MacGregor Memorial Medals

Prelims – *Current events of National Importance.*

Why in News?

Five military personnel were recently conferred the MacGregor Memorial Medal by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan.

- **Instituted on -** July 03, 1888.
- The medal commemorates Major General Sir Charles Metcalfe MacGregor, founder of USI (established in 1870).
- **Aim -** Originally intended to recognize the acts of military reconnaissance and exploratory journeys.
- The medal's scope was expanded in 1986, post-Independence, to include military expeditions and adventure activities.
- **Eligibility -** The medal is ***available to individuals of all ranks***, both active and retired, from the *Indian Armed Forces, Territorial Army, and Assam Rifles.*
- **Recent Awardees - Awardees for 2023** - Wing Commander D. Panda from the Air Force and Electrical Artificer (Radio) Rahul Kumar Pandey from the Navy.
- **Awardees for 2024** - Chief Electrical Aircraft Artificer (Radio) Ram Ratan Jat of the Navy and Sergeant Jhumar Ram Poonia from the Air Force were honoured with the medal.
- Colonel Ranvir Singh Jamwal, Director of the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports in Arunachal Pradesh, was also awarded.
- The event also featured the launch of the book ***Bravest of the Brave***, inspirational chronicle on the life and heroic journey of Naib Subedar Chunni Lal, AC, VrC, SM, by the Chief of Defence Staff.

United Service Institution of India (USI)
• It is a ***national security and defense services think tank*** based in New Delhi, India. • **Founded in** - Simla in 1870 by Col. (later Maj Gen) Charles Metcalf MacGregor. • **Aim -** Established to advance military knowledge and professional development among British Indian Army officers. • Its mission encompassed promoting knowledge in the art, science, and literature of national security, with a particular focus on the Defence Services. • It focuses on national security, defense, and military affairs, providing a platform for research, debate, and the advancement of knowledge in these areas.

References

1. PIB | MacGregor Memorial Medal Award

2. The Hindu | MacGregor memorial medals

