

S.No	Rank and Name	Service	Photo	Citation
01	15486168N Naik Devendra Pratap Singh, KIRTI CHAKRA, 55th Battalion the Rashtriya Rifles	Indian Army		<p>29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2022</p> <p>On 29 January 2022 at 1510 hours, specific input was received regarding presence of terrorists in a village in Pulwama District (Jammu and Kashmir). Naik Devendra Pratap Singh displayed exceptional tactical acumen in laying an impregnable cordon. During search, when subjected to indiscriminate fire by four terrorists equipped with modern assault rifles, Naik Devendra Pratap Singh stood his ground undeterred and immediately retaliated, which prevented terrorist escape. Displaying indomitable courage with utter disregard to personal safety, he crawled under fire and positioned himself near target house in the line of fire within three meters from hiding terrorists. Terrorists rushed out of the house firing indiscriminately, lobbing grenades and came face to face with him. Exhibiting nerves of steel and bravery of highest order, Naik Devendra Pratap Singh eliminated one terrorist on the spot face to face and swiftly changed his position to engage fleeing terrorists thereby eliminating the second terrorist. Terrorists eliminated were identified as a Category 'A++', and Category 'C' terrorists.</p> <p>For displaying indomitable courage and devotion beyond call of duty resulting in elimination of two hardcore terrorists, Naik Devendra Pratap Singh is awarded <b>KIRTI CHAKRA</b>.</p>
02	183102654 Sub Inspector (GD) Paotinsat Guite, KIRTI CHAKRA, (Posthumous) 59 Bn BSF	BSF		<p>01<sup>st</sup> December, 2020</p> <p>On 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, a 24 hours special ambush party of Ghatak Team of 59 Bn, BSF led by Shri Paotinsat Guite, SI(GD), familiar with the terrain &amp; enemy tactics, was deployed along with anticipated ingress route of the terrorists in highly sensitive Damaikush Bowl on LoC under Army Ops Control of 120 Inf Bde. On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 at about 0835 hours, the Ghatak team was fired upon from close proximity of Ambush site from the direction of Damaikush Nullah (Pak Side). Shri Paotinsat Guite, SI(GD), displaying intrepid nerves of steel, took immediate control of situation, re-sitting the Ambush and coordinated effective, swift and aggressive retaliatory fire towards the terrorist group, despite the heavily mined terrain with undulating ground and thick vegetation. While manoeuvring to engage the enemy, Shri Paotinsat Guite, SI(GD), was shot through his upper torso. With total disregard for his own safety, he continued engaging the enemy under overwhelming fire in order to provide protective fire for his team. Despite being grievously wounded, he exhibited raw courage and successfully neutralized one of the terrorist. Shri Paotinsat Guite, SI(GD), was evacuated amid heavy firing by enemy posts and terrorists through Infantry Safe Lane (ISL)</p>

				<p>where he was declared dead by Medical Officer, making the supreme sacrifice to the nation in the line of duty.</p> <p>During the entire operation, the dynamic leadership of Shri Paotinsat Guite, SI(GD), which resulted in killing of three militants of Hizbul Mujahideen.</p> <p>For conspicuous gallantry, intrepidity and heroism at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty and at the cost of his own life are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Force Shri Paotinsat Guite, SI(GD) is awarded <b>Kirti Chakra (Posthumous)</b>.</p>
03	001301748 Constable (GD) Sudip Sarkar, KIRTI CHAKRA, (Posthumous) 169 Bn BSF	BSF		<p>07<sup>th</sup> – 08<sup>th</sup> November, 2020</p> <p>During night intervening 07/08 November 2020, Shri Sudip Karkar, CT/GD, 169 Bn, BSF along with Shri Anurag Ranjan, SI and Shri Abdul Hamid, HC were on a patrol-cum-Ambush team along the Anti-Infiltration Obstacle System (AIOS)on the LoC, Distt- Kupwara, Kashmir. Shri Sudip Sarkar guiding the team, observed armed infiltrators inching towards AIOS. On being engaged the terrorists retaliated with heavy volume of fire from an elevated position on the ridge with ample cover. Exposed with no cover, Shri Sudip sarkar, CT/GD continued his assault by manoeuvring to engage the terrorists in a fierce gun battle but was severely wounded due to bullet and grenade blast injuries. Despite his injuries Shri Sudip Sarkar lunged into a daring close Quarter Battle, killing one terrorist, but succumbed to his injuries sustained during hand to hand combat.</p> <p>For displaying displayed conspicuous gallantry, heroism, selflessness and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in the highest traditions of BSF Sri Sudip Sarkar, CT/GD is awarded of <b>Kirti Chakra (Posthumous)</b>.</p>
04	15240522P Gunner Jasbir Singh, SHAURYA CHAKRA, (Posthumous) 19th Battalion the Rashtriya Rifles	Indian Army		<p>29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2021</p> <p>On 29 December 2021, Gunner Jasbir Singh was part of inner cordon during an operation in which three terrorists were eliminated. On specific input, a cordon and search operation was launched in a village in Anantnag District (Jammu and Kashmir). As the deliberate search of target house was in progress, the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire and lobbed two grenades in a bid to break cordon and flee. Sensing danger to own troops Late Gunner Jasbir Singh immediately sprung into action and with sheer disregard to his personal safety he repositioned himself and retaliated with accurate fire which blocked the escape route of terrorists but terrorists continued to fire. He then showing indomitable courage moved ahead, closed in with the firing terrorists and eliminated terrorist with M4 weapon at close range later identified as a CAT A++, who was involved in Pulwama attack. In the ensuing</p>

				gunfight, Gunner Jasbir Singh sustained multiple gunshot wounds and made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.
				For displaying exceptional gallantry beyond the call of duty and nerve of steel under hostile fire in the face of enemy, Gunner Jasbir Singh is awarded of <b>SHAURYA CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)</b> .
05	2693096F Havildar Ghanshyam, SHAURYA CHAKRA, 55th Battalion the Rashtriya Rifles	Indian Army		<p>14<sup>th</sup> July, 2021</p> <p>On 13 July 2021 at 2230 hours, specific input was received regarding presence of terrorists in Pulwama town (Jammu and Kashmir). Havildar Ghanshyam with his intimate knowledge of terrain, ensured swift laying of an impregnable cordon and quickly readjusted his position to cover escape routes. At 0840 hours on 14 July 2021, Havildar Ghanshyam and his buddy Sepoy Bhupendra Singh Bhandari came under heavy fire from a terrorist attempting to break the cordon. Exhibiting raw courage and tactical acumen, Havildar Ghanshyam swiftly retaliated with accurate fire thereby preventing escape. Once it was decided to close in towards terrorist hiding in the house, Havildar Ghanshyam volunteered to undertake this daunting task alongwith his buddy. With utter disregard to his personal safety and exhibiting extraordinary valour, Havildar Ghanshyam dashed towards the terrorist from limited cover and eliminated the terrorist at close range under covering fire from his buddy. Terrorist eliminated was identified as a Category A++ terrorist.</p> <p>For displaying indomitable courage, exceptional dedication and devotion beyond the call of duty resulting in elimination of one hardcore terrorist, Havildar Ghanshyam is awarded <b>SHAURYA CHAKRA</b>.</p>
06	14941570X Lance Naik Ragh Vendra Singh, SHAURYA CHAKRA, 9th Battalion the Rashtriya Rifles	Indian Army		<p>29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2021</p> <p>Lance Naik Ragh Vendra Singh, was serving with 9 Rashtriya Rifles. He was part of initial team of a cordon and search operation launched by the unit on 29 December 2021 in a village in Kulgam District (Jammu and Kashmir). At 2140 hours, Lance Naik Ragh Vendra received a radio call of a suspect approaching his side, he immediately realigned himself towards terrorists and charged upon them while firing swiftly and accurately, the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire and lobbed grenades towards Lance Naik Ragh Vendra injuring him grievously and attempted escape into the orchards. In a bold action, unmindful of his injury, displaying ingenuity, initiative, most conspicuous gallantry and unparalleled bravery Lance Naik Ragh Vendra closed in with the terrorists under fire and neutralised a hard-core terrorist from point blank rangeensuring no injuries to own troops or the civilians. The terrorist was later identified as a Category A++ terrorist.</p>

				Inspite of sustaining gunshot injury he displayed exceptional courage and valour with little regard for personal safety, resulting in the elimination of a hard-core terrorist. For displaying indomitable courage and bravery Lance Naik Ragh Vendra Singh is awarded of <b>SHAURYA CHAKRA</b> .
07	SS-47677W Major Abhishek Singh, SHAURYA CHAKRA, 50th Battalion the Rashtriya Rifles	Indian Army		<p>06<sup>th</sup> – 07<sup>th</sup> January, 2022</p> <p>Major Abhishek Singh since joining battalion has exhibited exceptional resoluteness and leadership qualities taking part in four successful operations resulting in elimination of nine terrorists. On 06-07 January 2022, he was part of Operation Zoi leading his team to lay initial cordon in Budgam District (Jammu and Kashmir). The alert officer observed suspicious movement of three individuals who opened indiscriminate fire on being challenged. Effective retaliation foiled escape bid. Post neutralisation of first terrorist, remaining two terrorists got holed up in narrow alley between houses. Major Abhishek Singh leading search team volunteered to clear it physically. While closing in team was fired upon by hiding terrorist and in ensuing firefight Major Abhishek Singh injured second terrorist with effective fire. Meanwhile grenade lobbed by third terrorist injured officer near left eye. Though bleeding profusely, officer regained his wit and located third terrorist firing onto search team. Appreciating grave danger to his buddy and disregarding personal safety the officer swiftly manoeuvred to acquire advantageous position and took aimed shots neutralising heavily armed category A+ foreign terrorist.</p> <p>For displaying commendable leadership and bravery thereby injuring one terrorist and eliminating another heavily armed foreign terrorist, Major Abhishek Singh is awarded <b>SHAURYA CHAKRA</b>.</p>
08	IC-78962W Major Amit Dahiya, SHAURYA CHAKRA, Sena Medal, First Battalion the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Indian Army		<p>28<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 – 01<sup>st</sup> August, 2021</p> <p>Major Amit Dahiya, Sena Medal was leading a Search and Destroy Operation Team tasked to eliminate foreign terrorists in Pulwama district based on the intelligence provided by General Officer Commanding, Counter Insurgency Force (Victor) and corroborated by different intelligence agencies.</p> <p>The officer through his meticulous planning and tactical acumen inducted his Team in general area under inclement weather conditions using unexpected route to achieve complete surprise. He astutely deployed his Sniper Detachments to observe the area from vantage points and stops to cut off likely escape routes. At 0605 hours, civilian movement was seen in the general area. Terrorists upon sensing danger came out from a Dhok and started firing indiscriminately using civilians as cover. On ascertaining threat to own troops and civilians, Major Amit Dahiya, Sena Medal displayed bold initiative and tactically maneuvered to close in and neutralized the terrorist in a fierce gun battle. Thereafter, he provided accurate fire support to assist in neutralising second terrorist while ensuring no collateral damage.</p>

				For displaying enterprising leadership, conspicuous courage, tactical acumen and unvanquishable determination, Major Amit Dahiya, Sena Medal is awarded <b>SHAURYA CHAKRA</b> .
09	IC-72252H Major Nitin Dhaania, <b>SHAURYA CHAKRA</b> , 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Indian Army		<p>13<sup>th</sup> December, 2021</p> <p>On 13 December 2021, Major Nitin Dhaania was tasked to execute a surgical operation in a crowded area of South Kashmir (Jammu and Kashmir) to avert terrorist attack on Army convoy.</p> <p>At 1330 hours, two terrorists in guise of civilians were positively identified by him. Sensing danger to civilians and imminent threat to Army convoy, he alongwith his buddy discreetly closed in towards the terrorists and tactfully challenged the terrorists, who retaliated with automatic fire towards them at extremely close range. Major Nitin and his buddy immediately grabbed the terrorists and engaged them in hand to hand combat. In ensuing grapple, he eliminated a terrorist identified as a Category A+ terrorist. Subsequently, he rushed towards his buddy and sensing mortal threat to his life, in another aimed shot, eliminated the second terrorist identified as a Category 'A' terrorist.</p> <p>For displaying exceptional courage with utter disregard to personal safety, indomitable fighting spirit, ferocity in combat and averting an attack on an Army Convoy and saving precious lives of civilians, Major Nitin Dhaania is awarded <b>SHAURYA CHAKRA</b>.</p>
10	IC-80532L Major Sandeep Kumar, <b>SHAURYA CHAKRA</b> , 55th Battalion the Rashtriya Rifles	Indian Army		<p>05<sup>th</sup> January, 2022</p> <p>Since March 2020, Major Sandeep Kumar exhibited exceptional resoluteness and fortitude during five successful operations resulting in elimination of 13 terrorists.</p> <p>On 05 January 2022 at 0430 hours, during a specific operation in, Pulwama district (Jammu and Kashmir), three terrorists equipped with modern assault rifles and night vision devices opened indiscriminate fire on search party on Major Sandeep from a cowshed. Maintaining tactical composure, he swiftly retaliated fire and re-deployed his team to prevent terrorist escape. Undeterred by terrorist fire and with utter disregard to personal safety, the officer crawled ahead under covering fire provided by his buddy and closed in to the cowshed in an open area without any cover. The terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on Major Sandeep and his buddy. Displaying unflinching loyalty, he pushed his buddy away from grave danger,</p>

