

**CITATION FOR NM (G)**  
**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER PANNEERSELVAM VISHNU PRASANNA (08495-F)**

**Date of Act : 12-14 Jan 23**

1. Lieutenant Commander Panneerselvam Vishnu Prasanna is a qualified Clearance Diving Officer and Saturation Diving Officer onboard INS Nireekshak.
2. The ship was tasked for the salvage of submerged fighter aircraft off Goa from a depth of 219 m. Set of six divers were pressurized inside Deck Decompression Chamber on 12 Jan 23. Being among the most experienced group of divers available onboard, Lt Cdr PV Prasanna volunteered for the task as the first diver to lockout from the Submersible Decompression Chamber at a depth of 219 m.
3. The salvage of the submerged aircraft was the deepest salvage operation ever attempted in the history of Indian Navy. Undertaking salvage at a depth of 219 mts was an unprecedented challenge for the ship. Divers diving at such deeper depths have to combat hostile environment (pitch dark conditions, freezing water and strong currents) and suffer from extreme fatigue due to excessive body heat loss and disorientation. The reaction time to handle any emergency also reduces exponentially at such depths. Very few divers worldwide have attempted and successfully achieved such a feat.
4. The officer was the first diver to exit the Submersible Decompression Chamber at 212 m and located the crane wire hook which was lowered at 219 m by the crane. Post locating the crane hook, the officer had to appropriately guide the crane hook closer to wreck and connect up one of the two webbing strops to hard point.
5. Lt Cdr PV Prasanna locked out for **unprecedented 63 minutes** at 219 m in order to achieve the task successfully. Whilst the lockout was planned for 45 minutes, the officer volunteered to take the risk and set out to accomplish the mission by continuing the dive for additional 18 min in most marginal conditions.
6. Lt Cdr PV Prasanna led from front to accomplish the singular goal of successful salvage of a submerged aircraft from a depth of 219 metres. In that, he has demonstrated professional competence and unparalleled courage in the face of most arduous conditions. The exceptional courage, bravery and fortitude displayed by Lt Cdr PV Prasanna are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Indian Navy. Lt Cdr Panneerselvam Vishnu Prasanna is awarded Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry).