceptional professionalism.

On 3 April 84, Sqn Ldr Sharma became the first Indian to orbit in space. He carried out all the scientific experiments planned for the joint Indo-Soviet Space Mission and other tasks assigned to him with great ability and excellence. He carved out a place for himself in the Space roll of honour and brought glory to the nation.

Sqn Ldr Rakesh Sharma thus displayed firm conviction and exceptional courage, which all budding pilots would be proud to emulate. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra.



**Head Constable (Retd)
Srivastava, Shankar Lal
Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)**

Head Constable (Retd.) Shankar Lal Srivastava, son of Shri Ram Gulam was born on 3 August 1908, in village Muderl, post office Devri, district Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. He served with Madhya Pradesh Police and settled in his village after retirement.

On the night of 10 August 1966, a gang of dacoits, armed with guns, rifles, spears and lathis, raided a house in village Muderl in Madhya Pradesh. While the dacoits were looting the property, Shri Shankar Lal Srivastava came out of his house. He tried to obtain a gun from a villager, but when there was some delay in getting it, he picked up a lathi and jumped to drive off the dacoits single-handed. He succeeded in knocking down one of them. This demoralised the other dacoits. They abandoned their plan to loot other houses and made off taking the injured dacoit with them. While escaping, they tried at Shri Srivastava and killed him on the spot.

The lone fight waged by Shri Shankar Lal Srivastava against the armed dacoits in the defence of his neighbour was a shining example of courage and gallantry. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



**Shri Strekalov
Gennady Mikhailovich
Ashoka Chakra**

Shri Gennady Mikhailovich Strekalov was an engineer pilot in former U S S R

Shri Gennady Mikhailovich Strekalov was specially selected to be the engineer cosmonaut of the first Indo-Soviet manned spaceship which went into space on the 3 April 1984. With the indepth knowledge and experience gained by him in his two space flights earlier, he was responsible for monitoring the proper functioning of space flight system on both the Soyuz T-II Spacecraft and Salyut-7 space station. He not only assisted the Commander and the crew but also contributed to the successful conduct of the entire space mission.

Shri Gennady Mikhailovich Strekalov thus displayed most conspicuous courage and daring during the mission. He was decorated with the award of Ashoka Chakra.



15103
Lance Naik
Sunder Singh
4 JAK Infantry
Ashoka Chakra

L NK Sunder Singh, son of Shri Kaiyan Singh was born on 14 February 1929 in village Chauki Handan, district Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir. He was enrolled in JAK State Force on 14 February 1947. Subsequently on 1 January 1957 was taken into 4 JAK Rifles. Later he rose to the rank of Subedar Major and Honorary Lieutenant.

In 1956, 4 JAK Infantry was deployed at Hussainwala Headworks near Ferozpur. On 18 March, in the night the position of JAK Infantry was attacked by Pakistanis. Indians beat back the onslaught and dislodged the attackers from the right side of the guide-bund. But the nose and the right end of the guide-bund remained with the enemy.

The attackers established a Light Machine Gun-nest at the nose of the bund and from there commenced sweeping fire on Bela, right guide-bund and the boat point on the left guide-bund, across the river. In view of this it became extremely difficult for Indians to hold the bund and ply boats across the river for replenishment of ammunition and evacuation of casualties. The gun-nest also threatened the safety of our troops at Bela.

It was essential to dislodge the enemy from this position. But an advance towards the nose of the bund was held up by very heavy fire from the Gun-nest. At this stage volunteers were called to knock out the Gun-nest. L NK Sunder Singh volunteered for the task. He equipped himself with six hand-grenades, crawled about 100 metres of the fire-swept bund and negotiated another 50 metres of enemy held territory scaling over the pile of stones on the right bund. Once sufficiently close to the Gun-nest, he hurled grenades at it. The gun was silenced and the three persons, manning it killed. At considerable risk to his life he then went forward to the Gun-nest, and captured it along with magazines. The bravery of LNK Sunder Singh enabled 4 JAK Infantry to occupy the nose. He visited the gun position three times more to bring the three dead bodies.

In this action the NCO displayed great presence of mind and courage of the highest order, with complete disregard for his personal safety. L NK Sunder Singh was awarded Ashoka Chakra for this act of gallantry.



Shri Takhat Singh Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)



Shri Takhat Singh was born in village Gour, district Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh.

On the night of 4 January 1966, armed dacoits raided the house of Shri Maharaj Singh in village Gour, Madhya Pradesh. They kept on firing indiscriminately to scare away the villagers during the raid. However two sons of Maharaj Singh managed to come out of the house and shouted for help. Hearing their shouts a number of villagers including Takhat Singh came to their rescue. The dacoits fired at them and injured two villagers. But the villagers were not discouraged. Carrying only lathis and spears they bravely faced the dacoits, who were well equipped with fire-arms. Shri Govind Singh scaled over the wall of the house and jumped 3 meters down into the courtyard where his father had been tied with a rope. At this stage Takhat Singh joined Govind Singh. Both threw themselves upon the armed dacoits. In the ensuing encounter Takhat Singh, Maharaj Singh and two villagers were killed and Govind Singh and his brother were seriously injured.

It was a grave situation. However Hukam Singh and Lakhari Singh two brave villagers fought their way into the house and cornered two of the dacoits. One of them managed to escape through a hole bored in the tiled roof but the other was trapped and locked up inside a room. The other dacoits also fled.

In this action against the armed dacoits Shri Takhat Singh displayed outstanding gallantry and courage. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Tej Singh Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)



Shri Tej Singh, son of Shri Indrabhan Gujer, was born in 1929 in village Bamhrauli, district Morena, Madhya Pradesh. He was a brave and courageous person.

On the night of 12 September 1964, a gang of dacoits armed with .303 rifles and muzzle-loading guns, entered the house in village Churehla. They forcibly took away the ornaments on the person of a housewife. When she raised an alarm for help they shot and wounded her.

At this time Shri Tej Singh, Shri Lajjaram and Shri Purshottam were sleeping in neighbouring hut. They were woken up by the gun shot and the cries of the victim. They decided to help the woman. With lathis they attacked the well armed dacoits. Shri Tej Singh even succeeded in snatching a muzzle-loading gun from a dacoit. The dacoits now concentrated their fire on the three brave villagers. They were not however, cowed down by the bullets and kept on fighting with their lathis till the end. Shri Tej Singh received 4 bullet wounds and sword cut and was killed on the spot. His friends Shri Lajjaram and Shri Purshottam suffered two bullet wounds each and died in hospital subsequently.

In his effort to protect the life and honour of a neighbour, Shri Tej Singh laid down his own life and set a shining example of courage and gallantry. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



10341
Naik
Thapa, Nar Bahadur
5/5 Gorkha Rifles (FF)
Ashoka Chakra

Nk Nar Bahadur Thapa, son of Shri Jangabir Thapa was born in March 1921, in Nepal. He was enrolled in 5/5 Gorkha Rifles (FF) on 11 November 1940.

During the Police Action in Hyderabad in 1948, 5/5 Gorkha Rifles operated in the Southern Sector as a part of Mycol Force created under the Madras area. On 13 September 1948, 'A' Company of this battalion was ordered to capture the Tungabhadra Bridge. The company left Guntakul at 0200 hours and reached the Bridge at 0420 hours. Soon it went into the action and attacked an enemy position near the Bridge. At this juncture No. 2 Platoon of 'A' Company was held up on the left flank of the Bridge by automatic enemy fire from a Bren Gun Post and sniping from a second position. The Gorkhas engaged the enemy positions with Section fire. Nk Thapa then seized the opportunity to take on the enemy Bren Gun Post. He dashed across 90 metres of open ground under heavy enemy fire and attacked the Bren Gun crew with 'Khukri'. With this bold action he silenced the menacing Bren Gun.

In this action Nk Thapa acted with great courage, unmindful of his personal safety. His gallant act enabled the Company to secure the bridge-head. Nk Nar Bahadur Thapa was awarded Ashoka Chakra for exceptional gallantry.



IC-5034
Captain
Tucker, Eric James
2 Maratha Light Infantry
Ashoka Chakra (Posth.)

Capt Eric James Tucker was born on 21 October 1927. He was commissioned in the 2 Maratha Light Infantry on 13 July 1947. During his short career in the Army he earned many medals.

In 1956, 2 Maratha was deployed in Nagaland. Capt (Acting Major) Tucker who was in the command of the 'B' Company was assigned the task of opening the line of communication between Chakabama and Phek, a distance of about 67 kilometres and thereafter to Meluri, a further distance of 32 kilometres. He was to destroy the hostile concentrations in route and then to establish a post at Meluri. This was done by 9 October 1956 but he had to abandon Meluri and dash to Phek on 11 October 1956 for want of supplies. After revictualing, he again fought his way to Meluri on 15 October 1956.

Capt Tucker carried out many more hazardous tasks. Late at night, on 1 April 1957 on getting information about a hostile concentration at Chipokatarni, he rushed to the place through dark jungles and took the hostiles by surprise. Disdaining the withering fire of the hostile he charged the hostiles position with a Section and captured four hostiles, armed with rifles. On 18 July 1957, Capt Tucker outmanoeuvred a large hostile body at Vishyepu, inflicted heavy casualties on it, and captured a large number of prisoners.

In early August, the Company of Capt Tucker was on petrol duty in Lozaphmi-Khuzami Chizami area. On 2 August while proceeding from Khuzami to Kivikhu with a platoon he was caught in an ambush. The hostile, who had obtained prior information of his move, lay in ambush in the thick undergrowth, near Mile-Stone 70. After allowing the leading Section to pass through, the hostiles opened fire on him from close quarters with automatics and rifles. The Captain was hit on the face and legs, but he stood his ground and engaged the hostiles with his Sten Gun, until the last round. Finally, he charged at the hostile position with a grenade, but there another burst of automatic fire hit him on the chest, killing him on the spot.

Throughout his service in the Naga Hills, Capt Tucker displayed exemplary valour, great devotion to duty, and exceptional leadership. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra, posthumously.



Colonel Yurie, Vasilevich Malyshev Ashoka Chakra

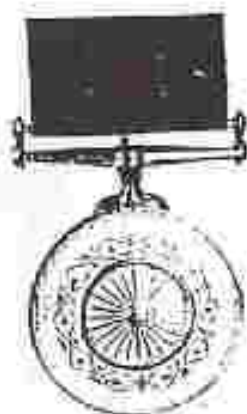
Col Vasilevich Malyshev Yurie, an experienced pilot cosmonaut of the Soviet Union was the Commander of the first joint Indo-Soviet manned space ship "SOYUZ T-II" which went into the space on 3 April 1984. He had the distinction of commanding Soyuz T-2/Salyut-6 complex, that performed the space flight earlier from 5 to 9 June 1980. He actively involved himself in all facets of joint training of the crew for "SOYUZ T-II" and shaped it into a highly efficient and cohesive team during the flight.

During the flight as the commander of the space ship he was made fully responsible for the safety of the crew and success of the mission. Being an experienced cosmonaut he proved to be a source of strength to the other two cosmonauts during the flight. He provided them necessary guidance and encouragement to undertake and accomplish the assigned tasks.

Col Vasilevich Malyshev Yurie displayed most conspicuous courage and daring in commanding the first joint Indo-Soviet space mission. He was honoured with the award of Ashoka Chakra.

THE KIRTI CHAKRA

- Firstly :** The decoration shall be in the form of a medal and styled and designated the "KIRTI CHAKRA"
(hereinafter referred to as the Chakra).
- Secondly :** The medal shall be circular in shape and of standard silver, one and three-eighth inches in diameter, with rims on both sides. On the obverse of the medal shall be embossed a replica of Ashoka's Chakra in the centre, surrounded by a lotus wreath. Along the rim, in the inner side, shall be a pattern of lotus leaves, flowers and buds. The rim of the medal and that of Ashoka's Chakra, together with its spokes and hubs, shall be polished, the remaining surface being toned to constitute a dull background. On its reverse shall be embossed the work "KIRTI CHAKRA" both in Hindi and English, the two versions being separated by two lotus flowers. The fittings shall be of a standard pattern. A sealed pattern of the decoration shall be deposited and kept.
- Thirdly :** The medal shall be suspended from the left breast by a riband of one and a quarter inches in width. The ribbon shall be of green coloured silk divided into three equal segments by two orange vertical lines. The green colour denoted Auspiciousness, and orange renunciation and sacrifice.
- Fourthly :** The Chakra shall be awarded for conspicuous gallantry, otherwise than in the face of the enemy.
- Fifthly :** The Chakra may also be awarded posthumously.
- Sixthly :** The decorations shall be conferred by the President.
- Seventhly :** The names of those persons upon whom the decoration may be conferred, shall be published in the Gazette of India and a Register thereof maintained under the direction of the President.
- Eighthly :** The persons eligible for the decoration shall be—
(a) Officers and men and women of all ranks of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, of any of the Reserve Forces, of the Territorial Army, Militia and of any other lawfully constituted forces.
(b) Members of the Nursing Services of the Armed Forces.
(c) Civilian citizens of either sex in all walks of life, other than members of Police Forces and of recognised Fire Services.
- Ninthly :** If a recipient of the Chakra shall again perform, such an act of gallantry as would have made him or her eligible to receive the Chakra, such further act of gallantry shall be recognised by a Bar to be attached to the riband by which the Chakra is suspended and, for every subsequent act of gallantry an additional Bar shall be added and such Bar or Bars may also be awarded posthumously. For every such Bar, a replica of the Chakra in miniature shall be added to the riband when worn alone.
- Tenthly :** The miniature medal which may be worn on certain occasions by recipients shall be half size of the Chakra, and a sealed pattern of the said miniature medal shall be deposited and kept.
- Eleventhly :** The President may cancel and annul the award of the Chakra and the Bar to any person and thereupon the name of such recipient in the Register shall be erased and the recipient shall be required to surrender the insignia, but it shall be competent for the President to restore the decoration when such cancellation and annulment has been withdrawn.
- Lastly :** The notice of cancellation or restoration in every case shall be published in the Gazette of India.



G/118221K
OEM
Shri Abhimanu
Kirti Chakra

OEM Abhimanu son of Shri Amraj was born on 1 Feb. 1948 in village Dudauli, tehsil Machhlisahra, district Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh. He joined 153 EC Pl, Project Dantak, on 12 Feb 1967.

OEM Abhimanu was an operator excavating machinery with the Border Roads Organisation. His unit, 168 Formation Cutting Platoon/113 Road Construction Coy, was operating in Leh Sector during 1988. Detailed on Project Himank it was engaged in clearing snow in the vicinity of Khardungla at an altitude of 5575 metres on strategic Leh-Chalunka road, which led to Nubra Valley and Siachen Glacier.

On 31 December 1988, while operating near Khardungla his dozer got blocked with heavy snow accumulation. The labourers who were deployed with him left the site apprehending danger to their lives. But operator Abhimanu, despite snow blizzards, drifts and risky working conditions, continued to operate his dozer to clear the snow knowing that the life of troops across Khardungla depended on it. Then came a snow avalanche hurtling down. The operator was blown off 250 meters (approx) down into a snow covered valley. However, his cool courage and strong nerves helped him to come out of the valley. Despite injuries suffered in avalanche he took to his dozer again. He continued working till late in the evening and cleared the road for traffic.

OEM Abhimanu thus set a rare example of courage and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



5831720
Rifleman
Adhikari, Jaital
2/9 Gorkha Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Rfn Jaital Adhikari, son of Shri Parasor was born on 1 July 1924 at Okhaldurga, Nepal. He was enrolled in 2/9 Gorkha Rifles on 24 October 1942.

In 1956, 2/9 Gorkha Rifles was deployed in Naga hills to contain hostile activities and restore order. On 22 December 1956 Rfn. Jaital Adhikari was driving a vehicle in a small convoy proceeding from Tichipami to Aichisangami. There were 17 men in the escort. At 0900 hours, near Sirchito, the convoy ran into an ambush laid by a hostile leader with about 150 men. They were armed with two Light Machine Guns besides other weapons. The hostiles opened fire with Light Machine Guns on the front and the rear vehicles of the convoy simultaneously. In this attack the persons manning the only Light Machine Gun of the escort in the front jeep were killed and four others were wounded. The others jumped out of the vehicle and took up position. But the Light Machine Gun which had lost the crew, remained unattended on the front jeep as it was away from their position. The hostiles fire made any movement towards the jeep impossible. But the recovery of the Light Machine Gun was essential for the survival of the escort party.

Rfn. Jaital Adhikari volunteered to retrieve it. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he made a dash to the jeep and succeeded in recovering the Light Machine Gun. The recovered Light Machine Gun was however, of no use unless the reserve LMG ammunition lying in another jeep was brought. He therefore, rushed to that jeep and brought back the reserve ammunition. He inflicted more casualties on the hostiles and kept them at bay till the help reached at noon. In this three hours duel with the hostiles, 5 of the 17 GfRs were killed and 8 wounded.

In this encounter, Rifleman Jaital Adhikari fought fearlessly and kept in check a large number of hostiles with his inspiring conduct. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



SS-22848
Captain
Ahluwalia, Haripal Singh
Jat Regiment
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Capt Haripal Singh Ahluwalia, son of Shri Amar Singh Ahluwalia was born on 18 April 1945. He was enrolled in Jat Regiment on 15 March 1970.

In 1973 Capt Ahluwalia was serving with a battalion of Jat Regiment, deployed in Counter Insurgency operations in Naga Hills. On 20 July 1973, information was received about the location of the general headquarters of the Naga hostiles. Immediately a decision was taken to raid this headquarters and Capt Ahluwalia volunteered to accompany the raiding column. After a long march of two days and two nights the column came in contact with the hostiles.

Capt Ahluwalia led the assault on the hostile camp. While closing on the camp, the assaulting troops were fired upon by a hostile sentry from a concealed bunker. Capt Ahluwalia received the first burst of the hostile Sub-Machine Gun on his right shoulder. But knowing that the hostile Machine Gun could inflict heavy casualties on his troops, he immediately charged on the hostile sentry, firing his Sten gun. Then a second burst from the same Machine Gun hit him on the chest. Although seriously wounded he encouraged his platoon to rush to the camp. Capt Ahluwalia succumbed to his injuries barely 45 metres from the hostile bunker.

Inspired by his heroic action the platoon over-ran the impregnable camp of the hostiles. A large quantity of ammunition, equipment and important documents were captured.

In this action, Capt Haripal Singh Ahluwalia displayed gallantry and leadership of a very high order. He was awarded Kirti Chakra posthumously.



Shri Ajab Singh Kirti Chakra

Shri Ajab Singh was resident of Bindwa village in Madhya Pradesh.

On 21 October 1967, notorious dacoit Nathu Singh entered village Bindwa with a gang of 13 men and surrounded the houses of Babu Singh and his near relatives. The dacoits started firing at the house of Babu Singh from a commanding position and set fire to two other houses.

Shri Ajab Singh was a brave man of the village. He joined hands with six others like spirited persons to resist the dacoits. They fought back the dacoit gang with licensed arms available in the village as well as stones and bricks and injured one of them. The dacoits were armed with Sten Guns, automatic rifles, etc. but the heroic resistance of the villagers forced them to abandon the attack and flee.

In this action, Shri Ajab Singh displayed conspicuous gallantry and firm determination, for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-37658
Captain
Ajit Singh
1 Bihar Regiment
Kirti Chakra

Capt Ajit Singh, son of Shri A S Matharu was born on 2 January 1956 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned in 1 Bihar Regiment on 1 September 1979.

In April 1982, 1 Bihar was deployed in Manipur for conducting operations against the extremists. On 13 April 1982, at 0705 hours information was received that armed extremists were present in Mayai Leikai in village Kadam Popoi Khunau (Imphal). Capt Ajit Singh was detailed to lead a column to apprehend them. He swiftly cordoned the village from the west and south by 0745 hours and then organised a systematic and thorough search.

During the search operations when Capt Ajit Singh was approaching a hut, his party came under heavy and accurate fire from the first floor of a double storeyed house. He, however, remained unperturbed and ordered his men to take position to engage the insurgents. Further to thwart the extremists attempts to escape, he alongwith three jawans rushed towards the house under covering fire. While nearing the house he saw the extremists trying to escape. Capt Singh immediately opened fire, blocked the escape route and wounded one extremist.

Finding escape route blocked, the extremists became desperate. They directed all their fire power at Capt Ajit Singh and wounded him in the head seriously. But he continued to fight back till he fell unconscious. He thus prevented the escape of the extremists at a great risk to his own life. Consequently, some top leaders of the Peoples Liberation Army were either killed or captured.

For displaying conspicuous gallantry, inspiring leadership and great devotion to duty Capt Ajit Singh was awarded Kirti Chakra.



1515952
Naik
Ajit Singh
106 Engineer Regiment
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Naik Ajit Singh, son of Shri Sadhu Singh was born on 2 October 1942 in village Thathala Dhaha, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab. He was enrolled in 106 Engineer Regiment on 26 June 1961.

The Engineer Regiment of Naik Ajit Singh was deployed on the construction of a vital tactical road in the northern sector in 1977. The task was hazardous as the alignment of the road followed a steep, rocky and precipitous feature, above the Indus river and was subject to heavy rock avalanches. The construction of the road in this terrain involved cutting through vertical rock faces by the use of explosive charges. Several of these rock faces, being inaccessibly perched, were unapproachable by normal means and the placing and firing of charges at such places required great skill and courage. A situation arose when it was contemplated to abandon further work at this spot due to extreme risk involved. A change of alignment was also not feasible as it could have delayed the completion of task considerably.

Volunteers were called up for the demolition of particularly difficult rock faces. Naik Ajit Singh volunteered to undertake this risky task. From 4 May 1977 to 2 June 1977, he untiringly carried out the firing of approximately 100 explosive charges at great personal risk. On 2 June 1977, while he was in the process of lifting the safety fuse for one such charge, there was a pre-detonation which blew him to pieces.

Naik Ajit Singh thus displayed courage, determination and devotion to duty of a very high order. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



1553695-N
Sapper OEM
Ajmer Ali
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Spr OEM Ajmer Ali, son of Shri Sharif Ahmad was born on 15 February 1961 in village Shobapur, district Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 168 FC PL FREF (113 RCC, BRO) on 9 May 1980.

During 1987 Spr Ajmer Ali was working as Operator Excavating Machinery in 168 Formation Cutting Platoon care 113 RCC, deployed in Ladakh for clearing the snow from the road to make them useable. Due to continuous and heavy snow-fall from 15 to 17 March 1987, Khardungla Pass, which was at an altitude of 5,400 metres on Leh-Chalunka Road in Ladakh, had got blocked. On 22 March 1987, Spr Ajmer Ali was detailed to clear the snow from this road.

It was a time when heavy snow-fall had pushed the temperature down to sub-zero point and biting icy winds were blowing. In the inclement weather Spr Ajmer Ali worked relentlessly to clear the snow even when it was snowing. He cleared the main line of communication across the Glacier Bridge and thus opened the life line of troops deployed on the northern side. It is remarkable that even when the labourers working along with him had abandoned the site apprehending danger to their lives, Spr Ajmer Ali continued to work with zeal and fortitude. He was buried in an avalanche along with the dozer while engaged in the snow clearing operation.

Spr Ajmer Ali displayed commendable perseverance and exceptional courage and exemplary sense of duty in the face of heavy odds. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Ali, Mohd Yakub Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Mohd Yakub Ali was a teacher by profession.

In 1981 Shri Mohd Yakub Ali was serving as a Secondary Grade Teacher in Junior Basic School at Rajahmundry. On the night of 12 December 1981, he was travelling in Vijaywada-Kakinada passenger train. While the train was running between Nawabpet and Marampally stations four persons armed with knives, attacked some passengers including two ladies in a compartment and robbed them of their gold ornaments, wrist watches etc. At that time Shri Mohd Yakub Ali was in the toilet. When he came out from the toilet he saw that the dacoity was going on. He tried to catch hold of a dacoit but meanwhile another dacoit inflicted a knife blow on him. By this time the train had reached the outer signal of Marampally station and the dacoits started jumping out of the running train alongwith the booty. The injured Mohd Yakub Ali then made another valiant attempt to catch hold of one of the dacoits and in the process received another knife blow on his chest. It proved fatal and he died within minutes.

Shri Mohd Yakub Ali displayed exemplary courage, high sense of civic responsibility and a spirit of supreme self-sacrifice in fighting the dacoits. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC-2467
Major
Amar Sen
Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Maj Amar Sen was born on 21 March, 1917. He was commissioned in the Assam Rifles on 9 August, 1942. During his service in the army he earned several medals—was awarded 1939-45 star, Burma Star, India Independence Medal, GS Medal 47 (Naga Hills), SS Medal (J&K, NEFA) and Raksha Medal, 1965. He subsequently rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and retired on 1 June, 1967.

Maj Amar Sen was commanding the 3rd Battalion of the Assam Rifles when widespread trouble broke out in the southern half of Tuensang Frontier Division in March 1955. An outpost at Huchim was in danger of being cut off. Maj Amar Sen marching through dense jungles in darkness and across precipices, surprised the hostiles and captured Huchim after an hour's fight. A ring leader and two hostiles were killed in this encounter.

Maj Amar Sen exploited the success further. He raised a force of three columns which swept the entire southern half of the Division, some sixty-four kilometres long and forty-eight kilometres wide, screening every village and hideout. Consequently, a number of hostiles surrendered, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was captured. He so effectively reorganised and deployed two battalions in this mountainous terrain that the Dikhu Bridge, which was a vital link in communications for Tuensang was fully secured before it could be overrun by the hostiles.

About two hundred hostiles then concentrated in Khekiye and Lhoshepys areas, dominating the line of communication to Aghuneto. Besides rifles and Sten guns, they carried seven Light Machine Guns. Maj Amar Sen decided to attack the hostile concentration and set up a base at Vilho for this purpose. In addition to commanding the force he led this attack himself. On 4 August, 1955 when the hostiles attacked Vilho, Maj Amar Sen's platoon resolutely defended the position. He personally went from trench to trench to encourage his men. While shifting a Light Machine Gun Group he received a bullet wound in the chest, but still he continued to direct the operation. He allowed himself to be moved to safety only after the hostile attack had been repulsed.

In this action Maj Amar Sen proved himself to be a courageous and brave leader. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



2866859
Havildar
Amar Singh
17 Rajputana Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Hav Amar Singh son of Shri Anand Singh, was born on 4 July 1954 in village Ramrawas Kallan, district Jodhpur, Rajasthan. He was enrolled in 17 Rajputana Rifles on 4 July 1972.

When the activities of the insurgents became intolerable in Manipur, the Government of India decided upon some hard measures to contain them. During December 1981, 17 Raj Rif was inducted in Imphal area for continuing counter insurgency operations. Hav Amar Singh served with one of the columns of the battalion.

On 17 December 1981, at 0600 hours, Hav Amar Singh's column was sent to area Sacolband *Morang Hanuba* (Imphal) on receipt of specific information that some armed extremists belonging to the outlawed PREPAK, an organisation of Manipur State had assembled there. When the troops reached the general area, a man was seen running towards a group of houses. When chased by Hav Amar Singh, his Commander and one Other Rank, the fleeing insurgent repeatedly fired from his pistol. But Hav Amar Singh continued the chase disregarding the volley of bullets. While he was about to pounce at the insurgent a bullet hit him on the left arm. However, he kept on chasing the extremist unmindful of his injury. The insurgent again fired at Hav Amar Singh and this time a bullet hit his chest, which proved fatal. The insurgent was eventually apprehended and identified as Khomdram Shanti Singh, an important leader of PREPAK.

During this action Hav Amar Singh displayed conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



2431179
Havildar
Amar Singh
7 Punjab
Kirti Chakra

Hav Amar Singh son of Shri Ghechar Singh was born on 4 July 1914, in village Man Singh Wala, district Feruzpur, Punjab. He was enrolled in 7 Punjab on 4 July 1941.

During the Operation Polo, i.e. Police Action against Hyderabad in 1948, 7/2 Punjab was deployed in the Northern Sector. The specific task allotted to it was to capture Kanerngaon village. To achieve this objective the capture of 273-Metre long Balaramah single track railway bridge spanning the river Panganga was of vital importance. But the task was difficult as strong enemy forces were entrenched on the other side of the river. The battalion, therefore, decided to send over a suicide squad riding in a sand bagged flat which could be pushed forward over the bridge in front of a railway engine.

When 18 volunteers were asked for this operation, Hav Amar Singh was the first to offer his services. Many more followed. All of them knew that the chances of their either being blown up in the middle of the bridge or being overrun by superior numbers of the enemy on the other side were great. At the appointed time, the engine moved forward. But even before it could reach the bridge heavy and accurate LMG fire was opened on the flat. The flat was, however, pushed forward at the great speed. Hav Amar Singh seeing the enemy entry, ready to blow up the bridge, jumped out and shot him down. He then attacked the LMG post which was firing on the supporting troops single handedly and silenced it. But for the outstanding gallantry and initiative shown by Hav Amar Singh the bridge would have been blown up. Hav Amar Singh was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



**Colonel
Anatoly
Nikolavich Brezovoi
Kirti Chakra**

Colonel Nikolavich Brezovoi Anatoly was a USSR Cosmonaut.

In January 1982 it was decided to launch a Joint Indo-Soviet Space Mission into the orbit with a view to develop and master the space science for the benefit of mankind. Colonel Anatoly Nikolavich Brezovoi was assigned a standby position in the Joint Space Team. The mission took off on 3 April 1984, carried out all scientific experiments and completed all the tasks assigned to the crew.

In this flight Colonel Anatoly Nikolavich Brezovoi displayed exceptional ability and courage for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.

Shri Angami, Pfudilhu Kirti Chakra



Shri Pfudilhu Angami, son of Lhupuse was a resident of South Angami village of Kigwama, Naga Hills.

In June 1959 Shri Angami was working as Village Guard Subedar in village Kohima. On 4 June he reported to the Commandant, Village Guard (NHTA), at Kohima, the location of the secret jungle hideout of the notorious Naga hostile Yanio, a self-styled 'General' of the Hostile Home Guard. The authorities had been searching for him for many months.

Yanio and his gang were on the run following a dastardly act, in which they had attacked and grievously wounded the wife of a government officer. The gang was known to include many armed and desperate characters. It was considered necessary to take immediate action against them but the dearth of trained village guards came in the way. To encash the rare opportunity Village Guard Sub Pfudilhu volunteered to lead a handful of his village guards 8 in all, armed only with single shot muskets and rifles against the hostiles. He also arranged for the issue of arms to 12 new recruits, with only 8 days' training, who happened to be present in Kohima at that time.

At approximately 0300 hours on 5 June 1959, Village Guard Sub Pfudilhu, after a skilful approach and with total surprise, charged upon Yanio's camp. He personally led the charge and being able to recognise Yanio, seized the self styled 'General' before either he or his followers had time to use their weapons. As a result of this action Yanio was captured and his gang broken up.

Village Guard Subedar Pfudilhu Angami remained the leading figure in organising popular resistance against the hostiles in Naga Hills for a long time. He always acted boldly and bravely. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Angami, Razou Soppu Kirti Chakra

Shri Razou Soppu Angami, son of Shri Razou Angami was born on 1 October 1940, in village Chuchaua, Assam. He joined as Village Guard (NHTA) on 1 November 1958 and retired as a Subedar. His grandfather had also served as Havildar in the Indian Army. On 31 July 1973, Shri Angami was appointed Liaison Officer (Class I) with the Border Security Force in Nagaland. He displayed great courage and bravery in performing his duty and sustained bullet injuries on many occasions.

On the night of 13/14 March 1962, Shri Angami, Area Superintendent of Northon Angami Area, Naga Hills, received information that fifteen Naga hostiles were spending the night in a hideout in a village. Without losing any time, Shri Angami rushed to a village guard post to assemble a patrol to attack this hideout. As most of the guards were out on other duties at this time he could collect only nine of them. Undeterred by the small strength of his force, he attacked the hideout, and in the ensuing encounter killed three hostiles, wounded some others and captured one rifle and some ammunition.

The initiative and presence of mind displayed by Shri Razou Soppu Angami led to the success of this operation. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



Village Guard Subedar Angami, Thepfurilie Kirti Chakra

VG Subedar Thepfurilie Angami, had participated during the counter insurgency operations in Naga Hills. On 16 January 1961, Village Guard Subedar Thepfurilie Angami was detailed with 9 village guards, to locate a hostile camp in a jungle area. He was also required to find out their approximate strength so that suitable action could be planned against them. Jemadar Angami located the camp in which there were 20 hostiles. Realising that if he went back to fetch a bigger force to attack the hostiles, they might disappear in the meantime and a golden opportunity would be lost, he launched an attack on the hostile camp immediately with the meagre force at his command. The attack proved very successful. He had led patrols against hostiles successfully even earlier.

In June 1962, a party was organised from among the village guards to go underground in order to collect intelligence. Subedar Angami (since promoted) was appointed as the captain of this pseudo gang. He led the party very efficiently and skilfully. Valuable information was gathered as a result of which suitable action was taken against the hostiles. On one occasion the party encountered a hostile gang nearly double its strength. Displaying great coolness in a grave situation Subedar Angami managed to break away from the gang without raising any suspicion.

In all these operations Subedar Angami displayed conspicuous bravery, resourcefulness and leadership of a very high order. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Angami, Vila Pralie Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Vila Pralie Angami was born in Nagaland.

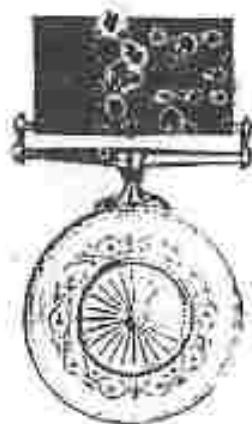
The Village Guard Shri Angami, an inmate of Angami Rehabilitation Camp rendered valuable service to the armed forces in their operations against Naga hostiles. He was trusted by the troops for his sincerity and determination to fight the rebels.

In 1970 his area of activity covered Kohima and much of the success achieved by the Armed Forces in the southern Angami area was due to his untiring zeal and devotion to duty. He performed his task unmindful of the risk to his life and to that of his family. Repeated threats from the underground Nagas could not deter him from performing his patriotic duty. On a number of occasions, he accompanied security forces on raids to hostile camps. He was also instrumental in setting up an efficient intelligence network.

At times he acted on his own. On 13 May 1970, he apprehended two suspects from Puchama village and assisted the security forces in their interrogation. Subsequently, he accompanied the troops in a raid on a hostile camp. In this raid four hostiles were killed and three rifles and a large quantity of ammunition were captured. On 25 June 1970, he again apprehended two suspects from Phesama village. On the basis of the information extracted from them he guided a column of 1/11 GR to a hostile camp. In the resultant encounter four hostiles were killed and three rifles, including a Chinese rifle, and a large quantity of ammunition were captured. On 29 June 1970, he again accompanied the troops on a raid on a hostile hideout, in which one hostile was wounded and some arms and ammunition were captured.

These activities of Shri Angami made him an eye-sore for the hostile Nagas and they decided to make a short work of him. On 2 September 1970, at Kohima, he was shot and mortally wounded by a hostile. He expired on 3 September 1970.

In view of the services rendered by Shri Vila Pralie Angami to the security forces and the country in utter disregard to his life, he was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Arvinder Pal Singh Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Arvinder Pal Singh was a resident of A-227, DDA Colony, New Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi.

On the night of 16/17 October 1982, at about 0200 hours some robbers entered House No. A-305, DDA Colony, New Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi. They overpowered Baldev Raj, the owner of the house and snatched a golden chain from him. On an alarm raised by Baldev Raj, his wife woke up but she too was overpowered by them.

On hearing the alarm, the neighbours rushed to the house of Baldev Raj. The robbers, seeing the people coming towards the house, fled. But Shri Singh decided to chase the fleeing robbers. He challenged them and caught hold of a robber. In a desperate bid to escape from his clutches the robber fired at him injuring him in the fore-head, left eye and head. He was rushed to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi but the doctors could not save his life.

Shri Arvinder Pal Singh exhibited courage, gallantry and civic responsibility of a very high order. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



1197964
Lance Naik
Attar Singh
Artillery
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

L/Nk Attar Singh, son of Shri Bharat Singh was born on 13 December 1944, in village Khandsa, district Gurgaon, Haryana. He was enrolled in 73 Med Regiment on 19 November 1963.

On 1 July 1974, L/Nk Attar Singh was posted near village Ismailpur. Suddenly, gunner Shyam Singh, belonging to an Artillery Regiment, ran amuck and was about to shoot an officer. L/Nk Attar Singh, who was nearby at once took a position between the officer and gunner in an attempt to save the officer. Despite repeated warnings he did not move, and stood his ground shielding the officer, knowing fully well that the gunner could kill him. The mad gunner actually hit him in the chest and he died instantaneously.

In this action, L/Nk Attar Singh displayed courage, gallantry and determination of a very high order. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



2943061
Sepoy Babu Lal
17 Rajput
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sepoy Babu Lal, son of Shri Kaman Singh was born on 12 February 1934, in village Mauroli, district Dholepur, Rajasthan. He was enrolled in the 17 Rajput on 12 February 1954.

In early fifties the activities of Naga insurgents assumed alarming proportion. When all efforts to contain them failed, the army help was sought. The 17 Rajput was deployed to assist the civil administration in this difficult job. Sep Babu Lal was attached to this battalion.

At 0330 hours, on 10 September 1955, 'B' Coy of 17 Rajput Regiment, led an attack on a hostile Naga stronghold at Lhoshepu. When the company was at a distance of 183 metres from the hostile position, it came under heavy and accurate automatic and rifle fire. Further, owing to a thick belt of 'punjis' (spikes) and ditches, its advance was temporarily halted at this juncture. Sep Babu Lal, who was with the leading section of the forward platoon, volunteered to go ahead and silence the Light Machine Gun enfilade which was proving a major obstacle for the company. While negotiating 37 metres of heavily fire-swept area strewn with 'punjis' and bunkers he was hit twice in the lower limbs. Still he dragged himself to reach at grenade throwing distance under the full view of the hostiles. In this attempt he was again hit by a Light Machine Gun burst in the chest. But he managed to lob a grenade at the hostile position, before he breathed his last. Thus the hostile gun was silenced.

Sep Babu Lal made the supreme sacrifice in the best Rajput tradition. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



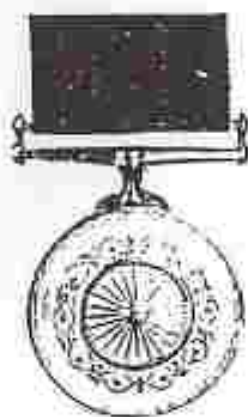
Shri Babu Singh Kirti Chakra

Shri Babu Singh belonged to village Bindwa, Madhya Pradesh.

On 21 October 1967, notorious dacoit Nathu Singh entered village Bindwa with a gang of 13 men, and surrounded the houses of Shri Babu Singh and his near relatives. The dacoits started firing at the house of Shri Babu Singh from a commanding position and set fire to two other houses.

Shri Babu Singh could not tolerate this affront. He organised resistance against the dacoits with six other villagers. They fought back the dacoit gang using their licensed fire-arms as well as stones and bricks and injured one of them. The dacoits were armed with Sten guns, automatic rifles etc., but the heroic resistance of the villagers forced them to abandon the attack and escape.

In this action, Shri Babu Singh displayed exemplary courage and gallantry. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



O NO. 67103
Ordinary Seaman
Bachan Singh
Indian Navy
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Seaman Bachan Singh, son of Shri Shiv Sharan Singh, was born on 11 March 1942, at Bhating village, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in Indian Navy and joined INS Venduruthy on 1 April 1960.

In 1961, the Indian Armed Forces launched 'Operation Vijay' to liberate the Indian territory under Portuguese possession. The Indian Navy was assigned the task to liberate the Anjidiv Island. The mission was carried out by a Naval landing party, consisting of volunteers from INS Venduruthy. The landing party had some disadvantages. Its personnel were not trained to land on beach and to fight on shore. The landings had to be carried out from the ships' boats. Further neutralisation of shore defences by Naval bombardment, could not be carried out because of the policy to use minimum force. The Naval party had, therefore, to land on the island from open boats without covering fire, in full view of an unmolested and alerted enemy.

The landings were attempted in two waves on 18 December, 1961. The first wave landed without opposition. The second wave, however, came under heavy and accurate fire from enemy positions concealed in bushes and rocks. Under these circumstances Seaman Bachan Singh was detailed to approach the hidden enemy positions and silence them by throwing hand-grenades. He crawled fearlessly towards the enemy positions under heavy fire. On each occasion he threw a hand-grenade, he had to expose himself to enemy fire. On one such occasion, he was caught in the fire and killed.

Seaman Bachan Singh, though a young and inexperienced sailor, displayed commendable courage and a high sense of duty. He was hardly nineteen when he made the supreme sacrifice and was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC-23315
Major
Bahuguna, Ajay Nath
4 JAK Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Major Ajay Nath Bahuguna, son of Shri SN Bahuguna, was born on 17 August 1949, at Roorkee, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned in Jammu and Kashmir Rifles on 15 June 1969. Subsequently, he rose to the rank of Colonel.

In April 1984, 4 JAK Rifles was deployed in Jammu and Kashmir. On 13 April 1984, Maj Bahuguna was assigned the task of leading a contingent of the battalion to establish contact with a forward post on the borders. He went about the difficult task with determination and courage. Awe inspiring odds could not deter him. He successfully led his men over extremely high altitudes in the conditions of high velocity winds, heavy snow and blizzards and accomplished a very difficult assignment.

In this action Maj Ajay Nath Bahuguna displayed leadership, determination, courage and devotion to duty of a very high order and was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-25182
Major
Bahuguna, Jai
Engineers
VSM
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Major Jai Bahuguna son of Shri SD Bahuguna was born on 14 September 1948 at Dehradun, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned in 236 Engineers on 13 June 1971.

To inculcate the spirit of adventure in young army men and officers, the Government of India encouraged mountaineering. Expeditions were undertaken to climb the highest peak, in the mountains including Himalayas, the Everest. In one such expedition to Everest planned in 1985, Maj Jai Bahuguna was appointed the deputy leader. The task was difficult and called for exceptional courage and skill.

During the course of the expedition, Maj Bahuguna was detailed to open the route between Camp I and Camp II. He accomplished this task in a record time of 1½ days. Moving forward with confidence he also opened the route for camps III and IV in three days time, between 20-23 September 1985. This enabled the expedition to move up at a fast pace.

During the attempt on Mount Everest on 7 October 1985, Maj Bahuguna was leading the second summit party which was to provide support to the first summit party. While he was in control of the situation on south column in an unfortunate accident Maj Kiran Inder Kumar slipped and died. Maj Bahuguna also tried his best to bring down the other sick comrades from south column from 8 to 10 October 1985 in very adverse weather conditions. Unfortunately, he did not succeed in this. Despite advice to descend to lower camps he stayed on with his sick rope-mates till the end. He succumbed to the vagaries of weather on 11 October 1985.

Maj Jai Bahuguna displayed conspicuous gallantry, leadership and *esprit de corps* during the expedition. For courage and supreme sacrifice he was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



2668238
Grenadier
Bajrang Singh
11 Grenadiers
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Grenadier Bajrang Singh, son of Shri Prehlad Singh Rathor was born on 13 June 1956, in village Kukanwall, district Nagaur, Rajasthan. He was enrolled in 11 Grenadiers on 17 September 1976.

The battle against the Naga hostiles was a long drawn one. Whenever information about the presence of these elements in a particular area was received, adequate force was despatched to track them down. On 24 June 1981, on receipt of such information a Task Force was detailed to raid and destroy the hostile camp near Champang. Grenadier Bajrang Singh was a member of this force.

The Task Force captured a part of the hostile camp by 1030 hours. Further advance of the column was, however, held up due to heavy automatic fire from one of the houses and in the process another member of the Task Force, Grenadier Om Parkash was wounded. On seeing their comrade wounded and realising the necessity of silencing the hostile fire, Grenadier Bajrang Singh and Grenadier Gopal Singh charged the house and succeeded in silencing the automatic fire after killing the hostile. In this operation Grenadier Bajrang Singh was hit by a burst of automatic fire and sustained severe wounds. Still he continued firing at the hostiles. His courageous action completely unnerved the heavily armed hostiles and they fled in confusion. Grenadier Bajrang Singh later succumbed to his injuries.

Grenadier Bajrang Singh thus displayed conspicuous courage, exceptional bravery and rare devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



JC-46163
Subedar
Bakhtawar Singh
23 Punjab
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sub Bakhtawar Singh, son of Shri Ganda Singh, was born on 1 July 1938, in village Tewar, District Ropar, Punjab. He was enrolled in 23 Punjab on 20 January 1958.

On 30 November 1977, Sub Bakhtawar Singh was the JCO In-charge of a firing bay from where rifle grenades were being fired by the men of his unit during field firing. At approximately 1545 hours, a soldier fired his rifle grenades. But due to some malfunctioning, the tube and the grenade did not leave the launcher cup, though the safety lever and priming ring flew off activating the grenade.

The Fire Controlling Officer therefore, ordered that a rifle with the grenade be thrown away outside the firing bay. The soldier threw away the rifle, but it fell just about a metre away from the firing bay. As it was not a safe distance, Sub Bakhtawar Singh jumping out of the bay, picked up the rifle and threw it away. While the brave Subedar was in the process of taking cover, the grenade exploded in the air. Some splinters from the grenade hit him, causing serious injuries, to which he succumbed a short while later.

In this action, Sub Bakhtawar Singh, displayed conspicuous courage, determination and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



JC-NYA-13734792
Naib Subedar
Baldev Raj
17 JAK Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nb Sub Baldev Raj, son of Shri Thamu Ram was born on 1 June 1951, in village Pathari Chak, district Gurdaspur, Punjab. He was enrolled in 17 JAK Rifles on 12 January 1972.

During November 1992, 17 JAK Rifles was deployed in Jammu and Kashmir on operations against the terrorists. On 3 November 1992, at about 0700 hrs in the morning, Nb Sub Baldev Raj, who was operating in Naugam Sector, was ordered to take a reinforcement party to the site of encounter. There was only one possible approach route to the site, and an earlier attempt through it had ended in two casualties.

Nb Sub Baldev Raj, unmindful of his personal safety, decided to tread through this treacherous route, along with two Other Ranks. He managed to close in on the terrorists. In the ensuing encounter he shot dead a terrorist but was himself gravely injured by a shot fired at a point blank range by the terrorist. Even when breathing his last he continued firing at the terrorists and injured one of them gravely.

Nb Sub Baldev Raj fought courageously despite grave danger to his own life. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC-24568
Major
Balhara, Mahavir Singh
Bihar Regiment
SM, Kirti Chakra

Maj Mahavir Singh Balhara was commissioned in the Indian Army.

To provide USA with first hand knowledge on the Siachen Glacier, it was decided to send an Indo-US team to 'Sia Kangri', a peak in the glacier in mid-1986. To ensure a safe passage to the team, an operational expedition was despatched to 'Sia Kangri' on 12 April 1986. The operational expedition was to give protection to the team to enable it to achieve its objective. Maj Balhara, commander of a rifle company in the forward-most sector in Ladakh, volunteered to lead the expedition. He selected his men judiciously, trained them vigorously and planned the expedition meticulously.

Realising the significance of the mission to the country, he led his men, who were not really mountaineers with zeal and courage. Passing through deep crevasse infested glacier in adverse weather conditions and blinding blizzards, he successfully established the base camp. He achieved this feat with very little mountaineering equipment. The enemy was perhaps aware of Indian intention to climb the peak. He, therefore, approached the peak from the west with a view to intercept the Indian advance to the peak. Sensing the gravity of the situation, Maj Balhara quickly climbed up the heights of 'Sia Kangri' and thwarted enemy designs by gaining domination over the area. He thus opened the route which enabled the Indo-US expedition to scale the peak successfully in June 1986.

Subsequently, Maj Balhara achieved a unique feat in the history of mountaineering when he led his men to scale a 8000 metres high peak without proper kit. While descending, he moved his men tactfully and brought them to safety despite enemy's artillery fire.

Maj Mahavir Singh Balhara was awarded Kirti Chakra for displaying conspicuous gallantry, courage and leadership.



2769281
Company Havildar Major
Balu, Jagtap Shivaji
6 MLI
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Coy Hav Maj Jagtap Shivaji Balu, son of Shri Balu was born on 1 June 1958, in village Varfageon Haveli, district Satara, Maharashtra. He was enrolled in 6 Maratha Light Infantry on 28 June 1976.

In January 1994, 6 Maratha Light Infantry was deployed in Jammu and Kashmir. On 28 January specific information was received about the presence of some militants in Nayadagam, Chalubug and Farashgund villages. 6 Maratha Light Infantry was ordered to cordon the area at 0700 hours. The search party deputed to check a cluster of the houses was commanded by Coy Hav Maj Jagtap Shivaji Balu.

While searching one of the houses, when Hav Balu reached the top floor, his party came under heavy fire of militants, hiding under the wood and grass dumped there. The first burst injured his body. However, despite the wound he rushed forward and killed one of the militants on the spot. But another burst fired at him by other militants felled him. Before laying down his life he foiled the escape bid of two other militants who were killed in the ensuing encounter by his men. In the face of heavy odds and grave danger he displayed outstanding courage, grit and devotion to duty.

Coy Hav Maj Jagtap Shivaji Balu was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



13614032

Naik

Bansode, Yashwant Maruti

2 Para

Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Yashwant Maruti Bansode, son of Shri Maruti, was born on 1 March 1962, in Naldurg, Maharashtra. He was enrolled in 2 Para on 30 January 1981.

During December 1990, 2 Para was deployed in Manipur for conducting operations against the extremists. On 4 December 1990, the battalion launched Op Shatrujeet to destroy a major Peoples Liberation Army hide-out in a thick jungle, near village Salsia, district Chura Chandpur. After gruelling march of about 15 hours across an inhospitable thick jungle the search column reached the suspect camp site at about 0130 hours on 5 December.

Soon the section came under very heavy machine gun and automatic rifle fire from a well entrenched position. Nk Bansode immediately sprang into action and in total disregard to his personal safety charged the machine gun post single-handedly. In this effort, he received a full burst of machine gun fire on abdomen and suffered grievous injuries. Still Nk Bansode pulled down the machine gun and overpowered and killed the machine gunner. For this daring act he had to pay with his life. The sacrifice of Nk Bansode enabled the search column to regroup and eliminate the strong extremist hide-out.

In this action Nk Yashwant Maruti Bansode displayed exemplary courage, rare devotion to duty and exceptional bravery and set a unique example of self sacrifice before his comrades. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Kumari Berry, Glori Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Kumari Glori Berry served as an Air Hostess with Air India International Corporation's Constellation 'Kashmir Princess' during the April 1955.

On 11 April 1955, Air India Constellation 'Kashmir Princess' was flying from Hong Kong to Jakarta on a special chartered flight, carrying Chinese delegates bound for Bandung to attend the Afro-Asian Conference. At about 0500 hours local time, when the aircraft was winging at an altitude of 5500 metres in the vicinity of Natuna Island over the South China Sea, suddenly an explosion occurred in the starboard wheel-well of the aircraft. Before long, an intense fire raised and spread rapidly in the right wing, while the interior of the aircraft including the cockpit became filled with smoke.

At this juncture the Commander of the aircraft decided to make an emergency landing in the sea. On his orders, Kumari Berry, the Air Hostess, distributed life jackets to all the passengers. Though the aircraft was losing height very rapidly, Kumari Berry unmindful of her own safety, went into the cockpit for distributing life jackets to the crew. As the crew being too busy trying to control the aircraft, could not take any notice for her, she personally fixed the jackets on them. This cool and calculated act of Kumari Berry, in the face of certain disaster, saved three lives, though it cost her own.

During this accident Kumari Glori Berry showed exceptional courage and devotion to duty. She was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC-3486
Major
Bhaskaran, Parayil
Madras Regiment
Kirti Chakra

Maj Parayil Bhaskaran was the son of late Shri MK Narayan. He was born on 28 September 1913 in Trichur, Kerala. He joined the Indian Territorial Force as a Junior Grade Officer in 1934. Subsequently, he was taken in the regular army service on 1 September 1940. He was commissioned in Madras Regiment on 14 March 1943.

From June 1958 to August 1959 Maj Bhaskaran commanded an Army unit in the Patharia Reserve Forest on the Assam border. This period was marked by intense firing from across the border. The outposts were repeatedly attacked and hostile forces, infiltrating at several points, established posts on Indian territory. Maj Bhaskaran risking his life a number of times personally led the parties to establish posts near the hostile positions under heavy fire and harassed them. His untiring effort and bold action forced the forces to withdraw from all vantage points.

