

UNIT 2**A Tale of Valour****Summary**

“A Tale of Valour” tells the inspiring story of Major Somnath Sharma, India’s first Param Vir Chakra recipient. During the Battle of Badgam in 1947, Major Sharma and his 90 soldiers bravely fought against a much larger enemy force to protect Srinagar. Despite being injured and heavily outnumbered, he courageously led and motivated his men and refused to withdraw. His resistance gave Indian reinforcements valuable time to reach Srinagar. Major Sharma sacrificed his life at the age of 24. His courage, leadership, patriotism, and devotion to duty continue to inspire generations.

New Words

Word	Simple Meaning
• Valour	- bravery
• Etched	- fixed in memory
• Beacon	- source of inspiration
• Infiltrators	- secret invaders
• Annex	- take control of
• Combat	- fight or battle
• Unfounded	- not based on facts
• Eerily	- strangely and frighteningly
• Outnumbered	- fewer in number
• Resolute	- firm and determined
• Tenacity	- strong determination
• Unparalleled	- unmatched
• Ammunition	- bullets and shells
• Crouched	- sat with knees bent
• Conspicuous	- easily noticeable
• Posthumously	- after death
• Despatches	- official military reports
• Forged	- shaped or strengthened
• Legacy	- something passed to future generations
• Testament	- proof or evidence
• Poignant	- deeply emotional and sad

Let us do these activities before we read.

I. Work in pairs. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

1. What do you think about the Republic Day Parade on 26 January?

Ans: The Republic Day Parade is a grand and inspiring event that fills us with pride and patriotism for our country.

2. What are the highlights of this parade?

Ans: The main highlights of the Republic Day Parade are the march-past by the Armed Forces, colourful tableaux of different states, cultural performances, and the display of India's unity and diversity.

3. What bravery awards are given on this day, and who receives them?

Ans: Gallantry awards such as the Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra, and Shaurya Chakra are announced on the occasion of Republic Day. They honour members of the Armed Forces and other eligible persons who show exceptional courage and bravery.

II. Work in groups of four and discuss.

1. What qualities do you think a soldier should have?

Ans: A soldier should be brave, disciplined, loyal, responsible, determined, and patriotic.

2. If you had to share a message with a soldier, what would it be?

Ans: I would say, "Thank you for your courage, dedication, and selfless service. We are proud of you for protecting our nation."

Let Us Discuss

Arrange the following events in chronological order. The first and the last events have been marked for you. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

1. Major Somnath Sharma was born in 1923 in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. (1)
2. Even after losing Major Somnath Sharma, the soldiers fought bravely to save Srinagar for India.
3. The D Company, under the command of Major Somnath Sharma, was flown into Srinagar.
4. Major Somnath Sharma underwent training at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.
5. Major Somnath Sharma requested air strikes to combat the enemy at Badgam.
6. Major Somnath Sharma was commissioned into the 19th Hyderabad Regiment in 1942.
7. Major Somnath Sharma was killed immediately after a mortar shell hit him.
8. Major Somnath Sharma was the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra. (8)

Ans. Arrange the following events in chronological order:

Event	Correct Order
• Major Somnath Sharma was born in 1923 in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.	1
• Even after losing Major Somnath Sharma, the soldiers fought bravely to save Srinagar for India.	7
• D Company, under Major Somnath Sharma, was flown into Srinagar.	4
• Major Somnath Sharma trained at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.	2
• Major Somnath Sharma requested air strikes at Badgam.	5
• Major Somnath Sharma joined the 19th Hyderabad Regiment in 1942.	3
• Major Somnath Sharma was killed when a mortar shell hit him.	6
• Major Somnath Sharma became the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra.	8

I. Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1. Vastly outnumbered and facing devastating fire, Major Somnath Sharma and his men stood resolute. The air was thick with the sound of gunfire and the cries of battle, but Major Somnath Sharma's voice cut through the chaos, urging his men to fight with tenacity and valour. Despite heavy casualties and his own injuries, Major Somnath Sharma displayed unparalleled bravery. He moved fearlessly through the battlefield, directing fire, filling magazines for his gunners, and encouraging his men to hold their ground.

(i) What can be inferred about the conditions from the line: 'The air was thick with gunfire...'

