

SECOND INDO PAK WAR 5 August 1965

The second Indo-Pak war began on 5th August 1965. This war was fought over Kashmir and was initiated by Pakistan when between 26000 and 33000 Pakistani troops dressed as locals crossed over to the Indian side of the Line of Control (LOC). The war ended on 23 September 1965. This is an important event in India's modern history and international relations for the IAS exam.

Indo-Pak War 1965

On August 5, 1965, Pakistani troops masquerading as Kashmiri locals crossed the LOC with the aim of starting an insurgency among the locals against the Indian government.

- This infiltration strategy was codenamed **Operation Gibraltar**. With this, Pakistan aimed to take control of Kashmir.
- **Operation Gibraltar** was the codename of a military operation planned and executed by the Pakistan Army in the Indian-administered state of Jammu and Kashmir in August 1965. The operation's strategy was to covertly cross the Line of Control (LoC) and instigate the Muslim-majority Kashmiri population into an uprising against Indian rule. The military leadership believed that a rebellion (sparked by Operation Gibraltar) by the local Kashmiri population against Indian authorities would serve as Pakistan's *casus belli* against India on the international stage.
- Pakistan's leadership specifically chose this name to draw a parallel to the Muslim conquest of Portugal/Spain that was launched from the port of Gibraltar.
- In August 1965, Pakistani troops from the Azad Kashmir Regular Force, disguised as locals, entered Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistani-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir with the goal of fomenting an insurgency amongst the Muslim-majority population in the Kashmir Valley. However, the strategy went awry from the outset due to poor coordination, and the infiltrators' presence was soon disclosed to the Indian military.
- Following the operation's failure and discovery of the Pakistani infiltration, India launched a full-scale military attack on West Pakistan, invading Pakistani Punjab and clashing with Pakistani forces, sparking the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, which was the first major engagement between the two neighbouring states since the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947-1948.

- India had suffered a defeat at the hands of China in 1962 and Pakistan thought that the Indian army would not be able to defend Kashmir.
- Operation Gibraltar was a failure since the presence of Pakistanis was reported to the Indian authorities by the locals themselves.
- The Indian Army retaliated and captured the Haji Pir Pass in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- On 1 September, Pakistan put into action its **Operation Grand Slam** aimed at capturing the town of Akhnoor in Jammu.
- **Operation Grand Slam** was an offensive undertaken by United Nations peacekeeping forces from 28 December 1962 to 15 January 1963 against the gendarmerie of the State of Katanga, a secessionist state rebelling against the Republic of the Congo in central Africa. The Katangese forces were decisively defeated and Katanga was forcibly reintegrated into the Congo.
- The United Nations had tried several times to reconcile the government of the Congo with the State of Katanga, which had declared independence under Moïse Tshombe with Belgian support in 1960. Though initially limiting its actions, the United Nations Operation in the Congo became increasingly impatient towards Katanga and Tshombe, drawing up plans to resolve the situation through force. Tshombe continuously violated agreements he had made with the United Nations and the Congolese government by building up his forces and bringing foreign mercenaries into the conflict. The situation reached a breaking point in December 1962 when Katangese gendarmes attacked peacekeeping forces in Katanga. United Nations Secretary-General U Thant authorised a retaliatory offensive to eliminate secessionist opposition.
- Although the Indian Army was taken by surprise by this move, Pakistan was not able to capture Akhnoor.
- India retaliated by attacking further south of the valley and successfully drove away from the infiltrators from Kargil.
- The international border (Radcliffe Line) was crossed by India on 6 September which marked the official beginning of the war.
- The Indian Army captured certain areas in the Lahore district of Pakistan.

- This war, unlike the previous conflict in 1947-48, was fought on many fronts including in Rajasthan. This war also saw aerial combat between India and Pakistan for the first time.
- The war ended on 23 September 1965 after the United Nations Security Council called for an unconditional ceasefire from both India and Pakistan the previous day.
- Both the USA and the USSR intervened diplomatically to prevent further escalation of the conflict.
- The war was a victory for India even though Pakistan claims otherwise. Their stated aim of 'liberating Kashmir' did not succeed.
- Both countries held each other's territory after the war. India held 1840 sq.km of the area while Pakistan held 540 sq.km.
- India had 3000 military casualties while Pakistan had 3800.
- Ceasefire negotiations were hosted by the USSR in Tashkent (now in Uzbekistan) in January 1966 which led to the Tashkent Agreement. The signatories to this agreement were Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and Pakistani President Ayub Khan.
- Shastri died in Tashkent following a heart attack.
- This agreement compelled India and Pakistan to return the annexed areas to each other.
- Officially the war ended in a stalemate owing to international diplomatic pressure, but India emerged as victorious considering the losses suffered by Pakistan.
- When India agreed to the ceasefire, there was a lot of protest by the people and the military in India who believed a decisive victory could have been possible.
- The ceasefire was in place until the Indo-Pak war of 1971. Read more on the Bangladesh Liberation War on This day in History dated March 26.
- The pre-war intelligence failure leading to the 1965 Indo-Pak war was partly responsible for India setting up the **Research & Analysis Wing (RAW)**.