

LIST OF AWARDEES
SHAURYA CHAKRA

1	SQN LDR	SUDHIR KUMAR	
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1. Squadron Leader Sudhir Kumar, Flying (Pilot) is on the posted strength of a frontline Sukhoi-30 MKI squadron. He is a supervisor with more than 1300 hours of flying.

2. On 09 September 2025, he was authorised to fly as captain of the aircraft for a low-flying and low-level navigation sortie by night from the rear cockpit of the Su-30 MKI aircraft, accompanied by an Under Training (U/T) pilot in the front cockpit. During the recovery phase, at an altitude of 2.2 km and a speed of 740 kmph, the aircraft experienced a catastrophic failure that manifested as violent oscillations in the longitudinal plane accompanied by multiple indicators of Fly By Wire (FBW) system failure. This critical situation resulted in drastic pitch variations ranging from +45 degrees to -15 degrees, extreme g-loads spanning from -1.5 g to +12 g along with Angle of Attack (AOA) indications exceeding 24 units. As the supervisor in the cockpit he demonstrated exceptional situational awareness and airmanship despite experiencing physical forces that exceeded normative limits for human tolerance. Under extreme conditions of rapidly varying g-loads and pitch, he maintained a composed and calm demeanour, swiftly taking control of the situation and instructing the front pilot to reset the failed FBW channels. He exercised exemplary judgment by first corroborating that the critical FBW red light was not illuminated before guiding the front pilot to operate the correct switches.

3. The ensuing task was extremely demanding given the violent onset of intense g-forces and the rapidity of the manoeuvre that manifested under conditions of total darkness by night. Without any external frame of reference and unable to discern the aircraft instruments due to blurring of vision, he demonstrated extraordinary airmanship and praiseworthy intuition by promptly re-opening power on the aircraft. This prevented a potentially cataclysmic accident that could have occurred due to rapid loss of airspeed. Throughout the emergency he displayed absolute professionalism and composure, and maintained apt responsiveness despite being in extreme physical agony while struggling to stay conscious and remain oriented. Furthermore, he demonstrated outstanding leadership and supervisory acumen by guiding and

reassuring the U/T pilot in the front cockpit. These gallant actions highlight exceptional bravery in taking precise and correct measures under extreme pressure.

4. For this act of gallantry, Squadron Leader Sudhir Kumar is awarded 'Shaurya Chakra'.