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**STUDY OF BATTLES OF
INDO-PAK WAR 1965,
1971, OPERATION
MEGHDOOT & KARGIL**

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MILITARY HISTORY

LESSON PLAN

MH 3

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INTRODUCTION

The partition of the subcontinent came into effect on 15 August 1947, when India gained independence. Pakistan declared independence a day earlier. At the time of independence the old Indian Army stood divided between Pakistan and India. Instead of large scale celebrations, riots and mass killing between Hindus and Muslims in Punjab and Bengal intensified.

It also led to acute suffering and misery of the displaced people, a part from colossal loss of precious human lives and destruction of property due to communal riots and retribution.

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Taking advantage of communal strife, in Oct 1947 Pakistani troops soon crossed over into Kashmir to participate into an undeclared war with India. The tribal 'volunteers' along with Pakistani regulars had by then overrun large tracts of Jammu province and the Valley, which shared a porous border with Pakistan. It was when they had reached Badgaon, on the suburbs of Srinagar that the Maharaja of J&K signed the Instrument of Accession and put in a bid for India's military assistance.

Indian Army then swung into action to save J&K.

Despite the accession of the state, a part of Kashmir, known as Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, remains under the illegal occupation of Pakistan, and this has remained a contentious issue between both nations.



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Since 1947-1948 war, India and Pakistan have fought the following wars:

(a) 1965 War.

(b) 1971 War.

(c) 1999 Kargil War.

(d) Proxy war since 1988 till date.







INDO-PAKISTANI WAR 1965

The Indo-Pakistan war of 1965 was a culmination of skirmishes that took place between April 1965 and September 1965 between Pakistan and India. The conflict began following Pakistan's Operation Gibraltar, which was designed to infiltrate forces into Jammu and Kashmir to participate in insurgency against Indian rule.

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Indo-Pakistani War of 1965		Casualties and losses	
Strength		India	Pakistan
 India 700,000 Infantry 700+ aircraft 720 Tanks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 186 Centurions • 346 Shermans • 90 AMX • 90 PT-76 628 Artillery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 66x 3.7" How • 450x 25pdr • 96x 5.5" • 16x 7.2" 	 Pakistan 260,000 Infantry 280 aircraft 756 Tanks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 352 Pattons • 308 Shermans • 96 Chaffees 552 Artillery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72x105mm How • 234X25pdr • 126x155mm How • 48x8" How • 72x3.7" How • POK Lt Btys 	 India Neutral claims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,000 men • 150^[7]–190 tanks • 60–75 aircraft • 540 km² (210mi²) of territory lost (primarily in Rann of Kutch) Indian claims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35–59 aircraft lost¹ In addition, Indian sources claim that there were 13 IAF aircraft lost in accidents, and 3 Indian civilian aircraft shot down. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 322 km² territory lost 	 Pakistan Neutral claims- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,800 men • 200-300 Tanks • 20 aircraft • Over 1,840 km² (710 mi²) of territory lost (primarily in Sialkot, Lahore, and Kashmir sectors) Pakistani claims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 aircraft lost

In retaliation, India reacted swiftly and launched a counter attack and a second confrontation with Pakistan took place in 1965, largely over Kashmir. Pakistani President Ayub Khan launched Operation Gibraltar in August 1965, during which several Pakistani paramilitary troops infiltrated into Indian-administered Kashmir and attempted to ignite an anti-India agitation in Jammu and Kashmir.

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Pakistani leaders believed that India, which was still recovering from the disastrous Sino-Indian War, would be unable to deal with a military thrust and a Kashmiri rebellion. Pakistan launched Operation Grand Slam on 1 September, invading India's Chamb-Jaurian sector.



Offensive on Pakistan

Initially, the Indian Army met with considerable resistance in the northern sector. After launching prolonged artillery barrages against Pakistan, India was able to capture three important mountain positions in Kashmir. By 9 September, the Indian Army had made considerable in-roads into Pakistan.