- A. The gunshots had stopped for a while.**
- B. There was intense fighting on the battlefield.**
- C. The invaders were retreating from the fight.**
- D. The Indian soldiers had achieved victory.**

Ans. B. There was intense fighting on the battlefield

(ii) Complete the sentence with a suitable reason.

- Despite heavy casualties, Major Somnath Sharma continued to lead his men because _____.**

Ans. he wanted to motivate his soldiers to keep fighting and hold their ground.

(iii) Select the correct option for both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below:

(A): Major Somnath Sharma moved fearlessly through the battlefield, even though he was injured.

(R): He believed his courage was important to motivate the soldiers.

- A. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).**
- B. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).**
- C. (A) is true, but (R) is false.**
- D. (A) is false, but (R) is true.**

Ans. A. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(iv) Fill in the blank with the correct word from those given in the brackets:

- Major Somnath Sharma was filling magazines, and encouraging his men to hold their ground despite _____. (injuries/worry)**

Ans. injuries

2. Born on 31 January 1923, in the picturesque town of Dadh in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, Somnath Sharma belonged to a family with a rich military legacy. His father, Major General Amar Nath Sharma, had served the nation with distinction, and young Somnath was deeply inspired by the valorous tales of the Mahabharata, imparted to him by his grandfather.

(i) What can be inferred about Somnath Sharma's early influences on his career?

- A. He was primarily influenced by his father's achievements in the military.**
- B. His inspiration came solely from the tales of the Mahabharata.**
- C. His family and heritage inspired his bravery and sense of duty.**
- D. He decided to join the military out of necessity rather than passion.**

Ans. C. His family and heritage inspired his bravery and sense of duty.

(ii) Identify whether the following statement is true or false:

- Somnath Sharma belonged to a wealthy family.**

Ans. False.

- The extract only states that he belonged to a family with a rich military legacy, not that his family was wealthy.**

(iii) What does the phrase 'served the nation with distinction' tell us about Major General Amar Nath Sharma?

- (He performed his duties with exceptional dedication, honour, and excellence./He was highly respected for his contributions to the country.)

Ans. He performed his duties with exceptional dedication, honour and excellence.

(iv) Replace the underlined phrase with a word from the extract that has a similar meaning.

- My family and I visited a popular hill station and stayed in an old but visually charming house surrounded by trees.

Ans. Picturesque

- My family and I visited a popular hill station and stayed in an old but picturesque house surrounded by trees.

II. Answer the Following Questions.

1. 'Major Somnath's legacy of courage and devotion to the nation remains forever alive, forever alive...' What is the significance of the repetition in this line?

Ans. The repetition of "forever alive" emphasises that Major Somnath Sharma's courage, patriotism and sacrifice will never be forgotten. His heroic deeds will remain in the nation's memory and continue to inspire soldiers and citizens for generations to come.

2. Why do you think Major Somnath's leadership was critical during the Battle of Badgam?

Ans. Major Somnath's leadership was critical because his company was heavily outnumbered. Despite being injured, he directed fire, helped his gunners and constantly encouraged his men to hold their ground. His courage motivated them to continue fighting until reinforcements could reach Srinagar.

3. What were Major Somnath's last words? What do they reflect about his sense of duty?

Ans. Major Somnath's last words were, "I shall not withdraw an inch but will fight to the last man and the last round." These words reflect his unwavering courage, determination, patriotism, and strong sense of duty. He was ready to sacrifice his life to protect his nation.

4. What might have been the outcome of the Battle of Badgam if Major Somnath and his company had not held their ground?

Ans. If Major Somnath Sharma and his company had not held their ground, the enemy might have captured Srinagar airport and threatened Srinagar and the Kashmir Valley. Their brave resistance delayed the enemy and gave Indian reinforcements enough time to arrive and strengthen the defence of Srinagar.

5. Why do you think Major Somnath's story continues to inspire soldiers and civilians today?

Ans. Major Somnath's story continues to inspire soldiers and civilians because of his extraordinary courage, patriotism, leadership, and self-sacrifice. He remained devoted to his duty even in great danger and gave his life for the nation. His bravery teaches us to face challenges with courage and determination.

6. How can the values demonstrated by Major Somnath Sharma—courage, duty, and self-sacrifice—be applied in our daily lives?

