



16 DECEMBER
VIJAY DIVAS

**Saluting our Nation's Heroes for their
Sacrifice & Courage**



A Virtual Exhibition on Vijay Divas



Vijay Divas



- **Vijay Divas is celebrated every year on December 16 to commemorate India's victory in the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war. The war led to the liberation of Bangladesh (then East Pakistan).**
- **Vijay Divas, also called as Victory Day, is celebrated on every 16th December in India.**
- **It marks the victory of Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the war of Independence of Bangladesh from Pakistan in 1971.**
- **At the end of the 1971 war, the Pakistani Army unilaterally surrendered resulting in the independence of East Pakistan, which was called as Bangladesh.**
- **On this day in 1971, the chief of the Pakistani forces along with 93,000 troops, surrendered to the allied forces consists of Indian Army and Mukti Bahini in Dhaka after they got defeated in the war.**
- **On the anniversary of Vijay Divas, respect and tributes are paid to the martyrs who laid down their lives for their country.**





About Vijay divas



On 16 December 1971, General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, Chief of Pakistan forces along with 93000 troops had surrendered unconditionally to the allied forces consisting of Indian Army and Mukti Bahini, led by General Jagjit Singh Aurora in Dhaka after the defeat of Pakistan in the India-Pakistan war 1971.

The end of the India- Pakistan war 1971 also resulted in subsequent secession of East Pakistan into Bangladesh. The day is being celebrated as Victory Day in Bangladesh and Vijay Diwas in India.

The Government of India decided on December 03, 1971, that India would go for war with Pakistan to save Bengali Muslims and Hindus. This war was fought between India and Pakistan for 13 days only. But, the Pakistani army surrendered before India with 93,000 soldiers. It was the Indian Army's one of the biggest victories ever made against Pakistan.



Some important facts to know about the 1971 Indo-Pak War



- The conflict was sparked by the Liberation War of Bangladesh following West Pakistan's ill-treatment of the people and undermining the election results in East Pakistan. The call for secession was officially raised on March 26, 1971, by East Pakistan. India's then Prime Minister expressed full support for their independence struggle on the very next day.
- The media had reported widespread genocide against Bengalis, mainly Hindus, at the hands of the Pakistani military, which forced about 10 million people to migrate to neighbouring India. India opened its borders for the Bengali refugees.
- The Indo-Pak war effectively began after preemptive aerial strikes by Pakistan Air Force (PAF) across airfields in north-western India, including Agra as part of its Operation Chengiz Khan. The Taj Mahal, which glowed in the moonlight, was camouflaged using twigs and leaves to hide it from the enemy aircraft.
- In response, the Indian Air Force flew about 4000 sorties in the western front and close to two thousand in the east. PAF could offer little in retaliation with around 2800 and 30 sorties on the two fronts. IAF continued to raid forward air bases in Pakistan till the end of the war.



Some important facts to know about the 1971 Indo-Pak War



- The Indian Navy's Western Naval Command successfully conducted a surprise attack on Karachi port under the codename Trident on the night of December 4-5.
- Pakistan had also mobilized its troops along the western front. The Indian Army retaliated and captured several thousand kilometers of Pakistani territory.
- Pakistan suffered the maximum casualty with about 8000 dead and 25,000 wounded, while India lost 3000 soldiers and 12,000 were wounded. The Mukti Bahini guerrillas in East Pakistan joined hands with the Indian forces to fight against Pakistani troops in the east. They received weapons and training from the Indian Army.
- The Soviet Union sided with the East Pakistanis in their liberation movement and India in the war. On the other hand, the United States, under the presidency of Richard Nixon, supported Pakistan economically and materially. The US went as far as deploying an aircraft carrier in the Bay of Bengal as a show of support towards the end of the war. At the end of the war, around 93,000 Pakistani troops led by General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi surrendered to the allied forces. They were returned as part of the Shimla Agreement of 1972.
- Pakistan was stripped of more than half of its population, as Bangladesh was more populous than West Pakistan. Nearly one-third of its army was captured. India's military dominance was telling though it maintained restraint in its reaction to the victory.



