

Mukti Bahini

January 27, 2021

In news: For the first time ever a 122 member strong contingent of the **Bangladesh Armed Forces (Mukti Bahini)** participated at the historic Republic Day celebrations, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.

About Mukti Bahini/Bangladesh Forces

- **The Mukti Bahini, also known as the Bangladesh Forces, was the guerrilla resistance movement** consisting of the Bangladeshi military, paramilitary and civilians during the War of Liberation that transformed East Pakistan into Bangladesh in 1971.
- An earlier name **Mukti Fauj** was also used
- The Bangladesh Armed Forces were established on 4 April 1971.
- In addition to regular units, such as the East Bengal Regiment and the East Pakistan Rifles, the **Mukti Bahini also consisted of the civilian Gono Bahini (People's Force)**
- The most prominent divisions of the Mukti Bahini were the Z Force led by Major Ziaur Rahman, the K Force led by Major Khaled Mosharraf and the S Force led by Major K M Shafiullah.
- Awami League student leaders formed militia units, including the Mujib Bahini, the Kader Bahini and Hemayet Bahini
- The Communist Party of Bangladesh, led by Comrade Moni Singh, and activists from the National Awami Party also operated several guerrilla battalions
- **Using guerrilla warfare tactics, the Mukti Bahini secured control over large parts of the Bengali countryside.**
- It conducted successful “ambush and sabotage” campaigns,

and included the nascent Bangladesh Air Force and the Bangladesh Navy.

- **The Mukti Bahini received training and weapons from India**, where people in West Bengal shared a common Bengali ethnic and linguistic heritage with East Pakistan.
- **During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, the Mukti Bahini became part of the Bangladesh-India Allied Forces.**
- It was instrumental in securing the Surrender of Pakistan and the liberation of Dacca and other cities in December 1971

More about the contingent who participated in the Republic day parade

- Soldiers of the Bangladesh Army, sailors of Bangladesh Navy and air warriors of the Bangladesh Air Force are part of the contingent.
- And they are being led by contingent commander Lt Col Abu Mohammed Shahnur Shawon and his deputies Lieutenant Farhan Ishraq and Flight Lieutenant Sibat Rahman.
- The majority of the soldiers in this contingent come from the most distinguished units of the Bangladesh Army 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 & 11 East Bengal Regiment and 1, 2 and 3 Field Artillery Regiment.
- These units have the distinct honour of fighting and winning the 1971 Liberation War.
- And, the contingent from Bangladesh carries with them the legacy of legendary Muktijoddhas of Bangladesh, their fore-fathers had fought against mass atrocities by tyrannical forces, and for the liberty of Bangladesh.
- Also, there are members of the Bangladesh Navy and Air force who had played a very critical role in the liberation of Bangladesh.
- Operation Jackpot' and `Kilo' flight of the Bangladesh Navy and Air-force respectively was the demonstration of

their courage, determination and resolve to fight against oppression.

About 1971 the Bangladesh Liberation War

- The Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 was the first war between the countries that did not involve fighting over the Kashmir region.
- At this time, the Dominion of Pakistan was divided into West Pakistan and East Pakistan (initially East Bengal). These two regions were separated by the larger nation of India.
- Fought under the leadership of then-prime minister Indira Gandhi and chief of army staff (COAS), General Sam Manekshaw, the war ended in less than two weeks with a decisive victory for India, and resulted in the creation of Bangladesh, which was then known as East Pakistan.