

Project Veergatha was established in 2021 under the Gallantry Awards Portal (GAP) in order to provide school children a platform to work on projects and activities inspired by gallantry award winners. To further advance this admirable goal, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) launched Project Veer Gatha 3.0 in the current year 2023-24.

With the introduction of Veer Gatha 3.0 in July 2023, the initiative reached new heights as compared to its earlier editions, attracting an unprecedented participation of 1,36,87,581 students from 2,42,834 schools across 766 districts in 36 states and UTs. The remarkable achievement of the Veer Gatha 3.0 is exemplified by the impressive strength of 65 girl students among the 'Super-100'. Odisha gave the highest number of female winners with eight girl students, closely followed by Bihar with seven, while Jammu and Kashmir and the north-eastern region of Manipur had two and five noteworthy girl student winners respectively.

Veer Gatha 3.0 introduces a significant improvement by extending the list of winners from the previous editions' Super 25 to now include Super 100. State and district-level awards additionally recognize students' achievements across various levels. The success of Veer Gatha 3.0 is evident not just in its impressive participation figures, but also in its capacity to overcome linguistic, cultural, gender, and institutional constraints, extending its reach to even remote areas.

Project Veergatha 3.0 commenced with schools conducting interdisciplinary and art-integrated activities and submission of top entries to the MyGov portal. The submission by the students was allowed to be made in any of the 22 Scheduled languages and English. The school-level activities for Veer Gatha 3.0 were concluded on September 30, 2023. The students were involved in activities in the form of Poem / Paragraph / Essay / Painting / Drawing / Story / Video. The suggested topics for this year's creative entries included Gallantry Awards Winners, Rani Lakshmi Bai, 1857 Mutiny and Role of Tribal Uprising in Freedom Struggle. The school students nationwide also got an opportunity to interact with gallantry awardees during various online and offline interactive sessions organised by MoD.

Project Veer Gatha 3.0 is evaluated and awarded at three levels: District level, State/UT Level, and National level. After a series of evaluations at the State and District levels, a total of 3891 entries were submitted for National level evaluation. The National Evaluation Committee selected the 100 best entries (25 entries from each category) from those approved by the State Nodal Officers of all States/UTs. The four categories were: Class 3rd to 5th, Class 6th to 8th, Class 9th to 10th, and Class 11th to 12th.

Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh along with Hon'ble Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan felicitated 'Super-100' winners of Project Veer Gatha 3.0 in an event organised in New Delhi on January 25, 2024. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane and other senior officials of Ministry of Defence &

Ministry of Education were present on the occasion. The event also witnessed Param Vir Chakra awardee Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav (Retd) narrating his real-life story of the Kargil war where he overcame all odds and played a crucial role in India's historic victory.

Apart from the 100 winners felicitated at the national level, there are rewards for top four winners (one from each category) at the district level, and for top eight winners (two from each category) at the State/UT level, irrespective of the board.

It is evident that Veer Gatha has not only celebrated India's heroic past but has also sown the seeds for a more patriotic and socially aware future generation.