



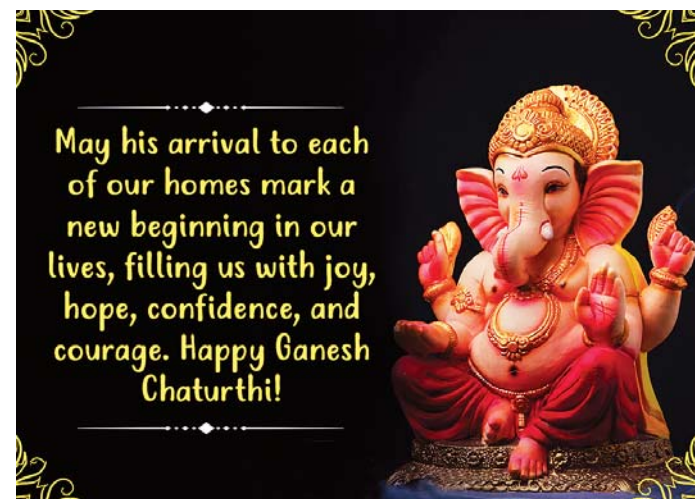
Sourdough September

Who doesn't love the smell of freshly baked bread? And what could be any more delicious than the smell of a freshly baked sourdough loaf of bread? It would certainly be difficult to think of anything much better! At least the guys who are behind Sourdough September can't! This is the one month of the year during which sourdough is celebrated and people are encouraged to try to start their very own starter that they will be able to use to make bread. It's a great way to get into baking.

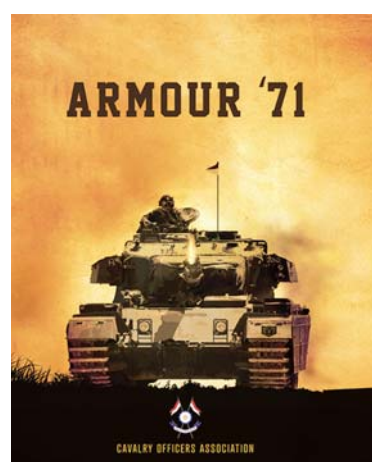
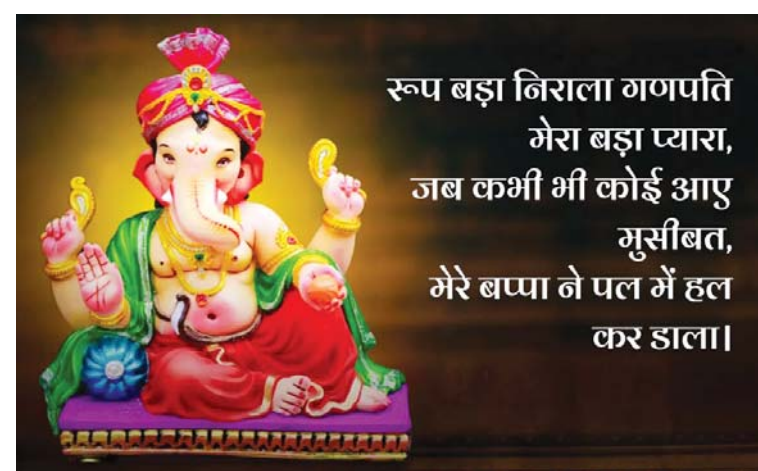
#WISHES

Greetings for Friends & Family

Happy Ganesh Chaturthi 2023 (Vinayaka Chaturthi) Wishes Images, Quotes, Photos, Messages, Status: It is believed that Lord Ganesh was born during Shukla Paksha of Bhadrapada month.



Hindu time-keeping, the time duration between sunrise to sunset is divided into five equal parts. These five parts are known as Pratahkal, Sangava, Madhyahna, Aparahna and Sayankal. Ganapati Sihanaga and Ganapati Puja on Ganesh Chaturthi are done during Madhyahna part of the day and as per Vedic astrology it is considered the most appropriate time for Ganesh Puja. To celebrate this auspicious and joyous occasion, here are some wishes that we have curated for you to share with your family and friends!