Throughout this operation, Maj Parayil Bhaskaran displayed exemplary courage and daring leadership, which was a source of inspiration to his men. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Kumari Bina Kirti Chakra

Kumari Bina, daughter of Shri Yogeshwar Dayal was born on 18 April 1962 in village Asauda, district Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh. She was awarded national prize in 1976 by the Indian Council for Child Development.

On the night of 27/28 July 1976, some armed dacoits tried to break into the house of Shri Haridatt of Asauda village. Hearing the noise in the house, his neighbours woke up and started collecting outside the house. This unnerved the dacoits, and considering discretion as the best part of valour, they tried to escape. While fleeing two of the dacoits jumped into the adjoining house of Shri Yogeshwar Dayal, who was sleeping in the courtyard. Shri Yogeshwar Dayal woke up and tried to catch one of the dacoits. But the dacoits, who was armed, fired at him with a countrymade pistol and wounded him. Seeing her father wounded Kumari Bina, the fourteen years old daughter of Yogeshwar Dayal became furious. She picked up a pounder and started hitting the two dacoits, and felled them on the ground. One of them died on the spot while the other was captured alive with the help of the neighbours. Some illegal arms were also recovered from the dacoits.

In this action, Kumari Bina displayed great presence of mind and conspicuous courage. She was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Bishal Singh Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Bishal Singh was a resident of village Gour, district Chhatterpur, Madhya Pradesh.

On the night of 4 January 1966, armed dacoits raided the house of Maharaj Singh in village Gour, Madhya Pradesh. With a view to frighten the villagers they kept on firing indiscriminately. When Maharaj Singh's two sons shouted for help, Shri Bishal Singh and some other villagers ignoring the fire, came running towards the house, to face the dacoits. The dacoits fired at them and in the process injured one son of Maharaj Singh and a villager. Undaunted, Shri Bishal Singh and other villagers, armed only with lathis and spears, faced the dacoits bravely who were well-equipped with fire arms. During the encounter, Shri Bishal Singh and two other villagers were killed. The villagers, however, succeeded in trapping and locking up a dacoit inside a room. He was later arrested by the police.

Shri Bishal Singh displayed exemplary courage and determination in this encounter and sacrificed his life. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



6356426
Lance Naik
Biswas, Jitendra
Army Service Corps
Kirti Chakra

L/Nk Jitendra Biswas, son of Shri Upendra Chandra Biswas was born on 20 November 1938. He was enrolled in the Army Service Corps Supply on 20 November 1962 and was discharged from service on 1 February 1978. He is now settled in Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Assam.

During the operations against Mizo hostiles in Mizo Hills, L/Nk Biswas served in a company (Air Despatch) of Army Service Corps. On 11 May 1968 the L/Nk and four Other Ranks of the company (Air Despatch) took off in an Indian Air Force Dakota to drop supply on a post in the Mizo Hills. Soon after they took off aircraft developed engine trouble and started losing height. When it became evident that the aircraft would crash any moment, L/Nk Jitendra Biswas ordered his men to follow the emergency crash drill. They started unleashing and ejecting the load. The aircraft crash landed soon after. But due to the timely action taken by L/Nk Biswas the ejection crew miraculously escaped, sustaining only minor injuries. L/Nk Biswas then organised the rescue of other occupants of the aircraft. Meanwhile the crew cabin in which four Indian Air Force officers were trapped was enveloped by flames. He rushed inside the burning cabin to extricate them and succeeded in pulling out two officers. He fell unconscious owing to several burns on his hands, face and body.

The initiative and courage shown by L/Nk Jitendra Biswas in a difficult hour saved many valuable lives. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Boparai, Swarn Singh Kirti Chakra

Shri Swarn Singh Boparai, son of Dr Sohan Singh (former Director, Health Services, Punjab) was born on 23 June 1942 in Multan (now in Pakistan). He has held very senior appointments in Punjab State and Union Government departments. He had received Padma Shri for distinguished service in Indo-Pak War 1971.

On the night of 25 November 1973, about 150 followers of one Baghel Singh, armed with automatics etc, attacked the inhabitants of village Alangarhi to punish them for not owing allegiance to their leader. The criminals killed 13 persons and seriously injured 15. After committing the crime, they escaped under the cover of darkness. The police party which came to apprehend the criminals located them on the following morning, near Railway Station Pakki. They had entrenched themselves in a farm house with high boundary walls near village Qabarwala which was besieged by the police. As the criminals were well armed and out-numbered the police force, the Army had also been alerted. When the two sides were preparing for a bloody encounter Shri Swarn Singh Boparai, Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepur, reached the spot.

Shri Boparai volunteered to go alone un-armed to negotiate with the leaders of the gang so as to persuade them to surrender to the police. Shri Boparai, with great skill and tact finally persuaded them to surrender with arms and ammunition. These included hand-grenades, Sten guns, rifles, pistols, guns, kirpans, spears, knives and more than 4,000 cartridges of various calibres.

In this action Shri Swarn Singh Boparai was awarded Kirti Chakra for displaying exemplary courage, presence of mind and determination of a very high order.



Shri Bundu Khan Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Bundu Khan was a resident of Yamuna Vihar, Delhi.

One Mohd Ahsan was a noted criminal. He operated with his gang in trans-Yamuna area of Delhi. Though the Police was on the look out for him, he cleverly dodged the Police. On 31 March 1984, at about 1230 hours, 5 armed desperadoes entered the house of one Shri IC Goel in Yamuna Vihar, Delhi. They asked Shri Goel, who was in his drawing room, to hand over all valuables to them. But Shri Goel did not give in and courageously grappled with one of the desperadoes. He could not, however, match the combined strength of the criminals. They caught hold of him and started beating him mercilessly. On hearing his cries Shri Goel's daughter shouted for help. People of the area gathered and chased the desperadoes. In the meantime, the Police also reached the spot and joined the chase.

Shri Bundu Khan a social worker of the area also joined the chase. On reaching 'D' Block, Gokalpur, one of the criminals suddenly turned back and threatened the people and the Police on chase. Undaunted by his threat, Shri Bundu Khan jumped forward in a bid to catch the criminal, who was no other than Mohd Ahsan. The criminal, sensing danger, fired a shot which hit Shri Bundu Khan in the head. He succumbed to his injuries later in the hospital on the same day. The criminal, Mohd Ahsan, was given a chase by Assistant Sub-Inspector Chander Pal Singh and ultimately nabbed. His questioning led to the arrest of three more criminals.

Shri Bundu Khan exhibited conspicuous courage and a high sense of public duty and this led to the arrest of some noted criminals. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Carroll, Percival Douglas Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Percival Douglas Carroll was working in the South Eastern Railway.

Shri Percival Douglas Carroll was a Mail Train Driver with the South Eastern Railway. On 20 March 1959, he was driving the Bombay Mail. As the train steamed out of Chakradharpur Railway Station, he suddenly noticed some loaded wagons obstructing the track near the outer signal.

Shri Carroll immediately applied the brakes and succeeded in reducing the speed of the train considerably. This greatly reduced the impact of the collision, and consequently, only two bogies were derailed. By his presence of mind and quick remedial action he saved many lives and prevented a major disaster. In this attempt he sacrificed his own life as he succumbed to the injuries suffered in the accident.

During this accident Shri Percival Douglas Carroll displayed exemplary courage and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



172282
Naib Subedar
Chander Singh
17 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nb Sub Chander Singh, son of Shri Dewan Singh was born on 1 September, 1956, in village Gooti, district Pithoragarh, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 17 Assam Rifles on 27 December 1975.

During 1987, 17 Assam Rifles undertook an expedition to Kanchenjunga. The expedition was to scale the peak through the north east spur route, which was the most difficult climb in the world. Besides this, very bad weather conditions prevailed in the area. This was the second expedition to this peak after the Army Expedition of 1977.

Nb Sub Chander Singh was a member of this expedition. The first summit party left for the summit under the leadership of Phu Dorjee on 24 May 1987. But soon the radio contact with the team was lost and Dorjee never returned. The success of the expedition now depended on the second summit party. It was against such heavy odds that Nb Sub Chander Singh was selected to be a member of the second summit party.

The team started from Camp VII, situated at a height of 8,190 metres on 30 May 1987, at 0200 hours. Fierce wind and blizzard struck them after three hours of climb and forced them to return to the camp at 0700 hours.

At 0800 hours weather appeared clearing and the party decided to make another attempt. Once again the weather got struck the party just 80 metres (approx) short of the peak and it had to return back to the camp the same evening.

On 31 May 1987 the responsibility to lead the exhausted team of four persons was entrusted to Nb Sub Chander Singh. Under his guidance the team left the camp at 0400 hours. After a seven hour climb, Rtn Norden Lepcha slipped and fell down for about 16 metres but miraculously escaped death. Nb Sub Chander Singh volunteered and rescued Rtn Lepcha with utter disregard to his own safety and overcoming all hazards at 1430 hours. Unfortunately, while getting ready to descend, Nb Sub Chander Singh lost balance and fell down towards Yalung glacier of Nepal and met an icy death.

For this act of most conspicuous bravery, dogged determination and exemplary devotion to duty Nb Sub Chander Singh was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC-39428
Captain
Chandhok, Anoop Kumar
12 JAK Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Capt Anoop Kumar Chandhok, son of Shri Rajinder Lal Chandhok was born on 20 July 1958. He was born in Madras. He was commissioned on 22 December 1979, in JAK Rifles.

In February 1985, 12 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles was patrolling in a forward area in J & K. Capt Chandhok, who was commanding a patrol, was given a difficult task in which many unsurmountable obstacles had to be overcome.

Undeterred by heavy odds, Capt Chandhok led his men over very high altitudes, braving high velocity winds, heavy snow and blizzards. He finally accomplished the difficult assignment. Unmindful of his own safety he exhibited rare courage and by personal example motivated his men to negotiate crevices, steep glacial slopes and ice wall. He suffered frost bite but he refused to be evacuated till the task was accomplished. Later his frost bitten leg had to be amputated.

Capt Anoop Kumar Chandhok displayed conspicuous courage, initiative leadership and devotion to duty of a very high order. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



13436

**Flight Lieutenant
Chandrasekhar, Sankara Iyer
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Flight Lieutenant Chandrasekhar Sankara Iyer, son of Shri Combatore Balasunderam Sankara was born on 25 May 1951 at Bangalore, Karnataka. He was commissioned in the Indian Air Force on 14 July 1973, in the Administrative Branch. During training he was adjudged the best cadet and was awarded the Chief of the Air Staff Medal and the President's Plaque. He was specially selected for instructional duties in the Air Defence College in October 1978.

On 21 November 1981, Flt Lt Chandrasekhar was proceeding on his annual leave to Madras by Lucknow-Jhansi Express travelling in a first class compartment shared by three other railway employees. At about 2330 hours when the train was between Maiana and Lalpur railway stations (59 kilometres from Kanpur), four armed robbers forced their way into their compartment. One of the passengers immediately got down from his berth and resisted the attempt by the intruders to rob the passengers but he was stabbed by the robber. Awakened by the disturbance and responding immediately to the victim's cries for help Flt Lt Chandrasekhar jumped down from his berth. He grappled with the armed robbers and simultaneously attempted to pull the alarm chain. At this stage, one of the intruders shot the officer on his right temple at close range with a country-made revolver killing him on the spot. Thereafter, the armed robbers escaped under the cover of darkness without inflicting any further injury to the other passengers.

The circumstances under which Flt Lt Chandrasekhar gave his life were such that only a person with abundant courage and steeped in the highest traditions of 'service before self' could respond in the manner he did. Knowing fully well that he was facing a group of desperadoes not only armed with lethal weapons but also unhesitating in using them, the officer reacted with reflexes of a well trained and disciplined member of the Air Force, and simultaneously tried to do his best at the gravest risk to his own life.

During the entire episode Flt Lt Chandrasekhar Sankara Iyer displayed conspicuous bravery and courage of the highest order and laid down his life in the best traditions of the Indian Air Force. For this rare act of bravery and exemplary courage he was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



2467766
Lance Naik
Charan Singh
24 Punjab
Kirti Chakra

L/Nk Charan Singh, son of Shri Surjan Singh was born on 12 September, 1957 in village Dubli, district Amritsar, Punjab. He was enrolled in 24 Punjab on 30 October, 1978.

L/Nk Charan Singh of Headquarters 93 Infantry Brigade Camp volunteered to undertake a dangerous mission to eliminate a gang of 43 militants which had crossed over the Line of Control and infiltrated into the valley. These militants belonging to Al Badar Group after infiltrating via Kinari Nala had taken shelter in a jungle near village Chhambar.

The opportunity came L/Nk Charan Singh's way on 17 July, 1990, when the leader of the militant group demanded a civil truck to transport them to a safe distance. He had also laid a condition that the truck should be driven by either a sikh or a muslim driver. L/Nk Charan Singh, a sikh belonging to Headquarters 93 Infantry Brigade Camp was disguised as a civil truck driver.

L/Nk Charan Singh took the vehicle to the intended rendezvous where the hostiles were to embark. He calmly convinced the leader of the militants about his bonafides. His confident guise paid off and the militants got into the truck without any suspicion. Driving the vehicle cautiously he approached the pre-selected ambush site, where a big stone had been placed on the road. He stopped the truck and dismounted on the pretext of removing the stone. Simultaneously, the guide also got off the truck to escape. But the militants, sitting on the roof of the truck now got suspicious. They opened fire at both of them, killing the civilian guide on the spot. But the Lance Naik escaped unhurt. In this ambush 15 Rajputana Rifles killed 21 militants. Two others were apprehended. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was also captured.

For displaying conspicuous gallantry Lance Naik Charan Singh was awarded Kirti Chakra.



11161
Squadron Leader
Chaturvedi, Hari Nath
IAF (Medical Branch)
Vayu Sena Medal
Kirti Chakra

Sqn Ldr Hari Nath Chaturvedi, son of Shri J. P. Chaturvedi, was born on 21 January, 1940 in Ajmer (Rajasthan). He was commissioned in Indian Air Force (Medical Branch) on 26 December 1965. He was awarded VSM in 1972.

Sqn Ldr Hari Nath Chaturvedi, accompanied the Second Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica in 1982-83, as the Chief Medical Officer. He organised medical facilities during the entire expedition, during the cruise and also at various camps set up in Antarctica, under extremely unfavourable weather conditions.

On 19 February 1983, only three scientists had remained at the Antarctica Base Camp. Sqn Ldr Chaturvedi, volunteered to stay back with them at the camp ignoring the relative comforts of the ship. During the early hours of the morning, the camp was struck by a severe blizzard with a wind velocity of 130 kilometres per hour, almost zeroing the visibility and reducing the temperature to -15°C . Within minutes the entire camp was engulfed by destruction. All tents housing scientific equipment and kitchen were uprooted and buried under layers of snow. Even the permanent hut crested there could not withstand the fury of the blizzard and both its doors were blown away allowing the snow and wind into the hut. Still venturing out from this meagre shelter was fraught with danger, with camp stores flying around and zero visibility.

Sqn Ldr Chaturvedi, with utter disregard to his personal safety, tied himself to the end of a long rope anchored to the hut, and went from one ravaged tent to the other, trying to salvage whatever equipment and stores he could.

At nightfall, a scientist became seriously ill and started vomiting. Another scientist started showing signs of hypothermia. Both required immediate medical attention. Unfortunately, medicine box had been lost in the blizzard and could not be traced during earlier attempts. Sqn Ldr Chaturvedi, though exhausted again made a bold effort and succeeded in retrieving the medicines. He treated the ailing members and kept a vigil on them till they improved.

The nightmare of the blizzard lasted for full fifty-two hours. During this period, with limited food and almost no shelter, Sqn Ldr Chaturvedi displayed extreme professionalism. But for his initiative and courage, most of the sophisticated and costly scientific equipment would have been destroyed and the invaluable data collected and recorded during the expedition lost.

Sqn Ldr Hari Nath Chaturvedi was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous courage and devotion to duty which was in keeping with the best traditions of the Indian Air Force.



2952
Flight Lieutenant
Chawdhry, Raizada Harbans
IAF
Kirti Chakra

Flt Lt Raizada Harbans Chawdhry, son of Shri Dasandhi Ram, was born on 17 May 1918 in Tandi, Jalandhar (Punjab). He was commissioned in Indian Air Force on 13 July 1944.

At about 1430 hours on 6 October 1951, an Indian Air Force Dakota crashed in Turkey and resulted in the death of five aircrew, including Air Cde Narendra. Flt Lt Chawdhry was one of the two survivors of that accident.

When the aircraft crashed, Flt Lt Chawdhry was thrown clear of the wreckage, and he sustained serious injuries on his arm and knee. Despite the injuries, he displayed extraordinary courage and sense of self-sacrifice. He dragged Pilot Officer MM Dutt, who was unconscious and whose thigh bone was fractured, from the burning aircraft and thus saved him from certain death by fire. He then rushed to help the other victims and succeeded in smothering the flames with his rain-coat. In spite of the heat and smoke, he attempted to pull out the entrapped persons from the wreckage. He continued with his efforts against overwhelming odds, until the main fuel tank of the aircraft exploded and made further effort impossible.

He improvised arrangements for the safety of the other survivor, Pilot Officer Dutt, and walked 10 kilometres (approx) at night through unknown mountainous territory, to get help.

Flt Lt Chawdhry displayed outstanding courage and spirit of service to help the comrades in distress. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



JC-73334
Naib Subedar
Chhetri, Padam Bahadur
7 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Nb Sub Padam Bahadur Chhetri, son of Shri Prem Bahadur Chhetri was born on 15 January 1947 in village Patne Chaur, Nepal. He was enrolled in 7 Assam Rifles on 15 January 1966.

By the year 1991, the anti-national elements had received intensive training in fire-arms. The acquisition of sophisticated weapons emboldened them further. They soon started attacking Indian Army columns all over the area.

On 5 May 1991, Nb Sub Chhetri was leading a column of 15 Other Ranks to occupy Dudhi Post in snow bound area at a high altitude. On the way, a column of anti-national elements attacked them in good strength. A fierce encounter followed. Knowing that this Army column was weak in numbers, the anti-national elements tried to encircle it. Nb Sub Chhetri, however, made their attempt unsuccessful. He deployed his troops intelligently so as to engage the attackers effectively and blocked their route of escape. In this encounter his column suffered three casualties, reducing the strength of his column to 12. But this did not discourage him and he kept on fighting for almost five and a half hours. In this action, he alone killed nine anti-nationals while his column eliminated 29 others.

Nb Sub Padam Bahadur Chhetri thus, displayed conspicuous gallantry, remarkable leadership and undaunted courage in the face of anti-national elements. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



131152
Naik
Chhetri, Ram Bahadur
13 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Ram Bahadur Chhetri, son of Shri Ram Bahadur Chhetri, was born on 8 April 1940, in village Sarankot, district Pithan, Nepal. He was enrolled in 13 Assam Rifles on 8 April 1958. He displayed exceptional courage and presence of mind during encounters with the hostiles in 1963 and 1974.

During December 1980, 13 Assam Rifles was deployed in Nagaland for conducting operations against the hostiles. Nk Chhetri's unit was posted in Mon district.

At 15.45 hrs on 18 December 1980, while escorting his Commander, in a jeep carrying essential supplies, from Mon to the border outpost Singhachingnyu, Nk Chhetri and his Commander were ambushed by 30 undergrounds from a well-sited and prepared position. A heavy volley of rockets and automatic fire was brought down on the vehicle. The front left wheel of the vehicle was hit by a rocket and immobilised. The driver was cut into two by a rocket.

Nk Ram Bahadur Chhetri, who was occupying the left front seat of the jeep, next to the driver, was also injured by rocket splinters. But despite injuries, he jumped out of the vehicle and brought his Carbine Machine into immediate action. While firing, he tried to reach a covered position from where he could take on the hostiles more effectively. But before he could succeed in this attempt a heavy volume of fire overwhelmed him in all directions. Yet Nk Chhetri continued to return the fire until the very end.

Nk Ram Bahadur Chhetri thus displayed fearlessness, bravery and extreme devotion to duty in the face of imminent death. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



16525
Naik
Chhetri, Tek Bahadur
1 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Tek Bahadur Chhetri, son of Nk Bhim Bahadur Chhetri was born on 11 November 1925, in village Chandrakot, Gulmi, Nepal. He was enrolled in 1 Assam Rifles on 11 November 1952. His father had also served in the Indian Army.

The Assam Rifles took a leading part in operations against the Mizo hostiles in Mizo Hills area. On 29 September 1968, the unit of Nk Tek Bahadur Chhetri was allotted the task of searching an area, on the outskirts of a village in the Mizo Hills, where some armed hostiles were reported to be hiding. On nearing the village, Nk Chhetri spotted 5 armed hostiles at a distance of about 25 metres. Realising that delaying action against them, till the arrival and deployment of his Section would give the hostiles sufficient time to escape he charged them with his Sten gun and wounded two hostiles. Unfortunately, at this crucial juncture his Sten gun developed a snag after firing a couple of bursts. As he was very near the hostiles now he pounced upon one of them in a bid to snatch a rifle. In a hand-to-hand combat, Nk Chhetri snatched the rifle, but before he could put it to use, a Sten gun fire from another hostile hit him in the chest. He died on the spot.

In this action Nk Tek Bahadur Chhetri displayed conspicuous gallantry, for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Kumari Chopra, Geeta Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Kumari Geeta Chopra, daughter of Rear Admiral MM Chopra was born on 7 January 1962, in Bombay. she was a student of Jesus and Mary College, New Delhi.

Kumari Geeta Chopra was a radio artist. On 26 August 1978, she had a programme in All India Radio Station, New Delhi at 1900 hours. Accompanied by her brother, Master Sanjay chopra, she left her residence at Dhaula Kuan at about 1815 hours and came to bus stand near the junction of the road leading to Sardar Patel Marg. From there they sought to get lift by raising their hands to cars which were going towards Sardar Patel Marg. A doctor, who was going to his clinic in Connaught Place, gave them a lift in his car and dropped them near Gole Dak Khana. While waiting at Gole Dak Khana, on their way to the All India Radio Station, two criminals Billa and Ranga, kidnapped them in their car and took them towards the Buddha Jayanti Park. While in their car, the children fought valiantly to escape from the clutches of the criminals and, although severely injured, they inflicted injuries on the forehead of Billa. Subsequently, the criminals murdered both Geeta Chopra and Sanjay Chopra and threw their bodies on the Upper Ridge Road. Death was the price the youthful children had to pay for their courage and valiant struggle till the very last.

In her encounter with the criminals Kumari Geeta Chopra displayed exemplary courage and determination. She was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Master Chopra, Sanjay Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Master Sanjay Chopra, son of Rear Admiral MM Chopra, was born on 28 February 1964, in Bombay. He was a student of Modern School, New Delhi.

On the evening of 26 August 1978, Master Sanjay was accompanying his sister Kuman Geeta Chopra to All India Radio Station. They left their residence at Dhaula Kuan at about 1815 hours and came to bus stand near the junction of the road leading to Sardar Patel Marg. From there they sought to get a lift by raising their hands to cars which were going towards Sardar Patel Marg. A doctor, who was going to his clinic in Connaught Place, gave them a lift in his car and dropped them near Gole Dak Khana. While waiting at Gole Dak Khana, on their way to the All India Radio Station, two criminals, Billa and Ranga, kidnapped them in their car and took them towards the Buddha Jayanti Park. While in their car, the children fought valiantly to escape from the clutches of the criminals and, although severely injured, they inflicted injuries on the forehead of Billa. Subsequently, the criminals murdered both Geeta Chopra and Sanjay Chopra and threw their bodies on the Upper Ridge Road. Death was the price the youthful children had to pay for their courage and valiant struggle till the very last.

In the encounter with hardened criminals Master Sanjay Chopra displayed exemplary courage and determination. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.

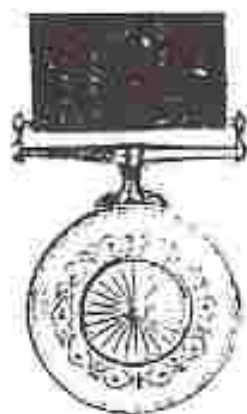


4435604
Sepoy
Chuhar Singh
4 Sikh Light Infantry
Kirti Chakra

Sep Chuhar Singh, son of Shri Mehanga Singh, was born on 2 April 1937, in village Nussai, district Jalandhar. He was enrolled in 4 Sikh Light Infantry on 2 April 1954.

In 1960, 4 Sikh Light Infantry was deployed in Naga Hills to conduct operations against the Naga hostiles. On 31 May 1960 Sep Chuhar Singh of this battalion alongwith 2 Other Ranks was detailed on duty to Tuensang area. Perhaps the hostiles got scent of this move. Thus while proceeding on duty about 40 Naga hostiles ambushed his jeep. Consequently, he was wounded in the stomach and forehead. Although bleeding profusely, he took up position with an Other Rank and kept on firing at the hostiles. Later, he sent Other Rank to base for help and himself continued to man his gun keeping the hostiles at bay until the reinforcements arrived. His vehicle was riddled with 37 bullet-holes. By his sustained bravery he saved the lives of his comrades, vehicles and a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

In this operation Sep Chuhar Singh displayed cool courage and utter disregard to his personal safety in the best traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Crizzle, Patric Edward Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Patric Edward Crizzle was an Express Train Driver.

On 8 March 1964, Shri Crizzle was driving 38 Down Madras-Howrah Express. While the train was passing through a station he saw that the line ahead was occupied by another train. He immediately realised that an accident was imminent. In an attempt to minimise the severity of the accident and the number of casualties, he applied all the brakes to stop the train. He also shouted to his two firemen to jump off the engine to save their lives. But he himself remained at his post prepared to face the death rather than save his life by jumping off the engine. Shri Crizzle succeeded in appreciably reducing the severity of collision and thus saved many lives. This indeed cost him his own life.

Shri Patric Edward Crizzle displayed great presence of mind, courage and self-sacrifice at a critical moment. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



7995053
Naik
Dar, Mohammad
Pioneer Corps
Kirti Chakra

Nk Mohammad Dar, son of Shri Gaffar Dar was born on 2 January 1937 at Fatehpore, tehsil and district Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir. He was enrolled in the Pioneer Corps on 2 January 1960.

In November 1971, Nk Mohammad Dar was serving with the Pioneer Corps in the Eastern Sector. On 15 November 1971, he got into a train at Siliguri for Lucknow. As the train left Siliguri station his searching eyes noticed a passenger, sitting in a suspicious posture, with hands concealed at the back. Nk Mohammad Dar, smelling the rat, immediately caught hold of the suspect from behind and he was found carrying a grenade in his hand.

At a grave risk to his life, he grappled with the suspect and overpowered him with the help of other passengers. He also searched his luggage and found yet another hand grenade, carefully concealed. The Naik kept the suspect under his grip till he handed him over to the police authorities at Kishengarij railway station. It was due to his presence of mind and bold action that a heavy danger to the life of passengers, including military personnel, was averted.

In this action, Nk Mohammed Dar displayed exemplary courage and bravery. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



2630785
Sepoy
Darya
3 Grenadiers
Kirti Chakra

Sep Darya, son of Shri Shibboo Ram was born on 16 December 1923 in village Gumana, district Sonapat, Haryana. He was enrolled in 3 Grenadiers on 16 June 1942. His father had also served in the Army.

In 1948 during the Police Action against Hyderabad State 3 Grenadiers was deployed to take part in Operation Polo. While advancing, a platoon of battalion came under heavy fire of the State Forces on 13 September 1948. The Section of Sep Darya was, therefore, ordered to advance and liquidate the position from where the State Forces were firing on his platoon. As the Section advanced up a slope, it came under fire from LMG and was forced to halt. Sep Darya realising that destruction of LMG was crucial, came out of cover and thus attracted hostile fire. But when the enemy LMG was aimed at him he again got under cover. He then asked a sepoy to crawl in the opposite direction and engage the LMG position with rifle fire. He himself closed on to the enemy position. Finally, he dashed forward and pulled the LMG clear of the gunner. He turned it round quickly and aimed it at the adversaries, killing both the gunners.

During this action Sep Darya remained calm and collected and showed complete disregard of his personal safety. His courage, initiative and bravery were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Datta, BBL Kirti Chakra

Shri BBL Datta was resident of New Delhi. During February 1952, he was working as Head Clerk in the Civil Aviation Department and was posted at Nagpur.

On 19 February 1952, Deccan Airways Dakota VT-AX E engaged in the air service, crashed at 0223 hours while approaching to land at the Nagpur aerodrome. Awakened by the loud thud of the crash, Shri Datta, rushed out to the scene of the crash, which was about 110 metres from his house. When he reached the site he found that the aircraft was already in flames. Shrieks and cries of passengers, who were trapped inside the plane and had suffered severe burns filled the air. Despite the grave danger of the explosion of the petrol tanks, he immediately set about the task of rescuing the injured persons single-handed. He extricated seven persons from the wreckage and removed them to a safe distance, at a grave risk to his life. The tanks blew up soon after. But for the timely action of Shri Datta, these persons would have certainly perished in the explosion.

In this action Shri BBL Datta displayed great courage and a very high sense of self sacrifice. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Datta, Sureshwar Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Sureshwar Datta was serving in an Indian Merchant Ship 'Indian Success' in 1960.

On 31 December 1960, a violent explosion took place in the cargo-hold of SS "Indian Navigator" of the Indian Steamship Company Ltd, while on a voyage from Britain to India. This caused extensive damage to its superstructure and compelled the Master and the crew of the ship to abandon it. Meanwhile, the crew had sent an SOS to the Agent of the Company in London. The Agent on his part directed SS "Indian Success" another vessel of the Company, which was in the vicinity in North Atlantic, to investigate and report on the condition of the abandoned ship. The sea was very choppy and extremely rough and the surrounding temperature was much below the freezing point.

At 0245 hours, on 1 January 1961, SS "Indian Success" reached the scene of the accident. The Master of the ship formed a volunteer party from amongst his crew in which Shri Datta was also included. The party left for the abandoned ship in a motor boat in heavy weather conditions, but failed to board the burning ship and returned. Another attempt was made on 2 January 1961 without the motor boat, which had gone out of order. The men with the help of two oars, rowed through the rough sea and eventually succeeded in boarding the burning ship and rehoisting the Indian flag on it at 1145 hours. It is remarkable that the team boarded the burning ship with the help of a rope ladder.

In spite of the fact that the ship was heeling badly, the party remained on board throughout the day, making preparations for towing it to the nearest French port. Meanwhile the weather deteriorated owing to frequent rain squalls. The waves started rising up. As the boat which had brought the volunteers to the ship was no longer serviceable, they were directed to stay on board and be ready for towing operation the next morning. Unfortunately, the ship wrecked by fire, explosions and the rough sea, broke up and sank with the brave volunteers aboard, during the night.

Shri Sureshwar Datta and his team gave their lives in trying to save a wrecked ship. He displayed great courage and a high sense of duty in the face of a grave danger. He was honoured with the award of Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Daula Kirti Chakra

Shri Daula, son of Shri Jaggoo was born in 1925 in village Kirola, district Guna, Madhya Pradesh. He worked as Chowkidar of the village Karera since 1 March 1967.

The gang of notorious dacoit Ganga Ram remained active in the area of Police Station Mungaoli, district Guna, Madhya Pradesh, for a long time. On the night of the 11/12 February 1970 it committed dacoity and murder in village Karera. The gang again came to this village to commit dacoity. Shri Raja Ram Lodhi, who had obtained information about the gang and its likely target, sent a word to the village and also to Shri Daula, the village chowkidar (watchman).

Shri Daula reached the spot between 0300 hours and 0400 hours with a party of six villagers. The dacoits had by then surrounded the house of Shri Raja Ram Lodhi. Shri Daula then decided to face the dacoits boldly, unmindful of his personal safety. After occupying a strategic position he challenged the dacoits who were armed and were firing indiscriminately. His boldness unnerved the dacoits and they took to their heels. In the exchange of fire, Shri Daula shot dead a dacoit and recovered a gun from him.

Shri Daula was awarded Kirti Chakra for displaying conspicuous gallantry, initiative and determination in this action.



JC-58395
Naib Subedar
Daya Nand
7 Jat
Kirti Chakra

Nb Sub Daya Nand, son of Shri Sheo Pal was born on 11 September 1936 in village Bijauli, district Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. He was enrolled in 7 Jat on 27 January 1954 and retired from service on 1 February 1982. He was made Honorary Captain.

In 1973, 7 Jat was deployed in Naga Hills to conduct operations against the hostiles. On 26 April 1973, a platoon of the battalion led by Nb Sub Daya Nand was detailed to form part of an assault group during a raid on the headquarters of the Naga hostiles. But the secrecy of this move could not be maintained.

While the platoon was forming up, the hostiles opened small arms fire on it from two directions. As the surprise had been lost the platoon was ordered to launch an immediate assault. Nb Sub Daya Nand carried the assault with utter disregard for his personal safety. As he reached the hostile camp he became vulnerable not only to their fire but also to the fire from own troops, but he continued his attacks. At this stage a self-styled Naga hostile "Brigadier" who attacked him with an automatic rifle was killed by Daya Nand on the spot. Subsequently, he killed one more hostile and wounded another.

In this action, Nb Sub Daya Nand displayed gallantry and determination of a very high order for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-2824
Major
D'Cruz, Denzil Herbert
5 Gorkha Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Maj Denzil Herbert D'Cruz, son of Shri Ronald Henry D'Cruz was born on 2 October 1923. He was enrolled in 5 Gorkha Rifles on 20 December 1942.

During the year 1955 he was deployed in NEFA (now Arunachal Pradesh). Here he was assigned the task of searching out and eliminating armed terrorists from the Southern Sector of Tuensang Frontier Division of the North Eastern Frontier Agency (presently called Arunachal Pradesh). By the time he set upon his task, the monsoon season had already set in. The terrain interspersed by formidable gradients, dense forests and steep gorges, three to four thousand feet deep, was indeed very difficult.

In a series of engagements with the hostiles between May and July 1955, Maj Denzil Herbert D'Cruz displayed exemplary bravery and high qualities of leadership. This brought him repeated success in encounters.

He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



3296
Flight Lieutenant
D'Cruz, Ulrich Anthony
IAF
Kirti Chakra

Fil Lt Ulrich Anthony D'Cruz, son of Shri Henry Patrick D'Cruz, was born on 10 June 1925 in Trivandrum, Kerala. He was commissioned in Indian Air Force on 10 April 1945. Subsequently he rose to the rank of Squadron Leader.

While carrying out an offensive reconnaissance over the Akhnur-Bhimber area on 1 December 1947, the plane of Fil Lt D'Cruz was shot down and he was captured by pathan tribesmen. He remained a prisoner with tribesmen, and later with the Pakistan Army, until December 1948. He was subsequently returned to India under a scheme for the exchange of prisoners of war.

While a prisoner, Fil Lt D'Cruz was often beaten and threatened with death by his captors, but neither illtreatment nor the offer of monetary rewards could undermine his loyalty to his country or his service.

The fortitude and devotion to duty displayed by Fil Lt Ulrich Anthony D'Cruz during his imprisonment in Pakistan was in accordance with the highest traditions of the Indian Air Force. He set a fine example for his fellow officers and men to emulate. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



14208539
Signalman
Deshmukh, Rama Rao Dattataraya
146 Signal Regiment
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Signalman Rama Rao Dattataraya Deshmukh, son of Shri Dattataraya Deshmukh was born on 28 March 1947. He belonged to Maharashtra and was enrolled in the army on 16 October 1959, in 146 Signal Regiment.

In November 1976 Signalman Deshmukh, fell ill and was admitted in a General Hospital in Northern Sector. On 11 November 1976, fire broke out in a block of the hospital and within a short time it covered the entire hospital. Consequently, the ward of Signalman Deshmukh was also engulfed by smoke and flames.

Signalman Deshmukh, although a patient, was capable of walking. He immediately, got up from his bed and in utter disregard for his personal safety, started helping in the evacuation of bed-ridden patients to a place of safety. By the time he had evacuated two patients, the flames became intense, making it almost impossible to go near the ward. But this did not deter Signalman Deshmukh. He once again ran to the ward with an over-powering urge to save more lives. But the brave soldier never returned. His charred body was later recovered from the ward.

Signalman Rama Rao Dattataraya Deshmukh thus displayed exemplary courage, determination and sense of service. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



4502
Flight Lieutenant
Desoares, Balkrishan
IAF
Kirti Chakra

Flt Lt Balkrishan Desoares, son of Lt Labh Singh was born on 16 October 1930 at Zeagong (Burma). He was commissioned in Indian Air Force on 1 April 1953.

On 1 May 1961, Flt Lt Desoares was engaged in sortie to drop food supplies to an army detachment on the north-eastern border. While nearing the dropping zone, he noticed that his Dakota was losing height very rapidly due to a down draught. Despite all the corrective measures taken by him the aircraft continued to go out of control. At this critical juncture displaying great presence of mind he skilfully directed the aircraft out of the wooded area and landed it on the snow-covered portion of a hill. On impact, a fuel tank of the aircraft caught fire and a portion of the aircraft disintegrated. Flt Lt Desoares, though injured, managed to extricate himself from the crashed aircraft and pulled his co-pilot out. He then rushed to the rear of the burning aircraft in utter disregard of his personal safety to rescue other personnel.

Flt Lt Desoares continued to help his comrades and managed to rescue two of the Army ejection personnel. Thereafter, he proceeded to recover the bodies of other crew members from the burning aircraft, again disregarding his own personal safety. Flt Lt Desoares stayed with his party near the aircraft for the next two days due to psychological state of the survivors and the extent of their injuries. He infused confidence and courage in the survivors which helped them to pass two nights in a blizzard, with hardly any food, water or warm clothing. On the third day, he left the place of the accident and skilfully led the survivors through treacherous, mountainous terrain and forest covered with snow.

Flt Lt Balkrishan Desoares displayed exceptional qualities of leadership and devotion to duty in a very adverse situation, and in keeping with the best traditions of the Indian Air Force. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



13922219
Sepoy
Dhan Singh
153 General Hospital
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sep Dhan Singh son of Shri Dev Singh Papola was born on 27 July 1950, in village Papola, district Almora, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 153 General Hospital on 27 July 1970. He was awarded Jeevan Raksha Padak on 11 November 1976 and again on 30 March 1977 for exceptional devotion to duty.

Sep Dhan Singh was on duty in the cook house of the General Hospital in Northern Sector on 11 November 1976, when a fire broke out in the hospital. On receiving the news of fire, he rushed to the Medical Inspection Room where the fire had started, and tried his best to extinguish it. But the fire could not be controlled and it started spreading fast. He was then directed by the senior JCO to go to the Acute Surgical Ward and help in the removal of the bed cases to safety. He entered the burning ward twice and carried two bed patients to a safe place outside. He entered the ward in flames for the third time but could not return. His charred body was recovered later from debris of the ward.

In this action Sep Dhan Singh displayed exemplary courage, determination and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



1899
Wing Commander
Dhatigara, Edul Jehangir
IAF
PVSM, Kirti Chakra

Wg Cdr Edul Jehangir Dhatigara, son of Late Shri Jehangir Merwan Dhatigara, was born in Karachi (Pakistan) on 28 January 1923. He was granted commission in Indian Air Force as G O (P) on 17 November 1941. He had a distinguished career in the Indian Air Force and contributed substantially in all operations beginning with World War II and ending with the Indo-Pak War 1971. He subsequently rose to the rank of Air Marshal. He also served as VCAS, Air HQ. He retired on 31 January 1980.

During the military operations in the Naga Hills, the outpost garrison at Saknai was cut off by the hostiles on 27 March 1956. The hostiles kept up the attack on the outpost throughout the night. Next morning an emergency message was received that unless an immediate airdrop of water and ammunition was carried out at Saknai, the garrison would not be able to survive. The aircraft which had flown on a normal sortie earlier that day had reported fast deterioration of weather conditions and had suggested stoppage of further flying. The garrison commander, however, pleaded that the airdrop was absolutely necessary.

In the circumstances, Wg Cdr Dhatigara decided to make an attempt himself. There was also the requirement that the airdrop should be made in a Zone of 40 metres by 20 metres. On reaching the spot the Wing Commander found that the dropping zone was partially covered and the air was very turbulent. After the first run-in, the outpost informed the crew that the dropping circuit should be changed as the aircraft was being fired upon when passing over the villages of Saknai, Vishyapu and Khivi. But due to clouds, no other circuit could be used. Therefore, Wg Cdr Dhatigara, disregarding the advice from the outpost, continued the air dropping operations, in spite of bad weather and automatic fire from the hostiles. The water and ammunition was successfully supplied to the garrison in good time and in good condition.

In this operation Wg Cdr Edul Jehangir Dhatigara displayed rare initiative, courage and skill, in the best traditions of the Indian Air Force. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



JC-17046
Subedar
Dhian Singh
10 Sikh
Kirti Chakra

Sub Dhian Singh, son of Shi Bhagat Singh was born on 5 May 1930 in village Ghorewah, district Gurdaspur, Punjab. He was enrolled in 10 Sikh on 5 May 1947. He was given the rank of Honorary Captain.

In 1968, 10 Sikh was deployed in Mizo Hills to conduct operations against Mizo hostiles. On 3 September 1968, a platoon of the battalion led by Sub Dhian Singh was sent on a special mission to raid a suspected hostile hide out in the Mizo Hills. While on way he learnt about the presence of hostiles in another area. He decided to chase them and moved to that area by a difficult cross-country route. After a thorough search he succeeded in recovering some weapons on 5 September 1968. Then he turned to the original task but found nothing at the objective. On 11 September 1968 his patrol chased out some hostiles from the vicinity who left behind five .303 rifles. Subsequently, Sub Dhian Singh learnt about another hostiles party of 10 to 12 men in a village. Although his rations had exhausted by now, he decided to take advantage of the situation by following a cross-country route during the night of 13/14 September 1968. He led a sudden assault on the hide-out and killed two hostiles. The other hostiles also ran away leaving behind ten .303 rifles. Again in a raid on 1 October 1968 he captured one .303 rifle. Subsequently, he recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition from a hidden dump.

Throughout these operations Sub Dhian Singh displayed conspicuous gallantry and leadership for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Dhingra, Kirpal Singh Kirti Chakra

Shri Kirpal Singh Dhingra was a resident of Delhi. He was fond of excursions and was known as a very bold and courageous student.

On 14 February 1966, Shri Dhingra accompanied by three fellow students Preet Pal Singh, Satish Sood and Arun Khanna was travelling in a car. They noticed that three men were engaged in a scuffle inside another car running in front of them. A little later, they saw one of these persons falling out of the car. The fact that the car did not stop to pick up the fallen man made the students suspect that there was something wrong. Shri Kirpal Singh Dhingra and his companions raised an alarm and gave chase to the car. Finally, they succeeded in stopping the car and overpowering one of the occupants, at great risk to themselves. Thereafter, they returned and picked up the person who had been thrown out of the car. He had by then succumbed to his injuries. The man was identified to be a cashier of the Punjab Roadways.

Shri Kirpal Singh Dhingra showed remarkable initiative, courage and bravery in chasing the car and capturing the criminal unmindful of his own safety. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



**Captain
Dikshit, Mahesh Chandra
Kirti Chakra**

Captain Mahesh Chandra Dikshit was working with Air India International Corporation and was pilot of its Constellation, "Kashmir Princess" during April 1955.

On 11 April 1955, Air India Constellation "Kashmir Princess", was flying from Hong Kong to Jakarta on a special chartered flight, with Chinese delegates on board to attend the Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung. Captain Dikshit was the co-pilot of this aircraft. When the aircraft was passing through the azure sky at an altitude of 5486 metres and the passengers were asleep, an explosion occurred in its starboard wheel-well, at about 0500 hours local time. Soon after, an intense fire developed and spread rapidly in the right wing, while the interior of the aircraft including the cockpit became engulfed with smoke.

At this juncture the Commander of the aircraft decided to make an emergency landing in the sea. Captain Dikshit, the co-pilot, rendered valuable assistance to the Commander in keeping the aircraft under control.

The high sense of duty displayed by Captain Mahesh Chandra Dikshit, in the face of certain disaster, contributed in sufficient measure to the survival of three passengers in this accident. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-21802
Major
Dogra, Prem Chand
Dogra Regiment
VSM, Kirti Chakra

Maj Prem Chand Dogra son of Shri Chhey Ram was born on 7 June 1942, at Lindoor, district Lahaul Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. He was commissioned in Dogra Regiment on 3 May 1964. He had also earned Vishist Seva Medal.

Maj Dogra was very fond of mountaineering. He possessed requisite courage, skill and determination to pursue his hobby. His mountaineering career started in 1970 with the climbing of Chamolhari, the highest peak in Bhutan. He climbed Nanda Devi in 1975 and Nanda Devi East in 1976.

In March 1977 he made substantial contribution to the Army Kanchenjunga Expedition. He was responsible for opening the advance base camp, finding a way through ice fall, opening a route to the first camp and also finding way to establish the second camp. During this expedition, Hav Sukhvinder Singh lost his life in an accident. This adversely affected the morale of the team and members dreaded the North-East ridge which looked impossible to scale. Maj Prem Chand Dogra volunteered to climb up and started work on the ridge. Taking many risks he opened the route to a point just below the third camp. When the team got stuck due to innumerable technical difficulties in between the third and the fourth camps, he went back and opened the route on the most difficult portion of the ridge. This enabled the team to inch forward.

Maj Prem Chand Dogra was selected leader of the first summit party. His timely decision was crucial for building up the logistical support for the first summit party. He showed great courage, skill and determination in leading the team to summit. He climbed 800 metres on the last lap, a remarkable feat in the annals of Himalayan mountaineering.

In this expedition Maj Prem Chand Dogra displayed exemplary leadership courage and determination. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-4272
Lieutenant Colonel
Dorabji, Jamshed Burjorji
Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Lt Col JB Dorabji, son of Shri B Dorabji was born of 1 September 1914 at Madras. He was enrolled in Assam Rifles on 8 August 1942. Subsequently he was granted commission. He was awarded GS Medal JAK 1947; GS Medal Naga Action 1947; Soana Seva Medal, JAK, NEFA; Videsh Seva Medal, Indo-China; and Raksha Medal 1965.

5 Assam Rifles was stationed in Tawang area in 1959. Lt Col Dorabji was commanding this battalion in April 1959 when His Holiness the Dalai Lama sought asylum in India. After the departure of Dalai Lama from Tawang he visited the international frontier to check security arrangements. At Chuthangmu he saw about 800 Tibetan Khampa refugees who had crossed the border. Almost half of them were armed with pistols, rifles, Sten guns and even LMGs. The presence of this large body of armed refugees, which greatly outnumbered our security forces, posed a very delicate problem. Lt Col Dorabji went to them with a patrol, stopped the refugees and firmly told them that they could be permitted to enter Indian territory only after they had surrendered their arms. He applied firmness and tact to secure the peaceful surrender of their weapons. Lt Col Dorabji then proceeded to Topgay (Mago) where several thousand refugees had entered the Indian territory. The refugees demanded ration and refused to surrender their weapons. It was also reported that they were harassing and looting the villagers of Mago and Lugothang. As the refugees had started moving towards Tawang, it was decided to disarm them enroute by removing the bolts and breech blocks of their weapons and by confiscating their pistols and revolvers. During the next few days, Lt Col Dorabji and his party collected nearly 700 weapons and despatched about 5,000 refugees to Tawang in an orderly manner.

It was primarily due to the initiative, tact and firmness of Lt Col Jamshed Burjorji Dorabji that nearly 5,000 armed Khampa refugees were able to reach Tawang without any embarrassing incident. He showed exemplary courage and tact in dealing with delicate situation. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Doval, Ajit Kumar
IPS
Kirti Chakra

Shri Ajit Kumar Doval son of Shri G N Doval was born on 20 January 1945, in village Ghiri, district, Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh. He joined Indian Police Service in 1968. He became the youngest recipient of Indian Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 1976. In 1993, he was decorated with the President's Police Medal for distinguished Service. He has served on various sensitive assignments abroad.

In late eighties, Shri Doval was entrusted with some sensitive assignments directed against the terrorists. Completion of these assignments demanded exceptional courage and dedication. During one such assignments, he was required to deal with a group of terrorists which involved a grave danger to his own life. Ignoring the danger Shri Doval prepared and executed a plan and succeeded in enforcing and trapping some of the most wanted notorious terrorists.

In carrying out his assignments Shri Ajit Kumar Doval exhibited remarkable resourcefulness, dedication and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



21075
Sergeant
Dua, Ram Chandra
IAF
Kirti Chakra

Sgt Ram Chandra Dua, son of Shri Jai Ram Dass was born on 26 May 1924 at Kariqa, Sargodha, (Pakistan). He was enrolled in the Indian Air Force on 16 May 1943.

An attempt on the life of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, was made on 20 January 1948 during a prayer meeting. Sgt Ram Chandra Dua was also present in this meeting. At about 1500 hours, when the meeting was in progress, one Madan Lal hurled a bomb at Mahatma Gandhi to kill him. The bomb missed the target. The miscreant, however, in a bid to escape started running. Sgt Dua intercepted him. Madan Lal threatened to kill him but disregarding his own safety, Sgt Dua held on to him till the arrival of the police. When searched Madan Lal was found to be in possession of a live grenade, which he was taking out of his pocket when Sgt Dua apprehended him.

In apprehending the criminal, Sgt Ram Chandra Dua displayed exemplary courage and bravery. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



AUX-30039
Flying Officer
Ganesan, Vaidyanathan
Auxiliary Air Force
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Flying Officer Vaidyanathan Ganesan was commissioned in Auxiliary Air Force.

On 12 March 1961, Flying Officers V Ganesan and CR Mohan of the Auxiliary Air Force faced an emergency, due to excessive vibration of the engine during an instrument-flying training exercise in a Harward aircraft. In spite of corrective measures taken by Flying Officer Ganesan, the aircraft continued to lose height. Thus it became clear to him that the aircraft could not be saved. But there was still time to save his life and that of his colleague by bailing out of the doomed aircraft.

Flying Officer Ganesan decided to save the life of his colleague first. As the captain of the aircraft, he ordered Flying Officer CR Mohan to abandon the aircraft, which he did. About to follow suit, he noticed a village in the immediate vicinity. Realising that the aircraft, if abandoned, would crash in the village and possibly cause death or injury to innocent people, he stayed back and manoeuvred the aircraft away from the village. In deliberate disregard of his personal safety, he purposefully crash-landed away from the village, and thus sacrificed his life.

Flying Officer Vaidyanathan Ganesan thus displayed gallantry and courage of a high order and set a noble tradition of bravery and self-sacrifice for the Auxiliary Air Force. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Ganguli, Rabindra Nath Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Rabindra Nath Ganguli was an employee of S S "Indian Success".

On 31 December 1960, a violent explosion took place in the cargo-hold of SS "Indian Navigator" of the Indian Steamship Company Ltd, while on a voyage from Britain to India. This caused extensive damage to its superstructure and compelled the Master and the crew of the ship to abandon it. Meanwhile, the crew had sent an SOS to the agent of the Company in London. The agent on his part directed SS "Indian Success" another vessel of the Company, which was in the vicinity in North Atlantic to investigate and report on the condition of the abandoned ship. The sea was very choppy and extremely rough and the surrounding temperature was much below the freezing point.

At 0245 hours, on 1 January 1961, SS "Indian Success" reached the site of accident. The Master of the ship formed a volunteer party from amongst his crew which included Shri Ganguli, and sent it to SS "Indian Navigator" in a motor boat under heavy weather conditions. The party failed to board the burning ship and returned. Another attempt was made on 2 January 1961 without the motor boat, which had gone out of order. The men with the help of two piers rowed through the rough sea eventually succeeded in boarding the burning ship and rehoisting the Indian flag on it at 1145 hours. It is remarkable that Shri Ganguli and his party boarded the burning ship with the help of a rope ladder.

In spite of the fact that the ship was reeling badly, the party remained on board throughout the day making preparations for towing it to the nearest French port for safety. Meanwhile, the weather deteriorated owing to frequent rain squalls. The waves started rising up. As the boat that had brought the volunteers to the ship was no longer serviceable, they were directed to stay on board and be ready for towing operation the next morning. Unfortunately, the ship, wracked by fire, explosions and the rough sea, broke up and sank with the brave volunteers on board during the night.

Shri Rabindra Nath Ganguli and his companions gave their lives in trying to save a wrecked ship. He displayed great courage and a high sense of duty in the face of a grave danger. He was honoured with the award of Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



**Brigadier (Retd)
Garg, Manohar Lal
AVSM
Kirti Chakra**

Brig (Retd) Manohar Lal Garg, son of Shri Nathu Lal Garg was born on 19 August 1925, at Jind, Haryana. He was commissioned in the Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers on 27 July 1952. He was awarded AVSM for meritorious service. After his retirement in 1980 Brig Garg took up the appointment of General Manager with Straw Products Factory.

