



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
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**SUBEDAR MAJOR & HONY CAPTAIN BANA SINGH (Then NAIB SUBEDAR)**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	JC-155825
<b>RANK</b>	Naib Subedar
<b>NAME</b>	Bana Singh
<b>SON OF</b>	Amar Singh
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Village Kadyal, Ranbir Singh, Pura, Jammu, J&K
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	8 JAK LI
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	06 January 1969
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Param Vir Chakra / 23 June 1987
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	Op MEGHDOOT / Op RAJIV
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



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Naib Subedar Bana Singh is one of three living Param Vir Chakra awardees of India. He was born on 06 January 1949 to parents Amar Singh and Bholi Devi, in village Kadyal in Jammu. He hails from an agricultural family and is the eldest of five brothers and three sisters. Coming from a deeply religious family, developing a character and upholding integrity came naturally to him. An extremely humble and down to earth person, when he was asked about his action which won him the PVC, he simply said that anybody could have done it but somehow it fell to his lot to lead the team.<sup>1</sup> He joined the Indian Army on 06 January 1949 and was enrolled in the 8 JAK LI. He was trained at the High-Altitude Warfare School in Gulmarg. Naib Subedar Bana Singh was tasked to capture Quaid Post at Siachen which was located on a massive ice-mass at an altitude of 21,153 feet. He braved the rugged terrain and the Pakistani soldiers under inhospitable conditions and was awarded the highest bravery award- Param Vir Chakra. On 23 January 2023 during the Parakram Diwas, 21 unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands were named after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees. One such island has also been named after Naib Subedar Bana Singh.



*Graphical representation of the 21 unnamed islands in Andaman and Nicobar named after 21 Param Vir Chakra Awardees*

<sup>1</sup> Param Vir: Our Heroes in Battle. Maj Gen Ian Cardozo. (2003). The Lotus Collection, Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, India.



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Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI) is an infantry regiment under the Indian Army. The regimental history of JAK LI is very unique. In 1947, when Pakistani troops intruded into the Indian territory, militia groups were raised from the locals of Jammu, Nubra and Leh under the Indian ministry of Home Affairs. The militia fought with great distinction in the 1965 Indo-Pak War. However, it was the gallant actions of the militia troop in the Indo-Pak War of 1971, that earned them three battle honours. After the war in 1972, the militia was converted into a full-fledged regiment and in 1976 the name was changed to Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry. The JAK LI has been deployed in the Indian Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka in 1987 and also in the United Nations Mission in Somalia. In 1984, JAK LI was deployed to the Siachen Glacier during Op MEGHDOOT. 8 JAK LI earned great honour by capturing a Pakistani post at 21000 feet at the Siachen Glacier in 1987.



*Kargil heroes Rfn Sanjay Kumar (PVC) and Gdr Yogendra Yadav (PVC) with Captain Bana Singh (PVC).*

Source: Rediff.com

The Siachen glacier is the second longest glacier in the world. The scroll of honour at Indian Army's Siachen base camp reads, "*Quartered in snow, silent to remain. When the bugle calls, they shall rise and march again.*"<sup>2</sup> Beneath the veneer of this bleak beauty lie menacing hazards that snatch away human lives if one is not careful. Given the vivacity of this glacier, it provided a

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<sup>2</sup> The Story of Bana Singh, The hero who helped Win the 1987 Siachen Standoff. The Better India. (Accessed on 06 February 2023)

<https://www.thebetterindia.com/123693/bana-singh-indian-army-param-vir-chakra-hero-1987-siachen/>



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strategic importance to India, Pakistan and China as it served as a hub for Shaksham Valley and Karakoram Pass.<sup>3</sup> Siachen area has been a bone of contention between Pakistan and India for many years. The root cause of the issue can be traced back to the Karachi Agreement of 1949. The representatives of both the nations drew the 'Ceasefire Line' across maps of Jammu and Kashmir from Manawar in the South, to Khor in the North and thence 'North to the glaciers' through NJ 9842. Presumably when the discussion came up on the glaciated wilderness of snow and ice the representatives stopped at grid point NJ 9842 on the presumption that neither side would be interested in contesting an area where not a blade of grass grows and even breathing is a problem. The problem started when Pakistan decided to explore their ambitions and complicated the issue. They illegally ceded some 5180 square kilometers of Indian territory to China in the area where the boundaries of India, Pakistan and China meet thereby altering the geo-strategic importance of this area. Secondly, by permitting and assisting foreign mountaineering and scientific expeditions in the area it raised the issue of 'rights' in an area that did not belong to them. The cartographic ambiguities of 1962 and Pakistan's growing devious nature had concerned the Indian Army and in 1984 took pre-emptive action and occupied Saltoro Range.



