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On 26 July 1999, India emerged victorious in the Kargil War against Pakistan. Every year, Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorates the war heroes who charted the victory course for India. India observes the Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26 in honor of the men who lost their lives in the war. Kargil War has played an important part in building the history of India. Read the article to know all about this historical day.

What is Kargil Diwas?

- **Kargil Vijay Diwas** was named after the success of Operation Vijay.
- It has been 19 years since the infamous Kargil war was fought. July 26, 1999, was the day, India achieved the phenomenal victory in the Kargil conflict with Pakistan. Since 1999, every year, July, 26 is celebrated as "Kargil Vijay Diwas" to commemorate India's win in the war, and remember the sacrifices made by the Indian army warriors.
- India successfully took command of the high outposts which had been lost to Pakistani intruders.
- The Kargil war was fought for more than 60 days, ended on 26 July and resulted in the loss of life on both the sides.
- The war ended with India regaining control of all the occupied territory, and hence establishing Status Quo Ante Bellum.
- This day is celebrated in the Kargil-Dras sector and the national capital New Delhi, where the Prime Minister of India, pays homage to the soldiers at Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate every year.









• Functions are also organized all over the country to commemorate the contribution of the Armed forces.

History

Kargil war has its root deep down in the history. In the year 1984, India captured the Siachen glacier which was not in the possession of either India or Pakistan till then. Pakistan was furious about this win and decided to take revenge for this act. During the 1990s, however, escalating tensions and conflict due to separatist activities in Kashmir, some of which were supported by Pakistan, as well as the conducting of nuclear tests by both countries in 1998, led to an increasingly aggressive atmosphere. Despite the Shimla agreement that mentioned non-violence, signed by both the nations, Pakistan covertly initiated crossing the boundaries between the nations and that's how Kargil war began.

The aim of the Pakistani incursion was to sever the link between Kashmir and Ladakh and cause Indian forces to withdraw from the Siachen Glacier, thus forcing India to negotiate a settlement of the broader Kashmir dispute. Pakistan also believed that any tension in the region would internationalize the Kashmir issue, helping it to secure a speedy resolution. Yet another goal may have been to boost the morale of the decadelong rebellion in Indian Administered Kashmir by taking a proactive role.

The war of Kargil is remembered the most for the tragic loss both the nations had to endure. The aftermath was really terrible. Then Prime Minister Pervez Musharraf administered a dictatorship to make his defeat obscure. Pakistan had to fight with negative international reputation. India, on the other hand, had had some good outcome out of this terrible war. India-US international relations became stronger and gained a position in international standing. Also, India could discover some of the vulnerabilities









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and chances of improvements.

Casualties of Kargil War

Kargil war is very infamous for the casualties it came along with it. According to the official figures released by both sides, after the war, India had to lose 527 of its warriors and 1,363 Indian soldiers were wounded. We can read their names at the Kargil War Memorial located at Dras, India. On the other hand, Pakistan had to sacrifice 453 soldiers. This figure is according to the Pakistan while India stated that there were at least 1042 Pakistani soldiers were killed.

Let's have a look at the list of soldiers that were presented the award. You can find this list here.

India

A number of Indian soldiers earned awards for gallantry

- Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav, 18 Grenadiers, Param Vir Chakra
- Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey, 1/11 Gorkha Rifles, Param Vir Chakra, Posthumous
- Captain Vikram Batra, 13 JAK Rifles, Param Vir Chakra, Posthumous
- Rifleman Sanjay Kumar, 13 JAK Rifles, Param Vir Chakra
- Captain Anuj Nayyar, 17 JAT Regiment, Maha Vir Chakra, Posthumous
- Major Rajesh Singh Adhikari, 18 Grenadiers, Maha Vir Chakra, Posthumous













- Captain Haneef-u-din, 11 Rajputana Rifles, Vir Chakra, posthumous
- Major Mariappan Saravanan, 1 Bihar, Vir Chakra, Posthumous
- Squadron Leader Ajay Ahuja, Indian Air Force, Vir Chakra, Posthumous
- Havildar Chuni Lal, 8 JAK LI, Vir Chakra. Also awarded Sena Medal for gallantry and posthumously awarded Ashoka Chakra as a Naib Subedar.

Pakistan

Two Pakistani soldiers received the Nishan-e-Haider, Pakistan's highest military gallantry award

- Captain Karnal Sher Khan, 27th Sindh Regiment, Nishan-e-Haider, Posthumous
- Havaldar Lalak Jan, Northern Light Infantry, Nishan-e-Haider, Posthumous

Other Wars In India

Apart from the tragic war of Kargil, India had to fight the First Kashmir War which was won by India but the ceasefire was announced due to UN's intervention. Also, in 1961, India witnessed the Portuguese war, also known as Operation Vijay for liberating Goa, Diu and Daman. In 1962, Sino-India war was fought. In 1965 and 1971, Indo-Pakistan wars were fought. The second war ended in 15 days with the victory of India against West Pakistan and liberation of Bangladesh.

On the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas, 2018, let us commemorate the sacrifices the great warriors made for us.











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