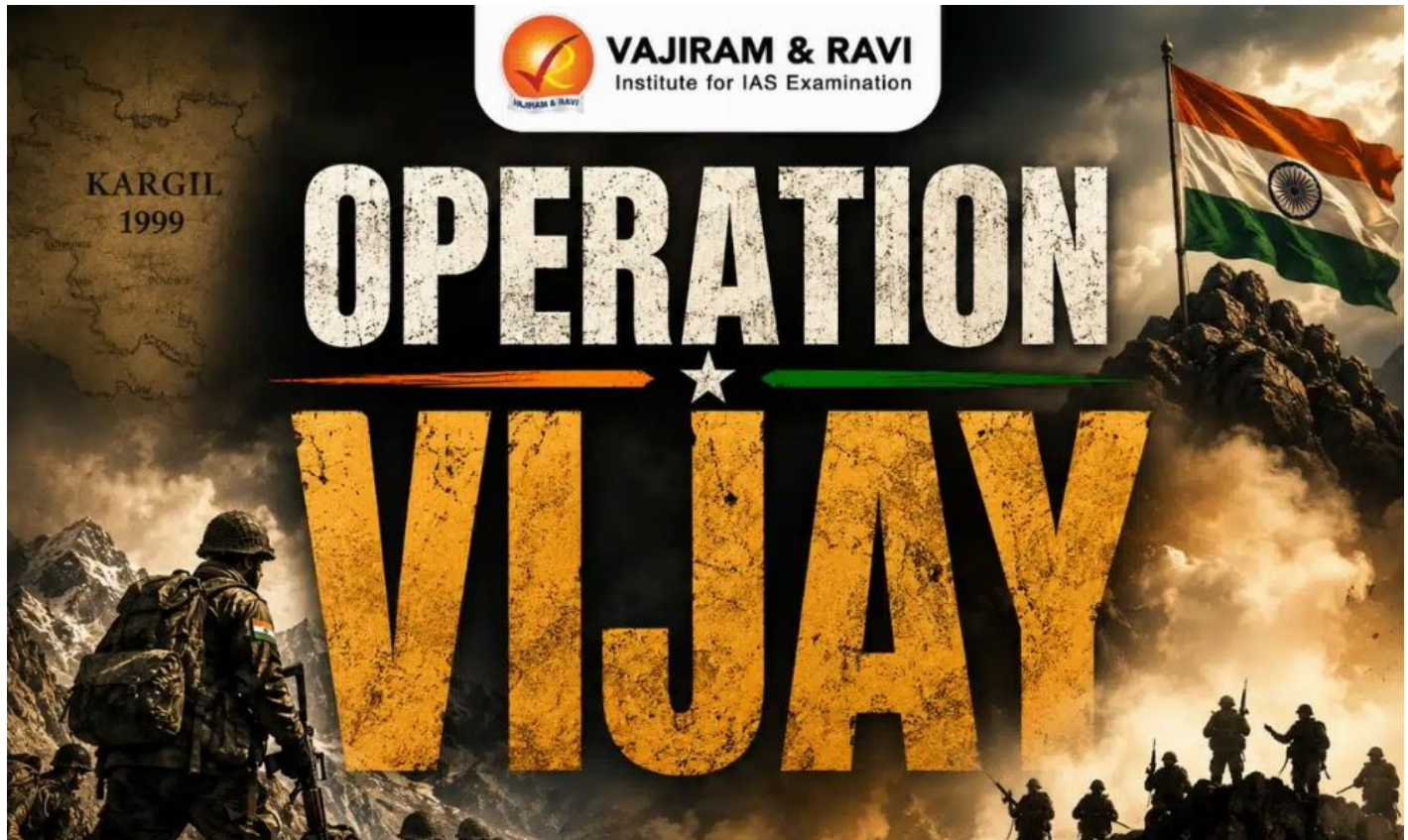


Operation Vijay, Kargil War 1999, Goa Liberation 1961, Outcomes

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There are two military operations in Indian history known as **Operation Vijay**. The first was **Operation Vijay (1961)**, launched to liberate Goa from Portuguese rule. The second and more widely known **Operation Vijay (1999)** was conducted during the Kargil War to drive out Pakistani intruders from Indian territory in the Kargil sector of Ladakh. This article highlights the major reasons, course, events and consequences of the two Operation Vijay.

Operation Vijay 1999

Operation Vijay was the codename for the Indian Army's military campaign launched in May 1999 to recapture strategic mountain positions occupied by Pakistani troops in the Kargil region of Ladakh. The operation aimed to restore the sanctity of the Line of Control without crossing it despite severe operational challenges. It was fought across difficult Himalayan terrain. The campaign became one of the most significant examples of high altitude warfare and ended with the successful eviction of the intruders in July 1999.