India had its largest haul of Pakistani tanks when the offensive of Pakistan's 1st Armoured Division was blunted at the Battle of Asal Uttar, which took place on 10 September near Khemkaran in Punjab. Another tank battle of the war came in the form of the Battle of Chawinda, the largest tank battle in history after World War II. Pakistan's defeat at the Battle of Asal Uttar and Dograi hastened the end of the conflict.

Battle of Dograi

To relieve pressure at Chamb–Jaurian Sector in J&K, 15 Infantry Division launched offensive in Lahore sector. 3 JAT of 54 Infantry Brigade crossed Ichogil canal and captured the town ship of Dograi and was just 13 miles from Lahore on 23 September 1965. On 23 September 1965 cease fire was announced. A decision to return back to pre-war positions was taken following the Tashkent Declaration.

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Indo-Pakistani War of 1965



Destroyed or abandoned Pakistani Patton and Sherman tanks on display near Khem Karan. About 97 Pakistani tanks were either destroyed or captured by India during the [Battle of Asal Uttar](#).

Indo-Pakistani War of 1965



Tanks of 18th Cavalry (Indian Army) on the move during the 1965 Indo-Pak War.

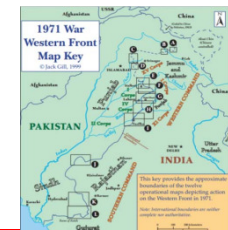
Indo-Pakistani War of 1965



Lt. Col. [Hari Singh](#) of the India's [18th Cavalry](#) posing outside a captured Pakistani police station (Barkee) in Lahore District.

INDO-PAKISTAN WAR 1971

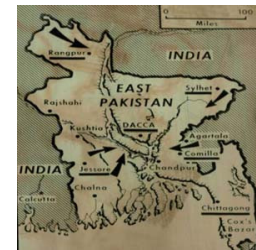
An independence movement broke out in East Pakistan which was brutally crushed by Pakistani forces. Due to large-scale atrocities against them, thousands of Bengalis took refuge in neighbouring India causing major refugee crisis. In early 1971, India declared its full-support for the Bengali rebels, known as Mukti Bahini, and Indian agents were extensively involved in covert operations to aid them.



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Wary of India's growing involvement in the Bengali rebellion, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) launched a preemptive strike on 10 Indian air bases at Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Agra, Adampur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Uttarlai and Sirsa at 1745 hours on 3 December. This aerial offensive, however, failed to accomplish its stated objectives and gave India its excuse to declare a full-scale war against Pakistan the same day.



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By midnight, the Indian Army, accompanied by Indian Air Force, launched a major three-pronged assault into East Pakistan. The Indian Army won several battles on the eastern front including the decisive of Battle of Hilli, which was the only front where the Pakistani Army was able to build up considerable resistance. India's massive early gain was largely attributed to the speed and flexibility with which Indian armoured divisions moved across East Pakistan.

Battle of Longewala: Pakistan launched a counter-attack against India on the western front. On 4 December 1971, 'A' company of the 23rd Battalion of India's Punjab Regiment detected and intercepted the movement of the 51st Infantry Brigade of the Pakistani Army near Ramgarh, Rajasthan. The battle of Longewala ensured during which the A company, though being out numbered, thwarted the Pakistani advance until the Indian Air Force directed its fighters to engage the Pakistani tanks.

By the time the battle had ended, 38 Pakistani tanks and 100 armoured vehicles were either destroyed or abandoned. About 200 Pakistani troops were killed in action during the battle while only 2 Indian soldiers lost their lives. Pakistan suffered another major defeat on the western front during the Battle of Basantar which was fought from 4 December to 16 December. By the end of the battle, about 66 Pakistani tanks were destroyed and 40 more were captured.

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In return, Pakistani forces were able to destroy only 11 Indian tanks. By 16 December, Pakistan had lost sizeable territory on both eastern and western fronts.



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Surrender of Pakistan Army in Dhaka

Under the command of Lt.General JS Arora, the '3 Corps' of the Indian Army, which had invaded East Pakistan, entered Dhaka and forced Pakistani forces to surrender on 16 Dec 1971, one day after the Battle of Basantar. After Pakistan's Lt General AAK. Niazi signed the Instrument of Surrender, India took more than 90,000 Pakistani prisoners of war.

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Indo-Pakistani War of 1971

Part of the [Bangladesh Liberation War](#) and [Indo-Pakistani Wars](#)



Pakistan's Lt. Gen. A. A. K. Niazi signing the instrument of surrender in Dhaka on 16 Dec 1971, in the presence of India's Lt. Gen. Aurora. Standing immediately behind from Left to Right: Indian Navy Vice Admiral Krishnan, Indian Air Force Air Marshal Dewan, Indian Army Lt Gen Sagat Singh, Maj Gen JFR Jacob (with Flt Lt Krishnamurthy peering over his shoulder). Veteran newscaster, Surojit Sen of All India Radio, is seen holding a microphone on the right.

Date	3–16 December 1971
Location	East Pakistan, India–West Pakistan border, the Line of Control, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal
Result	Decisive Indian victory. Eastern front: Pakistani forces surrender. Western front: Unilateral Ceasefire.
Territorial changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independence of East Pakistan as Bangladesh• Indian forces captured around 5,795 square miles (15,010 km²) land in the West but returned it in the Simla Agreement as a gesture of goodwill.

Belligerents



India



Provisional
Bangladesh



Pakistan

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Indo-Pak War Of 1971



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Indo-Pakistani War of 1971



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OPERATION MEGHDOOT: SIACHEN GLACIER

INTRODUCTION

The Siachen Glacier became a bone of contention following a vague demarcation of territories in the Karachi Agreement of July 1949 which did not exactly specify who had authority over the Siachen Glacier area.



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Indian interpretation was that Pakistan territory extended only Saltoro Ridge based on the Simla agreement where the territorial line's route after the last demarcated Point NJ9842 was "thence North to the glaciers." Pakistan interpretation was that their territory continued northeast from Point NJ9842 to the Karakoram Pass. As a result, both nations claimed the barren heights and the Siachen Glacier.



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In the 1970s and early 1980s, Pakistan permitted expeditions to climb the peaks in the Siachen region from the Pakistani side, perhaps in an attempt to reinforce their claim on the area as these expeditions received permits obtained from the Government of Pakistan and in many cases a liaison officer from the Pakistan army accompanied the teams.



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In 1978, the Indian Army also allowed mountaineering expeditions to the glacier, approaching from its side. The most notable one was the one launched by Colonel Narinder "Bull" Kumar of the Indian Army, who led an expedition to Teram Kangri, along with medical officer Captain AVS Gupta. The first air landing on the glacier was carried out on 6 October 1978 when two casualties were evacuated from the Advance Base Camp in a Chetak helicopter. Contention over the glacier was aggravated by these expeditions, through both sides asserting their claims.

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Notably, when Pakistan gave permission to a Japanese expedition to scale an important peak (Rimo I) in 1984, it further fueled the suspicion of the Indian Government of Pakistani attempts to legitimize their claim. The peak, located east of the Siachen Glacier, also overlooks the north western areas of the Aksai Chin area which is occupied by China but claimed by India.



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The Indian military believed that such an expedition could further a link for a trade route from the north eastern (Chinese) to the southwestern (Pakistani) side of the Karakoram Range and eventually provide a strategic, advantage to the Pakistani Armed Forces.



Back Ground

The Indian military decided to deploy troops from Northern Ladakh region as well as some paramilitary forces to the glacier area. Most of the troops had been acclimatized to the extremities of the glacier through a training expedition to Antarctica in 1982 before eventually launching the operation to occupy complete glacier. In 1983, Pakistani generals decided to stake their claim through troop deployments to the Siachen glacier.

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After analysing the Indian Army's mountaineering expeditions, they feared that India might capture key ridges and passes near the glacier, and decided to send their own troops first. Islamabad ordered Arctic-weather gear from a London supplier, unaware that the same supplier provided outfits to the Indians. The Indians were informed about this development and initiated their own plan, providing them with a head start.



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Operation Meghdoot

The Indian Army planned an operation to control the glacier by 13 April 1984, to pre-empt the Pakistani Army by about 4 days, as intelligence had reported that the Pakistani operation planned to occupy the glacier by 17 April. Named for the divine cloud messenger, Meghaduta, from the 4th century AD Sanskrit play by Kalidasa, Operation Meghdoot was led by Lieutenant General Prem Nath Hoon.

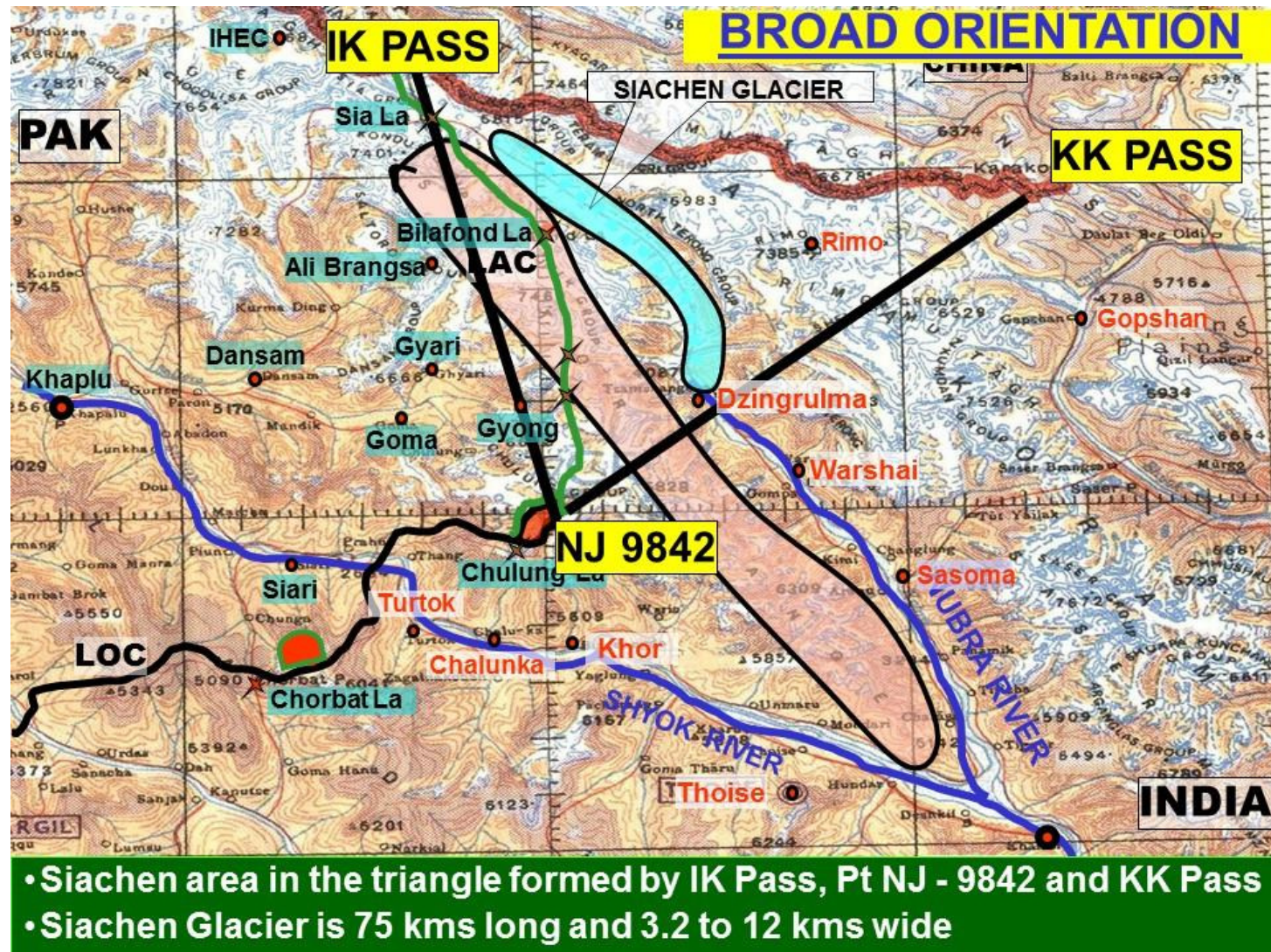
The task of occupying the Saltoro ridge was given to 26 Sector, commanded by Brigadier Vijay Channa, who was tasked with launching the operation between April 10 and 30. He chose April 13, supposedly an unlucky date, because it was the Vaisakhi day, when the Pakistanis would be least expecting the Indians to launch an operation.

Preparations for Operation Meghdoot started with the airlift of Indian Army soldiers by the Indian Air Force. The Air Force used Il-76, An-12 and An-32 to transport stores and troops as well to airdrop supplies to high altitude airfields. From there Mi-17, Mi-8 and own helicopters carried provisions and personnel to the east of the hitherto unscaled peaks.

The first phase of the operation began in March 1984 with the march on foot to the eastern base of the glacier. A full battalion of the Kumaon Regiment and units from the Ladakh Scouts, marched with full battle packs through an ice-bound Zoji La pass for days. The units under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel (later Brigadier) D. K. Khanna were moved on foot to avoid detection of large troop movements by Pakistani radars.

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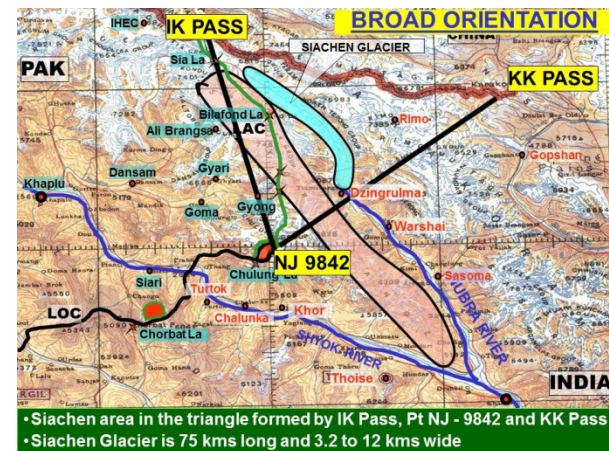
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The first unit to establish position on the heights of the glacier was led by Major (later Lieutenant-Colonel) R. S. Sandhu. The next unit led by Captain Sanjay Kulkarni secured Bilafond La. The remaining forward deployment units then marched and climbed for four days under the command of Captain PV Yadav to secure the remaining heights of the Salto Ridge. By April 13, approximately 300 Indian troops were dug into the critical peaks and passes of the glacier.

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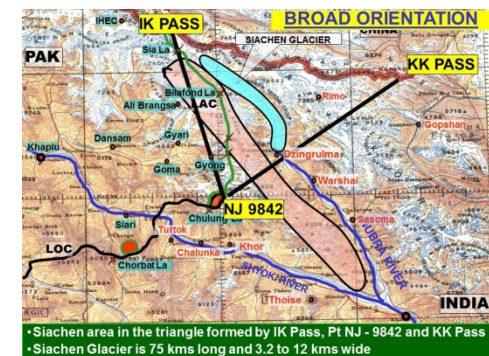
By the time Pakistan troops managed to get into the immediate area, they found that the Indian troops had controlled all three major mountain passes of Sia La, Bilafond La, and by 1987 Gyong La and all the commanding heights of the Salto Ridge west of the Siachen Glacier.



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Handicapped by the altitude and the limited time, Pakistan could only manage to control the Saltoro Ridge's western slopes and foothills despite the fact that Pakistan possessed more ground accessible routes to the area, unlike Indian access which was largely reliant on air drops for supplies due to the steeper eastern side of the glacier.



In his memoirs, former Pakistani president, General Pervez Musharraf states that Pakistan lost 985.71 sq mi (2,553.0 km²) of territory. Time magazine also states that the Indian advance captured 985.71 sq mi (2,553.0 km²) of territory claimed by Pakistan. Camps were soon converted to permanent posts by both countries. The number of casualties on both sides during this particular operation has been large.

Aftermath and Current Situation

There are divergent views on the strategic value of the operation. Some view it as a futile capture of non-strategic land which antagonized relations between India and Pakistan. Others consider the operation to be a "daring" success by the Indian Military and ensured that the Indian military held tactical high ground on the strategic Saltoro Ridge just west of the glacier, albeit at a high cost.

The Indian Army currently controls all of the 70 kilometres (43 mi) long Siachen Glacier and all of its tributary glaciers, as well as the three main passes of the Saltoro Ridge immediately west of the glacier, Sia La, Bilafond La, and Gyong La, thus holding onto the tactical advantage of high ground. The operation and the continued cost of maintaining logistics to the area is a major drain on both militaries.

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Pakistan launched an all out assault in 1987 and again in 1989 to capture the ridge and passes held by India. The first assault was headed by then-Brigadier-General Pervez Musharraf (later President of Pakistan) and initially managed to capture a few high points before being pushed back. Later the same year, Pakistan lost at least one major Pakistani post, the "Quaid", which came under Indian control as Bana Post, in recognition of Bana Singh who launched a daring daylight attack, codenamed Operation Rajiv, after climbing 1,500 ft (460 m) of ice cliff.

Bana Singh was awarded the Param Vir Chakra (PVC), the highest gallantry award of India for the assault that captured the post. Bana Post is the highest battlefield post in the world today at a height of 22,143 feet (6,749 m) above sea level. The second assault in 1989 was also unsuccessful as the ground positions did not change. The loss of most of the Siachen area and the subsequent unsuccessful military forays prompted Benazir Bhutto to taunt Zia ul Haq that he should wear a burqa as he had lost his manliness.

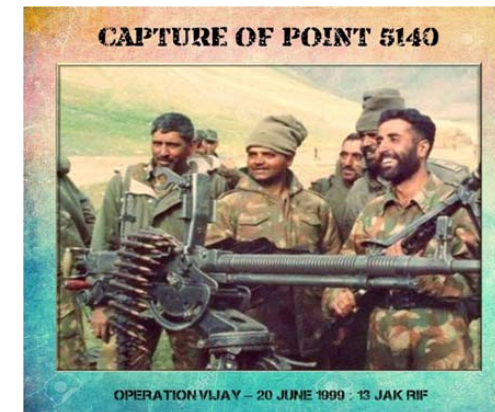
KARGIL CONFLICT-1999

In 1998, India carried out nuclear tests and a few days later, Pakistan responded by more nuclear tests giving both countries nuclear deterrence capability, although India had exploded three hydrogen bombs which Pakistan lacks. Diplomatic tension ceased after the Lahore Summit was held in 1999. The sense of optimism was short-lived, however, since mid-1999 Pakistani paramilitary forces and Kashmiri insurgents captured deserted, but strategic, Himalayan heights in the Kargil district of India.

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These had been vacated by the Indian army during the onset of the inhospitable winter and were supposed to reoccupy in spring. Once the scale of the Pakistani incursion was realised, the Indian Army quickly mobilized about 200,000 troops and Operation Vijay was launched.



However, since the heights were under Pakistani control, India was in a clear strategic disadvantage. From their observation posts, the Pakistani forces had a clear line-of-sight to bring down indirect artillery fire on NH 1A, inflicting heavy casualties on the Indians. Thus, the Indian Army's first priority was to recapture peaks that were in the immediate vicinity of NH1A. This resulted in Indian troops first targeting the Tiger Hill and Tololing complex in Dras.

Battle of Tololing

The Battle of Tololing, was one of the pivotal battles in the kargil war between Indian Armed forces and troops from Northern Light Infantry who were aided by other Pakistan irregulars in 1999. Tololing is a dominating feature overlooking Srinagar-Leh (NH1D) and was vital link. The terrain was such that frontal attacks had to be launched which resulted in heavy casualties. The three week assault finally culminated with India taking control of the peak and changing the course of the war.

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23 Indian soldiers were killed in the final assault, resulting in one of the costliest battle of the entire war. Other assaults, slowly tilted the combat in India's favour. Nevertheless, some of the posts put up stiff resistance, including Tiger Hill (Point 5140) that fell only later in the war.



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Kargil War	
Part of the Indo-Pakistani Wars	
 <p style="text-align: center;">Location of the conflict</p>	
Date	May–July 1999
Location	Kargil district, Jammu and Kashmir
Result	India regains possession of Kargil
Territorial changes	None
Belligerents	
 India	 Pakistan
Commanders and leaders	
 Ved Prakash Malik	 Pervez Musharraf
Strength	
30,000	5,000
Casualties and losses	
Indian official figures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 527 killed • 1,363 wounded • 1 POW • 1 fighter jet shot down • 1 fighter jet crashed • 1 helicopter shot down 	Pakistani official figures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 357–453 killed • 665+ wounded • 8 POWs
Pakistani claims	Other Pakistani claims
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,600 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 to 4,000 killed
	Indian claims
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 700+ killed

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The Indian Army mounted some direct frontal ground assaults which were slow and took a heavy toll given the steep ascent that had to be made on peaks as high as 18,000 feet (5,500m). Two months into the conflict, Indian troops had slowly retaken most of the ridges they had lost; according to official count, an estimated 75%–80% of the intruded area and nearly all high ground was back under Indian control.

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On 4 July 1999, Pakistan's Prime Minister Sharif agreed to withdraw Pakistani troops under US pressure and the fighting came to a gradual halt, but some Pakistani forces remained in positions on the Indian side of the LOC.



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The Indian Army launched its final attacks in the last week of July; as soon as the Drass sub sector had been cleared of Pakistani forces, the fighting ceased on 26 July. 26 July has since been marked as ‘Kargil Vijay Diwas’ (Kargil Victory Day) in India. By the end of the war, India had resumed control of all territory south and east of the Line of Control, as was established in July 1972 as per the Shimla Accord.

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Indian soldiers after winning a battle during the Kargil War



IAF MiG-21s were used extensively in the Kargil War.

Kargil conflict 26th July 1999



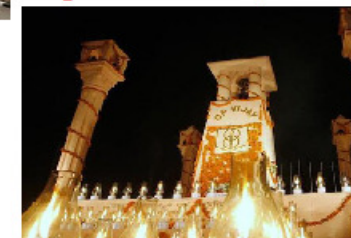
Memorial of Operation Vijay



The main entrance of Kargil War Memorial by the Indian Army at Dras, India



Kargil War Memorial, Patna



CONCLUSION

Wars with Pakistan have been a regular affair in the long history of both countries along with conflicts with china. This is a compulsive and existential necessity for the Pakistani State controlled by their military. The sacrifices made by the Indian Army to safeguard the sovereignty and integrity of the nation are great, for which the whole nation is proud of its achievements.

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THANK YOU



JAI HIND

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