Indo-Pakistan War began



- **At the time of Indian independence from Britain in 1947, the country was also partitioned into India and Pakistan, the latter as a Muslim country.**
- **At that time, Pakistan was composed of two units, West Pakistan and East Pakistan which was the Muslim-dominated part of the erstwhile Bengal province. Soon after the formation of Pakistan, however, the Bengalis were under-represented in the national government and there were said to be racial tensions between both groups.**
- **Bengalis felt that their culture was being belittled by the national government. There were movements for the declaration of Bengali as an official language in Pakistan along with Urdu.**
- **Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, the premier Bengali nationalist leader, had announced his six-point programme for provincial autonomy for East Pakistan.**
- **In the 1970 elections in Pakistan, Mujibur's party East Pakistani Awami League won a landslide victory losing only 2 out of the 169 seats in the East Pakistan Assembly. This victory also gave the party a simple majority in the central Pakistani Assembly.**



Indo-Pakistan War began



- **The West Pakistani establishment, instead of allowing Mujibur to form government, called upon the military to crush dissenters in East Pakistan.**
- **There were protests in East Pakistan in support of Mujibur and a brutal crackdown was initiated by West Pakistan led by Tikka Khan in March 1971. His army let loose a reign of terror in East Pakistan engaging in widespread atrocities against dissenters. He thus earned the nickname 'the Butcher of Bengal'.**
- **During this time, Mujibur had been arrested and taken to West Pakistan. Several Awami leaders had fled to India seeking protection. There was also a huge inflow of refugees to India and this was proving to be an economic strain on India.**
- **On 26 March 1971, Major Ziaur Rahman, a veteran of the Pakistani army declared the independence of Bangladesh on radio.**
- **The government of India under Indira Gandhi was outspoken in its support of the nationalist leaders of East Pakistan and appealed to the international community for help in the crisis.**



Indo-Pakistan War began



- **GOI also supported the Multi Bahini or the people's army in East Pakistan. India was giving training to the East Pakistani Bengali nationals in the refugee camps.**
- **The state governments of West Bengal, Tripura, Bihar, Assam and Meghalaya set up refugee camps along the border.**
- **On 3rd December 1971, Pakistan launched pre-emptive strikes on Indian airfields including in Agra. That same evening, Indira Gandhi declared on radio that the strikes were seen as a declaration of war against India. This was India's entry into the war.**
- **That same night, India responded with retaliatory air strikes against Pakistan.**
- **There were coordinated air, land and sea assaults on Pakistan from all fronts. The intent in the eastern front was to capture Dhaka as it was the nerve-centre of the action. The objective on the western front was the prevention of Pakistanis from entering Indian soil.**



Indo-Pakistan War began



- **The war lasted only 13 days and it ended with the surrender of the Pakistani army on the Eastern front on 16 December 1971.**
- **The Instrument of Surrender was signed between the commanding officer of the Indian Eastern Command Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora and his Pakistani counterpart Lieutenant-General A.A.K. Niazi.**
- **After the surrender, over 90000 POWs were taken by India, the largest surrender since the Second World War. Among them also included some Bengali nationals who had been loyal to West Pakistan.**
- **The war was a decisive victory for India and it established the military dominance of India over Pakistan.**
- **Pakistan suffered a humiliating defeat and it also led to the country being stripped of over half of its population. The new country of Bangladesh was established. Pakistan released Mujibur who became the first President of Bangladesh. In 1972, the Shimla Agreement was signed between India and Pakistan by which in lieu of the return of the Pakistani POWs, the Pakistan government would recognise the independence of Bangladesh.**
- **In July 2011, the Bangladesh government posthumously bestowed the Bangladesh Freedom Honour to Indira Gandhi.**



Pakistan surrendered to Indian forces in the Indo-Pakistan war



- The Indo-Pakistan war that started on 3rd December 1971 ended 13 days later with Pakistani surrender to Indian forces that also signified the end of the Bangladesh Liberation War and led to the creation of a new country Bangladesh.
- After India's partition into India and Pakistan after independence in 1947, Pakistan was a country separated into two geographical wings placed on either side of India. The eastern wing on India's eastern side was called East Pakistan.
- East Pakistan had a predominantly Bengali population and there was a big cultural rift between the eastern and western wings of Pakistan.
- Bengalis in the eastern wing felt their culture was being belittled by the Urdu-speakers of the west and there were major protests in East Pakistan for language and culture rights. They also protested against the racial discrimination faced by many Bengalis from the West Pakistanis.