*Naib Subedar Bana Singh with former President of India K.R Narayanan*

Source: rediff.com

The task of establishing Indian Army's presence over Siachen Glacier was entrusted to one of the Kumaon Battalions, supported by a company of Ladakh Scouts and two companies of another Kumaon Battalion. Before undertaking the task, the Company Group carried out rigorous training for several weeks, which included ice craft, snow craft, survival on snow and physical fitness and mental robustness. The operation 'Meghdoot' was led by Maj (later Col) RS Sandhu, VrC. The

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<sup>3</sup> What is the Strategic importance of Siachen from the Indian point of view. IDSA. (Accessed on 06 February 2023)  
<https://idsa.in/askanexpert/strategicimportanceofSiachen>



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next wave under Captain Sanjay Kulkarni, landed on the Glacier, and hoisted the Indian Tricolour on Bilafond La (Siachen Glacier). The foot column led by Captain (later Lt Col) PV Yadav, SM, reached the Glacier subsequently, after an extremely strenuous four-day march over extremely inhospitable terrain. The column set up Camps I, II and III for maintenance of newly established Posts on the Glacier. Companies of Kumaon Battalion were given responsibility for the security of the line of communication of these posts.<sup>4</sup> Op MEGHDOOT was executed in the morning of 13 April 1984 and pre-empted Pakistan's impending Operation Ababeel. Indian soldiers managed to control all major mountain passes of Sia La, Bilafond La and by 1987 Gyong La and all the commanding heights of the Saltoro Ridge west of the Siachen Glacier.<sup>5</sup>

In 1987, Pakistan ordered their own troops to establish a post in Bilafond La in the Indian territory which was named as Quaid Post after Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. In order to take control of the post, India launched an operation codenamed Op RAJIV to capture the peak. The operation was named after Second Lieutenant Rajiv Pandey who led a team of soldiers tasked to capture a feature called Left Shoulder at 21000 feet lying between two Indian posts. During the final assault on 29 May 1987, he was killed.<sup>6</sup> Quaid Post was located on a massive ice mass located at an altitude of 21,153 feet above sea level. The steep ice-wall of Quaid Post gives it a very dominating position and to defend it one has to just take potshots at anyone trying to crawl up. Naib Subedar Bana Singh volunteered to be a member of a task force constituted in June 1987. He was joined by four others in this endeavour. While other members of the battalion engaged the attention of Pakistani soldiers, Naib Subedar Singh and his team slowly climbed and clawed their way up the steep wall of ice. The weather was extremely hostile and due to extreme cold the weapons of the support group were malfunctioning.

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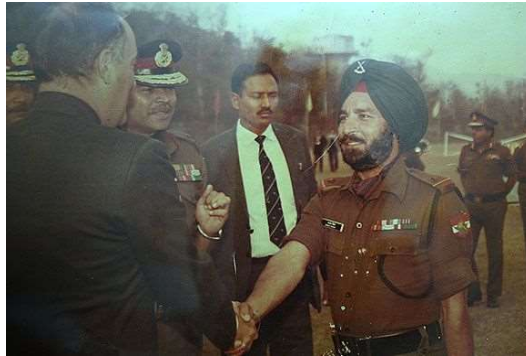
<sup>4</sup> Op Meghdoot, Indian Army. (Accessed on 06 February 2023)  
<https://indianarmy.nic.in/Site/FormTemplate/frmTempSimple.aspx?MnId=0gmQNTAjBJivMiPVgCWpSA==&ParentID=7Tmz9XdTOibFXDXSjbBynw==>

<sup>5</sup> Wikipedia. (Accessed on 06 February 2023)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_Meghdoot#cite\\_note-time-war-10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Meghdoot#cite_note-time-war-10)

<sup>6</sup> The War Decorated India & Trust. (Accessed on 06 February 2023)  
<http://twidi.in/node/4282>



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Naib Subedar Bana Singh with the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

Source: rediff.com

Taking advantage of the poor visibility due to heavy snowfall, Naib Subedar Singh and his group managed to reach close to the enemy post. Enroute they crossed the frozen bodies of their comrades from their battalion, who had been killed in earlier attempts to capture the post. Just short of the objective Naib Subedar Singh further divided his small group and using grenades rushed in. Lobbing grenades into the bunkers and finishing off the occupants with the bayonet, seven Pakistani SSG commandos were killed on the spot and the remainder fled. He was soon joined by others from his unit and the post was safe in Indian hands. He and his team were successful in capturing the Quaid Post and it was later renamed to “Bana Top”.

