



NB SUB NUDURAM SOREN

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| SERVICE NUMBER | 15439373K |
| RANK | Naib Subedar |
| NAME | Nuduram Soren |
| SON OF | Shri Kahanu Soren and Smt Raimath Soren |
| RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE | Badachampauda, District, Mayurbhanj, Orissa |
| UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS | 16 BIHAR |
| SERVICE | Indian Army |
| DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION | 27 April 1996 |
| AWARD/DATE OF ACTION | Vir Chakra (Posthumous)/ 15 June 2020 |
| WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION | Operation Snow Leopard |
| OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE | |

Naib Subedar Nuduram Soren was born on 02 April 1977 at village Bada Champauda, District Mayurbhanj (Odisha). He did his schooling from Boys High school, Rairangpur where he joined the National Cadet Corps (NCC). Later he did his higher education from Rairangpur Maha Vidyalaya. He was enrolled in Indian Army on 27 April 1996 and after completion of his army training, he was posted to 16 BIHAR on 27 March 1997. He participated in various operations with the Battalion as well as all sports and adventurous activities. He was a cross country runner and an avid player of football and hockey. His dedication to service and ability

to shoulder additional responsibility came to fore when he performed the duties as, Mechanical Transport Non Commissioned Officer and Nab Subedar Adjutant in the Unit.

India China Border Issue

India and China have longstanding border issue, and are yet to resolve their boundary problem. China does not accept the customary and traditional alignment of the boundary between India and China. India, on the other hand believe that this alignment is based on well-established geographical principles confirmed by treaties and agreements, as well as historical usage and practice, well-known for centuries to both sides. The Chinese position, however, is that the boundary between the two countries has not been formally delimited, that there exists a traditional customary line formed by the extent of jurisdiction that they claim was exercised historically by each side, and that the two sides have different interpretations of the position of the traditional customary line. The two countries had engaged in discussions during 1950s-60s but these efforts could not yield a mutually acceptable solution.¹

China invaded Tibet and annexed it in March 1959. Growing concern over Chinese aggression forced India to relook at its border policy, as China became India's neighbour. India enacted the "Forward Policy" in 1960, which was aimed to prevent Chinese incursions into Indian territory by establishing Indian stations near the Sino-Indian boundary.² In reaction to the Forward Policy, China started gradually enhancing her road infrastructure leading to the border and strengthening her military positions along the border.³ The Chinese quickened the forward movement of their posts, and soon the empty area between the two armies disappeared. When some Indian posts, for example in the Galwan Valley were established, the Chinese attitude changed and became more threatening. Instead of going back they encountered Indian posts, surrounding the post to cut off its land route of supply, and even opened fire at a number of places.

On 30 April 1962, the Chinese government threatened to impose an extension of the patrolling along the entire boundary. Chinese forces surrounded an Indian position in the Galwan Valley in July 1962. The two sides clashed at Pangong Lake. They also continued to set up a number of new aggressive military posts in the Ladakh region. China stepped up its aggressive military actions along the Indian border in the early months of 1962. On 08 September 1962, Chinese forces breached the border in the Northwest corner of NEFA. On October 20, 1962, they launched a massive attack on Indian territory in both the Eastern and Western Sectors following a series of probing operations.⁴

¹ Text of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh's Statement in Lok Sabha on September 15 Regarding Situation on Eastern Border in Ladakh, Ministry of Defence, Press Information Bureau, 15 September 2020

² Annual Report of the Ministry of External Affairs For 1962-63 <https://mea.lib.nic.in/?pdf2489?000>

³ Indian War Memorials Around the World Rana T.S. Chhina Last Post Indian War Memorials Around the World Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research United Service Institution of India 2014 https://www.mea.gov.in/Uploads/PublicationDocs/23460_IWM_Book_11-06-2014_.pdf

⁴ ibid

The first India-China War broke out putting an end to any chance of resolving the conflict in line with accepted international norms.

Following the 1965 war with Pakistan, China initiated disturbances along the Tibet-Sikkim border, particularly at Nathu-la Pass. In 1967, India China clash took place due to disagreement over the laying of the border fence at Nathu La by Indian Armed Forces from 11 to 14 September 1967. The skirmish escalated to artillery guns and threats of fighter jets. Similarly, at Tulung La in 1975, an Assam Rifles patrol was fired upon killing four soldiers of the 5 Assam Rifles Battalion.

India used to occupy a seasonal post at Wangdong near Sumdrong Chu from 1984. When they withdrew from the post for the winter of 1985, it was populated by the Chinese forces. On 16 June 1986, a patrol of 12 ASSAM Regiment of the Indian Army noticed Chinese presence in the area and construction of a few permanent structures. The Chinese soldiers were initially identified to be 40 and were soon reinforced by 200 more troops. By August, they had constructed a helipad and were being air supplied.⁵ After rounds of diplomatic parleys and talks between military commanders, the two sides agreed to vacate two posts.⁶

Both India and China have formally agreed that the boundary question is a complex issue which requires patience and have committed to seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution through dialogue and peaceful negotiations. In the interim, the two sides also agreed that maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas is an essential basis for the further development of bilateral relations.

China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq. kms in the Union Territory of Ladakh. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China. China also claims approximately 90,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector of the India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh.

There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China and there is no common perception of the entire LAC. Therefore, in order to ensure peace and tranquillity in the border areas, especially along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the two countries have concluded a number of agreements and protocols.

Under these agreements, the two sides have agreed to maintain peace and tranquillity along the LAC without any effect to their respective positions on the alignment of the LAC as well as on the boundary question. It is on this basis, that overall relations also saw considerable progress since 1988. India's position is that while bilateral relations can continue to develop in parallel with discussions on resolving the boundary question, any serious disturbance in peace and

⁵ Major General Mandip Singh, Lessons from Somdurong Chu Incident, MP-IDSA, April 26, 2013

https://idsa.in/idsacomments/CurrentChineseincursionLessonsfromSomdurongChuIncident_msingh_260413

⁶ S L Narasimhan, Chinese Belligerence on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), CLAWS Journal • Vol. 16. No. 1. Summer 2023

tranquillity along the LAC in the border areas is bound to have implications on the positive direction of ties.

A key element of both the 1993 and the 1996 Agreements is that the two sides will keep their military forces in the areas along the Line of Actual Control to a minimum level. These agreements also mandate that pending an ultimate solution to the boundary question, the two sides shall strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control. Furthermore in these agreements, India and China also committed to clarification and confirmation of the Line of Actual Control to reach a common understanding of the alignment. Thus, in late 1990s and upto 2003, the two sides engaged in an exercise to clarify and confirm the LAC. But, thereafter the Chinese side did not show a willingness to pursue the LAC clarification exercise. As a result, there are some areas where the Chinese and Indian perceptions of LAC overlap. In these areas, as also with other sections of the border areas, the various agreements govern the manner in which troops of both sides should operate and deal with situations of face-offs to maintain peace and tranquillity.

The last one decade has been a decade of minor military confrontation between India and China, whether it was the Depsang incident in 2013, or Chumar incident in 2014, stand-off in Doklam in 2017. The confrontation were largely resolved at the ground level without any fatalities on either sides, till the incident at the Galwan happened in 2020.

The Galwan Crisis

Since April 2020, India had noticed a build-up of troops and armaments by the Chinese side in the border areas adjacent to Eastern Ladakh. In early May, the Chinese side had taken action to hinder the normal, traditional patrolling pattern of our troops in the Galwan Valley area, which resulted in a face-off. Even as this situation was being addressed by the Ground Commanders as per the provisions of our bilateral agreements and protocol, in mid-May the Chinese side made several attempts to transgress the LAC in other parts of the Western Sector. This included Kongka La, Gogra and North Bank of Pangong Lake. These attempts were detected early and consequently responded to appropriately by our armed forces.⁷

India made it clear to the Chinese side both through diplomatic and military channels that China was, by such actions, attempting to unilaterally alter the status quo. It was categorically conveyed that this was unacceptable.

Given the growing friction along the LAC, the Senior Commanders of the two sides in a meeting on June 06, 2020 agreed on a process of disengagement that involved reciprocal actions. Both sides also agreed to respect and abide by the LAC and not undertake any activity

⁷ Text of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh's Statement in Lok Sabha on September 15 Regarding Situation on Eastern Border in Ladakh, Ministry of Defence, Press Information Bureau, 15 September 2020
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1654484#:~:text=Since%20April%2Cwe%20had%20noticed,resulted%20in%20a%20face%2Doff.>

to alter the status quo. However in violation of this the Chinese side created a violent face off on June 15 June 2020 at Galwan.

Naib Subedar Nuduram Soren was part of Operation Snow Leopard, in Galwan Valley (Eastern Ladakh). Operation Snow Leopard was launched after China refused to move back and restore status quo ante in eastern Ladakh. On 15 June 2020 he was leading column during a skirmish with the enemy. He valiantly led his column and resisted the enemy's attempt to push back the Indian soldiers establishing an Observation Post. He organised his column, countered the adversary forcefully and stopped them in their attempt to push back Indian troops. He motivated his troops to hold ground at all costs and prevented the enemy from pushing back Indian troops.

His ability to lead from the front stood out in the skirmish to such an extent that he was perceived as a threat by the enemy. Accordingly he was targeted with lethal weapons and stones from the adjoining heights. As a result of this onslaught he was grievously injured, when asked to move back, as a true leader he refused, inspite of being heavily outnumbered by the enemy soldiers. The Junior Leader stood at the forefront under hostile conditions and displayed raw courage, fighting with resolute spirit in a hand to hand combat, before succumbing to his injuries.

The gallant action by the Junior Commissioned Officer resulted in a positive response which overwhelmed the enemy by surprise. His action speeded own retaliation and also galvanised own troops to continue to hold ground. He continued to hold his ground with resolute and indefatigable spirit before achieving martyrdom. This supreme sacrifice motivated own troops to rally together and resist thus stalling the enemy's aggression. For displaying of conspicuous gallantry in the face of enemy, determined courage and for supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, Naib Subedar Nuduram Soren is awarded Vir Chakra (Posthumous). Soren's wife Smt Laxmimani Soren received the award from the President at a defence investiture ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.



President Ram Nath Kovind present Vir Chakra to Naib Subedar Nuduram Soren
Source Smt Laxmimani Soren

Naib Subedar Nuduram Soren is survived by his wife Smt Laxmimani Soren and three daughters Gyaneshwari Soren, Maansi Soren and Sonali Soren. His father Shri Kahanu Soren is a farmer and his mother Smt Raimath Soren is a housewife. His family is presently residing at his native Village Bada Champauda. Paying due respect to the heroe of Odisha, the Royal family of Mayurbhanj released a documentary film, 'Nuduram Ka Safarnama' on his life.



Naib Subedar Nuduram Soren with his family
Source: Smt Laxmimani Soren



Naib Subedar Nuduram Soren with his Wife Smt Laxmimani Soren
Source: Smt Laxmimani Soren



Release of Documentary film Nuduram Ka Safarnama
Source: Odisha TV