



65th Issue

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AFA NEWS

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



EAGLE'S EYE



**CHANDRAYAAN-3 : INDIA'S HISTORIC MOON MISSION
LIFTS OFF SUCCESSFULLY**



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President's Page



My dear fellow Veterans,

IAF is very proud of its veterans, who were the backbone of IAF, while serving the nation. Services rendered by veterans and their contributions have made the IAF one of the most modern and formidable Air Forces of the world today.

IAF is in the process of rapidly modernizing to keep pace with adversaries and emerging technologies. Acquisition and induction of new weapon platforms and systems to boost the operational capability is being pursued at an accelerated pace. Induction of Rafale and LCA embedded with cutting edge technologies is progressing well. Operationalisation of C-17 has made the transport fleet highly robust. Also induction of C-295 to replace vintage AVRO aircraft has commenced. Similarly new acquisitions and upgrade plans in respect of Helicopters, AEW&C, UAVs, MRSAM etc are progressing well. To minimize the dependency on foreign OEMs the indigenous defence manufacturing sector is being given a huge boost under the larger goal of achieving AtmaNirbharta.

Air warriors shall be glad to learn that during Galwan crises IAF had airlifted nearly 70000 troops and heavy platforms like tanks, artillery guns, and other heavy equipment weighing over 9000 tonnes as part of national efforts towards enhancing the overall preparedness in Eastern Ladakh along the line of control (LOC). In a mega capability boost, IAF rapidly operationalised Rafale, Chinook, Apache and S-400 and expedited integration of Brahmos and ASTRA missiles.

IAF has successfully reoriented plans for induction and training of Agniveervayus. IAF had received 7.6 lakhs applications for joining IAF as Agniveervayus. First batch of 2675 Agniveervayus have completed their training on 03 June 23 at ATS Sambra and have already joined the ranks at IAF. I would urge the veterans to interact with the Agniveervayus during your next visit to any Air Force establishment like CSD, ECHS, SMC etc. and motivate them to excel.

Indian space scientists and engineers have added another feather in their caps by successfully launching Chandrayaan-3 on 14 July 23 at 2.35 PM from Satish Dhawan space centre at Sriharikota, and soft landing of lander (Vikram) and deployment of Rover (Pragyaan) on 23rd August, to carry out in situ chemical analysis of the lunar surface during the course of its mobility. With successful completion of Chandrayaan-3 mission, India joins the elite club of three countries i.e. USA, Russia and China who have soft landed on the moon. We salute the spirit and enormous capability of Indian space scientists in the field of space technology. They have made the nation proud.

JAI HIND

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RKS Bhaduria'.

Veteran Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria

PVSM AVSM VM





Sr Vice President's Page

Dear Veterans,

AFA Head Office and all its branches including the chapters are continuously striving to help facilitate resolution of common problems being faced by the veterans with concerned agencies on all matters pertaining to pension, medical, insurance etc.

At our invitation, Brigadier IM Singh, President Ex Servicemen League along with his team visited AFA head office on 17 May 23. Many issues concerning welfare of ex servicemen were deliberated upon so as to help resolve such issues.

During the last meeting held with MD ECHS on 17 Jul 23, specific cases of deficiency of medical help to Air Veterans and requirements of additional medical facilities were discussed and deliberated so as to get good medical services for all Air Veterans.

As done every year, Air Chief Marshal PC Lal Memorial lecture was organized at AF Auditorium on 28 June 2023. Keynote address was delivered by Shri S Somanath who is holding three very important appointments. He is Secretary Department of Space, Chairman ISRO and Chairman Space Commission. "India will have to look at space as a strategic asset of the country and should become a world-leading space-faring nation by 2047", ISRO Chairman Shri S Somanath said. IAF

now shall have even a bigger challenge in safeguarding Indian Space and Space assets.

Ishita Kishore daughter of Late Wg Cdr Sanjay Kishore, **Pratiksha Singh** daughter of Veteran Sgt Prem Bahadur Singh and **Anisha Shrivastava** daughter of Veteran Wg Cdr RK Shrivastav have done us proud by securing top ranks in UPSC (Civil Services Exam).

An update on the latest technology / weapons in use in IAF today was given by the CAS during his address to the veterans during the Annual General Meeting of AFA, held on 25 Sep 23. The same is available on YouTube.

Wishing all the veterans and their families good health, long life, good luck and lots of happiness.

Jai Hind


Veteran Air Marshal Jagjeet Singh
PVSM VSM

Editor's Page



AFA news magazine is digital now. The Sep 2023 edition AFA News Magazine Egle Eye is in your hands in a slightly different format. As was announced in the last AGM held on 10 Dec 22, we have gone digital. The magazine is now available to all which includes Air Warriors, Air Veterans, AFA magazine subscribers and non subscribers.

AFA head office forwards digital magazine (pdf) by e-mail to all AFA branches. AFA branches and chapters in turn forward the digital news magazine by E-mail or by WhatsApp at Registered mobile phone number to all their members.

AFA members are requested to update their mail ID and mobile phone numbers by mail/ WhatsApp at their branch offices and make arrangements to receive their digital copy.

Hard copy of the magazine is being forwarded to all those members who have subscribed for the magazine. The same is also available to non-subscriber Air Veterans / Air Warriors and can be asked for by writing to AFA Head Office at "afaheadoffice@gmail.com". Cost is Rs 100 which includes speed post charges.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about activities and membership of Air Force Association printed on Page 31 and 32 of March 23 edition which were also hosted on Facebook on AFA page "[Airforce Association India](https://www.facebook.com/AirforceAssociationIndia)" and twitter page

"[@AirForceAssoc1](https://twitter.com/AirForceAssoc1)" have been appreciated and well received by Air Veterans.

Apart from highlighting important IAF events and the technological improvements as evolving in IAF, acts of bravery of gallantry award winners, Shaurya Chakra Awardees, success stories of Air Warriors daughters, and Naval officer's traverse around the Globe are being presented in this issue.

Introductory write ups on new Parliament house building at Delhi, NMACC Bombay, Diamond Bourse Surat, Atal Tunnel Manali and Bharat Mandapam Delhi have been included to inspire Air Warriors / Air Veterans to visit these new iconic places.

AFA branches do keep sending us the reports and photographs of various social activities and programmes conducted by them. Some of these reports and photographs are included in the magazine.

Happy reading,

Jai Hind

Veteran Gp Capt Vijay Kumar Kapur
VSM



INDIAN AIR FORCE HERITAGE CENTRE, CHANDIGARH



Honourable Defence Minister Sh. Rajnath Singh Jee inaugurated the nation's first Indian Air Force Heritage Centre, spanning 17000 Sq feet, in Sector 18 Chandigarh on 18 May 23. The sole aim of this is to preserve the rich heritage of the Indian Air Force and to inspire the young minds to join the Armed Forces.

Sh Banwarilal Purohit Honorable Governor of Punjab and Administrator of UT Chandigarh, Sh Dharam Pal IAS, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chandigarh MP Smt Kirron Kher and large number of Air Veterans along with Air Warriors were present on this occasion.

The main attractions of the heritage centre are five vintage aircraft and SAM-III Pechora missiles safeguarding the Indian sky since decades. Air Force "Kanpur-I" is installed inside the centre, which was designed and built by Late Air Vice Marshal Harjinder Singh MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in 1958. A GNAT aircraft (Sabre Slayer) of 1971 Fame is displayed on the main 'Chowraha' of the city and vintage aircraft like MiG-21, HPT-32, MiG-23 are installed in the centre which will serve as popular tourist attractions in the Tricity.

This centre displays the glorious history of IAF covering various war campaigns of IAF starting with the role of IAF in Indo-Pak war of 1947 to electro mechanical 3D-Dioramas depicting the latest operations of IAF such as the Balakot Strike. An augmented reality enclosure and a virtual reality enclosure will give the visitors a 3D real-time experience in the theme of the historic battle of Longewala. An audio-visual gallery will present the journey of IAF through time, tracing its evolution from its inception to the modern day as well as promotional movies on IAF. Holographic projection depicting aircraft interceptions and various aircraft on inventory of IAF will also be shown to the visitors.

The centre has scale models from the republic day tableau on display such as indigenous Tejas fighter aircraft, Prachand helicopter and AEW&C Netra aircraft as IAF initiative towards the vision of the "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

Miniature models of various missiles and bombs such as Astra, Rudram-II, Parlay etc. and 3D scale models of aircraft such as SU-30MKI, MiG-29, Mirage 2000, Mi-26 etc shall be on display.

The centre has a personal artefacts section displaying the personal belonging of various gallantry awardees of IAF and dedicated enclosures with Hyper-realistic mannequins of the legends of IAF such as MIAF Arjan Singh DFC and Air Cmde Mehar Singh MVC DSO.

This centre will also show various rescue operations being undertaken by the IAF all over the country and abroad. Initiatives undertaken by the Air Force Families Welfare Association for the benefit of the families of air warriors at the station, regional and central levels are shown on the projection screen.

A souvenir shop equipped with the IAF's merchandise has been set up and a unique aviation theme-based book café will also be operational for the public.

The most beautiful thing you can wear is confidence.

ACM PC LAL 38th MEMORIAL LECTURE



Air Force Association organizes a memorial lecture every year in the memory of one of its most dynamic Chiefs Air Chief Marshal PC Lal. This is an annual feature of the AFA. This year the lecture was held on 28 June 23 at the Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park.

Air Chief Marshal P C Lal was commissioned in the IAF in 1939. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross during the Burma Campaign in World War II. He served as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff in the 1965 war.

While on deputation to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in 1966, he served as the Chairman and Managing Director of HAL. As the seventh Chief of the Air Staff during the 1971 war, his

outstanding leadership proved to be a decisive factor in India's victory and the liberation of Bangladesh.

For his contributions in the two wars Air Chief Marshal PC Lal was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1966 and Padma Vibhushan in 1972. After his retirement from the IAF in 1973, he was appointed the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Indian Airlines and later the Chairman of Air India.

Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari and several serving air warriors were present on the occasion. Four of the former Chiefs were also present in the lecture. Veteran Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria who is the President Air Force Association extended a warm welcome to all present and introduced the Speaker to the audience of around 600 air warriors and air veterans.

Sh S Somanath who is holding three very important appointments delivered the lecture. Sh Somanath is Secretary, Department of Space, Chairman ISRO and Chairman Space Commission.

India will have to look at space as a "strategic asset" of the country and should become a world-leading space-faring nation by 2047. We have to look at space as a strategic asset of the nation. And we should create that capability, to sustain it, build it in an 'atmanirbhar' (self-reliant) way. It is very important and we have created a roadmap of how to build it. "And this is how we want to see India when it reaches the 100th year of its Independence. We would like to see India as a world-leading space-faring nation," he said.

During his presentation, he also spoke about the 'Space roadmap for Amrit Kaal' (2022 to 2047) delineating the various aspects the country needs to work on for the next 25 years.

Sh Somanath mentioned four levels the country needs to succeed at in its space roadmap -- strategic, spacecraft, innovation and exploration; continuing human space flight; launch cost reduction; and business of space travel, in that order.

Space parks, space tourism, global space data solution, global space manufacturing hub, and space mining with defined timelines too were mentioned in the PowerPoint slide he shared on the roadmap.

In his lecture, he also spoke of the Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan missions of India. In his address, the ISRO chief also underlined the need for sustainability in space. While sharing data on space debris in his slides, he said, of the nearly 14,000 satellites in orbit, "80 per cent are not functioning".



SHAURYA CHAKRAS TO IAF BRAVE HEARTS

GROUP CAPTAIN YK KANDALKHAR, FLT LT TEJPAL and LAC SUNIL KUMAR were awarded Shaurya Chakra for daring act of rescue of 35 standard persons from the Trikat Hills Ropeway Service in the Deoghar district of Jharkhand.



