

Battle of Asal Uttar

September 11, 2021

In news- The Indian Army recently held a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Asal Uttar and honour Company Quarter Master Havildar (CQMH) Abdul Hamid, Param Vir Chakra (Posthumous) of 4 Grenadiers, at his grave and war memorial in Punjab.

About the Battle of Asal Uttar-

- The war memorial to the Battle of Asal Uttar is located at the outskirts of **Chima Village in Tarn Taran district of Punjab.**
- The Battle of Asal Uttar was **one of the largest tank battles fought during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.**
- It is **compared with the Battle of Kursk in the Second World War** for how it changed the course of the Indo-Pak war of 1965 in India's favour.
- This was the area in which the **Pakistan Army had launched an offensive with an armoured division and made an attempt to capture Indian towns of Raya and Beas** and thus cause a major chunk of Indian Punjab to be cut off from the rest of the country by securing the bridge over the River Beas.
- The Battle took place from September 8 to 10, 1965 with the result being the decimation of the Pakistani attack and total rout till Khemkaran.
- However, the town itself remained under Pakistani occupation till after ceasefire and it was exchanged back for Indian-occupied areas in Pakistan.
- The Indian **battle strategy was the brainchild of Brigadier Thomas K. Theogaraj.**
- Pervez Musharraf, later Army Chief of Staff and former President of Pakistan, participated in this battle as a lieutenant of artillery in the 16 (SP) Field Regiment, 1st Armoured Division Artillery.

- This battle led to the **creation of Patton Nagar (or "Patton City")** at the site of the battle because a large number of Patton tanks fielded by the Pakistani forces were either captured or destroyed at the scene.
- The battle also witnessed the personal bravery of an **Indian soldier, Abdul Hamid**, who was honoured with the **Param Vir Chakra, India's highest military award**, for knocking out seven enemy tanks with a recoilless gun.
- His grave is maintained by the 7 Infantry Division of the Army and every year a function is held to honour him.