				<p>exposing himself to heavy terrorist fire. In an act of unparalleled courage, he engaged terrorists in a face to face gun fight eliminating one terrorist and grievously injuring another terrorist. Terrorist eliminated was identified as a Category 'A++' terrorist.</p> <p>For displaying supreme leadership and exemplary courage beyond the call of duty, Major Sandeep Kumar is awarded <b>SHAURYA CHAKRA</b>.</p>
11	<p>3017767L Sepoy Karn Veer Singh, <b>SHAURYA CHAKRA</b> (Posthumous), 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Rashtriya Rifles</p>	Indian Army		<p>20<sup>th</sup> October, 2021</p> <p>Based on specific HUMINT regarding movement of two unidentified terrorists in a village in Shopian district (Jammu and Kashmir) an ambush was laid on 20 October 2021. Sepoy Karn Veer Singh was scout of the team which had laid the ambush.</p> <p>At 1030 hours, when intercepted by the ambush, both the terrorists in an attempt to escape jumped into a nalla. Sepoy Karn Veer Singh foreseeing the contingency of terrorist's escape dashed after them alone for 100 meters. Terrorists realizing that they were being chased fired at him indiscriminately and lobbed grenades injuring him. Undaunted by his injuries, Sepoy Karn Veer Singh crawled ahead for 30 meters and accurately engaged the terrorists and pinned them down. Valorous at close range, he eliminated terrorist in an intense firefight. Displaying unprecedented courage and devotion to duty Sepoy Karn Veer Singh continued to engage the second terrorist, injured him before receiving a bullet injury on his head, and laid his life in the line of duty.</p> <p>For eliminating one hardcore terrorist and injuring another one, despite being mortally wounded, Sepoy Karn Veer Singh is awarded of <b>SHAURYA CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)</b>.</p>
12	<p>07456-W Lt Cdr Mritunjay Kumar, <b>SHAURYA CHAKRA</b>, INS Karna</p>	Indian Navy		<p>24<sup>th</sup> July, 2021</p> <p>Lt Cdr Mritunjay Kumar was deployed for OP RAKSHAK at J&amp;K from 23 Mar 21 to 03 Oct 21. The officer displayed selfless individual valour and personal example during OP SHOKBABA FOREST (2021) which resulted in successful elimination of terrorists and saved life of a jawan.</p> <p>OP SHOKBABA FOREST (2021) was a joint Search and Destroy Operation (SADO) launched by 14RR Bn (GARH RIF) from 23 Jul 21 to 27 Jul 21 based on intelligence shared by JK Police regarding presence of terrorists in Shok Baba Forest in Kashmir. At 2300H on 23 Jul 21, an outer cordon was established. Lt Cdr Mritunjay Kumar led the MARCOS team for SADO in the challenging dense mountainous forest terrain. At 0710 Hr on 24 Jul 21, two terrorists hiding near a boulder</p>

opened indiscriminate fire on the search team wherein RFN Pradeep Singh sustained multiple Gun Shot Wounds (GSW). Whilst terrorists were pinned down by a heavy volume of retaliatory fire by the joint team including MARCOS, the officer noticed two other terrorists escaping uphill. Though the officer was in an extremely disadvantageous downhill position, he selflessly went beyond the call of his duty in discreetly tracking these terrorists and passing live position to the Control for readjustment of uphill stops. The valiant pursuit and precise tracking by the officer in an extremely treacherous terrain regardless of his tactically disadvantageous position and personal safety resulted in subsequent neutralisation of both terrorists by the readjusted uphill stops.