IAF contingent had the daunting task of climbing onto the stranded trolleys of the cable cart, while being attached to the helicopter's winch cable, accessing it from outside, strapping up each survivor individually and getting them winched up and into the helicopter hovering overhead. Smaller children were carried up to the helicopter by the Garuds themselves. The helicopter crew was faced with their own challenges where they had to maintain a steady hover, with practically no visual reference, in conditions of strong winds in the hilly terrain. The crew went from one trolley to the next to carry out their task, which was as risky for the crew as it was for the survivors of the mishap.



In a joint operation by the Garud team and Rashtriya Rifles Battalion SQN LDR SK JHAJHRIA AND CPL ANAND SINGH of Garud Flight engaged the terrorists during counter insurgency operations, in a face to face gun fight and succeeded in eliminating one terrorist and grievously injuring another. Sqn Ldr SK Jhajhria and Cpl Anand Kumar were awarded Shaurya Chakras.



FIRST WOMAN OFFICER TO GET GALLANTRY AWARD



Wg Cdr Deepika Mishra was commissioned on 15 Dec 2006. She is a trained Helicopter Pilot, qualified flying instructor and an instrument rated instructor and examiner. Wing Commander Deepika Mishra was assigned the task of carrying out Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations following flash floods in northern Madhya Pradesh. Her courageous actions and dedication to duty helped rescue 47 individuals, and as a result, she became the first woman Air Force officer to be honored with a gallantry award, the Vayu Sena Medal for gallantry, which she received from Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari at an investiture ceremony held in New Delhi.

Congratulations Brave Hearts. We are proud of you.

NEW APPOINTMENTS : IAF

AIR MARSHAL RGK KAPOOR AVSM VM AOC-in-C CAC



Air Marshal RGK Kapoor AVSM VM has taken over as AOC-in-C CAC on 01 Feb 23. He was commissioned on 07 Jun 1986. He is an alumnus of DSSC and CAW and is a Cat-AQFI with 5000 hrs of fighter flying. His important appointments and assignments include postings to UN mission in Congo, AOC flying station, CI (Flying) at AFA, DPO, PD (Int), ACAS Operations (Space) and ACAS (Int) at Air Headquarters, AD Cdr and SASO at CAC and Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Forces Command. He also held the important appointment of India's Defence and Air Attaché at Embassy of India in Washington DC, USA.

AIR MARSHAL NARMDESHWAR TIWARI AVSM VM AOC-in-C SWAC



Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari AVSM VM took charge as AOC-in-C SWAC on 01 May 23. An alumnus of RIMC Dehradun and NDA, he was commissioned on 07 Jun 1986. He has flown over 3600 hours. He has been a QFI and an Experimental Test Pilot. He is a graduate of Air Command and Staff College USA. His important assignments and appointments include CO No 1 Sqn, DSSC, CTP (ASTE) Air Attaché France, AOC AF Stn Jodhpur, PD National Flight Test Centre, ACAS Projects, ACAS Plans and DCAS. He has many firsts to his credit including the first night flight of the LCA and the first landing at Leh. He was the leader of the formation that carried out the LGB attack on Tiger Hill.

AIR MARSHAL BALAKRISHNAN MANIKANTAN AVSM VM AOC-in-C SAC



Air Marshal Balakrishnan Manikantan AVSM VM has taken over as AOC-in-C SAC on 01 May 23. He was commissioned on 07 Jun 86. A Helicopter Combat Leader and a Type Qualified Flying Instructor, he has flown over 5400 hours. The officer has taken part in Op Pawan in Sri Lanka, Op Meghdoot and UN Peace Keeping Force. He commanded a helicopter Unit in WAC and two air bases at Bamrauli and Leh. As an AVM, he was Senior Air and Administrative Staff Officer (SAASO) at HQ Maintenance Command and ACIDS Int-C at HQ IDS. Prior to his present appointment he was SASO EAC. The officer is an alumnus of NDA, DSSC, and CDM.

AIR MARSHAL CR MOHAN AVSM VSM AOM



Air Marshal CR Mohan AVSM VSM has taken over as AOM on 01 Jul 23. He was commissioned in August 1986. He is an alumnus of CDM, ASTE, IIT Mumbai and Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai. He has handled many important assignments and has held leading appointments at ASTE, Air Force Hawk Project Team (IAFHPT) in UK, Director Hawk Maintenance at Air HQs, DS at CDM, Commandant AFTC, ACAS Eng T&H, ACAS Eng B, AOES and SMSO at HQMC.



NEW APPOINTMENTS : IAF

AIR MARSHAL ASHUTOSH DIXIT AVSM VM VSM DCAS



Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit AVSM VM VSM took over as the Deputy Chief of Air Staff on 15 May 23. He was commissioned on 06 Dec 1986. He is an alumnus of NDA, DSSC (Bangladesh) and NDC. He has more than 3300 hours of flying. He is an Experimental Test Pilot and a Qualified Flying Instructor. He has held many important appointments including CO fighter Sqn and AOC front line fighter air base in Western Sector and a premiere fighter training base in Southern Sector, DS at Air Force Test Pilots School, PDASR Air HQs, Air Defence Commander of Southern Air Command, ACAS (Projects) and ACAS (Plans) at Air HQs and SASO SWAC.

AIR MSHL NAGESH KAPOOR AVSM VM AOP



Air Mshl Nagesh Kapoor AVSM VM was commissioned on 06 December 1986 and has taken over as AOP on 01 Sep 23. He is an alumnus of NDA, DSSC, and NDC with more than 3400 hrs of fighter flying to his credit. His operational assignments include command of a fighter squadron in the Central Sector, Station Commander of a flying base in the Western Sector, CI (Flying) at AFA and AOC AF Station Hindon. The staff appointments include tenures as DS at DSSC, Defence Attaché at Pakistan, Air-I-WAC, AOC COBRA Gp, ACAS Ops (Strat) at Air HQ (VB) & Air Defence Commander at HQ SWAC. He was SASO HQ CAC prior to taking over as AOP.

AIR MARSHAL RK ANAND VSM AOA



Air Marshal RK Anand VSM has taken over as AOA on 01 Jun 23. He was commissioned on 13 Jun 1987. He is an alumnus of National Defence Academy. He has undergone Higher Air Command Course from the College of Air Warfare and Area Control Course from the Singapore Aviation Academy. He has handled important ATC assignments at Jamnagar, Ambala, Bagdogra, Sirsa and two high altitude units and UN mission Congo. During his tenure at one of the high altitude units, he as a team leader was instrumental in setting up an Air Force unit at Kargil. His other important appointments include C Adm O at AF Stn Jorhat and AF Stn Pathankot, JDPO-4 at Air HQs, Director Ops (ATS), and ACAS (AF Works) and DG (Adm) at Air HQ.

Satellite-based real time aircraft tracking system: IAF Maintenance Command has developed a **satellite-based real time aircraft tracking system** that can get information about the location of an aircraft, Air Marshal Vibhas Pande, Air Officer Commanding in Chief (AOC-in-C), Maintenance Command has said that the aircraft tracking system would be implemented once the final trial pending in the eastern sector gets over. "One of the Base Repair Depots (BRDs) under the aegis of **Air Force's** Maintenance Command has indigenously developed a real time aircraft tracking system, wherein the Air Force can get the update on the location of a flying aircraft every 30 seconds. The tracking system is satellite-based and can track the path of an aircraft.

"Do you want to meet the love of your life? Look in the mirror."

HAR KAAM DESH KE NAAM: PRESIDENT OF INDIA REVIEWS THE COMBINED GRADUATION PARADE AT AFA



Smt Droupadi Murmu, the President of India, reviewed the Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) of the 211th Course on 17 June 23 with full Military splendor at Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal. This is the first occasion in the history of AFA when the Honorable President of India was the reviewing officer.

In her address, the President said that the Indian Air Force is taking steps to be future ready keeping in view the overall security scenario, including challenges of fighting a high technology war in a network-centric future battle space.

Addressing the gathering, Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces said that the great role played by the brave warriors of the IAF in defending the country in the wars of 1948, 1965 and 1971 is written in golden letters.

"They demonstrated the same resolve and skills at the Kargil conflict and later, in destroying the terror hideout at Balakot," the President said hailing the IAF. She further said that the IAF also contributes to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. "Recently the IAF sprang into action despite adverse weather conditions during the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria to provide medical aid and disaster relief. Earlier, the successful evacuation operation to airlift more than 600 Indians and other nationals stuck in Kabul, involving flying and landing in a hostile environment is a testimony to the high capabilities of the Indian Air Force," she said.

Flying Officer Nitesh Jakhar of the Flying branch was awarded the Sword of Honor for standing first in order of merit at the 211th Combined Graduation Parade.

194 flight cadets (including 39 women cadets) of flying and ground duty branches were awarded commission on successful completion of their training.

WHY ELECTRIC CARS

Electric Cars are more economical to operate over their lifetime due to lower repair and maintenance costs than that of Petrol and Diesel cars. This is because electric cars have lesser number of parts, no combustion engine, no oil lubricants and reduced break wear.

Electric cars are the future because there are no emissions of Electric Cars. Electricity, as a fuel, is less expensive than Petrol / Diesel. They are more comfortable and quiet. There is no need to switch gears in electric cars.

However, there are certain major disadvantages. Electric cars are made of three crucial elements: electric motor, transmission and battery pack. Battery pack is the most expensive. These batteries are different than the conventional batteries. They are made of rare earth elements like Lithium, Cobalt and Nickel, which are very expensive.

In addition ECs have a few major disadvantages namely: very limited running range (say 200 to 300 kilometers), High battery replacement costs, Inadequacy of battery charging infrastructure, Long charge time: Continuous availability of electricity for repeated charging, Low top speed, Fear of battery draining out while on road etc.

Therefore, despite financial incentives being offered by Government, people are not very enthusiastic about buying electric cars (unlike E - scooters, E - motorcycles and E- Rickshaws) until we get more robust and economical batteries in addition to more battery charging systems.

However, despite these advantages, electric cars are the future and they are here to stay.

Life shrinks or expands in proportion with one's courage.



IAF Multi-Nation Exercises - Training for Global Action

Veteran Air Marshal Anil Chopra (DG Centre for Air Power Studies)



IAF is fast transforming from a continental air force to one with global reach. It now has trans-domain operations capability, and prides itself for its reach, flexibility, versatility, responsiveness, and offensive lethality. In keeping with the evolutionary nature of air power and the need to stay relevant across the spectrum of conflict in an inter-connected environment, IAF has been exercising with various Air Forces of the world as enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs.

USAF and IAF participate in bilateral US Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) sponsored Field Training Exercise (FTX) Cope India series, conducted in India. Beginning at Gwalior in February 2004, the exercise was repeated in many subsequent years. Cope India-2023 was held in April this year across Kalaikunda, Panagarh and Agra bases. **IAF and US Air Force (USAF)** have also been participating in exercise 'Red Flag' in Nellis Air Force Base, and at Eielson AFB in Alaska in the United States.

French Air and Space Force and IAF have been participating in Exercise 'Garuda' series since the first joint exercise in 2003. The locations included Istres and Mont-de-Marson in France and Jodhpur and Kalaikunda in India.

IAF participated in Exercise Orion at the Mont-de-Marsan airbase in France.

Royal Australian Air Force and IAF participated in the 17-nation Multilateral Exercise 'Pitch Black' held at Darwin, Australia in September 2022, hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). India began participating in 2018. All Quad members and many other Air Forces from Indo-Pacific were part of the exercise which had over 100 aircraft and 2500 military personnel participating.

The Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) and the IAF have been carrying out bilateral exercise SINDEK since 2004. They were held at airbases in India and Singapore.

Royal Air Force (RAF) and IAF have been conducting Exercise "Indradhanush" since 2006. This exercise is held in both India and the UK. The exercise includes close combat and Beyond Visual Range (BVR) engagements.

Desert Eagle is a multi-lateral exercise organized by United Arab Emirates Air Force. IAF has also been participating in exercise **Eastern Bridge with Oman**.

Blue Flag is a military aviation exercise held by the **Israeli Air Force**. In July 2022, the IAF carried out a one-month long engagement with the **Egyptian Air Force (EAF)** at the Egyptian Fighter Weapon School, located in Cairo West Air Force Base.

The **Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) and IAF** participated in bilateral air exercise SHINYUU Maitri-18 in 2018 at IAF airbase in Agra. In January 2023, the bilateral air exercise 'Veer Guardian 2023' was held between the IAF and Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) in Japan. IAF's Su-30 MKI and JASDF's F-2 and F-15 aircraft participated.

IAF also participated in exercise INIOCHOS at **Andravida base in Greece**, hosted by the **Hellenic Air Force**, held in April-May 2023.

The IAF's mega-multilateral, 12-nation, exercise 'Tarang Shakti' was scheduled to be held in October-November 2023 at Jodhpur (now postponed to middle of 2024). It is the biggest air exercise to be conducted in India. Large force engagements, long-range missions, and joint exercises with elements of Special Forces, and maritime strikes are planned.

In the last few years, IAF's global engagements are on the rise. These multi-nation and bilateral exercises expose IAF's young air and ground crew, help imbibe new ideas, technologies, tactics, and improve interoperability with friendly foreign air forces.

I may not be perfect , but parts of me are pretty awesome.

CSD: NEW INITIATIVES SUMMARISED

VETERAN FRIENDLY INITIATIVES

- **Purchase of Grocery & Liquor from Any URC:** Beneficiary is allowed to purchase both grocery & liquor from any URC.
- **Two Months Quota:** All CSD beneficiaries can buy two months quota of grocery & liquor in one month.
- **Annual Renewal of CSD Smart Cards:** For ESM, Defense Civilians & dependents have been discontinued.
- **Simplification of Card Application Procedure:** Application for CSD Smart Card to be self certified & countersigned by Canteen Officer itself. Only a copy of PPO/ Discharge Book is required to be attached.
- **Gratis CSD Smart Cards:** For War Windows & Next-of-Kin of Battle Casualties.

PURCHASE OF AFD ITEMS

- **Online AFD Portal:** An online Portal (<https://1/afd.csdindia.gov.in>) has been launched through which CSD beneficiaries can purchase AFD-1 items in lesser time through a completely online, convenient, and transparent process. Beneficiaries should avoid going to any middlemen touts asking for money for registration and demand creation on the portal.
- **Purchase of Four Wheelers:** Limits on purchase of four wheelers through CSD have been enhanced. Officers can now purchase cars costing up to 20 Lakh, JCOs up to 10 Lakh, and OR up to 8 Lakh. Additional 5 Lakh limit for purchase of EVs (Electric Vehicles)
- **Periodicity AFD I (Less Four Wheelers):** With effect from 01 Sep 2023, CSD beneficiaries can buy 02 TVs and 04 ACs in block period of 04 years, instead of one in four years.
- **Purchase of AFD-II Items:** AFD-II (include costly items like mattresses, sunglasses, vacuum cleaner, etc) items can now be bought on liquor & dependent cards also.

CSD SMART CARDS RELATED INITIATIVES

- **Online Portal for CSD Smart Cards:** Existing CSD Smart Card holders can now apply for new cards online and get cards delivered by courier at their home address within 7-15 days through this Portal (<https://csdsmartcard.co.in>)
- **Activation of CSD Smart Cards:** CSD Cards can now be activated from any Canteen instead of dependent/ parent Canteen.
- **Officer Cadets at Training Academies:** Permitted personalized CSD Smart Card for purchase of grocery @ 5,000/- pm & AFD-II @ 20,000/- per yr.
- **Agniveers & students of Sainik/ Military Schools/ RIMC:** They are permitted to purchase grocery @ 3,500/- pm through Steel Cards.
- **Newly Commissioned Officers & Agniveers:** They are issued grocery & liquor cards at respective Training Academies & Centres on completion of training.
- **Authority :- Army HQ Letter No. 95350/Q/DDGCS/Policy dated 01 June 2023.**

“WE CAN DO NO GREAT THINGS,
ONLY SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE.”



GENEROUS DONOR GP CAPT SM PURI VM AND MRS SONIA PURI

1. Veteran Gp Capt SM Puri VM and Mrs Sonia Puri have donated Two Crore Rupees to the Air Force Association under "Gp Capt SM Puri VM and Mrs Sonia Puri Benevolent Fund".
2. The amount has been invested with IAFBA and the interest thereon will be used equally for the following two welfare activities:-
 - (a) Grant for IVF treatment to childless couple
 - (b) Scholarships for UG professional courses
3. Air Force Association expresses its gratitude to Veteran Gp Capt SM Puri VM and Mrs Sonia Puri for their generous contribution for philanthropic causes.
4. Veteran Gp Capt SM Puri VM can be reached at Mob No. 9810264835 and email id - smpuri483@hotmail.com.
5. Veteran Gp Capt SM Puri VM is a nominated member of the Governing Council of AFA.



Financial assistance for education of children/ widows of ESM/ orphaned children after retirement: Children Education Allowance of Rs 1000 per child is admissible to ESM or widows or Orphan dependents retired in the rank of Havaldar or equivalent or below for classes 1 to undergraduate classes. This grant is not applicable for any of the professional or technical courses / degrees. Online application can be downloaded from Kendriya Sainik Board Website www.ksb.gov.in

PREMATURE CLOSURE OF SCSS ACCOUNT (Rs 15 Lakhs)

- **Interest rates for Senior Citizen Saving Scheme have now been increased from 7.4% to 8.2%.**
- Premature withdrawal is permitted as the account can be **closed** any time before maturity period but with penalties. SCSS penalty rules for premature withdrawal are listed below –
 - (a) **Before completion of 1 year** : No interest will be paid. And any interest already paid will be recovered.
 - (b) **After 1 year but before 2 years** : 1.5% of the principal amount will be deducted.
 - (c) **After 2 years but before 5 years** : 1% of the principal amount will be deducted. SCSS account matures in 5 years, and can be extended for another 3 years.
- **Extended account of 03 years after completion of initial 05 years** : In such cases also the account can be closed but only after the expiry of one year from the date of extension without any deductions.

WOMEN CADETS AT NDA : Fifty Seven women cadets have joined NDA for training. (Nineteen women cadets each for 148, 149 and 150 NDA course), out of which, one woman cadet has resigned. First batch of NDA women cadets (148th course is set to pass out in May 2025. Vacancy distribution for 19 women cadets is 10 for the Army, six for the IAF and three for Navy.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

(FOR VISUALS PLEASE SEE PHOTO GALLERY)

AP & TS

Audiometry test for elderly veterans and spouses were conducted. DGR Job Mela was held at Air Force Station Hakimpet. A programme was conducted for SPARSH pensioners under the aegis of PCDA (Pensions) with arrangements by local EME Centre, Secunderabad. A talk with Q & A on WILL & Living Will was organized. A talk on ECHS issues by Comdt MH and Director Regional Centre was held. ECHS Consultative Committee Meeting was held under the aegis of HQ Telangana and Andhra Sub Area. Branch President, who was the Guest of Honor at Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations conducted by Telangana Ex-Servicemen and Families Welfare Society, addressed the gathering of nearly 350 ESM and families who were present. Veterans who had participated in Kargil War were felicitated. Meeting of new GOC HQ TASA (Telangana & Andhra Sub Area) was attended by the Branch President. Army Stn Cdr, Col IC Veterans, Director Sainik Welfare, Government of Telangana were present.

BIHAR

Independence Day was celebrated by Bihar Branch under the stewardship of AFA Bihar branch president Veteran Sqn Ldr Bhuvneshwar Singh.

GOA

AGM was held. Gp Capt Preeti Bahuguna of DAV was also present. Veteran Flt Lt AN Jadhav (Med) received the Octogenarian Award. Families get together was held after the AGM.

GUJARAT

On 16 May 23 Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari AVSM VM AOC-In-C SWAC visited AFA Gujarat Branch. On 28 Jul 23 motivational program for students was organized at Excellent International School, Ahmadabad by AFA Gujarat with the help of HQ SWAC. On 08 Aug 23 AFA distributed sanitary pads under a menstrual hygiene program to the school girls by AFA Ladies wings in association with STOE & Bank of Baroda.

HARYANA

AGM of the Branch was held on 09 May 2023 at Air Force Station, Gurgaon. 23 members attended the meeting. Visit to National War Memorial was organized. 37 members (including 12 spouse) participated. Social Get Together with Tambola and Lunch was organized on 22 Mar 23. 53 members and spouses attended the function. 08 students from class VI to XII were awarded the scholarship of Rs. 6000/- each. Mrs. Asha Dahiya wife of Late AVM OS Dahiya and Mrs. Adarsh Bajaj wife of Late Wg Cdr PL Bajaj were felicitated for donating Rs. 25,200/- and Rs. 31,000/- respectively.

KARNATAKA

Karnataka Branch membership has grown from 42 members in 1980 to 7000 members now. Various Events conducted annually by AFA Karnataka are Wreath Laying Ceremony, Honouring Octogenarians & Nonagenarians, Annual General Body Meeting and Air Chief Marshal LM Katre Lecture. Documentation correction camps were held at Hubli, Dharwad, Bidar, Vijayapura, Madikeri, Belagavi and Mangalore.

KERALA

AFA Kerala branch conducted Chapter executives meeting at Kozhikode. Air Force Veteran, 22124 WO Gopinathan Nair Eqpt Asst was felicitated on his 101st Birthday on 03 Jun 23 by Sqn Ldr Deepak and other officials of Southern Air Command along with veterans from Air Force Association Kerala branch at his residence in Nemom, Trivandrum. Palakkad chapter of AFA Kerala honored all the doctors of ECHS Poly Clinic Palakkad by presenting them with mementos and shawls. Thiruvannathapuram chapter of AFA Kerala branch organized a cultural programme during Onam.

MAHARASHTRA

Family get together programme attended by 140 persons was conducted at Maha Sainik Lawns, Ghorpadi, Pune. A Magic Show and a Musical program led by a Guitarist from a famous Orchestra from Mumbai were arranged. 10 Octogenarians and Nonagenarians and 12 Donors were felicitated. Each of the Octogenarian and Nonagenarian was presented with a Memento and a Citation. 9 veterans, who have done exceedingly well in their second innings post retirement from Air Force were facilitated. They were presented with a Memento and a Citation. Those invited, included one Vice chancellor, one ACP from Mumbai Police and a CEO of a huge conglomerate of Brahma Corp which is a respected name in the Real Estate, Leisure and Hospitality industry.



BRANCH ACTIVITIES

(FOR VISUALS PLEASE SEE PHOTO GALLERY)

NORTH ZONE

Cancer awareness camp was held for veterans and their families under the chairmanship of veteran Air Marshal Sukhchain Singh, president NZ branch, Chandigarh

NOIDA

In the annual meeting of association function, approximately 200 veterans and spouse members attended. 29 Octogenarian and one Nonagenarian were felicitated by the Chief Guest (Vice President AFA). Our staff particularly veteran Cpl GS Bindra has taken on his own to make phone calls and visit super senior veterans to find out about their wellbeing. Arranging Funerals parties from AF Stn Hindan and attending funeral for deceased Air Veterans is organized by branch as and when occasion arises.

