



**26TH KARGIL
JULY VIJAY
2019 DIVAS**





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Arrival of the **Dignitaries**



Arrival of the **Dignitaries**





Red Carpet **Welcome**

Red Carpet Welcome



Dignitaries at the Vice Chancellor's Office





From left Hon. Vice Chancellor Dr. Shivendra Gupta, Col Rakesh Vasal and Major Unmesh Pandya



From left : Col S Francis, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Dr. Shivendra Gupta, Col Rakesh Vasal and Major Maya



Welcoming & Felicitating the **Dignitaries**





Welcoming & Felicitating the **Dignitaries**





Kargil Vijay Divas VNSGU- 2019

The presidential address by
Dr. Shivendra Gupta
Vice Chancellor, VNSGU, Surat

At the outset, the university feels immensely proud to have Colonel Rakesh Vasal amongst us. Thank you very much, Sir. The entire VNSGU family salutes you and your Jawans who fought the Kargil war. I want all our cadets and all the people who are sitting upstairs to give a standing ovation to Col Vasal. You see, what we can do for him will always be too small for what he has already done for the country. Whatever we may do now onwards, it will be too little for the services that he has rendered to the country. Thank you very much, Sir, once again. हरिवंशराय बच्चन जी ने चार लाईन लिखी थी जो मैंने कर्नलसाहब को भी सुनाई थी, और मेरा भी यह सपना था, मैं भी ASC बटालियन के स्कूल में प्रायमरी तक पढ़ा था। हरिवंशराय बच्चन जी ने कहा कि :

"पेट की ज्वाल की खातिर बना ना किस-किस पथ का राही ।

अगर मेरा बस चलता तो मैं होता कवि के साथ सिपाही ।"

You see, about Kargil, Pakistan lost in a big way, not only on the military front but also on the diplomatic front. The prime minister of Pakistan- Nawaz Sharif, was showed a way out by Clinton. He did not give him sufficient time to talk. He said, "first, go back to the positions that you were occupying, you vacate the Indian territory," though by that time Indians had already got it vacated. Second thing, though the Indian Air Force was given a free hand, they had never crossed the line of control. Third thing, even the Indian Navy blockaded the fuel ships of Pakistan and later on Nawaz Sharif admitted that



under such circumstances, Pakistan could not have lasted six days of war because there was insufficient fuel available due to the Indian blockade. So, the Indian army, Navy and Air Force, they all worked very well for the country, particularly for the ethics that they worked with. They never mutilated enemy bodies like Pakistan does. They always honoured the soldiers whosoever he may be. That is the identity of an Indian soldier, brave, but always pragmatic, always good, always ethical; that is the sign of an Indian soldier.





You see, we fought many wars with Pakistan, and each time Pakistan was comprehensively defeated. The fourteen days war with Pakistan which played a key role in the creation of Bangladesh is the biggest war that any country has ever won over such a large area. No other country has ever achieved such a victory in fourteen days. It is like a T-Twenty. Fourteen days over such a wide area. Indian army and, at that time, there were one lakh Pakistani army in Bangladesh and just about a few thousand soldiers from India surrounding them and they got them surrendered with the arms and ammunition. This shame that Pakistan has been living with has never left them, and they want to take revenge, but they have no idea how Indians are, how Indian soldiers are, and they will never be able to fulfil what they want to do. Pakistanis will always be defeated. I would not take much of your time. I am again thankful to Col Francis for bringing a war hero to the university, and I want to assure him that we respect the soldier, we will continue to respect the soldier. Col Rakesh Vasal has promised me to bring Mr. Yadav one day to our shores, and I am looking forward to that day. We will have another program here where we will be honouring Paramveer Chakra winner Yadavji too. Whenever you have time, please let us know, and we will arrange it. Thank you very much all of you. You've been extremely good, very patient and good audience. Thank you.

An Introduction to
Col S Francis
Commanding Officer
5 Gujarat Battalion NCC, Surat

Col Sebastian Francis got commissioned into Indian Artillery -99 Field Regiment (SYLHET). After his LONG GUNNARY STAFF COURSE, he was posted to a SATA Regiment, which was equipped with DRONE surveillance system. He had varied profile in the Regiment as well as staff in HQ School of Artillery and Brigade. Before, coming to Surat, he was posted in highly active Counter Insurgency Area at Kupuwara Sector. He took over the command of 5 Guj Bn NCC on 15th October 2016.

After joining the Bn, the officer has established a very good coordination and liaison with University and all other institutions, in particular for the improvement of Institutional Training of Cadets. He has displayed very high degree of integrity and professional competence. A mature officer, who is tactful and diligent in planning and execution of tasks. He organises NCC Camps on an excellent climate to all ranks & thus always "Outstanding", and even Cadets from other Bns are more keen on attending his CATC camps.





An Address by Col S Francis

Today, it gives me immense pleasure to stand here with all of you and to be a part of the celebrations of Kargil Vijay Divas, to commemorate the great sacrifices of our Veer Jawans - The War Heros, who had laid their life for our Great Nation. I am equally thrilled to see, the eagerness and enthusiasm on your faces on this occasion. Today, the entire nation is commemorating our great success in Operation Vijay, the operation named after Kargil War. This was the fourth war which we fought against Pakistan which was confined to a limited area. This was a war between two Nuclear Countries along LOC (Line of Control). Today, we are fortunate to have here with us, Col Rakesh Vasal, a veteran, who was commanding an Infantry Battalion, the 3 SIKH Li Battalion, and fought against Pakistan army during the Tiger Hill Operation. Before he briefs us about the realities, problems faced by them etc, let me brief you about the genesis of the difference of opinion between India and Pakistan on Jammu and Kashmir and the saga of Line of Control.

Immediately after our Independence, Great Britain had left us in an uneasy situation by offering all the Princely States a choice to take their own decision to be the part of India or Pakistan. As the Hindu and Muslim populations were scattered unevenly in the whole country, the partition of British India into India and Pakistan in 1947, was not possible along religious lines in normal circumstance. Nearly one-third of the Muslim population remained in India, and its subsequent inter-communal violence and partition, as you all read through history. By taking the help of leniency given by the Britishers, there were three rulers of the Princely States who took an indifferent attitude to amalgamate either with India or Pakistan, and they declared themselves as "Independent States". They were Nizam of Hyderabad, Prince of Junagadh and Raja Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir, one of the largest princely states, had a peculiarity, it was a State with the majority of Muslim population at the time of our Independence and a significant fraction of Hindu population. However, this state was ruled by a Hindu king, **Maharaja, Hari Singh**. At the time of Independence, Pakistan supported the decision of Maharaja Hari Singh to be an independent state, but after two months of partition Pakistan with the help of their Militant Elements, the Tribal Islamic forces and with support from their Regular Army started attacks on Jammu and Kashmir. Considering the seriousness of the threat, Maharaja Hari Singh, approached our then Prime Minister and requested for military support, so that Pakistan's aggression can be eliminated. Though the Prime Minister Nehru, agreed with the request of Maharaja Hari Singh, the then Dy Prime Minister and Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, objected for any Military assistance to Jammu and Kashmir, unless, the King agreed to sign the Treaty of 'Instrument of Accession' with India. Finally, the Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Treaty of Amalgamation of Jammu and Kashmir State with Indian Union, and on 27 October 1947, our Indian Military Forces landed at Srinagar Airport, to thwart out Pakistan's aggression. After some time, considering the threat from mighty Indian Armed Forces, Pakistan approached UN to resolve the issue. Hectic negotiations and war both went parallel for almost a year. Finally, both India and Pakistan agreed to the UN involvement, and UN Security Council declared a formal cease-fire on the night of 1st January 1949, thereby allowing both countries to adjudicate and control the area occupied by them before the

ceasefire being ordered. Thus, India gained control of about two-thirds of the state (Kashmir valley, Jammu and Ladakh) whereas Pakistan gained roughly one-third of Kashmir (Azad Kashmir), and (—Gilgit Baltistan). The Pakistan controlled areas are collectively referred to as Pakistan Occupied Kashmir or known as POK.

So the Line of Control the LOC, as we generally call it, is the line that passes between the boundaries of India Owned Territory of Kashmir and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. It starts South from the area of Manawar Tawi River end, ahead of Pallanwala Area of Akhnour Sector passing through Pooch Sector, Krishan Gatti, the Uri, Gurez, Dabur, Drass, Kargil, then line beyond Siachin Glacier Sector. So after the first war of 1947, both countries recognize the LOC as interim boundary between the two neighbours, but India has rights to show the complete J&K, including the area occupied by Pakistan as India's state of Jammu and Kashmir in the International Forum as well as in all its Maps, whenever and wherever it is applicable.

Though the Kargil War was a limited area conflict between two countries with Nuclear Weapons, it was a very well-fought war by the young officers and was led by the Junior leaders of the Indian Army. Similarly, during this conflict, the Indian Air Force was also actively involved in engaging the peaks occupied by the enemy very effectively. For the first time, Indian Air Force was in action with night vision capabilities of the Mirage Fighter Aircraft. And, for the first time in the history of Indian Artillery, 100 Guns were used to provide effective Fire Support to the Infantry in this operation. It is also pertinent to appreciate that the Indian Leadership, political as well as military, to take effective decision to support the fighting force on ground, especially the Leadership qualities displayed by our the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the then Defence Minister, Shri George Fernandez.

With this introduction, now, let me invite Col Vasal, to address you. He is a highly recognised personality, who had led his Battalion in Kargil War. Once again, I thank each one of you each one of you, for coming here in large numbers to attend this programme. This shows the level of motivation and your support to the Indian Armed Forces. Finally, let me also compliment the Vice Chancellor, Dr Shivendra Gupta, for taking keen interest to host such vibrant event in honor of the Indian Armed Forces.

JAI HIND!!!

An Introduction to Col **Rakesh Vasal**

Col Rakesh Vasal hails from the frontier state of Punjab which has witnessed many wars including two major ones of 1965 and 1971. Obsessive with serving the Motherland in uniform from an early age, he took admission in Sainik School, Kapurthala (Punjab) in 1968 and studied there till 1975. **(Sainik Schools aim to prepare young men who wish to serve the Nation in Defense Forces).**

In 1976, he joined prestigious **National Defense Academy (NDA)** at Khadakvasala and passed out with a **Gold Medal for topping his Course**. After that, he underwent a one year of rigorous **Specialized Army Training at Indian Military Academy (IMA)**, Dehradun and once again passed out with a **Silver Medal (Infantry)** to his credit.

He joined **8th Battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry** in June 1980 and participated in '**OPERATION MEGHDOOT**' (Operations at World's highest battlefield called **Siachen Glacier**) in 1985. He commanded a rifle Company at **LAGOGMA GLACIER** called **CHANDAN POST** at the heights above 16000 feet.

In 1988, he was transferred to **3rd Battalion of the SIKH Light Infantry (3 SIKH LI)** and was posted to Nagaland in the high insurgency area.

After gaining experience in various Command and Staff appointments, he was extremely fortunate to participate in '**OPERATION VIJAY**' (Operations in **KARGIL**). In the year 2000 after the attack on Indian Parliament, the entire Army was mobilised for '**Operation PRAKARAM**' where he had the honour to participate as part of an Armoured Formation.

Apart from his crucial roles in all the major operations, he is a very keen sportsman and is currently working with the **ESSAR Group** as a Vice President, Security and Safety.



Sharing **The Kargil War Experience**

with NCC Cadets
At Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat
On 26th Jul 2019

Col Rakesh Vasal

A Veteran Officer (Indian Army)
who participated in the Kargil War (Operation Vijay)
in the year 1999



The Kargil War Operation Vijay



Code-named as Operation VIJAY, Kargil war with our belligerent neighbour Pakistan was the first televised war fought during May-July of the year 1999 in the Kargil district of Kashmir and adjoining areas along the Line of Control (LOC).

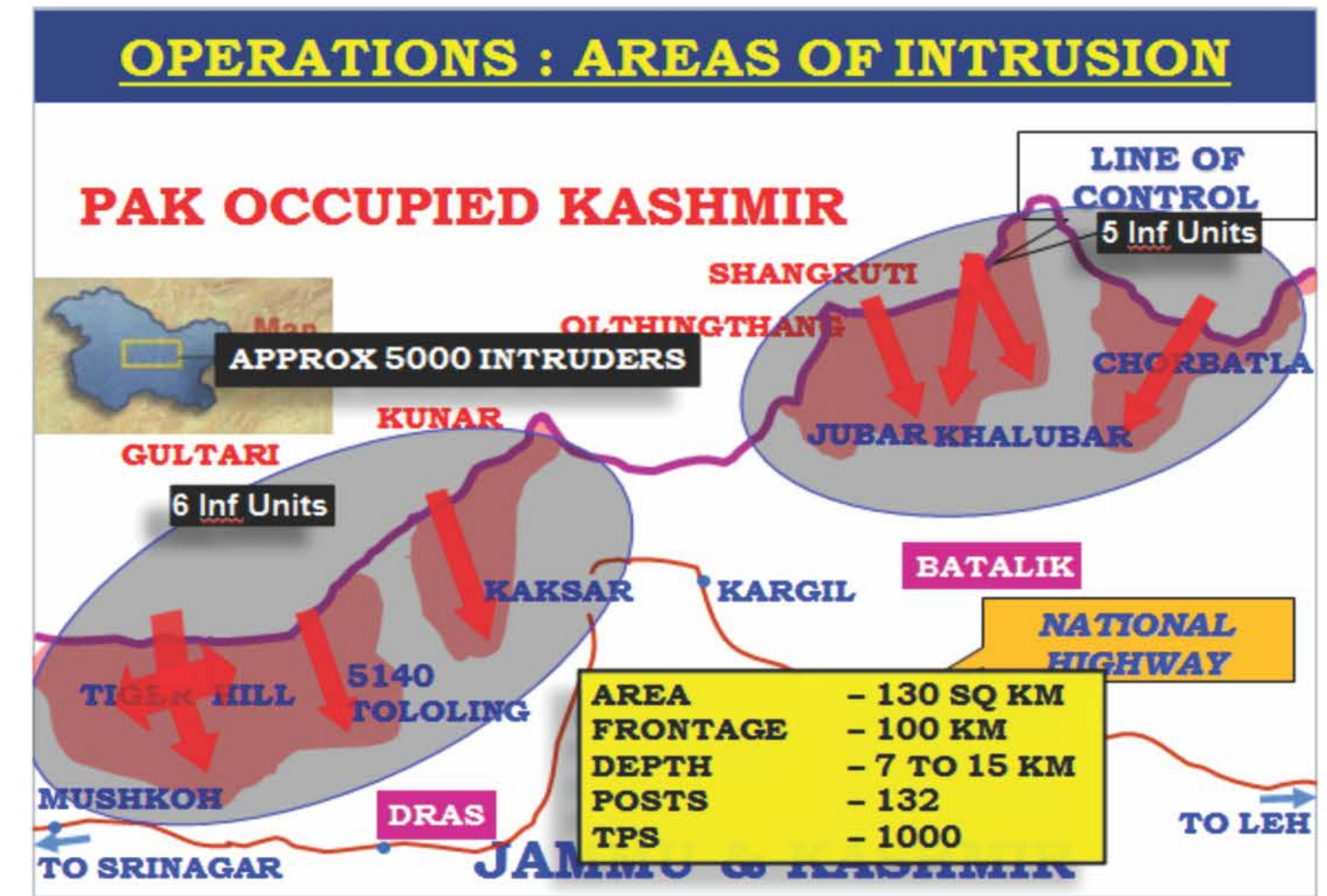
Since the year 1999, July 26 is observed as the Kargil Vijay Diwas in India to celebrate the resounding victory of Operation Vijay. While the 60-day long war resulted in loss of life on both the sides of LOC, India won the war by regaining control of all the previously held territory, re-establishing the status quo antebellum.

National Highway No. 1A (NH1A) connecting Srinagar to Leh cuts through Kargil. The area that witnessed the infiltration and fighting is approximately 130 kilometre long stretch of ridges overlooking this only road linking Srinagar and Leh. The military outposts on the ridges above the highway were generally around 16,000 ft high, with a few as high as 18,000 ft. Apart from the district headquarter, Kargil, the populated areas near the front line in the conflict zone included the Mushko Valley, town of Drass, Batalik sector and the other regions, northeast of Kargil.

Kargil was targeted by Pakistan partly because the terrain was conducive to the pre-emptive seizure of several unoccupied military positions. With tactically vital features and well-prepared defensive posts atop the peaks, a defender on the high ground would enjoy advantages akin to a fortress.

Background

When Indian Prime Minister late Hon. Shri Atal Bihari Bajpai was signing Lahore Declaration in February 1999, promising to provide a peaceful and bilateral solution to the Kashmir conflict and to de-escalate military tension due to India's nuclear tests in 1998, the Pak Army was busy intruding around 5000 Pakistani Armed Forces regulars into the Indian side of the LOC in the guise of Kashmiri militants/Jihadis. The intrusion was a brainchild of General Parvez Musharraf, then Pakistani Chief of Army Staff and Lt General Md Shahid Aziz, Chief of General Staff.



Aim

The infiltration across the LOC was aimed at occupying posts in Indian Territory to irrevocably alter the LOC, interdict National Highway 1A, revive militancy in J&K and to sever the link between Kashmir and Ladakh to cause Indian forces to withdraw from the Siachen Glacier.

Modus Operandi

Pakistani regular army units did not de-induct from winter vacated posts after September 1998, which were supposed to be vacated as per mutual agreement. Helipads were created in a large number at many places. In addition, no new bases were created for intruders, and larger infiltrating forces were broken down into smaller groups of 30-40 persons carrying out multiple intrusions.

