

**PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT**

**NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

No. 18-Pres/2019 – The President is pleased to approve the award of the “**Kirti Chakra**” to the under mentioned person for the acts of conspicuous gallantry:-

- ✓ 1. **SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR NAIN, CONSTABLE, 130 BN, CRPF  
(POSTHUMOUS), AND**
2. **SHRI PRADIP KUMAR PANDA, CONSTABLE, 130 BN, CRPF  
(POSTHUMOUS)**

{Effective date of the award: 30<sup>th</sup> December 2017}

On 30 December 2017 at around 0200 hrs, three heavily armed terrorists of JeM outfit sneaked into the campus by breaching the perimeter wall and entered the four-storeyed building of Type 2 and Type 4 Quarters. On receipt of information about the attack, the Valley QAT(Quick Action Team) from Srinagar and Range QAT of South Kashmir Ops Range (SKOR) and Anantnag rushed for Lethpora camp. It was decided to first evacuate the trapped personnel from Type 2 Quarters. Accordingly, Sh Zile Singh, Assistant Commandant of Range QAT(SKOR) with his buddy Constable Rajendra Kumar Nain, moved for the task. Amid the heavy firing, troops first rescued about ten personnel from building, and then advanced to engage the terrorists hiding somewhere in attic area.

As Constable Rajendra Kumar Nain reached for the attic door and opened it, the militant fired a volley of bullets at the door and simultaneously lobbed a grenade towards them. Saving him from this attack, Constable Rajendra Kumar, in a flash, without caring for his life, moved inside with his BP shield and fired a burst at the militant with full might. However, the militant anticipating the tactical movement also fired back from behind the cemented block. Resultantly, one Armour Piercing Incendiary (API) round pierced through the BP shield and hit Rajendra Kumar Nain in the upper part of the chest. Due to the hit, he lost control of the BP shield but valiantly continued to fire on the militant, till he fell unconscious and slumped on the ground. In the process, he inflicted grievous wounds on the militant. Shri Zile Singh, who was close to him, instantly reacted from the door and without caring for his life fired at the militant. Constable Rajendra Kumar Nain was evacuated to the hospital immediately where he succumbed to his injuries and attained martyrdom. Incensed by the loss of his buddy, Zile Singh charged on the militant with the covering fire from his fellow officer and neutralized on the spot. The neutralized militant was identified as Manzoor Ahmad Baba, r/o Drabgam, Pulwama.

Meanwhile, one militant was sighted near the perimeter of the camp. The valley QAT team was directed engage the militant. Constable P.K.Panda and Constable S. Prakash of valley QAT were in the front. As they closed in on the location, the militant greeted them with heavy volley of fire. The militant was hiding in the undulating open ground and firing continuously. No effective cover was available to approach him without grave risk to life. Yet, Constable P. K. Panda along with his buddy Constable S. Prakash advanced through the open area adopting fire and move tactics. As they closed in, the militant tried to hurl grenades towards them. At this juncture Constable P.K.Panda, without caring for his life, came out of his cover and fired at the militant neutralizing him on the spot. The killed militant was identified as Fardeen Ahmad Khandey r/o Tral, Pulwama. After this, the valley QAT was tasked to clear the room from the ground floor and reach the top. Constable P.K.Panda was again in the lead with his buddy Constable S. Prakash. After clearing the ground and first two floors, P.K.Panda audaciously entered another room. The militant hiding in the room fired upon Constable P.K. Panda and inflicted injuries to him. Despite being injured P.K.Panda did not give up and continue to fire at the militant, till he fell down but not before inflicting serious wounds to the militant. Later he succumbed to his injuries and attained martyrdom. The militant was neutralized subsequently.

The Lethpora operation continued for more than 36 hours and was eventually repulsed successfully by CRPF on its own. The success was largely achieved by the tremendous grit, determination, exemplary valour and never say die spirit of Constable Rajendra Kumar Nain, Constable P.K.Panda and Shri Zile Singh, Asst. Comdt. During the operation, Constable Rajendra Kumar Nain and P.K.Panda attained martyrdom in the line of duty in keeping with the highest traditions of the Force.

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

3. **SS-46936F MAJOR TUSHAR GAUBA, 20<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION THE JAT REGIMENT**

{Effective date of the award: 26 May 2018}

On the night of 23 May 2018, eight militants attempted infiltration across Line of Control in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir. At 0400 hours on 24 May 2018, Major Tushar Gauba laid an ambush to deny exfiltration to the terrorists. On night of 25 May, terrorists tried to exfiltrate. Party led by Major Tushar was alerted, and accordingly he redeployed his ambush. At 0530 hours on 26 May, terrorist group sensed the location of ambush led by Major Tushar and started indiscriminatory fire using automatic rifles and hand grenades in which Sepoy Sunil Kumar sustained splinter injuries. Sensing the danger to own party,

Major Tushar Gauba crawled upto 20 meter close to the terrorists under heavy firing by terrorists. He lobbed a hand grenade and with utter disregard to his personal safety charged on the terrorists with his AK 47. In close combat he killed three militants with personal weapon.

Major Tushar Gauba displayed unparalleled bravery, conspicuous gallantry under heavy terrorist fire, tactical acumen and swift action to save his party which resulted in elimination of three hardcore terrorists and no further casualty to own troops.

4. 15496659X SOWAR VIJAY KUMAR, THE ARMoured CORPS/  
22<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)


{Effective date of the award: 02 August 2018}

Sowar Vijay Kumar, 22 Rashtriya Rifles (PUNJAB) deployed in Jammu and Kashmir, was part of "OPERATION VIJAY DARSU" from 02 August 2018 to 03 August 2018.

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

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

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

  
(P. Praveen Siddharth)  
Officer on Special Duty