ODISHA

AFA Odisha Branch participated in "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign held at Choudwar (Cuttack), birth place of Saheed Sergeant Raj Kishore Sahu (Flight Engineer), who had sacrificed his life on 28 May 99 during Kargil War between India and Pakistan. He was awarded Vayu Sena Medal (Posthumously).

RAJASTHAN

Regular executive meetings are held every thursday to discuss the branch activities and for devising measures for improvement in the functioning of branch. Branch had organized a high tea for members. President Branch Wg Cdr MC Mehta welcomed the AOC, Air Cmde JPS Bains and briefed him about branch activities.

TAMIL NADU

The 40th AGM was conducted on 14 May 23 at Roopvani theatre, Air Force Station, Tambaram. Events included: Air Force song, remembrance of deceased Air Veterans, Guest lecture / talks by Wg Cdr Satish Kumar, Wg Cdr AV (A&N) of DAV, New Delhi, Shri T Jeyaseelan IDAS, CDA Teynampet on SPARSH, Dr. Shobha Varthaman on health aspects, Col Ajay Kumar Balyan JDHS on ECHS issues. Air Marshal S Varthaman PVSM AVSM VM VSM President AFA Tamil Nadu Branch delivered the key note address.

AVADI CHAPTER : Celebrated its 26th Anniversary at GR Prasad Hall, AF Stn Avadi. Dr. Alby John Varghese, IAS, Collector of Thiruvallur district, was the chief guest. Air Cmde S Siva Kumar, AOC AF Stn Avadi and Veteran Air Marshal S Varthaman also graced the occasion.

THANJAVUR CHAPTER : Organized its 12th Anniversary Celebrations on 12 August 23. Gp Capt Sumit Garg VM, Gp Capt JR Arunachalam VSM, along with officials of the AF Station Thanjavur, office bearers of sister AFA Chapters and ESL Thanjavur graced the occasion. Octogenarians were honored.

UTTAR PRADESH

GCM was held on 12 July 23 to discuss inauguration of new AFA Chapter at Bareilly under 15 Wing AF. Accordingly Bareilly chapter came into effect on 15 Aug 2023 at Air Force Station Bareilly. Two wheel chairs were donated to ECHS Polyclinic of Kanpur Nagar.

WEST BENGAL

Kargil Vijay Diwas was celebrated at the War Memorial at Fort Williams on 26 July 23. 25th year raising of AFA WB branch was celebrated on 15 Sep 23. Ladies Wing Celebrated 28th Anniversary in a colorful function at Air Force Camp Ballygunge. On 16 April, the Bengali New Year was celebrated with a cultural programme called Barsho Baran followed by dinner. AVM Rahul Bhasin, AOC Adv HQ attended the event. The AGM of the Branch was held on 25 Jun 2023 at Albert Ekka Auditorium, Fort William, Kolkata. Veteran Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, the Chief Patron of the Branch, presided over the proceedings. Mrs Raha was also present. In an interactive session conducted by the branch, Gp Capt R Banerjee from DAV, Mrs Sandita Aditya, SAO (SPARSH) and Mr. CM Baskey, Chief Manager CPPC Kolkata gave presentations and interacted with the members who attended in hundreds to raise queries about their problems related to OROP, migration to SPARSH and anomalies in e-PPO and other service particulars. Octogenarians / Nonagenarians were felicitated in a grand ceremony. The senior most veteran MWO GC Roy, who is more than 98 years old, also attended.



IAF RESCUES 121 PERSONS FROM UNPREPARED AIRSTRIP AND THREAT OF GROUND FIRE IN SUDAN IN MIDNIGHT OPERATION



Without any aid from the ground, and amidst the threat of attacks from ground on the aircraft, the Super Hercules, piloted by IAF officers, landed at the Wadi Sayyidna airstrip, about 40 km North of Khartoum in Sudan, to pick up the stranded passengers.

These passengers had no means of reaching Port Sudan to hop on to an Indian warship that was already carrying out evacuations from the war torn nation in the northeastern part of the African continent.

In a two-and-a-half hour midnight operation from war-torn Sudan, a C-130J aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) rescued 121 people from a small airstrip at Wadi Sayyidna, which is about 40 km North of

Khartoum on the night of 27/28 April. The passengers, who were flown to Jeddah, included medical cases, including a pregnant lady, besides those who had no means to reach Port Sudan, the IAF said.

The airstrip in question has a degraded surface, with no navigational approach aids or fuel, and most critically the landing lights that are required to guide an aircraft landing at night, the IAF said in a statement.

"Approaching the airstrip, the aircrew used their Electro-Optical/Infra Red sensors to ensure that the runway was free from any obstructions and no inimical forces were in the vicinity. Having made sure of the same, the aircrew carried out a tactical approach on Night Vision Goggles (NVG), on a practically dark night," it stated. The convoy was led by the Indian Defence Attaché, who was in continuous touch with IAF authorities all along, till they reached the airstrip at Wadi Sayyidna.

Upon landing, the aircraft engines were kept running while eight IAF Garud Commandos secured the passengers and their luggage into the aircraft. As with the landing, the take off from the unlit runway was also carried out using Night Vision Goggles.

SERVICE OFFICERS POSTED ACROSS SERVICES

Indian Army officers will be posted to the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy and vice versa in an effort to ease the armed forces into the creation of integrated theatre commands, Officers from the IAF and the Navy will also be posted to serve in the Army.

Since the three services deploy a range of common Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), surveillance radars, vehicles and telecommunication equipment, the cross-staffed officers will likely be tasked with handling logistics, reconnaissance, repair and recovery as well as supplies management.

GE AERO SPACE SIGNS MOU WITH HAL

GE Aerospace has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to produce F414 fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force.

The MoU between GE Aerospace and HAL includes provisions for a significant transfer of technology. The F414 engines will power the IAF's Light Combat Aircraft Mk2 jets.

**Did you hear the rumour about butter?
Well, I am not going to spread it.**



INDIA INDUCTS NEW STRIKE-CAPABLE DRONES



The four new Heron Mark-2 drones, which can be equipped with long-range missiles and other weapons systems, have been deployed at a forward air base in the northern border by IAF. The drones with satellite communication capability have given a long desired capability to the Indian Air Force, as its drones can operate at very long distances for close to 36 hours at a stretch and can also laser illuminate enemy targets from very long ranges to help fighter aircraft destroy them using their long-range weapons. This is capable of longer endurance and has 'beyond line of sight' capability.

IGNOU DEGREES FOR AGNIVEERS

IGNOU signs an MoU with Armed Forces for skill-based bachelor degree programmes :

IGNOU has partnered with the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force to offer skill-based Bachelor degree programs for Agniveers.

The collaboration provides 120 credits, with IGNOU offering 60 credits and the Armed Forces offering the remaining 60 credits as in-service skill education. The admission process for the Indian Air Force commenced on 01 August 2023 with an exclusive Admission Portal for Agniveers. The application process is now open on the official website of IGNOU - ignou.ac.in.

Both technical and non-technical skill training received by the Agniveer will amount to 50 per cent of the credits required for a graduate degree. The rest of the 50 per cent will come from a basket of courses including subjects like languages, Economics, History, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, Mathematics, Education, Commerce, Tourism, Vocational Studies, Agriculture, Jyotish, ability enhancement courses on Environmental Studies and Communication Skills in English.

The collaboration aims to empower the Agniveers by enabling them to pursue a Bachelor's degree while actively serving in the forces. Upon completion of these skill-based programmes, the Agniveers' employability is expected to improve significantly after their service tenure. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVT) and UGC have all recognized the framework of the programme. The Degree – BA, B.Com, BA (vocational) & BA (Tourism Management) – will be awarded by IGNOU as per UGC, and will be recognized both in India and abroad.

WOMEN IN DEFENCE SERVICES

Defence Services have been having women officers for quite some time. It started with the induction of Medical officers and Dental officers. Subsequently, women officers were commissioned into many other Branches. Very recently, the women have been inducted as Agniveer Women also in all the three arms. The current status for the three arms is tabulated below:-

SI No.	Services	Officers (Excluding Medical & Dental branches)	Other Ranks
1	Indian Army	1733	100
2	IAF	1654	135
3	Indian Navy	580	726

STRAIGHT BAT

BY VETERAN AIR MARSHAL PV ATHAWALE PVSM AVSM VSM



Witnessing the Combined Graduation Parade at Air Force Academy had filled us with pride. The perfection and smartness on parade truly reflected the virtues of regimen and discipline.



Even so, many of us couldn't help but notice two major variations in the parade.

The parade commander's words of command were stretched much longer than normal. This resulted in monotonous, long-drawn-out commands. Most of us simply accepted the change. But a revered senior seated next to me didn't hide his disappointment at this trend coming to AFA. "This style of command has come to AFA through the IMA and NDA route", he said.

We also noticed that pauses within multiple movements, in response to commands like Salami Shastra and Baju Shastra, were made longer than necessary. External prompts on the public address system were now required for synchronizing movements.

This parade took me 50 years back, to the Passing Out Parade of my senior course. The words of command by the parade commander, Pilot Officer RL Kamath, still ring fresh in my mind. I recall those words of command as crisp and yet rhythmic with changing tones. The loud and clear commands, not lost in monotonous, were well understood by those in the galleries also.

An extra pause was introduced between movements. The parade couldn't adapt to the new timing. But the Chief Instructor didn't want the timing indicated by 'clicks' on the PA system. Well, we got it right when an instructor asked us to sing with him, "1-check-left-rt-2, check-left-rt-3, check-left-rt-10. Just one extra pause had indeed made the parade movements look elegant.

It's human to push the limits of what is aesthetic, effective and furthermore, appreciated. But too much of a good thing may become overwhelming. This is what seems to have happened with our parade. Stretching the lengths of commands and pauses hasn't done well for the overall effect.

Should we have to follow the Army? We made a change in our manner of saluting in 2005. The distinct Air Force salute has been acknowledged as one of the smartest, besides being uniquely identified with an air warrior. Keeping the basic parade structure same, hopefully we can bring back truly rhythmic commands and crisp movements.

Witnessing Ceremonial Parades continues to give us veterans a sense of pride. Comparisons with our times come out naturally, one sure thing; today's Air Warrior is outstanding. Whatever he does would be better than us!

(The author has served as AOC-in-C Maintenance Command. He can be reached at email id- pvathawale@gmail.com.)

*Forgiveness is a good medicine. If you give it to others,
it heals the wounds in your heart*



BHARAT MANDAPAM AT INDIA TRADE PROMOTION ORGANISATION COMPLEX INAUGURATED IN DELHI



Bharat Mandapam : International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) developed at a cost of about Rs 2,700 Crore is the centerpiece of the Pragati Maidan complex. It is a grand architectural marvel, designed to host large-scale international exhibitions, trade fairs, conventions, conferences, and other prestigious events.

Its majestic multi-purpose hall and plenary hall have a combined capacity of seven thousand people, which is larger than the seating capacity of the famous Sydney Opera House in Australia.

Its magnificent amphitheater is equipped with a seating capacity of 3,000 individuals.

Shape of the building is derived from the Shankha (conch shell), and different walls and facades of the Convention Centre depict several elements of India's traditional art and culture including 'Surya Shakti' highlighting India's efforts in harnessing solar energy, 'Zero to ISRO', celebrating our achievements in space, Pancha Mahabhuta signifying the building blocks of universal foundation – Aakash (Sky), Vayu (Air), Agni (Fire), Jal (Water), Prithvi (Earth) also, among others. Various paintings and tribal art forms from different regions of the country adorn the Convention Centre.

Other facilities available in the Convention Centre include a 5G-enabled fully Wi-Fi-covered campus, 10G Intranet connectivity, an interpreter room equipped with cutting-edge technology to support 16 different languages, advanced AV systems with huge-sized video walls. Building management system ensuring optimal functionality and energy efficiency, light management system with dimming and occupancy sensors, state-of-the-art DCN (Data Communication Network) system, integrated surveillance system and energy-efficient centralized air conditioning system have also been installed.

KNOW YOUR COUNTRY

1. What is the national reptile of India?
2. Which is the capital of Arunachal Pradesh?
3. What are the major languages spoken in Andhra Pradesh?
4. What is the state flower of Haryana?
5. In which state of India, the main language is Khasi?
6. Which is the largest coffee-producing state of India?
7. Which state has the largest area?
8. In what state is Elephant Falls located?
9. Which place in Assam is said to be the meeting place of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam?
10. Which is the Longest Railway Platform in India?

For answers see page no.21

MARSHAL OF THE AIR FORCE & MRS ARJAN SINGH TRUST GRANTS

During the 1st quarter of FY 2023-24, the following grants were disbursed: -

Sl No	Name	Amt (₹)	Purpose/Reason
1	Ex Cpl Angad Kumar Tripathi	6,000/-	For Self Maintenance (₹ 2000/-pm for 3 years)
2	Smt. S Pappammal M/o EX Cpl SD Vinayagan	3,000/-	For Self Maintenance (₹ 1000/- pm for 2 years)
3	Ex AC CS Sharma	3,000/-	For Self Maintenance (₹ 1000/- pm for 2 years)
4	Smt. E Rama Devi M/o Late Fg Offr Raghavendra kr.	4,500/-	For Self Maintenance (₹ 1500/- pm for 3 years)
5	Smt. Ramesh Devi W/o Late NCE Hari Singh	30,000/-	For Self Maintenance (₹ 10,000/-pm for 2 years)
6	Smt. Meera Bai H W/o Late EX Cpl Harjan Singh	6,000/-	For Self Maintenance (₹ 2000/- pm for 3 years)
7	Smt. Kumkum Panda W/o Late EX Cpl Keshav	9,000/-	For Self Maintenance (₹ 3000/-pm for 3 years)
8	Smt. G Saroja W/o Late EX Cpl P Govindarajan	9,000/-	For Self Maintenance (₹ 3000/-pm for 2 years)
9	Smt. Nirmala Ward W/o Late Ex AC Lionel Ward	9,000/-	For Self Maintenance (₹ 3000/-pm for 2 years)
10	Smt. Saraswati Nayak W/o Late NC(E) PK Nayak	9,000/-	For Self Maintenance (₹ 3000/-pm for 2 years)
11	Ex Cpl GL Rajam	9,000/-	For Self Maintenance (₹ 3000/-pm for 2 years)
12	Miss K Shanthi D/o Late Ex AC2 D Kalidas	3,341/-	For Self Maintenance (Life time)
13	Smt Malliga, W/O Late Ex AC Muthu Kumaran	6,000/-	For Self Maintenance (₹ 2000/-pm for 2 years)
14	AFFWA (L), 56 ASP, AF	1,26,000/-	For re-imburement of quarterly expenditure of three special children of Air Warriors of 56 ASP, AF

DONATIONS RECEIVED BY MAFT UP TO AUG 2023

Sl No	Name	Amount (₹)
1	Smt Savita Khosla	21,000
2	Ex Sgt Surinder Prakash Mittal	21,000
3	Central Air Command	50,000
4	Ex Cpl Vinod Kad	2,500
MAJOR DONATIONS RECEIVED BY AFA: 01 APR 23 TO 11 AUG 23		
1	Air Mshl BS Bedi	10000

CORRECT ANSWERS (Page No.20 refers) : A1-King Cobra , A 2- Itanagar ,A-3 Odia and Telgu , A-4 Lotus , A-5 Meghalaya , A-6 Karnatka , A-7 Rajasthan ,A-8 Meghalaya , A-9 Hajo , A-10 Kharagpur (West Bengal)

"ONE'S LIFE HAS VALUE SO LONG AS ONE ATTRIBUTES VALUE TO THE LIFE OF OTHERS, BY MEANS OF LOVE, FRIENDSHIP, INDIGNATION AND COMPASSION."

UPDATE ON AFGIS SCHEMES

1. **AFGIS** offers plenty of welfare schemes both for the serving airwarriors as well as the veterans. An update on a few of these schemes which may be of interest to the veterans is given below.
2. **IAFSSDS**: At the time of their retirement, airwarriors can park their hard earned money with AFGIS at very lucrative rate of interest. The present rate of interest is 7.75% for cumulative and 7.60% for non-cumulative schemes (Digitally signed soft copies of FDRs are forwarded to depositors at their registered Email ID. The provision for downloading the e-FDR is also available at DAV Portal <https://iafpensioners.gov.in/ords/r/davportal/afgis/login> under member's login). On maturity, the whole of maturity amount or part of it can be reinvested with AFGIS.
3. **Air Veterans Insurance Cover (AVIC Scheme)** : This scheme was originally known as Post Retirement Insurance Cover. It has been renamed as Air Veterans Insurance Cover. A summary of the scheme is tabulated below :-

AVIC Scheme	INSURANCE COVER (₹)			Remarks
	OFFICER	AIRMEN	NC(E)	
(Effective From 01 Aug 81 Upto 29 Sep 90)				100% Cover for 15 years from the date of retirement and thereafter 50% cover upto max of 70 yrs of age whichever is earlier.
AVIC – 81	80,000	40,000	15,000	
(Effective From 30 Sep 90 Upto 29 Apr 99)				
AVIC – 90	2,00,000	1,00,000	30,000	
AVIC – 99 (Effective from 30 Apr 99 upto 30 Mar 05)				
Minimum Compulsory Cover	3,00,000	1,50,000	60,000	
Higher Option I	4,00,000	2,00,000	80,000	
Higher Option II	5,00,000	2,50,000	1,00,000	
AVIC – 05 (Effective From 31 Mar 05 Upto 31 Dec 10)	5,00,000	2,50,000	1,00,000	100% Cover for 15 years from the date of retirement and thereafter 50% cover upto max of 72 yrs of age whichever is earlier.
AVIC – 11 (Effective From 01 Jan 11 Upto 30 Jun 15)	10,00,000	5,00,000	2,50,000	100% Cover for 15 years from the date of retirement and thereafter 50% cover upto max of 75 yrs of age whichever is earlier.
AVIC – 15 (Effective from 01 Jul 15 onward) All Air Warriors, who superannuated/retired from IAF on or after 30 Jun 15	14,00,000	7,00,000	3,50,000	100% cover for 15 years from the date of retirement and thereafter 50% cover upto max of 75 yrs of age whichever is earlier.
AVIC-23 (Effective from 01 Oct 23 onward)	24,00,000	12,00,000	6,00,000	

4. **AFGIS sponsored bus service to convey ECHS members** from pick up points near the residential areas to ECHS polyclinics / service/ civil empanelled hospitals and back is functional at nine stations. These are Nagpur, AF Hospital Kanpur, Command Hospital Bangalore, Air Force Hospital Jorhat, Air Force Stations at Palam, Pune, Yelahanka, Najafgarh and Tambaram.
5. For more information the readers may contact AFGIS at Ph No. **011-25683995** / **Website: afgis@iaf.nic.in**.



THAL SENA BHAVAN: NEW BUILDING FOR ARMY HQs



"THAL SENA BHAVAN" will be the name of the new Headquarters for the Indian Army. The construction of this newly conceptualized and modern state-of-the-art complex being developed in area of 7.5 Lakh Sq Mtr has begun in Jan 2023 at a site measuring approximately 40 acres in the Delhi cantonment area. It will be located opposite the Manekshaw Centre and the new complex is expected to cost Rs 832 Crores and is due to be ready by 2025.

The Thal Sena Bhawan would have a ground plus seven-storey main office complex that will cater to more than 5,600 personnel, a facility zone, an infrastructure complex, single men living accommodation, vehicle parking, engineering services area, among others.

The new building would also have a fully networked operations room, conference rooms with digital interface, gymnasium, crèche and a health centre and a common library. "The Thal Sena Bhawan" will be a functionally robust GRIHA-compliant, earthquake resistant building with dedicated spaces for various directorates and departments. Centrally air-conditioned, the main office complex will have adequate number of conference halls with digital interface, briefing rooms, waiting areas for visitors and drivers and common areas with all amenities. Central Control Room and Integrated Building Management System will be provided to ensure the desired level of security of the complex.

INDIAN ARMY IMPLEMENTS COMMON UNIFORM FOR BRIGADIER AND ABOVE RANK OFFICERS

Officers of the rank of Brigadiers and above, who are also known as Flag Rank officers will now be wearing a standardized and common uniform. This includes headgear, shoulder rank badges, gorget patches, belts and shoes. Until now they have been wearing uniform specific to their parent regiments. These regimental uniforms will continue to be worn by all Jawans, JCOs and officers upto the rank of Colonel. The Flag officers will not be wearing any lanyards under the new change.

AIR FORCE DAY PARADE

As a part of its annual celebrations, the Air Force holds Air Force Day Parade on 08 October every year. This parade was earlier held at Air Force Station Palam and was later on shifted to Air Force Station Hindon.

Keeping in mind the air space constraints in and around Delhi and also the vehicular traffic at Delhi, it has been decided to hold this parade outside Delhi. AF Day Parade 2022 was held at AF Station Chandigarh. The Indian Air Force will be celebrating its 91st anniversary on 08 October 2023. The AF Day parade would be conducted at Air Force Station Bamrauli and the Air Display would be conducted over the Sangam area, in the vicinity of the Ordnance Depot Fort in Prayagraj. The scenic surroundings would add to the appeal of the stream of aircraft flying-by in close formation.

The Air Force Day Celebrations will actually commence more than a week before this with an Air Display near Bhojtal Lake at Bhopal Madhya Pradesh on 30 September 2023.



NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE



As part of India's Central Vista Redevelopment Project, a new parliament building located at Rafi Marg, New Delhi has been constructed in New Delhi. The same has been inaugurated on 28 May 2023 by the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The original building, a 93-year-old structure, suffered from inadequate space for house members and their staff, and design changes that put its structural stability at risk as it wasn't earthquake-proof.

The new hexagonal complex, area 20866 square meters shall be earthquake resistant and has 888 seats in the Lok Sabha chamber and 384 seats in the Rajya Sabha chamber. Unlike the old parliament building, it does not have a central hall. The Lok Sabha chamber will be able to house 1,272 members in case of a joint session.

The Parliament House has three entrances, named Gyan Dwar (knowledge gate), Shakti Dwar (power gate), and Karma Dwar (karma gate). There are six guardian statues that man the three entrances, namely, Gaja, Ashwa, Garuda, Makar, Shardula, and Hams.

ATAMNIRBHARATA: ACQUISITION OF NEW TRAINER (HTT-40) AIRCRAFT BY IAF FROM HAL



AF is purchasing 70 Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40) basic trainer aircraft (BTA) from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at a cost of Rs 6,828 Crore. These aircraft will be delivered over a period of six years.

The HTT-40 is a turboprop aircraft, designed to have good low-speed handling capabilities for better training effectiveness. This fully aerobatic, tandem-seat, turbo trainer has an air-conditioned cockpit, modern avionics, hot refueling, running changeover, and zero-zero altitude ejection seats.

The aircraft will meet the shortage of Basic Training Aircraft for training of newly inducted pilots of the IAF. The purchase price will include associated ground equipment and training aids including simulators. Being a fully indigenous trainer, the BTA is configurable for upgrades to incorporate the futuristic requirements of the Indian armed forces.

The HTT-40, which is designed, developed, test-flown and validated by HAL, contains approximately 56 per cent of indigenous content.

The initial 70 trainers will be built at the Bangalore facility of HAL and for series production it will move to Nashik as HAL is hoping to get an order of 106 basic trainers from IAF.

What falls, but never needs a bandage?

The rain.

SUPREME COURT EASES PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF LIVING WILL (HOW TO DIE WITH DIGNITY)



In a landmark judgment in March 2023, Supreme Court modified its 2018 guidelines on LIVING WILL and has eased the procedures, to execute LIVING WILL (formally called Advance Medical Directive), to allow peaceful death by passive euthanasia. Peaceful euthanasia means withdrawal of medical treatment with the deliberate intention to hasten a terminally ill patients' death. An article on living will was earlier written in Eagles' Eye – Mar 21 (61st edition).

Supreme Court Decision : Supreme Court's decision recognized the Right to Die With

Dignity as part of the Fundamental Rights under article 21 of the Constitution. It permitted every Adult individual with mental capacity to make an informed decision and the right to refuse medical treatment and life support by executing an Advance Medical Directive or a Living Will. This will be enforced when the patient is terminally ill and not able to convey that treatment should stop.

Execution : Supreme Court modified its earlier ruling to simplify the guidelines for registration and execution of the Living Will. It can be made on plain paper. The following conditions are mandatory. (a) The individual's signature on the living will is to be witnessed by two independent witnesses. (b). Needs to be attested by a Gazetted Officer / notary (c) The name of the Guardian/ Close relative who will be authorised to take the decision to withdraw the life support needs to be clearly mentioned.

The guidelines also state that a Medical Board of three expert doctors with a minimum of 5 years of experience will be appointed by the hospital.

Once this board certifies that the Living Will could be carried out the report would be forwarded to the District Collector. The DC would then constitute another medical board headed by the Chief Medical Officer along with three expert doctors. Both Medical Boards are to give their recommendations in 48 hours of the case being referred to them. In case the Boards refuse permission, the NOK has the right to approach the High Court. The High Court May constitute another Medical Board.

LAUGHTER MAKES LIFE EASY

NURSE: A person who wakes you up to give you sleeping pills.

TEARS: The hydraulic force by which masculine willpower is defeated by feminine waterpower.

FATHER: A banker provided by nature.

BOSS: Someone who is early when you are late and late when you are early.

HOSPITAL: An institution which holds your ills by pills and kills you by bills.

***What did one wall say to the other?
I'll meet you at the corner.***

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (HEAD/BRANCH OFFICE)

Branch	Tele/Fax	Address & E-mail of Branch	Nearest AF Unit
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Sr Vice President:	Veteran Air Marshal Jagjeet Singh PVSM VSM	9868940200
Vice President:	Veteran Air Vice Marshal Amit Tyagi VSM	8800998272
AFA Branch President:	(For details kindly see page 26)	
Secretary:	Veteran Gp Capt CS Chandel	8055705012
Treasurer:	Veteran Gp Capt V Sareen	8800630014

<u>NOMINATED MEMBERS</u>		<u>ELECTED MEMBERS</u>	
Veteran Gp Capt SM Puri VM	: 9810264835	Veteran Gp Capt RK Padhi	: 9405827717
Veteran Gp Capt Ashok Sethi	: 9810044033	Veteran Gp Capt Sanjay Sirohi	: 9478547317
Mrs Mamta Arora	: 9810320120	Veteran Wg Cdr HK Nagpal	: 9810018578
Veteran HFO RJ Singh	: 9650784077	Veteran HFO SC Yadav	: 9354206963
Veteran Sgt Shyam Mourya	: 8826115016	Veteran MWO Yashpal	: 9935398606
Mrs Indra B Jhala	: 9313347609	Veteran Sergeant ML Dey	: 9971495846

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Manager Senior Citizen Home	Veteran JWO SN Tripathi	8287024457
Editor, Eagle's Eye	Veteran Gp Capt VK Kapur VSM	9910643258
Web Administrator	Veteran Wg Cdr Bharat Bhushan	9810182974
Legal Advisers	Veteran Gp Capt KS Bhati	9811168948
	Veteran Air Cmde I J Singh	9810324738
	Veteran Wg Cdr Ajit Kakkar	9958006409

MARSHAL OF THE AIR FORCE & MRS. ARJAN SINGH TRUST

Manager Trust	Veteran Gp Capt V Sareen	8800630014
WO I/C Trust	JWO NK Pandey	9329860244

THE ELEPHANT AND THE ROPE : One day a man walked past a camp of elephants. Looking closer, he was surprised to see that these mighty animals weren't held in cages or kept in chains. **The only thing stopping them from escaping?** A thin rope tied from one of their legs to a simple pole in the ground. Confused as to why they didn't use their strength to break the rope, he asked the trainer why they weren't attempting to run away. To this the trainer replied, "As baby elephants, we use the same system. But, at that age, the rope is strong enough to stop them from escaping. They grow up like this, believing they can never break the rope, so even as adults they stay put." In other words, these powerful, magnificent and intelligent elephants didn't believe they could free themselves, so they never tried. **Moral of the story** : Our personal beliefs are powerful beyond measure and often dictate our outcomes. They can work for or against us. Identify your limiting beliefs so you can push against them.

For any assistance / help from AFA HO PI contact:
Veteran HFL NK CHHABRA, Jt Secy AFA,
 Mob- 9560276648 , Mail ID - afaheadoffice@gmail.com



OBITUARY LIST

SL NO	RANK	SERVNO	NAME	CONTACT NO.
1	WG CDR	9605	SP KRISHNAMURTHY	9845132972
2	JWO	651237	VIJAY KUMAR	9442010045
3	JWO	688227	S AROKKIYA DOSS	9442440106
4	JWO	237692	MN RAJASEKARAN	09486673987
5	SGT	652554	HK AGNIHOTRI	9559187283
6	SGT	658736	APG SUDARON	
7	LAC	645272	HAR JEET SINGH	9935317993
8	SGT	782037	RAJESH C	7838444514
9	AVM	5266	PD ADLAKHA	09811085252
10	GP CAPT	14520	DK NAGAR	09999071943
11	WO	292773	VK SINGH	09900522054
12	WO	227082	ID DUBEY	9794250898
13	SGT	608840	B BASAVARAJAN	9886721067
14	CPL	219959	S MARIMUTHU	9025381536
15	CPL	211698	GR SETHURAM	07760884864
16	MWO	233518	CB MISHRA	9922697534
17	HFL	610376	BC DE	09449817039
18	HFO	222173	RC THAPLIYAL	8130411584
19	JWO	601027	RAM PRAKASH GAUTAM	9936159345
20	WG CDR	10613	BC GANDHI	9650116839
21	SGT	259083	RL YADAV	8200750578
22	SGT	661693	RH SRICHANDRAN	9556986752
23	WG CDR	7024	G DATTA	9871647773
24	JWO	293051	R YADAV	9125849687
25	HFL	236860	VS RATHORE	2425830
26	SGT	669773	SANJEEV SHARMA	9027025411
27	GP CAPT	12300	L VAIDYANATH MOHANDAS	55691512
28	WO	251380	P APPARAJU	9965496252
29	SGT	700461	VK MISHRA	9839311202
30	WG CDR	12451	HS HANDE	23336439 / 23430067
31	MWO	299581	BS YADAV	9621198668
32	AIR CMDE	13302	KAMAL SINGH	9818633882
33	MWO	604981	SUNIL RANJAN CHARLES	7504513257
34	JWO	650433	AS RAMANI	9840476530
35	AIR CMDE	7908	GS ANTHAK	9810269914
36	AVM	14304	SIBARAM MAHAPATRA	
37	HFO	613132	RAMJI PRASAD SINGH	9868070284
38	MWO	219167	BK PATNAIK	8763139495
39	SGT	677395	BIPIN KUMAR	9510138674
40	WO	250016	S BALASUBRAMANIAN	7299518006
41	JWO	636536	LAL MANI SINGH	9935306891
42	JWO	276559	SAMUEL CHARAN	9336262823
43	SGT	635862	K DAYALAN	9444957159
44	SGT	724190	K VAIYAPURI	7305451542
45	JWO	649985	P SUNDARAJAN	8148142001
46	MWO	270004	SITANSU MOHAN DAS	8240002427
47	JWO	273004	PN VIJAYAN	8590942030
48	SGT	748120	SC MANTRY	8908912227
49	SGT	234676	MM RAMALINGAM	9843911000
50	WO	250016	S BALASUBRAMANIAN	7299518006
51	JWO	636536	LAL MANI SINGH	9935306891
52	GP CAPT	10469	JR MCKERROW	7875106976

We Remember You With Pride And Gratitude



GLORIOUS MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF INDIAN SPORTS

- 1952 – **Khashaba Jadhav**, the first Indian to win an individual Olympic medal for India. Jadhav won a bronze medal at the 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki.
- 1958 – **Mihir Sen** (famous Indian long distance swimmer and lawyer) crossed the English Channel and became the first Indian to do so.
- 1960 – **Milkha Singh (Flying Sikh)**. He was an Indian track and field sprinter who is best remembered for his fourth place finish in 1960. He broke the 400m Olympic record but lost the bronze by just 0.1 seconds.
- 1960 – **Ramanathan Krishnan** reached world no.6 in Tennis rankings.
- 1980 – **Praksh Padukone** father of Indian Actor Deepika Padukone wins All England Badminton Title.
- 1983 – **Cricket World Cup Victory**. Repeated in 2011.
- 1986 – **P. T. Usha's** victory at Asian Games. Usha won four gold medals and one silver medal in the track and field events of the 1986 Asian Games.
- 1999 – The amazing duo of **Leander Paes** and **Mahesh Bhupathi** reached the finals of the men's doubles in all four grand slams and the ATP Masters in 1999 and also won the French Open and Wimbledon.
- 2000 – **Karnam Malleswari** becomes the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal. Malleswari bagged a bronze in the 69 kg category of the weight-lifting championship at Sydney Olympics in 2000.
- 2000 – **Anand defeated Alexei Shirov** in a six-game match to win the 2000 World Chess Championship.
- 2003 – **Anju Bobby George** made history when she won the bronze medal in long jump at the 2003 World Championships in Athletics in Paris.
- 2004 – 2004 **Kabaddi World Cup** was the first ever Kabaddi World Cup and was hosted by India. **India won** the title defeating Iran 55–27 in the final.
- 2004 – **Col Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore AVSM** wins Silver medal in Double Trap Shooting in 2004 Olympics in Athens Greece.
- 2005 – **Pankaj Advani** won the World Billiards Championship at Quara Malta. He is a 25-time International Billiards and Snooker Federation world champion.
- 2005 – **Narain Karthikeyan** became first Indian Racing Driver to compete in Formula 1 car race.
- 2007 – **Six sixes in an over by Cricketer Yuvraj Singh** against England in T20 at Durban.
- 2008 – **Abhinav Ajit Bindra** becomes the first Indian to hold concurrently the world and Olympic titles for the men's 10-meter air rifle event, having earned those honors at the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics and the 2006 ISSF World Shooting Championship at Zagreb, Croatia.
- 2009 – **Saina Nehwal** becomes the first Indian woman to win a Super Series Tournament in Badminton.
- 2012 – **Sachin Tendulkar's** 100th century and retirement from Cricket.
- 2014 – **Mary Kom's "golden"** come back to become the first Indian female boxer to win a Gold Medal in Asian Games and again a Gold in 2018 commonwealth games.
- 2018 – **Saurabh Choudary** wins Gold medal in the men's 10 meter Air Pistol event at Asian Games 2018.
- 2019 – **PV Sidhu** becomes the first Indian to become Badminton's World Champion.
- 2020 – **Neeraj Chopra** wins Gold medal in Track and Field (Javelin Throw) at Tokyo Olympics.
- 2023 – **Neeraj Chopra** wins Gold Medal in the World Athletics Championship.
- 2023 – **Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa** finished second in FIDE World Cup.