Indian vacated posts were occupied and adequately stocked with arms, ammunition and rations before the onset of summers of 1999. Also large calibre weapons like Heavy Machine Guns and PIKA Guns were deployed.

Terrain

Heights were more than 16000 feet with loose rocks and barren mountains with jagged heights and ridgelines snow-capped for almost nine months in a year. This high altitude terrain had extremely limited space for movement, temperatures plunging down to minus 50 degrees with harsh gusts of cold winds and rarefied air.

War

Around 300 intruders were noticed in Drass and around 250 North of Mushkoh Valley between 10 and 14 May 1999. Initially, with little knowledge of the nature or extent of the infiltration, the Indian troops in the area assumed that the infiltrators were Jihadis and claimed that they would evict them within a few days. Subsequent discovery of infiltration elsewhere along the LOC, missing patrol led by Capt Saurab Kalia & the difference in tactics employed by the infiltrators, caused the Indian army to realise that the enemy's plan was at a much bigger scale involving their regular troops. The total area seized by the ingress was around 130 square kilometres.



The Government of India responded with Operation Vijay, a massive mobilisation of around two infantry divisions. However, because of nature of the terrain, fighting was conducted mostly at the regimental or battalion level. The total number of Indian soldiers that were involved in the military operation on the Kargil-Dras sector was thus close to 30,000.

The Indian Air Force launched Operation Safed Sagar in support of the mobilisation of Indian land forces on May 26. Indian Govt. cleared limited use of Air Power only on May 25, for fear of undesirable escalation, with the condition that IAF fighter jets were not to cross the LOC under any circumstance. This was the first time any air war was fought at such high altitudes globally. There was no retaliation at all by the Pakistani Air Force, leaving the IAF free to carry out its attacks with impunity. The Indian Navy also prepared to blockade the Pakistani ports (primarily the Karachi port) to cut off supply routes under Operation TALWAR. The Indian Navy's Western and Eastern fleets joined in the North Arabian Sea and began aggressive patrols and threatened to cut Pakistan's sea trade. This exploited Pakistan's dependence on sea-based oil and trade flows.

Operations in Dras Sector

Major battles in Dras Sect include:-

Tololing, Tiger Hill, 3 Pimple Complex, Lone Hill, Point 4700 & Point 4875.

Tololing

From 130+ covertly occupied 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 Indian convoys. This was a serious problem for the Indian Army as the highway was the main logistic and supply route. The Pakistani shelling of the arterial road posed the threat of Leh being cut off. Pak infiltrators apart from being equipped with small arms and grenade launchers were also armed with mortars, artillery and anti-aircraft guns. The majority of posts along the LOC were adjacent to the highway, and therefore the recapture of nearly every infiltrated post was essential.

The Indian Army's first priority was to recapture peaks that were in the immediate vicinity of NH 1A. This resulted in Indian troops first targeting Tololing complex & Tiger Hill in Dras, which dominated the Srinagar-Leh route. This was soon followed by the Batalik-Turtok sub-sector which provided access to Siachen Glacier.

On 20 May, 2 Rajputana Rifles was tasked to recapture Tololing. Brave soldiers led by Late Col M B Ravindernath, Vir Chakra captured the feature in the wee hours of 13 June after a very hard fought close combat. Subsequently, highest point in the complex PT 5140 was captured on 24 June by Late Capt Vikram Batra, PVC.

Tiger Hill

Grenadier, now Subedar Major, Yogendra Singh Yadav showed extra ordinary gallantry, most conspicuous courage, grit & resolve in recapture of this most dominating feature & was awarded highest gallantry decoration of the Indian Republic, the PVC.

After the final assault on the peak in which ten Pakistani soldiers and five Indian soldiers were killed, Tiger Hill finally fell on 05 July.

Batalik Sector

Batalik sector comprises of Batalik, Yaldor & Chhorbat La sub sectors due to natural barriers of Jubar & Hanusabar.

Yaldor Sub Sector

Capt Clifford Nongrum let the attack on PT 4812 & killed six enemy soldiers in hand to hand combat. He tried to pull out an enemy Machine Gun firing at them before he succumbed to his injuries. In the process he managed to establish a foot hold on the objective which was captured at 0400h on 02 July.