On the mid-night of 2/3 December 1984, a lethal MIC gas tragedy struck Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. In this tragedy thousands died and many suffered severe injuries. The Straw Products Factory was located only 364 metres away from the site of the accident, and its 1100 employees were caught by the toxic gas fumes on that fateful night. Brig Garg, unmindful of the safety of his person and his family, stuck on there till all arrangements for evacuation of casualties to the military and civil hospitals were made.

Brig Garg was thus able to save many lives under critical conditions. Despite inhaling concentrated MIC gas for about one hour and forty five minutes he continued to monitor rescue operations on telephone. Then he went to the residential colony, collected as many persons as possible in his car and drove to the military hospital. He agreed to be put on oxygen, only after the evacuation was completed.

Brig (Retd) Manohar Lal Garg, thus displayed exceptional courage, leadership, presence of mind and sense of self-sacrifice in a very critical situation. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra.



Shri Gavaskar, Suresh Dwarka Nath Kirti Chakra

Shri Suresh Dwarka Nath Gavaskar, Assistant Executive Engineer (Mech), was the Second-in-Command with 35 Field Workshop (GREF). During 1970-71, he was given the responsibility of organising in-situ repairs to certain equipment demanding round the clock effort.

Notwithstanding the hurdles and risks involved in this work, he repaired the damaged Snow Blast equipment and kept it operating on National Highway in a high serviceability state. He kept the Bristow Hot Mix plant in working condition by reclamation technique and modifying the items, overhauled and reclaimed 57 starter motors which kept the machines self-starting, and rigged up the fuel injection testing device within his limited resources which enabled the workshop to overhaul FIP equipment of a large number of TMBs/Tippers engines. As a result of these measures the National Highway remained open throughout the year. It was largely due to his effort that the equipment was kept serviceable under the most trying conditions.

In performing this task Shri Suresh Dwarka Nath Gavaskar displayed exemplary leadership and great devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-1984
Captain
Gharaya, Joginder Singh
Bihar Regiment
MVC, VSM, Kirti Chakra

Capt Joginder Singh Gharaya, son of Sardar Deva Singh was born on 31 July 1926 in Montgomery (now in Pakistan). He was commissioned in the Bihar Regiment on 20 January 1945. Subsequently he rose to the rank of Brigadier and was awarded Maha Vir Chakra for displaying conspicuous gallantry during Indo-Pak Conflict 1971 in Jessore Sector. He was also decorated with Vishist Seva Medal.

In the Police Action against Hyderabad State, 1 Bihar was also deployed. Capt Gharaya was commanding a company of this battalion. On 24 September 1948 while he was proceeding with his company to village Panchanapet he was suddenly fired upon by two truck-loads of Razakars who then drove away. Capt Gharaya immediately engaged them from his jeep and followed closely by some of his men in a truck, chased them. Although constantly under fire, he kept up the chase and returned fire. Eventually he managed to shoot down two Razakars. Later, the driver too was killed and the truck halted. But the Razakars took up positions and continued the fight. Capt Gharaya, then with one section only, charged the Razakars, killing twelve. Six .303, six Henry Martin rifles and one pistol were captured.

Throughout this action, as well as on other numerous occasions during the Police Action, Capt Gharaya showed great leadership, courage and initiative in rounding up armed Razakars.

His utter disregard for his personal safety coupled with his cheerfulness were inspiration and example to all who came in contact with him. Capt Joginder Singh Gharaya was awarded Kirti Chakra.



231479
Corporal
Ghosh, Sukumar
IAF
Kirti Chakra

Cpl Sukumar Ghosh, was enrolled in the Indian Air Force.

On 9 November 1966, at about 1030 hours, an operational fighter-trainer aircraft, with two pilots on board, crashed while making an emergency landing at one of the forward air-fields, and caught fire. Corporal Ghosh, who was working in the dispersal area at that time saw the aircraft crashing and rushed towards the aircraft. By the time he reached the place of accident the fire had already started spreading. Unmindful of his personal safety, he first rescued the injured pilot from the burning rear cockpit. He then went forward to the front cockpit, and with the help of another airman who had arrived in the meantime, successfully unstrapped the semi-conscious pilot and carried him out of the cockpit. Next, he went back to the front cockpit to salvage the parachutes out of the burning wreckage though by this time the rear cockpit was fully engulfed by the flames. It was only after he was ordered by the officers to desist from further effort to salvage parachutes that he gave up the attempt, albeit reluctantly.

In this accident Corporal Sukumar Ghosh displayed exemplary courage and initiative, for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



2481169
Sepoy
Gill, Gurtej Singh
15 Punjab
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sepoy Gurtej Singh Gill, son of Shri Swaran Singh, was born on 2 August 1969, in village Kularian, district Mansa, Punjab. He was enrolled in 15 Punjab on 16 March 1988.

In January 1993, 15 Punjab was deployed in Jammu and Kashmir in anti-terrorist operations. On 31 January 1993, the unit was engaged in cordon and search operation in Duligund village. Here Sep Gurtej Singh Gill and his fellow jawans came under the fire of the terrorists, hiding in the village. Young Sep Gill unmindful of his personal safety, ran into the village and apprehended a terrorist after a scuffle.

Much useful information was obtained from the apprehended terrorist. The troops then started moving towards the hideout. But the terrorist resumed intense firing from the hideout. At this juncture Sep Gill displaying exemplary courage, entered the hide-out and neutralised the fire by lobbing grenades. Subsequently, he volunteered to apprehend another notorious terrorist. He slowly crawled towards him to cut off his escape route. The terrorist realising that his escape route was about to be cut off, opened fire and injured the young sepoy on his leg. However, despite injury, Sep Gill continued the pursuit and finally felled the terrorist. But in the process he was once again hit by the militant fire and killed.

In this action Sep Gurtej Singh Gill displayed conspicuous bravery indomitable courage and exemplary devotion to duty and made the supreme sacrifice. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



152779
Rifleman
Gopal Chand
15 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Rtn Gopal Chand son of Shri Chand Chand was born on 5 June 1964 at Pangrol, district Pithoragarh, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 15 Assam Rifles on 26 May 1982.

The insurgency in Nagaland assumed serious proportions in early eighties. The hostiles established their bases at vantage points from where they could operate at will without much risk of being detected. In 1984, 15 Assam Rifles was deployed in the area to contain the hostiles.

In late November it was reported that the hostile Nagas had established themselves on a track leading to a border post. On 2 December 1984, Rtn Gopal Chand was detailed to lead a special patrol to destroy the hostiles who had fortified the two cliffs in the border post area and had laid an ambush about 1000 metres ahead. They had also laid a mine on the track and had covered all approaches with automatic weapons. As Rtn Gopal Chand reached the ambush site, a hail of bullets was directed on the patrol. With utter disregard to his own safety, he charged upon the hostiles. While doing so, he stepped over a mine and as a result both his legs were blown off. In spite of his bleeding legs he kept on firing at the hostiles to prevent them from coming down from the ambush site and threaten his patrol party. He continued the gallant fight till the death overtook him.

Rtn Gopal Chand displayed bravery, courage and determination, of an exceptionally high order and laid down his life in the best traditions of the Indian Army. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



2672854
Grenadier
Gopal Singh
11 Grenadiers
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Gren Gopal Singh son of Shri Babu Singh was born on 4 July 1960, at village Simror, district Indore, Madhya Pradesh. He was enrolled in 11 Grenadiers on 22 April 1980.

The task of flushing out the hostiles from their hide-outs in Champang area of Nagaland was indeed difficult. The Indian Armed Forces, however, undertook the task with grim determination and courage. Special Task Force was created to engage the hostiles who were armed with deadly weapons. On 24 June 1981 information was received about the hostile camp and immediately a Task Force was detailed to raid and destroy it. Gren Gopal Singh was a member of this force. At about 1030 hours, after a part of the hostile camp had been captured, further advance of the column was held up due to heavy automatic fire from one of the houses. Gren Om Prakash was wounded in this firing. On seeing their comrade wounded and realising the importance of silencing the fire, Gren Gopal Singh and Gren Bajrang Singh charged the house. They succeeded in silencing the fire after killing one hostile. In the process Gren Gopal Singh was hit by a bullet and sustained severe wounds. He succumbed to injuries during evacuation.

In this action Gren Gopal Singh displayed conspicuous courage, exceptional bravery and rare devotion to duty. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Gopi Kirti Chakra

Shri Gopi son of Shri Dhokal was a resident of village Sagar district Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.

On 7 June 1968, at about 2030 hours, a dacoit gang headed by notorious Harpa Gond raided Sagar village. They selected the houses of some well off people and started looting them. The news of this dacoity soon reached around.

At this stage Shri Gopi rushed to the spot alongwith some villagers to challenge the dacoits. The dacoits fired at them from a close range and Shri Gopi was injured. In spite of his injuries, Shri Gopi displayed rare courage. Assisted by some other villagers he kept the pressure on the dacoits and forced them to take to their heels. The villagers then challenged the fleeing dacoits, who were then crossing a nullah. One Shri Suraj jumped on Harpa, hit his gun with a lathi, and broke the butt of the gun. Just at that time, Shri Gopi also hit Harpa with a stone. Harpa was compelled to take cover behind a bush from where he tried to fire, but Shri Gopi dragged him out from his hiding and beat him severely, as a result of which he died.

In this action, Shri Gopi displayed gallantry of a very high order. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Grechko, Georgi Mikhaillovitch Kirti Chakra

Shri Georgi Mikhaillovitch Grechko was born and educated in USSR. He was an engineer by profession.

In January 1982 it was decided to send a joint Indo-Soviet Space Mission, to develop and master space science and space technology. Accordingly, Soyuz T-11 was launched at 1838 hours IST from the Baikonour Cosmodrome of USSR on 3 April 1984. Shri Grechko was one of the members of this Space Mission. He was assigned the task of a stand-by flight engineer. During the space flight he displayed exceptional ability and courage.

On 12 May 1984, Shri Georgi Mikhaillovitch Grechko was decorated with the award of Kirti Chakra by the President of India.



**Captain
Grewal, Sampuran Singh
Indian Airlines Corporation
Kirti Chakra**

Captain Sampuran Singh Grewal had joined Indian Airlines as Pilot.

Captain Sampuran Singh Grewal was the Commander of the Indian Airlines Corporation Viscount Aircraft VI-D12 on a scheduled flight from Karachi to Delhi on 27 May 1959. Apart from the pre-monsoon clouds, normal at that time of the year, there was no indication of any unusual weather conditions en route. The aircraft was not fitted with storm-warning radar.

At about 1725 hours, when the aircraft was approximately 240 kilometres from Delhi and flying at an altitude of 6097 feet, it suddenly encountered a severe hailstorm. The hail-stones dented engine cowlings and propellers, broke open the skin of the leading edges of the wings and fuselage, damaged the control surfaces and pierced the pressurised cell that enclosed the pilot's cockpit and the passenger cabin, resulting in complete loss of pressurisation. The impact of the hail-stones was so great that one panel of the shatter-proof glass of the pilot's windscreen was knocked out, while the other panels were rendered nearly opaque. Fragments of glass from the windscreen lacerated Captain Grewal's head and face, causing profuse bleeding.

The damage to the aircraft and its controls and the loss of pressurisation, with consequent loss of oxygen to the crew and passengers, presented an extremely serious situation. However, Captain Grewal displaying great presence of mind, courage and skill, negotiated it through the storm, and landed it safely at Patna.

During this flight, Captain Sampuran Singh Grewal set a fine example in aviation which will always remain an inspiration to other pilots. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



2988308
Sepoy
Gujer, Ram Swaroop
27 Rajput
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sep Ram Swaroop Gujer, Son of Shri Gopal Ram Gujer, was born on 6 November 1970, at village Barageon, district Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. He was enrolled in 27 Rajput on 10 December 1997.

During September 1992, 27 Rajput was deployed in Jammu and Kashmir in operations against the terrorists. On 23 September 1992, at about 1330 hours, during the cordon and search operation of a village in district Baramulla, Sep Gujer, alongwith his comrades, gave chase to a fleeing terrorist, who had broken the cordon. They surrounded him in a paddy field. Suddenly, the terrorist pulled out a grenade. Sep Ram Swaroop Gujer, showing great presence of mind swiftly sprang upon the terrorist to prevent him from lobbing the grenade. The grenade, however, exploded and killed him on the spot.

In this action Sep Ram Swaroop Gujer displayed conspicuous gallantry, courage and devotion to duty. He gave away his life so that his comrades may live. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



G-154788
Shri Guleria, Ravinder Nath
B/R Gde-I
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Ravinder Nath Guleria son of Shri Mehar Chand Guleria was born on 15 December, 1958 in Nagrota Bagwan village, district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. He was enrolled in 16 TF on 14 Jul 1977.

Shri Ravinder Nath Guleria was serving with a unit of Border Road Organisation in Dras-Kargil sector, Jammu and Kashmir, in April 1983. He was entrusted with the task to supervise the clearing of Dras and Kargil part of the Srinagar-Leh road.

On 6 April 1983, when Shri Guleria was guiding the dozers and snow cutters, suddenly a mass of snow slipped and formed into a massive avalanche. The sentry gave an alarm. But Shri Guleria instead of seeking safety for himself ran to warn his other colleagues who could not perceive the danger in time. When the slide finally settled, it was found that four men had been partly buried in the snow as they had escaped to a relatively safer place due to the timely warning. Three men, including Guleria were, however, found missing. Evidently, Shri Guleria was crushed under the snow and died.

Shri Ravinder Nath Guleria exhibited courage and selflessness of the highest order which cost him his own life. He was decorated with the award of Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Gupta, Jai Lal Kirti Chakra

Shri Jai Lal Gupta was enrolled as an Assistant Engineer.

On the 25 October 1963, the Hydel Channel feeding the Poonch Power House, coming through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, was damaged by the Pakistanis. This disrupted the power supply to the border town of Poonch. It caused great discomfort to the residents of the town and dislocated the normal life. India, therefore, decided to build an alternate channel to restore the power supply. On 30 October 1963, civilian labourers were engaged under the supervision of Asstt. Electrical Engineer, Poonch, Shri Gupta to construct the channel on the Indian side of the cease-fire line. Pakistanis did not, however, allow even this and they indulged in constant firing on unarmed civilians, who were forced to withdraw.

Unmindful of the grave risk Shri Gupta accompanied by Shri Khem Raj incharge of the Hydel Channel, Poonch, and Shri Ghulam Din, sarpanch of village Dalian led his men once again and got the alternative channel constructed. Shri Gupta withdrew only after the completion of the work and safe return of all labourers to the base.

The conspicuous courage and devotion to duty displayed by Shri Jai Lal Gupta led to the completion of work and restoration of electricity to the town, within a very short time. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Gupta, Rabinder Nath Kirti Chakra

Shri Rabinder Nath Gupta, son of Shri Hans Raj Gupta, was born on 15 June 1940, in Pathankot. He began his career as assistant Foreman in a private concern and joined Rourkela Steel Plant in March 1962. Subsequently, he rose to the post of Manager (Operations).

On 22 July 1970, while the mechanical staff was gas cutting a damaged pipe in the underground Cellar of Cold Rolling Mills at the Rourkela Steel Plant, the oil-soaked walls of the Cellar suddenly caught fire. Besides electrical equipment and costly machinery, the Cellar contained highly inflammable palm oil tanks and explosive gas charged lines. The fire spread rapidly and engulfed the whole area, where about 20 workmen were working.

The Cellar could be reached by a single entrance through the staircase. Due to thick smoke and flames, the approach through the staircase, became difficult. The danger of the fire reaching the palm oil tanks resulting in explosions was imminent. The gas pipes might have also exploded any moment once the fire reached them. Despite the danger of immediate explosion, Shri Gupta, Assistant Foreman, Cold Rolling Mills (later Asstt. Manager, Production), at great personal risk, entered through a thick film of smoke and succeeded in reaching the Cellar half-way, through the staircase. He managed to close the gas pipe, put off the electrical switches and prevented the fire reaching the palm oil tanks. On the arrival of the Fire Brigade, he led firemen to a place from where the fire could be fought effectively. He continued helping them till the fire was completely extinguished.

The prompt action of Shri Rabinder Nath Gupta saved many lives and costly equipment and also prevented heavy loss of production. In this action, Shri Rabindra Nath Gupta displayed conspicuous courage and determination. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-2125
Major
Gurcharan Singh
Artillery
Kirti Chakra

Major Gurcharan Singh was born on 1 April 1914. He was granted Emergency Commission and was posted in 26 Light A. A. Regiment.

A party of 200 men under the command of Maj Gurcharan Singh, was detailed to escort the refugee trains between Ambala and Attari. In September 1947 Maj Gurcharan Singh was on escort duty with a refugee train. This train was heldup near Ludhiana, on the mid-night of 19/20 September 1947 by a well-armed mob estimated to be over a thousand. It was a pitch dark night and there was no light in the train.

The mob opened fire which was returned by the escort. However, a crowd, armed with spears and swords, succeeded in getting into the train. As the mob could not be dislodged by firing, Maj Gurcharan Singh got down with eight Other Ranks and made a charge on it. During this attack, he sustained three bullet wounds in his leg and two spear wounds on his arm. Despite profuse bleeding, he continued to lead his men against the mob. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the mob and finally the train was cleared of them. Five Other Ranks also sustained injuries in this encounter. Maj Gurcharan Singh refused all help until the wounded refugees had been treated and put back into the train.

By his courage, leadership and devotion to duty, in the face of heavy odds, Maj Gurcharan Singh saved the lives of 3500 refugees. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



49416
Petty Officer
Gur Iqbal Singh
Indian Navy
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

PO Gur Iqbal Singh, son of Shri IS Atsawal was born on 15 January 1943, at Beas Nalg, Jalandhar City, Punjab. He was enrolled in the Indian Navy on 20 September 1958. In 1972, he was serving with INS Kamorta.

On 29 December 1972, INS Kamorta proceeded to Sea for post-refit machinery weapon trials which also included firing trials of A/S rockets. In the course of these trials, the rockets at No. 4 mounting failed to fire. When Lt R V Sunita, TAS Officer, Gur Iqbal Singh, PO TAS-1, R K Shukla, Chief EAP, and few other were investigating the cause of the misfire, an A/S rocket accidentally fired. Gur Iqbal Singh, PO TAS-1, who was immediately behind the rocket launcher, was the first person to appreciate the danger when the rocket was ignited. In utter disregard of his personal safety, he pushed Lt Sunita and Chief EAP Shukla away from the immediate vicinity of the blast of the rocket and thus saved their lives. But while doing so, he himself sustained severe burns which resulted in his instantaneous death.

In this action, PO Gur Iqbal Singh, displayed conspicuous gallantry, initiative and a sense of self-sacrifice. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



44786
Jemadar
Gurung, Bhagat Bahadur
Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Jem Bhagat Bahadur Gurung was enrolled in the Indian Army.

In 1960 during Counter Insurgency operations in Naga Hills, Jem Gurung was with 4 Assam Rifles, deployed in the area. On 4 February 1960, he was ordered to proceed to Jessami post in Nagaland with his party. The party, moved in two jeeps. He along with two riflemen occupied the rear jeep while the front jeep was occupied by two other riflemen. When 54 kilometres from Ukhrul, the party came under heavy fire from the Naga hostiles at a point where the road passed through a thickly wooded area with sharp bends. The sharp bends made the jeeps invisible to each other.

The hostiles, who numbered about, 150, took advantage of the situation and opened fire with Light Machine Gun and .363 Service Rifles from all directions on the jeeps. Jem Gurung ordered the driver to stop the jeep and fired back on the hostiles with his Sten Gun. He also encouraged the other two riflemen to fire. When his weapon stopped firing he borrowed a rifle from one of them and rushed forward to collect the other two riflemen in the forward jeep. On reaching the bend of the road, he saw a number of Naga hostiles surrounding the vehicle. He killed three of them and forced the others to flee into the jungle. He could not, however, find the two riflemen. When, noticing a group of hostiles firing at him he threw a hand grenade and silenced them. Having suffered heavy casualties the hostiles fled in disorder.

In this action, Jem Bhagat Bahadur Gurung exhibited fine qualities of leadership and courage. He saved the two riflemen as well as the two vehicles. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



1258936
Havildar
Gurung, Indra Bahadur
Artillery
Kirti Chakra

Hav Indra Bahadur Gurung, son of Shri Kuman Singh Gurung was born on 1 January 1954 in village Chandrakot, district Saptari, Nepal. He was enrolled in Artillery Centre, Nasik, on 11 April 1972.

The Everest Expedition of the Army in 1985 was proved to be ill-fated adventure. The deputy leader of this expedition Maj Kiran Inder Kumar was killed when he slipped somewhere between South Summit and Camp IV on 7 October 1985. Three other climbers of the expedition team were also killed.

During this expedition Hav Gurung was one of the leading climbers of the team. He was a member of the team that reached South Summit 8700 metres (approx) and Summit Camp 8370 meters on difficult days. He was responsible for breaking trail on the way to South Col on 11 October 1985, where he finally reached with his comrades in one of the most daring, difficult and tiring conditions in extremely bad weather and snow blizzard. He tried to rescue Lt MUB Rao, during the evening hours from South Col but in spite of his best efforts, the officer died.

Hav Indra Bahadur Gurung thus displayed conspicuous gallantry and remarkable courage in a very difficult situation. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra.



31571
Jemadar
Gurung, Indra Bahadur
3 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Jem Indra Bahadur Gurung was enrolled in 3 Assam Rifles.

In 1956, 3 Assam Rifles was deployed in Naga Hills to conduct operations against the Naga hostiles. On 12 August, 1956 Jem Gurung was commanding a platoon of the column which was set for an attack on the hostile position at Sanglao. The hostiles had laid numerous obstacles on the way to prevent the troops from reaching their position. In the circumstances, it was decided to go through the thick undergrowth and bamboo jungle so as to take the hostiles by surprise.

During this move Jem Gurung led the forward section which made the way for the column through the jungle. The task was very tiresome, more particularly as it was raining heavily. Jem Gurung, however, inspired his men to carry on the work until the main position at Sanglao was sighted, trenches dug, and bunkers built.

The hostiles, about two hundred in number, were armed with Sten guns, Bren guns, rifles etc. A two platoon attack was planned to destroy the hostile position. Jem Gurung's platoon advance was on the right, and its task was to capture the highest pimple from where the hostile Bren guns were firing non-stop. There were six bunkers on this pimple and each of them was manned by six hostiles. Jem Gurung led his platoon with courage and determination in complete disregard of his personal safety through many obstacles. He repeatedly attacked these strongly defended posts and captured the main position before it was dark. During this attack, four hostiles were killed and the others withdrew, leaving their arms and ammunition behind.

Again, on 14 August, 1956 the hostiles tried to raid the platoon camp when two-thirds of its personnel were out. Jem Gurung, with the few men left behind, defended the camp, and forced the hostiles to retreat. In these operations Jem Indra Bahadur Gurung displayed exemplary gallantry and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



46584
Lance Naik
Gurung, Karna Bahadur
4 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

L/Nk Karna Bahadur Gurung, son of Shri Di Bahadur Gurung was born on 3 November 1934, in village Bhuka, district Parvat, Nepal. He was enrolled in 4 Assam Rifles on 3 November 1952. He retired from service as Havildar in 1982.

4 Assam Rifles was deployed in Manipur area in 1962 for conducting operations against the hostiles. On 7 May 1962 a patrol party, which included L/Nk Gurung was formed to flush out the terrorists from Tusum Khullen area in Manipur. The terrain was hilly and covered with thick undergrowth. The track was narrow, affording little room for manoeuvre. When the patrol was negotiating a bend, a gang of hostiles opened Light Machine Gun and rifle fire. Nk Karna Bahadur Rai, the leader of the patrol was hit by a bullet and died fighting.

L/Nk Gurung saw two members of his group being hit by the hostiles. One of them died instantaneously. He himself rushed to the nearest cover but was entangled in hostile trap. Meanwhile he was seriously wounded. But he did not lose courage and opened fire on the hostiles from point blank range, killing three of them. His bold action not only saved the Light Machine Gun of the patrol but also the lives of his comrades.

L/Nk Karna Bahadur Gurung displayed exemplary courage and leadership in the best traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



5431041
Lance Naik
Gurung, Ran Bahadur
3/5 Gorkha Rifles
Kirti Chakra

LNk Ran Bahadur Gurung, son of Shri Deo Raj was born on 30 October 1924 in village Lauka (Nauli), district Fayang, Nepal. He was enrolled in 3/5 Gorkha Rifles on 30 October 1942.

During the Counter-Insurgency Operations in Naga Hills, 3/5 Gorkha Rifles was deployed to assist the civil administration. On the morning of 7 September 1956, the platoon of LNk Gurung was sent to Phogwami, to make a frontal attack on a stronghold of the hostiles. About 50 Nagas were in position there. Another Gorkha patrol was to reach Phogwami from the rear simultaneously. But LNk Gurung's platoon could not reach the appointed place in time and it was decided to engage the hostiles alone. The hostiles had prepared bunker positions about 726 metres short of Phogwami. They were well situated to fire and cross-fire from their position on the troops negotiating a foot-wide serpentine path. They had also laid extensive 'panjis' (spikes) on this path.

As the platoon came within a range of about 182 metres the hostiles opened heavy fire from Light Machine Guns, Tommy guns and other weapons and even threw some grenades. LNk Gurung's section was ordered to assault the nearest hostile position on the left flank, while the other two Sections were asked to keep the main defence busy. His Section made a dash and came within 70 metres of the objective. But an un-noticed enemy position subjected it to a heavy cross fire and caused two casualties. Ordering his Section to ground, he stood fast and shot dead two hostiles who were about to lob grenades. With all his Sten ammunition spent, he hurled a grenade and killed two more hostiles. He then picked ammunition from a wounded comrade to fight on. When he noticed a hostile bunker, out of his Section's fire range, he directed platoon's 2" mortar towards it, unsatisfied with the performance he took over the 2" mortar himself for a while, and brought down four hostiles. While leading his Section in another assault, he suffered a Light Machine Gun burst shattering his upper arm.

In this engagement LNk Ran Bahadur Gurung inflicted eleven casualties on the hostiles, including five killed. But for his gallant leadership, the platoon would have suffered many more casualties. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



5605562
Rifleman
Gurung, Tara Prasad
3/5 Gorkha Rifles (FF)
Kirti Chakra

Rfn Tara Prasad Gurung, son of Shri Sher Bahadur Gurung, was born on 4 December 1930 in Gulmi, Nepal. He was enrolled in 3/5 Gorkha Rifles (FF) on 4 December 1947. Subsequently, he rose to the rank of Subedar.

In September 1956, 3/5 Gorkha Rifles was deployed in Naga Hills to conduct operations against the Naga hostiles. On 1 September 1956, a platoon of this battalion was ordered to search the village of Phulurni. The section of Rfn Tara Prasad Gurung was asked to hold the line of retreat in the rear of the village, while the rest of the platoon was to make a frontal assault. The Section Commander who advanced to reconnoitre these area was killed instantaneously in the initial stage by the hostiles. The heavy firing with intention to scare away the section and capture the Sten gun and ammunition of the dead NCO.

Rfn Gurung then decided to recover the dead body of the NCO and his Sten gun. He left his position and advanced towards the dead NCO braving the continuous fire. While advancing he killed two hostiles and wounded three others, who tried to attack him with his rifle. This bold action of the Rifleman instilled fear in the hearts of the hostiles, who took to their heels to take shelter in the thick jungle nearby.

Rfn Gurung, however, chased the fleeing hostiles to the jungle, killed a few more, and recovered the Sten gun which had killed his Section Commander. He also retrieved the dead body. Rfn Gurung struck so much terror that the remaining hostiles still in their bunkers also fled. They were entrenched, well armed and numbered about forty. But for this brave Rifleman they would have annihilated the platoon.

The extraordinary courage and gallantry displayed by Rfn Tara Prasad Gurung in this operation was keeping with the glorious traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



50923
Havildar (later Subedar)
Gurung, Uzir Singh
Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Hav Uzir Singh Gurung son of Shri Madan Singh Gurung belonged to village Gorumera, district Darrang, Assam. He was enrolled in Assam Rifles.

15 Assam Rifles was deployed in Kameng Frontier Division in 1959. Hav Gurung was commanding a Section of the battalion. On 17 April 1959, he was posted at Chuthanguo, a border outpost. When the information came that a large group of approximately 1,000 Khampa and Tibetan refugees was approaching the border with the intention of entering India. At that time the decision to grant asylum to these refugees had not been taken. Acting on his own initiative Hav Gurung immediately proceeded to the border with a patrol. He intelligently deployed his small force and with commendable courage and firmness succeeded in preventing the refugees, who had already crossed the border, from proceeding further. He also succeeded in disarming all the refugees.

In this action Hav Uzir Singh Gurung displayed exemplary courage and initiative in the best traditions of Assam Rifles. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



4035903
Rifleman
Gusain, Jaman Singh
3 Garhwal Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Rfn Jaman Singh Gusain, son of Shri Keshar Singh Gusain was born on 1 July 1932 in village kapholi, district Chamoli, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 3 Garhwal Rifles on 27 September 1955.

In 1957, 3rd Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles was deployed in Naga Hills for conducting operations against hostiles. On 9 May, Rfn Jaman Singh Gusain was leading the scouts in the C Platoon of B Company, which was given the task of clearing a well-defended hostile camp on the Barail Range in the Naga Hills. The terrain was difficult. The only approach to the camp was narrow and well guarded by carefully sited automatic weapons. This made the advance of the platoon extremely difficult. But Rifleman Gusain was not deterred and he fearlessly advanced on the hostile position firing his weapon. The vigilant hostiles, however, made him the target. They severely wounded him in the shoulder and he fell down. But he refused to give up. Despite wounds he crawled upto a vantage point, shot dead one hostile and injured many others. Despite a bleeding wound he not only captured a rifle but also enable his platoon to charge and over-run the hostile positions.

Rfn Jaman Singh Gusain set a fine example of gallantry and devotion to duty in the best traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



13714098
Rifleman
Hans Raj
3 JAK Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Rfn Hans Raj, son of Shri Keka Ram, was born on 14 April 1933 in village Madwal, Jammu and Kashmir. He was enrolled in 3 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles on 14 April 1950.

In 1960, 3 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles was deployed in Naga Hills to conduct operations against the Naga hostiles. During 'Op Raji' on 18 May 1960, a Platoon of this battalion, in which Rfn Hans Raj was a leading scout, was sent out to comb a particular area in the Naga Hills-Tuensang region for the hideouts of suspected hostiles. The area was mountainous, with thickly wooded, steep, and rocky slopes. The platoon had, therefore, to advance over a narrow foot-track along a ridge. As the patrol neared a high vantage point, it came under heavy rifle fire. Ignoring it the patrol pressed forward boldly. To give a befitting reply to the hostiles the Rifleman charged their positions, hurling hand grenades and firing his Sten gun. This forced them to abandon their position and fall back to other position. Rfn Hans Raj then advanced towards their newly occupied position with utter disregard for his personal safety. When he was hardly 10 metres from this position, he was shot through the head and died instantaneously.

Rfn Hans Raj displayed bravery, devotion to duty and utter disregard for personal safety in the best traditions of the Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Hanumant Singh Kirti Chakra

Shri Hanumant Singh, son of Shri Purn Singh Raghuvanshi was born on 22 January 1920, in village Budakhera district Guna, Madhya Pradesh. He was a teacher by profession. He participated in Quit India Movement and suffered imprisonment.

On 21 February 1989, at about 1930 hours, three dacoits entered village Budakhera district Guna, Madhya Pradesh with the intention of looting the villagers. They started firing in the air to strike terror among the people. They then entered the house of Shri Hanumant Singh and looted the valuables. Shri Khub Singh Raghuvanshi was their next target.

Meanwhile, on hearing the sound of the fire, Shri Hanumant Singh, neighbour of Shri Khub Singh Raghuvanshi rushed out of his house with a twelve bore gun and climbed on the roof of a house from where he could get a clearer view of Shri Khub Singh Raghuvanshi's house in the moon-light. A dacoit who was standing on the roof saw Shri Hanumant Singh and fired at him. Undeterred Shri Hanumant Singh challenged the dacoit and returned the fire. Before long, another dacoit also opened fire at him but could not silence him. In the circumstances, the dacoit gang was left with no option but to escape. Shri Hanumant Singh then collected some villagers and chased the dacoits, who were firing while on the run. One of the dacoits, Jai Narain, was found lying injured in a nullah the next day by the villagers and was handed over to the police.

For displaying exemplary courage and bravery in this action Shri Hanumant Singh was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Harak Singh Karam Singh Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Harak Singh Karam Singh was born in district Pithoragarh, Uttar Pradesh. He served as an armed guard in the Union Bank of India, Bombay.

On 10 September 1986, at about 1115 hours, two men armed with pistols attempted to rob the Grant Road Branch of Union Bank of India, Bombay. One of them rushed towards the cash counter and ordered the customers standing in the lobby to get aside.

Shri Harak Singh, armed guard of the Bank, showing presence of mind and without caring for his personal safety, rushed towards a robber and grabbed him before he could fire his pistol. The second robber then fired at Shri Harak Singh injuring him in the head. In the meantime, the alarm was activated and the robbers had to flee from the Bank. Shri Harak Singh, who and received serious bullet injury in the head, died three days later.

For his devotion to duty and exemplary courage Shri Harak Singh Karam Singh was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



SS-13657
Captain
Harbans Singh
7 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Capt Harbans Singh was commissioned in the Indian Army.

During 1956, Capt Harbans Singh was attached to the 7th Battalion of Assam Rifles, which was deployed in Naga Hills. In the month of March the hostiles had overrun a strong police post at Safakha and it was feared that the nearby Sakhal post, manned by one platoon of police, would also meet a similar fate.

Two platoons of the battalion, under Capt Harbans Singh were hurriedly rushed to Sakhal on 26 March 1956. No sooner than the reinforcements reached the post the hostiles opened the attack. Soon the post was surrounded by the hostiles and a fierce fight ensued. Next day, the garrison went without rations. The ammunition was also in short supply. To add to the troubles, the only source of water in that area had also fallen into hostile hands. The situation was grim and the post was not likely to hold out for another day.

Capt Harbans Singh, therefore, was given permission to withdraw. He, however, refused to do so. His men, bearing thirst, hunger and lack of sleep, held out until 28 March 1956, when the reinforcements arrived and the hostiles gave up their attack.

In holding on to his post in the face of heavy odds Capt Harbans Singh displayed great courage, determination and bravery. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-27619
Captain
Hardev Singh
Mechanised Infantry
Kirti Chakra

Capt Hardev Singh, son of Shri Dalip Singh was born on 8 April, 1952, at Dhanra, district Ludhiana, Punjab. He was commissioned in 13 Mechanised Infantry (18 Rajput Regiment) on 17 June 1973.

By the end of 1983, the terrorism had engulfed the whole of Punjab State and had spread its tentacles around. The terrorists had firmly entrenched inside the Golden Temple and the adjoining buildings and turned the area into a fortress. Gradually, it became clear that nothing short of an army action would curb the terrorist activity in Punjab. The Government of India, therefore, decided to take military action against them. Accordingly, an Operation called 'Blue Star' was launched to flushout the terrorists from their entrenched hideouts.

During Operation 'Blue Star' Capt Hardev Singh led a mechanised company. On the night of 5 June 1984, his company was tasked to support an infantry action in flushing out the terrorists from a well-fortified hideout. The terrorists were armed and positioned at strategic points. As his Armoured Personnel Carrier entered the building, it was hit by anti-tank fire of the terrorists. However, Capt Hardev Singh mustered his men and leading them personally joined the assaulting infantry. In this attempt he was wounded. Despite a serious wound he continued to lead his men urging them to achieve the objective.

In this action Capt Hardev Singh displayed conspicuous bravery, resolute determination, inspiring leadership and devotion to duty of an exceptionally high order. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



20415
Naik
Hardial Singh
3 Sikh
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Hardial Singh, son of Shri Hardit Singh was born on 31 May 1923, in village Mehraj, district Ferozepur, Punjab. He was enrolled in 3 Sikh on 31 May, 1941.

On 3 November 1948, the Union Circle Inspector, Jintur, reported that six notorious dacoits, fully armed, were moving in a nearby jungle. Nk Hardial Singh, Section Commander in a platoon of 3 Sikh Regiment, was ordered to capture these dacoits.

The platoon was guided to a nullah, an area covered with high grass, trees and thick shrubs. Placing two Sections on the flanks, the Platoon Commander ordered Nk Hardial Singh's Section to comb the suspected area. When the Naik was about 9 metres from the dacoit position, he was fired upon, as a result of which he sustained a severe wound in his right thigh. He was offered a first field dressing but he refused to accept it. He rushed towards the dacoit position firing his Sten gun and killed 3 dacoits. But the remaining two dacoits, retreated to take up a new position. The Naik, however, kept on chasing them. Hurling a grenade at them he killed one and wounded another dacoit. However, a burst from the Thomson Sub-machine Gun of the wounded dacoit hit Nk Hardial Singh in the neck killing him on the spot.

Throughout this operation Nk Hardial Singh showed exemplary courage and leadership. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



2875137
Naik
Hari Singh
4 Rajputana Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Hari Singh, son of Bhupal Ram was born on 1 July 1961 at village Shyam Pura Mainana, district Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. He was enrolled in 4 Raj Rifles on 27 October 1979.

Despite three military adventures, Pakistan could not wrest Jammu and Kashmir from India. Pakistan then resorted to a proxy war against India. By training terrorists in Pak Occupied Kashmir and equipping them with arms and ammunition, it infiltrated them in Jammu and Kashmir for indulging in nefarious activities. To check this menace from across the border the Government of India directed the Army to deal with the situation in appropriate manner. Consequently it increased its vigil on the Indo-Pak border considerably.

On 29 August 1991 Nk Hari Singh was accompanying a patrol of 4 Raj Rifles, operating along the Line of Control in Gultham Dhori area of Kupwara district in Jammu and Kashmir. The terrain in this area was difficult and covered with thick jungles. While patrolling, at about 1630 hours, Nk Hari Singh, spotted a group of terrorists at a distance of 27 meters. He warned his patrol and in a daring act charged towards the terrorists with lightning speed. In this charge, he received gun shot injuries in his abdomen. Undeterred, he shot one terrorist with his Rifle and continued to fire. He got injured second time by a terrorist bullet, but the courageous Naik continued to fight and killed one more terrorist. Then a bullet passed through his neck and he died on the spot. The fury and speed of his charge so much terrified the terrorists that they ran away leaving behind 28 AK-56 Rifles, one Automatic Machine Gun, 2 Rocket Launchers and five thousand rounds of ammunition.

Nk Hari Singh, thus displayed conspicuous bravery, valour and spirit of self-sacrifice in the fight against the terrorists. He was honoured with the award of Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



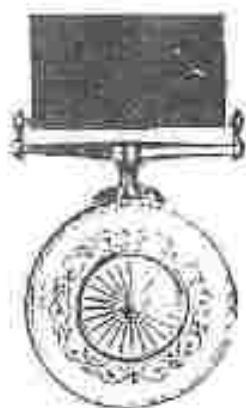
G/N 160469P
OEM
Harjinder Singh
GRES
Kirti Chakra

OEM Harjinder Singh, son of Shri Hari Singh was born on 26 May 1960 in village Sehjad, district Ludhiana, Punjab. He was recruited in the 406 Road Maintenance Platoon (GRES) Border Road Organisation on 19 January 1984.

In November 1986, OEM Harjinder Singh was working on Project Beacon in Zojila, Jammu and Kashmir. On 14/15 November 1986, a convoy on way from Gurni to Sonamarg was trapped in a violent snow storm at Zojila. As a result of avalanches, bitter cold and biting wind, sweeping at a speed of 100 kilometres per hour, many people lost their lives. A large fleet of vehicles was also buried in the snow on the road.

OEM Harjinder Singh the leading dozer operator of 406 Road Maintenance Platoon, was asked to cut through the accumulated avalanched snow on the road so that other dozers could move up. This was a difficult task as the road was very narrow and fully covered with snow. Even slight caving in of snow would have thrown the machine and its operator into a 1,000 metre gorge. Infact two of his colleagues had lost their lives in a similar situation. Undeterred by these dangers he drove a dozer without a cabin exposing himself to the gales laden with granules of snow which hit his face like a sledge hammer at -15°C. Due to his relentless effort Project Beacon succeeded in rescuing 24 trapped vehicles and saving property worth crores of rupees.

For this daring act OEM Harjinder Singh was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Hazari Kirti Chakra

Shri Hazari was a resident of village Chandrapura, district Morena, Madhya Pradesh.

Madhya Pradesh was perhaps the most dacoit infested as the dense forests and ravines of the province provided the dacoits with a natural shelter. The dacoits, organised in gangs, looted the villagers at will.

On the night of 18/19 April 1970, a dacoit gang armed with ML guns planned a raid on village Chandrapura, district Morena. They collected all able bodied men of the village at the point of the gun, in one place. A dacoit with a loaded ML gun stood guard while others started looting the houses and the women.

Shri Hazari, a villager could not, however, bear this. He kept on looking for an opportunity when he could attack the dacoit who was standing guard on them. After some time when the dacoit relaxed his watch for a moment, Shri Hazari pounced upon him unmindful of his own safety. The dacoit fired at him with his gun but Hazari not only deflected the shot but also snatched the gun from him. Encouraged by his gallant action other villagers also mustered courage. They removed wooden bars from the bullock-carts, standing around, and started hitting the dacoits. Undeterred by the indiscriminate firing of the dacoits the villagers succeeded in inflicting major injuries on two dacoits, who subsequently died in hospital. This unnerved the other dacoits and they took to their heels, leaving behind 2 ML guns and the looted property.

For displaying gallantry of a very high order in this action Shri Hazari was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Hegde, Arvind D Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Arvind D Hegde was a resident of Karnataka state.

It was the night of 19 April 1988, information was received that a gang of smugglers was going to smuggle out some forest produce from the Reserve forests in Hulekal Range of Sirsi Forest Division in north Kannada district. Arvind D Hegde, Range Forest Officer, RFO, Hulekal Range was instructed to intercept and apprehend the smugglers with the help of his staff. Hegde erected a road-block with boulders on the road with a view to stop the lorry approaching from the forest.

At about 03.30 hrs on 20 April, 1988, a lorry, loaded with forest produce was noticed. RFO signalled it to stop. But the lorry disregarding the signal broke through the barricade and sped away. The RFO with his staff chased the lorry and finally stopped it near the house of one Neelkanta, a notorious smuggler of forest produce.

When the staff of the RFO were persuading the smugglers to alight and give up resistance, the driver of the lorry started the vehicle and tried to run away. This sudden movement caught the rest of the staff unawares. However, Hegde showed promptitude and jumped on the front bumper of the lorry in a bid to get in. The smugglers, 10 in number, attacked Shri Hegde and beat him up while the lorry was speeding away. The brave officer was done to death.

For displaying exemplary courage and devotion to duty Shri Arvind D Hegde was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



2857207
Lance Naik
Hoshier Singh
6 Rajputana Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

L/Nk Hoshier Singh, son of Shri Kura Ram, was born on 17 September 1947, in village Goripur, district Mahendergarh, Haryana. He was enrolled in 6 Rajputana Rifles on 17 September 1965.

In 1976, 6 Rajputana Rifles was deployed in Mizoram for conducting operations against hostiles. On 2 November 1976, led by self-styled Colonel Blakveia, a hostile gang was moving towards the border through South Mizoram with the intention to cross over to Bangladesh. An army patrol, which included L/Nk Hoshier Singh, was ordered to intercept this gang. The hostile gang was sighted on 3 November 1976. A quick raid was mounted by the patrol. L/Nk Hoshier Singh was ordered to destroy a strong position from where the hostiles were bringing down effective fire. Despite intense hostile fire he bravely moved forward and silenced the gun. This unnerved the hostiles and they started fleeing, abandoning their positions. The Naik chased the hostiles and inflicted casualties on them. Despite injuries received from a burst fired by a wounded member of the gang from point blank range, he kept on firing and advancing. Inspired by him the rest of the patrol also pursued the hostiles. While in pursuit he was hit by a burst for the second time and succumbed to his injuries. In this brave performance of the Lance Naik, 4 hostiles were killed, 10 were wounded, and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition was captured.

In this action, L/Nk Hoshier Singh displayed courage, initiative, determination and devotion to duty of a very high order. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



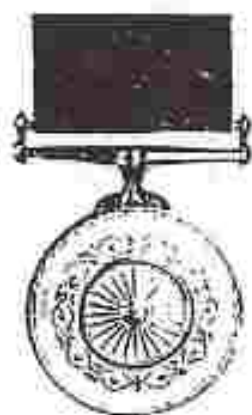
IC-22575
Colonel
Inderjit Singh
7 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Col Inderjit Singh, son of Shri Bal Krishan was born on 8 December 1943, at Bhadshahan now in Pakistan. He was commissioned in Assam Rifles on 30 August 1964.

Since its creation in 1947 Pakistan has attacked India three times with the sole intention of annexing the Indian territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The Cease-Fire Agreement of 1948, had left the occupation of nearly one-third of the area of the State with Pakistan. But this did not satisfy her. In 1965 and 1971 two more attempts were made but these also failed miserably. Pakistan then changed her strategy and resorted to a proxy-war by infiltrating saboteurs and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

On the night of 23 September 1991, Col Inderjit Singh, Commanding Officer, 7 Assam Rifles was leading a column to check infiltration of Pakistan-trained anti-national elements in Kupwara Sector. At 0100 hours on 24 September 1991, he learnt that a gang was infiltrating into Indian territory across the Line of Control. He immediately organised an ambush along the route of infiltration. No sooner than the infiltrators moved into the ambush area, the noose was tightened and they were asked to surrender. The infiltrators in turn opened heavy fire and hurled grenades. Col Singh acted with courage and determination and directed accurate fire on the infiltrators killing 21 of them. One was wounded and captured. Thus, the entire group of 22 infiltrators was annihilated without a single casualty to the Indians. In this highly successful ambush 20 AK-56 rifles, 1 rocket launcher, 1 pistol, over 3000 rounds of assorted ammunition and a large quantity of important documents were captured.

Col Inderjit Singh, VSM, thus displayed conspicuous courage superior leadership and great foresight in organising a successful operation against the infiltrators. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra.



IC-6337
Captain Iyengar
Gramam Kasturirangam Krishna
Corps of Engineers
Kirti Chakra

Capt Gramam Kasturirangam Krishna Iyengar, son of Shri GS Kasturirangam was born on 8 October 1923. He belonged to Karnataka. He was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers on 29 October 1950 and was allotted to Madras Sappers. He took premature retirement from the Army in 1973 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

In June 1958, Capt Iyengar went on a border reconnaissance mission to survey Aksai Chin area. But before the survey could begin the leader of the mission fell ill. This responsibility of leading the mission, therefore, fell upon the shoulders of Capt Iyengar.

The mission had to traverse through very difficult terrain. By the time it had covered half the distance the local porters got panicky and fearing danger to life refused to proceed further. This created serious problems and even some members of the mission expressed unwillingness to proceed in the absence of the porters. However, the determination of Capt Iyengar inspired some members to proceed with the mission.

Meanwhile, the monsoon had set in making the road difficult for movement. The party also suffered from shortage of food and equipment. To cap it all, on 9 September, the party was surrounded by the Chinese troops and taken prisoners. The Chinese, however, released them at Karakoram Pass on 22 October. On 3 November, Capt Iyengar and his men returned to Shyok, the first inhabited village after marching for about two weeks. They reached Leh on 8 November 1958. During the reconnaissance, the survey mission covered about 960 kilometres of uninhabited mountainous desert, mostly above 5200 metres (approx) and crossed the maximum height of 5,000 metres (approx) at Changlungla.

Throughout this mission Capt Gramam Kasturirangam Krishna Iyengar displayed exemplary courage, leadership and devotion to duty at a great risk to his life. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



2949472
Naik
Jagbir Singh
20 Rajput
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Jagbir Singh son of Shri Phool Singh, was born on 2 August 1942, in village Aurandh, district Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 20 Rajput on 27 July 1961. He was awarded Samar Seva Star and Raksha Medal in 1965 and also Sainya Seva Medal with clasp "Himalaya".

Nk Jagbir Singh was on annual leave in his village Aurandh from 2 February to 04 April 1970. On the night of 15/16 March 1970, at about 2300 hours a gang of 16 armed dacoits raided the house of his neighbour. They kept on firing to prevent neighbours from coming to his aid. On hearing gun shots, Jagbir Singh organised a party of villagers and displaying his military skill and training chalked out a plan to capture the dacoits. Three sections were formed to carry out the task and the main group was led by the Naik himself.

An encounter with the dacoits followed. It was a pitched gun battle between the rescue party and the dacoits. This was followed by grim scuffle. The Naik charged the fleeing dacoits and caught hold of one who was armed with a shot gun. Seeing one of their members captured the gang took to heels. But in an attempt to free the captured companion one of them fired a gun shot at Nk Jagbir Singh from point-blank range. He died as a result of gun shot wounds.

In this episode Nk Jagbir Singh displayed conspicuous gallantry and laid down his life to save the life and property of his neighbour, for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



3383731
Lance Naik
Jagjit Singh
2 Sikh
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

L/Nk Jagjit Singh, son of Shri Banta Singh was born on 18 January 1965, in village Mathe, district Patiala, Punjab. He was enrolled in 2 Sikh on May 1984.

During October 1992, 2 Sikh was deployed in Jammu and Kashmir on operations against the militants. On 3 October 1992 at about 1500 hours L/Nk Jagjit Singh, was with a seek and apprehend patrol party in the general area of a village in Badgam Sector. There he noticed three anti-nationals running towards nearby paddy fields. Unmindful of his personal safety, he sprang from his moving vehicle and ran in hot pursuit. He apprehended one Gulzar Ahmed Malik, alias Gul Pahawan, a Pak trained terrorist, and chief of 'Al-Mujahideen' group.

The same evening, at about 1730 hours, on the basis of information obtained from this militant the Lance Naik chased another dreaded terrorist. The criminal started firing indiscriminately and hid himself in a thick maize field. In the ensuing encounter both Lance Naik and the terrorist were wounded. The brave soldier although fatally wounded, continued firing. The terrorist was eventually killed by the other members of the patrol. A loaded AK-56 assault rifle with ammunition and a grenade, were recovered from his person.

In this action L/Nk Jagjit Singh displayed indomitable courage and exemplary dedication to duty and made the supreme sacrifice. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



13610803
Paratrooper
Jagpal Singh
1 Para (Commando) Regiment
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Paratrooper Jagpal Singh, son of Shri Prakash Chand was born on 20 September 1958 at village Depur, district Hoshiarpur, Punjab. He was enrolled in 1 Para (Commando) Regiment on 20 September, 1975.

The terrorist activity in Punjab had assumed dangerous proportion by 1984. Armed with latest sophisticated weapons and adequately trained in their operation, the terrorists were emboldened to do anything they liked. It was not, therefore, an easy task to destroy them in their entrenched positions. However, the operation had to be undertaken irrespective of the cost involved. The 'D' Day was fixed on the night of 5 June 1984.

In this anti-terrorists operation Paratrooper Jagpal Singh was included in 'C' Team Group, which was tasked to capture a portion of a building of an important religious complex which was heavily fortified and strongly held by the terrorists. The Team Group was subjected to intense Machine Gun fire while making an attempt to enter the building through the main entrance. Paratrooper Jagpal Singh was then selected as the leading scout to carry out the assault. While trying to take up a fire position along the route of advance he was suddenly confronted by three terrorists who instantaneously fired at him. He quickly shielded himself and killed all the three terrorists in return fire. The brave paratrooper then evacuated serious casualties to a place of safety. While evacuating his Team Commander, Maj PC Katoch, he was hit by shrapnel in both eyes. Still he carried his Commander for another two hundred metres before finally collapsing due to sheer exhaustion and loss of blood.

In this action Paratrooper Jagpal Singh displayed courage, determination, bravery and devotion to duty of an exceptionally high order. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



7019188
Craftsman Electrician
Jaikaran Singh
Corps of Electrical and
Mechanical Engineers
Kirti Chakra

Craftsman Electrician Jaikaran Singh, son of Hav Maj Nanak Ram was born on 1 October 1932 in village Kosi, district Rewari, Haryana. He was enrolled in the Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Hyderabad on 28 September 1950 as electrician. He retired as Subedar in 1978.

17 Rajput was deployed in Naga Hills to conduct operations against Naga hostiles in 1957. Jaikaran Singh was an electrician with this battalion.

