



*Shuarya Chakra Awardee*  
*Late Squadron Leader*  
*Manohar Pandurang Rane*  
*Recipient of Xavier Ratna 2015*  
*(Posthumous)*

*We are very proud that a son of our Alma Mater made the Supreme Sacrifice of laying down his life in his endeavor to save civilian lives while returning alone to base from a Flying Mission with the then Chief of Air Staff on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1979. This Citation recognizes the courage and gallantry of Late Squadron Leader Manohar Pandurang Rane.*

*He was an alumnus of this Institution and belonged to the batch of 1962. He represented the school in the Haris Shield and Giles Shield tournament when Cricketing Legend Shri Sunil Gavaskar, played under his captaincy.*

*Late Squadron Leader Manohar Pandurang Rane was commissioned in the Indian Air Force in the year 1965. He had the distinction of landing a Dakota DC-3 on the world's highest Air Force airfield in Leh in the year 1967. He served with the 106 squadron of IAF from 1968 to 1970, serving in Tezpur (Assam), Mizoram, and close to the Sino-Indian border. During this tenure, he specialized in flying various helicopters.*

*He participated in the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war for the liberation of Bangladesh. He was posted on the East Pakistan border, where he worked closely with the Mukti Bahini. He flew aircrafts during the war and was present alongside General Jagjit Singh Aurora, when commanding officer of Pakistani forces General A.A.K. Niazi surrendered with 93,000 Pakistani troops.*

*After the war, he was posted at Tambaram Air Force Station, where he got his colors of flying. He trained fighter, transport and helicopter pilots. He also served in Himachal Pradesh with the 115 Helicopter Unit. He was involved in many dangerous evacuation missions, which was much appreciated by the IAF and the then Governor of Himachal Pradesh. Subsequently, he was posted at Hyderabad until 1977. In 1978, he was posted at Saraswa, Saharanpur where he was the station commander. On 1<sup>st</sup> May 1979, Manohar laid down his life in peace time while returning alone to base from a Flying Mission with the then Chief of Air Staff Idris Latif when the helicopter which he was flying developed a snag and to avert the helicopter from crashing into civilian habitation, he guided it to uninhabited land and crashed and lost his life. For this he was posthumously awarded the Shaurya Chakra by the then President of India Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy.*

*We salute Late Squadron Leader Manohar Pandurang Rane  
who has truly made every Xavierite proud!*

*Conferred Posthumously on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015*