After this, Lt Cdr Mritunjay Kumar regrouped with joint team at initial contact site where engagement with terrorists was still in progress. He conducted hot extraction of REN Pradeep Singh downhill to the MARCOS evacuation team and administered IC Fluids and compression bandage en route. This timely hot extraction and Field Trauma Management was critical in successful recovery of RFN Pradeep Singh. Thereafter the officer once again regrouped with the team at initial contact site and tactically manoeuvred himself into an uphill position in direct line of site of hiding terrorists. In ensuing firefight, terrorists lobbed grenades towards the officer however he maintained tactical cover and directed accurate gunfire from other positions onto the terrorists. This resulted in neutralisation of one terrorist by own troops.

Whilst army troops approached the boulder to confirm status of neutralised terrorist, the second terrorist opened fire on them. Lt Cdr Mritunjay Kumar observed that readjusted position of second terrorist placed own approaching teams in a precarious position. With utter disregard to his personal safety, the officer broke cover and unleashed a heavy volume of aimed fire to subdue the terrorist whilst closing his position with a BP shield. This effectively stopped firing by the terrorist. Thereafter, own teams were repositioned and a thorough search conducted. The body of neutralised terrorist with War like Stores was recovered and blood trial of second terrorist observed. The second terrorist was found dead in the general area Shok Baba forest two days later having succumbed to GSW.

In keeping with the highest traditions of the Indian Navy, Lt Cdr Mritunjay Kumar went beyond the call of his duty during OP SHOKBABA FOREST (2021) displaying rare courage, personal example and selfless daring for which he is awarded the **Shaurya Chakra**.