Ans. We can practise these values by facing difficulties bravely, performing our duties sincerely and helping others without selfish motives. We should take responsibility for our actions, support people in need and place the common good above personal comfort whenever necessary. These actions make us responsible citizens.

Let us learn

I. Match the expressions from the text in Column 1 with the most suitable situations given in Column 2.

Column 1	Column 2
1. Fight to the last man	(i) A sports team scores a last-minute goal, giving them the lead and shaking the opponent's confidence.
2. Foil the plan	(ii) The soldiers fought valiantly until each one laid down his life for the nation.
3. Deliver a blow	(iii) Soldiers stay in their position and fight back, even though the enemy is stronger.
4. Hold their ground	(iv) A spy disrupts the enemy's efforts to invade a country by intercepting their communications.

Now, complete the following sentences using the expressions from Column 1.

- A. The detective managed to _____ by finding the hidden evidence before the culprit could get rid of it.
- B. The company's new advertising campaign was meant to _____ to their competitors' sales.
- C. The hikers chose to _____ despite the heavy rain, refusing to turn back on their journey.
- D. Despite being heavily outnumbered, the soldiers vowed to defend their homeland and _____, refusing to surrender to the enemy forces.

Ans. Match the expressions with the most suitable situations.

Column 1	Correct Match
1. Fight to the last man	- (ii) The soldiers fought valiantly until each one laid down his life for the nation.
2. Foil the plan	- (iv) A spy disrupts the enemy's efforts to invade a country by intercepting their communications.
3. Deliver a blow	- (i) A sports team scores a last-minute goal, giving them the lead and shaking the opponent's confidence.
4. Hold their ground	- (iii) Soldiers stay in their position and fight back, even though the enemy is stronger.

• Complete the sentences.

- A. The detective managed to foil the plan by finding the hidden evidence before the culprit could get rid of it.
- B. The company's new advertising campaign was meant to deliver a blow to their competitors' sales.
- C. The hikers chose to hold their ground despite the heavy rain, refusing to turn back on their journey.
- D. Despite being heavily outnumbered, the soldiers vowed to defend their homeland and fight to the last man, refusing to surrender to the enemy forces.

II. Read the highlighted words in the following sentence from the text.

A contingent of troops posted to Jammu and Kashmir was air-lifted into Srinagar...

There are many such collective nouns used in the context of armed forces. Match the collective nouns in Column 1 to their meanings in Column 2. You may refer to a dictionary.

Column 1	Column 2
1. regiment	(i) a large body of troops ready for battle, especially an infantry unit
2. squadron	(ii) a permanent unit of an army typically commanded by a lieutenant colonel/colonel and divided into several companies
3. fleet	(iii) a small unit, typically comprising 12–24 aircrafts and their crews used in air force, naval, or army aviation services.
4. battalion	(iv) a group of ships sailing together, engaged in the same activity, or under the same ownership

Now, fill in the blanks suitably with words from Column 1 in the table.

- A. The commanding officer addressed the entire _____ of soldiers during the morning assembly.
 B. The admiral ordered the entire _____ to set sail for battle.
 C. The _____ of infantry advanced slowly through the dense forest.
 D. A _____ of fighter jets was sent to intercept the enemy planes.

Ans. Match the Collective Nouns with Their Meanings

Column 1	Correct Match
1. Regiment	- (ii) a permanent unit of an army typically commanded by a lieutenant colonel/colonel and divided into several companies
2. Squadron	- (iii) a small unit, typically comprising 12–24 aircrafts and their crews used in air force, naval, or army aviation services.
3. Fleet	- (iv) a group of ships sailing together, engaged in the same activity, or under the same ownership
4. Battalion	- (i) a large body of troops ready for battle, especially an infantry unit

• **Fill in the blanks**

- A. The commanding officer addressed the entire regiment of soldiers during the morning assembly.
 B. The admiral ordered the entire fleet to set sail for battle.
 C. The battalion of infantry advanced slowly through the dense forest.
 D. A squadron of fighter jets was sent to intercept the enemy planes.

III. Read the following words from the text and fill in the blanks with the correct words by taking clues from the meanings given below in the box.

overwhelm overthrow overrun

• **Meanings**

1. To take and seize control: _____
2. To invade or occupy an area in large numbers: _____
3. To flood or overpower someone or something emotionally: _____

Now, create a list of at least five other verbs that begin with 'over' and frame sentences of your own.

