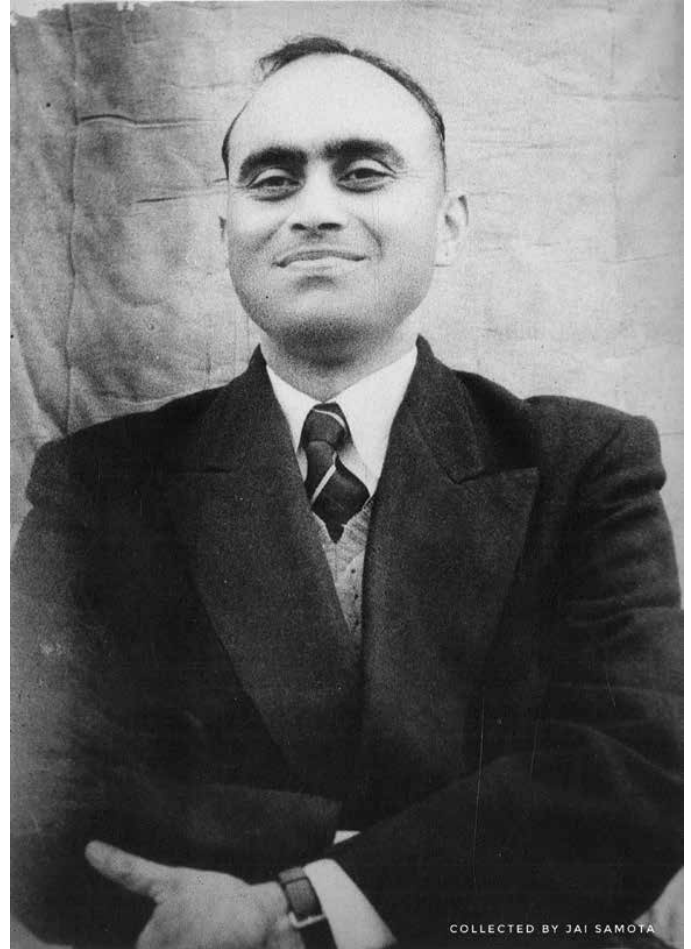
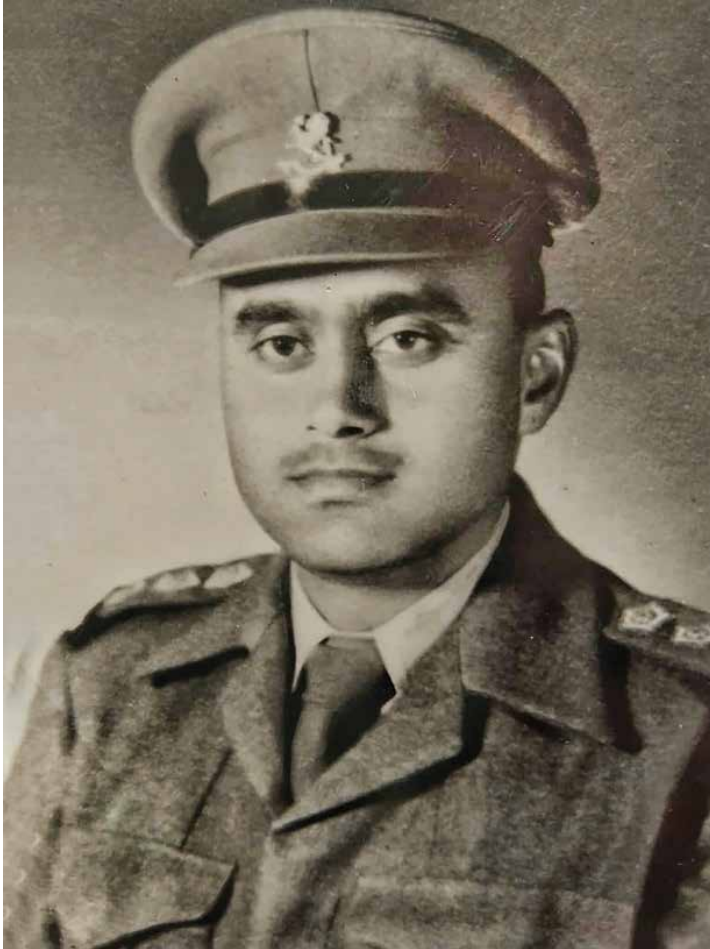


Beyond The Param Vir Chakra

The Life and Legacy of Major Shaitan Singh



Early life and family background

Major Shaitan Singh was born on 1 December 1924 in the village of Banasar in Phalodi tehsil of Jodhpur district to Lieutenant Colonel Hem Singh Bhati and Mrs. Jawahar Kanwar. Shaitan Singh was the eldest of 4 brothers and 2 sisters. Shaitan Singh's father, Lt Colonel Hem Singh was an officer in the Jodhpur State Forces. He was a brave and courageous soldier. Lt. Colonel Bhati was born into a common Rajput family, in 1906 he started his services as a soldier in the Jodhpur State Forces. Due to his merit and hard work, he was soon promoted to higher positions. He was an excellent marksman and an equestrian. He also served in the First World War as a part of the British Army. His contribution in the war as a soldier and a leader was invaluable. He was awarded the Order of the British India (OBI) by the British government. The title of Haathi Saropao was conferred on him by the Maharaja of Jodhpur for his valour during the wartime.

The Maharaja also offered to give him two villages in the Pali district, but being a humble and simple man, he

refused. He retired from the Army in 1935 and took a leap into civilian life.

Shaitan Singh was said to be the most polite and disciplined child in his family. He was not only a top performer in academics but was proficient in sports too. Shaitan Singh and all his brothers received higher education. Shaitan Singh's second brother Surajbhan Singh studied law and in 1952 he was elected as the sarpanch of the village. Third Brother Lal Singh did B.Sc. from Agra and at the same time he became a renowned athlete of national level and was also selected as the best marksman of NCC. Youngest Brother Prithvi Singh was educated up to BA and was considered as a good player in football and basketball, later he joined BSF and retired as a Commandant. All four brothers valued education as well as took sports very seriously.

Education

Shaitan Singh completed his primary schooling from Sumer School, Jodhpur and later he got enrolled in Rajput