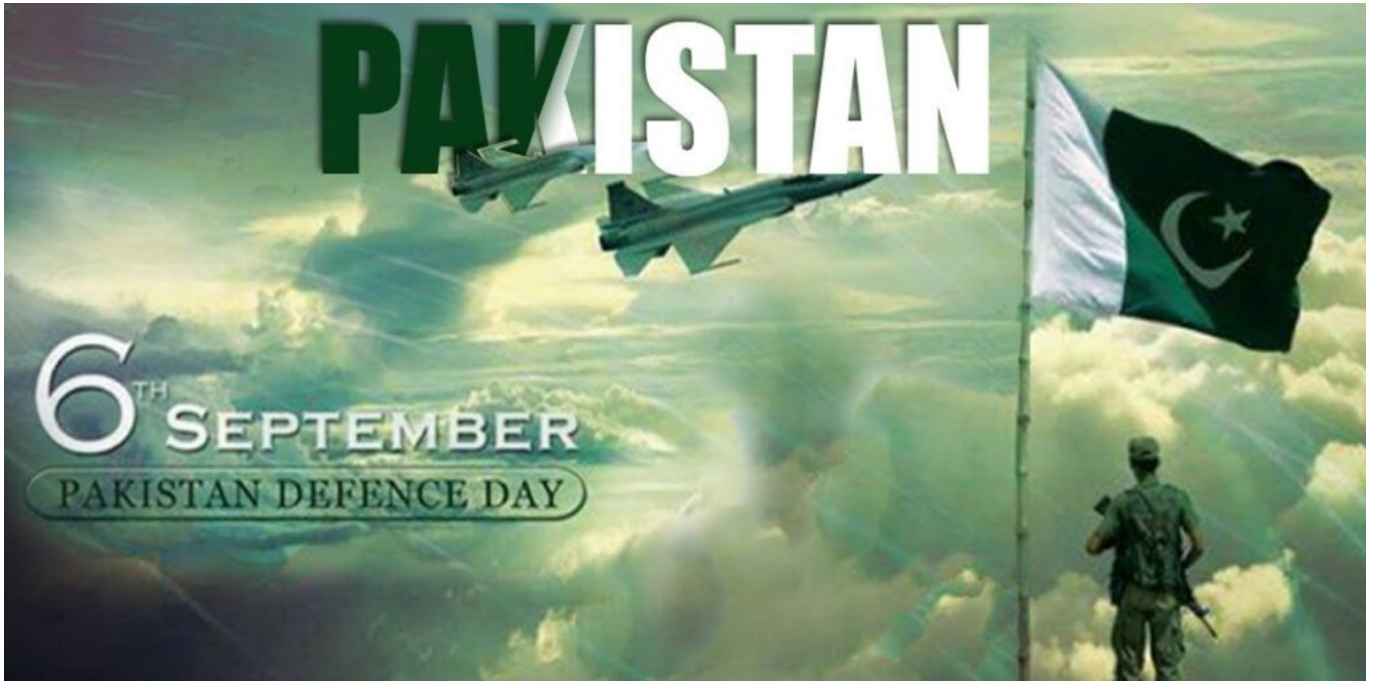


Valour and Victory: Defence Day of Pakistan

written by Saddam Tahir | September 5, 2024



In Pakistan, September 6th is Defence Day. This day is marked with deep respect and a renewed feeling of national pride. Today is a celebration of the bravery shown by the Pakistani Armed Forces in the 1965 war against India. This was a turning point in Pakistan's military history and in the country's character as a whole. The conflict started because of rising emotions over the disputed territory of Kashmir. This led to a full-scale war where the Pakistani forces fought bravely to protect their territory against an enemy with more troops. In this way, Defence Day is a moving reminder of the bravery, strategic thinking, and final sacrifices made by the armed forces, which stopped the Indian forces on many fronts. The celebration of this day goes beyond just remembering the past; it is an important part of Pakistan's national calendar and helps its people be loyal and strong. We want this piece to show how important Defence Day is for bringing the country together and remembering the brave people who gave their lives so that their country could be safe and prosper.

Historical Context and Events of 1965

Defence Day has its roots in a time when tensions were rising between India and Pakistan, mostly over the troubled region of Kashmir. As the summer of 1965 approached, these tensions hit a peak, leading to a series of skirmishes that quickly turned into a full-scale war. India began a massive attack into Pakistani territory on September 6, 1965, with the goal of taking over key positions and weakening Pakistan's resolve. Today was the start of fierce fighting, and Pakistani troops were thrown into a fight for the survival of the country.



The defence of Lahore

Lahore, a big city close to the border between India and Pakistan, was a key location early in the war. Indian troops wanted to take the city because they thought it would be a big psychological and military blow to Pakistan. But Lahore's defence was well planned, and the 16th Punjab Regiment of the Pakistan Army played a key part. Even though they were outnumbered, the troops fought off several Indian attacks. The fierce fighting around the BRB Canal stands out. It was there that Pakistani troops stopped the Indian advance, showing amazing determination and smart defence.

The Battle of Sialkot

At the same time, the Sialkot front became another important part of the war. Tank battles in this area were some of the biggest since World War II, with armoured units from both countries fighting in close quarters. The 16th Punjab Regiment once again showed its worth by fighting against stronger Indian forces and stopping them from making big advances into Pakistani land. There were heavy casualties on both sides in the battles around Sialkot, which showed how harsh war is and how determined the Pakistani forces were to protect their country.



Operations at sea, such as “Operation Dwarka”

During the war, the Pakistan Navy was also very important for strategy. “Operation Dwarka,” which took place on the night of September 8, 1965, was one of the bravest naval missions. The Indian town of Dwarka was attacked by Pakistani naval troops out of the blue. The goal of this action was to destroy the Indian naval radar station there, which was very helpful for Indian air operations along the western coast. Six Pakistani frigates carried out this operation successfully. They not only did a lot of damage to property, but they also served as a strategic distraction, which took pressure off the Pakistan Air Force and raised confidence in both the military and civilian population of Pakistan.

Impact of Defence Day on National Unity and Pride

Defence Day holds a unique place in the hearts and minds of Pakistanis, serving as a potent symbol of national unity and pride. Each year, this day rekindles the spirit of patriotism and reminds citizens of the sacrifices made for the nation’s security and sovereignty.

Fostering National Unity and Pride

Every year on Defence Day, people in Pakistan are reminded of how strong and determined their people and military are. All over the country, events and ceremonies that tell the stories of 1965 are held in schools, government buildings, and public places. These bring together people of different generations and strengthen national identity. These events aren’t just a way to remember the past; they’re also a powerful reminder of how determined everyone is to protect the country no matter what. Pakistanis from all walks of life feel deeply united by this shared story of bravery and sacrifice. It strengthens their pride in Pakistan’s military successes and their personal connection to the country’s past.

Defence Day is a powerful reminder of Pakistanis’ bravery, sacrifice, and unity. All Pakistanis, both at home and abroad, are asked to remember and honour the brave actions of their armed forces, who stayed strong in the face of huge odds. The bravery stories from the war of 1965 are not just facts; they are foundational stories that continue to shape and improve the national character. As we celebrate Defence

Day, it is important to reaffirm our dedication to national unity and the values that this day stands for. Defence Day should be more than just a day to remember things. It should be a constant force that motivates everyone to work together for national security and growth. It is a call for all Pakistanis to uphold the ideals of strength and readiness that are needed to deal with the problems of today.