Ans. Words Beginning with 'Over'

• **Fill in the blanks**

1. To take and seize control: overthrow
2. To invade or occupy an area in large numbers: overrun
3. To flood or overpower someone or something emotionally: overwhelm

• **Five More Verbs Beginning with 'Over'**

Verb	Sentence
• Overcome	- She worked hard to overcome her fear of public speaking.
• Overtake	- The fast car tried to overtake the bus on the highway.
• Overhear	- I happened to overhear their conversation in the library.
• Overlook	- We should not overlook small mistakes while checking our work.
• Overestimate	- Do not overestimate your ability to finish the task in a few minutes.

IV. In the following pairs of words, 'c' is used for nouns, while 's' is used for verbs.

- advice (noun) and advise (verb)
- practice (noun) and practise (verb)
- device (noun) and devise (verb)
- council (noun) and counsel (verb)

Now, fill in the blanks correctly with the words given in the brackets.

1. The teacher's (i) _____ is always helpful, and she continues to (ii) _____ students on their career choices. (advice/advise)
2. The musician believes that daily (i) _____ helps a lot, so she is always ready to (ii) _____ her harmonium lessons. (practice/practise)
3. The scientist uses a strange (i) _____ for experiments and plans to (ii) _____ new methods for his analysis. (device/devise)
4. The village (i) _____ met to discuss issues and decided to (ii) _____ the villagers on important matters. (council/counsel)

Ans.

1. The teacher's (i) advice is always helpful, and she continues to (ii) advise students on their career choices.
2. The musician believes that daily (i) practice helps a lot, so she is always ready to (ii) practise her harmonium lessons.
3. The scientist uses a strange (i) device for experiments and plans to (ii) devise new methods for his analysis.
4. The village (i) council met to discuss issues and decided to (ii) counsel the villagers on important matters.

V. Read the highlighted words in the following sentences from the text.

- ...ended with echoes of courage that serve as an inspiration...
- A contingent of troops posted to Jammu and Kashmir was airlifted into Srinagar...
- D Company with 90 soldiers was the last and they were expected to return by 2:00 p.m.
- The life and sacrifice of Major Somnath Sharma embody the highest ideals of duty, honour, and patriotism.

The highlighted words are either singular verbs or plural verbs.

They are in agreement with the subject of the sentence. This is called Subject-Verb Agreement.

Now, fill in the blanks for the following sentences by choosing the correct verb given within brackets.

1. The bouquet of flowers _____ (is/are) beautiful.
2. Neither the teacher nor the students _____ (was/were) aware of the change in the schedule.
3. Each of the participants _____ (has/have) submitted their projects on time.
4. The data collected by the researchers _____ (shows/show) significant trends.
5. One of the players _____ (was/were) injured during the match.
6. Either the children or their guardian _____ (has/have) to attend the meeting.
7. A pair of shoes _____ (is/are) missing from the rack.
8. Neither of the statements _____ (is/are) true.
9. The members of the jury _____ (has deliver/have delivered) their verdict to the court.
10. Mathematics _____ (is/are) an interesting subject for many students.

Ans. Subject-Verb Agreement:

1. The bouquet of flowers is beautiful.
2. Neither the teacher nor the students were aware of the change in the schedule.
3. Each of the participants has submitted their projects on time.
4. The data collected by the researchers show significant trends.
5. One of the players was injured during the match.
6. Either the children or their guardian has to attend the meeting.
7. A pair of shoes is missing from the rack.
8. Neither of the statements is true.
9. The members of the jury have delivered their verdict to the court.
10. Mathematics is an interesting subject for many students.

VI. Read the following passage and correct the incorrect usage of verbs. One example has been done for you.

- A battalion of soldiers stand at attention as the National flag are raised.
- A battalion of soldiers stands at attention as the National flag is raised.
- Each soldier salute with pride while the commander and his assistants inspects the parade. The sound of marching feet echo through the air as a group of cadets prepare for their drill. Meanwhile, a convoy of military vehicles pass by, drawing cheers from the gathered crowd.

Ans. Corrected Passage:

- A battalion of soldiers stands at attention as the National flag is raised. Each soldier salutes with pride while the commander and his assistants inspect the parade. The sound of marching feet echoes through the air as a group of cadets prepares for their drill. Meanwhile, a convoy of military vehicles passes by, drawing cheers from the gathered crowd.

