



Honouring a Legacy: Malcolm X Day

On May 19, Malcolm X Day commemorates the life and legacy of Malcolm X, a powerful voice for Black empowerment and civil rights in America. Born Malcolm Little in 1925, he rose from hardship to become a revolutionary leader who challenged racial injustice with boldness and intellect. Known for his advocacy for Black pride, self-determination, and human rights, Malcolm X's influence extends far beyond borders. On this day, communities reflect on his contributions, his transformation, and the ongoing struggle for equality. His legacy remains a symbol of resistance, awakening, and the relentless fight for justice.

#BEAT THE HEAT

Greening the Heat: A Summer Call to Plant and Protect

This 'Plant Something Day,' turn up the shade and turn down the heat by planting resilient greens that thrive in the Indian summer.



As India sizzles under the intense heat of summer, with mercury levels often soaring beyond 45°C in many parts of the country, the idea of stepping outdoors may seem unappealing. But what if we told you that one small step taken in this heat could cool not just your surroundings, but the planet too?

Plant Something Day, observed on May 19, is more than just a reminder to get our hands dirty; it's a call to action. And in the Indian context, this day could not have come at a better time. With rising temper-



atures, depleting green cover, and increasing pollution, planting something today is a timely investment in a cooler, greener tomorrow.

Why Plant Now?

Indian summers, though harsh, are also ideal for kickstarting plant growth, especially if you choose heat-resistant native species. Trees and plants act as natural air conditioners. A single healthy tree can transpire up to 40 litres of water per day, significantly cooling the air around it. In urban jungles,

Start Small, Think Big

You don't need a sprawling garden or farmland to participate in Plant Something Day. A small balcony, a sunny window sill, or even a roadside patch will do. Opt for low-maintenance, hardy plants that thrive in Indian summers, think neem, tulsi, aloe vera, hibiscus, curry leaf, lemongrass, or money plant. These are

not only resilient but also medicinal or functional in daily life. Community spaces such as schools, RWAs, and temples can also be excellent sites for mass plantation drives. Involving children and elders in planting activities helps instill a lifelong love for nature while fostering a sense of shared responsibility.

The War lasted for a span of approximately two months in which the Tri-Services emerged victorious on 26 July, 1999. But, as it is often said that the 'Wars come at a cost,' the Kargil War didn't just come as an economic drain to India, it also cost us a number of lives of our gallant Indian soldiers. This was the war in which India lost the largest number of its young commanding officers. The battles fought during the

Kargil war are examples of High-Altitude warfare in which Indian soldiers set a new benchmark as regards valor and sacrifice. It has been twenty-five years since the war, and over the years, sense of both pride and pain has intertwined itself beautifully to remember Kargil War as a victory that defied all odds.

A Social and Environmental Movement

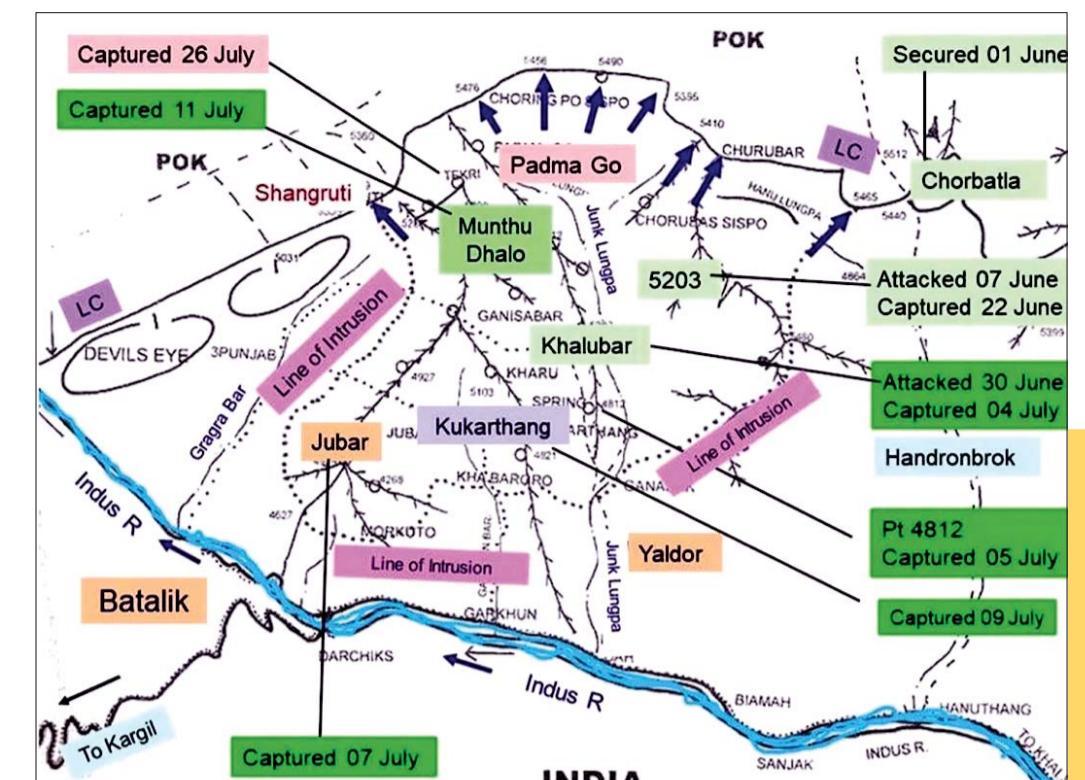
Across India, many citizen-led initiatives are already making a mark. Take the example of the 'Miyawaki forests' being developed in several Indian cities, where tiny plots of urban land are transformed

into dense, native forests. Or the women in Rajasthan's arid zones who plant trees to combat desertification. Every sapling planted is a statement of resistance against climate change, deforestation, and urban apathy.

Be a Part of the Green Revolution

This Plant Something Day, let's go beyond symbolic gestures. Commit to nurturing what you plant. Use recycled containers, compost your kitchen waste, and conserve water through drip irrigation or mulching. Share your planting story on social media

Tip: Don't forget to water your saplings in the early morning or late evening to protect them from heat stress!



● Anusha Mishra

OPERATIONS IN BATALIK SUB-SECTOR

In the Batalik Sub-Sector, the LoC cuts across the Indus River between Batalik and Mewar. The soldiers of Pakistan's Northern Light Infantry (NLI) had penetrated around 8 to 10 kms from the LoC to an uninhabited area in the East of Batalik and West of the Chorbat La. Headquarters of 70 Infantry Brigade under Brigadier Devinder Singh was inducted into the Kargil Sector on 08 May, 1999 to take charge of Batalik Sub-Sector and ensure that the enemy did not extend the intrusion to dominate the Leh-Batalik-Kargil Road. Four ridgelines namely Jubar, Kukarthang, Khalubar and Point 5203, Churubar Po (Southwards along Chorbat La watershed), varying in heights from 15,000 feet to 16,800 feet, were occupied by Pakistani soldiers. The slopes were extremely steep with sharp spindrift and scree.

Since then, the illegal occupation of Indian territory by Pakistan has seen more than seven decades of bloodshed. The history of violence and political unrest in the state of Jammu and Kashmir has claimed a number of lives. Since Independence, Indian and Pakistan have fought four wars, 1947-48, 1965, 1971 and 1999, and in addition, Pakistan has waged a proxy war in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The Kargil War of 1999 came as a betrayal by Pakistan after nearly a decade of peace and cordiality. And in an attempt to occupy Kashmir by strength, armed personnel of Pakistan's army infiltrated the Line of Control (LoC) on May 1999. The first information of the intrusion was given by a local shepherd in the Kargil Sector on 03 May, 1999. It was a breach of the Tashkent Agreement signed by India and Pakistan in 1966. Despite India's belief in a peaceful resolution of conflict, India had to choose the route of fighting a full-fledged war in 1999. To protect the territorial integrity of India, Indian Army soon launched Operation Vijay in response to enemy aggression.

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THE BATTLE TO SECURE KHALUBAR TOP

Among the battles which were fought in Batalik Sector during Op Vijay, the recapture of Khalubar Top remains one of the key victories in the Sub-Sector. The Khalubar Ridgeline dominates the Batalik Area. The Jubar Complex is to its left and Point 5203 to its right in the Chorbat La Area close to the LoC. The highest feature is Point 5287 (approximately 16,000 feet), with Point 4812 in its vicinity towards the South. The enemy had occupied Khalubar Ridgeline and it was important to evict the enemy to reclaim the lost territory. This ridge dominated the area up to Chorbat La in the East, Gagra Nala in the West, the Kukarthang feature to its South West and Muntho Dhalo the administrative base of the enemy, to its North West.

The enemy's induction route

and supply lines passed through Muntho Dhalo. Hence, Khalubar was the hub of the enemy defences in the Batalik Sector. Accordingly, HQ 70 Infantry Brigade made plans for its early capture by launching simultaneous attacks from Juk Lungpa at several positions on this long ridgeline. In the north, Ladakh Scouts under Lieutenant Colonel Chandlok, Wing Commander, Indus Wing, were tasked to capture Point 5000, Stangba and Padma Go.

In the centre, 22 GRENADIERS

were launched on

Point 5287, to be subsequently enlarged by 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES. 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES, the reserve Battalion commanded by Colonel Lalit Rai, just had a major success having completed a professionally rewarding field tenure, including a stint in Kashmir Valley (where Lieutenant Purnet Nath Datt had been posthumously awarded the Ashok Chakra) and an eventful tenure at Siachen Glacier. 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES was in the process of moving from Ladakh to a peace station when the call came for duty in Operation Vijay. The Gorkhas were inducted into the Batalik Sub-Sector on 09 May, 1999 and took part in the initial operations of 70 Infantry Brigade to contain the Pakistani intruders by securing the Yaldor axis. The

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