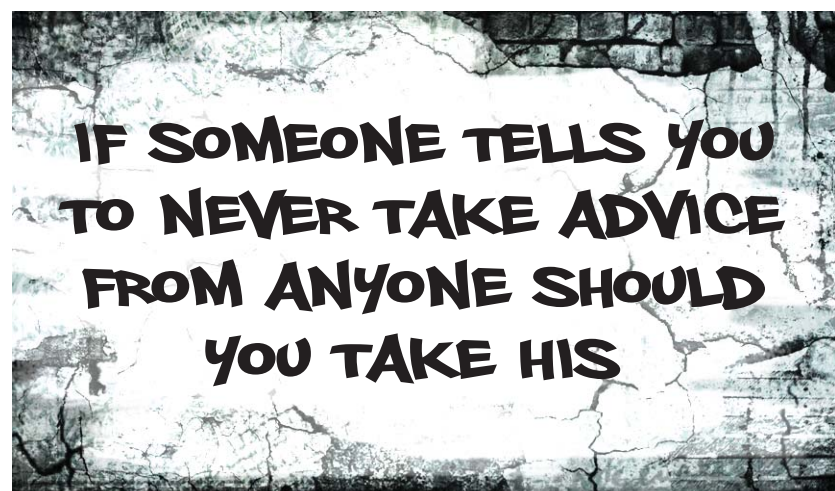


The Indian Armoured Corps has fought and ensured victory in all major conflicts post-Independence. It has operated effectively in diverse terrain and climatic conditions ranging from the high mountains in Zojila (1948) and Chushul (1962), in developed terrain including Patton Nagar at Khemkaran (1965), Akhnor and Shakargarh (1971), in the deserts to include Longewala (1971), riverine terrain of Bangladesh (1971), in the jungles and built up areas in Sri Lanka during the IPKF Operations (1987) and recently at the high altitude in Eastern Ladakh (2021). Armour assures both defence and destruction. It is thus apt to document the various battles - both for their remarkable operational execution as well as lessons for current military professionals, which are relevant even today. It is with this in mind that the Cavalry Officers Association launched an outstanding initiative under Lieutenant General Amit Sharma (Retd) and a team of three highly committed authors who have meticulously researched and recorded the history of armour operations in 1971 with a great deal of granularity.

The Authors
The book has been co-authored by four authors headed by Lieutenant General Amit Sharma who was then the President of the Cavalry Officers Association. Commissioned into 45 Cavalry, he retired as the C-in-C of the Strategic Forces Command and has commanded an Armoured