13	9653 Assistant Commandant Amit Kumar, SHAURYA CHAKRA, 44 CRPF	CRPF		<p>12<sup>th</sup> October, 2020</p> <p>On 12 Oct 20, an input about the presence of armed terrorists in Old Barzulla area, PS Saddar, Distt Srinagar, a joint op was launched by Valley QAT, CRPF, SOG and J&amp;K Police. Accordingly, 4 teams under the command of Sh Narendra Yadav, 2 IC along with Sh Amit Kumar, AC and Sh Anirudh Pratap Singh, AC, were formed.</p> <p>As planned, at about 0400 h, the target house (three storeys + attic) was cordoned by Sh Amit Kumar, AC, along with his team. Search commenced in all the adjacent houses and civilians were evacuated to safety. The inhabitants of the target house were asked to come outside and on questioning, one of them revealed about the presence of two suspected terrorists in the house and specified one of them as a Pakistani terrorist. On confirmation, the cordon was further strengthened. An appeal was made to the terrorists to surrender but in vain. While the cordon was further being closed in, terrorists fired upon the cordon party, which was retaliated effectively by the team of Valley QAT. To restrict the movement of the terrorist, it was decided to use MGL, in a coordinated way, followed by house intervention. Under the command of Sh Amit Kumar, AC, RL Dett was established and despite persistent firing from the terrorists, the RLs were fired, and it created necessary openings in the target house. Thereafter, two house intervention teams were formed. The first team was tasked to enter through roof using ladder from adjacent house. The second team led by Sh Amit Kumar, AC, was to enter from the ground floor. Despite exposure to hostile firing, both teams entered the house under cover firing.</p> <p>As the first team of Sh Narendra Yadav, 2 IC started to descend through the stairs, terrorists started heavy firing. The team took cover and responded with heavy fire and lobbing of grenades, which compelled terrorist to change his location. As the team opened the door of 3rd room, terrorist hiding inside the room, lobbed two grenades followed by heavy firing towards the team. The team took cover and retaliated effectively. The team cleared this room and reached 2nd floor, during the intense gunfight, one of the terrorists was neutralized.</p> <p>Simultaneously, the second team under command Sh Amit Kumar, AC, was tactically moving towards the entry of the target house, the hidden terrorist opened heavy fire on them. The terrorist lobbed a grenade towards the team, but, Sh Amit Kumar, AC and his team had a narrow escape. Utilizing the smoke of grenade blast, the team advanced further inside and started to clear the ground floor. As the team opened door of a room, the hidden terrorist lobbed grenade followed by indiscriminate firing. The team immediately took cover and using ballistic shield, Sh Amit Kumar, AC, and his buddy entered the room. The terrorist sensing the entry sprayed bullets and ran out of the room towards the stairs. Sh Amit</p>
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			<p>Kumar, AC fired at the fleeing terrorist. The terrorist lobbed a grenade towards the advancing team followed by heavy firing.</p> <p>However, the grenade blast resulted in injuries to two of his teammates. Seeing his teammates in imminent danger, Sh Amit Kumar, AC exhibited true camaraderie and exceptional leadership skills and evacuated his injured teammates to safety and thereafter reverted and joined his team again. As Sh Amit Kumar, AC, was about to reach the first floor, the terrorist lobbed a grenade and fired fusillade of bullets towards him, but he had a miraculous escape and remained undeterred. Amid the spraying of bullets, he advanced further leaving his cover behind and reached close by and in a veritable dogfight, he took the terrorist on in a head-on battle and neutralized him, from close quarters. In ensued close quarter gun battle, Sh Amit Kumar, AC, killed the foreign terrorist later identified as LeT Commander Saifullah Daniyal of Pakistan, Category A++ terrorist.</p> <p>Another terrorist killed during the encounter was later identified as Irshad Ahmad Dar @ Abu Usmana, of LeT. Besides, one AK 47 rifle, four magazines, one M4 rifle with sight, four M4 rifle magazines, one Chinese pistol, one Chinese pistol magazine and two combat pouches were recovered from the possession of the slain terrorists.</p> <p>In recognition of his extreme valour and exemplary determination, in the face of imminent threat and danger, in the highest traditions of the force, Sh Amit Kumar, AC, is awarded <b>Shaurya Chakra</b>.</p>
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14	Shri. Somay Vinayak Munde, SHAURYA CHAKRA, Addl. Supdt. of Police, Gadchiroli	Mahara shtra Police		On 12/11/2021, information was received about the gathering of armed members of Communist Party of India (CPI) (Maoist) group, numbering roughly 120-130 heavily armed insurgents and they planned to conduct a major attack on security forces in the backdrop of PLGA week. As per the orders and under the supervision of Shri Ankit Goyal, SP, Gadchiroli, an anti-naxal operation was chalked out by Shri Somay Munde, Addl. Supdt. of Police (Ops.), Gadchiroli. Based on this plan, an operation was launched involving 15 C60 parties led by Shri Somay Munde, Addl SP (Ops). As per the plan, the operational parties were divided into three group. On 12/11/2021 during the nocturnal hours, the first group led by Shri Somay Munde and another five officers and 137 policemen and the second group composed of seven officers and 110 policemen set out from Gadchiroli and were dropped via vehicle 8 km from the target area. Employing utmost stealth and speed both groups covered the said distance on moonless cloudy night through hilly and densely forested area within 5 hours under cover of darkness. They reached the forest of Alondi on 13/11/2021 early in the morning. Similarly, the third group consisting of one officer and 85 men set out from AOP Kotgul at midnight of 12-13/11/2021 and reached the target area early in the morning. Thereafter all the three groups together began to comb through the forest. On 13/11/2021 at around 0600 hrs to 0630 hrs, while combing through the forest of Mardintola, the Maoists hidden on the hilltop, suddenly attacked the second group by opening indiscriminate fire. The commandos managed to shield themselves behind the trees and rocks and shouted out in appeal to the Maoists to stop gunfire and surrender. But the Maoists continued to fire at the commandos. The commandos of the second group retaliated at the direction of the Maoists by opening controlled fire. As the police pressure mounted, the Maoists fled into the thick forest. As the gunfire was heard by Shri Somay Munde, he immediately established coordinating among all the three groups through walkie-talkie sets and identified the direction in which Maoists fled. Shri Somay Munde chalked out a plan and thereafter began to chase the Maoists. As the commandos reached the near a hill, 90-100 armed Maoists hidden on the hilltop again attacked the commandos by opening accurate and devastating fire. During this exchange of fire, Shri Tikaram Katenge received grievous bullet injuries on the right hand and right shoulder. Due to bullet injuries to his right hand, his dominant hand was incapacitated and heavily bleeding. Sensing grave danger to his colleagues, in spite of grievous injuries, he shifted his rifle position to left hand and continued to retaliate. His unexpected counterattack caught three advancing naxals in surprise, during which he was able to neutralize all three Maoists armed with automatic weapons. In spite of fatal injuries, he continued to retaliate and showed conspicuous bravery. His counterattack encouraged his fellow commandos to retaliate aggressively in spite of being pinned down. He kept presence of mind in spite of bleeding
15	Shri. Ravindra Kashinath Naitam, SHAURYA CHAKRA, Police Naik / 662 Gadchiroli			
16	Shri. Tikaram Sampatrao Katenge SHAURYA CHAKRA, Police Naik / 1439, Gadchiroli			