Pakistan surrendered to Indian forces in the Indo-Pakistan war



- **The Bangladesh Liberation War started in March 1971 when Pakistani supremo General Yahya Khan launched Operation Searchlight whereby the government hunted and eliminated Bengali civilians, students, intelligentsia and religious minorities. The west Pakistani establishment refused to acknowledge the election results which would have facilitated the Awami League led by Bengali leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to become the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Instead, Mujibur was arrested and flown to West Pakistan.**
- **During the course of Operation Searchlight, lakhs of people in East Pakistan were murdered and this enraged the local population and the leaders, as well as alarmed the international community.**
- **Mujibur Rahman was now demanding independence of East Pakistan.**
- **Due to the brutalities inflicted by the Pakistani army on the people, lakhs of Bengalis were pouring into India as refugees.**
- **Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, decided to intervene in the Bangladeshi freedom struggle, both to aid the people of a country fighting for liberty, and also to protect India's own borders in the western front.**



Pakistan surrendered to Indian forces in the Indo-Pakistan war



- India started preparing for war and also trained people among the refugees who were part of the Mukti Bahini, the Bangladeshi resistance movement composed of civilians and paramilitary forces.
- India was pulled into the war on 3rd December when Pakistan launched surprise air attacks on 11 airfields in India including in Agra, 480 km from the western border.
- That very evening, India responded with air strikes on Pakistan. The war was conducted on two fronts. The purpose on the western front was to protect India's territorial integrity and on the eastern front was to capture Dacca, the capital of East Pakistan.
- India carried out the war using all three forces of the military. Pakistani forces were not prepared to face the better-equipped Indian forces in this war.
- The Indian army penetrated the east Pakistani borders and joined forces with the Bengali liberation forces. The Indian Navy blockaded East Pakistan and the air force obliterated the small Pakistani air contingent in East Pakistan.



Pakistan surrendered to Indian forces in the Indo-Pakistan war



- Pakistan faced immense losses and the Indian forces were able to secure a swift victory.
- The war ended on 16 December when the Instrument of Surrender was signed between the Indian commander of the eastern front forces Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora and his Pakistani counterpart Lieutenant-General A.A.K. Niazi. About 90000 Pakistani POWs were taken in by India.
- Indira Gandhi declared in the Parliament, “Dacca is now the free capital of a free country. We hail the people of Bangladesh in their hour of triumph. All nations who value the human spirit will recognize it as a significant milestone in man’s quest for liberty.”
- China and Iran criticised India’s decision to intervene in the war. Soviet Union supported India. The United States, who was an ally of Pakistan, stood with that country during the war politically, morally and economically. The US administration led by President Nixon chose to conveniently ignore the genocide of Bengalis in East Pakistan by the Pakistani authorities and this was widely condemned by the international media.
- Bhutan became the first country to recognise Bangladesh. Mujibur Rahman became the first President of Bangladesh.



Bangladesh Liberation War Proclamation of Free Bangladesh - March 26, 1971



- On 26 March 1971, Bangladesh was proclaimed as an independent nation by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, this led to Bangladesh Liberation War when a guerilla war ensued between Pakistan and Bangladesh liberation forces with Indian support.
- Ever since the 1947 partition of India into India and Pakistan (comprising present-day Bangladesh), the residents of East Pakistan felt their culture and status were being undermined by the forces in West Pakistan.
- The Language Movement was started in 1948 meant to assert the rights of the Bengali-speaking population of Pakistan and also for the equal status of Bengali with Urdu, which alone was declared as Pakistan's federal language.
- There were also disparities in the economic status of both sides. The western side received more money from the common budget.
- The Bengali attempt to increase their status and earn respect for their language was met with severe suppression from the authorities.



