

## **Bangladesh Liberation War Honour for Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

### **CITATION**

A highly respected political leader and a former Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, played an active role in support of the Liberation War of Bangladesh. As President of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and a Member of the Lok Sabha, he took various steps towards that end. In an editorial column of the 'Organiser', Shri Vajpayee welcomed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's historic declaration of Bangladesh's independence and called upon the Government of India to recognise the Government of Bangladesh and provide necessary assistance to the freedom fighters. To press the demand for Indian Government's expedited support to Bangladesh's Liberation War, Jana Sangh held a Gana Satyagraha during 1-11 August and their volunteers organised a huge rally in front of the Indian Parliament House on 12 August 1971. Shri Vajpayee took a firm stand at national and international levels for the cause of Bangladesh and its striving people.

Born on 25 December 1924 in Gwalior of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee entered politics during the pre-independence era. He took part in the Quit India Movement which led to his arrest and imprisonment. Shri Vajpayee joined Bharatiya Jana Sangh and took over as its national President in 1968. He played a pivotal role in forming the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1980 and became its first President. He had been an active Member of the Indian Parliament for about five decades and was elected from four different states at different times. Shri Vajpayee served as the Prime Minister of India for three terms. A versatile personality, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a gifted poet and an orator par excellence. He was awarded with Padma Vibhushan in 1992 and Bharat Ratna in 2014. He was also honoured with best Parliamentarian Award in 1994. He retired from politics in December 2005.

The people of Bangladesh would always remember the significant contributions made by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee towards supporting the cause of Bangladesh's Liberation War and consolidating friendship between Bangladesh and India.

As a mark of deep respect and profound gratitude of the Government and the people of Bangladesh, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is being awarded the **Bangladesh Liberation War Honour**.