**Background Guide**

Indian Cabinet

# *Indian War Cabinet:*

# *Bangladesh Liberation War 1971*

# Letter From Executive Board

Hello delegates,

Welcome to Shri MUN 2017, and especially, welcome to the Indian Cabinet. We are looking forward to two days of intense debate that will allow us to re-write history as it were.

***This introduction is necessary for you to read before you begin your research*** to give you a direction for your research as well as the debate that will follow. This guide is not by any means the end of your research, it is simply an indicator for more extensive research. At the conference, we will be looking for your interpretations and use of facts rather than simply your ability to recite figures, so research well enough to indulge in original debate.

This Background Guide is divided into two parts: Part I - MUN 101; Part II - Our Agenda. The first part will take you through ways in which you must analyse any given agenda and so on, while the second part will deal with our agenda specifically- events leading up to the crisis and the specifics of the parties involved. Such knowledge is necessary for one to assess the situation in depth and therefore resolve the crisis in the most effective ways.

Refer to the various resources mentioned in the ‘Resources’ tab on the Shri MUN website and you can always email us if you have doubts. Write your emails to shrimun@gmail.com and in the subject box mention your committee [Indian Cabinet].

So make sure you read the background guide well and research beyond this basic framework. We are looking forward to two days of intellectually stimulating debate that will leave us all richer with knowledge.

Best of luck,

Your Executive Board.

Kunal Dhanda

Suhana Nanda

Tarini Banerji

Kanishk Kapoor

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# Part I: MUN 101

**‘Indian War Cabinet: Bangladesh Liberation War 1971’**

 This year, your task is not to debate the intricacies of a peaceful solution to an international situation. Your task is to win a war. You constitute the war cabinet that decides what the Indian moves will be during the course of the war.

To make it abundantly clear: **For you, the war has not taken place yet and the outcome is uncertain. For you, the war is just about to begin. You are the decision makers. You need to win the war for India.**

Since this historic crisis committee is a new concept for most of you, I will tell you a bit about the structure of committee. Your chairperson will play the role of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and will run the committee accordingly. You are the constituents of her cabinet and are tasked with advising her to carry out the best possible policies for the benefit of India. As the PM, the chairperson has all powers to discipline members of the cabinet and can dictate a certain direction that the discussion should take.

Your individual research for this committee should be focused on details regarding the portfolio you have been assigned. You must know the role your individual played in the cabinet and you must be well informed about the intricacies of the departments your portfolios run. You are your portfolio. Your portfolio is you.

You must know the technicalities of your departments, because they will be used to ensure that our war effort goes smoothly. So come prepared, because delegates, we have a war to win!

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# Part II: Our Agenda

Part I clearly defines your avenues of interest regarding basic research for this agenda. Part II now hopes to lead you to understand the absolute minimum you need to know about this agenda before you begin your research. Following is an extensive timeline of India Pakistan relations leading up to the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971

TIMELINE OF GENERAL EVENTS:

 **1971 January 3rd-**Awami League calls for a meeting at the Racecourse ground (Shurwardi Udyan) to mark its overwhelming victory in the general elections. January 8th-President Yahya Khan arrives in Dhaka to meet Mujibur to discuss issues regarding the election results. He calls Mujibur “the next Prime Minister of Pakistan”.

**January 14th-**Yahya affirms desire for early transfer of power. February 4th- Indian airliner Ganga, which was hijacked on January 30 by alleged Kashmiri freedom fighters to Lahore, was destroyed by the hijackers. India bans all Pakistani aircrafts from flying over its territory in retaliation to the incident. It is feared that this move will lead to severe communication problems between the two wings of Pakistan.

**February 15th-**Sheikh Mujibur cautions against conspiracy behind the early transfer of power. Bhutto refuses to accept Mujibur‟s leadership in the Central Assembly. The chaos which defined Pakistani politics effectively began on February 15, 1971, the day Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People‟s Party and putative leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, on the strength of the 88 seats his party had come by during the elections, publicly declined to attend the parliament session called by President Yahya Khan on March 3rd in Dhaka.

**February 16th**- Bhutto asserts that he is the spokesman for the West. Bhutto refuses to engage in the constitution making process. Sheikh Mujibur bitterly criticizes the demand of Bhutto and says- “The demand of Bhutto Sahib is totally illogical. Power has to be handed over to the only majority party, the Awami League. The people of East Bengal are now the masters of power.” February 21st-Mujibur Rahman calls a meeting of all the political leaders of Pakistan to discuss the Six Point Formula, before it is placed before the National Assembly session. February 22nd- The generals in West Pakistan take a decision to crush the Awami League and its supporters. “Kill three million of them,” said President Yahya Khan at the February conference, “and the rest will eat out of our hands.” The planning for Operation Searchlight is set into motion. 17

**February 24th**-Mujibur announces that there is a conspiracy to undermine the election results. February 26th-Yahya holds a secret meeting with Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People‟s Party. February 28th- Bhutto announces that the National Assembly session should be postponed. He claims that the West refuses to accept the Six Point Formula. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said- “We cannot go there only to endorse a constitution already prepared by a party, and return humiliated… We have a duty to those millions who elected us.”

**March 1st-** People tuned their radios and turned their TVs on because President Yahya Khan was supposed to address the nation. However, someone else read out a statement announcing the postponement of the National Assembly to “a later date”. Thousands of enraged people took to the streets to protest. Mujibur reacts and calls for emancipation of Bengalis. Mujibur holds a press conference and says that this action was not democratic but dictatorial. He urges people to carry out strikes all over the region as a sign of revolt.

**March 2nd**- Curfew is clamped in Dhaka from 8 am to 7 pm. However, the indomitable Bengalis take to the streets. Many were gunned down by the Pakistani troops. Mujibur denounces firing on unarmed men and declares province-wide Hartaal on each day from 3rd March 1971 to the 6th March, 1971 from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. in all spheres.

**March 3rd**-Rab and Siraj (members of the Awami League) read out the Declaration of Independence of Bangladesh at a public rally in the presence of Sheikh Mujibur. Mujibur calls for a non-violent non-cooperation movement instead of an armed revolution. He also demands the withdrawal of forces from East Pakistan with a timely transfer of power. This day which was to have been the day for the sitting of the National Assembly was now observed as a day of national mourning. Curfew is also imposed in Sylhet, Rangpur, Chittagong, and Khulna. Angered by the decision to postpone the Assembly Session, a mob burns the Pakistani flag. Yahya Khan continues to postpone further negotiations while Non-Bengali regiments of soldiers are surreptitiously flown into Dhaka from West Pakistan.

**March 4th** -General Tikka Khan takes over as Governor of East Pakistan. 18

**March 5th-** Public demonstrations against a West Pakistani scheme to prevent the Bengalis from forming a Government are brutally suppressed. Protestors are killed by army men. Moreover, firing in Tongi is witnessed.

**March 6th**- President Yahya Khan announces that the Assembly session will be held on the 23rd of March. This is broadcasted over Radio Pakistan network. March 7th-Mujibur announces 4 preconditions for participating in the Assembly session- 1. Withdrawal of martial law; 2. Return of the troops back to their barracks; 3. Power should be handed back to the elected people‟s representatives; and 4. Proper investigation into the killings of unarmed civilians. March 8th- “People‟s rule” by Bangabandhu, became the order of the day. Mujibur asked for black flags to be raised on roof-tops for a week. He again asked for total shutdown and that no money was to be transmitted from the East to the West for an indefinite period. March 10th- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman sends a telegram to the UN Secretary General informing him that the human rights of the Bengalis were being trampled upon. He asks for the UN Secretary General‟s help in stopping the flow of arms and ammunition from the West.

**March 10th-13th**- Pakistan International Airlines cancel most of its international services, concentrating all available aircrafts in the ferrying of “Government Passengers” to Dhaka. But these officials were in fact troops in civilian dress. Yahya gives explicit warning that force would be used against any move for separation.

**March 15th-**Mujibur claims he has taken over administration of East Pakistan except in the cities of Dhaka, Comilla and Jessore. President Yahya Khan arrives in Dhaka at 2:20 pm to meet Mujibur for negotiations.

**March 19th-** Clash near Dhaka – Curfew clamped in Joydevpur. Nearly 50 people are killed. After 90 minutes of heated discussion with Yahya, Mujibur heard that the military had fired upon people at Tongi, Joydevpur and other places. Hearing this he found no reason to continue talks. March 24th- Pakistan Army opens fire on Bengali demonstrators in Syedpur, Rangpur and Chittagong. More than a thousand people are killed. 19

**March 25th-** Sheikh Mujibur gives a call for a general strike throughout „Bangladesh‟ on March 27th as a mark of protest against heavy firing upon the civilian population in Syedpur, Rangpur and Joydevpur. Yahya and his generals secretly leave Dhaka by 6 pm.
Around 11 pm the army pounces on sleeping citizens of Dhaka to execute Operation Searchlight. Bengali members of military services are disarmed and killed. Students and the intelligentsia are systematically liquidated and able-bodied Bengali males are picked up and gunned down. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is also arrested by the Pakistani Army at 1:15 am. Although the violence was focused in the provincial capital, Dhaka, the process of ethnic elimination was also carried out all around Bangladesh. Hindu populated areas all over Bangladesh suffered particularly heavy blows. Death squads roamed the streets of Dhaka, killing some 7,000 people in a single night. Thus began the worst genocide of history. March 27th-Independence of Bangladesh is declared by Major Ziaur Rahman on behalf of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. March 29th- New York Times publishes that 5,000-7,000 people were killed in Dhaka. March 31st-Kushtia resistance begins, in which the Bengali town people and peasants resist the „occupation army‟ of the 80,000 West Pakistani soldiers in East Pakistan. Reports state that about 200,000 civilians have been killed by the West Pakistani army. April 2nd- From the midnight of 1st April, the West Pakistani troops began to amass around Keraniganj and then for 9 hours in the early morning, Bangladesh witnessed the Jinjira massacre- the killing of some 3000 men and women. Around 60 people were lined up against a wall beside a pond near Nandail Dak Street and the Pakistani military opened fire on them. During the night of 2nd April, Pakistan Television broadcasted news about strong military action against separatist miscreants taking shelter at Jinjira of Keraniganj on the other side of Buriganga. 20

**April 4th** – On this day, the Pakistani ambassador to the United States justified the violent attacks and massacres by telling the Assistant Secretary of US that “the army had to kill the people to keep the country together.” April 6th – Archer Blood, the US Consulate General sends the famous „blood telegram‟ to the Department of State, condemning the failure of the United States to denounce the suppression of democracy and widespread atrocities. April 10th– On this day, the Proclamation of Independence and the formation of the Bangladesh Government was penned down. April 11th – A radio address by Tajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh, broadcasted by Swadhin Bangladesh Betar Kendra, was aired, where Ahmed announced the formation of a mighty army from the Bengal Regiment and the EPR, joined by the Police, Ansars, Mujahids and Awami Leaguers and thousands of volunteers who were being trained into a fighting force, ready to fight the West Pakistani mercenaries. April 13th – The Chinese Government announced that the events occurring in Pakistan were purely internal and required no foreign assistance whatsoever. April 17th – The First Bangladesh Government was formed in exile. The Awami leaders congregated in the district of Meherpur near the Indian border in Jessore, in the village of Baidyanathtala, later renamed Mujibnagar. Mujibur was declared as President, Syed Nazrul Islam was made the Vice President and the Interim President and Tajuddin Ahmed became the Prime Minister of the newly formed Republic. April 20th – Professor Muzaffar Ahamed, President of the National Awami Party (NAP) releases a Press Statement confirming full support to the Bangladesh Government. He stated that the government headed by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the only legally formed government of Bangladesh and urged upon all democratic and progressive nations of the world to recognize the newly formed state and its government and to render all material help and support.

**April 21st** –Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan appealed to the Secretary General of the UN to issue an immediate stop to the brutal massacres of innocent people in Bangladesh and to extend all possible help for relief of the victims. He said 21 observers would also be welcomed to see the terrible conditions in Bangladesh and to reveal the true face of Pakistan to the whole world through the UN. April 22nd - Abdul Hamid Khan once again released a Press Statement condemning Yahya Khan for his “un-Islamic abominable policy”. April 28th –Tajuddin pleaded for arms from neighboring countries to help Bangladesh free itself from the clutches of “a murderous enemy” (The Times Of India- New Delhi-April 29, 1971). Also, Henry Kissinger wrote in a secret memo to President Nixon recommending him to give serious assistance to Yahya Khan to end the war and bring about an arrangement which would be transitional to autonomy in Bangladesh. He suggested sending aid to Pakistan so that later US would be in a position to pressurize Pakistan into adhering to the arrangement. April 29th – A memorandum from General Alexander Haig to President Nixon on relief assistance for East Pakistani refugees in India was sent. According to India, there were now over 500,000 refugees and they expected the numbers to eventually total to 2 million. He recommended US to send a relief of $2.5 million and President Nixon initialed his approval of the recommendation on April 29. The Embassy in India was informed of this decision in telegram 75479 to New Delhi on May 1st.

**5th May** – The Gopalpur massacre, carried out by the West Pakistani army, took place at Gopalpur municipality of Lalpur Upazila, Natore. The Pakistani Army dispatched a force by land. The army quickly took control of Pabna, Ishwardi and Natore. Around 10 am, the army captured a sugar mill which was a stronghold of the Awami League. 49 people were taken captive, out of which 5 people survived. 6th May – The West Pakistani government criticized foreign reports on the condition in East Pakistan and also criticized the fact that the reporters were sneaking into East Pakistan through the Indian frontier. Also, on an interview with General Tikka Khan that day, he stated that only 150 people died on 25th march and that the West Pakistani government only carried out cross firing as an act of self-defence. 22

**8th May** – A priest in Jessore was taken to the field and shot in the head. This incident showed the hypocrisy of general Tikka Khan who in an interview 2 days ago, stated that the government did not attack with religious intent. 11th May – Military men in Pakistan declared war on western oriented form of education. They also ordered for all houses to be cleared near rail tracks and 30,000 families were forced out of their houses. 12th May – The groundwork was being laid for American food aid and visits by UN officials to India. By this time, refugees were coming in at the rate of 60,000 a day. Also, the Pakistani government stated that it would allow UNICEF to begin relief operations in East Pakistan.

**20th May** -Chuknagar massacre, committed by the Pakistan Army took place. It was one of the largest massacres during the war. Chuknagar was a small town at Dumuria of Khulna, adjacent to the Indian border. By 15th May large numbers of refugees from nearby localities gathered at Chuknagar to cross the border and enter into India. On 20th May, around 10:00 am, a group of 10-30 Pakistani military personnel equipped with semiautomatic rifles and light machine guns arrived at Jhautala (then known as Pathkhola) at the left corner of the Chuknagar Bazaar. Then they opened fire on the Pathkhola grounds and later moved to Chuknagar Bazaar and continued firing until 15:00.

INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIOS:

Yashwantrao Chavan

Yashwantrao Chavan, was an Indian politician and government official who was prominent in the independence movement against British rule and became a senior leader of the Indian National Congress. He served as the third chief minister of Bombay in independent India (1956–60) and as the first chief minister of Maharashtra (1960–62).

While he was still in his teens, Chavan was drawn to India’s growing Indian independence movement, influenced by the actions and teachings of Mohandas K, Gandhi. In 1930 he was fined for his participation in the civil disobedience (satyagraha) campaigns of Gandhi, and in 1932 he received a jail term of 18 months after being arrested for flying an Indian national flag in Satara. He also participated in the Quit India campaign against the British that was launched in 1942, functioning as an underground operative until he was arrested and imprisoned. He thus was an integral part of the Congress Party’s pre-independence activities and, after the country’s independence in 1947, emerged as one of the top leaders in Bombay state and its successor, Maharashtra.

He continued on as the chief minister of Maharashtra until 1962. During his six years in office, Chavan worked toward the equal development of the industrial and agricultural sectors across all the regions of the state.Legislation passed during his tenure included acts that decentralized local government bodies and that placed limits on the amount of agricultural land an individual could own.

In 1962, in the aftermath of India’s military loss in its brief border conflict with China, Chavan was taken into the national government as the defense minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. He continued in that post in the administration of Lal Bahadur Shastri after Nehru’s death in 1964 and oversaw the war with Pakistan in the Kashmir region the following year. In late 1966 Chavan was appointed home minister in the cabinet of Indira Gandhi, then in her first year as prime minister. The following spring he was elected unopposed to a seat in the Lok Sabha. He subsequently became the finance minister in 1970.

General Tapishwar Narain Raina

General Tapishwar Narain Raina was a former Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army. Raina served with the Kumaon Regiment and was a veteran of the Second World War, as well as the 1962 war and 1971 wars.

During the Second World War, while serving as a Second lieutenant, Raina was injured in a grenade accident which resulted in the loss of an eye. He had a glass eye in place for the rest of his career in the army.

He was the Brigade Commander at Chushul in Ladakh during November 1962. He was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for his handling of the Battle of Chushul. Later, Raina became the Brigadier General Staff (BGS) of the XXXIII Corps in West Bengal.

In 1971, Raina was a Lieutenant General, and was the General Officer Commanding of II Corps in the Khulna sector.

Swaran Singh

Sardar Swaran Singh was an Indian politician; he was India's longest-serving union cabinet minister. He also started a law practice near Jallandhar and specialized in criminal suits.

In 1930s he joined the Akali Dal political party and by the mid forties he was a prominent leader. He played an important role in the compromise between the Indian national congress party and the Akali Dal in the early 1940s. Just before the 1946 elections, the Panthic Party was formed by Baldev Singh and Swaran Singh was elected its deputy leader. In 1946 he was elected a member of the Punjab legislative assembly. He then became parliamentary secretary to the Punjab Coalition government. He was also a member of the Punjab Partition Committee where he played an important role.

On 15 August 1947, the day of Indian Independence,he was sworn in as Home Minister in the cabinet of the state of Punjab. He entered the cabinet of India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1952, and was that government's last surviving member.He spent 23 years of his life as a ranking Cabinet Minister in the Government of India. He was a brilliant debater and a cool- headed negotiator. He assisted Jawaharlal Nehru in his talks with the Chinese leader, Chou-En-lai, on the Indo-China border question in 1960. He represented India at the Indo-Pakistan Conference on border problems and had a prominent part in the talks that preceded the signing of the Canal Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan in 1960. He was also leader of the Indian delegation during six-rounds of the Indo-Pakistan talks on Kashmir. He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1957, 1962, 1967. He was also president of the National Congress in 1969.He visited the USSR in July 1966 along with then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

He led the Indian delegation to the UN general assembly in 1971 to explain India's position in the ongoing war with Pakistan.On Dec. 12, 1971, while the war went on, Mr. Singh addressed the United Nations Security Council for an hour and a half. He said, over and over, that the root cause of the conflict was the "brutal repression" of the populace in East Pakistan by the Pakistani military Government and the forced flight of East Pakistani refugees to India. George H. W. Bush, who at the time was the US Ambassador to the UN and led the US delegation at the UN security council demanded an unconditional cease fire by India to which Swaran Singh responded, "this one sided and partisan attitude of the distinguished representative of the United States has shocked and surprised us. The US is entitled to its own opinions and interpretations, so are we. But facts are facts and must be stated. Right from the beginning of this unfortunate situation that has arisen in the subcontinent, India had been asking for a political settlement acceptable to elected and acknowledged representatives of the people of Bangladesh.".

 On Dec. 16, 1971, the secessionist leaders of Bangladesh, as they called their country, took over when the West Pakistani troops there surrendered to Indians who had seized the city of Dacca in support of the guerrillas' movement. At the United Nations, Mr. Singh called on the world to recognize "the reality of Bangladesh."

General Sartaj Singh

Lieutenant General Sartaj Singh was a general officer of the Indian Army. He was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery of the British Indian Army in 1940, and served as an anti-tank gunner in Ceylon. After completing training to serve as a gunnery staff instructor in the UK in 1947, he served as the first Indian instructor at the School of Artillery in Deolali. He served on a United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Congo, and commanded a division in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.

Sam Manekshaw

The Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army,he is the first Indian Army officer to be promoted to the rank of Field Marshal. Manekshaw’s first major military campaign was in World War II,where he served as a captain with the 4/12 Frontier Force Regiment in Burma in 1942. In the battle for the Sittang bridge, Sam Bahadur inspired his troops to victory against the Japanese. During the offensive,Sam fell to the ground after being shot at nine times, but he kept on encouraging his soldiers to fight, ultimately clinching the crucial Sittang bridge.

Manekshaw rose to be the 8th Chief of Staff of the Indian Army in 1969 and under his leadership, Indian forces liberated Bangladesh in December 1971 in just 13 days. As war loomed, he resisted great political pressure to attack the Pakistani forces prematurely, arguing in characteristically outspoken fashion that it was essential that they hold back until the monsoon was over. He also urged that possible Chinese involvement must be forestalled by delaying until the mountain passes were blocked by snow.

Some senior politicians wanted to fire Manekshaw and go to war at once, but he warned Indira Gandhi that if they had their way, the country could be humiliated, its troops, artillery and equipment at a standstill, bogged down in the monsoon mud. She rejected his offer to resign and followed his advice. When war came, Indian troops, well trained and properly supplied, marched on Dhaka while guerrillas loyal to Mujibur harassed the Pakistani troops in the countryside. Dhaka fell, and on December 16 Lieutenant-General Abdullah Khan Niazi, the commander of Pakistan's Eastern Army, surrendered and was taken prisoner together with more than 90,000 soldiers and civilian personnel. The war established India as the regional superpower and led to the creation of Bangladesh as a separate nation.

While Manekshaw was adamant about delaying the military campaign till the monsoon had receded, he was flexible on many occasions. A firm believer in the Clausewetzian theory (that war is continuation of politics by other means), Manekshaw accepted the creation of a joint military command in which the head of the Mukti Bahini was given the title of a general and made the East Pakistan’s counterpart of Eastern Command chief Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh. This was essentially a political arrangement and Manekshaw saw sense in accepting this gesture aimed at respecting Bangladesh’s status as an independent nation and its sensibilities. And as result, the Indian Army’s Eastern Command received a steady flow of priceless intelligence about the Pakistan Army.

Manekshaw's first radio message to the Pakistani troops on 9 December 1971 said:

‘Indian forces have surrounded you. Your Air Force is destroyed. You have no hope of any help from them. Chittagong, Chalna and Mangla ports are blocked. Nobody can reach you from the sea. Your fate is sealed. The Mukti Bahini and the people are all prepared to take revenge for the atrocities and cruelties you have committed....... Why waste lives? Don't you want to go home and be with your children? Do not lose time; there is no disgrace in laying down your arms to a soldier. We will give you the treatment befitting a soldier.’

 Using radio messages Manekshaw addressed the Pakistani troops three times on the subject of surrender, assuring them that they would receive honorable treatment from the Indian troops. The actual decision to surrender was taken by Niazi on 15 December and was conveyed to Manekshaw through the United States Consul General in Dhaka via Washington. But Manekshaw replied that he would stop the war only if the Pakistani troops surrendered to their Indian counterparts by 9:00 a.m. on 16 December. The Instrument of Surrender was formally signed on 16 December 1971.

Concerned about maintaining discipline in the aftermath of the conflict, Manekshaw issued strict instructions forbidding looting and rape. He stressed the need to respect and stay away from women wherever he went. After the war, Manekshaw was known for his compassion towards the POWs. He ensured that POWs were well treated by the Indian Army, making provisions for them to be supplied with the copies of the Quran, and allowing them to celebrate festivals, and to receive letters and parcels from their loved ones.

 It was said that Mohammed Ali Jinnah had asked him to join the Pakistan Army during the partition in 1947, and in his usual jovial style, he commented that if he had joined the Pakistan Army, then India would have been defeated in the 1971.

General Sagat Singh

Lieutenant General Sagat Singh was a three-star General in the Indian Army,notable for his participation in liberation of Goa and later in Bangladesh. He held many prestigious command and staff appointments throughout his military career

 As a major general, he commanded a mountain division and later a communication zone, where he played a pivotal role in taking counter-insurgency operations in Mizoram. For his distinguished services, the general officer was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal .

 In December 1970, he took over the command of HQ IV Corps as a lieutenant general. The corps made the famous advance to Dacca over the River Meghna during Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. He witnessed in Dacca the signing of the surrender instrument by General Niazi.

 The Indian Army victory in the 1971 War is largely attributable to him because by the time the Pakistan Forces surrendered, his troops had surrounded Dacca from three sides. His daring and innovative use of helicopters has not been replicated.

Pratap Chandra Lal

 Air Chief Marshal Pratap Chandra Lal was the Chief of Air Staff of the Indian Air Force during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971. He served in the IAF from 1939. He was the CO of No. 7 Squadron, AOC-in-C of Western Command, Vice Chief of the Air Staff before going on to head the IAF. He was the Chief of Air Staff at the time of Operation Chengiz Khan, the preemptive strikes that were carried out by the Pakistan Air Force that marked the formal initiation of hostilities of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.

 He had an early interest in aviation, and became the youngest Indian to earn his Amateur Pilot's license at age 17. In the winter of 1971, P.C. Lal found himself leading the air force in a war against Pakistan. Indeed, who better to lead the IAF in these crucial years than a distinguished pilot, a skilled instructor and a manager par excellence. Improved tactics, training and careful planning all contributed the the ascendancy of the IAF as one of Asia's most effective air arms. The air force was involved at every stage of this intense conflict which led to the creation of an independent Bangladesh on 16 December 1971. For Lal, the war in 1971 marked the pinnacle of his career. It would not be an overstatement to say that P.C. Lal was the architect of the IAF's most decisive victory.

Lieutenant General Jacob Rafael

Lieutenant General Jacob Farj Rafael was an Indian Army officer. He was best known for the role he played in India's victory in the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971 and the Liberation of Bangladesh. Jacob, then a Major General, served as the Chief of Staff of the Indian Army's Eastern Command during the war. During his 36-year career in the army, he also fought in World War II and the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965. He later served as the Governor of the Indian states of Goa and Punjab. Jacob, motivated by reports of the Holocaust of European Jews during World War II, enlisted in the British Indian Army in 1942. During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, he commanded an infantry division, which later became the 12th Infantry Division, in the Indian state of Rajasthan. During this period, Jacob composed an Indian Army manual on desert warfare.

 Then Major General,Jacob served as the Chief of Staff of the Indian Army's Eastern Command during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war. When the war was at its peak, then-Chief of the Army Staff Sam Manekshaw wanted to invade into East Pakistan and capture the towns of Chittagong and Khulna. Some Indian Army officers, however, were unsure about this move.

 Jacob then came up with the "war of movement" plan, which was to capture all of East Pakistan including Dhaka by avoiding the towns in between and using secondary routes to reach the capital city.This plan, carried in just 15 days, made the Indian Army's incursion of Dhaka successful.

Jagjivan Ram

Jagjivan Ram was an Indian independence activist and politician from Bihar. He was a leader of the Dalit community. He was born into a Dalit family and was among the first of his caste to receive a higher education.To have got himself educated despite social and economic disabilities and chronic poverty,gave him a unique position in the prevailing political situation in the country. His first-hand knowledge of the social and economic situation in the country made him a much sought after person both by the nationalists and those ruling in the provinces on behalf of the British Government. In 1931 he became a member of the Indian National Congress (then led by Mohandas K. Gandhi). He was instrumental in foundation of the All-India Depressed Classes League, an organization dedicated to attaining equality for untouchables, in 1935 and was elected to Bihar Legislative Assembly in 1937, after which he organized the rural labour movement.

 In 1946, he became the youngest minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's interim government, the first cabinet of India as a Labour Minister and also a member of Constituent Assembly of India, where he ensured that social justice was enshrined in the Constitution.

 With a characteristic combination of pragmatism and adaptability, he made his political career a conspicuous success. In the great split in the Congress Party in 1969, Jagjivan Ram was in the camp led by Mrs Indira Gandhi. He went on to serve as a minister with various portfolios for many years as a member of the Indian National Congress (INC). Most importantly, he was the Defence Minister of India during the Indo-Pak war of 1971, which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.

Babu Jagjivan Ram took charge of the Defence Ministry in June 1970 and he had exactly 17 months to prepare for the uphill task that he had before him. India’s soldiers, jawans and officers were trained to make supreme sacrifice for the mother land. They were not really trained to make supreme sacrifice for another land and therein lay a challenge. India’s armed forces had to be prepared to lay down their lives, if eventuality came, for another land. Their morale had to be boosted.That was the task which Babu Jagjivan Ram undertook right in the beginning. He went around the country, to every post at the border telling them that they were not going to fight, that they did not have the history, the culture and the tradition of attacking, they did not have hegemonistic designs; but if the war was imposed on them, then the war would not take place on the Indian soil. They would push back the enemy and the war would take place on their soil. That was what really electrified the armed forces. This was what he maintained right through and this was what happened.

 Every second or third day he was briefing the Parliament and making public speeches. He was making public representatives aware of what was going on in the country and what their war- preparedness was.He was reaching out to every person in India – whether in the urban or the rural area – telling him or her that there was nothing to fear and that they would rise to the occasion and make it a historic war. He made the atmosphere.

 He was constantly in touch with Mukti Bahini with regard to what help, assistance he could give. The coordination, the logistics, the exact precision, the chain of command and on another land all that had to be managed to send out the arms and ammunition, to send out the messages, to communicate was done all one time. In fact, the surrender of General Niazi had happened because of the excellent communication India had. It was the process of communication at the right time. Niazi was demoralized,which led to surrender.

General Gopal Gurunath Bewoor

General Gopal Gurunath Bewoor was an officer of the Indian Army who served as the 9th Chief of Army Staff.In a long service spanning four decades, Gen. Bewoor saw action during World War II and later was involved in Indian Army operations during the 1965 as well as 1971 Indo-Pakistani war.

In July 1945, he was transferred from the 5th Baluch and went on to attend the Staff College course at Quetta, and then he was appointed as the Under Secretary (Military) to the Viceroy’s Coordination Council. He was the only Indian officer to have achieved this feat.

 In July 1969, he assumed the appointment of General Officer Commanding–in–Chief, Southern Command. During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, the Indian military strategy was mainly defensive on the Western Front, while attacking in the Eastern Sector, culminating in the surrender of Dacca and the secession of East Pakistan into the newly formed Bangladesh. Bewoor's Southern Command was tasked with maintaining a front from Bikaner southwestwards to the Arabian Sea. This command was divided into four sectors: Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Barmer and Kutch. In addition it was supported by an armoured regiment, two independent armoured squadrons, and one missile squadron.

General Jagjit Singh Aurora

Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora,Three-star General in the Indian Army, was the General Officer Commanding-in- Chief of the Eastern Command during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. He was the army officer, who signed the surrender treaty with Pakistan's General A A Niazi on December 16, 1971.

 With Pakistan launching Operation Searchlight to curb Bengali nationalist movement in then East Pakistan, the Pakistan army unleashed a fury of unfathomable atrocities on poor Bangladeshis. Lakhs of women were raped whereas the men were killed. The Bengalis started fleeing into India and Calcutta because the centre of refugees storming in from East Pakistan. India had no option, but to intervene. Therefore when India launched an offensive, Lt Gen Aurora meticulously planned operation. He broke forces into small combat teams and launched a four-front attack with the strategy of confronting and defeating the Pakistani forces on selected fronts while bypassing Pakistani forces on others. In under two weeks, his forces advanced from the Indian border to capture Dhaka, the capital of East Pakistan. On 3 December India opened the Eastern Front and challenged Pakistanis. But before that as a commander in chief of Eastern Command, Lt Gen Aurora had ensured the logistical preparations of the Indian Army on the Eastern front, including the improvement of roads, communications and bridges, as well as the movement of 30,000 tons of supplies close to the border with East Pakistan. He led the ground forces campaign in the Eastern front of the war, which led to an overwhelming defeat of the Pakistan Army and the creation of Bangladesh

General Kunhiraman Palat Candeth

General K.P Candeth was a Lieutenant General in the Indian army. He led the operation to liberate Goa from the Portuguese occupation and served briefly as the Lieutenant Governor of the state. Subsequently, he rose to the rank of Lieutenant General in the Indian Army. He was the Deputy Chief of Army Staff at the time of the 1965 war and commanded the Western Army during the Indo- Pakistani War of 1971.

 Commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1936, Candeth saw action in West Asia during the Second World War. Shortly before India's independence from colonial rule, he was deployed in the North West Frontier Province, bordering Afghanistan, to quell local tribes. The mountainous terrain gave Candeth the experience for his later operations against Nagaland tribals fighting for a Christian homeland in the North East.

After Independence, Candeth was commanding an artillery regiment that was deployed to Jammu and Kashmir after Pakistan-backed tribesmen attacked and captured a third of the province before being forced back by the Indian Army. Thereafter, Candeth held a series of senior appointments, including that of Director General of Artillery at Army Headquarters in Delhi.

During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, Candeth (at that stage a lieutenant- general), was the Western Army commander responsible for planning and overseeing operations in the strategically crucial regions of Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan where the fiercest fighting took place.

Admiral Sardarilal Mathradas Nanda

Admiral Sardarilal Mathradas Nanda was a Four-Star Admiral of the Indian Navy who served as the 8th Chief of the Naval Staff. He led the Indian Navy during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 and successfully executed a naval blockade of both West and East Pakistan, helping India achieve an overwhelming victory during the war.He is one of the most notable commanders in the history of the Indian Navy.

 In March 1970, on becoming the sixth chief of the Indian Navy since independence, Nanda was determined to change the mindset of his service from defence to attack. His strategy during the conflict of the following year was to feign a deployment south-east towards the Andaman Islands, impose a sea blockade against East Pakistan, and to strike hard against West Pakistan. A critical decision concerned the Indian aircraft carrier Vikrant.

When told her boilers were cracked and she lacked sufficient steam for her catapults, he took personal responsibility for the risks of boiler explosion and catapult failure. He ordered Vikrant into the shallow waters of the Gulf of Bengal, where submarines could not operate. The blockade was successful, and the escape of the Pakistan army was prevented.

Rameshwar Nath Kao

He was the founding father of the Research & Analysis Wing, India's external intelligence agency. During his service in the Nehru administration, Kao had proved himself as a reliable officer and a master strategist, and therefore Indira Gandhi had no doubt about his appointment as the first chief of India's external intelligence agency, RAW. He held the position of Secretary (Research) in the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of India, which has been held by all RAW directors since. He had also, during the course of his long career, served as the personal security chief to Prime Minister Nehru and as security adviser to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He also founded the Aviation Research Centre (ARC) and the Joint Intelligence Committee. The Sino- Indian War and the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 caused the restructuring of the country's intelligence apparatus, since real-time foreign intelligence had become a political necessity.

 As its founder-chief, Kao was given the task of building up R&AW from scratch. He spent the next nine years as the head of the organisation. He took over R&AW at a time when things were beginning to heat up in the subcontinent. His tenure, which began in 1968, lasted for nearly a decade and marked the closest association that an Indian prime minister has ever had with the country's intelligence chief. He had unlimited access to Indira Gandhi. She reposed complete faith in him.

After Pakistan launched Operation Searchlight, R&AW played a highly important role in the liberation of Bangladesh. They gave logistic support to the Mukti Bahini during the initial stages of the war. Amidst the mass killings and brutal rapes, Indian operatives would get into East Pakistan, arm the local population and capitalise on the frustrations brewing within. He once said,”My gnawing fear is that, so long as there is an oligarchy in Pakistan of the armed forces and the senior bureaucrats, the government there would continue to maintain a posture of some hostility to us. Perhaps, they need it for their survival.”

''There is little doubt that China and North Korea have helped Pakistan in developing her missile capability, even if they have not handed over to them finished products. It is of extreme importance that we should know what Pakistan is doing so that we are able to maintain a posture of strength, based on our defensive and offensive capacities.'

JUDGEMENT CRITERIA:

**[the following points are in no particular order of importance]**

* Points made in verbatim
* Originality, authenticity of information
* Creativity
* Directives and other forms of paperwork
* Ability to work in tandem and reach a mutual consensus
* Points of Order

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

**EACH DELEGATE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMUNICATING THE WORK OF THEIR DEPARTMENTS. SUCH COMMUNICATIONS SHALL BE TREATED AS FACTUAL EVIDENCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS COMMITTEE.**

**ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AS FACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE.**

**IN COMMITTEE REPETITION OF POINTS MADE BY OTHER DELEGATES WILL NOT BE ADVISABLE AS A CABINET IS A RELATIVELY SMALL COMMITTEE AND DELEGATES WILL BE EXPECTED TO SPEAK MORE FREQUENTLY.**

**A POINT OF ORDER CAN ONLY BE MADE IF ANOTHER DELEGATE MAKES A FACTUAL FALLACY.**

**POINTS OF ORDER WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED IN THE CASE OF A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.**

**POINTS OF ORDER MUST BE BACKED UP BY FACTUAL EVIDENCE.**