

Remembering the Air Operations of 1971

On 3rd December 1971, Pakistan launched unprovoked surprise air attacks on several airbases in the western sector. IAF was, however, fully prepared to meet this challenge and completely thwarted Pakistan's designs. As a result, not a single IAF base was put out of action. IAF effectively halted Pakistan's determined offensive in Chhamb and destroyed a whole regiment of T-54 tanks in Longewala by air action alone.

In the eastern sector, the IAF achieved total Air Superiority within the first 24 hours of the outbreak of hostilities. IAF helicopters were extensively used for 'air-bridging' innumerable water obstacles criss-crossing the countryside. One such operation was the aerial bridging over river Meghna, which saw the airlifting of 5000 troops and 51 tonnes of equipment. Another significant operation involved 22 Dakotas, 20 Packets, 6 AN-12s and 2 Caribous which were used to Paratroop a Battalion at Tangail. This was the first large scale Airborne Operation ever undertaken by the IAF in war.

The 14 day war was IAF's finest hour. It proved the efficacy of India's Air Power in the subcontinent. IAF personnel were awarded 01 Param Vir Chakra, 13 Maha Vir Chakras and 113 Vir Chakras for their heroic performance in the war. This Webinar is a commemoration of the events that lead to '**Victory in the Air**'

Programme

0900 h	Registration & Tea
0930 - 0945 h	Welcome Remarks Air Marshal Anil Chopra PVSM AVSM VM VSM (Retd) <i>Director General, CAPS</i>
0945 - 1005 h	Inaugural Address Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria PVSM AVSM VM ADC <i>Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force</i>
1005 - 1015 h	Book Release "The 1971 Indo-Pak Air War: Reflections and Projections"
1015 - 1030 h	<i>High Tea</i>

Programme

1030 - 1200 h **Session I**
1971 Indo-Pak War: Reflections
Chair
Air Marshal **Harish Masand** Vr C VM (Retd)

Force Levels: 1971 Indo-Pak War
Air Marshal **Vikram Singh** VSM, SASO, HQ Western Air Command, IAF

Operational Approach and Psyche of PAF
Air Marshal **D Choudhury** AVSM VM VSM, Commandant, NDC

Air-Land Operations in the East: The Game Changer
AVM **Arjun Subramaniam** AVSM (Retd), President's Chair of Excellence, NDC

Reflections
Gp Capt **Shamsul Alam** Bir Uttam Swadhinata Padak (Retd), Bangladesh Air Force

1200 - 1215 h *Break*
1215 - 1345 h **Session II**
1971 Indo-Pak War: Projections
Chair
Dr **Manpreet Sethi**
Distinguished Fellow, CAPS

Offensive Operations in the West: A Calibrated Approach
Air Marshal **VK Bhatia** PVSM AVSM VrC** (Retd), Former AOC-in-C WAC, SWAC, CAC

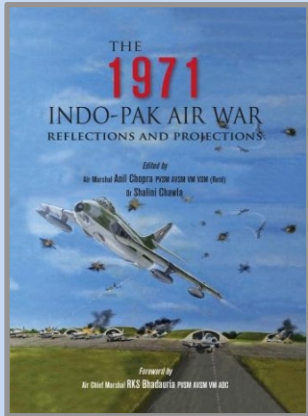
The Bombing Saga: Canberra and Antonov-12 Operations in the 1971 War
Mr **PVS Jagan Mohan**, Author & Historian

How did the 1971 War Alter Pakistan's Strategic Posture?
Dr **Shalini Chawla**, Distinguished Fellow, CAPS

Closing Remarks
Air Vice Marshal **Anil Golani** (Retd)
Additional Director General, CAPS

1345 h **Lunch**

Book Release



The 1971 Indo-Pak Air War: Reflections and Projections

Edited by:

Air Marshal Anil Chopra PVSM AVSM VM VSM (Retd)
Dr Shalini Chawla

About Book:

ISBN: 9789391490096

Fifty years after the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971, it is time to recollect the great military campaigns and reflect on the lessons and changes that have helped make India a stronger power. The two-front 13-day war began with the anticipated Pakistan Air Force (PAF) pre-emptive strike on December 3, 1971. Code-named "Operation Chengiz Khan", the PAF targeted 11 Indian Air Force (IAF) airbases and other installations. This also paved the way for India's formal entry into the war for East Pakistan's Independence, and ultimately, creation of Bangladesh. The war ended with surrender of Pakistan's Eastern Command in Dhaka on December 16, 1971 and over 93,000 Pakistani personnel were taken prisoner. The IAF was engaged in every facet of air operations, and air power was indeed a significant contributor to the historic victory. The 1971 air war was one among the last in which classic close combat took place between two major Air Forces. The air war saw clear air superiority being established against a major Air Force. The war ended with the birth of a nation. It was also the largest surrender of a force after the Second World War. The book records the diverse aspects of the air operations during the war in correct perspective and explores the lessons highlighting some outstanding examples of jointmanship. The book revisits India's national strategy during that period, and analyses how the 1971 War altered Pakistan's strategic posture that we see today.



National Seminar

50 Years of Indo-Pak War: Victory in the Air



August 25, 2021

Air Force Auditorium
Subroto Park, New Delhi