



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



CHAMAN LAL

SERVICE NUMBER	Civilian
RANK	Fireman, Northern Railway
NAME	Chaman Lal
SON OF	Gurdas Mal
RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE	Habit Pindi, Gurdaspur, Punjab
UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS	
SERVICE	
DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION	
AWARD/DATE OF ACTION	Ashoka Chakra (Posthumous) / 13 September 1965
WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION	1965 Indo-Pak War
OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE	



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Chaman Lal son of Gurdas Mal, was a resident of Habit Pindi village in Gurdaspur, Punjab. During the Indo-Pak War of 1965, he was serving as a Fireman with the Northern Railway. He worked in Gurdaspur Railway Station as a Fireman and was with a goods train transporting diesel and oil.

The Indo-Pak war of 1965 was the second war fought between these the two bordering countries. While India was still recovering from the damages of Sino-India war of 1962, Pakistan saw it as an opportunity to acquire Jammu and Kashmir with might, presuming India to be weak in terms of defence preparation. The war was initiated on 24 April 1965, when Pakistan Army attacked our territory in the Rann of Kutch and penetrated six to eight miles inside the Indian territory. This act of illegal occupation of Indian territory constituted violation of Indo-Pak Border Agreement 1960 and international law, as per the United Nations Charter. The Pakistani forces subsequently intruded in Kashmir with the launch of Operation Gibraltar.

The role of the civilians during the Indo-Pak War of 1965 was very crucial to the prospects of the war. From mule drivers to local villagers, from truck drivers to railway men, the civilians performed their duty with utmost devotion, ignoring all dangers. Among the contribution of the civilians, one of the most crucial roles during the Indo-Pak War of 1965 was performed by the railway men. They were entrusted with the duty of the keeping the rail lines operational to deliver the supplies on time. One of them was Chaman Lal who was working at Gurdaspur Railway Station.

On 13 September 1965, a goods train at Gurdaspur Station on the Amritsar-Pathankot section of the Northern Railway was heavily strafed by Pakistani planes. Three tank wagons carrying diesel oil caught fire and exploded. Chaman Lal, the train's fireman, noticed the fire and foresaw the imminent tragedy. With utter disregard to his personal safety, he rushed to the scene and uncoupled the tank wagons impacted by the fire. He had hardly finished this perilous task when he was engulfed by the flames of the blazing tank and burned to death. Due to Chaman Lal's daring act in which he sacrificed his life, the remaining wagons of the train could be taken to safety. His extraordinary act, foresight and initiative, not only saved the remaining wagons and valuable cargo, but also saved the lives of many people present at the railway station.

Chaman Lal's fearless act and supreme self-sacrifice will be remembered as a shining example of bravery and selfless devotion to service. He was awarded Ashoka Chakra (Posthumous).



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CITATION

Chaman Lal, Fireman, Northern Railway (Posthumous).
(Effective date of award—13 September 1965).

On 13th September 1965, a goods train at Gurdaspur Station on Amritsar-Pathankot section of Northern Railway was subjected to heavy strafing by Pakistani planes, as a result of which 3 tank wagons carrying diesel oil caught fire and one of them exploded. Shri Chaman Lal, Fireman of the train, noticing the fire and foreseeing impending disaster, immediately rushed to the spot, and with complete disregard for his personal safety, uncoupled the tank wagons affected by the fire. Hardly had he completed this dangerous operation when he was enveloped by the flames of the burning tank and was burnt to death. As a result of his courageous action in which he sacrificed his life, the other wagons of the train could be removed to safety. By his exemplary courage, foresight, initiative and complete disregard of his personal safety, Shri Chaman Lal not only prevented the destruction of the remaining wagons and valuable stores, but also saved the lives of many persons present at the Railway Station. His supreme self-sacrifice will remain a shining example of valour and selfless devotion to duty.

Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No. _____ dated _____



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