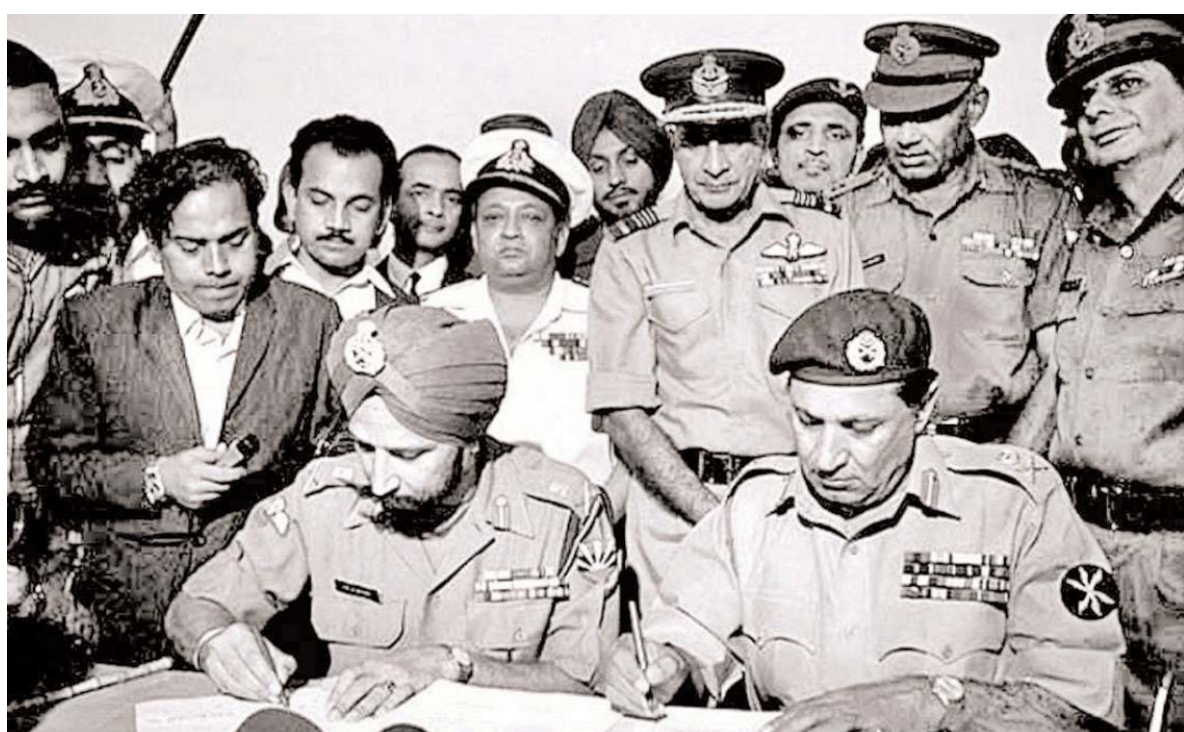
THE WALL



1971 DOCUMENTED ARMOUR 71

1971 is widely remembered as a liberation war, a war that led to the creation of a new nation. Of all four wars with Pakistan, the 1971 war is remembered as the decisive one. All wars and battles lead to outcomes, invariably interpreted as victory or defeat by the protagonists and the India-Pakistan wars are no different, but the 1971 war is still accepted as a decisive victory for India for it achieved an outcome that changed the map of the region forever.

#BOOK REVIEW



ment of tanks in East Pakistan which posed many problems due to the riverine terrain with the large numbers of rivers and streams that were required to be crossed. While the Indian Army had undergone major modernization and expansion post the 1962 conflict, the focus was on the Northern Borders and lesser emphasis was laid on armour. In fact, in 1965 Pakistan had more Armoured Regiments than India. But after 1965, the gaze fell on Armoured Corps and ten additional Regiments were raised and our holdings were modernized with the induction of T-54, T-55 and PT-76 tanks from USSR and own Vijayantas. The Centurions still proved to be battle winning and we still held the Light AMX-13 and some Shermans.

In the East there were three Armoured Regiments 45 Cavalry and 69 Armoured Regiment were equipped with PT-76 and 63 Cavalry had been converted to T-55, in addition there were two independent Armoured Squads equipped with the PT-76s discarded accordingly. General Candeth, in his book on the 1971 War stated- "The Chief of Army Staff informed us, his Army Commanders that the aim of the government was to create conditions by helping the Mukti Bahini drive out the Pakistanis and install a popular government in Dacca so that the ten million or so refugees could go back home and live peacefully. He told us that it

was no part of India's policy to humiliate Pakistan. India sought to achieve a quick victory in the East and carry out only holding operations in the West." While the Indian Army had undergone major modernization and expansion post the 1962 conflict, the focus was on the Northern Borders and lesser emphasis was laid on armour. In fact, in 1965 Pakistan had more Armoured Regiments than India. But after 1965, the gaze fell on Armoured Corps and ten additional Regiments were raised and our holdings were modernized with the induction of T-54, T-55 and PT-76 tanks from USSR and own Vijayantas. The Centurions still proved to be battle winning and we still held the Light AMX-13 and some Shermans.

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Garibpur where they destroyed five Pakistani Chafee tanks and Second Lieutenant Sam Chandavarkar are beautifully illustrated. Major Narag who was killed in battle was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra. 5 (Independent) Armoured Squadron of 63 Cavalry commanded by Major SS Mehta was involved in three major operations which were Akhaura, Ashuganj and the crossing of the mighty River Meghna in the most innovative manner. This Squadron was the only Armoured element to be in Dacca for the 'Surrender Ceremony'.

On 17 December, Lieutenant Colonel Pawtarr Singh Takhar, Commandant of 69 Armoured Regiment, had the unique opportunity to accept the surrender of Lieutenant Colonel Bukhari, Commanding Officer Pakistan 29 Cavalry. It was decided to use a mix of T-55 tanks and PT-76s in each Regiment evolving the concept of light armour supported by medium armour a T-55 Squadron along the axis which was generally firm terrain and PT-76 tanks would be employed to carry out outflanking moves across wet paddy fields. Armour Operations in East Pakistan were successful due to correct employment and aggressive action with high initiative at the sub-unit level. Nevertheless, it must be remembered that tank actions can only succeed if they have detailed infantry, artillery

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India's strategy in the West was aimed at preventing loss of territory. Several small offensives were planned to capture vulnerable salients along the Cease Fire Line as also along the International Border. The original plan was to launch offensives in Chhamb and in the Shakargarh Bulge. A major advance was to take place in the desert towards Naya Chor. A smaller push in the direction of Rahimyar Khan was also possibly considered.

and air support, with very carefully executed logistics support. India's strategy in the West was aimed at preventing loss of territory. Several small offensives were planned to capture vulnerable salients along the Cease Fire Line as also along the International Border. The original plan was to launch offensives in Chhamb and in the Shakargarh Bulge. A major advance was to take place in the desert towards Naya Chor. A smaller push in the direction of Rahimyar Khan was also possibly considered.

A contingency plan to employ the Armoured Division across the border was also made in the event of Pakistan committing its reserves in the Shakargarh area. Neither this nor the plan for the offensive in Chhamb were executed. In fact, the Armoured Division remained 'on a tight leash' throughout.

The battle of Chhamb where two Armoured Regiments Deccan Horse and 72 Armoured Regiment fought an integrated battle as part of 10 Infantry Division displayed gallantry, resolute grit and determination which led to destruction of enemy armour and stymied their offensive on the West bank of the Munawar Tawi has been covered with a great deal of granularity. Yet it is quite inexplicable that



Deccan Horse which blunted the Pakistan armour in the initial stages was denied the Battle Honour of Chhamb. In the Western Sector, Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal of Poona Horse was awarded the Param Vir Chakra whereas Lieutenant Colonel RM Vohra commanding Hodsons Horse, Lieutenant Colonel Sukhjit Singh commanding Scinde Horse and Lieutenant Colonel Hanut Singh commanding Poona Horse were all awarded Mahavir Chakras. The battles of these and many other illustrious Regiments which fought in the Western Sector have been covered in greatest of detail bringing out issues that have not yet lost their relevance.

Conclusion
Though 1971 reflected a combination of strategic decisiveness among the political leadership, unity across the party lines, setting out of clear political objectives and a relationship of trust in the advice rendered by the military leadership. It was no doubt a whole nation approach working on a common script, that enabled India to claim that it was on the right side of history.

However, as General VN Sharma wrote; "Despite India's great victory, in the Shimla Agreement, it is not clear why PM Indira Gandhi let Pakistan off the hook on the question of the conflict in the state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and the need for settlement of the border and termination of terrorist activity by Pakistan." An extremely detailed book backed by painstaking and meticulous research, it will undoubtedly assist future military leaders in training for the next conflict in varied and difficult terrain and understanding the express need for effective cooperation between all military services and departments of government, for success in battle.

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#FESTIVITIES

Guidelines to perform Ganesh Puja and Visarjan

As we gear up for the festivities, here are few things about the puja and visarjan one must keep in mind.



One of the biggest and most-revered festivals in the country is finally here! Every year, Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated with great pomp and fervour across the nation.

Celebrated as Lord Ganesh's birth anniversary, this year the ten-day festival will begin on September 19, and will end on September 28.

- As we gear up for the festivities, here are a few things about the puja and visarjan one must keep in mind. Here are various stages of the Ganesh Puja, including:
 - PranaPratishta (Invocation of life): This is the first and most important stage of the puja. The priest invokes the life force into the Ganesh idol through mantras and rituals.
 - Shhodshopachara (16-fold worship): This is the main stage of the puja. The Ganesh idol is offered 16 different types of offerings, such as flowers, fruits, sweets, water, milk, ghee, incense sticks, sandalwood paste, vermilion, Akshata (rice grains), durva grass (sacred grass), coconut and money.
 - Naivedya (Offering of food): The Ganesh idol is worshipped with light from a lamp or diya.
 - Vastrapachana (Dressing): The Ganesh idol is dressed in new clothes and ornaments.
 - Hawan (Fire ritual): A hawan is performed to invoke the blessings of the gods.
 - Visarjan (Immersion): The Ganesh idol is immersed in a river or ocean, symbolising the return of Ganesh to the divine realm.



- There are also some necessary materials required for the Ganesh Puja, which can vary depending on the region and family traditions. The Ganesh idol is the central focus of the puja, which can be made of clay, wood or metal. Other materials needed to complete the puja include a thali, flowers, fruits, sweets, water, milk, ghee, incense sticks, sandalwood paste, vermilion, Akshata (rice grains), durva grass (sacred grass), coconut and money.
- One of the most important days of Ganesh Chaturthi is the Visarjan, a sacred ritual in Hinduism, which involves the immersion of a Ganesh idol. Here are certain guidelines we need to follow while performing the ritual, such as:
 - Choose a suitable location: Select a natural water body such as a river, lake, or ocean for immersion. Using artificial tanks or local ponds should be avoided whenever possible to ensure environmental sustainability.
 - Timing: Ganesh idol immersion typically takes place on the final day of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, which can vary but is often observed on the tenth day. Check local customs and the festival calendar for the specific date and time.
 - Direction of immersion: While immersing the idol, face the idol towards the North or East direction. This is considered auspicious in Hindu tradition.
 - Procession and chanting: Begin the immersion procession by carrying the idol carefully towards the water body. Chant Ganesh mantras or devotional songs during the procession to express devotion and gratitude.
 - Flower and coconut offering: Before immersion, place fresh flowers at the feet of the idol and offer prayers to seek blessings. Break a coconut as a symbol of surrendering one's ego to the divine.
 - Aarti with camphor: Perform a final Aarti with lit camphor or diya, moving it in a clockwise circle in front of the idol. This represents the removal of darkness from your life.
 - Gentle immersion: Gently immerse the Ganesh idol in the water. It's customary to immerse the idol partially or fully, depending on the depth of the water body. While doing so, bid farewell to Lord Ganesh with reverence.
 - Environmental considerations: Ensure that the materials used for the idol and decorations are eco-friendly and do not harm the environment. Avoid idols made from non-biodegradable materials.
 - Collect floating materials: After immersion, collect any materials like flowers or coconuts that may float back to the shore. These materials are considered sacred, and their collection is a part of the ritual.
 - Clean the surroundings: It's essential to clean the area around the immersion site and dispose of waste responsibly, leaving the environment as pristine as possible.
 - Continue with festivities: Return to your home or community with a sense of fulfillment and continue celebrating the festival with prayers, bhajans (devotional songs), and fasting.

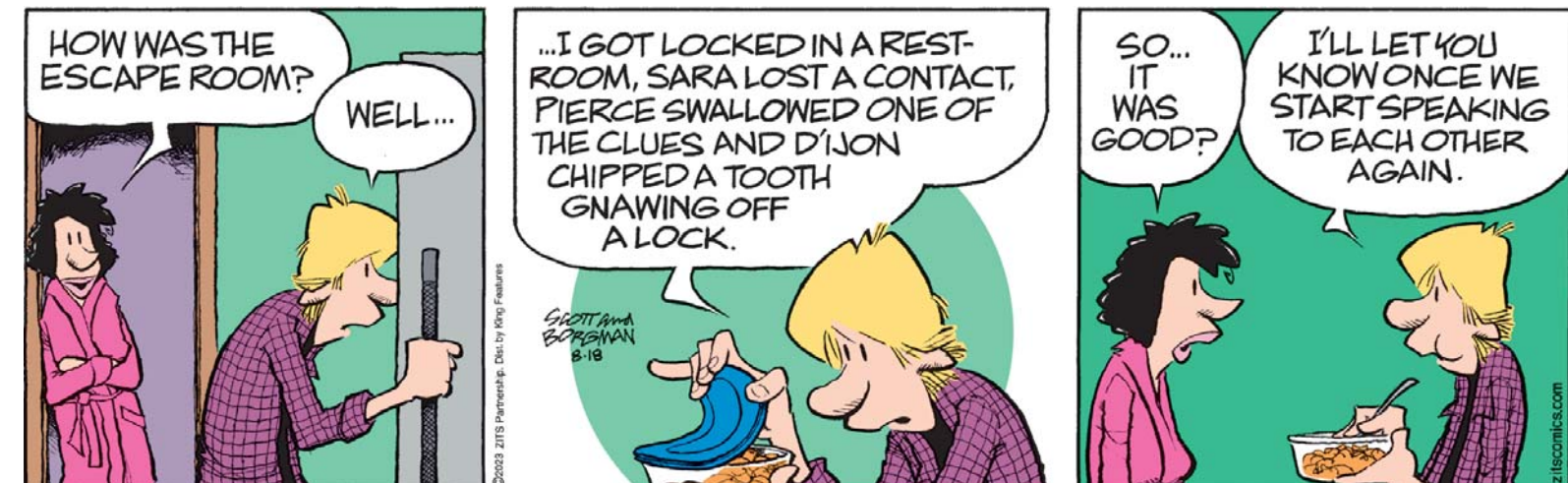


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman