

CITATION FOR NM (G)
COMMANDER KAUSTAB BANERJEE (06158-W)

DATE OF ACT : 02 AND 03 JUN 22

1. Commander Kaustab Banerjee (06158W), Captain of Seaking 42 C aircraft displayed exceptional bravery, courage and unmatched professional competence whilst undertaking a daring mission towards rendering immediate assistance to a disabled platform being towed at sea. He accomplished the unique and challenging mission of flying a helicopter for a distance of 250 nm over sea with no diversion in marginal flying conditions with heavy rains. This has been the first and unique occasion in naval aviation history wherein a helicopter has opened out at sea to 250 nm without diversion thereby testifying the officer's gallant motive to achieve the mission.

2. On 02 Jun 22, upon receiving orders for undertaking the daring mission of rendering assistance to a naval platform at 250 nm at sea, the officer undertook a conscious operational risk assessment to accomplish the mission. The officer unflinchingly volunteered for the mission and planned the entire operation which spanned over a duration of two days. The aircraft undertook hot refuelling onboard a platform at 200 nm into the sea in torrential rains and extremely poor visibility. Post refuelling, upon reaching the scene of action, the crew observed the transit of the tow was in downwind direction and therefore entailed a challenge for the helicopter to operate on extreme fringes to hover and render assistance by vertical replenishment in near tailwind conditions. Cdr K Banerjee successfully undertook the mission displaying valour and sense of commitment on consecutive days having flown in challenging conditions for six hours the previous day. The ranges of operation with no diversionary deck in between entailed nil safeguards in case of any major emergency.

3. Cdr Kaustab Banerjee displayed phenomenal courage and utmost professionalism with unmatched valour in braving the marginal flying conditions. His act of putting service before self to render timely assistance to a disabled platform being towed at sea view loss of propulsion, in the face of adversities was bold and dauntless. For successfully undertaking a fearless and gritty operational mission Cdr Kaustab Banerjee (06158-W) is awarded Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry).