



**NAIK DEEPAK SINGH**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	15439373K
<b>RANK</b>	Naik
<b>NAME</b>	Deepak Singh
<b>SON OF</b>	Gajraj Singh and Mrs Saroj Singh
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Rewa, Madhya Pradesh
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	16 BIHAR
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	20 June 2012
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Vir Chakra (Posthumous)/ 15 June 2020
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	Operation Snow Leopard
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	

Naik (Nursing Assistant) Deepak Singh was born on 15 July 1989 at village Farenda, District Rewa (Madhya Pradesh). He did his early schooling from Saraswati high school, Manikwar and later from Govt Higher Secondary School, Manikwar, Rewa. Naik (Nursing Assistant) Deepak Singh was enrolled in Army Medical Corps on 20 June 2012. He had served with Army Base Hospital from December 2013 to July 2015, with 426 Field Hospital from July 2015 to September 2017 and with 414 Field Hospital from September 2017 to January 2020. He was posted to 16 BIHAR on 30 January 2019.



Naik Deepak Singh  
Source: Lt Rekha Singh

The Bihar Regiment traces its history back to the 34th Sepoy Battalion formed during the tenure of Lord Robert Clive in 1758, which was raised entirely from Bhojpur district. It was during the Second World War that soldiers from Bihar were once again recruited in the 19th Hyderabad Regiment. 1 BIHAR Regiment, which was raised on 15 September 1941, owes its origin to the 11/19 Hyderabad Regiment.

Most of the battalions of the Regiment participated in the Indo-Pak Wars of 1965 and 1971 and accomplished their assigned tasks in a commendable manner. 10 BIHAR was awarded the Theatre Honour of 'AKHAURA' for its gallant action in the Battle of Akhaura in East Pakistan in 1971. 1 BIHAR participated in 'OPERATION VIJAY' in the Batalik Sub Sector and was responsible for recapture of Jubar Hill and Tharu. For its valour, the unit was honoured with Chief of the Army Staff

Unit Citation, Battle Honour 'BATALLIK' and Theatre Honour 'KARGIL'.<sup>1</sup>

## **India China Border Dispute**

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.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> History of Bihar Regiment <https://indianarmy.nic.in/about/the-corps-of-engineers/history-the-bihar-regiment>

<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>3</sup> Annual Report of the Ministry of External Affairs For 1962-63 <https://mea.lib.nic.in/?pdf2489?000>

<sup>4</sup> 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](https://www.mea.gov.in/Uploads/PublicationDocs/23460_IWM_Book_11-06-2014_.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> ibid

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 Sumdorong 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.<sup>6</sup> After rounds of diplomatic parleys and talks between military commanders, the two sides agreed to vacate two posts.<sup>7</sup>

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 tranquility 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 tranquility 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 tranquility 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 tranquility 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

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<sup>6</sup> Major General Mandip Singh, Lessons from Somdorong Chu Incident, MP-IDSA, April 26, 2013  
[https://idsa.in/idsacomments/CurrentChineseincursionLessonsfromSomdorongChuIncident\\_msingh\\_260413](https://idsa.in/idsacomments/CurrentChineseincursionLessonsfromSomdorongChuIncident_msingh_260413)

<sup>7</sup> S L Narasimhan, Chinese Belligerence on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), CLAWS Journal • Vol. 16. No. 1. Summer 2023

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 tranquility.

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 buildup 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.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> 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%20off.>





Naik Deepak Singh with his Colleague  
Source: Lt Rekha Singh

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 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.

Naik Deepak Singh was performing duties of Battalion Nursing Assistant. During Operation SNOW LEOPARD, he provided treatment to casualties of the skirmish at 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, having assessed the battle condition, he moved up for medical support. As the skirmish broke out and casualties increased, he moved to frontline rendering First Aid to the injured. In the ensuing skirmish coupled with heavy stone pelting, he received serious injuries. In spite of grievous wounds by the enemy, he continued rendering medical assistance to injured soldiers.

and saved many lives. He finally succumbed to his injuries. He was pivotal in rendering treatment and saving lives of more than 30 Indian soldiers, which reflect the epitome of his professional acumen. For display of unmatched professionalism in hostile conditions, unflinching devotion and laying his life in line of duty Naik Deepak Singh is awarded Vir Chakra (Posthumous).



Lt Rekha Singh, Wife of Naik Deepak Singh receiving Vir Chakra Awardee from President Ramnath Kovind

Source: Lt Rekha Singh

Naik (Nursing Assistant) Deepak Singh is survived by his wife Smt Rekha Singh and his father Shri Gajraj Singh, who is a farmer Presently his family is residing at his village Farunda in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh. His wife Rekha Singh has been commissioned into the Indian Army as a



Lieutenant in 2023, after completing her one-year training at the Chennai-based Officers Training Academy (OTA). She is currently posted with 3 INF DOU. They got married in 2019.



Naik Deepak Singh with his Wife Lt Rekha Singh during their Marriage

Source: Lt Rekha Singh

A memorial has been built at the unit level near the KM-120 post on the strategic Durbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie road, Ladakh, for the 20 Indian soldiers who lost their lives in action against the Chinese Army in Galwan Valley on June 15, 2020. <sup>i</sup> A 'Galwan Victory Wall', built in honour of the 20 brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the clash with the Chinese troops in Galwan valley was opened for public at Cariappa road in the New Cantonment area of Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The memorial, having busts of 20 brave Indian soldiers, was inaugurated by Lt Rekha Singh. Army Medical Corps training centre at Lucknow have named their drill ground in the name of Naik Deepak Singh, VrC.





Lt Rekha Singh at the Naik Deepak Singh Memorial  
Source: Lt Rekha Singh



Galwan Victory Wall New Cantonment, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh  
Source: Lt Rekha Singh

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<sup>i</sup> PTI. “20 Galwan heroes’ names inscribed on national war memorial.” Rediff, January 20, 2021.  
<https://www.rediff.com/news/report/20--china-galwan-heroes-names-on-national-war-memorial/20210120.htm>.