Following the outbreak of armed fighting, Pakistan sought American help in de-escalating the conflict. However, President Clinton refused to intervene until Pakistan had removed all forces from the Indian side of the LOC. Following the Washington accord of 4 July 1999, when Sharif agreed to withdraw Pakistani troops, most of the fighting came to a gradual halt, but some Pakistani forces remained in positions on the Indian side of the LOC. **on 14 July 99, our PM announced OP VIJAY a complete success.**

Conclusion

Operation Vijay was a Complete Victory & can be attributed to:

- Resilience of Indian Soldiers
- Irrespective of religion, Indian soldiers fought as one team
- It was the battle of Young Officer who led from the front
- Adverse weather conditions and lack of appropriate equipment did not deter the resoluteness of Indian Army soldier
- Indian Army successfully evicted the Pak intrusion
- All areas recaptured and re-occupied.
- Pak casualties – 700 plus killed, 1300 plus wounded and 08 Prisoners of War (POW)
- Territorial integrity of the country was maintained.
- NH 1A – Sanctity of lifeline of Kargil was maintained.

Sequence of Conflict

03 May 1999	Pakistani intrusion in Kargil reported by local shepherds
05 May 1999	Indian Army patrol sent up; Five Indian soldiers captured and tortured to death
10 May 1999	Infiltrations first noticed in Dras, Kaksar and Mushkoh Sectors
Mid May	Indian Army moves troops from Valley to Kargil Sector.
26 May 1999	IAF launches air strikes against infiltrators.
27 May 1999	Flt Lt Nachiketa taken POW
28 May 1999	IAF MI-17 shot down by Pakistan; four air crew dead
01 Jun 1999	Pakistan steps up attacks.
05 Jun 1999	Indian Army releases documents recovered from three Pakistani soldiers indicating involvement of regular troops.
06 Jun 1999	Indian Army launches major offensive in Kargil
09 Jun 1999	Indian Army re-captures two key positions in the Batalik Sector
13 Jun 1999	Indian Army secures Tololing, a turning point of Dras Sector
15 Jun 1999	U.S. President Bill Clinton, in a telephonic conversation, asks Pakistani PM Nawaz Sharif to pull out from Kargil
29 Jun 1999	Indian Army captures two vital posts: Point 5060 and Point 5100 near Tiger Hill
02 Jul 1999	Indian Army launches three-pronged attack in Kargil
04 Jul 1999	Indian Army recaptures Tiger Hill after an 11-hour battle
05 Jul 1999	Indian Army takes control of Dras. Sharif announces Pakistani army's withdrawal from Kargil following his meeting with Bill Clinton
07 Jul 1999	India recaptures Jubar Heights in Batalik
11 Jul 1999	Pakistan begins pullout; India captures key peaks in Batalik
14 Jul 1999	Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declares Operation Vijay a success.
26 Jul 1999	Kargil conflict officially comes to an end. Indian Army Announces complete eviction of Pakistani intruders

Heroes of Kargil War

Param Vir Chakra



**Captain
Vikram Batra**

13 JAK Rifles
Posthumous



**Lieutenant
Manoj Kumar Pandey**

1/11 Gorkha Rifles
Posthumous



**Rifleman
Sanjay Kumar**

13 JAK Rifles



**Grenadier
Yogendra Singh Yadav**

18 Grenadiers

Maha Vir Chakra

**Major
Vivek Gupta**
2 Rajputana Rifles
Posthumous

**Major
Rajesh Singh Adhikari**
18 Grenadiers
Posthumous

**Captain
Anuj Nayyar**
17 Jat Regiment
Posthumous

**Lieutenant
Keishing C Nongrum**
12 JAK Light Infantry

**Major
Sonam Wangchuk**
Ladakh Scouts

**Lieutenant
Balwant Singh**
18 Grenadiers

**Naik
Digendra Kumar**
2 Rajputana Rifles

**Major
Padmapani Acharya**
2 Rajputana Rifles
Posthumous

**Captain
N Kenguruse**
2 Rajputana Rifles
Posthumous



Releasing of the **Souvenir:**
49th Special Convocation





From left Col S Francis, Shri A.V. Dhaduk, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Dr. Shivendra Gupta, Col Rakesh Vasal and Major Maya

Candid Moments





Address by Col Rakesh Vasal



Address by Hon. Vice Chancellor Dr. Shivendra Gupta

Candid Moments



Photo Gallery



भारत माता की जय



Saluting the Nation



Photo Gallery



 **NCC CADETS OF GUJARAT**
DIRECTORATE 

CELEBRATES
KARGIL VIJAY DIVAS



Photo Gallery





Photo Gallery



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