ATAL TUNNEL



(Named after the former Prime Minister Late Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Jee) : The tunnel has officially been certified by the World Book of Records, as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet'. It is an engineering marvel connecting Manali to the Lahaul - Spiti Valley. Atal Tunnel runs under the 'Rohtang Pass' and was constructed on the Manali - Leh Highway. Construction of this tunnel has reduced the distance on Manali - Sarchu road by 46 km and travel time by four to five hours, providing all-weather connectivity on the Manali - Leh axis. The cost of entire project is Rs 3200 crores.

COMFORTABLE ATTITUDE AT OLD AGE : I AM 75

Age Wise Distribution of Population : 2021 Census

Age in Yrs	% Age Survivors
70-74	1.9
75-79	1.3
80 & Above	1.1

Very few persons reach the age of 75 years (see table above).

If you have reached 75 following **behavioral changes** shall add immense pleasure and peace to your life. It shall cost you very little of what you possess. Do adapt!!!!

- After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children, my friends, now I have started loving myself.
- I have now stopped bargaining with vegetable & fruit vendor. After all, a few Rupees more, is not going to burn a hole in my pocket but it might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's school fees.
- I have learnt not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. After all, the onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.
- I give compliments freely & generously. After all it's a mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me.
- I have learnt not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. After all, personality speaks louder than appearances.
- I walk away from people who don't value me. After all, they might not know my worth, but I do.
- I remain cool when someone plays dirty politics to outrun me in the rat race. After all, I am not a rat & neither am I in any race.
- I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. After all, it's my emotions that make me human.
- I have learnt that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. After all, my ego will keep me aloof whereas with relationships I will never be alone.
- I have learnt to live each day as if it's the last. After all, it might be the last.
- I am doing what makes me happy. After all, I am responsible for my happiness, and I owe it to myself.



THE NITA MUKESH AMBANI CULTURAL CENTRE A NEW LANDMARK OF MUMBAI



The Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMAACC) is a multidisciplinary cultural centre founded by Reliance with the mission of preserving and promoting India's rich artistic, cultural, and historical history through a variety of artistic mediums. It is housed in the Jio World Centre in the city's Bandra Kurla Complex, often referred to as BKC.

The centre was inaugurated on 31 Mar 23. The inauguration ceremony was attended by a host of Bollywood celebrities like Shah Rukh Khan, Priyanka Chopra with singer-husband Nick Jonas, Rajinikanth, Salman Khan, Rekha, Aamir Khan, Ranveer Singh with Deepika Padukone, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Varun Dhawan, Vidya Balan, Sidharth Malhotra with Kiara Advani, and Saif Ali Khan with Kareena Kapoor Khan, Gauri Khan, Sachin Tendulkar, Anupam Kher, Alia Bhatt, Suhana Khan, and many more actors. Celebrities that attended the grand gala from Hollywood included stars Nick Johns, Tom Holland, Penelope Cruz, Zendaya, supermodel Gigi Hadid and others.

The Centre has three performance venues namely the magnificent 2,000-seat Grand Theatre, the pioneering 250-seat Studio Theatre, and the exciting 125-seat Cube. It also has a large four storey art house (area 16000 sq feet) and Dhirubhai Ambani Square showcasing 45 feet high colour and musical fountains.

NMAAC is now open to general public. Tickets (cost Rs 199) can be purchased by visiting BookMyShow or www.nmacc.com. Those planning to visit Mumbai may like to visit the Centre. Some visuals of the Centre are available on YouTube at NMAACC.

WONDER FACTS OF INDIA

- ❖ Popular game SNAKES AND LADDERS was originally invented in India by Saint Gyan Dev in the 13th century AD as Mokshapatnam.
- ❖ India has WORLD'S HIGHEST MOTORABLE PASS (named UMLINGLA, Height 19300 feet) in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ CHENAB BRIDGE (Height 1178 feet and length 4314 feet) connecting Jammu and Kashmir to rest of India is the World's Highest Rail Bridge.
- ❖ STATUE OF UNITY (182 meter height), a tribute to the India's Independence leader Sardar Vallabhai Patel, located in the Western state of Gujarat, where Patel was born, is the TALLEST STATUE in the World.
- ❖ Mawsynram, a town in Meghalay (69 Km from Shillong) with 11873 millimeters of annual rain has won the Guinness World Record as the WETTEST PLACE ON EARTH.

KOLA SUPER DEEP BOREHOLE, located at North West Russia, (Nine inches in diameter and depth of 12.26 Km), is the deepest hole human beings could dig so far. It is very difficult to reach the Centre of earth, which is 6400 km below our feet.

"Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance. Great dancers are not great because of their technique, they are great because of their passion."

NATIONAL LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT SEMINAR, LOGISEM – 23



Logistics Management Seminar (LOGISEM – 23) was held on 16 May 23 at the AF Auditorium, Subroto Park, New Delhi. The topic for the seminar was; 'Leverage Emerging Global Supply Chain to Enhance Logistics Capabilities While Absorbing Disruptions'. The Seminar was inaugurated by Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff.

"Global supply chains have become increasingly complex and interconnected, driven by the manuscripts of international trade and advances in technology," stated the Chief of the Air Staff in his address. The defence industry is

not immune to this tendency. To keep its combat capability at its peak, the IAF relies largely on worldwide supply chains to deliver key components, equipment and services. The world has recently witnessed numerous and diverse disruptions such as the COVID-19 epidemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, trade barriers, tariff conflicts, and environmental compliance rules. Such incidents have exposed the supply chain's susceptibility to disruption." "To mitigate such disruptions, emerging trends such as digitization, automation, and data analytics should be leveraged to enhance the IAF logistics capabilities," he added.

During the Seminar, notable Speakers deliberated and discussed problems related to the Seminar's theme for three hours. The topics covered included the domestic aviation industry's future prospects, new developments in supply chain management and warehousing, and public procurement activities through GeM (Government e Marketplace) which is an online platform for open and transparent procurement by all Government departments.

The Seminar provided an excellent forum for exchange of ideas between civil and military logisticians, and it is expected to help the IAF align and update its supply-chain requirements to new technologies and worldwide trends. The Seminar was also live-streamed throughout the IAF.

GOLDEN GLOBE RACE



Retired Naval aviator Commander Abhilash Tomy becomes the first Indian to complete a solo non-stop circumnavigation of the globe in a pre-modern era sailboat. It took him 236 days at sea all alone braving the rough seas.

Commander Tomy sailed into Les Sables-d'Olonne on the French coast touching the finishing line as the runner-up to the Golden Globe Race, 2023.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar and Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal

VR Chaudhari congratulated Cdr Tomy on this achievement.

Earlier also he had participated in the 2018 edition of the Golden Globe Race. He was forced to retire midway in 2018 race owing to a debilitating back injury sustained when a fierce storm had hit his boat in that race.

Five years later despite serious injuries sustained in 2018 race, with a titanium rod in his spine and five fused vertebrae, he has now aced the test of human spirit, mind, endurance, grit and determination. He now becomes the first Indian to complete this tough voyage.

What makes this voyage the toughest in the world is that the contestants were to sail for about 300 days traversing 30,000 miles non-stop with the technologies of 1968 vintage. This means they cannot use any of the modern electronics navigational aids.

SAREE CLAD WOMEN & CHANDRAYAAN -3



The Saree Clad Women of ISRO: Embracing the culture & behind Chandrayaan-3 success. Amid the landing of Chandrayaan-3 what really has been striking is the saree clad women scientists of ISRO. The women in ISRO were all elegantly draped in traditional sarees, to celebrate a monumental achievement. It is often believed by the people in the West that women in India are oppressed, and aren't educated or not even Independent.

Amid the intense atmosphere of anticipation and achievement, the sarees of women symbolized a celebration of scientific success and a testament to the empowerment and unity that resonate through ISRO's endeavors. Saree isn't oppressive, neither wearing modern clothes is progressive, and the women in ISRO has proven that. Vanitha Muthayya, Ritu Karidhal, Moumita Dutta and Anuradha TK are the leading scientist involved in ISRO Space Missions.

Another important thing is all those engineers were from the so called "second string engineering colleges of India. The graduates of top engineering schools, the prestigious IITs and IISc were largely absent. The first echelon of Indian engineering talent is scooped up by the likes of Apple, Google, Amazon and Microsoft, the big multinational companies and prestigious MBA schools. It shows the DEPTH of talent in India. It can afford to give away the top batch and still have enough left over to soft land a space craft in the Moon!

INTRODUCING BOOKS



'A Gathering of Pebbles' is a collection of poems by Air Marshal VK Verma, popularly known as Charly Verma that reveals unseen colours in the palette of Life. These poems traverse a very wide emotional spectrum with Love, Life, Time and Aviation occupying maximum space. A fighter pilot wonderfully captures parallels of 'flying an aircraft' with 'spirits and soul' of human life.

A treat for those who enjoy originality of thought and a different style of poetry

Available on Amazon. Hard copy Rs.650. Kindle version Rs.300. Amazon link — <https://amzn.eu/d/20CQfm7>

HEIGHTS: READ AND ENJOY

- ❖ Height of Fashion: Lungi with a zip.
- ❖ Height of Laziness: Asking lift for morning walk.
- ❖ Height of Craziiness: Get blank paper Xeroxed.
- ❖ Height of Honesty: Pregnant woman taking 2 tickets.
- ❖ Height of De-Hydration : Cow giving milk powder.
- ❖ Height of Hope : A 99 year old woman going for Rs 295/- recharge to get lifetime incoming.
- ❖ Height of Stupidity: Looking through key hole of a glass door.
- ❖ Height of Friendship: It's when your friend runs away with your wife; and you are really worried for your friend!
- ❖ Height of Attitude: A Sleeping Beggar puts a Notice Board in front of Him.





**AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION AIR FORCE STATION RACE COURSE CAMP NEW DELHI-03
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31 MAR 2023**

Previous Year 2021-22	Liabilities	Appx 2022-23	Current Year	Previous Year 2021-22	Assets	Appx 2022-23	Current Year 2022-23
	General Fund -						
	Balance B/F	122724499.50		16952.15	Cash in hand	7	357273.50
	Add:-			11268732.81	Cash at Bank	8	7140442.41
	(a) Excess of Income over	11113126.75		27383282.54	Investment	9	258375339.97
	(b) Donations/Funds/Grant	3640596.00		391309.52	Stock	10	65957.20
	Less:-			1450.00	Security Deposit	11	67371.00
	(a) W/Off by BOC (Class 'C' store			2460884.00	Sundry Debtors	12	216278.00
	(b) Transfer to Fund A/C			6615013.85	Accrued Interest	13	755669.48
	(c) Excess of Exp over In	0		97300.00	Land and Boundary wall (SCH)	14	67363.00
	(d) Fund/Incentive Fee	0.00		0.00	TDS on Accrued Int	15a	0.00
122714496.4	Total General Fund					15b	0.00
2305712.00	Sundry Creditors	1	137478184.29		Property A/C		
12519413.59	Fund Account	3	1974576.00		Balance B/F		5297409.04
80221.00	Security Deposits/Residential Member	4	142342195.95		Add Purchase during		1030526.51
0.00	License (Residential Member) (SCH)	5	0.00		the year		
		6	0.00		Less: Write Off Value		107599
					Depreciation Value		986709.12
					Value Carried off		7264.23
				5297409.65	Total Property	2	5216363.20
				-0.49	Rounding Off		1.49
250134104.83	Total		281734956.24				281734956.24
48166318.00	Property purchased by AFQWF for SCH	15	48680054.00	15166318.00	Property purchased by IAFQWF for SCH	15	48680054.00
2738074.00	Property purchased by AFWWA for SCH	16	2738074.00	2738074.00	Property purchased by AFWWA for SCH	16	2738074.00
0.00	Property gifted by individual	16c	170699.00	0.00	Property Gifted by individual's	16c	170699.00
61450.00	Property gifted by individual SCH	16a	0.00	61450.00	Property gifted by individual SCH	16a	0.00
199168322.03	Grand Total		333323723.24	199168322.03	Grand Total		333323723.24

[Signature]
 Asst. Secy
 V. S. Prasad
 Air Force Association
 C1 Sec-3

[Signature]
 (V. S. Prasad)
 Asst. Secy
 Air Force Association
 C1 Sec-3

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 (V. S. Prasad)
 Asst. Secy
 Air Force Association
 C1 Sec-3

[Signature]
 (S. Prasad)
 Asst. Secy
 Air Force Association
 C1 Sec-3



For STM & ASSOCIATES
 FRN: 02/25221
 CA Surender Jain

For STM Association
 M. No. T. R. N. D. P. N.

