

## Introduction: What is the Six-point Movement?

The six-point movement was a **Bengali nationalist movement** in East Pakistan **spearheaded by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**, which eventually **led to the liberation** of Bangladesh. So, it is considered a **milestone** on the road to **Bangladesh's independence**.

## What was the goal of this program?

This program was a **charter of demands** enunciated for **removing the disparity** between the **two wings of Pakistan**. The **main goal** of this program was to put an **end** to the **internal colonial rule** of West Pakistan in **East Bengal**.

## Background of the Six-point Demand

During the **Indo-Pak war in 1965**, the people of **East Bengal** or **East Pakistan** remained **totally unprotected** as there was no importance to the central government of Pakistan for protecting this region.

After the Indo-Pak war, **an agreement** was signed between India and Pakistan which is also known as the **Tashkent Treaty**. The interest or **security of East Bengal** was **ignored** in the deal.

So, when the **six-point demand** was **placed in the wake of torture and oppression** by Ayub Khan, **public support started to grow fast** in favor of it.

## Presenting the Six-point Demand

The **leaders of the opposition** parties of West Pakistan convened a **national convention** at Lahore on **6 February 1966**.

**Bangabandhu** reached Lahore on **4 February** along with the top leaders of Awami League, and **the day following (5 February)** he **placed the Six-point charter** of demand before the subject committee as the demands of the people of East Pakistan.

He **created pressure to include** his proposal **in the agenda** of the conference. **The subject committee rejected** the proposal of Bangabandhu.

On the **next day**, the **newspapers** of West Pakistan **published reports** on the Six-point Program, and **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** was **projected as a separatist**.

## **Understanding the Six-points**

1. The **Constitution should provide** for a **Federation of Pakistan** in its true sense **on the Lahore Resolution**, and the **parliamentary form of government** with supremacy of a Legislature **directly elected** on the basis of universal adult franchise.
2. The **federal government** should deal with only two subjects: **Defence and Foreign Affairs**, and all other residuary subjects shall be vested in the federating states.
3. **Two separate**, but freely convertible **currencies for two wings** should be introduced; **or** if this is not feasible, there should be **one currency for the whole country**, but effective **constitutional provisions** should be introduced **to stop the flight of capital** from East to West Pakistan.
4. The power of **taxation and revenue collection** shall be vested in the **federating units** and the **federal centre will have no such power on the issue**. The **federation will** be entitled to a **share in the state taxes** to meet its expenditures.
5. There should be **two separate accounts for the foreign exchange earnings** of the two wings; the foreign exchange **requirements** of the federal government should be met by the **two wings equally or in a ratio to be fixed**.
6. **East Pakistan** should have a **separate militia or paramilitary force**.

## Events after the declaration

A booklet on the Six-point Program with introduction from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Tajuddin Ahmad was published.

Another booklet titled **Amader Banchar Dabi: 6-dafa Karmasuchi** (Our demands for existence: 6-points Program) was published in the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and was distributed in the council meeting of Awami League held on 18 March 1966.

Bangabandhu started visiting the entire East Bengal. He was arrested for eight times in a span of just two months. Cases were filed one after another against Bangabandhu, and the party leaders and workers were also arrested during that time.

The opposition leaders of West Pakistan looked at Mujib's Six-point Program as a device to disband Pakistan, and hence they rejected his proposal outright.

A hartal (strike) was called for June 7 across East Pakistan and all-out efforts were made to make the strike a success. On that day, police opened fire on the people without any instigation. Labour leader Monu Mian and 10 others were killed.

Then, different programs, including meetings, rallies, protest processions, and distribution of leaflets, were taken up to spread the autonomy movement across the country. Steps were initiated to mobilise public opinion in support of the demand.

## **Why is it called as the Charter of Bengalis' Emancipation?**

**The Ayub government projected Sheikh Mujib as a separatist and later instituted the Agartala Conspiracy Case against him. He was arrested and put on trial.**

**The case led to widespread agitation in East Pakistan culminating into the mass uprising of early 1969.**

**Under public pressure, the government was forced to release him unconditionally on 22 February 1969.**

**The Awami League sought a public mandate in favor of the Six-point Program in the general elections of 1970 in which Sheikh Mujib received the absolute mandate from the people of East Pakistan.**

**But Zulfikar Ali Bhutto refused to join the session of the National Assembly scheduled to be held on 3 March 1971 unless a settlement was reached between the two leaders beforehand.**

**Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his party sat in a protracted dialogue from 15 March 1971. The dialogue failed to produce any positive result.**

**The army crackdown of 25 March sealed the fate of the Six-point including the fate of Pakistan.**

## **Conclusion**

**\*Just summarize your main arguments.**