Corrections:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • stand → stands | • are → is |
| • salute → salutes | • inspects → inspect |
| • echo → echoes | • prepare → prepares |
| • pass → passes | |

Let us listen

I. You will listen to a talk about the Param Vir Chakra. As you listen, complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with one or two exact words or phrases you hear. (Transcript for teacher on page 98)

1. The Param Vir Chakra signifies the 'Wheel of the Ultimate_____.'
2. The Param Vir Chakra is awarded to someone who shows exemplary bravery while fighting with the _____.
3. The Param Vir Chakra was introduced as a Gallantry Medal in 1947 by the _____.
4. The design of the Param Vir Chakra is inspired by Sage Dadhichi, who was a _____.
5. The state emblem in the centre of the Param Vir Chakra is surrounded by the Vajra and _____.

Ans.

1. Brave
2. enemy
3. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
4. Vedic rishi
5. lotus flowers

Let us speak

I. As the citizens of a nation, we all must fulfil our duty. In groups of 4–5, speak about how you propose to serve your nation.

You can choose from the themes given below:

- Saving the environment
- Health and well-being
- Helping others
- Righteous conduct

You may use the sentence prompts given below to organise what you speak about.

- I believe one of the best ways to serve the nation is by...
- A small change we can make is... and it will have a big impact because...
- If everyone contributes by... it can lead to...
- One of the biggest challenges we face is... and I propose we address it by...
- We can make a difference by working together as a team, if we...
- Serving the nation is not just about big actions; even small efforts like... matter.

Ans. Theme:

Saving the Environment

I believe one of the best ways to serve the nation is by protecting our environment. A small change we can make is to avoid single-use plastic, save water, and plant more trees. It will have a big impact because a clean environment keeps people healthy.

If everyone contributes by keeping their surroundings clean and reducing waste, it can lead to a cleaner and greener nation. One of the biggest challenges we face is pollution, and I propose we address it by using public transport, recycling waste, and conserving natural resources.

We can make a difference by working together as a team. Serving the nation is not just about big actions; even small efforts like switching off unnecessary lights, saving water, and not littering matter.

Let us write

- I. A letter of enquiry is a formal letter written to seek detailed information about something the writer wants to know. For example, it can be used for joining a course, organising an event, knowing details about a trip, etc. The language used is formal and specific, with relevant queries.
- Now, write a letter of enquiry. Your school wishes to organise a visit to a Memorial in your state/region. Write the letter to the incharge of that memorial requesting for information regarding available dates for visits, the duration of the tour, any entry fees, and guidelines for student groups.
 - Follow the given layout.
 - Use the cues given below to draft the letter.

(Sender's address)

(Date)

(Receiver's address)

Subject: Enquiry about a School Visit to a Memorial

Dear Sir,

(Body of the letter)

Yours sincerely,

(Name)

One Point Learning

Body of the Letter	Prompts for Enquiry
Paragraph 1: State the purpose of writing	✓ This is to enquire about... ✓ Could you please provide details about... ?
Paragraph 2: Ask for more details	✓ Firstly, I request you to share... ✓ Secondly, I would appreciate it if you could explain... ✓ I would also be grateful to get further details on... ✓ Lastly, could you clarify if... ?
Paragraph 3: Request an early response	✓ An early reply will be greatly appreciated, as it will help... ✓ I look forward to your guidance and support for making this trip meaningful.

Ans. Letter of Enquiry:

24, Shanti Nagar
Ahmedabad, Gujarat

10 September 2026

The Incharge
National War Memorial
New Delhi

Subject: Enquiry about a School Visit to a Memorial

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to enquire about organising an educational visit to the National War Memorial for the students of our school. The visit will help students learn about the courage, sacrifice, and service of our brave soldiers.

Firstly, I request you to share the available dates and timings for school visits. Secondly, I would appreciate it if you could inform us about the duration of the tour and entry fees, if any. I would also be grateful to receive details about advance booking, guided tours, and guidelines for student groups. Lastly, kindly let us know if teachers need to carry any documents or permissions.

An early reply will be greatly appreciated, as it will help us make the necessary arrangements. I look forward to your guidance and support in making this educational visit meaningful for our students.

Yours sincerely,
Riya Sharma
Student Representative
ABC Public School

Let Us Explore

I. Out of twenty-one PVC awardees, Major Somnath Sharma was the first recipient of the PVC, and Captain Vikram Batra was the last recipient of the PVC, the highest gallantry award.

Captain Vikram Batra, is popularly remembered as the “Shershab of Kargil”. His iconic success signal was ‘Yeh Dil Mange More’. Captain Vikram Batra, the D Company commander was tasked to capture Point 5140 on 20 June 1999, which he did with exemplary courage. After Point 5140 was captured, 13 JAK RIF was tasked to capture Point 4875. On 07 July 1999, Captain Batra led the assault from the front and engaged in a physical fight with the enemy. He killed five enemy soldiers at point blank range and himself sustained serious injuries. Despite his injuries, his dauntless determination inspired his men to clear the enemy from a dominating position. Later, he succumbed to his injuries. His fearless determination and leadership encouraged his company men to avenge his death and finally captured Point 4875.

His inspiring leadership, dedication to duty, and steadfast love for his country continue to be an inspiration for the younger generation. He attended the call of duty with absolute disregard for his personal safety. He was awarded the Param Vir Chakra, (Posthumously).

Ans.

Important Points:

- **Popularly known as:** Shershab of Kargil
- **Unit:** 13 JAK RIF
- **Company:** D Company

- **Point 5140 captured:** 20 June 1999
- **Point 4875 assault:** 7 July 1999
- **Highest honour:** Param Vir Chakra
- **Award:** Posthumously
- **Qualities displayed:** Courage, determination, leadership and sacrifice

Important Questions and Answers:

1. Why is Captain Vikram Batra popularly remembered as the “Shershah of Kargil”?

Ans. Captain Vikram Batra is remembered as the “Shershah of Kargil” for his exceptional courage, fearless leadership, and important role in capturing strategic enemy positions during the Kargil conflict.

2. What task was given to Captain Vikram Batra on 20 June 1999?

Ans. Captain Vikram Batra, the D Company commander, was given the task of capturing Point 5140. He successfully accomplished the mission with exemplary courage.

3. How did Captain Batra inspire his men at Point 4875?

Ans. Despite sustaining serious injuries, Captain Batra showed dauntless determination and continued to lead courageously. His fearless leadership inspired his men to continue fighting and finally capture Point 4875.

4. What qualities of Captain Vikram Batra are highlighted in the passage?

Ans. The passage highlights Captain Batra’s courage, determination, leadership, dedication to duty, patriotism, and self-sacrifice. He placed his duty towards the nation above his personal safety.

5. Which award was Captain Vikram Batra given?

Ans. Captain Vikram Batra was awarded the Param Vir Chakra posthumously for his extraordinary bravery, inspiring leadership, and supreme dedication to duty.

II. Gallantry awards in India are given to military personnel and others for displaying extraordinary courage in the line of duty.

Some of the gallantry awards in India are:

- **Param Vir Chakra:** The highest military award in India, awarded for the most conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy.
- **Maha Vir Chakra:** The second-highest military award in India, awarded for acts of gallantry in the presence of the enemy.
- **Vir Chakra:** Awarded for acts of gallantry in the presence of the enemy.

Find out more about gallantry awards.

Ans. Gallantry awards are given to honour members of the Armed Forces and other eligible personnel who display exceptional courage, bravery, and devotion to duty. They recognise heroic actions performed in the face of danger.

Gallantry Award	Significance
• Param Vir Chakra (PVC)	- India’s highest military gallantry award , given for the most conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy.
• Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)	- India’s second-highest military gallantry award , given for outstanding acts of gallantry in the presence of the enemy.
• Vir Chakra	- Given for acts of gallantry in the presence of the enemy.
• Ashoka Chakra	- India’s highest peacetime gallantry award, given for exceptional courage or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield.
• Kirti Chakra	- A peacetime gallantry award ranking below the Ashoka Chakra.
• Shaurya Chakra	- Awarded for gallantry away from direct engagement with the enemy; it ranks below the Kirti Chakra.

III. The Indian government has been steadfast in its initiatives to boost the representation of women in the Indian Armed Forces. These women have been serving the nation selflessly and with pride. Find out the key roles of women in the Indian Army. Share the information with your classmates and teacher.