On 6 May 1957, an ambush party of the Rajputs approximately 15 strong, was asked to move to Thizama village in the Naga Hills. At about 0800 hours, when the vehicle of the party was passing through an area of low hills, about 50 hostiles opened fire on it from both sides of the road. In this firing almost every member of the party, including the Bren gunner, was wounded. The Light Machine Gun fell off the vehicle and was left nearly 27 metres (approximately) behind. The hostiles had effectively covered this gap between the LMG and men. Electrician Jaikaran unmindful of hostile fire jumped out of the vehicle and crawling across the bullet riddled gap, succeeded in retrieving the Light Machine Gun. No. 1 gunner, who was lying wounded, managed to set up the gun. When the Light Machine Gun ran out of ammunition, Electrician Jaikaran crawled to the vehicle which was carrying the magazine box some 35 metres (approximately) away. He was wounded while returning with the ammunition.

Meanwhile, a Non-Commissioned Officer was mortally wounded about 25 metres away from him. Unmindful of his own injuries, he crawled upto him under heavy fire and within full view of the hostiles, brought his body back to the vehicle. He also spotted a sniper on a tree who was making any movement on the road well nigh impossible. A rifleman of the party soon killed him.

Throughout this operation Electrician Jaikaran Singh displayed exemplary courage and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Jai Ram Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Jai Ram was working as a caretaker in the Head Post Office, Aligarh in February 1984.

On 21 February 1984, at about 1900 hours, Shri Jai Ram was carrying cash to the main treasury of the Aligarh Post Office, accompanied by Shri Munshi Lal Verma, Asstt Treasurer. Due to electricity failure in the area, it was dark. Shri Jai Ram was carrying the cash box on his head and Shri Verma was walking behind him with a petromax in hand.

As they reached the gate of the building, two miscreants jumped to snatch the cash box containing Rs. 2,22,291.40 paise. Shri Jai Ram resisted and held on to the box. At this stage one of the miscreants fired a pistol shot at the chest of Shri Jai Ram. The other robber picked up the cash box and tried to run away. Shri Verma hit the robbers with the petromax but they managed to reach the spot where their scooter was parked. A third accomplice who was waiting tried to start the scooter. But miraculously the scooter fell down and the robbers fell under it. Taking advantage of this opportunity Shri Munshi Lal Verma rained blows on them with his petromax, recovered the cash box and returned to the Head Post Office. In the meantime Shri Jai Ram had succumbed to his injuries.

Shri Jai Ram displayed indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty in his attempt to save government money at the cost of his own life. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC-575
Lieutenant Colonel
Jaswant Singh
17 Rajput
Kirti Chakra

Lt Col Jaswant Singh, son of Capt Dayal Singh, S B, O B I was born on 15 August 1918. He was enrolled in 5/8 Frontier Force Rifles in January, 1937. He was given commission in Dec 1941 in Indian Army and served in 4/8 Punjab in 1942. His family had a long military tradition. His grandfather, father, brothers, sons and other family members served in the Indian Army. Many of them earned awards for meritorious service. He rose to the rank of Brigadier.

In August 1955, 17 Rajput led by Lt Col Jaswant Singh was ordered to restore law and order at Khikya in the South Tuensang Frontier Division. Here the hostiles had entrenched themselves into a strong base. Despite no porters or ponies by forced marches the unit concentrated there by 3 September 1955. For three successive nights he led patrols along steep hills covered by impregnable jungles in non-stop heavy rains.

The hostiles had planted 'punji' upto two kilometres in front of their main position and built stone stockades on all approaches. He was twice caught into ambush, but on both occasions he led a charge against the hostiles and succeeded in getting out without casualties. This provided him vital information for his plans. Once he fell into a 'punji'-covered pit, and was injured, but he continued to lead his party.

The courage of the Commanding Officer greatly inspired his men, who without sleep and proper food followed him cheerfully for three days. In a well-planned and bold night attack against the hostiles, when his troops were temporarily halted by stiff opposition, he pushed his way to the leading company and exhorted his men to fight bravely. Under his dynamic leadership the troops fought bravely despite heavy and close automatic fire. The attack was crowned with success and the whole area was cleared of them. In this action 35 hostiles were killed and an equal number wounded.

In this operation Lt Col Jaswant Singh displayed extraordinary leadership, courage and gallantry in the best tradition of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC 8424
Brigadier
Jhington, Som Parkash
Garhwal Rifles
VSM
Kirti Chakra

Brig Som Parkash Jhington, son of Shri Meis Ram Jhington was born on 14 March, 1937 in Emnabad. He was commissioned in Garhwal Rifles on 9 June 1957. He was also decorated with Vishist Seva Medal and retired as Major General in April 1993.

Brig Som Parkash Jhington took over the command of a Mountain Brigade, deployed on Counter Insurgency Operations in Manipur on 11 February 1981. Soon after assuming the charge, he mounted a series of swift, well coordinated operations against the insurgents. He established an excellent rapport with para-military forces, intelligence agencies, civil administration and political leaders, thus maximising the counter insurgency efforts in the area. Consequently his Brigade apprehended a large number of hard-core extremists of various insurgent groups.

On 25 May 1981 in a well conducted operation his Brigade captured a self styled "C-in-C" and two hard-core terrorists, along with their weapons and ammunition. This resulted in the break up of an active extremist organisation. During intensified operations between December 1981 and January 1982 over 70 hard-core hostiles, including Khundron Shanti belonging to various insurgent groups were killed or captured. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was also captured.

On 13 April 1982 Brig Jhington personally led a co-ordinated attack on the Headquarters of the Peoples Liberation Army at Kedompohpi. During the operations he remained in the fore-front to supervise the cordoning of the village personally. He remained calm despite continuous fire from the trapped extremists and inspired his men to maintain relentless pressure against them. A large number of hostiles were killed or captured during this operation. It was a severe blow to the Peoples Liberation Army.

Throughout this operation Brig Som Parkash Jhington displayed exemplary courage, leadership and professional skill. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



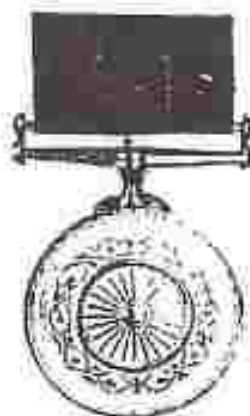
Shri Johannes, Manasser Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Manasser Johannes was a driver of South Eastern Railway.

Shri Johannes was the driver of 315 Up Howrah-Adra-Chakradharpur passenger train of the South Eastern Railway. On 26 July 1956 when the train was approaching Kharagpur from Jakpur, shortly before midnight, there was a sudden blow-back of fire from the fire box door into the cab where he was standing. Consequently, the driver and his crew were trapped in the flames and severely injured. To save their lives the two firemen jumped out of the moving train.

There were about 400 passengers in the train. Shri Johannes, realising that a great disaster would follow if he too jumped out, remained at his post in the flame-filled cab, and eventually brought the train to a stop near the outer signal of Kharagpur station. He then alighted from the engine and painfully crawled to the rear of the train to inform the Guard about the happening. He was rushed to a hospital but succumbed to his injuries within a few hours.

In saving the lives of train passengers Shri Manasser Johannes displayed exemplary courage and sense of sacrifice. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Smt Joshoda Pal
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Smt Joshoda Pal was a resident of North 24-Parganas, West Bengal. She earned her livelihood as a domestic servant.

On 8 February 1988, at about 0930 hours, a passenger train from Madhyamgram in North 24-Parganas district was approaching Hridaypur station. At that time a child of about 3½ years was crossing the railway line along which the train was coming. A number of people were watching the incident but no one dared to come forward to save the child.

The hue and cry at the station, however, attracted the attention of Smt Joshoda Pal, a maid servant who was then busy washing utensils in a nearby locality. Smt Pal at once rushed to the spot and threw herself over the line, in an endeavour to save the child. She succeeded in saving the child, but could not withdraw herself from the track in time and was run over.

Smt Joshoda Pal, a poor house-wife, set a rare example of courage and self sacrifice. She was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC-10416
Major
Kadyan, Mohinder Singh
7-Jat Regiment
Kirti Chakra

Maj Mohinder Singh Kadyan, son of Shri Sardar Singh was born on 25 August 1935, at Garhi (Balab), district Rohtak (Haryana). He was commissioned in the Jat Regiment on 8 June 1958.

In 1973, 7 Jat, was deployed in Naga Hills to conduct Counter Insurgency Operations. On 28 April 1973, an assault party commanded by Maj Kadyan was detailed to raid a hostile Naga camp, located in the jungle on Kopamedzo ridge. Though the approach to the hostile camp was extremely difficult the column negotiated it climbing practically the entire night. The assault was to start after the cut-off groups had taken up their positions on the flanks.

As the cut-off groups started moving to their positions the hostiles got alerted and they immediately opened fire. It was 0700 hours. Undoubtedly the surprise had been lost and it was feared that hostiles might get away. Maj Kadyan, therefore, ordered an assault on the camp immediately. When the entire assault party was rushing towards the camp, he saw a hostile firing at him from behind a tree. He immediately charged on the hostile and shot him through the head. The heroic action not only prevented the Naga hostile from getting away, but also resulted in the death of four of their officers, including a self-styled "Brigadier". Some arms stores and useful documents were also captured.

In this action Maj Mohinder Singh Kadyan displayed gallantry and determination of very high order. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Kalloo Kirti Chakra

Shri Kalloo belonged to village Bamoni, district Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.

On the night of 20 September, 1969, two notorious dacoits named Bakar and Ratna Ahir armed with an axe and a gun, came to the house of Daya Ram Lodhi in village Manpura, district Sagar. It was already night but the villagers had not yet gone to bed and were busy chit chatting in the verandah of Daya Ram. Ignoring the presence of the villagers Bakar demanded Rs. 10,000/- from Lodhi. As the money was not readily available Daya Ram requested for time to arrange for it. Other villagers also pleaded with the dacoits to give him time. This infuriated Bakar and he threatened to shoot Lodhi.

At this juncture Shri Kalloo of village Bamoni, district Sagar was also present there. He took the decision to resist the dacoits, leaped forward and snatched the gun from Bakar. But another dacoit Ratna overpowered him. Bakar then attacked Daya Ram with an axe but his attempt was foiled by Shri Nattho of village Manpura. He caught hold of the axe from behind and hit Bakar on the neck and shoulder. Meanwhile Kalloo succeeded in overpowering Ratna with the help of the other villagers.

In this action Shri Kalloo displayed exemplary courage and bravery, for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



4474

**Flight Lieutenant
Kalsia, Karan Sher Singh
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Flt Lt Karan Sher Singh Kalsia, was commissioned in the Indian Air Force.

On 19 January, 1981, Flt Lt Kalsia was on a training flight in a Hunter aircraft. Just after getting airborne at a height of 60 metres he called up his leader and informed him that the engine of his aircraft had flamed out. At this juncture the aircraft was heading towards Jamnagar city and had he bailed out and abandoned the aircraft it would have certainly crashed into the city, causing extensive damage to life and property.

In this grave situation Flt Lt Kalsia would have either allowed the aircraft to crash into the populated area of the city or diverted the aircraft away from the city risking his life in the process. He chose the latter course. He turned the aircraft away from the city and in doing so lost valuable height. He then attempted a forced landing during which he was killed instantaneously.

Flt Lt Karan Sher Singh Kalsia set a fine example of courage and self-sacrifice in the best traditions of the Indian Air Force. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



G 89178-H
OEM
Kansi Ram
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

OEM Kansi Ram, son of Shri Ganesh Dass was born on 6 May 1948 in village Teara, district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. He joined 168 FC PL (GREF) on 8 May, 1966 for project Himank.

OEM Kansi Ram had joined the Border Road Organisation as Operator Excavating Machinery. He was a devoted and efficient worker. In 1988 he was working with 168 Formation Cutting Platoon care 113 Road Construction Company under Project Himank in Ladakh. On 20 December, 1988, his platoon was asked to clear the snow at Khardungla Pass, at an altitude of 5574 metres on Leh-Chalunka Road. There was heavy snow drift and continuous snow storm on that day. The civil labourers working with operator Kansi Ram left the site, apprehending grave danger to their lives. The brave Operator, however, continued to operate his dozer to clear the snow to ensure that the pass was kept open and the line of communication maintained. Despite grave danger to his life, Kansi Ram continued with snow clearance. After a while, a huge avalanche came down and buried him alongwith his dozer. In spite of prompt rescue operations, OEM Kansi Ram could not be saved.

OEM Kansi Ram, thus displayed great courage and devotion to duty and laid down his life in the best traditions of the Force. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC-8630
Major
Kanwarpal, Dwarka Nath
Garhwal Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Maj Dwarka Nath Kanwarpal, son of Shri Dewan Kishan Chand was born on 21 March 1935, in Solan, Himachal Pradesh. He was commissioned in Hodson's Horse in June 1957, but he shifted to the Garhwal Rifles in 1971. His family has a military tradition.

On 31 May 1963, Chayangtoja, an administrative centre in Kameng Division of NEFA (now Arunachal Pradesh), was suddenly attacked by a gang of hostile Datto tribals armed with 25 rifles and 5 Sten machine carbines. They killed the Base Superintendent, his three men and 20 Constables of the Central Reserve Police. After committing the crime they escaped, and to prevent chase destroyed a bridge over a river after crossing it. The task of punishing these hostiles was entrusted to the Army.

Maj Kanwarpal was detailed to march with a wing of 5 Assam Rifles, consisting of 7 JCOs and 500 men, to re-establish law and order in the area. The journey to the place of incident involved over 12 days march through unbeaten tracks, deep into thickly forested mountains. These difficulties could not dishearten Maj Kanwarpal and he continued operations against the hostiles from 31 May to 20 June, 1963, in heavy rains. The outposts were maintained by air despite stiff opposition of hostile Dattas and inclement weather. The hostiles tried their best to prevent the reconstruction and maintenance of the bridge and to hinder the movement of the column to the place of incident. On 16 June, 1963, a hostile who had been apprehended earlier, knocked down his escort and tried to escape into the jungle. Maj Kanwarpal gave a chase and caught him. On another occasion he crossed a river in spite to enable the column to resume advance.

Throughout this operation, Maj Dwarka Nath Kanwarpal displayed courage and leadership of a high order which led to the re-establishment of civil administration in the area. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



JC 190062
Naib Subedar
Kanyal, Kalyan Singh
19 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Nb Sub Kalyan Singh Kanyal son of Shri Ratan Singh Kanyal was born on 13 October, 1936 in village Lohkot, district Pithoragarh, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 19 Assam Rifles on 13 October, 1955. Subsequently, he rose to the rank of Subedar and retired as Honorary Lieutenant on 25 January, 1966.

During 1973-74, the Assam Rifles was deployed in the Mizo Hills area to conduct the operations against the hostiles. It formed a special patrol which included Nb Sub Kanyal to apprehend a self styled leader of the hostiles, who was operating in and around Mizoram. The security forces had not been able to nab him for a long time.

The patrol of Nb Sub Kanyal searched for him and finally traced him in a village. Subsequently, it laid a trap for him. In spite of the fact that the patrol was out-numbered by the hostiles, the Naib Subedar personally led an attack on the hide-out, wounded the hostile leader and captured him. It was entirely due to his courage and dash that one of the most notorious hostile leader was captured.

In this action, Nb Sub Kalyan Singh Kanyal displayed exemplary courage and determination. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



2432421
Naik
Karnail Singh
9 Punjab
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Karnail Singh, son of Shri Sham Singh was born on 6 January, 1924, in village Sheikhpora, district Bhatinda, Punjab. He was enrolled in 8 Punjab on 6 January, 1941.

The disruptive activities of the hostile Nagas created anarchic conditions in Naga Hills in the fifties. In the circumstances civil administration had proposed to seek the help of army to maintain law and order. The battalion of Nk Karnail Singh, was deployed there on road protection duty.

On the morning of 1 April, 1957, the platoon of Nk Karnail Singh was sent on road protection duty from Dzulake to 27 Km on road Khonoma Dzulake. At about 0955 hrs it encountered about three hundred hostiles-at 28 Km. They were armed with Light Machine Guns, rifles, Muzzle-loading guns and Dahs (choppers) and protected by well camouflaged, dug-in trenches. The leading section of the platoon which was fired upon by the hostiles from point blank range suffered some casualties.

At this juncture the Section of Nk Karnail Singh was occupying a spur. When the firing started, hostiles came out of the jungle and occupied the northern portion of this spur. They engaged the Section and inflicted casualties on it. Nk Karnail Singh in reply directed fire on the hostiles and inflicted casualties on them. But the hostiles were not deterred by these losses and they rapidly closed round his Section. This made the position of the Section precarious and it was left with no alternative but to make a bayonet charge on the hostiles. Nk Karnail Singh picked up the rifle of the dead comrade and led his Section to the bayonet charge. A bitter hand-to-hand fight ensued in which heavy casualties were inflicted and suffered. Nk Karnail Singh was found dead clutching the shreds of hostiles cloth and bunch of hair.

Nk Karnail Singh's utter disregard for personal safety and his total devotion to duty were in the best traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



EC-57412
Captain
Kathat, Allah Noor
Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Capt Allah Noor Kathat was commanding a unit of the Assam Rifles in the Mizo Hills in April 1967. By his tact, and sympathetic approach he won over the confidence of the people in the area of his operation in a very short period. On 2 July 1967, he was informed by a villager that three hostiles had been seen near a village church in search of food and shelter and that they were demanding food from the villagers.

Capt Kathat considered it a good opportunity to nab the hostiles and immediately went out with a patrol. But the hostiles could not be located. While the patrol was on its way back, Capt Kathat was interrupted by the same villager who had given him the information about the hostiles earlier. The interruption was actually intended to mark out Capt Kathat as the main target. The hostiles, who had laid ambush in the thick jungle immediately opened small arms fire on the patrol. Though Capt Kathat was seriously wounded in the firing, he killed the informer. He then rushed upon the hostiles gang with his men unmindful of his injury. The ferocity of attack unnerved hostiles and they fled leaving behind 3 dead. One gun and a large quantity of ammunition was also captured. Capt Kathat, however, succumbed to his injuries.

Throughout this operation Capt Allah Noor Kathat displayed exemplary courage, determination and leadership for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Kedar Nath Kirti Chakra

Shri Kedar Nath was resident of Khemkaran in Punjab. He was employed as Postal Assistant.

In late eighties terrorist activities in Punjab increased many fold. Killing and kidnapping of innocent people for ransom purpose became common. In one such case Shri Kedar Nath, a Postal Assistant, Khemkaran Post Office, Punjab, was kidnapped on the night of the 20 July 1989, by a gang of three dreaded terrorists armed with 2 AK-47 rifles and a revolver. The terrorists mistaking him for a rich man made him walk barefoot for hours and then detained him in a farm house.

On 21 July 1989, in the afternoon when two of the terrorists were sleeping and one was standing guard with an AK-47 rifle lying close to him, Shri Kedar Nath fired at the guard named Jeet Singh injuring him in the hand. Then he quickly sprayed bullets on the other two terrorists who tried to catch him. Jeet Singh was shot while he was trying to scale the boundary wall of the farm house. Eventually all the three terrorists were killed and Shri Kedar Nath deposited two AK-47 rifles, one pistol and some ammunition, recovered from the terrorists at Vafaha Police Station.

Shri Kedar Nath displayed extraordinary presence of mind and bravery and in utter disregard for his own safety killed the three hardcore terrorists armed with lethal weapons. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



4805

**Group Captain (later Air Commodore)
Keelor, Denzil
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra, AVSM**

Gp Capt Denzil Keelor, son of Shri Charles Keelor was born on 7 December 1933 at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned in Indian Air Force on 1 June 1953. He distinguished himself in Indo-Pak War, 1965, and won a Vir Chakra on 19 September, 1965. His younger brother Sqn Ldr Trevor Keelor was also awarded Vir Chakra during this war.

On 27 March 1978, while Gp Capt Denzil Keelor was flying a combat aircraft at a high altitude, its canopy flew off. This exposed him to explosive decompression and severe wind blast. His eyes, ear-drums and left arm were injured and he experienced great difficulty in controlling the aircraft. Although abandoning the aircraft in the circumstances would have been justified, he decided not to lose the aircraft. Under very adverse conditions, wherein he was not able to have proper view due to wind blast and an injured eye, he brought the aircraft back to the base and executed a safe emergency landing.

Again, on 17 May 1978, during a live air-to-air sortie, a 23 mm High Explosive Shell burst as it left the gun muzzle. Shrapnals damaged the aircraft and caused total electrical failure and a serious throttle restriction. The cone extended fully and the associated engine rumbling and surge gave every indication of engine bearing failure. Without the help of electric instruments and Radio Telephone, Gp Capt Keelor could neither know what had happened nor could he ask for assistance. Assuming that the engine bearing had failed, he decided to attempt an emergency recovery. With his flying skill and experience, he returned to the air-field, set up a flame out pattern and executed a safe landing. The throttle was stuck at 60 per cent revolutions per minute and, inspite of this, he was able to stop the aircraft without damage.

On both these occasions Gp Capt Denzil Keelor displayed conspicuous courage, exemplary professional skill and complete devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



2589308

Naik

Kennady, V Kannalan

25 Madras

Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk V Kannalan Kennady, son of Shri K Venkatta Perumal, was born on 17 July 1965, in village Naickempalayam, district Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. He was enrolled in 25 Madras on 30 March 1985.

During April 1993, 25 Madras was deployed in Jammu and Kashmir along the Line of Control in high altitude area. It was tasked to ensure the safety of the Line of Control and to prevent infiltration and exfiltration through its area of responsibility.

On 10 April 1993, a patrol of the 25 Madras discovered a trail left by anti-national elements, leading from the Line of Control towards the Kashmir Valley. In Order to intercept them, Nk Kennady, alongwith two Other Ranks, rushed to the top of Sharnshabari Range with his Light Machine Gun. On reaching the top he saw two anti-nationals running towards him. He opened fire and killed one of them. The other one, however, turned back and escaped. Nk Kennady gave him a chase but was engaged by other terrorists who had taken position along the ridge. In the ensuing firing, he was wounded in the leg and fell down. But despite the severe wounds, he continued to fight. Finally when his ammunition ran out, he picked up an AK-56 rifle, left behind by one of the terrorists, and kept on firing until his fellow soldiers surrounded the terrorists. In the ensuing encounter, seven more terrorists were killed and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered.

In this action Nk Kennady was fatally injured. For the indomitable courage and bravery displayed in this action, Naik V Kannalan Kennady was honoured with the award of Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



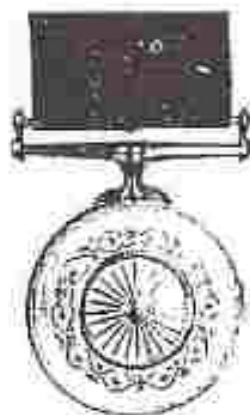
IC-22068
Lieutenant Colonel
Khan, Israr Rahim
10 Guards
Kirti Chakra

Lt Col Israr Rahim Khan, son of Professor AR Khan was born on 5 January 1942 at Khurja, district Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned in Brigade of Guards on 10 May 1964.

By early 1984 the terrorist activity in Punjab had assumed serious proportions. The civil administration had been totally paralysed and the terrorists had taken over the control of many religious places. They directed their secessionist movement from these places of worship. In fact they had turned them into arsenals. When their activities became unbearable the government decided to flush them out of the religious places in June 1984, and mounted Operation Blue Star to this end.

10 Guards, commanded by Lt Col Khan was one of the units deployed in Punjab to take part in Operation 'Blue Star'. On the night of 5-6 June 1984, his battalion was asked to capture a portion of a heavily fortified and strongly held religious place. While trying to reach the target his battalion was subjected to intense fire from automatic weapons from the fortified positions of terrorists. Consequently, it suffered heavy casualties. At this stage Lt Col Khan, unmindful of the risk to his life, went forward, and personally led his men towards the objective.

In this operation Lt Col Israr Rahim Khan displayed resolute determination, exemplary courage, dynamic leadership and exceptional bravery. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra.



Shri Khan, Kayum Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Kayum Khan, was an employee of State Road Transport, Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Kayum Khan, aged 50 years, was a driver with the Madhya Pradesh Road Transport Corporation, attached to Nagpur Depot since 1974. On the night of 22 August, 1977, he was on duty to drive the Nagpur-Allahabad night express bus. The bus left Nagpur Depot at 2200 hours with about fifty passengers and reached Seoni at about 0110 hours on 23 August. On further journey to Jabalpur the bus was delayed by an hour due to tyre burst.

At about 0430 hours, when the bus was near village Motgaon, three kilometres south of Dhuma Police Station, one passenger, who was later identified as dacoit Sehjad, took out his pistol and asked the driver to stop the bus. As the driver did not heed the warning Sehjad shot at him in the left hip. Though injured driver Kayum Khan, who was conscious of the imminent threat to the life and property of the passengers, continued to drive the bus by holding the steering wheel with his right hand and grappling with the dacoit with his left hand. But the dacoit again fired at him, this time on the forehead. The shot proved fatal. The five associates of Sehjad then got up and deprived two passengers of their bags containing Rs. 56,000, and Rs. 50,000/- respectively injured a passenger, and disappeared in the adjoining jungle. They were, however, arrested by the district police, on the same day and the entire looted property and two country made pistols were recovered from them.

In this action, Shri Kayum Khan displayed conspicuous courage, determination and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Khanna, Arun Kirti Chakra

Shri Arun Khanna, belonged to a respectable family of Delhi. Even as a young boy he had a reputation for fearlessness.

On 14 February, 1966, Shri Arun Khanna was travelling with three fellow students Preet Pal Singh, Kirpal Singh Dhingra and Satish Sood in a car. They noticed three men engaged in a scuffle inside another car running in front of them. A little later, they saw one of the three persons falling out of the car. Realising that there was something gravely wrong, Shri Arun Khanna and his companions raised an alarm and gave a chase to the car. Ultimately, they succeeded in stopping the car and overpowering one of the criminals, at great risk to themselves. Thereafter they returned and picked up the person who had been thrown out of the car. By then he had succumbed to his injuries. The man was later identified to be a cashier of the Punjab Roadways.

Shri Arun Khanna showed remarkable initiative courage and bravery in chasing and capturing the criminals unmindful of his own safety. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.

Shri Khanna, Tilak Raj Kirti Chakra



Shri Tilak Raj Khanna, was enrolled in Indian Railways.

On 3 September, 1965 during the Indo-Pak War the Locomotive Shed at Ferozepur Cantonment was heavily bombed by Pakistani planes. Consequently, the Locomotive stores and oil godowns caught fire and the track and some other installations were damaged. In this hour of trial, Shri Tilak Raj Khanna a Loco Foreman of the Northern Railway, displayed remarkable courage. Though injured in the bombing he arranged to extinguish the fire and remove the inflammable oil and petrol to a safer place. The enemy planes continued to hover over the area all this time.

By his timely action, Shri Khanna succeeded in limiting the extent of fire and thus saving the entire Locomotive Shed from destruction. Despite injury, he remained on duty throughout the night and the following day continuously. Shri Tilak Raj Khanna set a fine example of devotion to duty before his staff and was awarded Kirti Chakra.



5831336
Rifleman
Khattri, Bhim Bahadur
1/9 Gorkha Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Rfn Bhim Bahadur Khattri, son of Shri Bhadru Khattri was born on 1 July, 1924 at Dhurkot, Nepal. He was enrolled in 1/9 Gorkha Rifles on 21 October, 1943.

In 1956, 1/9 Gorkha Rifles, the battalion of Rfn Khattri was deployed near Kupwara in the Kashmir Valley. At 0200 hours on 26 November, 1956, while on Quarter Guard duty he noticed a big fire in Trafalgar, a village halfway between Chowkibal and Kupwara. He immediately sounded the fire alarm. The troops immediately rushed to extinguish the fire but by the time the first batch of troops reached the scene, about eight houses were blazing fiercely and the fire was spreading through the wooden structures of other houses rapidly.

Rfn Khattri, who was one of the first men to arrive, saw an old man trying to escape from the upper storey of the house. Without any consideration for his own safety he climbed up through the falling debris of the blazing house and helped the infirm old man to safety. Choking fumes and extreme heat made further rescue work extremely hazardous, but Rfn Khattri, again climbed up the window of a crumbling house to rescue the persons who were crying for help. While he was on his way to rescue them a twenty foot long blazing log rolling down from the roof struck him and brought him down to the ground. He staggered up to climb up to the window again, but collapsed and fell unconscious.

The selfless heroism displayed by Rfn Bhim Bahadur Khattri was in the best traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



7169
Village Guard
Khamniungan, Tsangu
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Village Guard Tsangu Khamniungan, son of Shri Kaisang Khamniungan was born on 1 July 1947, in Kenjong village, district Tuensang, Nagaland. He was enrolled as village guard on 1 August, 1977.

Shri Khamniungan was a village guard of Kenjong village. On 13 May 1980, at about 12.30 hours most of the villagers had gone to the fields leaving behind five guards for the safety of the village. At that time about 300 underground hostiles, armed with automatic weapons, entered the village along with about 100 porters. On hearing their noise village guard Khamniungan who was in his house at that time, immediately rushed out with his loaded rifle. Undaunted by the big strength of the hostiles, he opened fire and killed one hostile. In the encounter that followed, he was hit by a bullet in the chest and died on the spot.

In this action, Village Guard Tsangu Khamniungan displayed exceptional courage, determination and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Kirar, Pritam Kirti Chakra

Shri Pritam Kirar, son of Shri Jagram belonged to village Sahasram, district Morena, Madhya Pradesh. He was an energetic, brave and courageous person.

The dacoits had made the life in the villages in Morena a hell. To fight this menace Shri Kirar volunteered to scout the gang of dacoit Nathu Singh and inform the police about its location. This gang of desperate criminals, was armed with modern weapons and was infamous for merciless killings. Working tirelessly, he tracked the gang into the jungles on the night of 18/19 February 1970 and gave pin-point information to the police about its location. He accompanied the police party to apprehend them, carrying his licensed arm. A fierce encounter with the gang ensued on the morning of 19 February 1970. He moved forward and in utter disregard to his personal safety, supplied vital information regarding the movement of the dacoits to the police. He even accompanied the police, to fields and nullas and traced the dacoits who had taken shelter there. In this encounter, 9 dacoits, including their leader Chhotu Nathu, were killed. The captured weapons included one semi-automatic self loading rifle, one Ston-gun and five .303 rifles. One dacoit was captured alive.

In this action Shri Pritam Kirar displayed exemplary courage and sense of self sacrifice. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Kirar, Shrikrishna Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Shrikrishna Kirar was a resident of village Sahasram, district Morena, MP.

Shri Shrikrishna Kirar was a courageous man. He felt hurt at the crime perpetrated by the dacoits on the villagers who were repeatedly subjected to loot. He volunteered to scout the gang of notorious dacoit Nathu Singh and informed the police about its location and movement. The dacoits of this gang knew no mercy and could kill any one at will.

Shri Kirar was finally able to locate the gang in a jungle. He informed the police on the night of 18/19 February 1970, and alongwith his friend Shri Pritam Kirar, joined the police party, carrying their licensed arms. An encounter took place on 19th morning. During the encounter Shri Kirar and his friend moved ahead of the police, in utter disregard of their personal safety, and supplied vital information on the movement of the dacoits. The dacoits who had hidden in the fields and nullas were finally located. The dacoits were, however, well armed and they resisted every attempt of the police force to apprehend them. In the fierce encounter that followed the dacoit leader along with his 8 accomplices were killed and one dacoit was captured. The booty that fell into the hands of the police included one semi-automatic self-loading rifle, one Stengun, five .303 rifles etc.

In this action Shri Shrikrishna Kirar displayed courage and gallantry of a very high order and was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



**Shri Klair, Ajay Kumar
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Shri Ajay Kumar Klair, son of Shri Yash Pal Klair, was born on 5 November 1963, in village Lassara, district Jalandhar, Punjab. He was a student of B.A. final year in 1983.

On 19 June 1986, Shri Klair went to Apra branch of Canara Bank in Jalandhar to encash a cheque. There he saw three persons armed with revolvers looting the bank. He decided to foil the robbery and swooped from behind on one of the dacoits, who was standing at the main gate of the bank. He held the dacoit tight with a strong grip. Meanwhile, another dacoit standing in the Manager's cabin went upto Shri Klair and shot him in the arm. Shri Klair fell down injured. The dacoit then shot him in the chest at point blank range killing him on the spot.

Shri Ajay Kumar Klair thus displayed exemplary courage and sense of self sacrifice in protecting the bank's property. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.

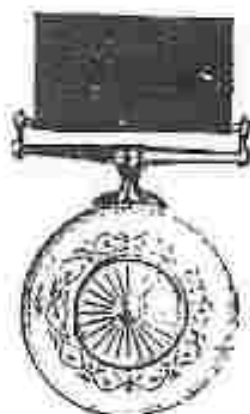


EC-55333
Captain
Kosuri, Shreeramaraju
Madras Regiment
Kirti Chakra

Capt Shreeramaraju Kosuri, son of Shri Subbaraju Kosuri was born on 1 July 1937 in village Penumadam, district W. Godavary, Andhra Pradesh. He joined the Indian Army in Madras Regiment on 2 Feb 1964. Subsequently, he served with 5 Madras.

In 1967 Capt Kosuri was attached to a battalion of Assam Rifles deployed in Counter Insurgency Operations in Mizo Hills area. On 18 November 1967, Capt Kosuri was informed by the Brigade Commander that some hostiles, after over-running a police post, were camping at a place in the Mizo Hills area. He was ordered to attack the hostile position immediately. Without losing any time he moved to the place with his men. However, the hostiles opened fire on his party with eight Light Machine Guns and other small arms from three directions. After a brief hand-to-hand fight the hostiles, whose strength was well above a hundred, fled leaving behind four dead and a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

In this action, Capt Shreeramaraju Kosuri, displayed conspicuous gallantry and leadership, for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



JC-122394
Naib Subedar
Kosy, Kanjira Manil George
26 Madras
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nb Sub Kanjira Manil George Kosy, son of Shri K.M. George was born on 2 June 1951, at Kulanaada, Kerala. He was enrolled in 26 Madras on 23 June 1971.

By early 1984 the situation in Punjab had reached a critical stage. The terrorist menace affected the normal life of the people and the state suffered enormously in terms of industrial and agricultural growth. When all attempts to bring the mis-guided peoples to the path of sanity failed, the Government of India decided upon a military action to contain them. This operation is known as 'Operation Blue Star' in military parlance.

On the night of 5/8 June 1984, 26 Madras was tasked to flush out terrorists from well fortified hide-outs. It involved clearing of large number of rooms on the first floor of the building. Nb Sub Kosy led the leading platoon of 'C' Company during this operation. Due to intense fire of the terrorists it was not possible to use a ladder to climb up to the first floor. The Naib Subedar successfully climbed up to the first floor of the building in the face of heavy fire of automatic weapons. Immediately on reaching there, his platoon commenced mopping up operations. He personally cleared two bunkers and ran towards the third. In the process of clearing the bunker, he was hit by a Machine Gun burst and seriously wounded. Realising that any hold up at this stage would adversely affect the momentum of this operation, he continued to move forward unruffled by the terrorist fire. In the process, he was repeatedly hit by Machine Gun fire and succumbed to injuries.

In this action Nb Sub Kanjira Manil George Kosy, displayed courage, gallantry and leadership of an exceptionally high order. He laid down his life in the highest tradition of the army and was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Kulkarni, R B
Superintending Engineer (Civil)
Kirti Chakra

Shri R B Kulkarni was a Senior Civil Engineer.

This is the story of an Engineer who rendered valuable help to the victims of a natural calamity. He personally directed an operation to clear a landslide to rescue the persons entrapped in a disastrous situation.

On 10 September 1983, a disastrous landslide occurred at Manul in North Sikkim. As a result the family quarters of GREF personnel, huts of casual labourers and sheds of Government stores were completely washed away. 65 Lives were lost and property worth more than a lakh rupees was destroyed. On hearing the news Shri R B Kulkarni immediately issued instructions for deployment of all available manpower and resources for expeditious clearance of landslides. Shri Kulkarni himself walked to the site through a very rough terrain and badly damaged road at a great risk to his own life. He personally supervised the rescue work till it was completed.

In this operation Shri R B Kulkarni exhibited exemplary organising capacity, courage and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



15024
Jemadar
Kulwant Singh
2 Sikh
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Jem Kulwant Singh, son of Shri Charan Singh was born on 28 March 1916, in village Gill, district Ludhiana, Punjab. He was enrolled in 2 Sikh on 28 September 1936.

In 1956, 2 Sikh was deployed in Naga Hills for operations against Naga hostiles. On 24 June 1956, a Sikh platoon led by Jem Kulwant Singh was engaged in clearing hostiles from Jotsoma village in the Naga Hills. This was done to protect a flank of the unit engaged in operations. But the hostiles who had already infiltrated along the flanks, presented a serious threat to the rear. However, realising the need of the hour, the Junior Commissioned Officer on his own readjusted to neutralise this threat. The hostiles, reacted strongly and taking advantage of heavy undergrowth and low visibility engaged the platoon with close Sten gun and rifle fire. Meanwhile, Jem Kulwant Singh having spotted two hostiles in their hideout killed one with his Sten gun and wounded the other.

During the hostile attack, the Junior Commissioned Officer went round to each of his men, training intense sniping and close automatic fire and warn them all to be watchful of the flank where more hostiles had appeared. While moving among his men he was hit in the chest by a tommy gun burst and was seriously injured. But, despite injury he continued to encourage his men to clear the hostile-infested area. This was successfully done before he breathed his last.

Jemadar Kulwant Singh displayed cool courage, dynamic leadership and unflinching devotion to duty, while leading his men under most difficult conditions. He made the supreme sacrifice in the best traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Kumar, Medandrao Krishna Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Medandrao Krishna Kumar, son of Shri Medandrao Lakshmaiah Naidu hailed from Andhra Pradesh. He was a brilliant student. He received President's Gold Medal in 1955 for outstanding performance in Marine Engineering College, Calcutta.

On 31 December 1960 a violent explosion occurred in the cargo-hold of S S "Indian Navigator" of the Indian Steamship Company Ltd, while on a voyage from Britain to India. This caused extensive damage to its superstructure and compelled the Master and the crew of the ship to abandon it. Meanwhile, the crew had sent an S.O.S. to the Agent of the Company in London. The Agent on his part directed S S "Indian Success", another vessel of the Company, which was in the vicinity in north Atlantic, to investigate and report on the condition of the abandoned ship. The sea was very choppy and extremely rough and the surrounding temperature much below the freezing point.

At 0245 hours, on 1 January 1961, S S "Indian Success" reached the scene of the accident. A volunteer party formed from amongst the crew was sent to the abandoned ship in a motor boat in heavy weather conditions. This party, which included Shri Kumar, however, returned finding it impossible to board the burning ship. The second attempt was made on 2 January 1961, without the motor boat which had gone out of order. The men, with the help of two oars, rowed through the rough sea and eventually succeeded in boarding the burning ship and rehoisting the Indian flag on it at 1145 hours. This act of boarding the burning ship with the help of a rope ladder was commended by the foreign press as well.

In spite of the fact that the ship was reeling badly, the party remained on board throughout the day, making preparations for towing it to the nearest French port. Meanwhile, the weather deteriorated owing to frequent rain squalls. The waves continued rising up. As the motor boat which had brought the volunteers to the ship was no longer serviceable, they were directed to stay on board and be ready for towing operation the next morning. Unfortunately, the ship, wrecked by fire, explosions and the rough sea, broke up and sank with the brave volunteers aboard during the night.

Shri Medandrao Krishna Kumar Chief Officer Soares, and his team of volunteers sacrificed their lives in trying to save a wrecked ship. He displayed great courage and a high sense of duty even in a grave danger. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Master Kurpati Kirti Chakra

Master Kurpati, son of Shri Doornar Sundi belonged to village Ulan, district Bastar, Madhya Pradesh.

On the night of 29 May 1976, seven armed dacoits entered the house of Nanorath Sundi. While four of them beat up the inmates of the house, one kept on firing his country-made pistol to terrorize the villagers. They sealed all exits from the house and some of the inmates who tried to escape were assaulted.

But 14 years old Master Kurpati, cleverly managed to get out of the house. He armed himself with a lathi and decided to take on the dacoits single handed. While the dacoits were running away with the booty, he followed them alone, stealthily looking for an opportunity to attack. At the right moment he hit a dacoit with lathi from behind. The sudden blow frightened the dacoit, who dropped the stolen property, and started firing at the boy. Luckily the cartridge misfired. The dacoit then tried to run away leaving behind the looted property. But Master Kurpati did not allow him to do so. He chased the dacoit along with some villagers, who had joined him in the meantime. The dacoit was finally disarmed and captured. The arrest led to unearthing of a gang of desperate criminals of Banda district in Uttar Pradesh.

In this action, Master Kurpati displayed great courage and presence of mind. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



1064034
Acting Lance Dafadar
Kushwah, Krishan Dev
Armoured Corps
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

L/ Dfr Krishan Dev Kushwah, son of Shri Damodar Prasad was born on 02 August 1959 in village Kharika, district Bhind, Madhya Pradesh. He was enrolled in Armed Corps on 10 January 1980.

On 26 July 1987, L/ Dfr Kushwah, was detailed to drive a Janga to take the Paediatrician of Military Hospital, Babina, Maj Arvind Gupta to Military Hospital, Jhansi and back. Maj Arvind Gupta had also his family with him. While returning at around 2300 hrs the front right wheel of the vehicle got punctured on a deserted stretch of road. Both the officer and the driver got down to change the punctured tyre in total darkness. As they were putting back the punctured tyre and tools into the vehicle five-dacoits armed with iron rods and a country made pistol attacked them. Maj Gupta received a blow on his head and fell down unconscious.

L/ Dfr Kushwah stood up to the challenge of the armed dacoits. He made a valiant effort to defend the felled officer and his family. The handle of the jack of the vehicle was his only weapon. As he was lone and could not resist too long, he too fell after receiving a few powerful blows. Just then one of the dacoits pulled out his pistol and aimed to fire at the near unconscious officer lying on the ground. L/Dfr Kushwah, showing exceptional courage threw himself in between and received the blast on his body, at point blank range. He later succumbed to injuries. For this act of exceptional bravery, acting L/ Dfr Krishan Dev Kushwah was awarded Kirti Chakra posthumously.



2932561
Naik
Lal Singh
17 Rajput
Kirti Chakra

Nk Lal Singh, son of Shri Bhanwar Singh, was born on 20 January 1929 in village Parbaisar, district Jodhpur, Rajasthan. He was enrolled in 17 Rajput on 20 January 1948. Subsequently, he rose to the rank of Subedar.

The Indian Army conducted operations against the Naga hostiles in Naga Hills in adverse conditions. The terrain was difficult and the climate inhospitable. The hostiles could mix-up with the civil population and lay ambushes anywhere they liked. 17 Rajput was deployed for operations in Naga Hills in 1957. Nk Lal Singh of this battalion, commanded a patrol party in May 1957. The party was to return from the Merema area in Naga Hills in the early hours of 8 May 1957, after completing the assigned task.

The hostile Nagas got information about this move and laid an ambush. They occupied commanding positions on three knolls—two in front and one in the rear of the patrol north of Nishinyu. When the patrol came within the firing range, the hostiles opened fire killing the leading man and wounding three others. However, Nk Lal Singh unmindful of withering fire went forward and brought back the dead and wounded. The hostiles then started closing on the Naik's party in overwhelming numbers. Meanwhile the Bren gunner of the party was also wounded.

Appreciating the gravity of the situation, Nk Lal Singh led a bold attack on one of the front knolls and occupied it. This provided him a better tactical position. Though wounded he carried the Bren gun and continued to lead his men until the objective was achieved. This daring move blunted the hostile attack, and the patrol was able to hold its newly occupied position until the arrival of reinforcements. In this battle, lasting for two hours, the hostiles suffered heavy casualties.

Nk Lal Singh displayed exemplary courage, leadership and bravery in the best traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



**Colonel
Leonid Kizim
Kirti Chakra**

In 1972 a Space Commission was set up in India to initiate, develop and master space science and space technology to exploit their potentialities for the socio-economic development of the country. The Joint Indo-Soviet Space Mission 1984 was a landmark in this direction.

Col Leonid Kizim, a pilot cosmonaut and "Hero of Soviet Union" had joined the cosmonauts unit in 1965. He carried out his first space flight as Commander of the Soyuz T-3 Space craft and the Salyut-6 orbital station in 1980. On 8 February 1984 Col Leonid Kizim, alongwith two crew members, was launched on board Soyuz T-10 and performed the duties of Resident Crew on board "Salyut-7" for the Indo-Soviet Joint Space Flight. They were given the responsibility of setting up all scientific equipments carried into space by 'Progress-19' cargo spacecraft, which had docked on 23 February 1984 with Salyut-7. Besides they also calibrated the equipment for various experiments and made all the arrangements to receive the crew of 'Soyuz T-11' in which Indian cosmonaut, Sqd Ldr Rakesh Sharma was a participant on 4 April 1984.

These cosmonauts assisted the crew of 'Soyuz T-11' in the performance of their scientific tasks and participated in all the telecasts from space. In addition, the crew of 'Soyuz T-11' was assisted in making preparations for their undocking in the 'Soyuz T-10' and facilitated their departure on the 11 April 1984, on successful termination of their mission.

Col Leonid Kizim thus displayed conspicuous courage and daring in the peaceful exploration of outer space in a Joint Indo-Soviet Space Mission. He was awarded Kirti Chakra on 4 April 1984.



44149
Subedar
Limbu, Mangal Bahadur
4 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Sub Mangal Bahadur Limbu was enrolled in 4 Assam Rifles.

In 1961, 4 Assam Rifles was deployed in Naga Hills for conducting operations, against the Naga hostiles. On 15 June 1961, Sub Mangal Bahadur Limbu, of this battalion was commanding an outpost in Manipur. He received the information that a party of armed hostiles was preparing defensive position at some distance from his post. At that time the number of soldiers present in his outpost was much less than that of the hostiles. But wait for reinforcement would have enabled the hostiles to fortify their defences. He, therefore, decided to launch the attack against them with whatever men he could muster that night.

He formed a patrol and despite difficult terrain and inclement weather covered the distance in good time. However, the patrol came under heavy rifle and automatic fire in the vicinity of the hostile position, which lay along a crest on the slopes of a hill which dominated the area. Sub Limbu immediately led an assault on that position. When the assault was in progress the hostiles suddenly opened fire from a position on the right flank. This was bound to create difficulties for the attacking troops. Therefore, Sub Limbu, accompanied by two men speedily charged this position. He killed one hostile and forced the others to flee. Thereafter, he supported the main attack in which 2 hostiles were killed, 2 were apprehended, and some others were wounded. 3 Rifles, 1 Shot-gun and 1 pistol and a large quantity of ammunition were captured.

In this operation Sub Mangal Bahadur Limbu displayed exemplary courage, leadership and initiative in the best traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



**Sepoy
Lotha Ayamo
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Sepoy Ayamo Lotha, son of Shri Yanarao Jam Lotha was born on 15 November 1922, in Pangti village, Nagaland. He was enrolled as village guard in February 1957.

On 21 January 1959, at 0200 hours between 100 and 200 hostiles, armed with Light Machine Guns and rifles, attacked the small village guard out-post of Sungro in Mekokchung district of the Naga Hills. Sungro was defended only by 37 village guards, who were armed with only single shot muskets and a few rifles. The hostiles taking advantage of their numbers and better arms managed to penetrate the village guard post within 10 minutes. It was then decided to withdraw the guards from the outpost.

Village Guard Sepoy Ayamo Lotha of Pangti, and Ex-Serviceman, was ordered by the NCO commanding the post to cover the withdrawal of a section of village guards, whose position had become untenable. He maintained a constant fire against the hostiles, to enable the threatened village guards to withdraw to a more safe position. Sep Ayamo Lotha was the last person to leave the position. While withdrawing he was gravely injured, but still he continued firing on the hostiles. He succumbed to his injuries subsequently.

In this encounter with the hostiles Sep Ayamo Lotha showed conspicuous courage and exceptional bravery. But for him the safe withdrawal of his party in the face of overwhelming hostile strength could have been impossible. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



JC-27152
Subedar
Lushai, Chalhuna
18 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Sub Chalhuna Lushai, son of Shri Kaphleia was born on 3 March, 1922 at Aizawl, Mizoram. He was enrolled in 18 Assam Rifles on 3 March, 1941. He was also awarded Governor's Silver Medal.

Sub Chalhuna Lushai led a unit of Assam Rifles in operations against the hostiles in Mizo Hills. On 24 February 1967, he was detailed to raid and capture a Mizo National Front camp located in a village between Vaisan and Thangte in Mizo Hills. The task was difficult as the hostiles were well entrenched.

Attempting the challenging task, Sub Lushai immediately advanced towards the objective with his platoon. At 0400 hours his platoon was about 40 metres away from the hostile camp. Here it was held-up by continuous Light Machine Gun and rifle fire from the hostiles. Sub Lushai then crawled to the hostile position at great personal risk, threw a hand grenade on the Light Machine Gun position and silenced the gun. This enabled the platoon to achieve its objective. It destroyed the camp, killed three hostiles and captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

In this action, Sub Chalhuna Lushai displayed exemplary courage and leadership. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.

Shri Mahadeo Singh Kirti Chakra



Shri Mahadeo Singh was resident of village Bindwa, Madhya Pradesh.

On 21 October 1967, notorious dacoit Nathu Singh entered village Bindwa in Madhya Pradesh with a gang of 13 men to commit a dacoity. The dacoits surrounded the houses of Babu Singh and his near relatives. They started firing on the house of Babu Singh from a commanding position and set on fire two other houses.

With the intention of helping his neighbour in this hour of need Shri Mahadeo Singh joined hands with six other brave villagers. They used their licensed fire arms as well as stones and bricks to fight back the dacoits and injured one of them. The dacoits, though armed with Sten guns, automatic rifles etc. could not overcome the heroic resistance of the villagers. They abandoned their attack and fled.

In this action, Shri Mahadeo Singh, displayed conspicuous gallantry and firm determination for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



11607
Wing Commander
Maheshwar Dutt
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra

Wg Cdr Maheshwar Dutt, was born on 5 January 1946 at Guneshor, Jalandhar, Punjab. He was commissioned in the Indian Air Force on 18 May 1968. He was a helicopter pilot of proven merit. In 1985 he operated Mi-17 helicopter in the Siachen Glacier area and flew over 300 sorties airlifting 200 tonnes of load over extremely inhospitable terrain.

In November 1986 Wg Cdr Maheshwar Dutt was commanding a helicopter unit in Jammu & Kashmir. On the evening of 14 November 1986, an unexpectedly heavy snowfall blocked both ends of the 3400-meter high Zojila pass. Consequently, over one hundred vehicles were trapped in the pass along with their occupants. Landslides and avalanches further added to the difficulties of the entrapped.

In this hour of need Wg Cdr Maheshwar Dutt was called upon to carry out the rescue operations. He immediately started the operations and flying a Mi-17 helicopter carried out a total of 75 rescue sorties, 56 of them in the first four days. He personally rescued 145 persons from almost certain death in a raging blizzard with wind speed of 70 kilometres per hour and temperatures well below zero. Never before in the history of the Indian Air Force has such an operation been carried out and that too under such adverse weather conditions and at such high altitude.

During these sorties no prepared helipad was provided and Wg Cdr Maheshwar Dutt often landed on compact snow by the roadside. The operations, from these makeshift helipads, scarcely larger than the helicopter wheel base, were carried until all the trapped persons were evacuated.

For these deeds of sustained endurance in the face of adverse weather conditions Wg Cdr Maheshwar Dutt was awarded Kirti Chakra.



153756

**Shri Maji, Amal Kumar
Superintendent, B & R, GD II
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

The construction and maintenance of roads in mountainous terrain is a demanding job. It requires dedication and courage of a high order. Frequent landslides occur and these are required to be cleared immediately to ensure smooth traffic movement.

On 9 August 1980, a huge landslide occurred blocking the traffic completely on road Lekhabali-Alang. Shri Amal Kumar Maji, Superintendent Buildings and Roads Grade II, 433 Road Maintenance Platoon took charge of the slide clearance. He worked with his men continuously from dawn to dusk and got the slide cleared well ahead of the time.

At about 1100 hours on 11 August while dozer was working its last run and the labourers were giving the finishing touches by filling pot holes, a mass of hill started sliding down. The sliding was gradual and there was time for Shri Amal Kumar Maji to run to safety. But in utter disregard to his personal safety he stayed on and kept on warning other personnel at the site to run for safety. He thus saved the lives of 22 persons. By the time Shri Maji thought of his own safety it was too late. He was hit by big boulders and carried away dead 150 metres down into the valley.