heavily and fought pitched battle with the enemy merely 20 meters away. Through his gallant act, he was able to prevent further loss not only to his person but also to his buddies. But Maoists, seeing wounded jawans, began to encircle them in order to kill and snatch away the weapons of jawans. Maoists were using accurate BGL fire in order cause maximum damage. Due to growing pressure and heavy fire, the trapped men radioed Shri Somay Munde for immediate assistance. Shri Somay Munde directed his section to provide cover fire while he along with 6 men left their cover and began crawling to the spot under heavy fire. His assault group achieved a dominating position to lay accurate fire on the Maoists. Through controlled and accurate use of area weapons and automatic fire, he and his assault group neutralized six heavily armed Maoists. Further, in order to take advantage of this momentum to break the encirclement, he along with his buddy Shri Ravindra Naitam charged at the remaining Maoists in spite of a volley of bullets flying around. He and Shri Ravidra Naitam laid down accurate fire to neutralize three more Maoists in order to save wounded jawans from imminent danger. The Maoists continued to fire indiscriminately at the commandos.

Due to the excessive bleeding from the hand of injured Shri Tikaram Katenge, it was urgently required to evacuate him for immediate medical attention. Shri Munde formed a small group of commandos and sent them to identify a suitable place for helicopter landing for CASEVAC. While this group was moving along the edge of a hill, 20-25 armed Maoists suddenly attacked the group. After some time, the Maoists began flanking the group from different sides in order to lay fire from various directions at the jawans. Immediately, one of the commando informed Shri Munde over a walkie-talkie set about the encirclement of the Maoists and called for assistance. Sensing grave danger to his men, Shri Munde along with his group started moving towards the exchange of fire from the right direction. Meanwhile, he directed the third group to rush towards the exchange of fire from the left direction. This coordinated flanking movement ensured that Maoists were outflanked. During this flanking maneuver, two Maoists hiding in the nearby bush fired indiscriminately at the flanking jawans in order to achieve surprise. Shri Ravindra Naitam, who was pilot of one of the sections, through presence of mind and utmost alertness identified the two hidden Maoists firing from the automatic weapon. With utter disregard for personal safety, he charged at the two Maoists and silenced them. During this charge, he received a grazing bullet wound to his head. In spite of shock and bleeding due to the bullet wound, he continued to fire in order to maintain pressure. His presence of mind and alertness ensured that his fellow jawans were saved from two Maoists in near-perfect ambush position. Meanwhile, seeing his wounded buddy in imminent danger from other Maoists, Shri Munde, with utter disregard for personal safety, left his cover and charged ahead and laid down cover-fire in order to achieve fire superiority. This surprise counter-attack by Shri Munde

				<p>stunned advancing belligerents. Through spot-on tactical acumen and audacious maneuver, he was able to neutralise two more armed Maoists. This sudden counter attack destroyed morale among the Maoists rank, due to which they retreated from the wounded jawan. Due to this, other jawans were able to pull wounded Shri Ravindra Naitam to safety. Due to the coordinated attack of the commandos from both the sides, the Maoists began to retreat. Hence, the trapped commandos could be rescued successfully.</p> <p>During the search, police found 26 Maoists including women lying unconscious on the ground. Also 29, firearms and other naxal belonging in huge quantities were recovered from the place of incident. Importantly numerous shells of spent BGL were testimony to the amount of firepower used by the Maoists during exchange of fire. Further, a search operation on 16/11/21 led to discovery of another body along with a firearm.</p> <p>In recognition of extraordinary courage displayed by the police personnel, Shri Somay Munde, Addl. Supdt. of Police (Ops.), Shri Ravindra Naitam, Police Naik and Shri Tikaram Katenge, Police Naik are awarded <b>Shaurya Chakra</b>.</p>
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