Ans. Women serve the Indian Army with courage, dedication, professionalism, and pride. They contribute in many important roles and branches.

Role/Branch	Contribution
• Medical Services	- Serve as doctors, nurses and medical officers, providing healthcare to soldiers.
• Engineering	- Work in engineering and technical roles that support military operations and infrastructure.
• Signals	- Manage communication systems and help maintain secure military communications.
• Army Air Defence	- Contribute to protecting forces and important locations from aerial threats.
• Army Aviation	- Serve in aviation roles, including as pilots.
• Intelligence	- Assist in collecting, studying and interpreting information important for national security.
• Legal Services (JAG)	- Serve as legal officers and advise on military laws and legal matters.
• Logistics and Support	- Help manage supplies, equipment, transport and other essential resources.
• Command and Leadership	- Serve as officers and lead personnel in various units and appointments.
• Peacekeeping Missions	- Represent India in international peacekeeping operations and humanitarian duties.

IV. Birsa Munda: A Saga of Courage and Sacrifice

Birsa Munda, a revered tribal freedom fighter, spiritual leader, and folk hero, belonged to the Munda tribe. Celebrated as a valiant warrior and a charismatic figure, he emerged as a powerful symbol of tribal resistance against British colonial rule. Among the people of Jharkhand, he is affectionately known as Dharti Aaba—Father of the Land—and is honoured as a divine figure for his selfless dedication to his people.

A commemorative stamp designed by Shri Sankha Samanta captures his powerful presence. It features Birsa Munda addressing his followers, with a determined expression that reflects his unwavering vision of tribal unity, empowerment, and self-governance. This stamp serves as a lasting tribute to his pivotal role in India's freedom struggle and his relentless commitment to protecting tribal rights.

Ans.

Important Points:

- **Name:** Birsa Munda
- **Tribe:** Munda tribe
- **Popularly known as:** Dharti Aaba – “Father of the Land”
- **Role:** Tribal freedom fighter, spiritual leader and folk hero
- **Region:** Jharkhand
- **Fought against:** British colonial rule
- **Main aim:** Tribal unity, empowerment and self-governance
- **Contribution:** Worked to protect tribal rights and resisted British rule
- **Qualities:** Courageous, selfless, determined and inspiring leader

- **Stamp depicts:** Birsa Munda addressing his followers
- **Importance:** A powerful symbol of tribal resistance and India's freedom struggle
- **Legacy:** Remembered for his courage, sacrifice and dedication to his people

Important Questions and Answers:

1. Who was Birsa Munda?

Answer: Birsa Munda was a revered tribal freedom fighter, spiritual leader, and folk hero belonging to the Munda tribe. He became a symbol of tribal resistance against British colonial rule.

2. Why is Birsa Munda called "Dharti Aaba"?

Answer: The people of Jharkhand affectionately call Birsa Munda "Dharti Aaba," meaning "Father of the Land," because of his selfless dedication to his people and his efforts to protect tribal rights.

3. What did Birsa Munda stand for?

Answer: Birsa Munda stood for tribal unity, empowerment, self-governance, and the protection of tribal rights. He courageously resisted British colonial rule and worked for the welfare of his people.

4. What does the commemorative stamp of Birsa Munda depict?

Answer: The commemorative stamp, designed by Shri Sankha Samanta, depicts Birsa Munda addressing his followers with a determined expression, reflecting his vision of tribal unity, empowerment, and self-governance.

5. Why is Birsa Munda remembered even today?

Answer: Birsa Munda is remembered for his courage, leadership, sacrifice, and dedication to tribal rights. His contribution to India's freedom struggle and commitment to his people continue to inspire generations.

V. Make a list of the patriotic songs in any language, including songs from your region. Share the songs with your classmates and teacher.

Ans. Here is a sample list of patriotic songs in different Indian languages that can be shared in class:

No.	Patriotic Song
1. Vande Mataram	Sanskrit/Bengali
2. Jana Gana Mana	Bengali/Sanskritised Bengali
3. Sare Jahan Se Achha	Urdu
4. Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon	Hindi
5. Kar Chale Hum Fida	Hindi
6. Maa Tujhe Salaam	Hindi
7. Des Rangila	Hindi
8. Ae Watan	Hindi
9. Jai Jai Garvi Gujarat	Gujarati
10. Kasumbi No Rang	Gujarati