Shri Amal Kumar Maji thus displayed exemplary gallantry, leadership, determination and devotion to duty. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC-40114
Captain
Malhotra, Anil
7 Kumaon
Kirti Chakra

Capt Anil Malhotra, son of Shri Inderjit Malhotra was born on 25 January 1960 at New Delhi. He was commissioned in Kumaon Regiment on 19 December 1981. Subsequently he rose to the rank of Major.

By the end of 1983 the terrorists from Punjab had spread their net in neighbouring states as well. They looted and extracted money on gun point from innocent persons.

Capt Anil Malhotra of 7 Kumaon was on annual leave in Chandigarh. While going towards the Links Club ground in Sector 18-C, Chandigarh, with his brother on 3 January 1984, two desperadoes on a scooter waylaid them at gun point and ordered them to surrender their valuables. Capt Malhotra kept his cool in this grim situation. Displaying great presence of mind he caught hold of the hand in which desperado was holding a revolver. The assailant hit him on the face several times, but he fought on bravely and did not allow him to use his revolver. His brother Shri Sunil Malhotra, in the meantime kept on grappling with the other desperado. The two brothers gave them a good beating and succeeded in overpowering them. The desperadoes were found to be proclaimed extremists.

Capt Anil Malhotra thus displayed exemplary courage, intelligence and presence of mind in apprehending the criminals at a great risk to his life. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



7678
Wing Commander
Malhotra, Ravish
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra

Wg Cdr Ravish Malhotra, son of Shri Sansar Chand Malhotra, was born on 25 December 1943, at Lahore, Punjab (now in Pakistan). He was commissioned in the Flying Branch of Indian Air Force on 28 October 1963.

Due to his devotion to duty and professional skill Wg Cdr Ravish Malhotra became an outstanding test pilot of the Indian Air Force in comparatively short period. He successfully piloted most modern and sophisticated high performance aircraft from time to time, S-22 and MiG-23. In addition he successfully completed the Advanced Weapons Course in 1964 and Experimental Test Pilots Course (USA) in 1974. He qualified as a flying instructor in 1970 and graduated from the Defence Services Staff College in 1977. He participated in Operation "Cactus Lilly" in December 1971.

In January 1962, it was decided to launch a Joint Indo-Soviet Space Mission in 1964 when Indian cosmonaut volunteers were asked for this mission. Wg Cdr Malhotra most readily offered himself. After a very rigorous selection process, including a most stringent medical examination, which covered weightlessness and other strenuous mental and physical tests associated with space flights, he was selected as one of the two cosmonaut candidates from among 150 highly qualified and experienced pilots of the Indian Air Force.

Wg Cdr Malhotra underwent an extremely demanding training schedule as cosmonaut at the Yuri Gagarin Centre in USSR for 18 months and completed it with credit and distinction. During training he displayed exceptional zeal, professionalism and courage. His commitment to training as cosmonaut, which involved many challenges and hazards, was total. This won him many an accolade from all quarters and earned pride for the nation.

Wg Cdr Ravish Malhotra was awarded Kirti Chakra for his exceptional devotion to duty, dedication and courage.



IC 52571
Second Lieutenant
Malhotra, Rishi Ashok
8 MLI
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

2/Lt Rishi Ashok Malhotra son of Shri Ashok Kumar Malhotra was born on 13 December 1971 at Bharatpur, Rajasthan. He was commissioned in the 8 Maratha Light Infantry on 11 December 1993.

In 1994, 8 Maratha Light Infantry was deployed in Jammu & Kashmir. On 15 May 1994 2/Lt Rishi Ashok Malhotra was tasked to search and destroy an anti national elements hideout in the area of Dal Dramman in Doda district of Jammu & Kashmir. Second Lieutenant Rishi Ashok Malhotra launched the operations with one platoon and selected an extremely difficult route in high altitude jungle terrain to achieve surprise. After covering a distance of 30 kilometres over two consecutive nights, the young officer cordoned the militant hideout during the early morning hours of 20 May 1994. When he moved towards the hideout he was engaged with very heavy volume of fire. Unmindful of his personal safety and displaying valour of an extremely high order, this young officer manoeuvred towards the hideout. An intense firefight with militants ensued at close quarters during which the officer's actions were conspicuously aggressive and determined. The officer received bullet wound on the chest while covering the last few metres to the hideout. Despite being gravely injured, he reached the hideout and killed two antinational elements at point blank range before succumbing to his wounds.

Second Lieutenant Rishi Ashok Malhotra thus, displayed conspicuous bravery exceptional courage and made the supreme sacrifice while fighting the antinational elements, for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



2733328
Lance Naik
Mane, Pandit Kerba
2 MLI
Kirti Chakra

L/Nk Pandit Kerba Mane, son of Shri Kerba Mane, was born in village Shirol, district Kolhapur, Maharashtra. He was enrolled in 2 Maratha Light Infantry on 22 August 1942. His father also served the Indian Army. On 1 September 1990, Maharashtra Government honoured him with "Gaurav" award.

2 Battalion Maratha Light Infantry was detailed in Naga Hills to assist the civil power to contain the activities of Naga hostiles. It conducted active patrolling in the area of its responsibility in 1957. On 2 August 1957, L/Nk Pandit Mane was proceeding with a patrol from Khuzami to Kivikhu, as personal escort to the Company Commander Maj E J Tucker. At about 1230 hour the party reached Mile Post 69. Heavily armed Naga hostiles, who had obtained information about the movement of this party before hand, were waiting in the thick undergrowth. After allowing the leading Section to pass through, they brought heavy automatic and rifle fire to bear upon the Company Commander's party. This killed the Company Commander and injured two Other Ranks, including the Lance Naik.

Despite injuries and profuse bleeding L/Nk Mane did not lose heart. With cool courage he immediately started firing. By the time he had fired a few rounds, his rifle was hit by a bullet. It broke the butt of the rifle and injured his hand. Still L/Nk Mane was not disheartened. He fixed his bayonet and led a charge on the hostile position braving a hail of bullets. A few metres short of the target, he was again wounded by a bullet in his leg and fell down. But he continued to direct the Section until the area was cleared of the hostiles.

The courage and leadership displayed by L/Nk Pandit Kerba Mane was in tune with the highest traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Maqbul, SK Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri S K Maqbul, had joined Indian Merchant Navy.

On 31 December 1960, a violent explosion took place in the cargo-hold of SS "Indian Navigator" of the Indian Steamship Company Ltd, while on a voyage from Britain to India. This caused extensive damage to its superstructure, and forced the Master and the crew to abandon it. Meanwhile the crew had sent an S O S to the Company's agent in London. The agent on his part directed SS "Indian Success" another vessel of the Company which was in the vicinity in North Atlantic, to investigate and report on the condition of the abandoned ship. The sea was very choppy and extremely rough and the surrounding temperature much below the freezing point.

At 0245 hours on 1 January 1961, SS "Indian Success" reached the scene of the accident. The Master of the ship formed a volunteer party from amongst the crew, which included Shri Maqbul, and sent it to the abandoned ship in a motor boat under heavy weather conditions. The party, however, returned finding it impossible to board the burning ship. The second attempt was made on 2 January 1961 without the motor boat which had gone out of order. The men with the help of two oars, rowed through the rough sea and eventually succeeded in boarding the burning ship and rehoisting the Indian flag on it at 1145 hours. It is notable that Shri Maqbul and his party boarded the burning ship with the help of a rope ladder.

In spite of the fact that the ship was heeling badly, the party remained on board throughout the day making preparations for towing it to the nearest French port. Meanwhile the weather deteriorated owing to frequent rain squalls. The waves continued rising up. As the motor boat which had brought the volunteers to the ship was no longer serviceable, they were directed to stay on board and be ready for towing operation the next morning. Unfortunately, the ship, wrecked by fire, explosions and the rough sea, broke suddenly and sank with the brave volunteers aboard during the night.

Shri SK Maqbul and his companions gave their lives in trying to save a wrecked ship. He displayed great courage and a high sense of duty in the face of a grave danger. He was honoured with the award of Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Margey, Ghulam Nabi Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Ghulam Nabi Margey was a resident of J & K State. He was employed in the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.

In June 1978, Shri Margey was serving as a Manager with the Lauget Branch of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. On 7 June 1978, at about mid-day, three armed gangsters forced their entry into this bank and looted the cash. While leaving, they bolted the bank door from outside.

Shri Margey, raised an alarm and after coming out of the Bank chased the dacoits. He grappled with the leader of the gang, who was heavily armed, and overpowered him. At this stage, one of the gangsters shot Shri Margey in the chest and he died on the spot. Meanwhile, many villagers had collected there. Inspired by the sacrifice of Shri Margey, they continued the chase undeterred by the indiscriminate firing of the gangsters and finally forced them to surrender.

These gangsters were the members of a gang led by Mohammed Maqbool Butt, the notorious Pakistani agent, who had escaped from the Central Jail, Srinagar, while awaiting execution. The Government had announced a reward of Rs. 10,000/- for his arrest. The sacrifice made by Shri Margey led to the capture of this extremely dangerous criminal.

In chasing this criminal Shri Ghulam Nabi Margey exhibited conspicuous courage and extraordinary devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



13591
Flight Lieutenant
Mathur, Anil Kumar
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra

Ft Lt Anil Kumar Mathur, was born on 12 December 1952 at Alwar. He was granted commission in the Indian Air Force on 9 February 1974.

On 25 November 1980, Ft Lt Anil Kumar Mathur was authorised to air test a Marut aircraft. Immediately on getting airborne, he experienced excessive skid to the right. He initiated corrective action but it failed to stabilise the aircraft around the vertical axis. Simultaneously, he observed a significant drop in the temperature of the right engine and an abnormal position of the tail plane setting. Appreciating a serious malfunction of the right engine and aircraft control systems, Ft Lt Mathur decided to execute an immediate landing.

But before he could execute the landing a total hydraulic failure occurred. This emergency deprived him of hydraulic pressures to operate flying controls and other hydraulically-operated systems. On lowering the undercarriage, Ft Lt Mathur experienced considerable difficulty in maintaining level flight as he was unable to trim out the forces. This situation was further aggravated on lowering of flaps for landing when he was required to use tremendous physical force with both his hands to control the aircraft. In the situation Ft Lt Mathur could either abandon the aircraft or make an effort to land it. Notwithstanding the grave danger in staying with the aircraft he elected to attempt a landing. By displaying exceptional flying skill and courage he was able to land the aircraft successfully. Further damage was averted in spite of the fact that his braking parachute failed to deploy on landing.

In retrieving the aircraft Ft Lt Anil Kumar Mathur displayed extraordinary professional competence and sense of sacrifice in the best traditions of the Air Force. For the act of gallantry, he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



EC 55123
Captain
Mathur, Dinesh Prasad
Brigade of Guards
Kirti Chakra

Capt Dinesh Prasad Mathur, son of Justice GP Mathur of Allahabad High Court was born on 26 July 1942 at Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned in the Brigade of Guards on 2 Feb 1964.

In 1968, the Guards were deployed in Mizo Hills on Counter Insurgency Operation against Mizo hostiles. On 10 July 1968, information was received that an armed gang of hostiles was present in a village in Mizo Hills. Capt Mathur was immediately detailed to proceed with a column of two platoons to investigate the matter. After marching the whole night in extremely inclement weather, the party reached the village on the next morning and began search operation.

The hostiles, who were hiding in the village immediately opened fire on the party. Capt Mathur ordered one platoon to advance from the left while he himself led another platoon to launch a frontal attack on the hostiles. In this attack three hostiles were killed. But their base had not yet been completely destroyed as they continued to fire from their position. Capt Mathur then rallied his men and charged the hostiles position. This bold action unnerved the hostiles and they fled leaving behind a large quantity of arms, ammunition and equipment.

In this action Capt Dinesh Prasad Mathur, displayed conspicuous gallantry and leadership, for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



3757
Village Guard
Shri Mayang, Imti
Kirti Chakra

Shri Imti Mayang was enrolled as village guard.

On the night of 7/8 October 1960, about 100 hostiles, armed with Light Machine Guns, Sten guns, grenades and rifles made a surprise attack on a village guard post at Mubongchukit from three directions. The few village guards present in the village immediately took position and returned the fire. But due to the overwhelming number of the hostiles and their three pronged attack the situation soon became critical and the hostiles asked the guards to surrender.

At this critical juncture Shri Imti Mayang, who had only a few months' service as a village guard, displayed exceptional courage and determination. He refused to surrender and challenged the hostiles to come inside the camp perimeter. When they attempted to do so, the guards drove them back with fire. Meanwhile, Shri Imti Mayang, displaying great presence of mind, organised safe evacuation of women and children near the camp perimeter. At this stage the hostiles made a second attempt to overrun the camp and set fire to the 'Bashas' (dwelling huts). The fire was effectively contained by Shri Mayang. He also encouraged the other village guards to face the situation with courage, until the reinforcements arrived.

The presence of mind, leadership and courage displayed by Shri Imti Mayang saved the village guard post, as also many valuable lives. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



4102
Flight Lieutenant
Mehta, Raj Kumar
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Flt Lt Raj Kumar Mehta, was commissioned in the Indian Air Force.

On 9 November 1960, Flt Lt Mehta was detailed to fly a Gnat aircraft to New Delhi. While coming in to land at the Palam airfield the engine of the craft flamed out due to a bird entering the intake. Though the engine had flamed out at a low height, he did not abandon the aircraft but proceeded to attempt a landing, fully aware that in this effort he could be killed. He was not, however, able to make a safe landing and died instantaneously as a result of belated ejection.

Flt Lt Raj Kumar Mehta was an experienced Gnat Pilot. He faced the emergency with remarkable calmness and courage and sacrificed his life in an attempt to save the valuable aircraft. His selfless act, devotion to duty and courage were in the highest traditions of the Indian Air Force. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



SS-14587
Captain
Mehta Singh
Sikh Light Infantry
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Capt Mehta Singh was given commission in the Army

In June 1956, the Company of Capt Mehta Singh was deployed in Counter Insurgency Operations in Naga Hills. On 19 June 1956 while busy in restoring law and order he was asked to relieve the police post at Khonoma which was under constant fire of the hostiles and was left low stocks of arms and rations. Overcoming all the oppositions he successfully fought his way to Khonoma and linked up with the police post.

The hostiles who were well entrenched, reacted and started intense firing from 2 Light Machine Guns, 5 or 6 Sten guns and about 70 rifles. Capt Singh led a two-platoon assault on the hostile position and killed 13 of them but the position could not be cleared because of strong bunkers. Meanwhile hostile strength increased considerably. This enabled them to tighten the siege and cut off the water supply of the garrison. Capt Mehta Singh had to hold his own position and also protect 300 loyal Nagas. He was also holding casualties which could not be evacuated. As the company had only three days' supply he had to put his men on restricted rations.

The hostiles taking advantage of the situation unleashed heavy firing at the post. Throughout this siege Capt Mehta Singh remained a pillar of strength for his troops. Unmindful of his safety, he went round to foil any hostile attempt to infiltrate into the post. By his courage and leadership he inspired his men to withstand privations and put up a stubborn resistance. When the relief arrived on 5 July the morale of the troops was found very high, despite the fact that towards the end of the siege they went without food and water.

Weakend by lack of food, water and sleep Capt Mehta Singh led his men to clear known hostile hide-outs. He had cleared the last hide-out before sniper fire severely wounded him.

Capt Mehta Singh set a fine example of leadership, bravery and determination in keeping with the highest traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



2994
Squadron Leader
Menon, NB
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra

Sqn Ldr Nedyam Bhaskar Menon, son of Shri KMR Menon, was born on 19 October 1925 in Singapore. He was commissioned in Indian Air Force on 4 April 1944.

Indian Army units took part in restoring law and order in Naga Hills. One of these units deployed in the area was 3 Sikh Light Infantry. These units in emergency, sought help from Indian Air Force Stations nearest to the operational area.

On 19 June 1956, a detachment of 3 Sikh Light Infantry, deployed in "aid to civil power" at Khonoma in the Naga Hills, was completely surrounded by heavily armed hostiles. Their supplies of food and water were also cut off. An emergency request was, therefore, made to the nearest Indian Air Force Station to airdrop water and food. Two attempts made by Indian Air Force planes on 26 and 27 June to air drop the supplies failed due to inclement weather. On 28 June, Sqn Ldr Menon, the Detachment Commander, personally took up a Dakota with the requisite supplies in spite of bad weather and continuous heavy automatic fire on the aircraft. The dropping zone was also very narrow, being 36 metres by 14 metres. Despite these hurdles Sqn Ldr Menon with extraordinary courage, skill and in utter disregard for his personal safety, successfully dropped food and water to the garrison. His daring feat saved the garrison and enabled it to hold on till relief came. He repeated this performance, under similar hazardous condition, on 1 July 1956.

This performance of Sqn Ldr Nedyam Bhaskar Menon was in keeping with the best traditions of the Indian Air Force. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



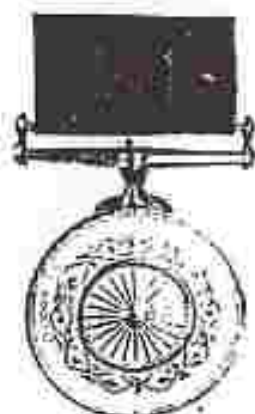
2557604
Company Havildar Major
Micheal, Susai Pillai
6 Madras
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Coy Hav Maj Susai Pillai Micheal, son of Shri Susai Swaminathan, was born on 16 November 1946 in Trinuvaram, Tamilnadu. He was enrolled in 6 Madras on 28 Feb 1961.

In 1975, 6 Madras conducted operations against hostiles in Naga Hills. When it was learnt that a large gang of hostiles was camping in the Western Angami area, it was decided to detail 2 Coy of the battalion to lead the hide-out. On 19 June 1975, a reconnaissance party, with an escort of two sections under the command of Coy Hav Maj Micheal was sent to recon the route to the hide-out.

As the recon party advanced through a beaten track along the rocky ledge, the hostiles suddenly opened a fire and killed the leading scout. Realising that the hostiles would now take away the weapon of his dead comrade, Coy Hav Maj Micheal moved ahead and engaged the hostiles with his carbine. Though the track was extremely narrow and provided no cover, he faced the hostiles fire with courage. He even lobbed a hand grenade at them. This prevented the hostile taking away the weapon of his dead comrade. Fighting without any cover he was exposed to hostiles and was hit in the leg and chest. But despite the injury he continued firing. He killed 2 hostiles and injured one. He was again hit on the head and chest by a Light Machine Gun burst and died on the spot. The brave Coy Hav Maj not only prevented the loss of weapon but also inflicted severe casualties on the hostiles. This led to the disintegration of hostiles camp.

In this action Coy Hav Maj Susai Pillai Micheal displayed exemplary courage, determination and devotion to the duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



11287
**Wing Commander
Minhas, Daljit Singh**
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Wg Cdr Daljit Singh Minhas, son of Shri Dhanna Singh Minhas, was born on 30 October 1946, at Jalandhar City, Punjab. He was granted commission in the flying branch of Indian Air Force on 31 December 1967.

Wg Cdr Minhas was on the posted strength of Operational Conversion Unit since 11 August 1966, as a staff Pilot. However, he also performed the duties of Chief Flying Instructor as and when required. With earnest hard work he always set a fine example before young officers, and this helped his unit to complete the pilots' courses ahead of schedule. His supervisory skill and flight safety consciousness also achieved for this unit an accident free record for 1966-67 and 1967-68.

On 4 April 1968, Wg Cdr Minhas was flying Hunter Mk 56 aircraft. On the final approach for landing, the aircraft flamed out without warning at the very low and critical height of 60 metres (approximately). He realised that an immediate ejection was necessary to avail of the chance of survival. But as a dedicated officer he also realised and if he were to do so his aircraft would in all probability crash into village Asnabani, which would result in heavy casualties. The brave officer chose to stay with aircraft for few seconds longer so as to ensure the safety of the village. By the time he ejected it was too late. The aircraft was already too low to provide for any chance of survival.

In this situation the pilot would have been fully justified in ejecting from the aircraft to save his life. But his deliberate decision to stay with the crippled aircraft and sacrifice his own life to save others is a sure evidence of his matchless bravery, far beyond the call of duty. The supreme sacrifice made by him in a situation of extreme crisis will for ever remain an example for others to emulate.

Wg Cdr Daljit Singh Minhas made the supreme sacrifice in the finest traditions of the Air Force and was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Misra, Haran Chandra Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Haran Chandra Misra, son of Shri Ananda Charan Misra was born in 1934 at Tipperah, West Bengal. His family later settled in Krishna Nagar, district Nadia, West Bengal. He joined service in SS "Indian Success" on 10 February 1954.

On 31 December 1960 a violent explosion occurred in the cargo-hold of SS "Indian Navigator" of the Indian Steamship Company Ltd, while on a voyage from Britain to India. This caused extensive damage to the ship and compelled the Master and the crew of the ship to abandon it. However the crew had sent an S.O.S to the Agent of the Company in London before leaving the ship. The Agent on his part directed SS "Indian Success" another vessel of the Company, which was in the vicinity in North Atlantic to investigate and report on the condition of the abandoned ship. The sea was very choppy and extremely rough and the surrounding temperature much below the freezing point.

The ship SS "Indian Success" reached the scene of accident at 0245 hours, on 1 January 1961. The Master of the ship formed a volunteer party from amongst his crew, which included Shri Misra, and sent it to the abandoned ship in motor boat under heavy weather conditions. The attempt of the party to board the burning ship was unsuccessful and it returned back. The party made its second attempt on 2 January 1961, but this time it went without the motor boat as it had gone out of order. The men with the help of two oars rowed through the rough sea and eventually succeeded in boarding the burning ship and rehoisting the Indian flag on it at 1145 hours. It is remarkable that the party boarded the ship with the help of a rope ladder.

In spite of the fact that the ship was heeling badly, the party remained on board throughout the day making preparations for towing it to the safety to the nearest French port. Meanwhile, the weather deteriorated further with frequent rain and the sea roughened. As the motor boat which had brought the volunteers to the ship was no longer serviceable, they were directed to stay on board and be ready for towing operation the next morning. Unfortunately, during the night ship wrecked by fire, explosions and the rough sea, broke suddenly and sank with the brave volunteers aboard.

Shri Haran Chandra Misra and his companions gave their lives in trying to save a wrecked ship. He displayed great courage and a high sense of duty in the face of a grave danger. He was honoured with the award of Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC-4285
Second Lieutenant
Mohapatra, Pradipta Narayan
5 Sikh Light Infantry
Kirti Chakra

2/Lt Pradipta Narayan Mohapatra son of Shri Abani Kanta Mohapatra was born on 7 August 1962 in Cuttack, Orissa. He was commissioned in 5 Sikh Light Infantry on 8 June 1985.

Soon after Independence Pakistan engineered the invasion of Jammu & Kashmir in October 1947 to grab the state by force. Initially it made some gains. But Indian Armed Forces recovered substantial portion of the state territory, including the Siachen Glacier. Pakistan could never reconcile to the loss of strategically important glacier and made repeated attempts to wrest it from Indian hands.

In the entire Siachen Glacier, Pakistan considered Bita Fond La Pass as strategically most important. It naturally made repeated attempts to gain possession of this pass or to secure dominance over it. In this effort, the enemy taking advantage of the poor visibility caused by bad weather condition managed to occupy a feature at an altitude of 5700 metres (approx) during the month of March 1986. This feature overlooked the Indian posts and due to its dominance over the area the enemy could bring down accurate Machine Gun and artillery fire from fortified bunkers rendering the defence of Bita Fond La difficult for Indians.

On the night of 10 May 1986, 2/Lt Mohapatra was entrusted with the most difficult task of evicting the enemy from this post. He volunteered to carry out this herculean task in the face of heavy odds, with practically no knowledge of mountaineering with an assault group. Though the task involved moving under the nose of the enemy yet the gallant officer crawled over an ice wall with cool courage using one rope to support him. If the enemy had observed this attempt to move up perhaps not even one in the patrol would have returned alive. Under the dynamic leadership of 2/Lt Mohapatra the assault group soon reached the summit behind the enemy post. Taking the enemy by surprise, he attacked the position with his assault group of eleven brave men, lobbing grenades and firing while on the move. The ferocity of the attack forced the enemy to flee in panic, leaving behind two Medium Machine Guns, a Submachine Gun, an automatic rifle, a rocket launcher and stocks of ammunition.

In this daring feat of evicting the enemy from an impregnable position at great peril to his life, 2/Lt Pradipta Narayan Mohapatra displayed conspicuous gallantry, courage and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



4435208
Sepoy
Mohinder Singh
3 Sikh Light Infantry
Kirti Chakra

Sep Mohinder Singh, son of Shri Rulla Singh was born on 11 June 1935, in village Reharipur, district Kapurthala, Punjab. He was enrolled in the 3 Sikh Light Infantry on 21 June 1953. He retired from the military service as Naib Subedar on 1 July 1977.

When the civil power could not contain the violent activities of Naga hostiles in early fifties the army help was sought. The army deployed some units including the 3 Sikh Light Infantry to assist the civil administration in Naga Hills.

On 21 June 1956, Sep Mohinder Singh was Light Machine Gunner No. 2 with the leading section of the forward platoon of the battalion, when it was ordered to clear Jotsoma of the hostiles. On the outskirts of the village, his section was pinned down by automatic rifle fire from the hostiles and consequently his No. 1 was severely wounded. In this critical situation, he engaged the hostiles from an exposed position and killed two, who charged him from a bunker. He was subjected to close fire and in the process his thumb was shattered. But, unmindful of his injury he kept on charging the hostiles. One hostile who managed to come close to him by taking cover of a stone wall was engaged by him in a hand to hand fight. Despite agonizing thumb injury he held on grimly and finally managed to kill the hostile with his bayonet. Two more hostiles who charged at him were also killed at point-blank range. He thus saved his No. 1 from falling into the hostile hand.

In this action Sep Mohinder Singh exhibited grit, presence of mind and conspicuous bravery. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



8013933
Pioneer
Mool Singh
Pioneer Corps
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Pnr Mool Singh, son of Shri Nathu Singh was born on 8 May 1938, in village Bhinwas, district Jaipur, Rajasthan. He was enrolled in the Pioneer Corps on 7 May, 1957.

On 5 October 1958, Pnr Mool Singh was on sentry duty, when all men of a detachment which was detailed in an exercise, were asleep in the camp. It was raining heavily and the night was pitch dark.

Pnr Mool Singh heard the noise of something rolling down towards the camp. Knowing that it was a land-slide, he at once raised an alarm to awake the other members of the detachment in a bid to save his sleeping companions. He disregarded his personal safety and started pulling them out of their beds physically. He continued to render help till he was himself buried under the land-slide. In this calamity, twenty-six pioneers perished and twenty-eight were injured. Of those who escaped death, eight were pulled out by Pnr Mool Singh himself and eighteen ran to safety on being awakened by him.

In this action Pnr Mool Singh displayed conspicuous gallantry and initiative and was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



18161
Naik
Mukhtiar Singh
4 Jammu and Kashmir Infantry
Kirti Chakra

Nk Mukhtiar Singh, son of Shri Sarban Singh was born on 3 December 1928, in Gurah Salathian, Jammu and Kashmir. He was enrolled in 4 Jammu and Kashmir State Force on 3 December, 1947.

During March 1956, 4 Jammu and Kashmir Infantry was deployed on the Indo-Pak border near Ferozepur. It was occupying position on the Bela at Hussainiwala Headworks. Nk Mukhtiar Singh was commanding a section of the unit there.

The position was attacked by the Pak troops on 18/19 March, night and an enemy platoon secured a foothold on the Bela from the left flank. The platoon commander then asked Nk Mukhtiar Singh to take his section to the threatened flank to stem the enemy advance. The Naik personally led his section through heavy automatic fire. He shot two attackers, captured three rifles, led his section upto the right Gulde Bund thus secured his objective.

While his section was busy on the Bund a hand grenade landed near him endangering the security of his men. In order to save his section, he lifted the grenade with his left hand to throw it back on the attackers. But in the meantime the grenade exploded and his left elbow was blown off. Despite serious wound he refused evacuation and continued to exhort his men to fight on.

In this operation Nk Mukhtiar Singh set a high example of leadership and courage. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



Shri Mukaddam, Abdul Razakali Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Abdul Razakali Mukaddam was enrolled in SS "Indian Success".

On 31 December 1960, a violent explosion occurred in the cargo-hold of SS "Indian Navigator" of the Indian Steamship Company Ltd, while on a voyage from Britain to India. This caused extensive damage to its superstructure and forced the Master and the crew of the ship to abandon it. Meanwhile, the crew had sent an S.O.S. to the Agent of the Company in London. The Agent on his part directed SS "Indian Success", another vessel of the Company, which was in the vicinity in North Atlantic, to investigate and report on the condition of the abandoned ship. The sea was very choppy and extremely rough and the temperature in the area was much below the freezing point.

SS "Indian Success" reached the scene of the accident at 0245 hours, on 1 January 1961. A volunteer party formed from amongst the crew by the Master was sent to the abandoned ship in a motor boat in heavy weather conditions, but it could not board the burning ship and returned. Another attempt was made on 2 January without the motor boat which had gone out of order. The men with the help of two oars rowed through the rough sea and eventually succeeded in boarding the burning ship and rehoisting the Indian flag on it at 1145 hours. Shri Mukaddam took an active part in this operation and boarded the burning ship along with his colleagues with the help of a rope ladder.

In spite of the fact that the ship was reeling badly, the party remained on board throughout the day making preparations for towing it to the nearest French port. Meanwhile, the weather deteriorated owing to frequent rain squalls. The waves continued mounting. As the motor boat which had brought the volunteers to the ship was no longer serviceable, they were directed to stay on board and be ready for towing operation the next morning. Unfortunately, the ship, wrecked by fire explosions and the rough sea, broke up and sank with the brave volunteers aboard during the night.

Shri Abdul Razakali Mukaddam and his companions gave their lives in trying to save a wrecked ship. He displayed great courage and high sense of duty in the face of a grave danger. He was honoured with the award of Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



8753
Squadron Leader
Nagarajan, Viswanathan
IAF
Kirti Chakra

Sqn Ldr Viswanathan Nagarajan, son of Shri PS Viswanathan Iyer, I C S was born on 8 July 1940 at Madras. He was commissioned in Indian Air Force in flying branch on 1 August 1964. He was a competent officer.

On 8 July 1982, at about 1100 hrs, Sqn Ldr Nagarajan was on a flying mission from Madras to Cochin in Dakota aircraft. suddenly, he experienced vibration on the star-board engine of his aircraft. Knowing that the aircraft could not be taken to Cochin with a malfunctioning engine, he decided to divert it to Bangalore airfield. However, the vibrations on the engine kept on increasing and the aircraft started losing height, despite full power on the other engine. He, therefore, feathered the engine and ejected the pay load to reduce the weight of the aircraft. But despite these measures the propeller did not feather and the aircraft kept on losing height very fast. Now realising the gravity of the situation and knowing that it would not be possible to fly on to Bangalore or any other airfield in this situation, he decided to force land the aircraft in a lake-bed, which was the only clear space, within reach in a generally mountainous terrain, under cloudy weather condition. The decision involved immense responsibility as the safety of four crew members one SNCO and five airmen, besides himself was at stake. Also involved was the possible loss of the life and property on the ground. With time running out fast Sqn Ldr Nagarajan skilfully manoeuvred the aircraft and successfully force landed on the lake-bed in about three feet of the water.

For this exemplary act of bravery and devotion to duty in the best traditions of the Indian Air Force Sqn Ldr Viswanathan Nagarajan was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-31011
Captain
Naik, Vinod Kumar
Garhwal Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Capt Vinod Kumar Naik was commissioned in the Indian Army.

The terrorist activity in Punjab had assumed serious proportions by the end of 1983. Acquisition of sophisticated arms and ammunition from the countries hostile to India further emboldened them and they became a law unto themselves. By the middle of 1984 situation became unbearable. To curb their anti-national and criminal activities the Government of India decided to flush them out from their hidings in temples and other places. Capt Naik commanded a platoon of Garhwal Rifle in this operation.

On the night of 5 June 1984, Capt Naik was assigned the task of capturing a portion of a complex strongly held by the terrorists. To reach the objective he tried to blast an entry gate with the help of RCL gun but due to the bursting of a phosphorous bomb lobbed by the terrorists the jeep caught fire, and the attempt failed. Capt Naik then shifted the point of attack to another gate, where his platoon again came under effective small arms fire. But this did not frighten him and he made a determined effort to push through the gate. Finally, after making a hole in the gate he personally led his men through the narrow gap to the complex in the face of heavy fire from the terrorists. Unmindful of the danger to his life, Capt Naik led his men from room to room in the building to clear the terrorists. The exemplary courage, valour and leadership displayed by him in this dangerous operation enabled his unit to attain the objective.

For cool courage, inspiring leadership and devotion to duty Captain Vinod Kumar Naik was decorated with Kirti Chakra.



IC-25070
Major
Nair, Neelakantan Jayachandran
16 MLI
Kirti Chakra

Maj Neelakantan Jayachandran Nair, son of Shri R Neelakantan Nair was born on 17 February 1951, in Emakulam, Kerala. He was commissioned in 16 Maratha Light Infantry on 13 June 1971.

16 Maratha Light Infantry was deployed in Mizoram for operations against the hostiles. In early February 1983, when Maj Nair was commanding a rifle cpy in Mamit area, information was received about the movement of the hostiles. Consequently on 8 February, two patrols, one led by Maj Nair through the river and the other on foot on the eastern side of river Pakwa left Mamit. After a gruelling march of 25 kilometres over inhospitable terrain, Maj Nair's patrol reached the river line on 11 February and then proceeded by boat, dressed as local boatmen.

On 13 February 1983 the patrol halted at a predetermined point on the river line and lay in wait. Soon after, two hostiles surfaced and were tricked into believing that patrol men were local boatmen. The patrol leader remained very cool, calm and collected and approached one insurgent, who was armed with a rifle. On realising that they have been trapped, the hostiles aimed their weapons at Maj Nair. One of them shot him at point blank range and the bullet pierced his thighs. Maj Nair in return shot dead one insurgent and then turned to deal with the other. The second hostile jumped into the river to save his life. Despite grave injury Major Nair jumped into the river to chase the underground, who was trying to escape. He continued to guide the patrol till he was evacuated by air to Silchar the next day.

In this action Major Neelakantan Jayachandran Nair exhibited conspicuous gallantry and courage unmindful of his personal safety. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



G/39769/N
DME
Shri Naresh Kumar
BRDB
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Naresh Kumar, son of Shri RP Sharma was born on 7 July 1944 in Banda, Uttar Pradesh. He was recruited in the Border Road Development Board on 1 November 1962 in 351 Road Maintenance Platoon. He was working as driver mechanical equipment.

In March 1987 after continuous snowfall for 3 days the Khardungla Pass located at the height of 5450 metres was covered with snow. This blocked the vital road passing through the Pass completely. Shri Naresh Kumar was asked to undertake the work of snow clearance between 38 to 39.5 kilometres in Glacier Bridge area, which is the highest in the world. On that day i.e. 21 March 1987, the weather was cloudy and it was snowing continuously.

Despite inclement weather and sub zero temperature, Shri Naresh Kumar worked with courage and determination to clear the road so that employees deployed on the other side of Khardungla Pass could get the logistic support. Due to continuous snowfall and snowstorms, the labourers working with him abandoned the site. However, Shri Naresh Kumar, disregarding his personal safety continued to clear the snow with his machine. He died while engaged in work.

Shri Naresh Kumar displayed exemplary determination and devotion to work in very difficult circumstances. He was awarded Kirti Chakra posthumously.



IC-6729
Colonel
Narinder Kumar
3 Kumaon
PVSM, AVSM, Kirti Chakra

Col Narinder Kumar, son of Pandit Ram Rakha Mal was born on 8 December 1933 in Rawalpindi. He was commissioned on 6 June 1954 in 3 Kumaon. He was awarded PVSM & AVSM.

Indian Army organises periodical mountaineering expeditions to the unscalped Himalayan peaks with a view to encourage the spirit of adventure in army personnel. One such expedition was organised in the spring of 1981 in Siachen Glacier, the world's longest non-polar glacier in the centre of the Himalayas and eastern Karakoram. The snout of Siachen is about 40 kilometres from Sersoma, up the Nubra Valley. Another 80 kilometres of treacherous traverse up the Glacier is its source, the Indira Col, which is on the watershed between Central Asia and the Indian sub-continent. The Army's Karakoram expedition comprising 150 personnel, led by Col Narinder Kumar, lasted from 28 May 1981 to 18 August 1981.

Negotiating the rugged and forbidding icy terrain, the Ski team reached Indira Col and reconnoitred all the passes in the Siachen basin. Sia Kangri was one of the first peaks scaled by the team. The last 212 metres to the peak rose in the form of steep icy cliff and the first assault on it failed. Displaying glacial coolness and undaunted spirit and unmindful of the risk to his life, Col Narinder Kumar single handedly negotiated the sheer face of the ice of 30 metres stretch and threw down the rope for the team to come up. This act of exemplary leadership resulted in successful ascent to the peak.

After the ascent of Indira Col on 2 July 1981 a team member suffered from high altitude sickness at a height of 5763 metres. Medical aid was available 20 kilometres away. Braving a gale, innumerable crevasses and precariously thin snow bridge, Col Narinder Kumar personally evacuated the sick by sledge and saved his life.

In the ascent of Saltora Kangri 7700 metres (approx), Col Narinder Kumar displayed exemplary team spirit and leadership in professional mountaineering. After two abortive attempts at the summit, the party was badly affected by high altitude sickness. But Col Narinder Kumar refused to surrender and finally succeeded in conquering the peak on 2 August 1981.

During this expedition Col Narinder Kumar displayed conspicuous bravery, exemplary leadership and exceptional courage for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IO-26170
Subedar
Nasib Singh
3 Sikh Light Infantry
Kirti Chakra

Sub Nasib Singh, son of Shri Bhattan Singh, was born on 10 November 1923, in village Daulatpur, district Jalandhar, Punjab. He was enrolled in 3 Sikh Light Infantry on 26 September 1942, as havildar. He was granted commission in 4 Sikh Light Infantry on 8 February 1953. He retired as Captain on 1 December 1976.

In 1966, 3 Sikh Light Infantry was deployed in Nagaland to contain the rising insurgency. During these Counter Insurgency Operations, on 23 May 1966, Sub Nasib Singh led a platoon on to a hostile hide-out of Sihama ridge along a very steep gradient. 460 Metres short of the village, the advance lay along a narrow path surrounded by dense jungles. Here the leading section was fired upon heavily by Sten guns and rifles, as a result of which two persons including the Section Commander were wounded. The section was thus pinned down. Sub Nasib Singh then decided to lead the attack from a flank, hacking his way through the jungle. But the hostiles fired at him from 20 metres and severely wounded him in the leg. However, unmindful of his injury, he charged the hostile position with his Sten gun. In the process he killed one hostile and wounded another. He finally cleared the position throwing a grenade and injuring yet another hostile. The courageous action of the Subedar heartened his platoon and it went about clearing the village from where the hostiles were still sniping.

In this operation Sub Nasib Singh set a fine example of gallantry and courage. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Nathan Singh Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Nathan Singh, son of Shri Ramlal Yadav, was a resident of village Raighat, district Guna, Madhya Pradesh.

On the night of 29 April 1977, ten dacoits armed with lathis, scythes and a 12 bore gun, broke into the house of Badam Singh of Baighal village. They started beating the inmates and looting the property. Shri Nathan Singh, a neighbour of Badam Singh, who heard the cries of inmates and the sound of gun fire, picked up his lathi and rushed towards the house. On the way, he told Daleep Singh about the dacoity and asked him to follow.

No sooner than he reached the house of Badam Singh, the dacoit Bhaboot Singh fired at him with his gun, but missed the target. Shri Nathan Singh smartly hit Bhaboot Singh with his lathi and subsequently the dacoit could not use his weapon again. By now Daleep Singh had also reached the spot. He wielded a lathi on a dacoit who had come to the rescue of Bhaboot Singh. Sensing danger, the dacoits fled. But Shri Nathan Singh would not allow them to escape so easily. He started chasing them and after covering some distance, dacoit Bhaboot Singh fell down. Shri Nathan Singh grappled with him. During the scuffle between them the dacoit got a chance to aim his gun at Shri Nathan Singh. The shot proved fatal. Bhaboot Singh, who received sever injuries also collapsed on the spot.

In this action, Shri Nathan Singh displayed conspicuous courage and bravery. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, Posthumously.

Shri Natthe Kirti Chakra



Shri Natthe belonged to village Manpura, district Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.

On the night of 20 September 1969, two notorious dacoits, called Bakar and Ratna Ahir, armed with an axe and a gun, came to the house of Daya Ram Lodhi of village Manpura district Sagar. It was already night but the villagers were still chit-chatting in the verandah of Daya Ram. The dacoits had come to extract money from Daya Ram. Bakar demanded Rs. 10,000/- as price for his life. Daya Ram agreed to pay the amount but requested for some time to arrange it. The villagers who were sitting in his verandah also pleaded with Bakar to allow him time to arrange for the money. Bakar refused to listen to their pleadings and taking the gun from Ratna threatened to shoot Daya Ram Lodhi. At this critical moment Kaloo, of village Bamori, district Sagar, who was present there suddenly jumped and snatched the gun from Bakar. But he was overpowered by Ratna, the other dacoit.

Bakar then assaulted Daya Ram Lodhi with an axe but his attempt was foiled by Shri Natthe. He caught hold of the axe from behind and hit Bakar on the shoulder and neck, as a result of which he died. Ratna was also overpowered by Kaloo with the help of other villagers.

In this action, Shri Natthe displayed exceptional gallantry for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-30005
Major
Nauriyal, Anurag
Gorkha Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Maj Anurag Nauriyal, son of Dr JP Nauriyal was born on 5 July 1954, in district Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned in the Indian Army on 23 December 1973.

In October 1990 Army was deployed in Punjab for containing the terrorist menace. On 23 October, during Operation Rakshak, Brigade Maj Anurag Nauriyal, accompanied Commander of Brigade for an official conference at Patti. After the conference both of them along with the Commanding Officer of 14 Bihar went to visit some terrorist infested areas. While on the way, they received a radio message that a contact had been made with the terrorists near a farm house, north-west of village Bhura Karimpur and that a section of armed forces had been despatched under Subedar Prasad to apprehend a terrorist who had escaped towards village Sankhatra.

The three officers immediately rushed to Sankhatra. After a quick briefing, the section of Sub Prasad and the two escort parties decided on a plan to tackle the terrorist. Maj Nauriyal led one of the escort groups to the farm house. He positioned himself left of Col Deswal, thereby, trapping the terrorist. Sub Prasad advanced toward the terrorist and in the exchange of fire, received a burst in his thigh. Maj Nauriyal realised that the terrorist must be killed to save the Junior Commissioned Officer, he therefore, alongwith Hav Manoj Kumar led a full blooded charge on the terrorist. In the exchange of fire, Maj Nauriyal was hit on the left arm but despite injury he kept on firing at the terrorist. The later realising that his rifle magazine had been hit pulled out his pistol. But before he could use it, Maj Nauriyal killed him with a burst of carbine. The brave Major, however, succumbed to injuries during evacuation to Advance Dressing Station Harke.

Maj Anurag Nauriyal displayed conspicuous gallantry and made supreme sacrifice in the best tradition of the Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



4038040
Rifleman
Negi, Bir Singh
4 Garhwal Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Rfn Bir Singh Negi, son of Shri Jagat Singh Negi was born on 15 January 1941 at village Pidi, district Chamoli, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 4 Garhwal Rifles on 15 January 1960.

In early sixties 4 Garhwal Rifles was deployed in Naga Hills to conduct operations against Naga hostiles. On 13 Jan 1962, when his platoon suddenly fell prey to an ambush laid by the hostiles, he was the gunner with the leading section. The hostiles opened heavy fire on his section, killed the Section Commander and wounded a soldier. Two forward scouts of the section got trapped between the hostiles firing trenches. Rfn Negi was also hit by a LMG burst and started bleeding profusely.

At this juncture in complete disregard of his personal safety, Rfn Negi crawled forward and neutralised the hostile fire. With accurate and sustained fire he single handedly thwarted the repeated attempts of the hostiles to capture arms and ammunition of the dead and wounded. Finally his platoon launched a bayonet charge to clear the hostiles. While making the charge he fell unconscious due to loss of blood.

The presence of mind, courage and leadership displayed by Rfn Bir Singh Negi prevented the hostiles from achieving their objective. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



4035616
Rifleman
Negi, Madho Singh
8 Garhwal Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Rfn Madho Singh Negi, son of Shri Narain Singh Negi was born on 1 July 1936 in village Pokhrdhar, district Pauri Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 8 Garhwal Rifles on 1 December 1954.

In 1957, 8 Garhwal Rifles was deployed in Naga Hills to contain the activities of Naga hostiles, who were operating from well defended hide-outs. On 12 August 1957, a patrol comprising 25 men went out to locate a hide-out. They saw three hostiles armed with rifles, running out to their 'Khati' huts. The leading section of the patrol was ordered to pursue them while the patrol commander searched the huts with another section.

The leading section while in close pursuit of the three hostiles, was suddenly attacked by 60 hostiles with automatics and rifles from well dug-in camouflaged position on all sides. When the rear section rallied to support the leading section, it received a concentrated volley of rifle fire from its left flank. It severely wounded the section commander and the Bren gunner. Consequently the rear section was immobilised and there was danger of its being annihilated.

At this juncture Rfn Negi along with two other riflemen volunteered to attack an enemy LMG group which had held up the section. With determination and courage he led his party through thick scrub down a deep gorge and up an equally steep climb to within twenty metres of the hostiles Light Machine Gun group. With fixed bayonets, shouting regimental battle cry, the three riflemen made a furious attack on the enemy position. This sudden charge so unnerved the hostiles that they started withdrawing. At this juncture, a burst from the cleverly concealed hostile position mortally wounded Rfn Negi in the chest. Despite the severe wound, he kept on encouraging his comrade to continue the attack until the remainder of the patrol joined them. The hostiles, numbering about 100, were finally routed.

Rfn Madho Singh Negi set a fine example of leadership, courage and devotion to duty for his comrades in the Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



**Senior Commissioned Gunner
Noel Kelman
Indian Navy
Kirti Chakra**

Senior Commissioned Gunner Noel Kelman, son of Shri Lionel Kelman was born on 10 June 1927 at Kolar Gold Fields, Kamataka. He was commissioned in Indian Navy on 25 September 1952.

Operation Vijay was launched by Indian Armed Forces in December 1961 to liquidate the Portuguese hold on Indian territories of Goa, Daman and Diu. One of the tasks assigned to the Indian Navy in this operation was the liberation of the Anjdiv Island. The task was to be carried out by a Naval Landing Party consisting of volunteers from INS Venduruthy. Senior Commissioned Gunner Noel Kelman commanded an assault boat during the assault on the Island.

From the outset, the landing suffered from several disadvantages. Naval personnel were not trained to land on beaches and fight on shore. The landing had to be carried out from the ship's boats. Further neutralisation of shore defences by naval bombardment could not be carried out because of the policy to use the minimum force. The Naval party had therefore to land on the Island from open boats without any covering fire.

Senior Commissioned Gunner Noel Kelman (Later Lieutenant) was in command of the second assault boat during the landing on 18 December 1961. When the boat was at some distance from the beach the enemy opened heavy and accurate fire. A number of sailors in the boat were killed and wounded. Kelman was also hit by a bullet which went through his thigh. Despite serious wounds, he displayed exemplary courage and continued moving towards the beach. On touching down he jumped ashore with his men and went ahead to support the first landing party.

Soon after landing on the Island, Kelman was advised to return to INS Trishul for treatment. He, however, made light of his wounds and continued to assist in the conduct of the operations throughout the day. He returned to INS Trishul only after the operations had ended and the National Flag had been hoisted on the Island.

The outstanding leadership and courage displayed by Senior Commissioned Gunner Noel Kelman, in complete disregard of his personal safety, greatly inspired the men under his command and contributed substantially to the victory of the day. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



JC-169170
Subedar
Nopa Ram
Jat Regiment
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sub Nopa Ram, son of Shri Hunda Ram, was born on 24 June, 1951 at village Bhuman Barar district Sikar, Rajasthan. He was enrolled in 18 Jat on 24 June 1968.

In 1990 it was decided to undertake Operation Rakshak to flush out the terrorists from their hide-outs in Punjab. 18 Jat contributed substantially in containing the militant movement in Amritsar area. On 12 February, 1991 when the Quick Reaction Team of the Jats was patrolling along Mari Megha drain near village Mallian of Amritsar, it spotted a man suspiciously moving away from a farm house at about 1100 hours. As the area was reported to be infested with the terrorists, the team commander decided to intercept the suspect. The team was split into three groups, two groups led by an officer each moved on the flanks to cordon the suspect and third group led by Sub Nopa Ram was tasked to chase and capture him. The area was interspersed with sugar-cane fields, eucalyptus trees and under growth due to cultivation. The suspect on seeing the jawans started running, while firing with his AK-47 assault rifle taking the advantage of available cover. Sub Nopa Ram quickly organised his group and commenced the chase. Being a command level cross country runner he caught up with the terrorist and opened fire and wounded him. The terrorist's return fire hit the Subedar. At this stage Sub Nopa Ram found his magazine empty. As there was no time to change the magazine he pounced upon the terrorist and caught hold of the barrel of his AK-47 rifle. Though seriously wounded he grappled with the terrorist who was trying to break away. Hand to hand fight ensued. With total disregard to his bleeding wounds he continued to grapple with the terrorist. In spite of his age he managed to overpower the terrorist who was younger and tougher. Meanwhile Lt Hav Radha Karan came up and shot dead the terrorist. The dead terrorist was identified as Swaran Singh Sona a self styled Area Commander of Khalistan Commando Force.

For displaying conspicuous gallantry, Sub Nopa Ram was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Oleg Atkov Kirti Chakra

The award of Kirti Chakra is not restricted to Indians only. Shri Oleg Atkov of USSR who did commendable work during the Joint Indo-Soviet Space Mission, was chosen for this award in 1984.

Shri Oleg Atkov was born on 9 May 1949 in Khvorostyanka. He did his graduation from Moscow Sechenov Medical Institute and proved himself to be an able researcher in the field of ultrasound methods of diagnosing heart diseases. In 1978 he was awarded the Leninist Komsomol Prize for his invention in this field.

Shri Oleg Atkov was a research Cosmonaut on board 'Salyut-7'. He alongwith other two crew members performed the duties of Resident crew on board 'Salyut-7', for the Indo-Soviet joint space-flight. They were made responsible for setting up all our scientific equipment, carried into space by 'Progress-19' Cargo spacecraft, which had docked on 23 February 1984 with Salyut-7. Beside they also calibrated the equipment for various experiments and made all arrangements to receive the crew of 'Soyuz T-11' in which Indian Cosmonaut, Sqn Ldr Rakesh Sharma was a participant on 4 April 1984.

These cosmonauts assisted the crew of 'Soyuz T-11' in the performance of their scientific tasks and participated in all the telecasts from space. In addition, the crew of 'Soyuz T-11' was assisted in making preparation for their undocking in the 'Soyuz T-10' and facilitated their departure on 11 April 1984 on successful termination of their mission.

Shri Oleg Atkov thus displayed conspicuous courage and daring in the peaceful exploration of outer space in the Joint Indo-Soviet Space Mission. He was awarded Kirti Chakra on 4 April 1984.



IC-17091
Major
Palta, Hitesh Kumar
9 Kumaon
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Maj Hitesh Kumar Palta, son of Shri Dewan Chand Palta was born on 22 September 1944 at Kot Isa Khan. He was commissioned in 9 Kumaon on 15 June 1966.

By May 1984 the terrorist activities had engulfed the whole of Punjab. The terrorist outfits ruled the state and the civil administration remained virtually paralysed. They turned the Golden Temple into a fortress and carried out their notorious activities inside the precincts. Finally the Government of India decided to put a stop to the anti-national activities of the terrorists and with this end an Operation called 'Bluestar' was launched during the first week of June 1984 to flush them out of Golden Temple and the adjoining buildings.

9 Kumaon was one of the units which took part in this operation. 'A' Company of the battalion was commanded by Maj Hitesh Kumar Palta in this action. On the night of 5 June 1984, 'A' Company was given the task of capturing the ground floor of a massive three storeyed building which was heavily fortified and strongly held by the terrorists. As there was no time for detailed reconnaissance, Maj Palta blasted through the gate and quickly eliminated the opposition on the ground floor. This enabled the other companies of the section to go in for the other two floors and the roof. Throughout this operation Maj Palta remained in the forefront inspiring his men to accomplish the task in spite of heavy opposition. He succeeded in capturing a large number of terrorists alongwith their leaders.

On the morning of 7 June 1984, some terrorists managed to sneak back into the building. They killed a sentry and wounded two others. Maj Palta in complete disregard for his safety rushed with a small party to clear the terrorists from a room of the building. In this action, he was hit by a Machine Gun burst of the terrorists and was killed instantaneously.

In this operation Maj Hitesh Kumar Palta displayed conspicuous bravery, resolute determination, tremendous initiative, inspiring leadership and devotion to duty of an exceptionally high order. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Panwar, Rajinder Singh Kirti Chakra

Shri Rajinder Singh Panwar, son of Shri Prem Singh was born on 3 March 1957, in village Mangroor, district Solan, Himachal Pradesh. He was recruited as cash peon in the Bank of Baroda on 20 March 1978. In August 1991, he was promoted to clerical cadre.

In 1985, Shri Panwar was posted at the Kaseuli branch of the Bank of Baroda. On 28 January 1985, at about 1615 hours, two robbers, armed with swords and a revolver entered the bank, cut the telephone line and forced the staff to part with cash amounting to Rs. 1,21,413.02. Then they tried to lock up the bank staff into the cash-room.

At this stage the cash peon Rajinder Singh Panwar pounced upon the robber, who was holding a revolver, and grappled with him. Meanwhile, the other robber hit him with a sword on the head, which injured him grievously. But he continued to fight the robbers with the help of the bank staff till they were overpowered. The robbers were finally handed over to the police.

Shri Rajinder Singh Panwar displayed exemplary courage in foiling the robbery of the bank cash. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



2671202
Naik
Parkash Chand
15 Grenadiers
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Parkash Chand, son of Shri Shiv Ram was born on 15 October 1950 in village Chanana, Jammu. He was enrolled in 15 Grenadiers on 27 March 1979.

During May 1990, 15 Grenadiers was deployed in Jammu and Kashmir for operations against the militants. An ambush party of the battalion led by Nk Parkash Chand was entrusted with the task of intercepting Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front militants who were trying to infiltrate from Pak Occupied Kashmir in the Kupwara Sector.

At 1500 hours, on 19 May 1990, the Naik noticed a party of six armed militants 500 metres away from his position. He quickly led his ambush party to a new position and challenged the militants. The militants brought down heavy fire on the party with Light Machine Guns and automatic rifles. The ambush party gave a befitting reply and the militants soon began to flee back towards Pak Occupied Kashmir. But Nk Parkash Chand, in utter disregard of his personal safety, kept on chasing them even under heavy fire of automatic weapons. He killed one intruder. In the exchange of fire, he sustained a bullet injury in the neck. But he kept on chasing the militants despite serious injury and killed one more militant. After this he fell down unconscious. Later, he succumbed to injury.

Nk Parkash Chand displayed conspicuous courage in his fight with the militants and in the process made the supreme sacrifice. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



2943965
Sepoy
Parmal Singh
17 Rajput
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sep Parmal Singh, son of Shri Ganga Singh was born in village Jaitpur Kalan, Agra, Uttar Pradesh on 27 April 1933. He was enrolled in 17 Rajput on 27 April 1955.

In early fifties insurgency in Nagaland attained dangerous proportion. Indian Army was, therefore, deployed there to contain the insurgency activity. In this connection 17 Rajput was deployed in the Naga Hills district.

During the course of its operation, code named 'OP RAJ' the section of Sep Parmal Singh came up against a strong hostile position in Khonoma on 7 July 1956. The hostiles, estimated to be 40 to 50 in number, opened fire from a close range of 4-5 metres with a Light Machine Gun, a tommy gun and rifles and seriously wounded Sep Bharat Singh. As he lay on the ground close to their position, three hostiles rushed towards him under fire cover to snatch his rifle.

At this juncture Sep Parmal Singh swiftly attacked the hostiles with his bayonet, killing one and wounding two. Then he picked up his fallen comrade and his rifle while retreating towards his position he was trapped in hostile fire from all directions. Consequently, he was seriously wounded. Yet he carried on and was successful in saving the life of his comrade and his rifle. He succumbed to his injuries.

The self-sacrifice and heroism displayed by Sep Parmal Singh was in keeping with the highest traditions of chivalry of the Indian Army. For conspicuous gallantry he was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



13729380
Rifleman
Parshotam Dass
6 JAK Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Rfn Parshotam Dass, son of Shri Duni Chand was born on 13 January 1948 in village Tapa, district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. He was enrolled in 6 Jammu & Kashmir Rifles on 13 January 1966.

Rfn Parshotam Dass a brave soldier, was a member of the fire fighting party of his battalion, stationed in Jammu and Kashmir. On 5 June 1980, fire broke out in the battalion area at Nathuan Tibba. It soon became uncontrollable and threatened the power generator and the diesel barrels storage of the battalion. Rfn Parshotam Dass was deployed to prevent the fire from reaching this highly inflammable area.

The fire fighting party tried to extinguish the fire with fire beaters but, despite their determined efforts, it soon engulfed the area upto a few metres from the generator. Realising the seriousness of the situation, Rfn Parshotam Dass rushed forward and started beating the fire, single handedly, in total disregard to his personal safety. In the process his uniform caught fire, but he continued beating the fire vigorously and prevented it from spreading to the power generator and diesel barrels. In this effort he sustained serious burns to which he succumbed soon after.

In this action, Rfn Parshotam Dass displayed exemplary courage, determination and devotion to duty. He was honoured with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC 34879
Major
Pathania, Mohinder Singh
19 Punjab
Kirti Chakra

Major Mohinder Singh Pathania, son of Shri Saran Singh Pathania was born on 15 February 1951 in village Nagehar, district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. He was commissioned in Punjab Regiment on 17 December 1977.

To foment trouble in the Indian border states of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan has been infiltrating gangs of saboteurs and terrorists into India. Before being sent across the border they were trained and armed with sophisticated weapons. In August 1991 report of infiltration of one such gang in Punjab was received.

On 23 August 1991, Maj Mohinder Singh Pathania, a Company Commander of 19 Punjab, was assigned the task of clearing this anti-national group from Munir Hut, in Kimi area of Poonch Sector. He personally led the advance and was the first to charge into the Hut. Taken by surprise, the anti-nationals fled away from rear side of the Hut. But in the process Maj Pathania was wounded in the forehead. He, however, refused to be evacuated.

While clearing another position, called Jalani Hut, a patrol party consisting of 1 Officer and 15 Other Ranks was pinned down due to artillery shelling and automatic fire by the anti-nationals. Maj Pathania then led a party of 15 Other Ranks to link up with the patrol. He led the attack on the Jalani Hut and after a fierce hand to hand fight, captured the Hut. The anti-nationals then formed up for a counter attack on Jalani Hut but could make no impression on the highly inspired men of Maj Pathania. Yet another attempt by the enemy to regain the lost Hut was beaten back by his highly motivated men.

Major Mohinder Singh Pathania displayed conspicuous bravery, courage and determination throughout this operation. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



1543642
Havildar
Patil, Shivaji Krishna
269 Engineers
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Hav Shivaji Krishna Patil, son of Shri Krishna Dhondu Patil was born on 1 June 1956 in village Tambalwadi, district Kolhapur, Maharashtra. He was enrolled in 269 Engineer Regiment on 27 August 1973.

In 1986, Hav Patil was posted at Kota, Rajasthan. On 25 July 1986 during a flash flood in Kota district the causeway on road Devli-Azadpur was submerged under 1.5 metres of water. A boat of the Army Flood Relief Task Force was commissioned to ferry the civilians from and to Devli. On 29 July, while the boat was carrying three civilians in one such ferry, a fast and tricky current wrecked the boat throwing the civilians into water. Seeing the men drowning, Hav Patil jumped into the water and rescued them. He was, however, caught in a whirlpool and could not save himself from being drowned. He thus laid down his life to save others.

For displaying exemplary courage and devotion to duty, Hav Shivaji Krishna Patil was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Pati Ram Kirti Chakra

Shri Pati Ram was a resident of village Pal Ka Pura, district Morena, Madhya Pradesh.

On 28 August 1971, the police received information that the gang of Motiya Kori, a notorious dacoit was planning a kidnapping in village Jonha, Madhya Pradesh. This was a god-sent opportunity for the police to apprehend the gang. A plan was devised under which a police party was to take position on the ravine side of the village to block their escape route. A small group, consisting of six villagers and some policemen went to the village in the guise of villagers and awaited the arrival of the dacoits. When the dacoits' gang reached the outskirts of the village at about 1900 hrs the group of policemen and villagers met them to negotiate. When the negotiations were in progress the dacoits started sensing some danger and decided to leave. At this juncture the group pounced upon them, and a hand-to-hand fight followed.

While the members of group were trying to apprehend the dacoits, the gang leader Motiya Kori took up position of fire with his Sten-gun. Shri Pati Ram sensing the danger, pounced upon him in utter disregard to his personal safety. A scuffle ensued and the dacoit leader was shot dead. One more dacoit was shot dead in this encounter.

Shri Pati Ram was awarded Kirti Chakra for displaying exceptional courage and bravery in this action.



G-4467-H
Chargeman
Shri Patnaik, Golak Behari
GRAF
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Golak Behari Patnaik, son of Shri Lokanath Patnaik was born on 1 July 1932 in village Mahulpal, district Dhenkanal (Orissa). He was enrolled in 157 FC Platoon (GRAF) Border Road Organisation on 3 December 1960.

The Border Road Organisation was set up in early sixties for the construction and maintenance of roads in difficult mountainous border areas. Shri Patnaik was a Chargeman with this organisation.

On 17 May 1988, while supervising the work on road Basoli-Bani-Bhaderwah, Chargeman Patnaik of 157 Formation Cutting Platoon, BRO, observed that a dozer was located at a dangerous position. Displaying alertness of mind, he withdrew the dozer and asked his men to remove the loose pieces of blasted rock with a view to avoid any major accident. He also kept a close watch for any falling rock or boulder in the area so that timely caution for withdrawal could be given to men. While he was standing on the valley side, all of a sudden a huge slide came down. He immediately cautioned his men but could not save himself. He went down with the slide and lost his life.

Chargeman Golak Behari Patnaik displayed great courage and devotion to duty. He saved his men and government property even when his life was in peril. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC 12925
Second Lieutenant
Perminder Singh
Engineer Regiment
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

2/Lt Perminder Singh, was son of Shri Harwind Singh. He was commissioned in Engineer Regiment on 17 December 1961.

Immediately after the Chinese aggression in 1962 it became necessary to open an alternate route to Chushul in Ladakh, over the Changla Pass, to ensure smooth communication to it. 2/Lt Perminder Singh, whose platoon was located at a height of over 4850 metres was detailed for this task. He started the work on 24 November 1962 and continued it upto 17 December 1962 despite heavy odds. Throughout this period the temperature in the area remained sub-zero and at times as low as -40°C even during the day time.

On 17 December 1962, when petrol, oil and lubricants were being heated, a barrel of oil slipped and started rolling towards two jerricans containing kerosene and petrol. Meanwhile, the oil which was leaking from the barrel, caught fire. 2/Lt Perminder Singh, quickly realised that if the jerricans caught fire they would explode and seriously injure the men near them. He, therefore, rushed forward to stop the rolling barrel. But, before, he could reach it, the barrel and the jerricans exploded killing him instantaneously.

2/Lt Perminder Singh displayed great courage and bravery in this action. He gave life to save his men. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



**Shri Phu Dorjee
Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Shri Phu Dorjee was born on 1 July 1946, in Tibetan Settlement Camp, Teyhunsar, district Mysore, Karnataka. Earlier he was bestowed the award of Padmashri and had also earned the Police Medal for meritorious services.

Shri Phu Dorjee was the first Indian to scale Mount Everest without artificial oxygen in 1986. He climbed many more peaks in India. In 1987, he volunteered to join the Assam Rifles Kanchenjunga Expedition. Kanchenjunga is the highest peak in India and the third highest in the world. Its north-east spur route, was considered as one of the most difficult climbs in the world, even worse than the route to Mount Everest.

On 24 May 1987, despite extremely bad weather conditions, strong blizzards and avalanches, a summit party of three members led by him, made an attempt to reach the summit. However, the party lost radio contact with the base camp and nothing was heard of Dorjee and his team. In all probability they were blown away by fierce blizzards and met an icy death on 24 or 25 May 1987.

During this attempt on Kanchenjunga, Shri Phu Dorjee displayed exemplary courage, great professional skill and above all exceptional devotion to the cause of mountaineering. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



G-121709

OEM

**Pillai, Gopinathan
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

OEM Gopinathan Pillai, son of Shri Velayudhan Pillai was born on 15 July 1939 in village Thmalackal North, district Alleppey, Kerala. He was recruited in 156 FC PI (P) Vatak on 12 September 1967.

In 1988 some units of Border Road Organisation were deployed in Arunachal Pradesh. Their task was to construct and maintain the strategic roads in border areas with a view to ensure regular supply of essentials to the troops and civilians alike. Operator Pillai was employed with one of these units.

On 12 November 1988, Shri Pillai, Operator Excavating Machinery was with 156 Formation Cutting Platoon under Project Vatak of Border Road Organisation working on Road Taliha-Nacho in Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. The blastings had made the rocks loose and unstable. Despite grave risk to his life by shooting debris he kept on clearing the rocks, relentlessly. Nothing could deter him. Suddenly a big boulder fell out from the rocky formation and it carried Gopinathan Pillai and his machinery into a deep ravine several hundred feet down below. All efforts to save him failed.

Shri Gopinathan Pillai thus laid down his life for the sake of the country. He was honoured with the award of Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Pratapa Kirti Chakra

Shri Pratapa, son of Shri Gordhan Das, was born in Barmer district, Rajasthan, on 1 April 1825. He joined the Jodhpur Railway Loco Division on 5 January 1948, and was promoted as Loco Driver Grade-1 in 1956. He retired from service on 31 March 1986.

On 9 September 1965, during the Indo-Pak War Shri Pratapa was driving a special goods train which was carrying vital military stores. This train was shelled by the Pakistanis near the outer signal of Gadra Road. The driver was injured in this shelling. Despite the injury, in complete disregard of his personal safety, he braved the shelling, held on to his post and brought the train to destination.

By his exemplary courage and devotion to duty Shri Pratapa inspired confidence among others. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



IC-1534A
Major
Pratap, Dalchand Singh
5 Gorkha Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Maj Dalchand Singh Pratap was born on 4 July 1925. He was commissioned in 5 Gorkha Rifles (FF) on 19 January 1944.

6/5 Gorkha Rifles (FF) took part in Counter Insurgency Operation in Naga Hills in 1957. Maj Pratap led 'A' Company of the battalion.

On 25 May 1957 the Company was operating in the Chishilimi-Chesholimi area in Naga Hills where about 100 Sema hostiles, attacked it from about 20 metres distance. They were armed with two Light Machine Guns, tommy guns, Sten guns, and rifles and were occupying well-concealed positions in broken ground overlooking the track. The attack was sudden and Maj Pratap received a Light Machine Gun burst on his right thigh. But despite the wound he made a counter charge and killed the hostile gunner. Suddenly another Light Machine Gun, which was 25 metres away, opened up from Maj Pratap's left, and hit him in the face and chest. He fell down severely wounded. But despite this he ordered his rear platoon to close upon the hostiles from a flank. Inspired by his example of bravery and daring the Company tackled the hostiles with such determination that they withdrew into the jungle. In this action the Company suffered two casualties, while the hostiles suffered 10 casualties.

Maj Dalchand Singh Pratap's leadership and courage were in the best traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



7998461
Naik
Pratap Singh
Intelligence Corps
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Pratap Singh, son of Shri Harek Singh Bisht was born on 19 April 1940 in village Kalchundi, district Chamoli, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in Intelligence Corps on 19 April 1961.

Nk Pratap Singh was assigned the task of gathering intelligence about the hostiles activities in Mizoram, which had considerably increased during 1977. The hostile leaders had received intensive training in guerrilla warfare and this had made them bold and operative. They used coercion to obtain information about Security Forces. Liquidation of informers and intelligence officials, working in that region was their primary aim.

Due to his success in apprehending a hostile Nk Pratap Singh had become an eye-sore for the hostiles. They decided to liquidate him on 10 June 1977. He was kidnapped by Mizo hostiles from a tea shop in Darlawn village in Mizoram and taken to a nearby jungle. He was brutally tortured by the hostiles, but he did not divulge any information about the troops. Unmindful of the danger to his life, he also rejected their offer to release him, which was made to induce him to co-operate with them. The hostiles then tied a rope around his neck, dragged him for about 3 kilometres. When he tried to escape, they hit him with a log on his head, and later drove a bamboo spike through his head.

In this action Nk Pratap Singh displayed courage, determination and devotion to duty of the most exceptional order. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Preet Pal Singh Kirti Chakra

Shri Preet Pal Singh was a resident of Delhi. He was a brave and courageous boy.

On 14 February 1966, Shri Preet Pal Singh was travelling with three fellow students, Kirpal Singh Dhillon, Satish Spod and Arun Khanna in a car. They noticed three men engaged in a scuffle inside another car running in front of them. A little later, they saw one of the three persons falling out of the car. The fact that the car did not stop to pick up the fallen man made the students suspect that there was something wrong. Shri Preet Pal Singh and his friends then raised an alarm and gave a chase to the car. Finally, they succeeded in stopping the car and overpowering one of the occupants, at great risk to themselves. Thereafter, they returned and picked up the person who had by then succumbed to his injuries. He was later identified to be a cashier of the Punjab Roadways.

Shri Preet Pal Singh, showed remarkable initiative, courage and bravery in chasing the car and capturing the criminal unmindful of his own safety. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



22544
Swar
Prithi Singh
3 Cavalry
Kirti Chakra

Swr Prithi Singh was enrolled in 3 Cavalry.

The partition of India in 1947 led to grave communal strife and bloodshed. In this situation transfer of population between the two countries faced serious problem as all means of transport were vulnerable to communalist violence.

At 0230 hours on 25 August 1947, a military special train carrying about 1,500 civilian refugees, picked up from various stations en route, was attacked by a 2000 strong hostile mob near the Chak Prerna Railway Station. The mob first fired at the train and then rushed towards it to loot property and massacre refugees. The troops guarding the train got down and managed to disperse the mob. As the night was dark, a few attackers managed to climb up the train and detach the engine along with some bogies. They forced the driver to move on. The bogies that had been thus immobilized and left behind were in great danger.

Swr Prithi Singh, noticing that the engine was moving away with a few bogies, ran behind it and boarded it. He shot one of the two ruffians who were compelling the driver to move on. The other, on seeing his accomplice shot, jumped out of the running engine. Swr Prithi Singh then ordered the frightened engine driver to take the engine back where the other bogies had been left. By his courage and initiative he thus averted a very grave situation.

Swr Prithi Singh was awarded Kirti Chakra for displaying conspicuous gallantry and initiative in a very grave situation.



5240
Village Guard
Havildar
Pukho Khamniungan
Kirti Chakra

Hav Pukho Khamniungan, son of Shri Bumou was born in 1936 in Kingjong village, district Tuensang, Nagaland. He joined as a village guard in 1955.

On 13 May 1980, the farmers of Kingjong village left for their fields as usual, leaving behind five village guards. At 1230 hours an armed group of 300 underground hostiles entered the village alongwith 100 porters. On hearing noise of the hostiles, the village guard Hav Pukhu who was in his house, came out with his loaded rifle. He found the village surrounded by the undergrounds, armed with automatic weapons. He was alone yet he decided to fight back the hostiles. Undaunted by the appearance of some missiles in front of him, he fired and inflicted serious injuries on them. The hostiles fired back at him. The serious injuries sustained by him made him unconscious and the hostiles took away his rifle. They also killed his two daughters and injured his wife.

In this action, Village Guard Hav Pukho Khamniungan displayed great courage, determination and devotion to duty. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra.



5429690
Rifleman
Pun, Dhan Singh
5 Gorkha Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Rfn Dhan Singh Pun son of Shri Birkha Ram was born on 16 December 1931 in Piuthan, Nepal. He was enrolled in 5 Gorkha Rifles on 16 December 1948.

In the early fifties some countries inimical to India encouraged insurgency in the North East by imparting training to Naga hostiles and providing them with weapons. They had spread so much terror in Naga Hills that even policemen could not move around without the assistance of the Army, which had been made available to the civil authorities.

On the morning of 26 December 1956, Rfn Dhan Singh Pun was with a Section of 5 Gorkha Rifles, escorting an Assam Police jeep convoy on way from Birma to Kukhidolan in the Naga Hills. The convoy comprised some policemen and civilian officials and a lady. On arriving near village Mahima, the leading jeep suddenly came under very heavy fire from well-prepared and concealed hostiles positions on the high ground to the right. This onslaught killed the escort commander, a jeep driver and two civilians and caused great confusion. In this critical situation, Rfn Dhan Singh Pun, who was travelling in a jeep at the rear of the convoy, acted fast and took over the control of the situation. He immediately sited the Light Machine Gun to give covering fire. He then helped the wounded to crawl back to his jeep which was parked at a safe place. He also managed to bring back the dead and their weapons. Simultaneously a small party of policemen was sent back to Lakma, about 5 kilometres away, to seek reinforcement.

While three platoons and a jeep convoy with a medical officer speeded to the scene of mishap, about 30 hostiles kept up pressure on his party of five men. The Rifleman then decided to face the hostiles with courage. He asked Bron gunner Chet Bahadur Gurung, who was wounded on the face, to hold fast to his position and gave him covering fire. Then he assaulted the nearest hostile position on the right flank with hand grenades and small arms with Rfn Raj Bahadur Gurung and routed the hostiles. Both continued their dash towards the main hostile position till all the hostiles, shambled off in a disorderly retreat. By the time reinforcements arrived, hardly anything was left to be done.

In this action Rfn Dhan Singh Pun showed outstanding leadership, courage and bravery. But for him the convoy and the escort would have been annihilated. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



JC-6058
Subedar
Pun, Satlal
4/8 Gorkha Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Sub Satlal Pun, son of Shri Attal Pun was born on 13 October 1922, in village Shimkhola district Rupandehi, Nepal. He was enrolled in 4th Battalion of the 8th Gorkha Rifles on 13 October 1938. Subsequently he was promoted as Sub Maj and also given the rank of Honorary Captain. He died on 3 January 1983.

During 1959, 4/8 Gorkha Rifles was deployed in Naga Hills for conducting operations against Naga hostiles. On 25 May 1959, Sub Pun was commanding a platoon of 4/8 Gorkha Rifles in Sama area of the Naga Hills when he encountered a party of 100 fully armed hostiles led by self styled 'Field Marshal' Kaito Sama.

The platoon comprised of 24 men and was advancing along the track from Kichim towards the river Diyung. Sub Satlal Pun was behind the two scouts of the leading section. When approximately 90 metres from the river bank, he observed a large body of men crossing the river and as 'D' company of the battalion was also out in the area searching for a wrecked aircraft, he at first thought that they might be our own troops. To ascertain the truth he advanced and questioned them. On being questioned, the hostiles, as they turned out to be, commenced heavy and concentrated small arms fire, and charged the platoon three times in twenty minutes.

During the engagement, Rtn Jut Bahadur Thapa was fatally wounded. Seeing a hostile leader making for the Rifleman in order to remove his weapons, Sub Pun rushed towards the hostiles and killed him with a burst from his Sten gun. Then drawing his Khukri and shouting the Gorkha war cry 'Ayo Gorkhali' he led his small force in a fierce charge against the hostiles. In the face of this determined onslaught the hostiles fled in terror, some in their haste to escape falling into raging torrents of the Diyung. The hostiles left behind five dead and carried away a number of the wounded, besides some of them meeting their watery graves in the Diyung.

During the encounter, the Junior Commissioned Officer displayed great courage, determined leadership and fighting zeal of very high order. His gallant command of the platoon was responsible for the infliction of a major reverse on Kaito and his followers. Sub Satlal Pun was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



Shri Puranik, PV Kirti Chakra

Shri PV Puranik, Assistant Engineer (Civil) was deputed to conduct a detailed survey of roads in Nagaland during 1969-71. The task was difficult and also dangerous because to perform his duty he had to move in areas inhabited by hostiles, who were opposed to such activities. Better roads and improved means of communication would have facilitated the movement of security forces in the area, and this would have seriously curtailed the activities of the hostiles.

The assignment was indeed very demanding. It required great courage, tact and capacity to face any grave situation. But the heavy odds could not damp his spirit. Despite grave danger to his person, he entered thick jungles infested by hostiles without any protection. He thus inspired confidence in his team by his superior leadership. This enabled him to complete the most difficult recce of roads Mekokchung-Tuensang and Kiphre-Tuensang successfully. He finally completed all the tasks assigned to him.

In this task Shri PV Puranik displayed conspicuous gallantry, determination and leadership of a very high order. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



34629
Flight Sergeant
Puri, Moj Parkash
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra

Flt Sgt Moj Parkash Puri was enrolled in the Indian Air Force:

On 17 May 1970, a major grass-fire broke out around the Mechanical Transport Section and the Bomb Dump at a forward Air Force base. Due to wind, the fire spread into the Bomb Dump and the tarpaulins covering high explosive bombs and the grass around the buildings also caught fire.

At this juncture Flt Sgt Puri, Senior NCO, in charge of the Fire Section immediately rushed out with his crew to extinguish the fire. He gave an excellent account of himself in guiding the crew throughout the fire fighting operation in a cool and systematic manner. Regardless of his personal safety, he remained on the spot even when some of the stores began to explode.

In this fire fighting operations Flt Sgt Moj Parkash Puri displayed great courage, determination and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



46632
Naik
Rai, Karna Bahadur
4 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Karna Bahadur Rai, son of Shri Let Bahadur Rai was born on 15 November, 1932 at Garidhara, West Bengal. He was enrolled in 4 Assam Rifles on 15 November 1952.

During 1962, 4 Assam Rifles was deployed in Manipur to conduct operations against the hostiles. On 7 May 1962 Nk Rai was commanding a patrol in Tusum-Khullen area. It was a hilly terrain covered with thick undergrowth. The track was very narrow and offered little room for manoeuvre. Moreover, the hostiles had learnt about the movement of the patrol party and were well prepared to receive it.

When the patrol reached a bend, a gang of hostiles opened LMG and rifle fire. A bullet hit Nk Rai and he was severely injured. Nk Rai immediately directed his men to take up position and return the fire. He himself rushed for the nearest cover but could not take shelter as the hostiles had planted 'Punjees' there. Despite wounds he charged the hostile position and silenced the LMG before succumbing to his injuries.

For displaying exemplary courage, determination and qualities of leadership, Nk Karna Bahadur Rai was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



1281723
Havildar
Rai, Prem Nath
EME
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Hav Prem Nath Rai, son of Shri Bhairu Rai was born on 23 October, 1947 in village Dehari, district Bhojpur (Bihar). He was enrolled in the EME on 23 October, 1965.

In 1987, Hav Prem Nath Rai was working with 533 Workshop Company. At the end of the year he proceeded on annual leave to his village Dehari in Bihar. On 5 December, 1987 while working in his field, he learnt that a gang of dreaded dacoits armed with lethal weapons had entered the house of his neighbour. Responding to the need of the hour he collected a rifle from a neighbour, organised a group of villagers and exhorted them to face the situation courageously. He positioned them on possible exit routes and himself took position on the most likely exit route.

When the dacoits came out of the village after committing the crime, Hav Rai challenged them from his position. He fought a pitched gun battle with the dacoits for about one and a half hours. In the exchange of fire, he killed two dacoits and injured some others. But in the exchange of fire he too was hit by a bullet fired by dacoits. The bullet pierced through his head and he died instantaneously.

For displaying exemplary courage, Hav Prem Nath Rai was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



**G-105386
Pioneer
Ram Ahir
Engineers
Kirti Chakra**

Pnr Ram Ahir was enrolled in 1581 Pioneer Company.

The maintenance of roads in mountainous Arunachal Pradesh is a difficult task indeed. Heavy rains leading to frequent landslides make the task all the more difficult. In 1979, a Border Road Task Force was deployed in the area to maintain the roads crucial for our defence preparedness. In the first week of July, due to torrential rains, large-scale landslides occurred blocking the traffic on a 66-kilometre stretch of a road in the Tenga-Bomdila Sector.

The road was required to be cleared for traffic immediately. But no dozer operator was readily available with the Border Road Task Force in the area. At this critical juncture, Pnr Ram Ahir of 1581 Pioneer Company (GREF) offered his services to undertake the hazardous task of clearing the soil and debris from the road. He undertook the task with determination. During this operation he miraculously escaped on several occasions when his dozer was hit by huge boulders. Undeterred by these hazards, he worked on with his dozer and cleared the road for traffic by 7 July 1979.

In this action, Pnr Ram Ahir displayed exemplary determination and devotion to duty. He was honoured with the award of Kirti Chakra.



Shri Ram Bharose Kirti Chakra

Shri Ram Bharose was a resident of Bindwa village, Madhya Pradesh.

On 21 October 1967, notorious dacoit Nathu Singh entered village Bindwa in Madhya Pradesh with a gang of 13 men and surrounded the houses of Babu Singh and his near relatives. The dacoits started firing on the house of Babu Singh from a commanding position and set on fire two other houses.

At this juncture Shri Ram Bharose joined six other villagers to help their neighbour in his hour of need. They fought back the dacoits with their licensed fire arms as well as stones and bricks, and injured one of them. The dacoits were armed with Sten guns, automatic rifles, etc., but the heroic resistance of the villagers forced them to abandon their attack and flee.

In this action Shri Ram Bharose displayed conspicuous gallantry and firm determination for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



**Subedar
Ram Das (Retd)
Kirti Chakra**

Sub Ram Das was a resident of Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

This is the story of an old and handicapped ex-soldier who battled with three young armed bandits. On 29 June 1983 at 0930 hours, Sub Ram Das, who owned a Ration shop, went to a wholesale dealer of kerosene oil in Ghaziabad. While they were talking, suddenly three persons appeared on a motor cycle and snatched the brief case containing Rs. 80,000/- from the kerosene dealer. Sub Ram Das could not remain a silent spectator to this daylight robbery. He hit the snatcher on his wrist with a stick in such a manner that the brief case fell on the ground. The armed dacoit retaliated by firing at him with his country made pistol. But he skilfully changed the direction of the pistol with his hand. Meanwhile, the other two dacoits tried to run away on the motor cycle. But the old soldier prevented their escape by using his stick. Their motor cycle fell down and both of them were nabbed by the crowd. The dacoit, with pistol, however, managed to escape.

In this action, 79 year old Sub Ram Das (Retd) displayed conspicuous courage despite great risk to his own life. He was honoured with Kirti Chakra.



**2944350,
Sepoy
Ram Deva
17 Rajput
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Sep Ram Deva, son of Shri Kundan, was born on 14 October 1936 in village Tamur Nagar, Delhi. He was enrolled in 17 Rajput on 14 October 1955.

During October 1956, the 17 Rajput was deployed in Naga Hills to curtail the criminal activities of Naga hostiles. On 24 October 1956, a platoon of the battalion was sent to reconnoitre a route leading to village Hanku. The track, which led to the village, was out of use and had become a part of the jungle. As the platoon was advancing on a higher slope the leading section suddenly came under heavy fire from concealed positions and was pinned down.

At this critical juncture the section of Sep Ram Deva was ordered to locate the hostile position and to clear the jungle. But as the section commenced advance, the hostile fire intensified. Appreciating that withdrawal would be suicidal in the situation, the section was ordered to attack the hostile position. By this time Sep Ram Deva had already suffered a bullet in the abdomen. Still braving the raining bullets, he got up and ran 45 metres through the punjis, and bayoneted on hostile to death. While running over the hostile post, he threw a grenade and injured three others. His courage unnerved the hostiles and they ran for their lives, leaving behind their dead and wounded. Sep Ram Deva chased them and bayoneted one more hostile. Meanwhile, bullet from the gun of a hostile hit him on the head and he died instantaneously.

Despite grave injury and in the face of intense fire, Sep Ram Deva with the highest sense of duty inspired his section to liquidate the hostile position. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry, posthumously.



G-32874
Sub/Overseer
Ram Dulare Lal
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sub/Overseer Ram Dulare Lal, son of Shri Jagdamba Prasad Srivastava was born on 7 August 1941, at Zamania, Uttar Pradesh. He joined the GREF on 19 April 1962.

On 13 September 1978, Shri Ram Dulare Lal of 376 Road Maintenance Platoon was on duty supervising the clearance of a slide on a mountain road. This slide, where boulders frequently hurtle down from great height during the monsoon, was considered very dangerous. This slide had been active ever since the road was opened to traffic.

Two dozers were deployed to clear the slide and to make the road fit for traffic. At about 1800 hours, a dozer became unserviceable due to its left track chain getting disengaged from the idler and the sprocket wheels and got stuck in the middle of the slide. There was every possibility of its being damaged or being carried down into the valley by heavy rolling boulders. Shri Ram Dulare Lal, in utter disregard for his personal safety, organised his men for fast clearance of the slide and recovery of the dozer. All the men under his command remained on the job throughout the night.

On the morning of 14 September 1979, when his team was still busy in the work, all of a sudden, boulders started falling from the hill-top. He immediately warned every one to run away to safety. A stray flying boulder, however, hit him on his temple and killed him.

In this action, Shri Ram Dulare Lal displayed conspicuous courage and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Ram Nath Kirti Chakra

Shri Ram Nath belonged to village Bindwa, Madhya Pradesh.

On 21 October, 1967, notorious dacoit Nathu Singh entered village Bindwa with a gang of 13 men and surrounded the houses of Babu Singh and his near relatives. The dacoits started firing on the house of Babu Singh from a commanding position and set on fire the houses of two other villagers.

Shri Ram Nath, an inhabitant of the village, could not remain a silent spectator to the dacoity. Unmindful of the risk to his own life he organised resistance alongwith 6 like spirited villagers. Using their licensed firearms as well as stones and bricks, they offered a determined fight to the dacoits armed with Stan guns, automatic rifles etc., and injured one of them. The heroic resistance of the villagers, so unnerved the dacoits that they abandoned the attack and fled.

In this action, Shri Ram Nath displayed conspicuous gallantry and firm determination for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



JC-139011X
Naib Subedar (Clerk)
Ramagopal, Palakodety Gangadhara
REF
Kirti Chakra

Nb Sub Palakodety Gangadhara Ramagopal son of Shri Suryaprekasa Rao was born on 7 July 1941 in village Akkapalli Gokavaram, district West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh. He was enrolled in 1059 Field Workshop, Madras Engineers.

During 1987 Nb Sub Ramagopal was attached to 1059 Field Workshop (REF). This workshop was at its build location where the work on project Vantak was in progress.

On 15 June 1987, at about 0900 hours one Pnr Gangu Thapa of project Vantak ran amuck and started attacking his colleagues with a dah within the unit area. He killed one Pioneer and seriously injured two others. In the confusion every one started running to save his own life.

Nb Sub (Clerk) Ramagopal visualising the grave danger to the lives of his colleagues acted with tact and courage and caught hold of Pnr Gangu Thapa. In the process he sustained an injury from the swinging dah. Despite the grave risk to his life, Nb Sub Ramagopal succeeded in overcoming Pnr Gangu Thapa.

For displaying exceptional courage in the face of a grave danger Nb Sub (Clerk) Palakodety Gangadhara Ramagopal was awarded Kirti Chakra.



18440
Flight Lieutenant
Rama Prasad, Mysore Krishnaswamy
IAF
Kirti Chakra

Flt Lt Mysore Krishnaswamy Rama Prasad was born on 14 January 1962 at Kolar, Karnataka. He was commissioned in Indian Air Force in the Engineering Branch on 18 August 1986.

Flt Lt Rama Prasad M Krishnaswamy was on the posted strength of a Fighter Squadron of Air Force since 5 November 1990. He served as an Officer-in-charge daily Servicing Section.

On 15 July 1991, the Squadron moved to 41 Wing, Air Force for Live Armament Practice. On 17 July Mig-27 ML aircraft No. TS 539 was armed with one 250 kg bomb on the rear fuselage station, and 100 rounds of 30 mm Front Gun ammunition. The aircraft lined up on the runway for a pair take-off. But as soon as the throttle was opened, the pilot in the other aircraft noticed sparks and fire emanating from the rear of No. TS 539. By the time the crash tender arrived the rear of the aircraft was engulfed in fire.

There was a grave danger of the 250 kg bomb, loaded on this aircraft, exploding at any moment. Sensing the danger Flt Lt Krishnaswamy approached the aircraft and unmindful of the grave danger to his own life, jumped and pulled himself up to the cockpit and put the Battery Master and air armament switched off. He slipped while jumping down due to foam water on the runway and injured his leg. Despite the injury he then proceeded to open the panel that housed the fuel shut off cock to prevent further spread of fire. After successfully opening the panel, which was red he closed the fuel shut off cock manually. He then moved to the 250 kg bomb, removed the electrical release unit cartridge, and eliminated the danger of accidental release of the bomb. He then removed the electrical connection to make the 30 mm gun "SAFE".

The timely action taken by Flt Lt Rama Prasad M Krishnaswamy prevented further damage to a costly aircraft and possible loss of human lives. For displaying outstanding courage in tackling a potentially dangerous situation, Flt Lt Mysore Krishnaswamy Rama Prasad was awarded Kirti Chakra.



4169805
Lance Naik
Ramesh Singh
4 Kumaon
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

L/Nk Ramesh Singh, son of Shri Soban Singh was born on 10 December 1957, in village Tarag, district Pithoragarh, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 4 Kumaon on 18 June 1977.

During April 1984, 4 Kumaon was deployed in forward area in Jammu and Kashmir. A team of this battalion, which included L/Nk Ramesh Singh, was despatched to construct a helipad in a forward location. At this extremely high altitude L/Nk Ramesh Singh, was affected by Hypoxia. But he refused to leave the place till the completion of task unmindful of his personal safety. Eventually, he laid down his life at his post on 17 April 1984.

For displaying exemplary courage, determination and devotion to duty, L/Nk Ramesh Singh was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



90919
Lance Naik
Rana, Amar Singh
9 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

L/Nk Amar Singh Rana, son of Shri Purna Rana was born on 5 March 1923 in village Khure, Nepal. He was enrolled in the 3 Assam Rifles on 5 March 1956.

9 Assam Rifles was deployed on operational duties in Naga Hills in 1959. The unit of L/Nk Rana was assigned the task of escorting porters and stores to forward positions. On 14 August 1957 at about 1800 hours, two sections of Assam Rifles escorting some porters and stores from Lukhyekhe to Seyochang ran into an ambush laid by hostiles. At this time of the day the visibility was poor and the troops got separated from the porters. This led to great confusion. In this confusion, L/Nk Rana and one more Rifleman were themselves cut-off from their comrades by a group of hostiles.

The hostiles then attacked these two soldiers with automatics and rifles. The first volley of hostile fire badly wounded L/Nk Rana's comrade in the stomach. L/Nk Rana was himself wounded in the left arm when he dashed forward to rescue the wounded Rifleman. Despite the injury, he fought back the group of about 10 hostiles single handed for some time and then carried the wounded comrade to safety. Due to injury L/Nk Rana's response to hostile fire was slow. The hostiles, therefore, took courage and charged the cover behind which L/Nk Rana and his companion were hiding. L/Nk Rana pulled about a grenade, removed the pin with his teeth and threw it at the charging hostiles. The grenade killed the leader of the hostile party. He picked up another grenade from the wounded Rifleman, hurled it at the hostiles, and inflicted wounds on two more hostiles. This forced them to beat a retreat.

L/Nk Amar Singh Rana's courageous action prevented the wounded soldier and his weapons and ammunition falling into the hostile hands. The gallantry displayed by him was in the best traditions of the Assam Rifles. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



61074
Jemadar
Rana, Dam Bahadur
Kirti Chakra

Jem Dam Bahadur Rana, son of Shri Dharam Singh Rana was born in Nepal. He was enrolled in 8 Assam Rifles. He received Governor's Commendation Certificate for meritorious service in 1961. He retired as Hon'ble Captain.

8 Assam Rifles, the unit of Jem Rana, was deployed in Naga Hills in 1961 for conducting operations against the Naga hostiles. On 17 June 1961, information was received that some hostiles had concentrated in a village in the Naga Hills. Immediately, a platoon of Assam Rifles and a platoon of village guards was despatched under the command of Jem Dam Bahadur Rana to that village. The party marched for 5 to 7 hours in torrential rain and reached the village late at night. By that time the hostiles had left the place. Jem Rana, despite the long and tiring march decided to pursue the hostiles.

By morning he caught up with the hostiles. There he organised his force into five groups and positioned them so as to cover all escape routes open to the hostiles. As the groups were moving to their allotted positions, the hostiles brought down intense small arms fire on them. A close-quarter battle ensued for half an hour. Despite the heavy hostile fire, Jem Rana charged them fiercely with a handful of men. Consequently, 23 hostiles, including a notorious leader, were killed. Three rifles, one Sten gun, three shot guns and some ammunition were captured.

This success was achieved largely due to the exemplary courage, drive and leadership displayed by Jem Dam Bahadur Rana in the face of a well-planned hostiles opposition. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



GO-2009-N
Shri Rana, Raj Pal Singh
Assistant Engineer (Civil)
Kirti Chakra

Shri Raj Pal Singh Rana, son of Shri Ratan Singh was born on 2 February 1944 in village Tauela Garhi, district Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in HQ 755 BRTF (GREF) on 1 October 1958.

Shri Rana was employed as an Assistant Engineer with the Border Road Organisation. In January 1990, he was posted in Loh Sector. His duties included proper maintenance of roads to ensure regular supplies to our forces in that area.

On the night of 18 January 1990, the road between Loh and Khardungla experienced the heaviest snowfall of the season. It caused extensive road blocks. At that time Assistant Engineer (Civil) Rana of 54 Road Construction Company was operating under project Himank of Border Road Organisation and was the officer-in-charge of snow clearance and maintenance of the road in that sector. The blinding snowfall had made the road susceptible to heavy landslides and avalanches and the road clearance could be done only with bulldozers.

At 1000 hours on 19 January 1990 Shri Raj Pal Singh Rana alongwith three pioneers moved on foot to clear the road. He was followed by a bulldozer operator. Then came massive snowslide, roaring down the hill, burying the entire party and the dozer. Shri Rana extricated himself from the snow with remarkable presence of mind and extraordinary courage. But realising that his colleagues were still buried he immediately set about rescuing them, unmindful of further risk to his own life from avalanches. He rescued three pioneers who were buried neck deep in snow and carried them one by one on his shoulders to a safe place 500 metres up the road. Soon after heavy slide buried the dozer. Shri Rana immediately organised the recovery of the dozer with another machine which had arrived in the meantime. In one of the most daring operations he cleared the road upto Khardungla by about 1900 hours on the same day.

Assistant Engineer (Civil) Shri Raj Pal Singh Rana, thus displayed conspicuous courage and devotion to duty in rescuing his comrades and saving costly equipment. He was honoured with the award of Kirti Chakra.



IC-43342
Captain
Rana, Rakesh
14 Bihar
Kirti Chakra

Capt Rakesh Rana, son of Shri Ram Pal Rana was born on 10 January 1965 in village Chevra, Delhi. He was commissioned in 14 Bihar on 14 December 1985.

During 1990, the battalion of Capt Rana was deployed in Punjab to conduct operations against the terrorists. On 23 October 1990, a foot patrol of the battalion had an encounter with terrorists hiding in the cultivated fields in village Bhura Karimpur. The area was immediately cordoned off. A Quick Reaction Team which included Capt Rana rushed to the site immediately to establish contact with the patrol.

At this stage the commanding officer decided to flush out the terrorists from the field by launching a physical assault. Capt Rana volunteered to lead the assault. He was asked to lead the left wing of the assault team into the fields alongwith Maj John Sampat Kumar Rao and Col Om Parkash Deswal. He provided intimate fire support to the group led by Sub Harnam Singh and helped it to eliminate a terrorist who was holding the centre of the assault line.

In the second phase of the assault he was again on the left flank. Capt Rana decided to close in on the terrorists with his group while Maj JSK Rao's group was to provide him fire support. Undaunted by the heavy fire he pressed ahead with his men to close in on the terrorists. Sep Durga Charan Oraon aimed his Light Machine Gun at the terrorists and shot one of them, but was fatally wounded in the process. Sensing the grave danger Capt Rana crawled upto Sep Oraon, grabbed his Light Machine Gun and sprayed bullets on the terrorists. Then he moved forward on his knees and emptied a full magazine. He killed two terrorists and saved his men from further casualties. One AK-47 automatic rifle, one 7.62 mm SLR and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter.

In this action Capt Rakesh Rana displayed conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in utter disregard to his personal safety. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-19420
Captain
Ranawat, Ransher Singh
9 Guards
Kirti Chakra

Capt Ransher Singh Ranawat son of Smt Kamia Ranawat was born on 12 March 1949 in Udaipur, Rajasthan. He was commissioned in the 9 Guards on 8 June 1968.

In 1971 Capt Ranawat was serving with Guards deployed in Assam. On 13 September 1971, at 1320 hours, information was received that a card-board box containing a time bomb had been spotted by villagers near Bhanga village in Karimganj sub division of North Cachhar district. A decision was immediately taken to defuse the time bomb. The task was entrusted to Capt Ranawat who immediately set out with a small escort and a demolition party. On reaching the spot, he deployed his men around and went forward to open the box. Inside, he found a highly sophisticated, transistorised time bomb with 10 kg of Amatol. No one in his party had ever seen or handled such a bomb. Capt Ranawat, however, examined it minutely and dismantled it in half an hour.

Next day information was received that demolition charges had been attached to the railway track between Kamal Bazar and Pethar Kandi (Karimganj sub division) railway stations. Again the task to defuse the demolition charges was entrusted to Capt Ranawat. He found five fully prepared special demolition charges attached to the railway track. Despite his inexperience of handling such specially prepared electric demolition charges, he removed them, made the lines safe for trains.

In these actions, Capt Ransher Singh Ranawat displayed conspicuous gallantry, initiative and determination. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



3432415
Naik
Ranjit Singh
4 Dogra
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Ranjit Singh, son of Shri Wazir Chand was born on 1 August, 1929 in village Dheera, district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. He was enrolled in 4 Dogra on 1 August, 1947.

In 1961, Nk Ranjit Singh was a Section Commander with a 4 Dogra Platoon operating in Tsukuhe, in the Naga Hills and Tuensang region. On 1 September, 1961, his platoon was suddenly ambushed near Chingkhru by a party of 40 hostiles, armed with Light Machine Guns and rifles. The leading section was pinned down by heavy automatic fire and the platoon commander was wounded. Nk Ranjit Singh immediately deployed his section so as to capture a dominating feature on the right flank and opened fire on the hostile positions. He himself fired the section's Light Machine Gun and silenced the hostile fire. His gallant action forced the hostiles to abandon the ambush in disorder.

Again on 18 September, when he was leading a section on patrol from Satol Post to Sakhal Post in the Tuensang area, the platoon was suddenly ambushed in an thickly wooded area by a party of 150 hostiles. They attacked from a close range with rifles, grenades, Light Machine Guns and other automatic weapons. Consequently, all but 2 Other Ranks of the leading section of the platoon were killed.

Nk Ranjit Singh could not take this affront lying down. In complete disregard for his personal safety he counter attacked the hostiles firing his Sten gun and hurling grenades. His daring charge blunted the enemy offensive, saved the lives of his comrades, and prevented the hostiles from collecting arms and ammunition of the dead and the wounded. He was, however, hit by a burst of hostile automatic fire and killed.

Nk Ranjit Singh set an inspiring example for his comrades by displaying outstanding courage and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Rao, Allika Venkata Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Allika Venkata Rao was a driver of South Eastern Railway.

Shri Allika Venkata Rao, driver, South Eastern Railway was driving the Howrah-Ranchi Express on 20 October 1961. When the train reached near Ghatsila it went off the rails. Driver Venkata Rao did not lose his presence of mind and held on to his post, directing all his energies to stop the engine. Simultaneously he shouted to his fireman and Aagwala to jump off the engine. Both obeyed him and saved their lives.

The following morning when the engine cab, which had come to rest some 5.5 metres down the embankment was cleared, the body of Shri Rao was extricated. Though dead, he was found gripping the controls, in a bid to reduce the momentum of the train. Though he could have jumped off the engine like his colleagues he preferred to remain at his post in an attempt to save the lives of the passengers.

In this accident Shri Allika Venkata Rao displayed conspicuous gallantry at the risk of his own life. He was awarded Kirti Chakra posthumously.



IC 37049
Captain
Rathore, Karni Singh
Rajputana Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Capt Karni Singh Rathore, son of Lieutenant Colonel Mohan Singh Rathore was born on 31 December 1953 in village Lakhani, district Churu, Rajasthan. He was commissioned in Rajputana Rifles on 3 September, 1977.

The battalion of Capt Rathore moved to Imphal in March 1981, when the insurgency in and around Imphal town was at its peak. The company was initially located at Singjemei post in the heart of Imphal town. He quickly adapted himself to the situation and led a number of successful counter insurgency missions.

On 13 April 1982, Capt Rathore led a commando task force in Kadampokpi Khunao (Imphal) to cordon a hut, in which a large number of hostiles had taken dominating firing positions. Braving the heavy and intense firing from close range he led his team to cordon a hut successfully. He posted his men in such a manner that all routes of escape were sealed. Despite the repeated warning the insurgents refused to surrender and put up a stiff resistance. The hut was eventually set on fire to flush them out.

When the hut was set on fire Capt Rathore moved around exhorting his men to prevent the insurgents from escaping. He personally fired at the fleeing insurgents. When he noticed an insurgent escaping through a window, unmindful of his personal safety, he got up, took a rifle from a soldier and shot the insurgent dead. The killed man was later identified as Thongam Kunj Behari alias Reghu, the Chairman of Peoples Liberation Army. He kept on firing on the insurgents who were trapped inside the blazing hut and even entered the collapsing hut to retrieve the dead and injured. In this action nine hardcore members of Peoples Liberation Army, including its Chairman were either killed or captured.

In this action Capt Karni Singh Rathore displayed conspicuous gallantry, courage and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



JC-98884

Subedar

Ravi, Karuppan Palath Raman

26 Madras

Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sub Karuppan Palath Raman Ravi, son of Shri Raman was born on 10 December 1947 at Mathala, Kerala. He was enrolled in 26 Madras on 25 September 1965.

The terrorist violence against innocent people had reached its nadir by early 1984. A concerted attempt was being made by internal and external forces to divide the country. In June 1984, the government of India decided to take military action against the forces inimical to the integrity of the country. This action came to be known as Operation Blue Star.

During this operation on the night of 5/6 June 1984, 26 Madras was tasked to secure the southern wing of an important building complex. Sub Ravi, one of the platoon commanders of 'B' Company, was asked to lead the operation. He had barely gone 5 metres when he was hit by a burst of Machine Gun fire. But unmindful of his serious injury, he continued to lead the platoon. In the process he was again hit by a burst of Machine Gun fire and fell down. However, he managed to crawl to a position from where he could fire on the terrorists. From this position, he partially succeeded in silencing a Machine Gun post which was interfering with the advance of his platoon. But, in the process he was hit a third time. His body was recovered later.

In this action Sub Karuppan Palath Raman Ravi displayed initiative, gallantry, courage and leadership of an exceptionally high order. He made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Army and was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



13735590
Lance Naik
Ravi Singh
17 JAK Rifles
Kirti Chakra

L/Nk Ravi Singh, son of Shri Bhan Singh was born on 10 October 1955 in village Datarpur, district Hoshiarpur, Punjab. He was enrolled in 17 JAK Rifles/JAK Rifles RC 20 November 1973.

The extremists menace had engulfed Manipur in late seventies. The extremists, who had acquired sophisticated weapons from neighbouring countries operated freely to hit at the targets of their choice. 17 JAK Rifles was deployed in Manipur area to curb their activities.

On 6 June 1981 L/Nk Ravi Singh was with a column detailed to engage the extremist in an area in the central district of Manipur. During this operation, he was asked to capture a fleeing extremist, who was later identified as leader of an extremist organisation. While chasing extremist he was fired upon with automatic weapons from a point blank range. However, the L/Nk with utter disregard to his personal safety killed many extremists and captured their leader alive.

For displaying conspicuous gallantry, courage and exceptional devotion to the duty L/Nk Ravi Singh was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-2898
Major
Rawat, Inder Singh
3 Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Maj Inder Singh Rawat, son of Shri Chain Singh Rawat was born on 30 January 1915 in village Bogell, district Pauri Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 3/18 Royal Garhwal Rifles on 4 August 1934. He was commissioned on 16 January 1944 in Burma Regiment. Many of his family members have served in the Indian Army. On 15 August 1955, the Governor of Assam honoured him with Commendation Certificate. He subsequently rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

During the period 1953-58, Maj Rawat served with 3 Assam Rifles deployed on Counter Insurgency Operations in NEFA. Chashiri village in Tuensang district was a hostile stronghold with extensive fortifications. On the night of 17/18 April 1955, Maj Rawat was given the task of destroying their fortifications. Chashiri was defended by some 200 hostiles armed with rifles, Sten guns and Bren guns. There were also a large number of tribals armed with cross bows, long spears and 'Daos'. The passage to the village involved a steep climb of some 1212 metres through thick jungles.

Maj Rawat launched the attack dividing his column into three parties. He remained in the forefront, directing the operations by moving between the parties, in the face of heavy fire. His encircling move and the bravery of his men forced the hostiles to abandon their position leaving behind many in killed and wounded.

Thereafter, Maj Rawat led one of the three parties for combing the area. He entered the hostile village with a very small escort and talked to headmen and local people to persuade them to live peacefully. In every case he left the rest of the column behind to avoid creating tension. This he did on 2 May 1955, in village Kyutsuklong, though it was known that the hostiles were lurking around waiting for revenge.

In this operation, Maj Inder Singh Rawat, set an excellent example of fine leadership courage and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



**Shri Rawat
Mulao
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Shri Mulao Rawat, son of Shri Jageshwar Yadav was born in 1948 in village Chireulla, district Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh. By profession he was a herdsman.

On the evening of 30 July 1973, seven dacoits, armed with 12 bore rifles and country made pistols broke into the house of Ahbaran Singh in village Chireulla, district Bilaspur. They injured Ahbaran Singh and his grandson and started looting the house. The loot included ornaments, cash and rifle. The victims loudly cried for help. On hearing their cries Shri Mulao Rawat accompanied by his relatives Ram Lal, Bhuneshwar, Ram Singh, Mangoo Pusao and Rameshwar rushed to help Ahbaran Singh. They faced the dacoits with unique courage and determination. When dacoits fired on them, Shri Mulao Rawat came forward in utter disregard for his life, and encouraged his companions to face the dacoits boldly. They killed two dacoits and captured one alive. In this encounter Shri Mulao Rawat was killed. The remaining dacoits ran away, but ultimately, two of them were nabbed. One country made pistol, one 12 bore rifle and a large number of cartridges were recovered from them.

In this action, Shri Mulao Rawat displayed conspicuous courage and determination. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



5004
Flight Lieutenant
Ray, Madhusudan
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Flt Lt Madhusudan Ray, son of Shri Raj Mohan Ray was born on 1 February 1931 in village Gallai, district Tippera, Bengal. He was commissioned in Indian Air Force on 8 March 1954.

On 12 October 1961 Flt Lt Ray, Captain of a Dakota aircraft, was engaged on a training flight. Immediately after take-off from the Barrackpore airfield the aircraft had to crash-land at Mahesh owing to loss of power.

Displaying high level professional skill and presence of mind Flt Lt Ray manoeuvred his aircraft in such a way so as to crash land in the only available open space between inhabited multi-storeyed buildings. A crash into any of these buildings would have caused extensive damage to life and property. Thus he was able to ward off what might have been a great disaster. But for averting the disaster he had to sacrifice his own life and those of his crew.

Flt Lt Madhusudan Ray displayed exceptional flying skill and sense of self-sacrifice in keeping with the highest traditions of the Indian Air Force. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



JC-169280
Subedar
Rewel Singh
4 JAK Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Sub Rewel Singh son of Shri Banta Singh was born on 2 January, 1955 in village Mohan Pur, district Kurukshetra, Haryana. He was enrolled in 4 JAK Rifles on 21 May 1976.

During May 1993, 4 JAK Rifles was serving with United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia. On 3 May, 1993 at about 0900 hours, on the Trach Chas-Stung Trang road the leading vehicle of the patrol, in which Sub Rewel Singh was seated, was subjected to heavy automatic fire. A rocket launched by the guerrillas of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) hit the fuel tank of the vehicle and the tank exploded. Sub Rewel Singh received grievous bullet injuries on both his hands, while the driver, who was hit slumped over the steering wheel.

Sub Rewel Singh unmindful of the serious injuries, ordered his men to return the fire. In spite of the hail of bullets and the leaping flames, he courageously dragged the driver out of the burning vehicle. The retaliatory fire by his men, took the guerrillas of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) by surprise. Meanwhile, the rest of the patrol also opened fire with Light Machine Guns and 2" Mortars. In this firing, two NADK guerrillas were injured while the other unnerved by the counter attack, fled the scene. This was the first instance when a NADK ambush was successfully broken by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

In this action Sub Rewel Singh, displayed conspicuous gallantry, exceptional courage and outstanding leadership. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra.



**Shri Richter
Alan Frederick
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Shri Alan Frederick Richter, son of Shri Mervyn Laurence Richter, was born on 10 December, 1939. He belonged to Bangalore, Karnataka. He completed his training as an Executive Cadet in the Training Ship "Dufferin" on 7 June 1958.

On 31 December 1960, a violent explosion took place in the cargo-hold of SS "Indian Navigator" of the Indian Steamship Company Ltd while on a voyage from Britain to India. This caused extensive damage to its superstructure and forced the Master and the crew of the ship to abandon it. Meanwhile the crew had sent an S O S to the Agent of the Company in London. The Agent on his part directed SS "Indian Success", another vessel of the Company, which was in the vicinity in North Atlantic, to investigate and report the condition of the abandoned ship. The sea was very choppy and extremely rough and the surrounding temperature in the area was much below the freezing point.

SS "Indian Success" reached the scene of accident at 0245 hours, on 1 January, 1961. The Master of the ship formed a volunteer party from amongst his crew and Shri Richter gladly joined it. The team was sent to SS "Indian Navigator" in a motor boat in heavy weather conditions but it could not board the burning ship and returned. Another attempt was made on 2 January, 1961 without the motor boat which had gone out of order. The men, with the help of two cars, rowed through the rough sea eventually succeeded in boarding the burning ship and rehoisting the Indian flag on it at 11.45 hours. It is remarkable that Shri Richter along with his team boarded the burning ship with the help of a rope ladder.

In spite of the fact that the ship was heeling badly, Shri Richter and his party remained on board throughout the day, making preparations for towing it to the nearest French port. Meanwhile the weather deteriorated owing to frequent rain squalls. The waves continued mounting. As the motor boat which had brought the volunteers to the ship was no longer serviceable, they were directed to stay on board and be ready for the towing operation the next morning. Unfortunately, the ship, wrecked by fire, explosions and the rough sea, broke up and sank with the brave volunteers aboard, during the night.

Shri Alan Frederick Richter and his companions gave their lives in trying to save a wrecked ship. He displayed great courage and a high sense of duty in the face of a grave danger. He was honoured with the award of Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



**Shri Roy
Samiran Kumar
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Shri Samiran Kumar Roy, son of Shri Satya Kinkar Roy, was born on 20 January 1935 at Asansol, West Bengal. He joined Training Ship "Dufferin" as a cadet in 1952 and passed out in 1954. After this he joined the Indian Steamship Company as a cadet.

On 31 December 1960, a violent explosion took place in the cargo-hold of SS "Indian Navigator" of the Indian Steamship Company Ltd. while on a voyage from Britain to India. This caused extensive damage to its superstructure and compelled the Master and the crew of ship to abandon it. Meanwhile the crew had sent SOS to the Agent of the Company in London. The Agent on his part directed SS "Indian Success", another vessel of the Company which was in the vicinity in North Atlantic, to investigate and report on the condition of the abandoned ship. The sea was very choppy and extremely rough and the surrounding temperature was much below the freezing point.

At 0245 hours, on 1 January 1961, SS "Indian Success" reached the site of the accident. The Master of the ship formed a volunteer party from amongst his crew which included Shri Roy. The party left for the abandoned ship in a motor boat in heavy weather conditions but finding it impossible to board, it returned back. Another attempt was made on 2 January 1961, without the motor boat which had gone out of order. The men with the help of two cars, rowed through the rough sea eventually succeeded in boarding the burning ship and rehoisting the Indian flag on it at 1145 hours. Shri Samiran Kumar Roy was the first person to board the burning ship with the help of a rope ladder.

In spite of the fact that the ship was reeling badly, the party remained on board throughout the day making preparations for towing it to safety to a French port. Meanwhile the weather deteriorated owing to frequent rain squalls. The waves started rising up. As the motor boat which had brought the volunteers to the ship was no longer serviceable, they were directed to stay on board and be ready for towing operation the next morning. Unfortunately, the ship, wrecked by fire, explosions and the rough sea, broke up and sank with the brave volunteers aboard during the night.

Shri Samiran Kumar Roy and his companions gave their lives in trying to save a wrecked ship. He displayed great courage and a high sense of duty in the face of a grave danger. Shri Samiran Kumar Roy was honoured posthumously with the award of Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



3319
Squadron Leader Rufus
Reginald Azariah
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra

Sqn Ldr Reginald Azariah Rufus, son of Shri MC Charles was born on 21 September 1924 at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned in Indian Air Force on 22 May 1945.

On 26 February 1957, the Prime Minister of India and his party were travelling from Mangalore to Raipur in a twin-engine Indian Air Force plane piloted by Sqn Ldr RA Rufus. About an hour and a quarter after the take off, fire and considerable vibration was noticed in the port engine. Immediate steps were taken to put out the fire but the engine went out of action. With one of the two engines out of action, Sqn Ldr Rufus decided to land the craft at a disused 'kutcha' landing strip at Raichur, 40 kilometres away as the nearest regularly used airfield was more than 125 kilometres away from her. With exceptional accuracy of judgement and flying skill he made a perfect landing, thus ensuring complete safety of the Prime Minister and his party.

Throughout this incident Sqn Ldr Reginald Azariah Rufus handled the plane with cool courage and skill in the best traditions of the Indian Air Force. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



Shri Sadhrao, Bachan Singh Chief Engineer (Project) Swastic Kirti Chakra

Shri Bachan Singh Sadhrao was working as Chief Engineer (Project) Swastic in 1983.

On 10 September 1983, a disastrous landslide occurred at Nanul in North Sikkim. Many family Quarters of GREF personnel, huts of labourers and shed of Government stores were destroyed. As many as 65 GREF personnel were either buried or washed away. The road was also completely damaged at several places.

Unmindful of the grave risk to his personal safety, Shri Bachan Singh Sadhrao, Chief Engineer (Project) Swastic, walked over the alignment criss-crossing breached road formation and waded through nallahs in order to restore confidence in his work force. After assessing the magnitude of damage, he immediately undertook restoration work. Climbing over the hills in rains, he inspected the two damaged bridges which were threatened by the slide, and gave instructions for remedial measures. Had this timely action not been taken, not only the two bridges would have been washed away but the restoration of road communication to Chungthang would also have been greatly impeded. Under the able leadership of Shri Sadhrao, the restoration of vehicular traffic was accomplished ahead of schedule.

Shri Bachan Singh Sadhrao, thus displayed conspicuous courage, leadership and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-26569
Major
Saharan, Ram Singh
Jat Regiment
Kirti Chakra

Maj Ram Singh Saharan, son of Major BR Saharan (Retd) was born on 1 December 1945 at Paharsar, district Churu, Rajasthan. He was commissioned in the Indian Army in the Jat Regiment on 6 August 1967.

The insurgents gained ground in Manipur in the late seventies. They acquired sophisticated arms, ammunition, money and training from countries hostile to India. This emboldened them and widened their area of operation. By the beginning of 1980 they even began knocking at Imphal, causing an alarming situation. When the situation became intolerable, it became necessary to take some firm action to curtail their activities.

Maj Saharan, Officer Commanding of a Company, was assigned the task of destroying the hide-out of a gang of insurgents who were carrying out unlawful activities which included armed raids along the International Border in Manipur East area. The gang was reportedly armed with rifles, Sten guns, shot guns and grenades. Maj Saharan and his unit was lifted by helicopter and concentrated near the suspected area on 7 October 1980.

On 8 October, 1980 Maj Saharan set about to locate the insurgents' hide-out with a view to destroy it. He combed the area, located the camp and succeeded in entering it to the surprise of the inmates. He blocked three sides of the camp with a view to preventing escape. From the fourth side, he led his party into assault against heavy fire from the insurgents. Unmindful of his personal safety Maj Saharan pressed the assault relentlessly. It resulted in killing 8 insurgents. Two insurgents, besides large quantities of arms and ammunition, were captured.

In this action, Maj Ram Singh Saharan displayed exemplary dedication to duty, courage, determination and presence of mind. He was decorated with the Kirti Chakra.



**Shri Sahoo
Ugrasen
Assistant Teacher
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Shri Ugrasen Sahoo was a resident of village Ganjodi, district Dhenkanal, Orissa.

On the night of 31 July 1991, two robbers armed with *Bhujalis* (a sharp edged weapon) and knives, entered the house of Binod Kumar Sahoo, and collected gold ornaments, a radio-set and Rs. 1500/- in cash. The inmates raised an alarm. On hearing it about 150 persons gathered from the neighbourhood and surrounded the house of Binod Kumar Sahoo. However, none dared to enter the house as the criminals threatened to hurt bombs at them.

While retreating, the robbers assaulted a number of villagers. On seeing this, Shri Ugrasen Sahoo exhibiting exemplary courage made a daring and valiant effort to overpower the robbers single handedly. Unfortunately, while doing so he was repeatedly stabbed by a robber in his abdomen and back. Shri Ugrasen Sahoo succumbed to the injuries on his way to the Kamakhya City Hospital.

The brave effort by Shri Ugrasen Sahoo helped in the identification and subsequent apprehension of the robbers. He was honoured by the award of Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



**Shri Sangtam
Makhimong
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Shri Makhimong Sangtam was an interpreter.

It was 0930 hours on the 17 June, 1959, *Dobhashi* (interpreter) Shri Makhimong Sangtam, accompanied by four other interpreters and a dak runner, were proceeding in a government jeep from Longkhim to Tuensang in the hostiles infested Naga Hills. Near Kilometer Stone 68 on Mokokchung-Tuensang Road, the party was ambushed by about 60 Naga hostiles, armed with 2 LMGs, 2 Sten guns and rifles.

Displaying great presence of mind, Shri Sangtam, who was sitting in the front seat of the jeep, jumped out and took position. He immediately started firing at the hostiles. This enabled the other six occupants of the jeep to come out and take position so as to beat back the hostile fire. Unmindful of his exposed position, he continued firing without seeking any cover. In his effort to contain the hostiles, he was seriously wounded. Still, he accounted for two hostiles before a bullet pierced through his chest and killed him. Inspired by his courage, his companions kept the hostiles at bay and killed one of them.

In this encounter Shri Makhimong Sangtam displayed great courage and bravery, despite overwhelming superiority of the hostiles. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Sareen Kanwar Lal Kirti Chakra

Shri Kanwar Lal Sareen, was working as a Pipeline Engineer in the Refinery and Pipeline Division, Indian Oil Corporation in 1974.

On 10 May 1974, Tank No. 3 at Mourigram Installation of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, containing about 3000 kilo-litres mixture of superior kerosene and naphtha, was struck by lightning and caught fire. The fire could not be brought under control for 3 days in spite of the efforts made by the West Bengal state fire brigade, the Army fire fighting units and the Durgapur fertilizer fire fighting unit. The inadequate water supply and faulty telephone lines made immediate contact with the fire brigade difficult and added to the gravity of the situation. The foam spreading instrument, could not be used effectively as the tank was over 11 metres above the ground level. There was a possibility that the tank would collapse and damage the other 10 tanks in the vicinity and cause loss of human lives. Nobody could think of a solution.

In this hour of crisis, Shri Sareen, Pipeline Engineer, displayed exceptional courage and skill. On 13 May 1974, he climbed up to the blazing tank under the cover of water jets and successfully hooked a foam nozzle to the tank. This enabled the firemen inject without any further damage to the installation. Petroleum products worth several lakhs of rupees were saved.

Shri Kanwar Lal Sareen displayed conspicuous courage, determination and devotion to duty in this fire fighting operation. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



**Shri Sarma
Y Shreehari
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Shri Y Shreehari Sarma, was a resident of Dore, district Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.

In December 1983, Shri Sarma was serving as Manager with the Dore branch of Andhra Bank. On 14 December 1983, at about 2100 hours, some unknown intruders entered his house and demanded the keys of the iron safe of the Bank. The residence of Shri Sarma was also within the premises of the Bank.

At that time Shri Sarma alongwith an Accountant and a Clerk of the bank were busy calculating interest for the half-yearly closing. Shri Sarma's father, wife and son were also present in the house. The assailants beat Shri Sarma and others. They tortured Shri Sarma in order to extract the keys from him. When Shri Sarma refused to oblige they tried to break open the safe. Finally, in disgust they stabbed Shri Sarma to death and carried away his personal belongings worth about Rs 10,000/- Subsequently, they were apprehended and convicted.

Shri Y Shreehari Sarma displayed conspicuous courage and a rare sense of duty in refusing to hand over the keys of the Bank to the assailants. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



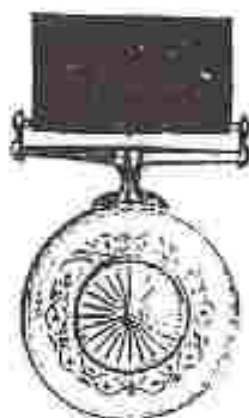
3355827
Havildar
Sarwan Singh
10 Guards
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Hav Sarwan Singh, son of Shri Bir Singh was born on 16 February 1945 in village Hans Kalan, district Ludhiana, Punjab. He was enrolled in 10 Guards on 16 February 1963.

When all efforts to make the terrorists shun violence and surrender arms failed, the Government of India decided to take army action against them. This action, launched on the night of 5/6 June 1984, was code-named Op 'Blue Star'. 10 Guards played an effective role in this operation.

During Operation 'Blue Star' 'D' Company of 10 Guards was tasked to flush out terrorists from a portion of an important building complex. Hav Sarwan Singh was the Section Commander with No 10 Platoon of this Company. The building was heavily fortified and strongly held by the terrorists. On reaching the staircase leading into the building complex, Hav Sarwan Singh's Section came under very heavy fire. The lobbing of hand grenade through the ventilators by the terrorists made any advance extremely difficult. At this stage, Hav Sarwan Singh realised that no further advance would be feasible unless the weapons firing from the basement were silenced. He, therefore, crawled to the basement with total disregard to his personal safety and silenced the menacing automatics by lobbing hand grenades. In this gallant action, he was fatally hit by a burst of machine gun fire from the basement. He thus sacrificed his life to accomplish his mission.

In this action, Hav Sarwan Singh displayed gallantry, leadership, courage and devotion to duty of an exceptionally high order. He laid down his life in the best traditions of the Army and was decorated with the Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



G-128826-Y

OEM

**Sate Singh
Kirti Chakra**

Operator Excavating Machinery, Shri Sate Singh, son of Shri Gunder Singh was born on 14 July 1949 in village Muchhall, district Pauri Garhiwal, Uttar Pradesh. He joined the Border Roads Organisation on 15 July 1968 and was posted to 153 Formation Cutting Platoon as Dozer Operator.

In June 1988, the platoon of Operator Sate Singh was deployed on formation cutting at Hunli-Anini Road. This site had a vertical hard rock on the hill side and about 300 metres deep valley on the other side, making any drilling and dozer operation extremely difficult and dangerous. But despite the hazards the task had to be undertaken with his dozer.

On 17 June 1988, at about 1340 hours, Operator Sate Singh was busy in clearing the blasted hard rock and debris. Suddenly, he heard whistles warning him to reverse the dozer, which was about 200 metres ahead from its safe parking place, as boulders had started rolling down the hill side. He immediately started reversing the dozer. Suddenly, some big boulders rolled from the hill side, missing the dozer by a couple of feet. But the brave Operator, unmindful of the danger to his life, kept on reversing the dozer. In the process, one boulder hit him in the left leg with great force. This made him unconscious and he fell down from the dozer. After a few minutes when he regained consciousness he found the dozer still there but in a start position. He also noticed that his left leg was bleeding profusely due to multiple fracture. Without losing time, he jumped upon his seat and started reversing the dozer, holding his fractured leg with one hand and operating the dozer with the other hand and one leg. He ultimately brought back the dozer to a safe place and again fell unconscious. He was evacuated for treatment to Army Base Hospital in a critical condition.

Shri Sate Singh was awarded Kirti Chakra for exemplary courage and devotion to duty.



4456979
Sepoy
Satnam Singh
7 Sikh Light Infantry
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sep Satnam Singh, son of Shri Bhagwan Singh was born on 10 January 1961, at village Veer Kalan, district Gurdaspur, Punjab. He was enrolled in 7 Sikh Light Infantry on 21 July 1978.

During March 1992, 7 Sikh was deployed in Punjab on operations against militants. At 0850 hours, on 13 March 1992, it launched cordon and search operations in Kakrail area. While conducting operations, Sep satnam Singh and his comrades encountered a group of six terrorists equipped with AK-47 rifles, near a tube-well. The search party immediately engaged them. The terrorists then tried to escape towards the nearby sugar-cane field.

Unmindful of his personal safety, Sep satnam Singh chased the fleeing terrorists. In the ensuing encounter one terrorist was killed on the spot, but Sep Satnam Singh also suffered injuries. Despite profuse bleeding he continued the chase and in a frontal assault shot dead the self styled "Lieutenant General" Jamail Singh of Khalistan Liberation Force. He then lobbed a grenade, which injured some escaping terrorists. Soon after he was hit by a burst of the fire on the head, and killed instantly. In the cordon and search operation, Sep Satnam Singh and his comrades inflicted five casualties on the terrorists.

In this action Sep Satnam Singh displayed exemplary courage, gallantry and sense of self-sacrifice. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



4593

Squadron Leader
Sawardekar, Vishwanath Balakrishna
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra

Sqn Ldr Vishwanath Balakrishna Sawardekar, son of Shri Balakrishna Vaman Sawardekar was born on 31 March 1933 in Sanvordem (Goa). He was commissioned in Indian Air Force on 14 October 1953.

During the Indo-Pak War in September 1965, Sqn Ldr Vishwanath Balakrishna Sawardekar was attached to a Fighter Reconnaissance Squadron for operational duties. On 10 September 1965, he alongwith his co-pilot, were about to take off on a sortie in a jet trainer aircraft, when four Pakistani aircraft suddenly attacked the airfield. In this attack the trainer aircraft caught fire, with pilots still trapped in the cockpit.

Before the pilots could abandon the burning aircraft, the clothes of the co-pilot caught fire. He crawled away from the aircraft but collapsed after removing the top of his burning overall. Sqn Ldr Sawardekar himself received facial injuries. At this stage the ammunition loaded in the aircraft also caught fire and began to explode. Undismayed, Sqn Ldr Sawardekar, rushed to save his comrade from certain death. Unmindful of his own safety, he ripped off the remnants of the co-pilot's overall which was still burning, and cut away his burning shoes and socks. He then wrapped his own overall around the co-pilot's body and thus smothered the flames. He thus saved the life of his comrade.

Sqn Ldr Vishwanath Balakrishna Sawardekar thus set a fine example of courage, comradeship and devotion to duty in the best traditions of the Indian Air Force. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



**Village Subedar
Sema,
Zhevishe
Kirti Chakra**

Village Subedar Zhevishe Sema was operating in Naga Hills against Naga hostiles.

On 14 June 1963, Subedar Sema along with 11 village guards was required to make a steep climb through a densely wooded forest in the Naga Hills. While on the move, the party was ambushed by 35 armed hostiles. They fired from a very close range so as to inflict maximum casualties on the party. Subedar Sema showed cool courage and presence of mind in the face of bullets. He threw a grenade on the hostiles. Then he divided his men into two parties with a view to attack the hostiles from opposite directions. This strategy succeeded and the hostiles ambush was completely routed.

Again on 15 January, 1964, Subedar Sema with fifteen village guards, was detailed to provide protection to the convoy of additional Deputy Commissioner, Zunheboto, proceeding to a hostile-infested area to inspect polling booths. Subedar Sema volunteered to travel in the leading vehicle with four village guards. When his vehicle reached a village, it was ambushed and attacked with heavy small arms fire. He was hit and put out of action. At this juncture he seized a rifle from a village guard, crawled to a firing position and engaged the advancing hostiles. He ordered his men to stand fast and fire on the hostiles. His men kept the hostiles at bay until the main protection force arrived and charged the hostile positions, forcing them to withdraw. Thus, at a very critical juncture Subedar Sema and his four men thwarted the onslaught of a much superior hostile force.

During this operation Village Subedar Zhevishe Sema displayed conspicuous bravery, leadership and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



5833405
Havildar Sen
Jogendra Singh
3/9 Gorkha Rifles
Kirti Chakra Vir Chakra

Hav Jogendra Singh Sen, son of Shri Bhupal Singh was born on 1 July, 1935. He was enrolled in 3/9 Gorkha Rifles on 19 February, 1954. He was awarded Vir Chakra in Indo-Pak War in 1971.

In 1974, the platoon of Hav Jogendra Singh Sen was deployed in Naga Hills to contain the activities of Naga hostiles. On 1 April 1974, a patrol party which included Hav Sen was detailed to raid a camp of Naga hostiles located in a thick jungle. On the night of 24 April, 1974 the party after tracking through thick forest over a difficult terrain in a dark and cloudy night, reached the base from where an uphill track led to the hostiles camp. This track was also used by the Naga hostiles and was always under strict watch by their sentry, whose exact position was not known. Hav Sen and two Other Ranks were assigned the task of eliminating this sentry. It involved crawling over a steep gradient. Knowing fully well the danger to their life, the men crawled up for twenty minutes before they found themselves face to face with an armed hostile behind a stone 'sangan'. As a member of the party leapt upon the sentry the hostiles opened up fire from the nearby camp.

At this juncture Hav Sen without waiting for the rest of the raising column charged along in the direction from which the fire came. He leapt upon a hostile and killed him. He killed one more hostile on the spot. This created total confusion in the hostile camp. The remaining hostiles soon abandoned the camp and fled. In this raid four serviceable weapons, ammunition, stores and valuable documents were captured.

In this action, Hav Jogendra Singh Sen displayed gallantry, determination and devotion to duty of a very high order. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



3532319
Sepoy
Sewa Singh
2 Sikh
Kirti Chakra

Sep Sewa Singh, son of Shri Sardar Singh was born on 3 July 1930, in village Mandhar, district Ambala, Haryana. He was enrolled in 2 Sikh on 3 July 1947.

After India became Independent, Nizam, the ruler of Hyderabad State declined to join the Indian Union. He let loose a reign of terror in the State. When all persuasive measures failed to persuade him to see reason it was decided to take Police Action against his State.

During Police Action against Hyderabad in 1948, 2 Sikh entered the State from the direction of Sholapur. Sep Sewa Singh was with the 'B' Company of this battalion. At 0530 hours on 13 September 1948, the company located an enemy position on its route of advance. Sep Sewa Singh was ordered to assault this dug-in position, which was protecting a 25-pounder gun at Jaiket. But his section was held up by heavy Light Machine Gun fire. At this stage, Sep Sewa Singh entirely on his own initiative, crawled forward and hurled two hand-grenades into the trench. This silenced the Light Machine Gun. He then dashed forward and bayoneted three of the Light Machine Gun crew at the post. This bold action helped the advance of his section, and enabled it to carry out the task successfully without suffering any casualties. Later, the company also captured 25-pounder gun.

In this operation, Sep Sewa Singh, the youngest soldier in this platoon, displayed great courage and determination. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



Shri Shah Hansmukh Badri Prasad Kirti Chakra

Shri Hansmukh Badri Prasad Shah, son of Shri Badri Prasad Shah was born on 8 May, 1951, in village Samchera, district Vadodara, Gujarat. He joined service with the Bank of India as Daffry, on 1 June, 1971.

In 1986, Shri Shah was working as a Daffry in the Vidyut Nagar branch of the Bank of India. On 28 July, 1986, four robbers equipped with firearms entered this bank and looted about Rs. 1,81,430/- in cash after locking the staff members and clients in the strongroom. Dacoits having left the scene, one of the staff members who had hidden himself, quickly released the locked persons and gave a chase to the dacoits.

Meanwhile, the car of the robbers developed some mechanical defect and a dacoit alighted to give it a push. Shri Hansmukh Badri Prasad Shah and Shri Parekh, two Bank employees, caught up with them. While Parekh caught hold of the robber pushing the car, Shri Shah confronted the other two robbers. Shri Shah was hit on the head with the pistol butt, but he kept on trying to get hold of the cash. By the time he had succeeded in gaining a firm hold on the cash bag, the car started moving dragging him along. He was attacked by two robbers from inside, while the third one tried to prevent him from taking hold of the bag. In spite of injuries Shri Shah continued his effort to retrieve the cash bag. The courage and bravery displayed by him so scared the robbers that they ran away leaving behind the looted money.

For displaying conspicuous courage, Shri Hansmukh Badri Prasad Shah was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Sham Sunder Kirti Chakra

Shri Sham Sunder, son of Shri Mulk Raj, was born on 10 May, 1940, in Lahore (Pakistan). He joined Northern Railway as Assistant Station Master in May 1960. Subsequently, he held many appointments in Northern Railway.

On the night of 6 May, 1969, at about 0030 hours, a gang of nine armed dacoits invaded the Railway Office at Gukhrar Railway Station to loot the cash. They easily overwhelmed the Railway staff on duty and demanded from Shri Sham Sunder, Assistant Station Master, the key of the cash safe on pistol point. But the pistol could not frighten him and he refused to part with the key. Enraged at his refusal, one of the dacoits, fired and injured him in the left ear. Despite the injury, Shri Sham Sunder grappled with the dacoits and snatched a bag containing 12 live cartridges from one of them. Thereupon, another dacoit fired and injured him on chest, stomach and leg. Undeterred by the injuries he continued to face them resolutely and refused to part with the key. The stiff resistance put up by Shri Sham Sunder and the timely arrival of some villagers on the scene unnerved the dacoits and they fled away.

In this action, Shri Sham Sunder displayed commendable determination and conspicuous gallantry, for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



**Shri Sharma
Ashok Kumar
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma was resident of Kacheri Ghat, district Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

On 17 October 1982, at about 2300 hours, dacoits robbed a firm called Laxminarain Omparkash in Agra. After inflicting knife injuries on four employees of the firm they locked them in a cell. At this time the proprietor of the firm Shri Ganga Saran also arrived. He was also overpowered and belaboured by the dacoits. They asked him to open the safe.

At this time a motor-cycle happened to pass through the rear road of the firm. Thinking that it was the police, the dacoits started fleeing out of the godown of the firm. Availing of the opportunity, Shri Ganga Saran along with his Munim rushed to the roof. But the robbers gave them chase and consequently they fell into the house of Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma which was located in the rear. This led to a commotion in the house. Shri Sharma who was taking milk at a halwai shop, heard the noise and chased the fleeing dacoits. He caught hold of one of them and pinned him to the ground. He then rushed to chase another dacoit who shot him in the chest. He succumbed to his injuries.

Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma, who was just 17 years of age and unarmed, displayed exemplary valour and sense of self-sacrifice in facing the dacoits. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



**Shri Sharma
Ashok Kumar
Deputy Conservator of Forests
Kirti Chakra**

Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma was working as Deputy Conservator of Forests in Forest Department in 1988. In January 1988, he was posted as Deputy Conservator of Forests, Gir West Division, Gujrat,

On 27 January, 1988, forest beat guard Shri R K Dar of Pillipat beat of the Gir West Division was attacked by a group of miscreants engaged in poaching of wood. To save his life the guard had to open fire, in which a poacher was killed. Enraged by the incident the relations of the dead poacher about 50 in number, came to attack and kill the family members of the beat guard and the Forester.

Shri A K Sharma, Deputy Conservator of Forests, sensing danger to the life of the beat guard and his family intervened to protect them. But the mob would brook nothing of the sort. Five persons rushed on him and stabbed him seriously. He was injured and profusely bleeding, but he did not leave the place without ensuring the safety of the family of his subordinate. He was taken to hospital in a critical condition and luckily survived.

For this exemplary courage Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma was awarded Kirti Chakra.



7584
Flight Lieutenant
Sharma, Kuldeep Kumar
IAF
Kirti Chakra

Flt Lt Kuldeep Kumar Sharma was born on 31 August, 1940 in Hoshiarpur (Punjab). He was commissioned in Indian Air Force on 21 June 1963.

On 17 May 1970, a major grass fire broke out around the Bomb Dump, at a forward airfield. Flt Lt Sharma who was the first officer to notice the fire, immediately rushed to the spot and joined the small fire crew in extinguishing it. This small party prevented the fire from spreading till more men arrived. Due to wind, the grass inside the Bomb Dump, empty crates and the tarpaulins covering the High Explosive Bombs caught fire. But undeterred, he kept on fighting the fire even when some stores began exploding.

Throughout this operation, Flt Lt Kuldeep Kumar Sharma displayed conspicuous courage and determination, for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



13777
Squadron Leader
Sharma, Pradeep
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra

Sqn Ldr Pradeep Sharma was born on 24 May 1953 at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. He was granted Commission in flying branch of Indian Air Force on 7 December 1974.

In October 1985, Sqn Ldr Pradeep Sharma was posted at an air base imparting flying training. On 24 October 1985, when he was flying a night instructional sortie on Kiran aircraft alongwith his pupil, the engine of the aircraft suddenly failed due to mal-functioning. This led to total loss of power from the engine. Further, there were confusing engine instrument indications because of the very peculiar nature of failure. In the circumstances, the pilot would have been fully justified in abandoning the aircraft, which was over 35 kilometres away from the base, as forced landing at night had never been attempted before.

Sqn Ldr Pradeep Sharma analysed the failure with professionalism and concluded that there was no remedial action. With consummate skill and inveterate professionalism, in utter disregard to his safety, he carried out a successful forced landing at night in a copy-book fashion without any damage to the aircraft. This marvellous feat not only prevented the inevitable loss of the aircraft and possible ejection related injury to the pilot but also saved valuable evidence about the failure of the engine. This evidence led to suitable modification in the aircraft maintenance procedure.

For exemplary professionalism and courage displayed by Sqn Ldr Pradeep Sharma in saving an aircraft, in utter disregard to his own safety, he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



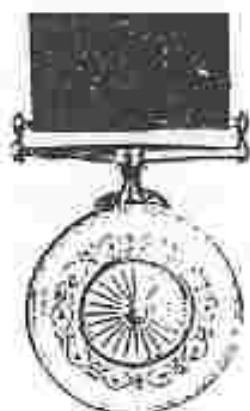
IC-11204
Lieutenant
Sharma, Raj Mohan
7 JAK Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Lt Raj Mohan Sharma, son of Pandit Prabhakar Sharma was born on 10 October 1936 at Jaipur, Rajasthan. He was commissioned in 7 J&K Rifles on 14 December 1958. He retired as a Major from the Army.

During the year 1959, 2/Lt Sharma was serving with 7 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, which was deployed in Naga Hills. On 23 May 1959 he was in-charge of a jeep convoy moving along the Kotsenyu-Chaphimi road in the Naga Hills—Tuensang area. He was travelling in the second jeep. As the convoy reached kilometre 3 and started climbing towards Chaphimi village, the hostiles fired upon the leading jeep and simultaneously the second jeep also came under intense LMG fire. The first LMG burst punctured the rear wheel of the jeep and consequently jeep got stalled. Here it came under intense fire from about 60 hostiles who were sited in well-prepared positions in thick grass and scrub. They fired at a point-blank range from the front, rear and high ground to the right of the convoy.

Lt Sharma, realising the gravity of the situation, immediately ordered his men to abandon the jeep and take position on the left. He also jumped out of the jeep but was hit by an LMG burst in the back and the right arm. Meanwhile, two Other Ranks occupying the back seats had been killed and two others wounded. Lt Sharma helped the wounded Other Ranks to get under cover and maintained steady small arms fire on the hostile positions. Even when weakened by the loss of blood and unable to stand, he drew his pistol and assured his men that he would not let the hostile 'Dah' (chopper) party get near them. He kept the hostiles at bay until the help arrived. Three hostiles were killed and seven wounded in this encounter.

The courageous action of Lt Raj Mohan Sharma saved the lives of two wounded soldiers. His bravery, courage and devotion to duty were in the highest traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-17191
Major
Sharma, Sachindra Kumar
Corps of Engineers
Kirti Chakra

Maj Sachindra Kumar Sharma, son of Shri Gyan Chand Sharma was born on 13 July 1940 at Gurdaspur, Punjab. He was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers on 9 August 1965.

Maj Sharma was serving with a unit of the Corps of Engineers on the Western Sector during the year 1971. In early December it was discovered that three un-exploded bombs were lying in the area of village Mannawala. On 5 December 1971, Maj Sharma was ordered to defuse these bombs to make them ineffective. Maj Sharma immediately left on the mission. When he was nearing the location of the bombs for the purpose of initial reconnaissance, one of the bombs exploded by itself, indicating that the bombs were fitted with long-delay fuses. Disregarding his personal safety, he reached the site, inspected the bombs and then defused one of them with his own hands to study the fuse and its mechanism. Thereafter, he personally supervised the defusal and disposal of the bombs.

Throughout this operation, Maj Sachindra Kumar Sharma displayed exemplary courage and devotion to duty, for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IC-16529
Lieutenant Colonel
Sharma, Satya Swaroop
Bombay Engineers Group
Kirti Chakra

Lt Col Satya Swaroop Sharma, son of Shri L N Sharma was born on 8 April 1942 at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. He was commissioned in Bombay Engineers Group on 27 June 1965.

India has been sending periodic Expeditions to Antarctica to conduct scientific researches and to unravel the mysteries of the ice-clad land.

Lt Col Sharma of the Research and Development Establishment (Engineers), Dighi, Pune, volunteered to participate in the 3rd Antarctica Expedition. He was appointed leader of the first wintering party of the Indian Research Station at Antarctica (Dakshin Gangotri) during the period 1 March, 1984 to 15 February, 1985. This was the first time that an Indian Expedition had been stationed in Antarctica throughout the winter, with temperature dropping to minus 50 degrees Celsius and blizzards blowing up at a speed upto 300 kilometres per hour.

Lt Col Sharma exhibited exceptional courage and bravery on the three difficult occasions when blizzards threatened the very existence of the habitat. Expeditious repairs had to be undertaken to the damaged roof, air ducts and generator fuel lines while the blizzard was blowing. Realising immediate need for repairs, he undertook the task, in total disregard to his own safety and ensured the safety of the camp by timely remedial action. In the process he received injuries and frost bite, yet he continued to fight the ravages of the extreme climatic conditions with determination.

Lt Col Satya Swaroop Sharma thus displayed exemplary courage, leadership and devotion to duty in extreme climatic conditions. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



5840308

Naik

Sherpa, Nima Dorjee

3 Gorkha Rifles

Kirti Chakra

Nk Nima Dorjee Sherpa, son of Shri Sange Sherpa was born on 20 August 1946 at Okhaldunga, Nepal. He was enrolled on 20 August 1968 in the Indian Army in 3 Gorkha Rifles. In 1975, he was awarded Sena Medal for exceptional devotion to duty and courage and in 1982 he was awarded Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service.

From the very childhood Nk Nima Dorjee Sherpa had developed a taste for adventure. This was reflected in his love for mountaineering. He was a member of the Kamet Expedition, the Randerpuch Expedition, the Renti Expedition, and Trisul Expedition. He made the first ascent of Sickle Moon, the highest peak in the Kistwar Himalayas, in 1975.

During Army's Kanchenjunga Expedition in March 1977, Nk Dorjee was a member of the team which opened the ice-fall of Semu Glacier. While working at the ice-fall he fell into a crevice and remained hanging there for a long time before being rescued. He showed great courage and calmness during the accident and continued to work on the ice-fall even afterwards and thus helped in opening the route to a camp. After the death of Hav Sukhvinder Singh he performed a herculean task during the evacuation, which was a very difficult and hazardous operation indeed.

Subsequently, he helped Maj Prem Chand in opening the route, on the most difficult portion of the ridge, between the two camps. For this great performance, he was selected as a member of the first summit party along with Maj Prem Chand. After Camp 6, a knife-sharp ridge, and unexpected obstacle, had to be negotiated. Notwithstanding his own chances of ascent to the top, he worked and cleared the obstacle in two days, a task which could have taken ten days to complete. During the Summit climb he covered approximately 600 metres, a remarkable feat at that altitude by any standard.

Nk Nima Dorjee Sherpa thus displayed courage, determination and devotion to duty of a very high order. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Sil, Hara Lal Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Hara Lal Sil was working as an Extra Departmental Delivery Agent at Mandi Bazar Post Office, Tripura Division in 1980.

On the morning of 7 June 1980, there was tension in Mandi, a small town in Tripura. At noon, scattered group of tribals descended from the Baramura Hills, armed with bows, arrows, takkalas and gurs and began setting fire to the shops and houses of the Bengalis, assembled near a police post equipped with wireless set, and a sort of impromptu camp came up. The policemen, tried to impress upon the Police Headquarters at Agartala the gravity of the impending danger. But in the absence of any positive response or assurance of help, they left the post, perhaps to arrange for reinforcements. Meanwhile a policeman, who was a tribal, defected along with his gun and ammunition. This left the unarmed Bengalis at the mercy of the blood-thirsty tribals.

Shri Hara Lal Sil, who was present had watched the police using the wireless set. After the police had left the post he began sending out SOS messages on it asking for immediate help. Then a gun shot from a tribal silenced him for ever. In early hours of the next morning, the tribals massacred some 322 Bengalis including nine members of his family.

Shri Hara Lal Sil, displayed extraordinary initiative, resourcefulness and bravery in a very critical situation. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC-27941-X
Major
Singh, Ashok Kumar
Engineers
SM, Kirti Chakra

Maj Ashok Kumar Singh, son of Lt Col Kesri Singh was born on 11 August 1954 at Pachloli district Basti, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned on 23 December 1973 in Engineers.

In 1965 the Indian Army decided to undertake an exciting journey by sea around the world. The team required the services of an efficient and courageous engineer. After a thorough search Maj Ashok Kumar Singh was selected for the job. Though he was a handicapped person in as much as his left leg was artificial, his courage adequately compensated for it. Maj Ashok Kumar Singh thus became a crew member of the eleven metre fibre-glass yacht "Trishna" which was to carry the Indian Army Expedition around the world. The expedition was flagged off from United Kingdom to Bombay on 28 September 1965.

"Trishna" first sailed from the United Kingdom to Bombay for the purpose of expedition. Enroute it encountered fierce storms in the Bay of Biscay and rough weather in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. At one stage the main sails of the yacht were blown off in the gale. The crew could manage to put up new sails at great peril of their lives.

The journey from Mauritius to St Helena Island round the Cape of Good Hope; was a story of heroic battle against countless storms. At times the wind intensity increased to sixty-five knots whipping up waves up to a height of 14 metres. On one occasion tons of waterswept over the small boat, washing away life saving equipment and wireless packings. The crew steered "Trishna" with steel nerves and kept it on course.

During the journey from Auckland to Sydney across the Tasman Sea the crew faced one of the worst storms in 100 years. Braving through the dangers, the crew reached Sydney completely exhausted and weakened by the loss of appetite. The sail from Sydney to Brisbane and further to Cairns and Thursday Island was equally difficult. The crew had to steer past the Great Barrier Reef, a great navigational hazard indeed.

Maj Ashok Kumar Singh, in spite of his being a handicapped person shared the difficulties of his team mates with equanimity and displayed conspicuous gallantry in the best traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



10052
Sergeant
Singh, Dev Raj
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra

Sgt Dev Raj Singh, son of Shri Narayan Singh was born in 1918 at Nahan (Sirmoor). He was enrolled in Indian Air Force on 28 November 1939 and rose to the rank of Warrant Officer.

In Delhi, Gandhiji used to hold prayer meetings in open on the green lawns of the Birla House. Hundreds of people belonging to every strata of society used to attend these meetings to see and hear the Mahatma. Sgt Dev Raj Singh had also come to attend the prayer meeting at Birla House on the 30 January 1948.

As Gandhiji came out of the house and was proceeding towards the dais, he was fired at by Nathuram Godse who had come there to kill him. At that time Sgt Dev Raj Singh, was standing close to Godse. He immediately grappled with the assailant and snatched the smoking pistol from his hand and pointed it at him in order to hold him under control. Then with the assistance of a civilian he pinned him down until the arrival of the police.

In apprehending Godse, Sgt Dev Raj Singh exposed himself to great personal risk as the pistol had still four bullets in it. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



4240221

Sepoy

Singh, Gorakh Nath

9 Bihar

Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sep Gorakh Nath Singh, son of Shri Bishun Singh was born on 17 January 1945, in Hatpokhar, district Bhojpur, Bihar. He was enrolled in 9 Bihar on 17 January 1963.

In 1966, 9 Bihar was deployed in Mizo Hills to conduct operations against Mizo hostiles who were trained and armed with sophisticated weapons. On 20 March 1966, at about 1630 hours a column of 9 Bihar comprising 2 Officers, 2 Junior Commissioned Officers and 51 Other Ranks was ambushed by hostiles while coming from Huahlan to Ngopa in the Mizo Hills. The strength of the hostiles was approximately 150 and they were armed with 8 Light Machine Guns and some small arms. They had also prepared about 100 firing positions with the ambush area which belched fire for an hour.

Sep Gorakh Nath Singh who was with the leading section of the column was wounded in this firing. However, he decided to fight back with determination and threw grenades at the hostiles positions. He then crawled forward to help one of his comrades who had been injured. Disregarding the heavy fire he applied first aid dressing to the wounded man, collected his grenades and hurled them at hostiles positions. He then crawled forward in search of more grenades. During the search he found the dead body of the column commander, removed grenades from it and threw them at the hostiles. As the hostiles had concentrated all their fire at him, by now he was killed on the spot. In this encounter 8 hostiles were killed. The column suffered 20 killed and 7 wounded.

In this action Sep Gorakh Nath Singh displayed exemplary courage and determination for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Singh, Kashiram Kirti Chakra

Shri Kashiram Singh was resident of village Bindwa, Madhya Pradesh.

On 21 October 1967, notorious dacoit Nathu Singh entered village Bindwa with a gang of 13 men and surrounded the houses of Shri Babu Singh and his near relatives. The dacoits started firing on the house of Babu Singh from a commanding position and set on fire two other houses.

At this stage Shri Kashiram Singh and six other villagers decided to resist the dacoits with determination. They fought back the dacoits with their licensed fire arms as well as stones and bricks and injuring one of them. The dacoits were armed with Sten guns, automatic rifles etc. but the heroic resistance of the villagers, forced them to abandon the attack and flee.

In this action, Shri Kashiram Singh, displayed conspicuous gallantry and firm determination for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Singh, Mahendra Narain Kirti Chakra

Shri Mahendra Narain Singh was an Executive Engineer (Civil) with Uttar Pradesh Government.

Badrinath is one of the four most important pilgrimage centres of Hindus situated in Chamoli district of Uttar Pradesh. A vital road connecting it with the plains runs through Karnaprayag, Srinagar and Rishikesh. This road is also the life line of our troops stationed on the Indo-Tibetan border. As a result of unprecedented floods in river Alaknanda during July 1970, the roads Rishikesh-Joshimath-Badrinath and Joshimath-Malari were affected by many breaches and landslides. A number of bridges, culverts and causeways and a long stretch of road between Pipalkoti and Joshimath were washed away and deep gorges had been created at many places. It was necessary to undertake immediate repair of these roads.

Shri Mahendra Narain Singh, Executive Engineer (Civil), was detailed for reconnaissance of Belkuchi realignment of the road. The task was indeed difficult and full of risks. Shri Singh, however, rose to the occasion and setting aside all considerations of personal safety, crossed the flooded river, several deep gorges and gaping ravines with a rope tied around the waist in pouring rains and falling boulders and completed the task within a week. Later, when he was entrusted with the task of restoring the road communication, he again faced many difficulties and grave risks. He personally led his men and malarial to all dangerous points and successfully completed the assigned task. The uncommon zeal for work shown by him was much beyond the call of his duty.

In this difficult and hazardous road-clearing operation, Shri Mahendra Narain Singh displayed conspicuous courage, leadership and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



2868818

Naik

Singh, Megh Raj

17 Rajputana Rifles

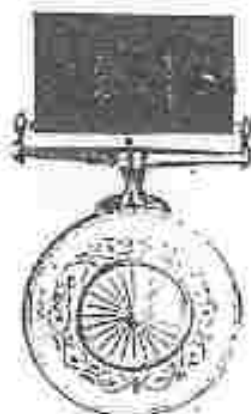
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Megh Raj Singh, son of Shri Jassu Singh, was born on 5 May, 1957 at village Dada Fetehpura, district Jhunjhuna, Rajasthan. He was enlisted in 17 Rajputana Rifles on 24 December, 1974.

In the beginning of the year 1982, 17 Raj Rif was deployed in Imphal area to conduct operations against the insurgents. On 27 January, 1982 one of its columns, which included Nk Megh Raj Singh, was despatched on a counter-insurgency mission to Thangmel Bund (Imphal). At about 1645 hours the column noticed two extremists running into a side lane. When Nk Megh Raj Singh and his column Commander chased them, an extremist fired a shot at him from point blank range. Nk Singh, displaying great presence of mind deflected the shot, pounced upon the insurgent, and overpowered him. This extremist was identified as an important leader of the PLA, who carried an award of rupees seven thousand on his head.

On 4 February, 1982 information was received about the presence of some insurgents at Namerakham Leikai (Imphal). A patrol which included Nk Singh, was detailed to apprehend them. At about 0845 hours he chased and caught hold of an insurgent. The latter fired at him during the ensuing scuffle and injured him seriously. But the brave Nk continued to grapple with him despite injuries. The hostile, who was later identified as a top leader of the outlawed PLA, was shot dead by his companion. Subsequently, he succumbed to his injuries.

In this action Nk Megh Raj Singh displayed conspicuous courage and exceptional devotion to duty. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC-14287N
Lieutenant Colonel
Singh, Rama Prasad
JAK Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Lt Col Rama Prasad Singh, son of Shri Ram Nath Singh was born on 1 July, 1942 in village Kharauni, district Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned in JAK Rifles on 11 December, 1962. Subsequently, he rose to the rank of Brigadier.

In Manipur the activity of the insurgents was on the increase in 1981. They sported in ransom, killings and riot. The task of putting a stop to this in the Central district of Manipur was entrusted to JAK Battalion, commanded by Lt Col Rama Prasad Singh on 27 June, 1981.

Lt Col Singh first established an efficient intelligence net-work to elicit information on the activity of the extremists in his area of operation. On 6 July, 1981 he received the information that some armed hostiles frequented a certain area. With the approval of the General Officer Commanding, Lt Col Singh planned for a special operation on the same night. However, during the later part of the day, information came that some suspected extremists were moving in a different part of the area. In view of the urgency, Lt Col Singh decided to launch the operation during the day. He immediately despatched a company column at 1430 hours under 2/Lt Cyrus Addie Pithawalla. Thereafter, he collected some more troops and led them personally across country through marshy terrain, to direct the operation himself. At about 1800 hours, while 2 kilometres away from the objective, he heard firing and immediately rushed to cordon off the area. There he found 2/Lt Cyrus Addie Pithawalla injured. Unmindful of his personal safety, he boldly approached the other extremists, and personally led a search of the area. In this operation two extremists were captured alive and seven others killed. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was also captured.

In this action, Lt Col Rama Prasad Singh displayed bold leadership, and exceptional devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



IO-56978
Jemadar
Singh, Sham Bahadur
2 Bihar
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Jem Sham Bahadur Singh, son of Shri Ram Dhan Singh, was born on 8 August 1918, in village Dharampura, district Saran, Bihar. He was enrolled in 2 Bihar on 6 August 1940. During his six years of distinguished service He was awarded Indian Service Medal and War Medal.

After the partition, 2 Bihar was assigned the task of evacuating the non-muslim population from newly created Pakistan to safety. Its specific task was to escort the trains, which carried passengers from Pakistan to India. On 7 January 1948, a team of Biharis comprising 1 Officer, 2 JCO's and 58 Other Ranks was escorting a train carrying 2,500 displaced persons from Mian Indus (NWFP) to India. The team was divided into three groups. The escort commander accompanied by 6 soldiers had his headquarters in the middle of the train. Two platoons led by Jem Sham Bahadur Singh and Jem Gheo Pujan Singh held positions in the front and rear of the train respectively. The route of train which passed through Sargodha in Pakistan was changed to run through Gujrat where anti-social elements had organised an ambush.

On 12 January the train had hardly steamed into the railway station at 0130 hours that the engine crew disappeared. The police and railway staff posted at the station also deserted. Soon bullets started hitting the train from all directions. As the attack intensified, the escort who had taken position around the train returned the fire and kept the attackers at bay throughout the night. At dawn the attackers brought two armoured cars and started heavy automatic fire on the train.

The escort commander, who had earlier received a bullet wound in his neck, was hit a second time on the chest. Then Jem Sham Bahadur Singh took over the command. This platoon had been drawing heavy automatic fire from the very beginning and it had suffered heavy casualties. But he kept up the morale of the remaining troops. At this juncture he decided to move his gun post behind some cover. But before he could do so both of his Bren-gunners fell. He thereupon took up the gun himself and ordered the only other survivor of his post to crawl back and take up a position behind cover. But before he could finish his orders he received a direct Bren-gun burst. Still he continued firing till he bled to death. Many more Biharis laid down their lives in defending the train.

The entire escort exhausted its ammunition by 0730 hours. By this time half of the refugees had secured safe places. The raiders who had lost many lives in the process also called off the attack. The escort under the leadership of Jem Sham Bahadur Singh saved about 1,200 refugees from sure death. Out of the 61 members of the escort only 16 survived. Jem Sham Bahadur Singh was honoured with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



2975200
Havildar
Singh, Shiv Narayan
27 Rajput
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Hav Shiv Narayan Singh, son of Shri Shital Prasad was born on 30 July 1960, in village Giruahan, district Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 27 Rajput on 4 October, 1978.

In 1994, 27 Rajput was deployed in J&K. At 0400 hrs. on 22 May specific information was received that anti-national elements were hiding in village Widdipur. A Quick Reaction Team under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Harvinder Singh Lacchar was, therefore, directed to apprehend the terrorists. The team cordoned the suspected houses of anti-national elements and search began at 0515 hrs.

When the team began search operation two anti-national elements hiding on the roof of a house opened fire at the troops. Hav Shiv Narayan Singh received gun shot wound in his left chin. Thereafter, one of the militants jumped from the roof and opened fire on Hav Shiv Narayan Singh from a close range, injuring him critically. Despite the injury, the Havildar displaying rare courage, continued firing on the militants and killed both of them. Subsequently he was evacuated to Advance Dressing Station, where he succumbed to his injuries.

In this action Hav Shiv Narayan Singh displayed exemplary courage and devotion to duty for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



56691
Jemadar
Singh, Sheo Pujan
2 Bihar
Kirti Chakra

Jem Sheo Pujan Singh, son of Babu Nandu Raj was born on 25 January 1918, in village Hulasi Tola, district Patna. He was enrolled in 11/19 Hyderabad Regiment on 25 January 1940. He was re-enrolled in 1 Bihar on 15 September 1941. He retired from the army on 21 September 1949, and was given disability pension.

Consequent upon the partition of India in August 1947, 2 Bihar was engaged in evacuation duties. On 7 January 1948, a party comprising 2 Junior Commissioned Officers and 58 Other Ranks under Capt Gurbachan Singh Grewal proceeded to Mian Indus (NWFP) to escort a non-muslim refugee train, with approximately 2500 displaced persons on board to India. The escort was divided into three groups. The Escort Commander with 6 Other Ranks set his Headquarters in a small carriage in the middle of the train. Jem Sham Bahadur Singh with one platoon took position at the head of the train while Jem Sheo Pujan Singh with another platoon guarded the tail end.

Conspiring with the communalists, Pak railway and police authorities changed the scheduled route of the train. It was come to India from NWFP via Sargodha but was diverted to run through Gujarat where the miscreants had organised an ambush. As the train steamed into the railway station at about 0130 hours on 12 January 1948, the engine crew, who knew the plot, disappeared from the scene. Capt Grewal soon posted sentries on both sides of the platform. The conspirators, however, overpowered two sentries from behind, snatched their rifles and disappeared in the dark. Meanwhile the railway staff at the station as well as police had deliberately withdrawn from the duty.

Soon after stray rifle bullets started hitting the train in all directions. The escort party fired back keeping in view the need of conserving ammunition, which they had in limited quantity. In this encounter Capt Grewal received a bullet wound in his neck. But he kept on encouraging his men. The brave defenders kept the attackers at bay till 0530 hours. The raiders then procured two armoured cars, which they placed at both ends of the platform, and brought heavy fire on the train.

Jem Sheo Pujan Singh who was manning the rear guard with cool courage, exposing himself to danger soon caught attention of the raiders. His post and the rear portion of the train were subjected to heavy automatic fire from one of the armoured cars put in a nearby street. To neutralise this firing Jem Sheo Pujan Singh ordered 2" Mortar fire in that direction. As no trained men were available to fire the Mortar the Junior Commissioned Officer himself manned it with the help of Sep Ram Chander Singh. While doing so, he was all the more exposed to danger. An enemy bullet soon hit him in the eye. But he continued firing the 2" Mortar till he was completely exhausted due to pain and bleeding. Sep Ram Chander Singh, helped him out of the Mortar post to walk upto the Command post.

After getting first aid Jem Sheo Pujan Singh again crawled back to his post and kept on firing at the raiders through the platform fence.

After sometime he again fell unconscious and was taken for dead. His body was recovered after the dreadful show was over and sent to hospital. He luckily survived but he lost an eye and was invalided out of service after a prolonged medical treatment.

Jem Sheo Pujan Singh displayed exemplary courage and bravery in this action. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



**Shri Soares
Orlando Joseph
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Shri Orlando Joseph Soares was an employee of SS "Indian Success."

On 31 December 1960, a violent explosion occurred in the cargo-hold of SS "Indian Navigator" of the Indian Steamship Company Ltd, while on the voyage from Britain to India. This caused extensive damage to the superstructure of the ship and compelled the Master and the crew of the ship to abandon it. The crew of the damaged ship, however, sent an S O S to the Agent of the Company in London. The Agent on his part directed SS "Indian Success", another vessel of the Company to investigate and report on the condition of the abandoned ship. The sea was very choppy and extremely rough and the surrounding temperature much below the freezing point.

SS "Indian Success" reached the scene of accident at 0245 hours, on 1 January 1961. The Master of the ship formed a volunteer party from amongst his crew, which included Shri Soares, and sent it to the abandoned ship in the motor boat in heavy weather conditions. The party found it impossible to board the burning ship and returned unsuccessful. The party made a second attempt on 2 January 1961, but this time it went without the motor of the boat as it had gone out of order. The men with the help of two oars, rowed through the rough sea, eventually succeeded in boarding the burning ship and rehoisting the Indian flag at 1145 hours. It is remarkable that the party boarded the burning ship with the help of a rope ladder.

In spite of the fact that the ship was heeling badly, Shri Soares and the party remained on board throughout the day, making preparations for towing it to the nearest French port. Meanwhile, the weather deteriorated owing to frequent rain squalls and the waves continued rising up. As the motor boat which had brought the volunteers to the ship was no longer serviceable they were directed to stay on board and be ready for towing operation the next morning. Unfortunately, the ship wrecked by fire, explosions and the rough sea, broke up and sank with the brave volunteers aboard during the night.

Chief Officer, Shri Orlando Joseph Soares and his team of volunteers sacrificed their lives in the hazardous task of trying to save a wrecked ship. He displayed great courage and a high sense of duty in the face of the gravest danger. He was honoured with the award of Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



JC-51245
Subedar
Sohan Singh
9 Punjab
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sub Sohan Singh, son of Ghri Natha Singh was born on 17 February, 1914 in village Nagoke, District Amritsar. He was enrolled in 9 Punjab on 17 February, 1931.

The law and order situation in Naga Hills had deteriorated considerably by the year 1957 due to the activities of Naga hostiles. The Army was, therefore, called into assist the civil authorities. 9 Punjab, the battalion of Sub Sohan Singh, was deployed in Nagaland to contain the Naga Hostiles.

On April 1, 1957, a platoon headed by Sub Sohan Singh was placed on road protection duty between Khonoma and Dzulake, in the Naga Hills. The platoon encountered about 300 hostiles at about 0555 hours. They held well camouflaged dug-in positions and were armed with Light Machine Guns, Tommy guns and other weapons. The hostiles fired upon the leading section, which was climbing a spur, from a point blank range and killed the leading scout. The platoon engaged them by throwing hand grenades but the well-entrenched hostiles kept on firing without any let up. Consequently, the Platoon Commander withdrew his men behind the cover of smoke.

Meanwhile, Sub Sohan Singh told his men not to be afraid of hostiles fire. He himself directed 3-inch mortar fire on the hostiles and in the process was hit by a Tommy gun burst. The platoon suffered heavy casualties. The Subedar then decided to make a frontal charge on hostiles on the spur in order to break the ring closing round the platoon as also to secure an advantageous position. Severely wounded and bleeding he crawled to his section to console the wounded. He then exhorted all his men to charge the hostile position with fixed bayonets. He told them that there would be no withdrawal and that every man should display the traditional Sikh chivalry and heroism. He led the charge till he was hit by another gun burst in the chest and dropped dead. The platoon inflicted heavy casualties on the hostiles, but was ultimately overpowered in the grim hand to hand fight.

The bold leadership and fearless demeanour of Sub Sohan Singh inspired his men to show the valour of high order. They literally fought to the last man and to the last round. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



7015688
Havildar
Somiah, A
1066 GPT Coy W/shop, EME
Kirti Chakra

Hav A Somiah, son of Shri A Y Dass, was born on 20 October 1920, in Alur Tadpatri, district Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh. He was enrolled in the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Corps on 20 October 1942. He retired from Corps as Junior Commissioned Officer (Vehicles) after rendering 24 years of service. He took part in the Second World War and was awarded medals for meritorious services.

On the night of 27/28 September, 1954, the train, in which Hav A Somiah was travelling along with some other soldiers met with an accident on the Yashwantpur river bridge, near Jangaon. Consequently, several bogies of this train were hurled in to the river. In the bogie ahead of his compartment army officers were travelling. Realising the gravity of the situation he asked the other ranks in his bogie to remain calm and himself came out to assess the disaster. He noticed that the bogie ahead of his own was precariously swaying in the current and was likely to be swept away. He heard some shouts for help and assisted Capt D'Souza to extricate himself. He then assisted Capt D'Souza to extricate Maj John. Thereafter he went repeatedly into the swirling waters, despite injuries received on the nose and the head, to rescue others.

During this train disaster which took a heavy toll of life, Hav A Somiah showed exemplary courage and presence of mind in the face of grave danger. He risked his own life to save others. For this self-less service and bravery he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Sood, Satish Kirti Chakra

Shri Satish Sood was a resident of Delhi. He was a brave boy.

On 14 February 1988, Shri Satish Sood was travelling with his three friends, Preet Pal Singh, Kirpal Singh Dhingra and Arun Khanna in a car. They noticed three men engaged in a scuffle inside another car running in front of them. A little later, they saw one of the three persons falling out of the car. Realising that there was something gravely wrong, Shri Satish Sood and his companions raised an alarm and gave a chase to the car to apprehend the culprits. Ultimately, they succeeded in stopping the car and overpowering one of the occupants, at great risk to themselves. Thereafter, they returned and picked up the person who had been thrown out of the car. By then he had succumbed to his injuries. He was later identified to be a cashier of the Punjab Roadways.

Shri Satish Sood, showed remarkable initiative courage and bravery in chasing the car and capturing the criminal, unmindful of his own safety. He was awarded Kirti Chakra for conspicuous gallantry.



**Shri Srinivas
Pandillapalli
IFS
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Shri Pandillapalli Srinivas, was a resident of Andhra Pradesh. He was selected in the Indian Forest Service and belonged to Karnataka cadre.

Shri Srinivas was a member of the Special Task Force created by the Karnataka Government for tracking down Veerappan and his gang of timber smugglers operating in the forest of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. He had undertaken several programmes for the benefit of the tribal community residing in the forests and created an environment in which Veerappan had found it difficult to operate. Shri Srinivas had, therefore, become an eyesore for the Veerappan gang.

Shri Srinivas was praying at a temple when Arjun, a brother of Veerappan, approached him and confided that Veerappan desired to surrender. Arjun also stated that Veerappan's condition for the surrender was that no police officer should be present at that time. Following this information Srinivas proceeded to the indicated rendezvous. He was accompanied by 11 men, one of whom was a smuggler turned informer. Shri Srinivas was unarmed. As soon as his party reached the rendezvous at about 0500 hours on the 10 November 1991, Veerappan ordered his lieutenant, Kollandi to shoot Shri Srinivas. A hail of bullets killed the brave forest officer. His half-burnt body, without head, was found by a search unit in the morning.

Shri Pandillapalli Srinivas set a supreme example of courage and dedication to duty at the cost of his own life. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



4059855
Rifleman
Sripal Chand
5 Garhwal Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Rfn Sripal Chand, son of Shri Sumer Chand, was born on 10 June 1961, at village Kakawari, district Tehri Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 5 Garhwal Rifles on 20 April 1979.

During December 1982, 5 Garhwal Rifles was deployed in Mizoram for operation against well armed and trained Mizo hostiles. On the night of 27 December 1982, Rfn Sripal Chand set out from Parva with a patrol to confront Mizo National Front (MNF) hostiles who were reported in a nearby area.

While searching for hostile in a nullah in a thickly forested area on 28 December 1982, Rfn Sripal Chand was the leading scout of the patrol. At 0925 hours he suddenly came under fire from the jungle side. In the process one bullet fractured his left arm injuring his spine. Despite the bleeding arm, he kept his cool. He spotted the three jhoom huts from where the fire was coming and in utter disregard for his own safety effectively returned the fire. He also indicated the area to the scout group commander Hav Darwan Singh Negi. His prompt response enabled the patrol leader to launch a lightning attack on the hostile position. This led to the capture of a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

In this action Rfn Sripal Chand displayed exemplary gallantry, presence of mind and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



3937
Squadron Leader
Sudhakaran, Ayappan
IAF
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sqn Ldr Ayappan Sudhakaran, was commissioned in the Indian Air Force in the flying branch.

The test pilot performs a very difficult duty. Only pilots with exceptional professional skill, are able to achieve this grade. Sqn Ldr Sudhakaran had been a test pilot for nearly three years at Kanpur. During this period he made numerous test flights in which he faced great risk to his life and displayed outstanding flying ability and technical knowledge.

During one such flight on 4 June 1950, Sqn Ldr Sudhakaran was carrying out a test flight in a Gnat aircraft—the only one of its kind in India—which was fully instrumented, when the engine flamed out at a low altitude. Sqn Ldr Sudhakaran had two options open to him, to abandon the aircraft and save his own life or to save the aircraft and sacrifice his own life. He chose to save the aircraft by attempting a forced landing. In this gallant attempt he lost his life.

In this incident, he showed courage, devotion to duty and determination in the highest traditions of the Indian Air Force. Sqn Ldr Sudhakaran Ayappan was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



IC-26235
Major
Sukhdev Singh
17 Punjab Regiment
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Maj Sukhdev Singh, son of Shri Pritam Singh was born on 22 March 1942 at Ditta, district Sangrur, Punjab. He was commissioned in 17 Punjab Regiment on 24 April 1966.

The Army was called out in aid of civil authorities at Bokaro on 23 June 1979, when about 1500 men of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) rebelled and forcibly seized the armoury. The armoury contained 400 rifles, 61 pistols, 24 private arms and 2,400 rounds of ammunition. The task assigned to the army was to obtain their surrender with persuasion, if possible, or with force, if necessary. The barracks and the armoury of the CISF at Bokaro were well-fortified with fire obstacles, ditches and sand-bagged bunkers, improvised on roof tops and windows of the first floor of all residential blocks. Defences were well-co-ordinated. The rebel CISF personnel had occupied strategic positions in the fortified barracks.

On the night of 24-25 June 1979, an infantry battalion was moved forward in company columns to cordon the CISF barracks and to take the surrender of the rebels. Maj Sukhdev Singh's company moved forward to cordon and seize the armoury in case the CISF men refused to surrender.

Maj Sukhdev Singh asked the CISF men on loudspeaker to surrender peacefully. The appeal was greeted with a volley of fire from the armoury and other buildings. Repeated appeals from Maj Sukhdev Singh made at 0430 hours were also rejected by the rebels. In fact they challenged him to attack and capture the armoury. Thereupon, the company put its plan for storming and seizing the armoury into action. At about 0520 hours when Maj Sukhdev Singh was rushing forward with his men, a bullet from the armoury killed him instantaneously. The sacrifice of the leader infused his men with added fervour and they seized the armoury successfully.

In this action Maj Sukhdev Singh displayed excellent combat leadership in the best traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



10072
Flight Sergeant
Sundaresiya, O
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra

Flt Sgt O Sundaresiya, son of Shri C Subramiya, was born in 1918 at Madras. He was enrolled in Indian Air Force on 12 December 1939.

On 1 May 1950, Flt Sgt Sundaresiya, noticed that a fire had broken out in one of the compartments of the 603 Down Jhansi-Lucknow passenger train between Chirgaon and Moth stations. He immediately pulled the emergency communication cord to stop the train, but the train continued running. He then climbed out of his carriage and working his way along the foot boards of compartments moved towards engine at great personal risk. He got as near to the engine as possible and succeeded in attracting the attention of the engine crew, who stopped the train. But for his timely action, there might have been many casualties among the passengers and heavy damage to the Railway property.

During this incident Flt Sgt O Sundaresiya displayed exemplary courage and sense of self sacrifice. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Suraj Kirti Chakra

Shri Suraj, son of Shri Ghanshyam, was a resident of village Sagari, district Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.

On 7 June 1968, at about 2030 hrs, notorious dacoit Harpa Gond descended on Sagri village with his gang. They selected the houses of comparatively well off people for attack and started looting them. The news of dacoity soon spread around.

At this stage some spirited villagers, under the leadership of Shri Suraj, decided to challenge the dacoits. They rushed towards the site of dacoity to apprehend the dacoits. The dacoits fired at them from a close range and injured one villager. But this firing could not deter or frighten Shri Suraj who alongwith some other villagers kept the pressure on the dacoits. Ultimately they decided to take to their heels. But Shri Suraj was not prepared to allow them to escape. He challenged the fleeing dacoits when they were crossing a nullah and jumped on Harpa Gond, the leader of the gang, hitting his gun with a lathi. This broke the butt of the gun. At this moment Shri Gopi another villager hit Harpa Gond with a stone. The dacoit leader then hid himself behind a bush, but Shri Gopi dragged him out of the hiding and beat him severely, as a result of which he died.

In this action Shri Suraj displayed exceptional gallantry, for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



2938174
Sepoy
Suraj Singh
17 Rajput
Kirti Chakra

Sep Suraj Singh, son of Shri Romal Singh was born on 5 June 1932 in Sakalpura, district Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 17 Rajput on 5 June 1950.

In September 1955, 17 Rajput was deployed in Naga Hills to conduct operations against Naga hostiles. On 5 September when his company was advancing along a narrow and precarious hill track to contact the hostiles in Lhoshepu village he was with the leading platoon. Weather was very bad and a thick mist had restricted visibility to about 30 meters. The leading scout who came within 63 meters of the hostile position was killed as the company came under heavy fire. As further advance became almost impossible the company of Sep Suraj Singh took up position about 180 metres away from the hostiles.

As the fog lifted, the hostiles made a concerted effort to remove the body of the scout. At this critical moment, Sep Suraj Singh volunteered to bring back the body of his comrade. As he crawled forward, a volley of shots from the hostiles rained over him at every inch. The brave Sepoy however went on crawling forward undaunted and unmindful of death. His encounter with death lasted for over 50 minutes. Finally, he managed to bring the body and the weapon of his dead comrade back to his position. During this daring act three bullets hit his helmet and many grazed over his body.

In this action Sep Suraj Singh displayed outstanding valour in the highest traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



Shri Suresh Kumar Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Suresh Kumar was a resident of Azadpur, Delhi.

On 28 May 1982, Smt Santosh, wife of Shri Raj Kumar, a resident of Rameshwar Nagar, Delhi was attacked by an unknown person when she was returning to her house after purchasing vegetables from Azadpur, Delhi. The incident occurred when she was passing through a dark area. On hearing her shrieks, Shri Suresh Kumar rushed to her aid and grappled with the assailant, who stabbed him on the chest. Shri Suresh Kumar fell down and the culprit managed to escape. Shri Suresh Kumar was taken to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

In his attempt to save a helpless woman Shri Suresh Kumar displayed conspicuous bravery, a high degree of civic responsibility and a sense of self sacrifice. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Surinder Singh Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Surinder Singh was an employee of the Armed Forces Headquarters.

Shri Surinder Singh was employed as an Assistant Civilian Staff Officer in General Staff Branch, Army Headquarters, New Delhi. In October 1981 he proceeded on leave for Chandigarh to stay with his brother, Shri Niranjan Singh an I A S officer, posted in the Punjab Secretariat. On 16 October 1981, he accompanied his brother to the Secretariat.

While entering the Secretariat, some miscreants accosted Shri Niranjan Singh with a view to murder him. Shri Surinder Singh made a daring bid to foil the murderous attack. Seeing the criminals aiming at Shri Niranjan Singh, Shri Surinder Singh leapt forward to catch hold of one of them. Criminals now turned their attention on Shri Surinder Singh and fired at him from a point blank range killing him instantly.

For this daring act of conspicuous bravery and self sacrifice Shri Surinder Singh was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



3984772
Sepoy
Swaran Singh
18 Dogra
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sep Swaran Singh, son of Shri Sansar Chand was born on 6 October 1964, at village Tara Chak, district Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir. He was enrolled in 18 Dogra on 31 October 1983.

With a view to contain the anti-national elements and protect the villagers from their criminal activities the Army launched Operation Rakshak in 1991. The *modus-operandi* was to cordon off the suspected hideout and then commence the search.

18 Dogra carried out one such operation on 8 August 1991, in village Wolyas Kaonar and Zafarkhani. During the operation Sep Swaran Singh observed some suspicious movement in a clump of trees approximately 50 metres away. He informed his platoon commander, 2/Lt BJS Sandhu who rushed to the location with six jawans to engage and apprehend the suspects. While advancing towards the hideout they were subjected to heavy volume of fire including that of a Universal Machine Gun. The fire was returned and the area cordoned off. On hearing the sound of fire Capt Sandeep Shankla, who was carrying on the search of Zafarkhani village, rushed to the location with the Quick Reaction Team. He found 2/Lt Sandhu and Sep Swaran Singh engaging the anti-national elements from the eastern direction. Other soldiers had taken position on the northern side of the ridge. Capt Shankla deployed his Quick Reaction Team in the south-eastern direction. The Captain then moved forward to hideout accompanied by his operator and 2/Lt Sandhu, with Sep Swaran Singh in the lead, providing protection to them. Crawling they came as close as 9 metres to the location of fire and started engaging the anti-national elements.

Sep Swaran Singh, displaying rare courage and chivalry, moved behind a tree which was very close to location and fired at the anti-national elements, numbering about 15. He killed one of them instantaneously. However, in the process the young soldier was hit by a burst of Universal Machine Gun on his chest. But he continued to fire despite grave injury till he became unconscious due to the excessive bleeding and later died. But for the supreme sacrifice made by this young soldier, officers and jawans who were following him would have lost their lives.

Sep Swaran Singh, thus, displayed conspicuous bravery and spirit of self sacrifice in the face of anti-national elements. He was honoured with the award of Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Swu, K Zuheto
112 Border Security Force
Kirti Chakra

Shri K Zuheto Swu, son of Shri Khuhekhu, was born on 29 September 1931, at Satakha, district Zunheboto (Nagaland). He was enrolled in 112 Battalion, Border Security Force on 16 September, 1973. He was decorated with President's Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 1981, Vishist Seva Medal in 1983 and President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 1990.

In 1973, during the operations against Naga hostiles in Naga Hills Shri Swu commanded a battalion of Border Security Force and rendered valuable assistance to the Force in the area. In fact, he had been helping the Indian Security Forces in their operations against the underground hostiles at a very grave risk to his own life since 1968. He located many hostile camps and led a number of raids against them. Consequently, many hostiles were captured and a large number of weapons and ammunition was recovered. Disregarding his personal safety, he made significant contribution, to the capture of the gang of 175 well-trained hostiles along with their leader.

In these operations Shri K Zuheto Swu displayed exemplary gallantry, and high sense of duty for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra in 1973.



IC-15868
Lieutenant Colonel
Tejinder Singh
Garhwal Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Lt Col Tejinder Singh was commissioned in the Indian Army in the Garhwal Rifles.

By early 1984 the terrorist activity in Punjab had assumed alarming dimensions. The terrorists had taken over the control of many religious shrines and were monitoring and encouraging secessionist movement from there. Finally, the Government decided to flush out these terrorists from the religious places and an operation was launched to this end.

On the night of 5-6 June 1984, 9 Garhwal Rifles led by Lt Col Tejinder Singh was ordered to establish a foothold in one portion of an important religious complex. With two companies under his command, he moved to the place of action, carried out reconnaissance under heavy terrorist fire, and planned the operation meticulously. The terrorists, on their part, had made elaborate preparations to inflict heavy casualties on the advancing troops.

On the night of 5 June 1984, at 2200 hours, troops of 9 Garhwal Rifles entered the building disregarding the heavy fire directed on them. The effective fire of the terrorists resulted in heavy casualties to the troops and this slowed down the progress of the operation. At this stage Lt Col Singh personally led his battalion to attack the building. Under his courageous and inspiring leadership men continued to expand the foot-hold gained inside this building. Whenever a move was held up due to accurate fire of the terrorists, he always came forward to inspire and guide his men braving the fire of the terrorists. The action taken by Lt Col Tejinder Singh took the terrorists by surprise and resulted in the capture of 256 terrorists.

In this operation, Lt Col Tejinder Singh displayed outstanding courage, leadership and devotion to duty. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



3970902
Havildar
Thakur, Chander Pal
16 Dogra
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Hav Chander Pal Thakur, son of Shri Hari Singh, was born on 12 March 1953 at village Kot, district Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. He was enrolled in 16 Dogra on 16 February 1972.

To curb the terrorist activity and to restore law and order in Punjab, the Government of India decided upon army action against the terrorists in 1984. This action was code-named 'Operation Blue Star'. The aim of the operation was to evict the terrorists from the religious complex and surrender to the army. The operation was launched on the night of 5/6 June, 1984.

During this operation, Hav Chander Pal Thakur of Mechanical Transport platoon took over the command of a rifle section with the task of clearing the terrorists from an important building complex. The complex was heavily fortified and strongly held by the terrorists. The section, therefore, came under very heavy and effective fire and Hav Thakur was hit by a machine gun burst. Unmindful of his injury and personal safety, he crawled to the machine gun post and destroyed it by lobbing a hand grenade inside it. Thereafter, he led repeated charges to clear the terrorists from other rooms. In the process he received another burst of machine gun fire and was killed instantaneously.

In this action, Hav Chander Pal Thakur displayed rare courage, leadership and bravery. He laid down his life in the highest traditions of the Indian Army and was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



80029
Jemadar
Thapa, Dal Bahadur
Assam Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Jem Dal Bahadur Thapa was born on 19 March 1929 in Assam. He was enrolled in Assam Rifles on 19 March 1942.

In 1961, 8 Assam Rifles was deployed in Naga Hills for conducting operations against the Naga hostiles. Jem Thapa was serving with platoon of this battalion. On 3 May 1961, the platoon of Jem Thapa spotted some hostile positions on steep slopes of a thickly wooded ravine. Immediately, a decision was taken to destroy them. But the approaches to these positions were protected with sharp bamboo spikes and the only way of capturing them was to launch a frontal attack on the precipitous side of the ravine. This involved great risk and demanded great dash.

The challenge was accepted by Jem Dal Bahadur Thapa. He crawled forward with a section and came within a few metres of a hostile position. The hostile brought intense fire to bear upon his party. Thereupon, Jem Thapa, in complete disregard of his safety, rushed through the heavy hostile fire threw himself into the hostile position, firing as he moved. The section followed him and the position was ultimately captured. In this attack four hostiles were killed and rifle and a Tommy gun were seized.

Jem Dal Bahadur Thapa displayed conspicuous gallantry in this action in the best traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



5737511
Rifleman
Thapa, Jut Bahadur
4/8 Gorkha Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Rfn Jut Bahadur Thapa, son of Shri Kavi Raj Thapa was born on 17 February 1941, in village Suruna, district Bhirkat, Nepal. He was enrolled in 4/8 Gorkha Rifles on 17 February 1958.

During the year 1959, 4/8 Gorkha Rifles was deployed in Naga Hills to conduct operations against hostiles. On 25 May 1959, a platoon of 'B' Company of battalion numbering 24 men was ordered to establish a stop at the junction of a track on the east bank of river Diyung in the Sema area of the Naga Hills. Rfn Thapa was also in this patrol. At 0730 hours, when the patrol approached the river, it was fired at by 100 fully armed hostiles led by a self-styled "Field Marshal" Kaito Soma.

Rfn Thapa was the second scout with the section. After the first few shots, the leading scout was wounded and fell unconscious. Two hostiles, who had been hiding in ambush, came out to kill him and take away his weapon. Rfn Thapa charged them, shot one dead and bayoneted the other. He captured the weapons of a hostile and carried his unconscious comrade to his section, 27 metres in the rear.

Subsequently, when the enemy move started to a high ground behind the platoon position, Rfn Thapa went forward and taking up a tactical position shot dead two hostiles. In this encounter he himself received a bullet injury on his left shoulder. But despite of his wound, he continued firing and thus foiled the encircling move of the hostiles. In this process another bullet hit him in the chest and killed him instantaneously.

This young Rifleman had distinguished himself in a successful raid on a hostile camp even earlier. When his patrol was fired upon by a hostile, he bayoneted him to death. His prompt action enabled the remainder of the patrol to kill four hostiles and recover one Sten gun and three rifles.

Rfn Jut Bahadur Thapa displayed great courage, determination and bravery in operation against hostiles. His supreme sacrifice was in keeping the highest traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



17732

Naik

Thapa, Tek Bahadur

1 Assam Rifles

Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Tek Bahadur Thapa son of Shri Kaman Singh Thapa was born on 9 November 1943 in village Mandrechauf, Pithan, Nepal. He was enrolled in Assam Rifles on 9 November 1960.

On 22 February 1963, the Village Council President of Sateak Shri K Thanlunga was shot dead by an unknown Mizo National Front hostile. The murder caused great apprehension among the people as well as the authorities. The security forces immediately undertook operation to capture and destroy the miscreants.

1 Assam Rifles was deployed in the area to conduct operation against the Mizo hostiles. On 23 February 1963 it launched an operation to search the village and jhoom areas in the vicinity of Sateak for the culprit. Nk Tek Bahadur Thapa was a member of one of the patrols. While carrying out a search near techhip alongwith 3 Other Ranks he observed some movement in a jhoom hut. He deployed the other members of the patrol around the Jhoom hut and himself approached the hut with a view to carry out a thorough search. While at the entrance, two shots were fired at him from inside the hut in quick succession, one of which hit him in the abdomen. Disregarding the bullet injury Nk Tek Bahadur Thapa jumped at assailant to capture him. However, the assailant managed to shake him off and started running. Nk Thapa immediately opened up his Sten Machine Carbine and shot down the fleeing assailant. Though bleeding and in agony, he apprehended two more suspects from the same area with the help of other members. He remained in the control of the situation till relieved by the patrol leader. He was evacuated to the Unit. The killed assailant was identified as the self styled Private Thanzuala who had killed the Village Council President of Sateak.

In this action Nk Tek Bahadur Thapa exhibited conspicuous courage, gallantry and sense of self sacrifice. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



A I-536
Major General
Thorat, Shankarrao Pandurang Patil
Kirti Chakra

Maj Gen Shankarrao Pandurang Patil Thorat was born on 12 August, 1906. He was commissioned in the Indian Army on 30 August 1926. Earlier during the British rule he had been awarded Distinguished Service Order.

Over the years India has sent her armed forces to various countries of the world on UN peace keeping operations. She also sent a contingent of troops called Custodian Force (India) to Korea in 1953. Its main task was to supervise the repatriation of the prisoners of war as per their wishes.

On 25 September 1953, at Hind Nagar, Korea, the prisoners of war in Compound No D-31 turned hostile. They suspected that one of their leaders who had come out of the camp to ask for repatriation was kidnapped by the Custodian Force (India). Maj Gen Thorat accompanied by a few other officers went into the Compound to explain the correct position to the prisoners. No amount of explanation could however satisfy them. As the party of Indian Officers left the camp some prisoners grabbed Maj B S Grewal and dragged him back into camp. Undaunted by the fact that the prisoners had armed themselves with tent poles sticks and improved weapons. Maj Gen Thorat re-entered the Compound to rescue Maj Grewal. By this time, the Brigade Commander had sent in a party of 25 men to protect Maj Gen Thorat from the misguided prisoners. However, with characteristic composure and admirable presence of mind, Maj Gen Thorat prevented these men from coming into conflict with the infuriated prisoners, whom he managed to induce to release Maj Grewal. He thus not only rescued Maj Grewal, but also prevented an outbreak of violence, which might have caused many casualties.

This act on the part of Maj Gen Shankarrao Pandurang Patil Thorat at grave risk to his own life was commended by all concerned, including the prisoners of war who gave him Guard of Honour when he finally left the compound. This gallant act was in the highest traditions of the Indian Army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra.



2874977

Naik

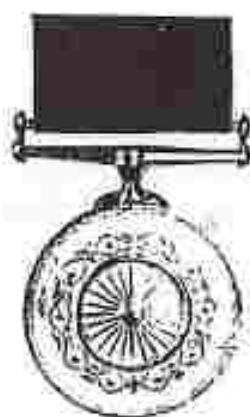
Tomar, Nawab Singh
11 Rajputana Rifles
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Nk Nawab Singh Tomar son of Shri Alam Singh was born on 7 July 1980 in village Dahikhanl, Meerut (U.P.). He was enrolled in 11 Rajputana Rifles on 17 Oct 1979.

In April 1993, 11 Rajputana Rifles was deployed in Jammu and Kashmir to contain the terrorist activities. On 9 April 1993, definite information was received that a terrorists hideout was located in village Pohar of Budgam region. Immediately a search and cordon operation was undertaken by 11 Rajputana Rifles. The village was approached from four different directions by the rifles companies, and the commando platoon of the battalion.

At about 1400 hrs in the afternoon the commando platoon of Nk Tomar was subjected to intense fire by the terrorists in an attempt to break out of the cordon. Nk Tomar retaliated and ordered his team to change position to prevent the break-out. Nk Tomar himself, shot dead a terrorist. But he was also hit by a bullet fired by the terrorist on his right arm. The terrorists now in desperation to escape, started indiscriminate firing while running. The brave Naik, however, continued chasing the terrorists. In spite of fatal injuries caused by a volley of bullets in the abdomen, he fired at the terrorists and killed two of them on the spot.

In this action Nk Nawab Singh Tomar, fought with indomitable courage and exceptional bravery, and made the supreme sacrifice. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



O-66901
Ordinary Seaman
Tomar, Vijendra Pal Singh
Indian Navy
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Ordinary Seaman Vijendra Pal Singh Tomar son of Shri Narayan Singh Tomar was born on 1 August 1942 at Baoli, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled on 4 January 1960.

Operation Vijay was launched on 18 December 1961 to liberate Indian territories still under the occupation of the Portuguese. In this operation Navy was assigned the task of liberating Anjdiv Island. The mission was carried out by a Naval Landing Party consisting of volunteers from I N S Venduruthy. From the outset, the landing party suffered from several disadvantages. Naval personnel were not trained to land on beaches and to fight on shore. The landings had to be carried out from the ship's boats. Further, neutralisation of shore defences by Naval bombardment could not be carried out because of the policy to use the minimum force. The Naval party had, therefore, to land on the island from open boats without covering fire.

The landings were attempted in two waves on 18 December 1961. The first wave landed without opposition. The second wave, however, came under heavy and accurate fire from enemy positions, concealed in bushes and rocks. Seaman Tomar was detailed to approach the hidden enemy positions and silence them by throwing hand grenades.

Seaman Tomar crawled fearlessly towards the enemy positions under heavy fire. On each occasion he threw a hand grenade, he had to expose himself to enemy fire and consequently, he was wounded several times. But despite the wounds he went about his task at great risk, and finally succeeded in silencing the enemy positions, before being killed in action.

Seaman Vijendra Pal Singh Tomar, though a very young and inexperienced sailor, displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty. His action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Indian Navy. Seaman Vijendra Pal Singh Tomar was only nineteen when he made the supreme sacrifice. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



JC-104765
Naib Subedar
Umaid Singh
17 Rajputana Rifles
Kirti Chakra

Nb Sub Umaid Singh, son of Shri Lal Singh was born on 8 January 1940 at village Kuliya, district Nagaur, Rajasthan. He was enrolled in 17 Raj Rif (Sawaiman) on 8 January, 1962. Subsequently he got the Honorary rank of Lieutenant.

During April 1982, 17 Raj Rif was deployed in Imphal area for conducting operations against the insurgents. The battalion constituted a commando team, which included Nb Sub Umaid Singh to deal effectively with the insurgents. On 13 April 1982, at about 1015 hours at Kadam Pokoi Khunau (Imphal) Nb Sub Umaid Singh was especially tasked to cordon a hut which was occupied by a sizeable number of insurgents, who were firing relentlessly on the cordoning troops. He skillfully crawled towards the hut, but was fired upon by the insurgents from a close range. Braving the fire and with utter disregard for his own safety he kept on moving. Finally, he found a dominating position to cover the hut, at a distance of 7 metres. During the process, he made a deliberate effort to draw fire from the insurgents so that the other group could engage them effectively. During the ensuing heavy exchange of the fire the insurgents attempted to escape in small groups, but Nb Sub Umaid Singh frustrated their effort by his effective fire. By effectively engaging the insurgents, Nb Sub Umaid Singh cutoff the escape route from the hut and also succeeded in killing more insurgents.

Meanwhile a fire had engulfed the hut. Nb Sub Umaid Singh unmindful of the flames, pulled out the dead and injured insurgents. Later, he was instrumental in rescuing a number of innocent civilians and their property, from the fire which had spread to other areas of the village.

During the entire action, Nb Sub Umaid Singh displayed courage, conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty of a very high order, for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.



4174027
Sepoy
Umesh Chandra
4 Kumaon
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sep Umesh Chandra, son of Shri Daya Krishna Pathak was born on 15 May 1960, in village Khet Gaon, district Pithoragarh, Uttar Pradesh. He was enrolled in 4 Kumaon on 10 December 1979.

On 10 December 1982 in view of continued inclement weather a decision was taken to withdraw an observation post ahead of Leh at the height of 5628 metres. The observation post was manned by 5 soldiers of 4 Kumaon from Gulab Picquet located at the height of 5300 metres. At 0400 hours on 11 December 1982, a party consisting of one Junior Commissioned Officer and eight Other Ranks from Gulab Picquet was despatched to extricate the outpost personnel. The party had to negotiate two and half kilometres of steep slopes and avalanche prone area to reach the post.

Sep Umesh Chandra was a member of this party. At 0445 hours he was leading the party beating down the soft snow coming to almost waist level to make a path for the party. A rope was tied around his waist and the other members of the party were holding it. All of a sudden, a sharp blast was heard and a large avalanche was seen sliding towards the party. Sep Umesh Chandra in total disregard of his own safety anchored himself firmly by planting his avalanche stick deep into the snow and asked others to hold on to the rope firmly. To slide hit Sep Umesh Chandra who was holding fast to his position. The members of the party slowly extricated themselves one after another beginning from the rear. Finally they reached Sep Umesh Chandra who had borne the brunt of the avalanche, and found him buried deep in snow in an unconscious condition. Still he was holding to the stick firmly. In spite of best efforts, he could not be saved.

By sacrificing his life Sep Umesh Chandra was able to save the rest of the party. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



2574620
Havildar
Varghese Mathew
26 Madras
Kirti Chakra

Hav Varghese Mathew son of Shri K V Mathai was born on 27 October 1957 at village Kuzhimattom, district Kotayam, Kerala. He was enrolled in 26 Madras on 17 May 1978.

In the early 1984 terrorism had engulfed the whole of Punjab. Many leading terrorists had entrenched themselves in Golden Temple complex, and had turned it into a virtual fortress. Every inch of the building was covered by the automatic weapons. All possible defensive measures had been taken to thwart any military action. When all other measures failed to contain terrorism in Punjab, a decision was taken to use the army to put an end to this menace. 26 Madras was deployed in this anti-terrorist operation.

On the night of 5/6 June 1984, 26 Madras was assigned the task of flushing out the terrorists from southern wing of the well fortified and strongly held temple complex. The D Company of the battalion was asked to secure the route upto the eastern gate and subsequently capture the ground floor of the building in the Southern Wing. In this operation Hav Varghese Mathew led a platoon of the D Company.

During the approach to the eastern gate, the company came under very heavy fire from all the directions held in strength by the extremists. But Hav Varghese remaining in the lead maintained the momentum of the advance. Once the company reached Parikrama to secure the Southern Wing he moved forward with a section to clear the bunkers. As he approached a room, he was hit by a machine gun burst. A Molotov Cocktail got spread all over his body and caught fire. Though he himself was burning furiously, he lobbed hand grenade inside the rooms occupied by the terrorists and killed them on the spot. In this process he himself suffered serious burns.

In this action Hav Varghese Mathew displayed conspicuous courage, bravery and leadership of a high order. He was decorated with Kirti Chakra.



4483
Flt Lt
Vijayaraghavan, Jagannath
IAF
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Flt Lt Jagannath Vijayaraghavan, son of M R Jagannathan was born on 18 July 1933 in Madras. He was commissioned in Indian Air Force on 1 April 1953.

On 14 May 1962, Flt Lt Vijayaraghavan of Madras Auxiliary Air Force was on an instructional sortie with PO Evan as his pupil. During a spinning exercise by PO Evans, it was noticed that the aircraft failed to recover from the spin. At this stage Flt Lt Vijayaraghavan himself took over the control but the aircraft failed to respond and started losing height rapidly.

The loss of aircraft was now a certainty. To save the life of the trainee Flt Lt Vijayaraghavan twice ordered him to bail out. By the time the trainee bailed out, the aircraft had touched too low, a height to enable him to abandon it. The aircraft crashed killing him instantaneously.

During this accident Flt Lt Jagannath Vijayaraghavan displayed great courage and a spirit of self-sacrifice in the best traditions of the Indian Air Force. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



**Shri Visana
Shaktisinh Samantsinh
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)**

Shri Shaktisinh Samantsinh Visana was employed as a beat guard at Gir Sanctuary.

On 27 January 1988 Shri R K Dar was on patrolling duty in the Pillipat beat of the Gir Sanctuary. He was assaulted by a group of wood poachers. The beat guard opened fire to save his life in which one poacher was killed. This enraged the relations and friends of the dead poacher and a mob of 40-50 persons moved towards the quarters of the beat guard and the Forester with the intention of killing their family members. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma who had gone to the guard's quarter to protect his family members was stabbed by someone in the mob.

Shri SS Visana, the Guest House Manager, Sasan, had accompanied Shri Sharma to the house of Forest beat guards. He saw a miscreant advancing menacingly towards the family of the guard and the Deputy Conservator of Forest. In a protective impulse he caught hold of the miscreant who in turn stabbed him. Shri Visana succumbed to his injuries on the spot.

For this brave act Shri Shaktisinh Samantsinh Visana was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



Shri Vishwanath Singh Kirti Chakra

Shri Vishwanath Singh was resident of village Bindwa, Madhya Pradesh.

On 21 October 1967, notorious dacoit Nathu Singh entered village Bindwa with a gang of 13 men and surrounded the houses of Babu Singh and his near relatives. The dacoits started firing on the house of Babu Singh from a commanding position and set on fire two other houses.

Unable to bear this affront Shri Vishwanath Singh decided to go to the help of his neighbours. Some others like-spirited people also came forward. They used their licensed fire-arms as well as stones and bricks to fight the dacoits and injured one of them. The dacoits, armed with Sten guns, automatic rifles etc were so much unnerved by this heroic resistance of the villagers that they abandoned the attack and fled.

In this action, Shri Vishwanath Singh, displayed conspicuous gallantry and firm determination for which he was awarded Kirti Chakra.

Shri Vladimir Solovyov Kirti Chakra



Three Soviet nationals had shown special professional skill, courage and determination during the Joint Indo-Soviet Space Mission in April 1984. One of them was a doctor, the second a pilot and the third an Engineer. The engineer Shri Vladimir Solovyov was born in Moscow on 11 November 1946. He was a graduate of Moscow Bauman Higher Technical School. He joined the ranks of Cosmonauts in 1978.

Shri Vladimir Solovyov, Cosmonaut Engineer, was launched on board 'Soyuz T-10' along with two other crew members and performed the duties of Resident crew on board "Salyut-7" for the Indo-Soviet Joint Space Flight. They were made responsible for setting up all our scientific equipment carried into space by 'Progress-19' Cargo spacecraft, which had docked on 23 February 1984, with 'Salyut-7'. Besides they also calibrated the equipment for various experiments and made all arrangements to receive the crew of "Soyuz T-11" on 4 April 1984, in which Indian Cosmonaut Sqn Ldr Rakesh Sharma was a participant.

These cosmonauts assisted the crew of 'Soyuz T-11' in the performance of their scientific tasks and participated in all the telecasts from space. In addition, the crew of "Soyuz T-11" was assisted in making preparations for their undocking in the "Soyuz T-10" and facilitated their departure on 11 April 1984 on successful termination of their Mission.

Shri Vladimir Solovyov thus displayed conspicuous courage and daring in the peaceful exploration of outer space in a Joint Indo-Soviet Space Mission. He was decorated with the award of Kirti Chakra on 4 April 1984.



8991
Squadron Leader
Yadav, Deepak
Indian Air Force
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sqn Ldr Deepak Yadav, son of Shri R S Yadav was born on 10 November, 1944 at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. He was commissioned in the Indian Air Force on 25 December, 1964. During the Indo-Pak Conflict 1971, he was mentioned in Despatches. He later volunteered for flight testing and contributed towards the development of indigenous aircraft and systems.

On 28 September 1976, Sqn Ldr Yadav was flight testing an air craft to examine a specific problem area which he himself had identified during two previous flights. During the course of this flight-test, the aircraft experienced a structural failure resulting in complete loss of control. Sqn Ldr Yadav was killed in the ensuing crash. He sacrificed his life in the cause of test flying.

For displaying courage and devotion to duty in flight test Sqn Ldr Deepak Yadav was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



JC-84441
Subedar
Yadav, Mahavir Singh
1 (Commando) Parachute Regiment
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Sub Mahavir Singh Yadav, son of Shri Shiv Narain was born on 22 November, 1944 at village Rambas, district Mahendragarh, Haryana. He was enrolled in 1 (Commando) Parachute Regiment on 22 November 1962.

The situation in Punjab took an alarming turn in early 1984. The terrorists abetted by the forces inimical to India openly preached secession. When all efforts to bring terrorists to path of sanity failed the Government of India decided to undertake army action against them. During this action called Operation 'Blue Star', launched on the night of 5/6 June 1984, Sub Yadav of 1 Para was the Second-in-Command of 'C' Team.

The team was ordered to lead the operation and flush out the terrorists from an important building complex. The entire complex was heavily fortified and strongly held by highly motivated terrorists. The team entered the building through the main entrance but soon came under heavy fire in which the Team Commander Maj PC Katoch was wounded. Sub Yadav personally organised his evacuation, but in the process he was hit by a Machine Gun burst. Disregarding his injury, he quickly assumed the command of the team and led his men to accomplish the assigned task. In the process he was hit a second time by the Machine Gun fire. However, without caring for his injury or personal safety, he refused evacuation and insisted on remaining with his team. He died due to excessive loss of blood.

In this action Sub Mahavir Singh Yadav exhibited conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and fine leadership. He made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the Indian army. He was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



GO-917-XEE (C)
Shri Yadav, Shiv Kumar
BRO
Kirti Chakra (Posth.)

Shri Shiv Kumar Yadav, son of Shri P L Yadav was born on 1 July 1933 in village Naglagulal, district Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh. He Joined Border Road Organisation on 25 January 1961.

During November 1986 Shri S K Yadav was commanding 56 Road Construction Company, GREF, deployed in Zojila area of Jammu and Kashmir. On 14/15 November 1986, an unprecedented snowstorm with 100 kilometres speed swept the area and buried a number of vehicles, on way from Gumri to Sonamarg, alongwith the occupants. Shri Yadav was given the task of reaching the trapped convoy from Sonamarg and to retrieve the victims and vehicles. On 21 November 1986, this company rescued three vehicles before a snowstorm overtook them. By 10 December 1986, 24 vehicles were rescued. However, fresh snowfall made any further activity impossible.

Shri Shiv Kumar Yadav planned the entire snow clearing operation afresh. While supervising the task, at about 1530 hours on 22 April 1987, he was suddenly faced with a heavy avalanche. He shouted to his men to leave the site of work, but himself stood at the post like a sentinel. The on-rushing avalanche swept him away and killed him.

For this brave act Shri Shiv Kumar Yadav was awarded Kirti Chakra, posthumously.

APPENDIX - 'I'

No. 3(8)/98/D (Ceremonials),
Government of India,
Ministry of Defence,
New Delhi.
Dated the 18th March, 1999.

To

The Chief of Army Staff,
The Chief of Navy Staff,
The Chief of Air Staff,

Subject : Grant of monetary allowance attached to Gallantry Awards consequent upon the decisions taken by the Government on the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 8th June, 1998 on the subject and to say that to maintain the relativity of the amount of monetary allowance attached to various gallantry awards with Param Vir Chakra i.e. Rs. 1,500/-, the rates in respect of other awards have been revised upwardly with effect from 1st February, 1999 as under :

Particulars of Gallantry Award	Revised rate of monetary allowance
	(Rupees per month)
ASHOKA CHAKRA	1,400
MAHA VIR CHAKRA	1,200
KIRIT CHAKRA	1,050
VAR CHAKRA	850
SHOURYA CHAKRA	750

Each Bar to the decoration will carry the same amount of monetary allowance as admissible to the original award.

2. The Government have also decided to grant monetary allowance of Rs. 250/- per month to the Sena/Neo Sena/Vayu Sena Medal awardees (where the awards has been given for gallantry). This will be payable to those who have been given these awards on 26th January, 1999 or thereafter.

3. The expenditure incurred will be debitable to the relevant Heads of Defence Service Estimates.

4. The payment of this enhanced monetary allowance will be subject to all other terms and conditions contained in this Ministry's letter No. 3(6)/93/D (Cer), dated 31-01-1995 on the subject.

5. This issues with the concurrence of Finance Division of this Ministry vide their ID No. 149/PD/99 dated 16-02-1999.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Y. K. Talwar)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel. 301 6547

The Controller General of Defence Accounts

The Director of Audit, Defence Services

The Controllers of Defence Accounts, Patna, (Navy) Bombay, (AF) Dehra Dun, (ORs) Madras & Meerut, (CC) & (WC) Meerut, (SC) & (O) Pune, (NC) Jammu, (FVs) Calcutta and (Pensions) Allahabad.

The Deputy Director of Audit, Defence Services, Patna, (CC) & (WC) Meerut and (SC) & (O) Pune.

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With the request that necessary action may be taken immediately for the issue of service instructions on the authority of this letter.

Copy signed in ink to :

The Controller of Defence Accounts, Patna, (CC) & (WC) Meerut, (SC) & (O) Pune, (NC) Jammu, (Navy) Bombay, (AF) Dehra Dun, (ORs) Meerut & Madras, (Pensions) Allahabad.

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The History Division, Ministry of Defence, had its beginning in the Historical Section that was set up after the end of World War II to write a detailed history of the War, with particular reference to the operations conducted by the Armed Forces of undivided India. After the partition of the country in 1947, this Section continued as a joint organisation of India and Pakistan and was designated as the Combined Inter Services Historical Section (India & Pakistan). CIS Historical Section compiled 25 volumes. It was wound up in 1963.

Meanwhile, a separate section called Historical Section (India) was set up in 1953 for compiling the history of post-partition military operations of the Indian Armed Forces. This Section was also meant to supply information on military history and allied subjects to the Ministry and the three Services Headquarters. Subsequently, a Heraldic Cell was created within the Section to advise the Ministry and the Armed Forces on ceremonial matters. Since its inception in 1953 the Historical Section has brought out ten publications. In view of the growing responsibility of the Section, it was redesignated as History Division on April 1, 1992.

The History Division also serves as a record and reference office of the Ministry of Defence and the three Services Headquarters. Officers of the Indian Armed Forces and research scholars often visit the Division to consult the records of military importance. The Division also assists various units of the Armed Forces in compiling their histories.

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