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## Indian Army Raises 72-Foot Tricolour in Drass to Honour Heroes

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In a powerful display of patriotism and military pride, the Indian Army hoisted a towering 72-foot-high national flag in Drass, Ladakh, on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas. The gesture serves as a heartfelt tribute to the brave soldiers who laid down their lives during the 1999 Kargil War and sends a clear message of resolve to those watching from across the border.

The event took place near the Kargil War Memorial, situated in one of the world's coldest inhabited places, Drass, which lies close to the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan. The Tricolour, India's national flag, was unfurled in the presence of senior military officers, war veterans, and citizens, including family members of fallen soldiers. The atmosphere was solemn yet proud, as the attendees stood in respect, remembering the ultimate sacrifice made by India's sons in uniform.

The Kargil conflict in 1999 was a critical chapter in India's post-independence military history. Launched by intrusions from Pakistan-backed forces into Indian territory, the war witnessed a swift and determined response from Indian troops. The successful campaign to reclaim the occupied heights came at a great cost, with over 500 Indian soldiers making the ultimate sacrifice. Every year on July 26, India observes Kargil Vijay Diwas to honour their bravery.

Speaking at the event, a senior Indian Army officer remarked, "This flag stands as a towering symbol of our fallen heroes' valour and our continued commitment to safeguarding the nation's borders. It reminds every Indian of the cost of freedom and the strength of our armed forces."

The symbolism of hoisting such a grand Tricolour in Drass is not just ceremonial. It is a reaffirmation of India's sovereignty and the unwavering will to defend every inch of its territory. The Indian Army's actions are both a tribute to its history and a clear signal of vigilance in the face of ongoing cross-border threats. The location itself, once the epicentre of intense combat, now becomes a stage for remembrance, unity, and national pride.

Beyond symbolism, the act also serves to instil a sense of duty and nationalism among civilians, particularly the youth. Schools and colleges in the region were invited to participate in the commemorative events, reinforcing the narrative of honour, sacrifice, and the importance of national defence.

Over the years, India has taken significant steps to modernise its defence capabilities, and events like these help connect those advancements with the legacy of its soldiers. While global geopolitics shifts, India's stance on protecting its sovereignty remains resolute. The Tricolour flying high in Drass embodies not just pride but readiness, a message to friend and foe alike.

The Indian Army continues to maintain a strong presence in Ladakh, a strategically important region. With heightened tensions in the region over recent years, the need to remember and reinforce India's defence priorities has become even more pressing.

As the ceremony concluded, patriotic songs echoed through the hills of Drass, mingling with the flutter of the flag against the mountainous winds. Families of fallen soldiers stood with heads held high, their grief tempered by the nation's deep gratitude.

In honouring the legacy of those who defended India during the Kargil War, the Indian Army not only pays tribute to its past but renews its vow to defend the nation's future. The 72-foot flag is more than fabric; it is a reminder that India's freedom is guarded by steel, sacrifice, and an unwavering spirit.