For displaying conspicuous courage, dauntless determination and devotion beyond the call of duty, Naib Subedar Bana Singh was awarded Param Vir Chakra.





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## CITATION

Nain Subedar Bana Singh, 8 JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY).  
(Effective date of award— 23 June 1987).

Naib Subedar Bana Singh volunteered to be a member of a task force constituted in June 1987 to clear an intrusion by an adversary in the Siachen Glacier area at an altitude of 21,000 feet. The post was virtually an impregnable glacier fortress with ice walls, 1500 feet high, on both sides. Naib Subedar Bana Singh led his men through an extremely difficult and hazardous route. He inspired them by his indomitable courage and leadership. The brave Naib Subedar and his men crawled and closed in on the adversary. Moving from trench to trench, lobbing hand grenades and charging with the bayonet, he cleared the post all intruders.

Nb Subedar Bana Singh displayed the most conspicuous gallantry and leadership under the most adverse conditions.

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Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No.\_\_\_\_\_ dated\_\_\_\_\_



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## REFERENCES

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2. Stories of Heroism (PVC & MVC) (1995) Edited. U.P Thapliyal, Ministry of Defence.

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<https://idsa.in/askanexpert/strategicimportanceofSiachen>
3. Op Meghdoot, Indian Army. (Accessed on 06 February 2023)  
<https://indianarmy.nic.in/Site/FormTemplate/frmTempSimple.aspx?MnId=0gmQNTAjBJivMiPVgCWpSA==&ParentID=7Tmz9XdTOibFXDXSJbBynw==>
4. The War Decorated India & Trust. (Accessed on 06 February 2023)  
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5. Interview with Captain Bana Singh. Claude Arpi (Accessed on 06 February 2023)  
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## VIDEOS<sup>7</sup>

1. Hony Captain Bana Singh, PVC (Source: Youtube - Gallantryinfo Awards)  
[https://youtu.be/\\_MNuVEv9juo](https://youtu.be/_MNuVEv9juo)
2. Param Vir Chakra Subedar Major & Hony Captain Bana Singh (Source: Youtube - Remember theirsacrifices 1)  
<https://youtu.be/eeh2E0vgVkc>
3. Story of Param Vir Chakra winner Bana Singh (Source: Youtube- News Now)  
[https://youtu.be/nlEgF6TvJ\\_8](https://youtu.be/nlEgF6TvJ_8)
4. Bana Singh & a rare military feat on the Icy slopes of Siachen (Source: Youtube- StratNewsGlobal)  
<https://youtu.be/ZnpxopAoMug>
5. Captain Bana Singh, We for Veterans (Source: Youtube- RedFMIndia)  
<https://youtu.be/9OuhPAuNvuW>
6. Op RAJIV, Capturing Siachen's Highest Peak (Source: Youtube- Veer by Discovery)  
<https://youtu.be/0ube1Gx6O6Y>

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### <sup>7</sup> DISCLAIMER:

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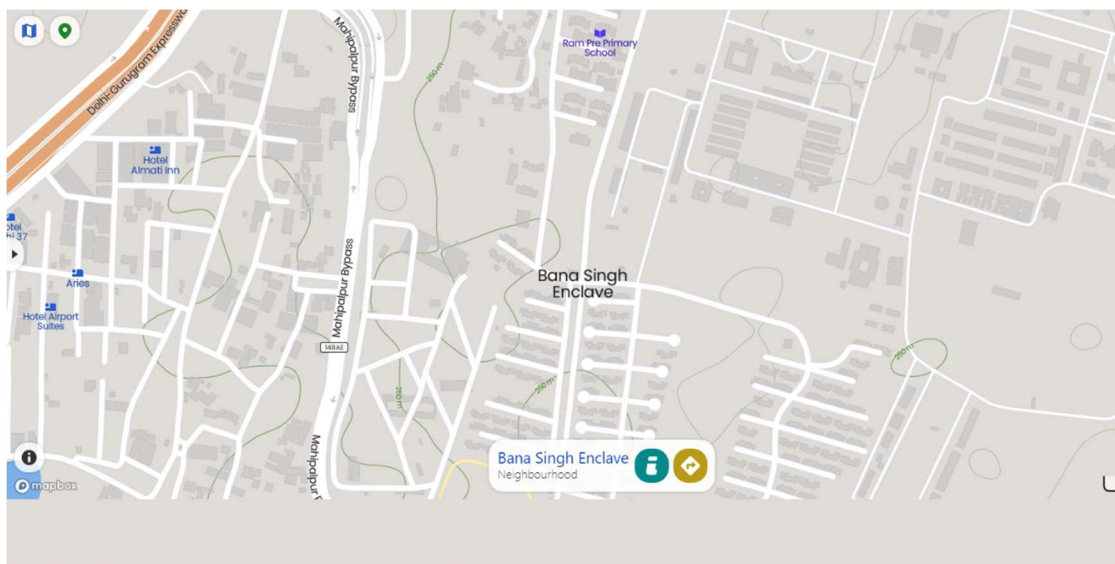
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## MEMORIALS

1. A bust of Naib Subedar Bana Singh has been installed within the Param Yodha Sthal in National War Memorial



2. Bana Singh Enclave is a housing society located near Aerocity, New Delhi





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## OTHER INTERESTING SOURCES<sup>8</sup>

### BOOKS

Fig 1: Param Vir Chakra Bana Singh, edited by Riyaa Jha

Fig 2: Param Vir by Major General Ian Cardozo

Fig 3: The Brave: Param Vir Chakra by Rachna Bisht Rawat



Fig 1



Fig 2

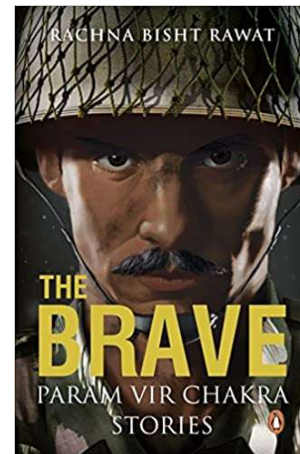


Fig 3

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<sup>8</sup> Disclaimer: The content mentioned under the Listicles constitutes fair-use of any copyright material and is used for information and research purpose only. The content is in no way promoting or branding an individual, organisation, book or film.



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## COMICS

Fig 1: Param Vir Chakra: Bana Singh by Maj Gen Ian Cardozo and Rishi Kumar, Roli Books  
<https://www.amazon.in/Param-Vir-Chakra-Bana-Singh/dp/9351941337>

Fig 2: Param Vir Chakra: The Ultimate Honour, Amar Chitra Katha  
<https://www.amarchitrakatha.com/product/param-vir-chakra/>

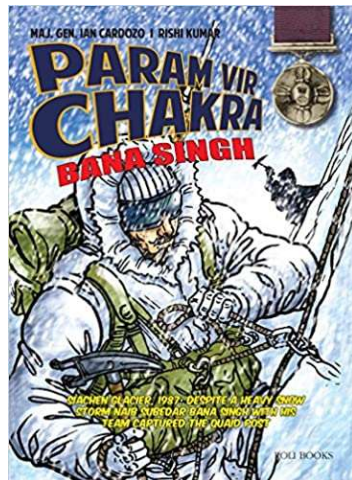


Fig 1

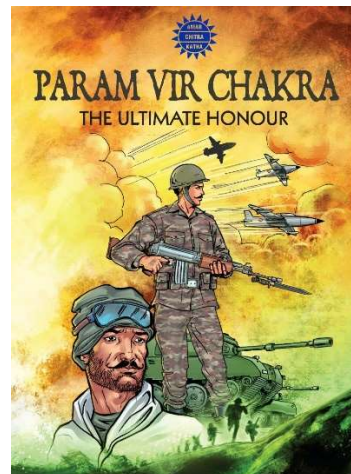


Fig 2

## PODCAST

1. We for Veterans, Captain Bana Singh by RJ Sarang, Red FM

<https://www.redfmindia.in/aurangabad/podcast/85/we-for-veterans/episode/sub-maj--hony-capt--bana-singh/4bf43bb5-f66e-4bf5-a54a-af7200731109?page=1>

2. Bharat Positive Show, Season 1, Fever FM-HT Smartcast

<https://gaana.com/song/28-bana-singh-param-vir-chakra-awardee>