Bangladesh Liberation War Proclamation of Free Bangladesh - March 26, 1971



- After the general elections in Pakistan in 1970, Mujibur Rahman's Awami League won a clear majority. But, the military in Pakistan (which had only about 5% of Bengali officers) was opposed to him becoming the country's supremo.
- The military government of Yahya Khan was unwilling to give up power to Mujib. Bengali nationalism was on the rise.
- On the night of 25th March 1971, the Pakistani army started the now infamous 'Operation Searchlight' in which they killed students, intellectuals and civilians in Bangladesh. Thousands of Bengali women were raped by the Pakistani army. The idea was to brutally crush the Bengali resistance.
- Since it was obvious that the West Pakistan authorities would not give legitimate power to Mujib, he declared the country's independence on 26 March.
- After this, the guerrilla war started between the Pakistani army and their collaborators who were called Razakars and the Bangladeshi liberation forces. The latter forces were called the 'Multi Bahini'.



Bangladesh Liberation War Proclamation of Free Bangladesh - March 26, 1971



- When the Pakistani forces started attacking civilians in Bangladesh, millions of refugees came to India, especially to West Bengal and Assam.
- Many Bengali soldiers from the Pakistan army defected to the Bengali side to fight for independence.
- Indian forces were helping by giving arms and training to the soldiers of the Mukti Bahini. India entered into combat officially on 3 December 1971 when Pakistan attacked Indian Air Force Bases. This 1947 partition of India into India and Pakistan
- Pakistan was unable to defend Dhaka once India entered into the war. On 16 December 1971, Pakistan surrendered. India won the war and Bangladesh became a free country.
- India played a key part in Bangladesh achieving recognition from other countries of the world. The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had toured several countries to publicise the atrocities conducted by the Pakistani military in Bangladesh. This ensured that India's entry into the war did not cause international rebuke and also helped the new nation gain quick international recognition. Bangladesh celebrates 26th of March as its independence day.



A strategic and military success



The Prime Minister followed a multi-pronged strategy. She realised that international opinion had to be won over to the cause of Bangladesh and made aware of India's unbearable burden of refugees. From July to November 1971, Mrs. Gandhi and Swaran Singh globetrotted across the Western world, attempting to build a consensus to force a UN resolution condemning the Pakistani atrocities in Bangladesh. India not only gave sanctuary to the Bangladeshi government-in-exile but also trained and equipped the Mukti Bahini.

To secure itself against a possible U.S.-China intervention in case events led to war, India signed on August 9 a 20-year Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation. The treaty provided for immediate mutual consultations and appropriate effective measures in case of either country being subjected to a military threat.

Mrs. Gandhi, prepared for the war by November-end, was reluctant to take action first, even though December 4, 1971, had been designated as the day the Indian armed forces would directly undertake the liberation of Bangladesh. At this stage, however, Yahya Khan obliged: Pakistan's air force launched a surprise attack on December 3 on eight military airfields in western India, hoping to inflict serious damage on the Indian Air Force and also internationalise the Bangladesh issue. The bid failed in both its objectives.



A strategic and military success



India immediately recognised Bangladesh and backed it with strong military action. The Indian strategy was to hold the Pakistani forces in the western sector through strong defensive action, while waging a short, swift and decisive war in the east. The U.S. government moved two resolutions in the UN Security Council proposing a ceasefire and mutual troop withdrawal, but these were vetoed by the Soviet Union. In desperation President Richard Nixon ordered the American Seventh Fleet to set sail for the Bay of Bengal. But India's 'iron lady' was not to be cowed down by any threat. She asked Manekshaw to direct the Eastern Command to speed up operations. The Indian Army, actively assisted by the Mukti Bahini, virtually ran through East Bengal and reached Dacca within 11 days. A defeated and demoralised 93,000-strong Pakistan Army led by Lt. Gen. A.A.K. Niazi was made to surrender on December 16. The following day, the Indian government announced a unilateral ceasefire on the western front.

Pakistan was reported to have lost half its navy, a quarter of its air force and a third of its army. The war stripped the nation of more than half of its population. Bangladesh was founded, and the 10 million refugees returned to their homeland with cries of 'Joy Indira Gandhi, Joy Bangladesh'. While A.B. Vajpayee, then a 47-year-old parliamentarian, likened Indira Gandhi to "Durga", The Economist dubbed her "Empress of India". It was Indira's, and India's, finest hour.



Some Glimpse of Vijay Divas



THE STATESMAN

INDIA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1971

THE WAR IS OVER

Pindi Accepts India's Cease-Fire Offer
COMBATANTS TO HOLD ADVANCE POSITIONS
No Automatic Exchange Of P.O.W.s

FROM OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY—GEN. YASAR ARIF AND HIS STAFF CAME TO A SCREENING HALL ALONG THE WESTERN FRONT AT THE CEASE-FIRE NEXT DAY'S OPERATION AT 8 P.M. TODAY. THE WAR HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE INDIA-SIDE OFFER, MADE BY GEN. GALORE YESTERDAY AND ACCEPTED BY GEN. YASAR ARIF TODAY. HIS ACTIVITY STOPPED SOON.

THROUGH THE PROCEEDING IN JUNE 1971 SOME OF THE BLANKET SHEETS OF THE BODY WAS... BUT MAY INDIA AND PAKISTAN PARTNER ONLY IN THE BRANGLAM AREA AND NEAR NATA... NO BREACH OF THE CEASE-FIRE HAS REPORTED LATER FROM ANY SOURCE.





Some Glimpse of Vijay Divas





Some Glimpse of Vijay Divas



Indian Air Force

Saluting the Spirit, Courage & Bravery of
'1971 Indo-Pak War Heroes'

Vijay Diwas is commemorated to mark military
victory of India over Pakistan in 1971 War.





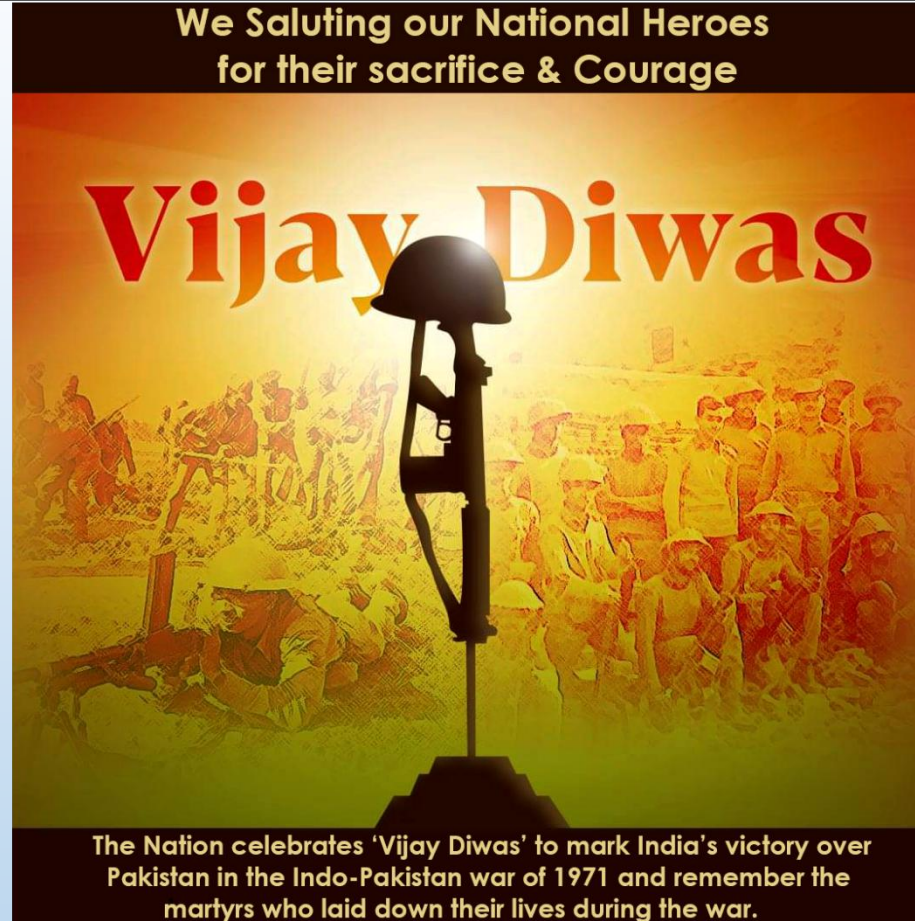
Some Glimpse of Vijay Divas





Some Glimpse of Vijay Divas





Gujarat University Library salute the valour & courage of our Armed Forces on the occasion of Vijay Divas & join the nation in paying tribute to the brave martyrs of the 1971 Indo-Pak War. It was the valour & sacrifice of our soldiers that upheld the pride & honour of the Indian Tricolour.

Jai Hind!



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