AIR VETERAN'S DAUGHTER TOPS UPSC (ICS) EXAM

"Well-done Girls; the Air Force Is Proud Of You"



Yes, there is good news for all of us. Greater Noida resident ISHITA KISHORE has emerged as the topper of UPSC CSE 2022 final results.

Ishita is the daughter of Late Wg Cdr Sanjay Kishore. A student of Air Force Bal Bharti School and Delhi's Shri Ram College of Commerce, Ishita worked as an analyst with Ernst & Young, a consulting firm, before quitting her job to study for UPSC, CSE.

She cracked the Civil Services examination in her third attempt. "It has been a long journey as I did not even make it through the prelims in the first two attempts. I dedicated my sole attention to UPSC and I hoped to become an IAS officer this year," said Ishita.

Ishita attributes the success to her family of three. She resides with her mother who works as a school teacher and her brother who works as a lawyer. It is very unfortunate that Ishita lost her father when she was just seven years old. She confides that the memories of her late father were the real source of inspiration for her.

A staggering 11,35,697 ambitious people had applied for the examination, Out of them, the commission has recommended 933 candidates (613 men and 320 women) for coveted government services.



Another daughter of the Air Force Veteran Pratiksha Singh secured 52 AIR in UPSC CSE -2022.

She is the daughter of Veteran Sgt Prem Bahadur Singh. Pratiksha hails from Dhanaicha-Malkhanpur village of Hanumanganj area of Prayagraj. Her father Ex Sgt Prem Bahadur Singh is a teacher in a government school in Delhi and mother Neelam Singh is a homemaker. Pratiksha has done her class 10 and class 12 from Kendriya Vidyalaya Number 1, Air Force Station-Hindon in Ghaziabad and BA Honors in Geography in 2017 from Miranda House, University of Delhi and then completed MA in Geography from Delhi School of Economics in 2019.

Pratiksha Singh attributes her success to willpower and determination. Her brother Piyush Singh is a software engineer with Google. Pratiksha Singh started preparing for the Civil Services Examination in 2019 while pursuing her MA. In 2020, she could not pass the interview. Even prelims in 2021 were not cleared. Meanwhile in 2020 she cleared the PCS exam with 7th rank. She got success in the third attempt in the Civil Services Examination. Her main subject in the examination was Geography.



Earlier Anisha Shrivastava daughter of another Veteran Wg Cdr RK Shrivastav had also qualified UPSC (CSE) 2021 batch securing All India Rank 66. She is a student of NASR School Hyderabad and Shri Ram College of Commerce, New Delhi.

She says that IAF motto of 'Sky is the Limit' always reminds her to be fearless and seek out higher challenges as part of life. Being a member of a larger Air Force fraternity, and exposure at Cantonments, has played a key role in widening her horizons. Also meeting a multipolar society in IAF has removed all inhibitions to serve in any part of the country, she said.



TRIBUTE TO THE FATHER OF NATION : MAHATMA GANDHI

On January 30th, 1948, the then UN Secretary General, Trygve Lie, ordered that all the UN countries (58 at the time) should follow the UN's suit and fly their flags at half-mast. When asked why, he said, "Gandhiji was not only the light of India, but the light of the whole world. I am not sorry that he has passed away, but I am sorry that with him, human values have also gone." What a great tribute!

WHOM TO SALUTE : APJ KALAM OR SAM MANEKSHAW



When Dr. Abdul Kalam was the President, he visited Coonoor. On reaching there, he came to know that Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw, more popularly known as SAM was admitted in the Military Hospital. Dr. Kalam wanted to visit Sam, which was unscheduled. Arrangements were made. At the bedside, Dr. Kalam spent about 15 minutes talking to Sam & enquiring about his health. Just before leaving Kalam asked Sam "Are you comfortable? Is there anything I could do? or any requirement that would make you more comfortable?"



Sam said "Yes Your Excellency, I have one regret". Shocked with concern & anguish, the President enquired as to what it was.

Sam replied "Sir, my regret is that I am not able to get up & Salute the most respected President of my beloved country". Kalam held Sam's hand as both were in tears.

But the remaining part of the tale regarding this meeting is that Sam did tell APJ that he was not paid the pension of the Field Marshall's rank till then, for nearly twenty years. An aghast President went to Delhi and passed the pension with arrears within a week and sent the cheque of nearly Rs.1.25 crores through the Defence Secretary by a special plane to Wellington, Ooty, where Sam was ailing. That is the greatness of APJ.

But then Sam received the cheque and promptly donated it to the Army Relief fund. That is the greatness of SAM Sir. Whom will you salute now?

FAMILY PENSIONERS AND COMMUTED PENSION

Pensioners have the option to get the pension commuted at the time of their retirement.

If the pensioners opt for this, the commutation amount will be deducted on monthly basis from the pension for a pre-defined period of time.

However, if the pensioner unfortunately passes away before the completion of above mentioned pre-defined period, the **family pensioner will get full pension without deduction of the commutation installment amount** (Authority : GOI , Ministry of Personnel letter No. 42/15/2022-P&PW(D)/ 5 dated 25th Oct, 2022).

IAF CONTINGENT MARCHING AT BASTILE DAY PARADE AT FRANCE ON 14 JULY 23



Strains (musical) of "Sare Jahan Se Accha" rang through the Champs Élysées on 14 July 23 as a 269 member tri services Indian Military contingent , with connections to France dating back over a century to both World Wars , marching in France's Bastille Day Parade , saluted Chief Guest , Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron.

Bastille day is a national holiday in France and it marks the anniversary of the storming of the Bastille Fort in 1789, which symbolizes the beginning of French Revolution. The Parade began with a fly past by French

aircraft followed by a formation of three Rafale fighter jets of IAF. The marching contingents began marching as the fly past ended.

The IAF contingent in Paris comprised of four Rafale fighter jets, two C-17 globe masters and 72 IAF personnel. Sqn Ldr Sindhu Reddy, woman helicopter pilot (Allouette / MI -17) led the IAF's marching contingent.

Many Indian Air Force officers, like Late Air Veteran Air Marshal Shiv Dev Singh, Late Air Veteran Air Marshal Hari Chand Dewan and Late Air Veteran Wg Cdr Jumbo Majumdar — fought over the skies of France during the two World Wars. Some, like Wg Cdr Jumbo Majumdar, were also decorated for their gallant actions over the Falaise Gap during the terminal phase of World War I.

IAF also has a long history of operating French aircraft, starting with the Ouragan, followed by fighter aircraft like the Breguet Alize, Mystere, and Mirage 2000, with the Rafale jets being the latest in this illustrious line. Helicopters Alouette-III and Lama continue to fly with the three services, acting as a lifeline in remote high altitude area.

IAF DESIGNATES 24 EQUIPMENT DEPOT AS CENTRAL STOCK HOLDING DEPOT FOR C-295 AIRCRAFT SPARES

IAF is in the process of replacing the Avro-748 aircraft which were inducted into the IAF in early 1960s. These aircraft have rendered a yeomen's service and are still operative in large numbers. Keeping in mind the ever increasing operational requirement of the IAF, the MoD has already approved a project worth Rs. 21,935 Crores last year with Airbus Defence and Space for acquisition of C-295 aircraft. A total of 56 aircraft will be inducted into the IAF.

16 aircraft will be supplied in fly-away condition while remaining 40 aircraft will be assembled at Baroda under a joint venture between Tata Advance System Limited (TASL) and airbus.

24 ED has been designated as the Central Stock Holding Depot.



World Athletics Championships

2023: Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra on Sunday scripted history yet again as he became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the World Athletics Championships with a big throw of 88.17m in the men's javelin final.

PHOTO GALLERY



Sh S Somnath, Chairman ISRO delivering key note address at 38th ACM PC Lal memorial lecture.



AFA Staff with ISRO Chief Sh S Somanath



AOA Visit to Senior Citizens' Home, Tughlakabad



Sr VP, AFA with AOC & Staff, Air Force Station New Delhi



Brig IM Singh, President Indian Ex-Serviceman League at AFA



President AFA presenting memento to Sh S Somnath, Chairman ISRO.

PHOTO GALLERY



Farewell : NC(E) MP Singh at AFA HO



Hall Milan Ceremony : AFA (Bihar) Branch



*Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign :
AFA (Odisha) Branch*



Vijay Diwas Celebration : AFA (Odisha) Branch



Cancer Campaign : AFA (North Zone) Branch



AGM : AFA (North Zone) Branch

PHOTO GALLERY



Tree Plantation : AFA (Rajasthan) Branch on Vijay Diwas



AFA (Rajasthan) Branch Staff with AOC



40th Annual General Body Meeting : AFA (Tamil Nadu) Branch



Award of Scholarship : AFA (Haryana) Branch



*Annual General Body Meeting
Held on 09 May 23 : AFA (Haryana) Branch*

PHOTO GALLERY



AFA (Jharkhand) Branch Anniversary Celebration



*Vet WD Radhakrishnan Nair P
welcomed by the branch Secretary AFA (Jharkhand)*



Inauguration of Bareilly Chapter



12th Anniversary, Thanjavur Chapter



*Veteran ACM Arup Raha & Mrs Lily Raha with GB Members
and guests : AFA (WB) Branch*



*Kargil Diwas : Air Veterans with AVM Rahul Bhasin
VM, AOC ADV HQ EAC at AFA (WB) Branch*



PHOTO GALLERY



Motivational Program For The Students : AFA (Gujarat)



Hygiene Program : AFA (Gujarat) Ladies Wing



ECHS Consultative Committee Meeting with Comdt MH, RC and Polyclinic : AFA (AP & TS)



Kargil Diwas Celebrations : AFA (AP & TS)



Donation of two Wheel Chairs to EchS Poly Clinic : AFA (UP) Branch



Independence day Celebration : AFA (UP) Branch



Annual General Body Meeting : AFA (Goa) Branch



Executive Committee AFA (Goa) with Gp Capt Preeti Bahuguna DAV

PHOTO GALLERY



*Vice President, AFA Honouring AOC Hindan
During AFA (Noida) AGM*



*Chief Guest, Vice President, AFA
During AFA (Noida) Annual Function*



*Members assembled during Air Veterans meet
at Pangaon : AFA (Maharashtra)*



*President AFA (Maharashtra) visited residence of
103 years old Veteran, A TAMRA PATRA AWARDEE*



*AFA (Kerala) Branch: Chapter Executives Meeting
at Kozhikode in May 2023*



Felicitation of Veteran WO Gopinathan Nair : AFA (Kerala)



Wreath Laying at HQ TC War Memorial : AFA (Karnatka)



AGM : AFA (Karnatka)



INDIA BECOMES FOURTH COUNTRY TO LAND ON THE MOON, FIRST ON THE SOUTH POLE, WITH CHANDRAYAAN-3 SPACECRAFT



DEFENCE MINISTER SHRI RAJNATH SINGH INAUGURATES IAF HERITAGE CENTRE IN CHANDIGARH