

The Special Frontier Force



According to an Indian Army spokesman, Tenzin was killed in action after he stepped on an old landmine in Ladakh, south of the scenic Pangong Tso Lake. It was in this area that the Indian Army, in a pre-emptive move on the night of 29-30 August, took commanding positions atop some heights, these features overlooking key Chinese positions across the undetermined Line of Actual Control border. Nyima was a member of the Special Frontier Force (SFF), part of the Indian Army known as 'Vikas Force', which reportedly has seven such units, primarily drawn from the thousands of Tibetan refugees who now call India as their home.

The SFF was formed in the immediate aftermath of the 1962 border war with China. Also known as *Establishment 22*, this was raised by Major General Sujjan Singh Uban, an artillery officer who had commanded 22 Mountain Regiment and so named the new covert group after his regiment.

The units that comprise the SFF come under direct purview of the Cabinet Secretariat and are operationally tasked by

Even though many may have been in the know for over half a century, it was the recent funeral of a Tibetan soldier in Leh that officially lifted the veil from the SFF. Nyima Tenzin, a Tibetan soldier of the Special Frontier Force (SFF), operating under command of the Indian Army in Ladakh, was killed in action on 29 August 2020. BJP's General Secretary, Ram Madhav along with officers of the Indian Army and many people of the Tibetan community paid their last respects to the martyred soldier in Leh on 7 September 2020 (*photo above*).

