#### **❖ Role of India to the Emergence of Bangladesh :**

India cooperated in various ways including formation of Mujibnagar government, formation of public opinion in favor of liberation war, providing shelter to refugees, training of freedom fighters and direct participation in the liberation war in 1971.



#### **❖** Formation of Mujibnagar Government:

The Provisional Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, popularly known as the Mujibnagar Government, was established following the declaration of independence of East Pakistan on 10 April 1971. The formal swearing in ceremony was held on 17 April at Vaidynathtala in Meherpur district.

This government was headed by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The village Vaidynathtala was named Mujibnagar after his name and

the provisional government also came to be popularly termed as Mujibnagar government.

Indian political leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, helped in various ways to form the Mujibnagar government. Even the activities of Mujibnagar government have been conducted from 8 no Theater Road in Kolkata.

From the startingThe Mujibnagar Government received the full support of India in conducting the nine-month long Liberation War. India's involvement was also important in the declaration of allegiance to the Bangladesh government by the Bengali diplomats working at the Pakistan Embassy in India.

# Training to freedom fighters:

The Government of India provided arms and training to the Bengalis for the initial resistance to the war of liberation. On 30 April, the Indian Army was assigned to train the freedom fighters. They established 100 camps for the collection and training of freedom fighters in West Bengal and 20 camps inside Bangladesh. Most of the training camps were set up in Assam, Tripura and Nagaland.

#### **❖** Formation of Mujib forces:

Mujib Bahini was formed in May, 1971 with the selected cadres of Awami League and Chhatra League. Tofayel Ahmed, Sirajul Alam Khan, Abdur Razzaq and Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni was the commander of Mujib Bahini. Indian intelligence service (Raw) helped to establish the Mujib Bahini.

#### Providing Arms:

During the liberation war India provided necessary weapons to the freedom fighters. Initially they supplied 300 rifles and submachine guns but later it supplied arms, ammunition and dynamite.

# ❖Shelter the Refugees :

India assisted the Bengali refugees during the liberation war. As the Ministry of Relief for the Government of India, India spends 367 million on refugees. During the war of liberation about 896 refugee camps were established in Assam, Tripura, Bihar and West Bengal of India. About 10 million refugees took shelter in India during the liberation war.

#### **❖** Formation of Joint forces:

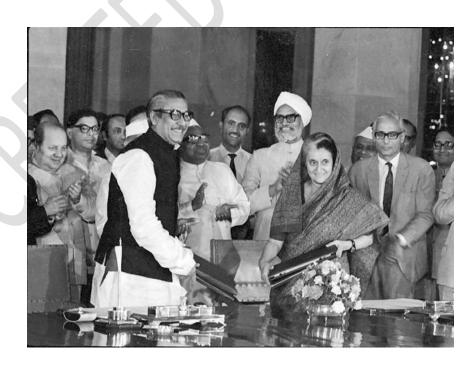
On 21 November 1971, a joint force was formed comprising the Mukti Bahini and the Allied Forces of India and Bangladesh. Lft. General Jagjit Singh Aurora was the commander of the joint forces. On 16 December the Pak army surrendered to this joint force.

#### **❖** <u>Indo-Soviet Alliance Agreement :</u>

India signed a 20-year alliance agreement with Russia on 9 August 1971 to assist Bangladesh in its liberation war. The Indo-Soviet alliance made the role of India in the war of liberation much specificated/clearer.

# Formation of International Public Opinion :

In the war of liberation in 1971, Pakistan had the support of China, United States and Muslim countries. For this reason the Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi, the Foreign Minister of India Sarder Shoron Sing visited about 8 countries including the United States and the Soviet Union to create public opinion in favor of the liberation war of Bangladesh. This was one of the reasons for the victory of Bangladeshi liberation war.



# **Recognition:**

On 6 December 1971, India recognized Bangladesh. As a result, the liberation war of Bangladesh gained recognition in the worldwide.

# **❖** The role of Indian Political Parties :

Many political parties including the Communist Party of India and the Socialist Party helped Bangladesh in the war of liberation.