Operation Vijay Kargil 1999 Background

Operation Vijay of Kargil was launched after Pakistani troops, disguised as Kashmiri militants, secretly occupied winter vacated Indian posts along the Line of Control in the Kargil sector.

- The occupied heights overlooked the Srinagar-Leh highway, an essential supply route connecting Ladakh and supporting military deployment towards the Siachen region, making the intrusion a serious strategic challenge.
- The intrusion occurred soon after the Lahore Declaration (1999) and threatened India's control over important mountain heights overlooking the Srinagar-Leh route.
- The occupied positions were located on steep Himalayan peaks where thin air, freezing temperatures and rugged terrain created major operational and logistical difficulties for Indian forces.
- Pakistani troops occupied commanding heights with fortified bunkers and natural rock cover, allowing them to observe Indian troop movement and dominate nearby supply routes.
- The Indian Army launched **Operation Vijay 1999** with the primary goal of removing the intruders, restoring the Line of Control and securing the recaptured positions against future occupation.

Also Read: Kargil War 1999

Operation Vijay Kargil 1999 Course

Operation Vijay followed a carefully planned military campaign combining infantry assaults, artillery support, air operations and naval pressure to recover occupied territory.

- **Launch of Operation Vijay:** The Indian Army began Operation Vijay in May 1999, rapidly mobilising additional troops, artillery, logistics and specialised mountain units to prepare for large scale offensive operations.
- **Priority based operations:** The campaign addressed intrusion sectors according to their strategic importance, giving highest priority to Drass, followed by Batalik, Mushkoh and Kaksar.
- **Massive firepower:** Heavy artillery, concentrated bombardment and coordinated air strikes weakened enemy supply routes and fortified positions before infantry units launched direct assaults on mountain peaks.
- **Operation Safed Sagar:** The Indian Air Force launched Operation Safed Sagar, carrying out precision attacks against enemy positions on rugged **Himalayan** heights while supporting advancing ground forces.
- **Operation Talwar:** Simultaneously, the Indian Navy executed Operation Talwar, deploying naval forces in the **Arabian Sea** to increase strategic pressure during the conflict.
- **Battlefield:** Major battles were fought across Tololing, Tiger Hill, Drass and Batalik, where Indian soldiers climbed steep, exposed slopes under continuous enemy fire to capture fortified positions.
- **Tololing Capture:** On 20 June 1999, Indian forces successfully recaptured Tololing Heights, significantly reducing enemy observation over the Kargil-Leh road and changing the momentum of the campaign.
- **Capture of Tiger Hill:** On 4 July 1999, Indian troops regained Tiger Hill, one of the conflict's most important victories, by which time nearly 80% of the occupied territory had been cleared.
- **Batalik operations:** By 8 July 1999, operations shifted towards Batalik, where Indian troops recaptured positions around Jubar Heights, removing threats towards Leh and the **Siachen region**.
- **Withdrawal negotiations:** On 11 July 1999, representatives of both countries met at Wagah as Indian military operations had already cleared more than 95% of the occupied territory.

- **Final clearance:** During the third week of July 1999, the remaining enemy pockets in Mushkoh Valley and Kaksar were cleared, completing the military objective of restoring the **Line of Control**.

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Operation Vijay 1999 Results

Operation Vijay of Kargil 1999 restored Indian control over strategic mountain positions, strengthened border security lessons and became a landmark campaign in high altitude warfare.

- On 14 July 1999, after securing most strategic positions, India began consolidating recaptured areas and officially declared Operation Vijay a successful military campaign.
- The campaign secured the Srinagar-Leh highway, ensuring uninterrupted movement of troops, equipment and supplies towards Ladakh and strategically important northern regions.

Also Read: [Kargil Vijay Diwas 2026](#)

Operation Vijay 1961

Operation Vijay was the codename given by the Indian Armed Forces to the military operation carried out between 17 and 19 December 1961 to integrate the Portuguese controlled territories of Goa, Daman and Diu into India. The operation involved coordinated attacks by the Army, Navy and Air Force for over 36 hours, ending with an Indian victory. It concluded **Portuguese colonial rule** that had continued for 451 years, resulting in the surrender of 4,668 Portuguese military and civilian personnel and the establishment of Indian administration in the region.

Operation Vijay Goa 1961 Background

Portuguese rule in Goa continued even after India's independence in 1947, despite growing public movements, diplomatic efforts and international pressure. The following developments gradually led to Operation Vijay.

- Portugal retained Goa, Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli after Indian independence.
- Goa, Daman and Diu covered about 4,000 sq km, had a population of 637,591 and its economy depended mainly on **agriculture**, iron ore and manganese mining.
- Portugal's Estado Novo government treated overseas territories as integral parts of Portugal instead of colonies. It rejected demands for self determination and refused to negotiate the transfer of Goa despite changing global decolonisation trends.
- Leaders including Tristão de Bragança Cunha, Ram Manohar Lohia, Juliao Menezes, Purushottam Kakodkar and Laxmikant Bhembre organised peaceful resistance. 18 June 1946, now observed as Goa Revolution Day, became a landmark in the anti colonial movement.
- Organisations such as the Azad Gomantak Dal, United Front of Goans and other groups launched attacks on Portuguese infrastructure. India extended financial, logistical and organisational support to weaken Portuguese administration.
- India requested negotiations in 1950, withdrew its diplomatic mission from Lisbon in 1953, imposed visa restrictions and economic sanctions, while Portugal consistently rejected discussions on Goa's future.

- The 1955 firing on unarmed protesters, Portuguese action against the passenger vessel Sabarmati on 24 November 1961 and continued refusal to negotiate strengthened public support in India for military action.

Operation Vijay Goa 1961 Course

Operation Vijay combined coordinated action by the Army, Navy and Air Force, leading to the rapid capture of Goa, Daman and Diu within two days.

- **Launch of the operation:** On 17 December 1961, India launched Operation Vijay under the leadership of **Jawaharlal Nehru**, V. K. Krishna Menon, Lt. Gen. Jayanto Nath Chaudhuri, Maj. Gen. K. P. Candeth and Air Vice Marshal Eric Pinto, targeting Portuguese positions across Goa, Daman and Diu.
- **Strength:** India deployed around 45,000 infantry, M4 Sherman tanks, an aircraft carrier, 2 light cruisers, 1 destroyer, 8 frigates, 4 minesweepers, Canberra bombers, Vampire, Hunter, Mystère and Toofani aircraft. Portugal defended the territory with about 3,500 military personnel, 1 sloop and 3 patrol boats.
- **Ground offensive in Goa:** Indian troops captured Panaji, Ponda, Margao, Mormugao, Fort Aguada and other strategic locations after overcoming demolished bridges, minefields and limited resistance.
- **Air Operations:** Beginning 18 December, the Indian Air Force used 20 Canberra bombers, supported by Hunter and Vampire aircraft, to disable the runway at Dabolim Airport, destroy the Bambolim wireless station and support advancing ground forces while avoiding unnecessary damage to airport infrastructure.
- **Naval Operations:** The Indian Navy deployed multiple task groups centred on **INS Vikrant**. Naval engagements included the battle at Mormugao Harbour, where the Portuguese sloop NRP **Afonso de Albuquerque** was disabled after heavy fighting. Indian naval forces also secured Anjidiv Island following a difficult amphibious assault.
- **Operations in Daman:** The Indian Army advanced into Daman on 18 December, captured the airfield, neutralised Portuguese artillery positions and secured the territory after Portuguese commander Major António José da Costa Pinto surrendered.
- **Operations in Diu:** The Indian Army with supporting units launched coordinated attacks supported by naval bombardment and continuous air strikes. After sustained fighting around the airfield and fortifications, Portuguese commander Major Fernando de Almeida e Vasconcelos surrendered on 19 December in Diu.
- **Portuguese Surrender:** **Portuguese Governor General** Manuel António Vassalo e Silva, recognising the overwhelming military situation and to avoid further civilian casualties, ordered a ceasefire. The formal surrender took place on 19 December 1961, ending Portuguese administration in Goa after 451 years.

Also Read: **Goa Liberation Day**

Operation Vijay 1961 Results and Impacts

Operation Vijay permanently changed the political map of western India and marked the end of Portuguese colonial rule on the Indian mainland.

- Goa, Daman and Diu were incorporated into the Republic of India and placed under military administration led by Major General K. P. Candeth, before civilian administration replaced military rule on 8 June 1962.
- India recorded 22 soldiers killed and 225 wounded, while Portuguese losses included 30 killed, 57 wounded, 1 sloop lost, 1 patrol boat sunk and 4,668 military and civilian personnel captured.

- India-Portugal relations: Portugal initially refused to recognise the territorial change and suspended diplomatic relations. Relations gradually normalised after political changes in Portugal and on 31 December 1974, Portugal formally recognised India's sovereignty over Goa, Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli through a bilateral treaty.
- Administrative transition: Following the surrender, Goa, Daman and Diu became a centrally administered Union Territory. A 29 member Consultative Council was later constituted to assist governance, replacing direct military administration with civilian governance.

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