



# Vijay Diwas Marks India's Victory in 1971 War

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Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on **December 16th** to commemorate India's decisive military victory over Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak War, which led to the **liberation of Bangladesh** (then East Pakistan).

## Historical and Political Context

- **Background (Genesis of the War):** The war was rooted in the oppressive political, economic, and cultural dominance of West Pakistan over East Pakistan, leading to the **Bangladesh Liberation Movement** and the rise of the **Mukti Bahini**.
- **Indian Intervention:** India intervened primarily to support the Bengali movement and manage the massive influx of refugees into its eastern states.
- **The War (December 3–16, 1971):** A 13-day conflict that involved coordinated actions by the Indian Army, Navy (Operation Trident and Operation Python), and Air Force.
- **The Surrender:** On December 16, 1971, the Chief of the Pakistani forces in East Pakistan, Lt. Gen. A.A.K. Niazi, signed the **Instrument of Surrender** in Dhaka, leading to the surrender of over 93,000 Pakistani soldiers—the largest military surrender since World War II

## Strategic and Geopolitical Impact

- **Birth of Bangladesh:** Confirmed India's support for the new nation of Bangladesh.
- **Shift in South Asian Balance of Power:** The victory established India as the **dominant power** in the South Asian region and boosted the morale of its armed forces after the 1962 Sino-Indian War.
- **Pakistan's Humiliation:** Resulted in the dismemberment of Pakistan and a significant loss of manpower and assets.
- **Tribute:** The day is a tribute to the valor, bravery, and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces personnel. (Note: India also observes Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26 to commemorate the 1999 Kargil War victory).
- **Historical Event:** A pivotal moment in post-independence Indian history, fundamental to understanding India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh relations.
- **Military Strategy:** The war is studied for its rapid, multi-front, and highly effective military execution.