



66th Issue

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AFA NEWS

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



EAGLE'S EYE



**HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI FLEW A 30-MINUTE SORTIE
ON 25 NOV 23 IN A TWIN-SEAT VARIANT OF THE TEJAS LIGHT COMBAT AIRCRAFT**

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EAGLE'S EYE-66

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AFA NEWS

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President's Page



Dear Veterans,

It gives me immense pleasure to put up a few updates on modernization and capability enhancement of Indian Air Force, a prestigious organisation to which we all have contributed our youth and are greatly indebted.

- ❖ First C-295 aircraft arrived in India from Spain on 20 Sep 23 as a replacement to the ageing Avro aircraft.
- ❖ Delivery of LCA Mk1 Twin seater have commenced and the Honourable Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi flew in this aircraft and becomes the first PM to fly a fighter aircraft
- ❖ Contracts for supply of additional 70 HTT 40 (basic trainer aircraft) and six Dornier 228 aircraft have been signed.
- ❖ Three Squadrons of Akash Missile System employing advanced Rajendra Mk-II radars have been commissioned this year.
- ❖ Induction of Heron Mk-II has bolstered the IAF capability to undertake surveillance and reconnaissance missions beyond Line of sight ranges at higher altitude of operations.
- ❖ IAF continued to train hard this year with Air Forces of Japan, France, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Egypt and US Air Force.
- ❖ Bharat Drone Shakti 2023, a Drone exhibition cum display event was organised by IAF and Drone federation of India at AF Station Hindon. By co-hosting the event IAF seeks to bolster the drone ecosystem of the country.

IAF conducted International human assistance and disaster relief in providing medicines and other relief material to Palestine citizens affected by the ongoing Israel - Hamas conflict on 22 Oct 23 and providing medical cum relief materials to Nepal after devastating earthquake struck on 05-06 Nov 23. Disaster Flood relief operations were conducted within the country also to provide medical and other relief material to villages marooned in Yavatmal Village of Maharashtra, Warangal, Sikkim. Tunnel rescue ops were conducted at Uttarakhand.

In addition many historic milestones have been achieved.

- ❖ An order for delivery of 83 LCA Mk 1A Tejas has been placed on HAL and Approval of Necessity (AON) for another 93 LCAMk 1A Tejas aircraft has been accorded.
- ❖ GE Aerospace has signed an MOU with HAL to produce F-414 jet engines in India for IAF LCA Mk 2 programme.
- ❖ Women Empowerment - Gp Capt Shaliza Dhami, a helicopter pilot becomes the first woman to command a flying unit in IAF.

On behalf of the Veteran community I would like to place on record my appreciations to the CAS and all the Air Warriors for taking IAF to greater heights and also for all their endeavors to help secure veterans financial, medical and canteen entitlements, thus bringing comfort and love to their erstwhile comrades in arms.

Pursuit of happiness has always been a collective aspiration. People have different ways at different times to perceive happiness, but the yearning for joy, contentment and a sense of well being is a universal phenomenon. It is evident from the activities at AFA branches captured briefly in photo gallery in this magazine that all the branches are working efficiently to bring cheer, comfort and happiness to the veteran AFA members and I wish them continued success in their endeavors.

Jai Hind

Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria
PVSM AVSM VM (Retd)



Sr Vice President's Page

My Dear members,

At the outset I wish all the veteran members of Air Force Association, a very happy new year 2024. Many important events have taken place during the last six months i.e; since September 2023 when the last issue of Eagle's Eye was published.

Important events namely Wreath laying ceremonies at National War Memorial to pay our homage to Martyrs on AFA founders day, Veterans' Day and Annual General Meeting 2023 at Air Force Auditorium were very elegantly organised with active participation of a large number of Veterans.

Veterans at various branches throughout India have organised with great Zeal and passion many special events like family get together attended by 2000 members with their families by Kerala branch, Air Chief Marshal LM Katre Memorial Lecture by Karnataka branch, Azadi Ka Mahotsav by Odissa branch, Organising August presence of Padma Shri Mukand Naik at their social gathering by Jharkhand branch, Durga Puja Excursion by West Bengal branch, Felicitation of the only Astronaut of India - Wg Cdr Rakesh Sharma by West Bengal branch and many more. All these participative events by veterans do bring lot of cheer and joy to retired Air Force Community and need to be supported and encouraged by all branches.

AFA managed Aastha home at Tughalakabad has completed 25 years in service of veterans who have opted to stay at this Senior Citizens' facility. Silver Jubilee function organised by members of Aastha home was a great success.

This issue features special articles like Aditya L-1 reaching its designated orbit, Sengol installed in Parliament, Shaheed -E-Azam Bhagat Singh, Vande Bharat trains, Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's longest sea bridge, High Net Worth U tubers, Great rescue by Rat Miners, Institution of Nobel Prize, Global Warming and Green house gases, Graduates from Indian schools become global CEOs, Two Indians who made Automatic cash dispenser possible, Legacy of Field Marshal Arjan Singh and many more important news and events.

AFA is happy that it has been able to help a large number of its members and their dependents both financially and otherwise.

Veteran satisfaction and welfare is our moto and together with your cooperation we shall continue to make efforts in this direction

Warm regards and best wishes

Jai Hind

**Air Marshal Jagjeet Singh
PVSM VSM (Retd)**

Editor's Page



Once again, it is a proud privilege for me to present to the Veterans community a compilation of glimpses on various news and events highlighting good work being done by Air Warriors.

Honourable Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi's initiative to fly in LCA Tejas shall promote greater utilisation of indigenously built fighter aircraft and promote exports of LCA to Air Forces across the Globe as detailed at page - 33.

Write ups on Martyrdom of Shaheede Azam Bhagat Singh, Contribution of Two great Indians in inventing ATM, Illustrious Nobel Laureate Indians, and Graduates from Indian Schools who are today leading Global Organisations shall be illuminating and inspirational.

Concerted efforts were made by all AFA branches and Chapters to deliver the PDF version of news magazine by Email /WhatsApp. All AFA members are requested to update their Mail ID / Mobile phone numbers at their respective branches. For the convenience of all members, Mail ID and Phone number details of all the branches are given at page-26.

Despite increasing costs of printing and postal dispatch of magazine, AFA continues to print and post magazine to all Life Time Paid Magazine Subscribers.

We are thankful to a large number of Life Time Paid Magazine Subscribers, who have opted for digital version of magazine and written to us to Email the PDF (digital copy) to them and stop sending printed copy. Funds so saved shall enable AFA to utilise this money on other welfare activities.

Life time Paid Subscribers who want PDF copy (Digital Version) in place of printed copy may mail to us their choice by sending us an Email at afaheadoffice@gmail.com or by WhatsApp at 7011732270 to volunteer to stop dispatch of PRINTED COPY.

I will urge the members to send us some interesting write-ups which we may include in the next issue of Eagle's Eye.

Happy Reading

Jai Hind

Gp Capt Vijay Kumar Kapur
VSM (Retd.)

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES ADITYA L-1



ADITYA-L1 is a spacecraft launched by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). It is the **first** Indian mission dedicated to observing the Sun which has extremely high temperatures in the range of **6000° C to Ten Lack° C**. Previously space agencies of **Europe, USA, Japan** and **China** have launched such missions.

Aditya-L1 was launched aboard the **PSLV C57** at **11:50 IST** on **02 September 2023**, **ten days** after the successful landing of ISRO's Moon mission, **Chandrayaan-3**. It successfully achieved its **intended orbit** nearly an hour later, and reached its designated orbit at the **L1 point** approximately **127 days** after its launch (**06 Jan 24**).

It is orbiting at about **15 lack km** from Earth. This Distance is **one percent** of the distance of Sun from Earth which is app **1500 lack Km**. The mission has an allocated cost of app **Rs 400 crores** excluding launch costs and mission life of about **five years**. Aditya" is named after Surya (The Hindu deity) representing the Sun. The "L1" designation denotes Lagrange point 1 (the spacecraft's destination point between the Sun and Earth). The **1,500 kg** satellite carries seven science payloads including instruments as required for various research objectives in **Solar Physics**.

SENGOL: INSTALLED AT NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING



All of you know that a new building for the Parliament has come up, which was inaugurated by the Honourable Prime Minister on 28 May 23. Some of you might have heard that **SENGOL** was installed in Parliament. I for one did not know about the SENGOL. May be many people might not have known about the same. So here is a small informative write up about SENGOL.

The Cholas reigned over portions of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, and Sri Lanka from 9th to 13th centuries. They had a practice of passing on a SCEPTRE (constructed out of gold or silver and frequently adorned with priceless stones) which was known as SENGOL. **SENGOL SCEPTRE** was traditionally passed from one Chola king to another as a symbol of legitimacy and succession.

The word **SENGOL** is derived from the Tamil word "**SEMMAI**" and means "Righteousness," The Emperors carried the Sengol sceptre during ceremonial events to symbolise their might.

The last British viceroy, Lord Mountbatten, intended to commemorate the historic occasion when the British ceremonially handed over authority to the Indians. Lord Mountbatten approached Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who apparently sought advice from Shri C Rajagopalachari. He apprised Pandit Nehru about the "Tamil Tradition" of passing SENGOL from one King to another on transfer of power prevalent during **Cholas Dynasty**.

Sengol', was thus received by India's first Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru to represent the transfer of power from the British to India. It was kept in a museum in Allahabad and has now been brought to Delhi and **installed in the new Parliament building** by Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi.

PRIME MINISTER FLIES IN THE INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED LIGHT COMBAT AIRCRAFT (TEJAS)



Attired in G suite Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi got a firsthand feel of the ADE designed and HAL produced indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) TEJAS as he took a sortie lasting 30 minutes in the trainer version of the aircraft flown by Group Captain Debanjan Mandal that took off from Bangalore.

PM flying in Tejas provided a big boost to Aatmanirbharta and recognition of growing Indian Defence manufacturing prowess. Shri Narendra Modi has been pushing for indigenous production of Defense products and boosting their manufacture in India and also the exports. Towards attaining this objective, IAF has plans to replace MiG-21 Squadrons with Tejas.

The LCA trainer is a light weight, all weather multirole aircraft which can undertake all roles of a single seat fighter and can also be used as a fighter trainer. This is the first time ever that an indigenous twin seat fighter has been designed, developed and

manufactured in India. With an amalgamation of contemporary concepts and technologies such as quadruplet fly-by-wire flight control, carefree maneuvering, advanced glass cockpit, integrated digital avionics systems and advanced composite materials for the airframe, it is a state-of-the-art aircraft.

IAF test crew has been involved with the Tejas project right from conceptual stage till prototype testing. The first version of the aircraft was inducted into the IAF in 2016. Currently, two squadrons of IAF, 45 Squadron and 18 Squadron, are fully operational with LCA Tejas. An order worth Rs.36,468 Crores for delivery of 83 LCA Mk 1A aircraft has been placed with HAL and delivery is scheduled to begin in 2024. The IAF will have 40 LCA, over 180 LCA Mark-1A and at least 120 LCA Mark-2 planes in the next 15 years. Argentina and Egypt Air Forces have also evinced interest in HAL's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)

More than Rs.9000 Crores have been sanctioned for the development of LCA Mk 2, an updated and more lethal version of LCA Tejas. To further promote indigenization, Transfer of Technology (TOT) for manufacturing of the GE aero engine in India for Tejas aircraft has also been negotiated with GE Aerospace during Prime Minister's visit to the US in June 2023.

This sortie by the Prime Minister will stimulate growth of the Indian aeronautics ecosystem and give a big boost to Aatmanirbharta in defence sector and enhance India's Defense Exports.

CHANGE OF GUARD AT AFA HO



Gp Capt CS Chandel (Retd)

He was associated with AFA as Secretary for 19 months . He took leave from Honorary work at AFA on 01 Feb 24. . He was actively involved in conduct of day to day activities at AFA and organising various annual events like AGM , GCM etc.



Gp Capt Ashutosh Kapur (Retd)

He was commissioned in Adm/FC branch on 15 Dec 90. After serving 33 years in various appointments including the Director of AF Auditoriom, he superannuated on 30 sep 23 from HQ IDS. He joined AFA on 07 feb 24 as Secretary to serve his fellow Veterans and families.

SHAHEED-E-AZAM BHAGAT SINGH



Freedom fighters inspire and motivate others to fight for injustice. There is no doubt that they are the pillars behind the freedom movement. They made people aware of their rights and their power. Bhagat Singh, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Ballabhai Patel, Dr. BR Ambedkar, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Lala Lajpat Rai, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Bal Gangadhar Tilak and many others played major role in bringing Independence to India.

Today we are recapitulating and remembering Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, a national symbol of patriotism and a Martyr who willingly sacrificed his life for the cause of his nation. Bhagat Singh was born into a Punjabi Sikh family on **27 September 1907** in the village of Banga in the Lyallpur district of the Punjab in what was **then British India** and is **today Pakistan**.

He joined the National College in Lahore in **1923**, founded two years earlier by Lala Lajpat Rai in response to Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation movement, which urged Indian students to shun schools and colleges subsidized by the British Indian government.

He was arrested by the police in **May 1927** on the pretext that he had been involved in a bombing that had taken place in **Lahore** in **October 1926**. He was released on a surety of Rs.60,000 five weeks after his arrest. In **December 1928**, Bhagat Singh and an associate, Shivaram Rajguru, both members of a small revolutionary group, the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, shot dead a **21-year-old** British police officer, **John Saunders**, in Lahore, Punjab, mistaking Saunders, for the British senior police superintendent, **James Scott**, whom they had intended to assassinate.

Bhagat Singh held Scott responsible for the death of a popular Indian nationalist leader Lala Lajpat Rai for having ordered a lathi (baton) charge in which Lala Jee was injured and two weeks thereafter died of a heart attack.

As Saunders exited a police station on a motorcycle, he was felled by a single bullet fired from across the street by Rajguru, a marksman. As he lay injured, he was shot at close range several times by Bhagat Singh. The postmortem report showed eight bullet wounds. Another associate of Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, shot dead an Indian police head constable, Channan Singh, who attempted to give chase as Bhagat Singh and Rajguru fled.

Bhagat Singh was thereafter on the run for many months. Surfacing again in **April 1929**, he and another associate, **Batukeshwar Dutt**, set off two low-intensity homemade bombs, among some unoccupied benches of the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi. They showered leaflets from the gallery on the legislators below, shouted slogans, and allowed the authorities to arrest them.

Bhagat Singh was executed on **23 March 1931** along with his comrades Rajguru and Sukhdev. Legend says, Bhagat Singh marched to the gallows with a smile on his face and his one last act of defiance was shouting **Inquilab Zindabad (Long Live Revolution)**. His death inspired hundreds to take up the cause of the freedom movement.

Over the years many directors of Bollywood have come forward to pay tributes to the legendary, revolutionary Bhagat Singh and made prominent Hindi films like **Shaheed - e-Azam Bhagat Singh (1954)**, **Shaheed Bhagat Singh (1963)**, **Shaheed (1965)**, **Shaheed (2002)**, **Rang De Basanti (2006)** and many more.

His sacrifice and unwavering dedication to the cause of India's freedom struggle shall continue to inspire generations to come.

Jai Hind

"True fulfillment comes from helping others."

NEW APPOINTMENT : IAF

Air Marshal Makarand Ranade DG (I&S)



Air Marshal Makarand Ranade AVSM VM (G) assumed the appointment of DG (I&S) at Air HQ New Delhi on 01 December 2023. An alumnus of National Defence College, New Delhi and College Interarmée de Defense at Paris, France, the Air Marshal was commissioned in the fighter stream of the IAF on 06 December 1986. He has held many important appointments which include command of a fighter squadron and two flying stations. He has been the directing staff at TACDE and DSSC. His staff appointments include DPO, Principal Director DASI, ACAS Operations (Space) and SASO HQ WAC. He has served as Air Attaché at Embassy of India Kabul, Afghanistan.

GENEROUS DONORS

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 is being 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.



ASIAN GAMES: Raksha Mantri announced cash prizes to Armed Forces personnel for winning medals at the 19th Asian Games. India's performance at the 2023 Asian Games, which were held from 23 Sep to 08 Oct 2023 in China has been historic, achieving a record-breaking medal tally of 107, which includes 28 Golds. Armed forces contingent comprised of 88 sportspersons who participated in 18 disciplines at the Games.

Indian armed forces contributed in a big way to earn laurels for the country by bagging 16 individual medals (03 Gold, 06 Silver & 07 Bronze) and eight team medals (02 Gold, 03 Silver & 03 Bronze) at the Games.

Honourable Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh Ji, on October 17, 2023, felicitated medal winners, participants and support staff from the Armed Forces, who took part in the recently concluded 19th Asian Games at Hangzhou, China. It was announced that Gold medal winners will be given Rs 25 lakh; Silver medal winners will get Rs 15 lakh and Bronze medal winners will be awarded Rs 10 lakh.

Sgt Naveen Kumar (Gold medal, Kabaddi), Sgt Mijo Chako (Gold medal, Athletics) and Sgt MD Afsal (Silver-medal Athletics) brought glory to the IAF and to the nation. Heartiest Congratulations to all Winners and participants from team AFA.



Sgt Naveen Kumar



Sgt Mijo Chako



Sgt MD Afsal

MY BRUSH WITH SAINIK WELFARE BY VETERAN GP CAPT MG SHETTY



Gp Capt MG Shetty (**Contact No – 7259007390**) retired as **CSO (Air) SWAC** and joined as **District Sainik Welfare Officer (DSWO)** at the remote town of **Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh**. He was of great help to the **ESM** to secure their entitlements of pensions, medical benefits and canteen facilities. Lessons learnt from a few instances as given below are of immense use to all air veterans.

PENSIONER MISSING: As a ritual in the annual Sanik Sammelan in Balarampur District (One of the three districts looked after by DSWO Ambikapur), we paid homage to **80 Yrs old ESM** who had recently passed away. We could not locate his widow to know her welfare. It was realised

that she had moved to her maternal home in Jharkhand after demise of her husband. For curiosity, we rang her up to find out if she has started getting family pension. To our utter disbelief we found that she was absolutely unaware of any of the financial benefits post her husband's death.

We had to call her and initiate the procedure from arranging her husband's death certificate, issue of new **PPO** and facilitate payment of family pension. Entire procedure took more than **six months**. It is the primary duty of ESM to educate his dependents of their rights and responsibilities in case of his sudden demise to avoid unnecessary hardships.

MISMATCH IN DETAILS OF SPOUSE: Serving soldier loses his spouse but fails to report at unit and to get **Part-II orders** promulgated. This soldier gets remarried and does not take any action to correct the documents. He also gets additional member in the family along with existing two children from first wife.

During discharge, he merely uses photographs of new spouse along with details of the first spouse. ESM expires three years after retirement. **PCDA** refuses to pay pension to second wife as her documents like **ADHAAR** and **PAN** do not match with **documents of ESM**.

It was a herculean task to get **Part II Orders** through Records and to re-issue PPO in the name of second wife and her child. **It is extremely important to update the personal documents by serving personnel during service.**

DEATH IN HARNESS: ESM deserts his wife in the village and starts living with another woman of his choice in the town. Neither ESM nor the family makes any efforts to contact each other for more than ten years. One fine day son of ESM reports to **District Sainik Welfare Officer (DSWO)** with death Certificate of ESM which occurred more than six years back. PCDA and Regional Office of the Bank refuse to divulge details of last pension drawn by the ESM till intervention by top hierarchy of pension authorities. Pension was restored after more than a year's struggle by the widow and DSWO. **Immediate reporting of death of ESM to PCDA and concerned authorities will help in solving most of the otherwise avoidable hardships.**

MEDICAL FITNESS CERTIFICATE FOR ECHS BENEFICIARIES

Due to lack of information and knowledge many ECHS beneficiaries are not being issued medical certificate, sickness certificate, and endorsement of Medical / Dental officer remarks for driving license and Govt jobs at ECHS Polyclinics.

The rule position is very clear and is clarified in "SOP for treatment management 2018" issued by MD ECHS that Medical Officer / Dental Officer at ECHS Polyclinics are AMA (Authorised Medical Attendant) of beneficiaries and a specific time slot of 3 pm to 4 pm has been allocated for this purpose at all polyclinics.

Auth: CO ECHS letter No. B/49701-PR/AG/ECHS/2018 dt 10 Sep 2018.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 91ST IAF DAY CELEBRATIONS IN UTTAR PRADESH'S PRAYAGRAJ



New IAF Ensign Unveiled: Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari unveiled a new ensign of the IAF, replacing the existing one that was adopted more than seven decades back. In the new ensign, the IAF **Crest** features in the top right corner of the ensign, towards the fly side. The IAF Crest has the National symbol, the Ashoka lion on the top with the words 'Satyameva Jayate' in Devanagari below it. Below the Ashoka lion is a Himalayan eagle with its wings spread, denoting the fighting qualities of the IAF. A ring in light blue colour encircles the Himalayan eagle

with the words '**BHARTIYA VAYU SENA**.

'TOUCH THE SKY WITH THE GLORY' as taken from verse 24 of Chapter 11 of Bhagwat Geeta is inscribed below Himalayan eagle in Devanagari.

The IAF Ensign was presented to the Air Chief by four air warriors. As the Air Chief unveiled the new Ensign, two drones lifted a large flag from behind a curtain wall. The new Ensign was then hoisted, while the previous version lowered, folded with full honors, and handed over to the Air Chief. It will now become part of the exhibits at the Air Force Museum.



MiG-21 Farewell: At the Indian Air Force Day ceremony, MIG -21 planes of Russian origin made their last appearance. Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari announced the replacement of the Russian made MiG -21 with Indian-developed Tejas Mark 1A aircraft from 2025 onwards.

Women Power: It is the first IAF day parade commanded by woman officer, Gp Capt Shaliza Dhami. The parade also featured an all-women contingent consisting of the newly inducted Agniveer Vayu women. These 31 women air warriors marched alongside their male counterparts.

Air Display Along the Banks of Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj: Fly Past featured approximately 108 IAF aircraft, including Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters from the Indian Army, a P-8I aircraft from the Indian Navy, Frontline fighters, Choppers, helicopter gunships and vintage aircraft. Air display included performances by the Sarang helicopter display team and

Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team and maiden flight of C-295.

Despite the scorching heat, countless people flocked to the Sangam area, cheering loudly as they witnessed this impressive display of aerial maneuvers.

RE-IMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL EXPENSES

ECHS has intimated that medicines prescribed to the patient by ECHS PC or empanelled hospital should be received from the ECHS Polyclinic dispensary. If a prescribed medicine is not available at the ECHS Polyclinic, the Officer-in-Charge of the ECHS PC may obtain it through an Authorised Local Chemist (ALC). If the medicine is still not available at both ECHS PC and through ALC "Not Available (NA)" remark should be clearly indicated on the prescription, fully countersigned by OIC of ECHS PC. In such cases, the beneficiary is permitted to purchase the not available medicine from a medical store and subsequently claim reimbursement. **Autho: ECHS letter No B/49761/AG/ECHS/Medicine Policy dt 08 Apr 2019 & B/49761/AG/ECHS/2022 dt 01 Apr 2022.**

What can you do to promote world peace?

Go home and love your family."

— Mother Teresa

C 295 INDUCTION - BOOST TO IAF'S TRANSPORT FLEET AND INDIA'S TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION ECOSYSTEM

By Air Marshal Anil Chopra (Retd) (DG Centre for Air Power Studies)



"The induction of C-295 will bolster medium lift tactical capability of the IAF. The Defence and Aerospace sectors are the two important pillars for making India self-reliant in the coming years", tweeted Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh after he formally inducted the first C 295 MW at a special ceremony at Hindon airbase on 25 September 23. He handed over the symbolic key of the aircraft to Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari. Just a few days earlier, the Air Chief had received the first aircraft at Seville in Spain.

We all recall that PM Sh Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of the Tata-Airbus consortium's C-295 manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Gujarat, on October 30, 2022, which is the first plant in the private sector to make a military aircraft. In September 2021, Indian government had cleared the ₹21,935-crore (\$3 billion) Airbus-Tata project for fifty six C-295 MW military transport aircraft. Additional six may be acquired by Coast Guard.

The deal for replacing the old Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) license-built HS-748 (Avro) planes of Indian Air Force (IAF) entails delivery of 16 EADS-CASA twin-turboprop aircraft in a flyaway condition by M/s Airbus Defence and Space (Spain), scheduled to be delivered between September 2023 and August 2025. The rest 40 will be manufactured in India by the Tata Consortium with first aircraft likely to roll out in September 2026 and remaining 39 by August 2031.

Airbus CASA C-295 MW can carry 71 troops, 48 paratroopers, 27 stretchers, five 2.24 × 2.74 m (88 × 108 inches) pallets, or three light vehicles. In fire-fighting role it could carry 7,000 liters of water or retardant. (Load carrying capacity 9.5 tones). It has low fuel consumption allowing nearly 13 hours endurance.

More than 200 aircraft are already flying world-wide. Another 80 more are on order. C295 has seen action in Chad, Iraq and Afghanistan. It routinely operates in the hot and humid conditions of the Brazilian jungle and Colombian mountains, in the dusty and very hot deserts of Egypt and Algeria, and in the extremely cold and icy winters of Poland, Finland and Kazakhstan. Clearly it is going to be a work-horse for the IAF.

Unlike the HS 748, C 295 aircraft has a rear ramp that will ease loading and unloading and para drops. The aircraft can operate from short or unprepared airstrips. It is well suited for operations in the valleys and advanced landing grounds in the Himalayas. The aircraft can carry more troops and cargo than the HS 748 and the An-32 transport planes. It has a better combination of range, speed and service ceiling. In the past IAF had converted its transport aircraft such as An 12 and An 32 for bombing role, such option could be possible in C295 also. In the long run, if India decides to extend the production line, it could also replace the depleting An 32.

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." —Albert Einstein

VANDE BHARAT: THE TRAINS OF TOMORROW



Indian Railways achieves remarkable milestone towards **AATMANIRBHARTA** by flagging off the India's **first-ever indigenously** designed and manufactured semi-high speed **Vande Bharat train**. Vande Bharat Trains would gradually replace Shatabdi / Rajdhani express and provide modern and comfortable rail travel experience to the passengers. To ensure safe journey these trains are fitted with safety system named **KAVACH (An automatic train protection system)**. Some of the special features of these trains are listed below:-

- ❖ Every Vande Bharat train is cleaned in 14 minutes.
- ❖ Faster acceleration and semi high speed operation up to 160 KMPH.
- ❖ Fully sealed gangway for free passenger movement and Automatic plug doors.
- ❖ Reclining Ergonomic Seats and Comfortable Seating with revolving seats in executive class.
- ❖ Mobile charging sockets for every seat.
- ❖ Driver-Guard communication with voice recording facility & Crash hardened memory.

BHEL led consortium with TWL (Titagarh Wagons Ltd) has been awarded a contract of Rs 23000 crore for manufacture of 80 Vande Bharat Trains. Cost of a 16 coach Vande Bharat Train is about Rs 115 Crore. India is expected to have a total of 475 Vande Bharat Trains by 2025.

MOVING TOWARDS GENDER NEUTRAL TERMS

Moving towards **gender neutral** language is about improving the cohesion and effectiveness of **armed forces** as a whole. Gender neutral language is simply a way of telling about people without assuming their gender. More and more gender privileged terms are being jettisoned from the armed forces lexicon. A few of the gender equal terms being introduced are given below:

OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW
Manning Plan	Staffing Plan	Ex-serviceman	Veterans/Ex-service person
Action Manning	Action Staffing	Manpower	Workforce or Human Capital
Manholes	Maintenance holes	Chairman	Chairperson or chair
Mess man	Mess Staff	Spokesman	Spokesperson
Serviceman	Service person		

GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOOD (GLOF)

IAF airlifts large number of tourists and local civilians stranded in Lachen and Lachung villages of Sikkim:- Airlift comes to the rescue of people after GLOF in South Lhmak Lake which created havoc across the Teesta basin in Sikkim and North Bengal. GLOF is a type of catastrophic flood that occurs when the dam containing a glacial lake fails, releasing a large volume of water. This type of flood is typically caused by rapid melting of glaciers or the build up of water in the lake due to heavy precipitation or the inflow of melted water.

IAF utilised a fleet of helicopters, namely, Cheetah, Chinook, Mi-17 1V, and Mi-17 V5 for the rescue operations. With 262 sorties, facilitating relief efforts of the Sikkim government, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has rescued around 2,000 people from the disaster-stricken areas, following the **flash floods**.

Well done Indian Air Force. We are proud to have been a part of this wonderful organisation.

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."
—Malala Yousafzai

INDIA'S 22 KM LONG SEA BRIDGE (MTHL) BECOMES LONGEST SEA BRIDGE



India has FIVE SEA bridges out of total of 15835 land / water bridges. India's first sea bridge (PANBAN bridge) that connects the town of Mandapam in mainland India with, Rameswaram on Pamban island, opened on 24 February 1914.

It was the longest sea bridge until the opening of Bandra -Worli sea link in 2010. However Mumbai Trans Harbour Link on the MTHL project connecting Mumbai to Navi Mumbai (22 Km long) shall now become the India's longest Sea Bridge.

The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link, officially named as Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Trans Harbour Link and also known as Sewri-Nhava Sheva Trans Harbour Link and colloquially as Atal Setu, is a 21.8 km (13.5 mi) 6-lane elevated highway bridge, which connects Mumbai with Navi Mumbai, its satellite city. It is the longest sea bridge in India, and the world's 12th longest sea bridge. The bridge begins in Sewri, South Mumbai, crosses Thane Creek north of Elephanta Island, and terminates at Chirle near Nhava Sheva in Uran taluka, Navi Mumbai. The road is linked to the Mumbai-Pune Expressway in the east and to the under-construction Coastal Road in the west. The 6-lane highway is 27 meters in width, in addition to two emergency exit lanes, two edge strips, parallel crash barriers and noise barriers on both sides. The project costs a total of Rs.17,843 crores. The bridge has a capacity to handle 70,000 vehicles per day. Construction on the bridge began in April 2018, and was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi on 12 January 2024.

COUNTRIES BY AREA

There are 195 countries in the world today. This total comprises 193 countries that are member states of the United Nations and 2 countries that are non-member observer states, i.e. the Holy city and the State of Palestine.

The World's Smallest Country: is the Vatican City which is also known as the Holy City. It has a total population of 835 persons. The country covers a land area of 0.44 square kilometers only. The country is so small that tourists from around the globe come and can see the entire country in a day only. This country is home to the biggest church in the world which is popularly known as St. Peter's Basilica which has amazing art works and graffiti on the walls of the church from old times. This city is considered as the most sacred area especially for Christians from across the world.

Biggest Country in the World: Russia is the largest country in the world, followed by Canada and the U.S. in total area. The transcontinental country, which spans Asia and Europe, has a total surface area of 17.1 million square kilometers. Russia consists of land area for the most part, and only about 4% of the total area accounts for territorial waters. In contrast, about 9% of Canada's surface approximately is covered with water. In fact, Russia is so large it has nine time zones and borders 16 other countries.

Our country is the the seventh largest country in the world (3.287 million sq km by area) and most populous country in the world.

*We are not human beings having a spiritual experience.
We are spiritual beings having a human experience.*

SPOT LIGHT : ACTIVITIES AT AFA BRANCHES

(FOR VISUALS PLEASE SEE PHOTO GALLERY)

AP & TS

Branch Governing Council meeting was held on 29 Oct 2023. The General Body Meeting combined with Annual Social get-together of members and families (approx 550 people) was held on 03 Dec 2023. Seventeen octogenarians were felicitated. Veteran Air Marshal Janak Kapur; Station Commander AF Station Begumpet Gp Capt Manish Kumar and Director Sainik Welfare, Government of Telangana Col P Ramesh Kumar (Retd) were the guests of honour. Tirupati Chapter of the branch held its 13th Annual General Body meeting on 17 Dec 2023. Branch Vice President Wg Cdr T Vasudeva Reddy (Retd) who was the Guest of Honour addressed the gathering and Wg Cdr P Bhasker Reddy felicitated 14 octogenarian veterans. About 160 members and families attended the event.

BIHAR

Annual General meeting was conducted on Air Force Day. Large number of veterans with their families participated in the event with great enthusiasm.

GOA

Handing over / taking over of Goa Branch was conducted on 22 Nov 23. AVM Sunil J Nanodkar AVSM VM VSM (Retd) took over from Air Cmde Peter K Pinto AVSM (Retd). All executive members attended the ceremony. The outgoing President held the post for more than 20 years. During his tenure many issues related to pension of Air Force Veterans and widows were resolved.

GUJARAT

AGM was conducted on 23 Sep 23. AOC in C, SWAC was the Chief Guest. Veteran Members actively participated in the "Adani Run for Our Soldiers" event organised by the Adani Group on 26 Nov 23 at Ahmedabad River Front. Seventh Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon PVC memorial lecture was successfully conducted on 03 Dec 2023. Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain PVSM UYSMAVSM SM VSM (Bar) Member of National Disaster Management Authority of India and Veteran Air Mshl Anil Chopra PVSM AVSM VM VSM Director General of Centre for Air Power Studies were the prominent guest speakers.

HARYANA

Visit of AFA members to Air Force Museum, Palam was organized on 30 Nov 23. Social Get-Together was organised by Ambala Chapter on 01 Dec 23 at 7 Wing. 60 air veterans attended the function. Two Nonagenarian and thirteen Octogenarian members were felicitated on 16 Dec 23 at AF Station, Gurgaon which included two former CAS viz. ACM NC Suri and ACM S Krishnaswamy. Members from Haryana branch also attended Veterans' Day function at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt on 14 Jan 24.

JHARKHAND

Branch celebrated 91st Indian Air Force Day on 08 Oct 23 at Audrey House Auditorium, Ranchi. The Chief Guest of the event was Shri Mukund Nayak, Padma Shri. Jharkhand branch also celebrated its 11th foundation day at Thakurgaon, Ranchi. A picnic was conducted as part of the event. The Appreciation card by the President, AFA along with the cash award was handed over to Veteran Sgt AK Mishra on the occasion.

KARNATAKA

AGM of AFA (K) branch was conducted on 05 Aug 23. In this function, Air Veterans, who have achieved higher portfolios in Govt. Sector / Private Sector were also honoured. Air Chief Mshl LM Katre Memorial Lecture was conducted with General Anil Chauhan PVSM UYSMAVSM SM VSM, Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary DMA as Chief Guest. AFA Annual Day and Wreath Laying Ceremony were conducted on 19 Oct 23 at Arjan Hall and War Memorial of HQ TC. 26 Octogenarian & 04 Nonagenarian members were honored by presenting a memento and shawl on 05 Aug 23 by the Chief Guest Air Mshl R Radhish PVSM, AVSM, VM AOC-in-C TC. Documents Verification Melas were conducted at Vijayapura, Madikeri, Belagavi and Mangalore.

KERALA

AGM and family get together of AFA Kerala Branch was conducted on 11th Nov 2023 at Kozhikode. Air Mshl B Manikantan AVSM VM, AOC-in-C, HQ SAC, IAF inaugurated the function. Around 2000 veterans & their families attended the meeting.



MADHYA PRADESH

On September 30, fighter planes and helicopters of the IAF roared over the sky of Bhopal to announce Air Force Day. Taking the same trend forward, on October 8, retired officers and their family members organized an event at DSOI, Bhopal. In the event, Air Vice Marshal Aditya Vikram Pethia, the Vir Chakra winner of the 1971 war, and Wing Commander Parkash Singh, who took part in the air drop in Bangladesh in the same war, were honoured by Madhya Pradesh President of the Air Force Association, Air Vice Marshal Pramod Srivastava.

MAHARASHTRA

51 Blankets were donated to veterans of QMTI at Khadki. 80 Monkey Caps and 80 Mufflers were distributed to veteran patients admitted to MH Khadki. Volunteer and dedicated help by Sgt Lajaras Mhaske in resolving Sparsh related issues of veterans is being lauded by veteran community. Branch has launched unique programme of giving monthly pension to those widows who are not eligible for family pension from IAF @ Rs 3000/- p.m. for one year.

NOIDA

Sparsh life certification was done by the staff for more than 350 veterans. Sgt Rana visited ICU of Kailash Hospital to do Life Certification of an old & sick veteran. This was well appreciated by patient's son (Naval Captain). President branch visited Sparsh HO at Prayagraj and met officer in charge Wg Cdr Tomar to help resolve veteran's pension issues. A printer was donated by the branch and handed over to O I/C ECHS by Vice President AFA HO, AVM Amit Tyagi on 21 Nov 23. Gp Capt Seraj Mehdi was awarded CAS Appreciation during annual general meeting of AFA.

AFA Ghaziabad Chapter: Magician Show of Jadugar OP Sharma was organised at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Auditorium on 08 Jan 2024 at 0330 PM for Air Force Association and Ex Servicemen of Ghaziabad Region.

ODISHA

Family get together organised on AFA day was a huge success. Large number of members with their families attended the function at Bhubaneswar. Distribution of blankets to an old age home was organised by Balasore branch.

RAJASTHAN

Branch staff has been very actively pursuing cases with competent authorities for satisfactory resolution of issues pertaining to veterans (Pensions / family pensions / documentation errors / Insurances etc). On 14 Jan 24, Armed Forces Veterans' Day function was conducted at Air Force Station, Jodhpur. AVM S Srinivasan AVSM, VSM, HQ SWAC was the chief guest.

TAMIL NADU

43rd anniversary of the branch was celebrated with AOC in C TC, Air Marshal R Radish PVSM AVSM VM, as the Chief Guest. AVM Ashok Saini VSM, ACAS (Accts & AV), AOC AF Stn Tambaram, Air Cmde Ratish Kumar VM M-in-D and Gp Capt TP Shaji (C Adm O) also participated in the event bringing happiness and pride among over 450 air veterans / Spouses who were present during the celebration. 101 Octogenarians / Nonagenarians were also felicitated. AVM Ashok Saini VSM ACAS (Accts & AV) gave an extremely informative presentation of SPARSH. The AFA TN Branch as per tradition presented 45 Scholarships to meritorious boys & girls. 12 volunteers who give their time & effort to help veterans in need at the Branch were also felicitated.

UTTAR PRADESH

AGM was organized at AFA (UP) Branch on 29 Oct 2023. Air Cmde MK Praveen VM, AOC AFS Kanpur was the chief guest. Veteran AVM Amit Tyagi VSM Vice President AFA Head Office was guest of honour. 16 Octogenarian Air Veterans were felicitated during the AGM. The Veterans' Day was celebrated on 14 Jan 24 and the same was hosted by AOC, AFS Kanpur. The Hon'ble Defence Minister Sh Rajnath Singh was the Chief Guest. Hon'ble Defence Minister addressed the Veterans. Executive and Governing Council members of AFA (UP) Branch, Kanpur actively participated in the function and assisted DAV staff in maintaining a stall for information of Air Veterans.

WEST BENGAL

Kargil Vijay Diwas was celebrated at the War Memorial at Fort Williams. A novel initiative by branch was an excursion by members and their families to rural Bengal areas to explore and experience the rich cultural heritage of Durga Puja was conducted by traditional Bengali joint families through generations. Social evening with the only ASTRONAUT of India Veteran Wg Cdr Rakesh Sharma Ashoka Chakra was very enthusiastically attended. Annual picnic was organised on 28 Jan 24 with Veteran ACM Anup Raha and Mrs Lily Raha as surprise guests.

INDIAN YOUTUBERS: NET WORTH RANGES FROM RS 16 CRORES TO RS 360 CRORES.

- YouTuber is a type of social media influencer who presents content and uploads videos on American Online video sharing website YOUTUBE. Content creators can choose any area of their expertise (cooking, comedy, music, merchandise, education, technology, news, sports etc.)
- To qualify as a content creator, you must have at least 1000 subscribers and 4000 hours of accumulated viewership time over the previous twelve-month period. Google pays 55 % of the advertisement revenue to the content creator for every amount paid by the advertiser.
- Average rate of payment by Google is about 10 to 12 dollars per 1000 subscribers. The top YouTubers in India for 2023 include Carry Minati, Total Gaming, Techno Gamerz, Mr. Indian Hacker, Round2hell, Ashish Chanchlani, Sandeep Maheshwari, BB Ki Vines, Amit Bhadana, and Technical Guruji. The subscriber counts for these top YouTubers range from 22.9 million (Technical Guruji) to 38.3million(Carry Minati).
- Veterans can type YouTubers names as mentioned above and watch the work of famous YouTubers on YouTube. These are new professions in vogue. With dedication, creativity, and consistent effort, Veterans can pursue a career as a YouTuber. It requires finding your unique niche, creating engaging content, and building a loyal audience over time.



Tulsi village (near Raipur) in central Chhattisgarh, home to about 4000 people, has every household engaged in creating YouTube video content. Of the 40 odd YouTube channels launched by the villagers here, Channel Chhattisgarhi boasts of 120000 subscribers. Most channels earn around Rs.20000 to Rs.40000 per month from YouTube.

RISK OF FRACTURE AMONGST ELDERLY: As one gets older the bones become brittle, fragile and easily breakable (Osteoporosis). Osteoporosis and broken bones are more common in women (after menopause) than men. The most common fractures sustained by elderly are fractures on the hip, pelvis, ankle and upper arm bone near the shoulder. Specific measures to reduce accidental fractures amongst the senior Air Veterans are listed below:-

- Never stand on a chair or stool to get something, even a low stool.
- Do not wear underwear / trousers in bathroom, taking support of wall or other things... After bath, come back to your changing room. Sit comfortably on either a chair or on your bed and then put on underwear / trousers.
- While going to toilet, ensure that bathroom floor is dry and not slippery. Fix a hand rest to hold on to, while getting upright from the commode seat. Same is true while taking a bath sitting on bath stool.
- When getting up in the middle of the night, sit on the bed for 3-4 minutes, be sure to turn on the light first, and then get up.

TECH ADVANCEMENT: AUTOMATED WEATHER STATIONS (AWS) - IAF

Old methods of **forecasting weather** by manually drawing charts have been **replaced** by **Automated Weather Stations (AWS)** which act as a thermometer, clock, sound level meter, hygrometer, anemometer and barometer. It also provides information on air quality, moon phase, or indoor pollution levels, everything that you need to get your own weather forecast.

Automatic Airport weather station is critical to ensuring **aviation safety** and **airport operations**. It can provide timely and accurate weather data to help managers make the right decisions and improve the efficiency and safety of airport operations.

India has **745** numbers of AWS, **1376** numbers of **Automatic Rain Gauge Stations (ARG)** and **200 numbers** of Agro AWS installed across the country.

Now IAF has signed contracts with **indigenous manufacturers** for installation of AWS at **82 locations**. This technological enhancement will provide major boost to **aerospace safety** by ensuring availability of real time weather updates during flying operations.

GRADUATES FROM INDIAN SCHOOLS BECOME GLOBAL CEOs

Time and again, India has proved itself to produce some of the most brilliant minds across the globe. From tech geniuses making their name heard across the silicon valley to tycoons who head some of the most successful conglomerates, India and Indian blood has gone on to lead some of the most successful businesses and companies across the world.

Here is a list of few of the Indian-origin CEOs who are leading the world's biggest companies.

1. **Sundar Pichai, CEO Alphabet:** An IIT Kharagpur graduate.
2. **Satya Nadella, CEO Microsoft:** Graduate from Manipal University of Technology.
3. **Parag Agarwal, CEO Twitter:** He is an IIT Bombay graduate.
4. **Leena Nair, CEO Chanel:** An alumna of the XLRI- Xavier School of Management and Walchand College of Engineering.
5. **Shantanu Narayen, CEO Adobe Inc:** Born in Hyderabad, Shantanu Narayen studied at Osmania University.
6. **Arvind Krishna, Chairman IBM:** An alumna of IIT Kanpur.
7. **Sanjay Mehrotra, CEO Micron Technology:** Born in Kanpur, Sanjay Mehrotra is a BITS Pilani alumna.
8. **Nikesh Arora, CEO Palo Alto Networks:** An alumna of the Indian Institute of Technology, BHU.
9. **Ajaypal Singh Banga erstwhile CEO MasterCard, now President World Bank:** Ajaypal Singh Banga is St. Stephen's College and Indian Institute of Management Ahmadabad alumna.
- 10- **Indra Nooyi, erstwhile CEO PepsiCo:** Born in Chennai, Indra Nooyi is an alumna of the University of Madras and the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata.

.....AND MANY MANY MORE.....

STROKE CHANCES

STROKE Chances are High in Bathroom Especially for Senior Veterans because of **wrong procedure of taking a bath** or using **unusual force** during defecation (**MICTURITION**).

Wrong Procedure for Taking Bath: Most of the people would **soak their head and hair first** which is a wrong approach. In this case, the **blood rises** to the head quickly and the **arteries** may **burst**. This will lead to a stroke and you may fall to the floor. So the right way is to soak the feet first and then slowly move upwards. Those with **high BP**, **high cholesterol** and **migraine** should be very careful and must adopt this method.

Micturition: Another common cause of heart attack / sudden death in the toilet is straining / extra pressure for defecation (**MICTURITION**) which leads to decrease in **blood flow to the brain** and **loss of consciousness**. Usage of **STOOL SOFTENERS** is recommended to **eliminate straining / extra pressure for excretion**.



STRAIGHT BAT: CRICKET IN ARMED FORCES

BY AIR MARSHAL PV ATHAWALE PVSM AVSM VSM (RETD)



The World Cup 2023 has reiterated a fact that cricket is a binding force in India especially when our team does well. Therefore, an average Indian may find it surprising that the Army has recently said 'NO' to cricket as a sport within the Army. As such, the services team for the recent T20 tournament comprised of only the Navy and the Air Force players. This is likely to happen for all national tournaments conducted by BCCI, including the prestigious Ranji Trophy.

It is feared that in due course of time, the Navy and the Air Force may also decide to stop participating in cricket tournaments outside their individual service. Even if they wish to continue, in absence of the Army, BCCI may not consider a depleted services side worthy of participation at the national level.

The current services cricketers are disappointed. Those who were enrolled as cricketers and who have rarely been with any unit are especially disheartened to see their (cricketing) careers finished. Many veteran cricketers also are emotional about this development. One of them exclaimed, "Sadly, there will be no services cricketers tomorrow!" Veteran cricketers see themselves getting completely cut off from their parent cricket board.

Well, let us look at this development dispassionately. It appears to be a well thought out decision. Just like the military is kept away from politics, it would be in the interest of the armed forces to keep this business, 'Cricket' away from their personnel. Some of the major changes since 1990s about the character of cricket and a cricketer will indicate the likely rationale behind Army's decision:-

- Until the 80s, there were only two national tournaments, Ranji Trophy and Duleep Trophy. For Duleep Trophy, only a few services cricketers represented North Zone. As such, a regular services cricketer was on sports duty for about three months, including Inter Unit, Inter Command, Inter Services, and the Ranji Trophy. He had to get back to unit and get more committed to work to compensate for his absence. A cricketer often compromised his annual leave as a compensation for his absence for cricket.
- Now, cricketers are permanently attached only to play cricket and are engaged round the year in national level tournaments. Besides their total absence from the units, they do not participate in local Inter Unit games also, which are otherwise meant to build team spirit and morale in the units.
- Besides the above, one of the most vital aspects is that cricket is more a BIG BUSINESS than a sport. With a single IPL contract, a cricketer would make far more money than his colleagues would earn in their whole careers. This would surely upset the balance in military and be counterproductive for maintenance of team spirit and morale.

We, the veteran cricketers have a reason to feel disappointed. However, I am sure that tomorrow none of us would wish to see a veteran services cricketer, who has not been a worthy military man first. Cricket within the armed forces without professional cricketers shall be far more enjoyable and team builder than at present.

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

You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.—Abraham Lincoln

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23

NAME OF THE STUDENS	PARENTS' NAME	AMOUNT	NAME OF THE STUDENS	PARENTS' NAME	AMOUNT
SMT USHA MOHAN SCHOLARSHIP			MRS SATYA MEHRA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (CONT'D)		
SAURISH KUMAR	SGT S KUMAR	5000	GAURAV KUMAR	JWO RAMESH KUMAR	25000
NAVYA CHOUDHARY	SGT J CHOUDHARY	5000	RIYA KHAN SN	LAC KHAN NSM	25000
S S NAYAK	NC(E) SK NAYAK	5000	SWATHY V	SGT VENU R	25000
RITESH CHAUHAN	SGT OS CHAUHAN	5000	DEVATA SRESTA	SGT D SUDHAKAR	25000
SHIV & CHANDRAVATI SCHOLARSHIP			AK ESHWAR RAI	SGT ASK KUMAR	25000
GRATIA KAMBOJ	JWO SHIV KUMAR	12000	SAMBIT SUBHADEEP	SGT S DASH	25000
URVI TOMAR	SGT JS TOMAR	12000	SATYAM SINGH	SGT S SINGH	25000
AVNI RAWAT	CPL AJAY RAWAT	12000	SAMPADA RANI SHAH	SGT RP KUMAR	25000
SMT URMIL HANDA SCHOLARSHIP			VIGNESH BS	JWO DS BINOY	25000
Alan Manuel KA	SGT ANTONY SHIBUY	6000	JS JAMWAL	SGT S JAMWAL	25000
ASHA SARAF & WG CDR AK SARAF SCHOLARSHIP			AFRLO		
RIZWAN KHAN SN	LAC KHAN NSM	10000			
FAZILA SULTAN	SGT S AHMED	10000	SP SINGH	SGT KP SINGH	12000
TEJAS KUMAR SINGH	SGT AK SINGH	10000	ADEE SHARIQUE	SGT MD SS SYED	12000
WG CDR MAHESH BAJPAI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP			MISS EKTA JINDAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP		
ARUSHI PHADNIS	JWO R PHADNIS	6500	A P PADMANABHAN	JWO AP PREMRAJ (LATE)	12000
SRI VENKETESWARA SCHOLARSHIP			ANKITA KUMARI	SGT S KUMAR	12000
MAYUKHA R	HFO RAJENDRAN PM	8000	SAKSHI KUMARI	SGT BN RAM	12000
MRS SATYA MEHRA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP			ANURAJ UPADHYAY	SGT A UPADHYAY	12000
MOHAMMED AYYAN	SGT MZ ALAM	8000	96P-34/35 N COURSE		
VEDANT BHARDWAJ	SGT K CHANDER	8000	PIYUSHI SIHAG	JWO VS SIHAG (LATE)	12000
NIKUNJ AGAWAL	JWO P KUMAR	8000	SHEIKH MOHD S ANWAR	JWO T ANWAR (LATE)	12000
AK HARI KEERTANA	SGT AS KIRAN KUMAR	8000	SRESTH PRATAP SINGH	SGT DP SINGH	12000
PARVATHY ND	SGT DINESH NP	8000	MRS & SQN LDR PRITAM SINGH SCHOLARSHIP		
MIDHILA NAIR SK	SGT SASIDHARAN NAIR B	12500	ANANDHA PNA	JWO ANIL DP	10000
SHUBHAM	JWO S KUMAR (LATE)	12500			
ANUSHKA ARYA	SGT MANOJ KUMAR	12500	SHRI KUNDAN LAL SCHOLARSHIP		
YASH	SGT JASWANT SINGH	12500	NISHITA PRIYADARSHINI	WO NC SAHOO (LATE)	12000
AADYA	SGT B KUMAR	12500	MRS KAMLA KARIR SCHOLARSHIP		
ARMAN ANSARI	SGT NH ANSARI	12500	MANSI KUMARI	SGT MANOJ KUMAR	10000
SRISHTI DHAMA	SGT A KUMAR	12500			
MD ISHANVI	SGT MR JENA	12500	MRS SUWARNA CHAUDHARY SCHOLARSHIP		
RAJSHREE RATHORE	SGT JS RATHORE	12500	SREELAKSHMI SATISH	JWO T SATISH KUMAR	12000
KANISHK DHIMDSA	SGT P SINGH	12500	KUSHI ROY	CPL RK ROY (LATE)	12000

NOTE: THE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE DISBURSED ONLY TO THE CHILDREN OF AIR VETERANS (HFL & BELOW), NCs(E) & DSC PERSONNEL POSTED TO AF UNITS. ONLY ONE WARD OF A VETERAN IS CONSIDERED FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP FROM MAFT / AFA.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23 (CONT'D)

NAME OF THE STUDENS	PARENTS' NAME	AMOUNT	NAME OF THE STUDENS	PARENTS' NAME	AMOUNT
FL LT SUNIT MOHANTY SCHOLARSHIP			GP CAPT SM PURI & MRS SONIA PURI BENEVOLENT FUND		
AKHIL S	SGT S SUKUMAR (LATE)	12000	J JAYESH	SGT N	25000
SAFIYA KHANAM	SGT N MOHAMMED	12000	ADARSH RANJAN	SGT NK RANJAN	25000
PARTH TRIPATHI	JWO RK TRIPATHI	16000	SRUTHY V	JWO VINOD TS	25000
FG OFFR NJS SEKHON PVC SCHOLARSHIP			KIRTI SINGH	SGT KP SINGH	25000
KRIKA YADAV	WO CP YADAV	25000	AMAN SINGH	SGT SK SINGH	25000
SUBHRANSU PATRA	SGT P PATRA	25000	PRIYANSHU RANJAN	JWO R RANJAN	25000
VR GANGANAVAR	SGT RS GANGANAVAR	25000	PIYUSH SHARMA	SGT DD SHARMA	25000
MALLELA JAHNAVI	SGT SM RAO	25000	LAVANYA SAMAL	JWO PB SAMAL	25000
SMT VEENA JAIN & WG CDR SC JAIN SCHOLARSHIP			AMBER MISHRA	SGT AK MISHRA	25000
SRIKRISHNA UN	JWO SRNIVASA UK	25000	SMT NIRMALA VEDWA SCHOLARSHIP		
VIVEK KUMAR BEHRA	SGT KK BEHRA	25000	SIVAJA CM	SGT MANOJ KUMAR CS	25000
MALLA RAJESWARI	JWO M VENKETARAMANA	25000	MM TRIPURA SHREE	SGT M SWAMY	25000
PRATYUSH SAHOO	SGT PK SAHOO	25000	WG CDR ASHOK KUMAR KESHAP SCHOLARSHIP		
AVM DALIP SINGH DHAIYA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP			RAHUL KRISHNAN A	SGT AJAY KUMAR	13000
ANKITA KUMARI SINGH	SGT ANIL KUMAR SINGH	16000	SMT PROMILA YADAV MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP		
ANKUR SARDAR	JWO S SARDAR	16000	SHAFNA AA	SGT ASHARAF AA	16000
H SHISHIR	SGT H NAGARAJA	16000	SHIKHA RAJPUT	WO D SINGH	16000
VISHAL KUMAR	HFO B SINGH	25000			

DETAILS OF DONATION FROM 12 AUG 23 TO 24 FEB 24 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

SL No	Date of Donation	Rank	Name	Amount
1	12-09-2023		MR PARVAISH SINGH	22,500.00
2	18-09-2023	EX AIR CMDE	SUSHIL KUMAR PURI	10,000.00
3	01-11-2023	EX GP CAPT	R MALHOTRA	10,000.00
4	01-12-2023		MRS INDU ASHTA	10,000.00
5	26-12-2023	EX GP CAPT	VED PRAKASH VADERA	10,00,000.00
6	15-01-2024	EX SGT	CHINMAY DAS	10,001.00
7	23-02-2024		MRS ASHA DAHIYA	5,00,000.00

GP CAPT SM PURI & MRS SONIA PURI BENOVELANT FUND FINANCIAL GRANT FOR CHILDLESS COUPLES

SI No	Category	Service no	Rank	Name	Amount
1	SERVING	783811	SGT	AK PATHAK	1,00,000.00
2	VETTRAN	796988	SGT	AKSHAY KUMAR	1,00,000.00
3	SERVING	826707	NC (E)	AK PAL	1,00,000.00

Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles: it takes away today's peace.

MARSHAL OF THE AIR FORCE & MRS. ARJAN SINGH TRUST (MAFT)

SL No	NAME OF STUDENT	PARENTS' NAME	AMOUNT (₹)	SL No	NAME OF STUDENT	PARENTS' NAME	AMOUNT (₹)
MAFT, UG PROFESSIONAL COURSES SCHOLARSHIP				MAFT, UG NON-PROFESSIONAL COURSES SCHOLARSHIP (CONT'D)			
01	SHASHANK KUMAR	JWO PK SINGH	25000	31	S MAHESH	EX-SGT G SAI NATHAN	15000
02	PRIYANSHU	JWO CB KUMAR	25000	32	ASHIS NAYAK	EX-JWO DK NAYAK	15000
03	ANSHIKA	JWO SK SHARMA	25000	33	RUDRA NARAYANA	S/O EX-SGT PK NAIK	15000
04	RITIKA SINHA	JWO SUBODH SINHA	25000	MARSHAL OF THE IAF SCHOLARSHIP CLASS 9th TO 11th			
05	ASHISH KR PANDEY	JWO SK PANDEY	25000	34	ARYAN MANTRY	LATE EX SGT SC MANTRY	12000
06	PRIYA PATHAK	JWO AVNISH KUMAR	25000	35	SUDIPTA PADHY	EX SGT DR PADHY	12000
07	VISHAKHA	JWO SK SAINI	25000	36	BULSARA VAIBHAVI	EX SGT SB BULSARA	12000
08	S MAJUMDAR	NCs(E) S MAJUMDAR	25000	37	SHEIK MUEEZ	SGT KV SHAIK	12000
09	HEENA	NCs(E) RS SAWARIA	25000	38	PORANDLA TRIBHUVAN	JWO P SREENIVAS	12000
10	SHEIKH HANIAH	SGT K VALLI SHAIK	25000	MAFT-ONGC SCHOLARSHIP CALSS 9th to 11th			
11	HARSH SHUKLA	JWO AK SHUKLA	25000	39	MEGHA CHANDRA	NCE UC CHANDRA	12000
12	ASHISH	SGT JN SINGH	25000	40	C BAVYA SANVY	EX SGT CR KRISHNA	12000
13	NANDANA NAIR	WO VIBIN KUMAR K	25000	41	ADARSH	SGT JN SINGH	12000
14	ALBIN MATHEWS	EX JWO KC MATHEW	25000	42	ATULYA KUMARI	SGT ANISH NATH	12000
15	JESLINE VARGHESE	EX JWO PP VARGHESE	25000	43	ABHINANDANA R	JWO GOPA KUMAR	12000
16	K SRIHITA	EX SGT K S KUMAR	25000	44	SP SINGH	EX SGT DP SINGH	12000
17	ABHINAV KRISHNA	EX SGT S KUMAR	25000	45	POOJA SOROUT	NAIK BHAGIRATH	12000
18	SHRIJAK KUMAR	EX SGT MANOJ KUMAR	25000	46	SHASHANK TRIPATHI	JWO RK TRIPSTHI	12000
19	V POORNIMA	EX SGT S V KUMAR	25000	47	ARYAN KUMAR	JWO KUMAR MANISH	12000
20	PRAKHAR RANJAN	EX JWO R RANJAN	25000	48	PNSP VYSHALI	JWO KL SEKHAR P	12000
21	SRI SHANKAR	EX JWO K H KUMAR N	25000	MAFT-PRG SCHOLARSHIP CALSS 11th to 12th			
22	SAMANVAI CHANDRA	EX JWO MK SINGH	25000	49	N VAISHNAVI	EX SGT NU RAO	12000
23	SAMYA AGARWAL	EX JWO P KUMAR	25000	50	ANUSHKA ARYA	EX SGT MANOJ KUMAR	12000
24	AS PRATHAM RAO	WO A SRIHARI	25000	51	YASHVI KAMBOJ	EX JWO SHIV KUMAR	12000
25	MUSKAN KATOCH	EX SGT J KATOCH	25000	52	K JAHNAVI	EX SGT K S KUMAR	12000
MAFT, UG NON-PROFESSIONAL COURSES SCHOLARSHIP				53	KHUSHI YADAV	EX SGT AP SINGH	12000
26	DIVYA BALA	NK MUKHTIAR SINGH	15000	54	AKASH SINGH	EX SGT AK RAI	12000
27	POOJA KUMARI	NCS(E) HC RAM	15000	55	AAKRITI	EX SGT MK PANDEY	12000
28	DEEPAI JANI	LATE EX SGT D JANI	15000	56	ATUL KOYAL	EX SGT SK KOYAL	12000
29	MATHANGI SAJI	EX SGT SAJIKUMAR VR	15000	57	AYUSHI BANSIWAL	NAIK OMBEER SINGH	12000
30	DISHA PRIYADARSINI	EX SGT R SWAIN	15000				

MAJOR DONATIONS RECEIVED BY MAFT FROM SEP 2023 TO JAN 2024

SI No	Name	Amount (₹)
1	SMT RUPINDER KAUR UPPAL	50,000
2	AVM KR LAMBA (RETD)	11,000
3	PRG CHARITABLE TRUST	38320

THE PROUD ROSE

In the desert existed a rose and a cactus. The beautiful rose would take every opportunity to insult the cactus. The other plants tried to defend the cactus, but the rose was too obsessed with its own looks. There was no water during a particularly hot summer. The rose started to wither away. But the cactus had become a source of water for sparrows. The rose asked the cactus for water, and the nice cactus readily agreed.

Moral: Never judge someone according to how they look.

*A blind person asked god, can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?
He replied: "yes, losing your vision !"*

INDIAN JUGGAD: (MOTIVATION TO BE AN ACHIEVER)

On 12 November 23, work on a section of the Silkyara Bend - Barkot tunnel planned to connect National highway 134 in Utrakhand (part of Char Dham Highway project) stopped because of landslide causing collapse of tunnel and blocking of the passage by more than 60 meters of concrete, rubble and twisted metal, thus leaving 41 workers trapped inside the broken tunnel.

Central Government, state Government and NDMA employed best of the human talent and machines to create a passage through 60 meter of collapsed tunnel debris to rescue 41 trapped workers. A large mechanical drill managed to get through substantial part of blocked debris but with about 12 meters to go the drill blade broke and broken machinery parts had to be pulled out, jeopardizing the rescue operation. Alternative options like vertical drilling etc were now employed but there was an uncertainty as to time line to reach the trapped workers.

It was now at these uncertain times and critical juncture that **Rat Hole Miners** were called in. Rat hole mining is a method of taking out coal by digging small pits to remove all debris by bare hands and burrow narrow holes like rats (though banned by Govt in 2014 because of its inherent underlying dangers to human life).

On 28 November 23, a team of rat hole miners were brought to Utrakhand to remove the last 12 meters of debris. This team worked continuously for 24 hours to reach the trapped workers. Muna Quereshi became the Hero rescuer, when he removed the last rock and became the first person and a saviour to make an eye to eye contact with the 41 trapped workers. On 29 November 23, all forty one rescued workers were airlifted to AIIMS Rishikesh aboard an IAF CH -47 Chinook helicopter.

Long live the spirit of Rat Hole miner Munna Quereshi and all fellow rescuers.

Once again it was Indian Juggad that worked. In the end this JUGGAD by Rat Hole Miners was a triumph of human labour over machinery that managed to manually breakthrough the final 12 meters of rubble and successfully completed the rescue operation.



SO PROUD OF SUCH INDIANS

LONG LIVE INDIAN JUGGAD, HUMAN ASPIRATIONS AND DEVOTIONAL SPIRIT

A GLASS OF MILK

There was a poor boy who would sell newspapers to pay for school. One day, he was very hungry and decided to ask for food at the next house he visited. Several people denied him food. However, a girl at one house offered him a **Glass of Milk**. She refused to take payment for it. After many years, this girl fell sick. No doctor wanted to help her. She decided to go to the best doctor in the town. The doctor spent months treating her, though she could not afford the service. When she received the hospital bill, it read "**PAID IN FULL: WITH A GLASS OF MILK.**"

Moral: Good deeds are always rewarded.

Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout life.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE SENIORS

An 83-year-old elderly woman, lying on the bed, said to her 87-year-old elderly husband: Listen..... I just looked out of the window and thought the garage light was on. Will you go and turn off the garage light ?"

The old man got up from the bed with great difficulty, opened a window and saw five or six thieves trying to break into his garage door.

The elder called the nearest police station from there: "Look..... write my address. We're the only two elderly husband and wife at home. Right now five or six burglars are breaking into our garage door. Send a police team quickly".

From the other side came the dispatcher's voice: We've written your address. We don't have any free teams right now. As soon as we get in touch with a team, I'll send them to your home."

Hearing this, the elders were disappointed but on the other hand, thieves were still engaged in breaking the lock of the garage.

Two minutes later, the elder again called the police station: "Listen.....there's no need to send anyone now. I've shot all five thieves."

There was panic on the other side of the line. Within five minutes, a police team, along with a helicopter, a paramedic, three doctors and two ambulances, reached the old man's house. All the five thieves were soon overpowered and arrested.

Later the in-charge of the police team reached the elder and said: "You said that you shot those five thieves, but we caught them alive "?

The old man replied: " And you also said that none of your teams were free."



-----DON'T UNDERESTIMATE SENIOR CITIZENS ! -----

WALK ALONE

The hardest walk is the walk you make alone. But it is the walk that:

1. Makes you the strongest.
2. Builds your confidence.
3. Makes you independent.
4. Makes you fearless.

» EAGLES fly alone. LIONS are alone But they are very POWERFUL.

***Why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small?
Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.***

DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD: OVERVIEW

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award, (India's highest award in the field of Cinema) was installed in 1969. Dhundhi Raj Govind Phalke (1870–1944) popularly known as Dada Saheb Phalke was an Indian producer-director, screenwriter known as “The Father of Indian Cinema”. His debut film **Raja Harish Chandra** was the first Indian movie to be released in 1913. He made **95 feature length films** and **27 short films**. The award comprises of **Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus)**, medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of **Rs Ten Lack**. The first recipient of the award was actress **Devika Rani**.



Prithviraj Kapoor



Vinod Khanna

POSTHUMOUS AWARDEES: **Prithviraj Kapoor (1971)** and **Vinod Khanna (2017)** are the only posthumous recipients. **Prithviraj Kapoor** died on **29 May 1972**, at the age of **65**. He was **posthumously** awarded for the year **1971**. In **1972**, **Raj Kapoor** received the posthumous award given to his father, (Prithviraj Kapoor). However, on **01 May 1988**, when Raj Kapur himself, was being conferred the award by the then President of India, **R. Venkataraman**, Raj Kapoor **collapsed at the event** and was rushed in the President's ambulance to AIIMS. Raj Kapoor died a month later on 02 June 1988. **Vinod Khanna** died on **27 April 2017**, at the age of **70**. He was **posthumously** awarded for the year **2017**.

SIBLINGS: Recipients also include several pairs of siblings, who received this award in different years, for example: B. N. Reddy (1974) and B. Nagi Reddy (1986); Raj Kapoor (1987) and Shashi Kapoor (2014); Lata Mangeshkar (1989) and Asha Bhosle (2000); B. R. Chopra (1998) and Yash Chopra (2001).

The most recent recipient of the award is veteran actress **Waheeda Rehman**.

INTERESTING CRICKET FACTS: THAT WILL AMAZE YOU!

- **Iftikhar Ali Khan Pataudi (Grand Father of Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan)** is the only cricketer to have played Test cricket for both **India** and **England**. He scored a **century** on his **debut** for England and was named **captain of India** when he first appeared on the Indian team in **1946**.
- **Sachin Tendulkar** played for Pakistan once: Sachin Tendulkar once **fielded** for **Pakistan** against India in Mumbai in **1987**, two years before making his international debut. This was because he had to fill in for **Javed Miandad**, in the **exhibition match** held in **Mumbai**.
- **The longest test cricket match ever:** It lasted **9 days** (03 Mar-14 Mar 1939), when the test match was played on until one team **wins** or there is a **tie**. **680 overs** were bowled between teams of **South Africa** and **England**. Match earned the name **The Timeless Test**.
- **19 wickets in one match: (Eng Vs Aus):** Jim Laker of England took a total of 19 wickets against **Australia** at a test match at old Trafford in **1956** for **90 runs**. **9 for 37** in first innings and **10 for 53** in second innings.
- **3-over century:** Sir Don Bradman, regarded as the greatest batsman of all-time, once scored a century in **1931** in just 3 overs. In those days, an over constituted of **eight deliveries**. In **18 minutes**, Sir Don had crossed the century mark.
- **Twenty one Consecutive maiden overs in a match:** Indian spinner **Rameshchandra Gangaram Nadkarni** once bowled **21 consecutive overs** (without conceding a single run) in a test match in England.

" When you forgive, you don't change the past. You change the future."

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (HEAD/BRANCH OFFICE)			
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BIHAR	Sqn Ldr Bhuvneshwar Singh (Retd) 9470794717 / 8757461121	C/o Mother India Academy, Ganga Nagar, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna - 800025, afa.bihar@gmail.com	
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RAJASTHAN	Wg Cdr MC Mehta (Retd) Ph.: 0291-2671971 (O) Extn - 2520, 0291-2430038 (R) 9829508038	Station Medicare Centre, Air Force Station, Jodhpur - 342011, afa.rajasthan@gmail.com	32 WG, AF
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WEST BENGAL	Gp Capt KK Kundu (Retd) Ph.: 033 - 24750066, 8135853023	Integrated Mess Complex, 1st Floor, Air Force Camp Ballygunge Circular Road, Kolkata - 700019, afawbb@gmail.com	Adv HQ EAC, IAF
AUSTRALIA	Gp Capt VK Vidyadhar (Retd) Mob- 02-97864649	178 Eagleview Road, Minto, NSW 2566 Australia. vvdy42@gmail.com	



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Vice President:	Air Vice Marshal Amit Tyagi VSM (Retd)	8800998272
AFA Branches President:	(For details kindly see page 26)	
Secretary:	Gp Capt A Kapur (Retd)	7982805764
Treasurer:	Gp Capt V Sareen (Retd)	8800630014

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

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EO, Senior Citizens' Home	Sqn Ldr Mange Ram (Retd)	7290003424
Manager Senior Citizens' Home	HFO Lalchand	8130270263
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Web Administrator	Wg Cdr Bharat Bhushan (Retd)	9810182974
Legal Advisers	Gp Capt KS Bhati (Retd)	9811168948
	Air Cmde I J Singh (Retd)	9810324738
	Wg Cdr Ajit Kakkar (Retd)	9958006409

MARSHAL OF THE AIR FORCE & MRS. ARJAN SINGH TRUST

Manager Trust	Gp Capt V Sareen (Retd)	8800630014
WO I/C Trust	JWO NK Pandey	9329860244

For any assistance / help from AFA HO PI contact:

Veteran HFL NK CHHABRA, Jt Secy AFA,

Mob- 9560276648 , Mail ID - afaheadoffice@gmail.com

THE ELEPHANT AND THE ANTS

There was once a proud elephant who constantly bullied smaller animals. He would go to the anthill near his home and spray water at the ants. The ants, with their size, could do nothing but cry. The elephant just laughed and threatened the ants that he would crush them to death. One day, the ants had enough and decided to teach the elephant a lesson. They went straight into the elephant's trunk and started biting him. The elephant could only howl in pain. He realized his mistake and apologized to the ants and all the animals he bullied.

Moral of the story : Be humble and treat everyone with kindness. If you think you're stronger than others, use your strength to protect them instead of harming them.

OBITUARY LIST

SL NO	RANK	SER NO	NAME	CONTACT NO.	SL NO	RANK	SER NO	NAME	CONTACT NO.
1	AIR CMDE	3469	MS RAY	24737197	49	CPL	261836	S XAVIER	9597802939
2	WG CDR	4055	KVL NARAYANAN	-	50	WO	261853	M MURGUESAN	9042489114
3	WG CDR	5592	C RAMACHANDRAN	244692290	51	HFL	262782	UP BANERJEE	9620964981
4	SQN LDR	5680	RAVI KOHLI	0124-4071433	52	HFL	265608	VISHRAM YADAV	9452167144
5	WG CDR	5878	DK ROY	9748530705	53	WO	268223	MK RAMADASAN	9447816243
6	SQN LDR	6182	VKK NAIR	9818002976	54	JWO	272625	JOSE GEORGE	9886243371
7	WG CDR	7613	NB GONDAL	9312953501	55	WO	274576	SSC BOSE	-
8	WG CDR	8304	KA BALAKRISHNAN	-	56	SGT	279914	JA GEORGE	8078066800
9	SQN LDR	9249	P JANARDANAN	08025281083	57	SGT	281696	P PAUL RAJ	9841145390
10	WG CDR	11049	K TIWARI	-	58	JWO	287054	SK LAMBA	9956233271
11	WG CDR	11710	MSK NATHAN	9910365756	59	SGT	295363	RK RAMCHANDARAN	9840824183
12	GP CAPT	12385	SUMAN CHOPRA	9873607670	60	HFO	296272	SHIV NARAYAN	9415730205
13	WG CDR	12453	AD KHERA	9810827051	61	SGT	298319	MATHAI THOMAS	9544543440
14	GP CAPT	12867	UC SINGHAL	9811868888	62	SGT	400163	DB BHASIN	8726523577
15	SQN LDR	13652	SANTIBRATA S	9830177765	63	CPL	400646	S KISHNA	8238938759
16	AIR CMDE	15591	ROHIT BHALLA	9717810077	64	WO	600833	SAMID BEG MIRZA	-
17	WG CDR	16359	INDU RAVISHANKAR	9884043392	65	CPL	602605	JAGRAM PAL	8799459782
18	AIR MSHL	16557	HARJIT SINGH ARORA	9499585858	66	MWO	602930	RAMAYAN RAM	9868053289
19	GP CAPT	16703	SUNIL KUMAR	08026963073	67	CPL	605733	A JOSEPH JOLLY	9895246289
20	SQN LDR	16957	YAGVIR SINGH	9810230146	68	JWO	609293	MS SINGH	7881156894
21	WG CDR	18336	G JOSEPH	9840433316	69	SGT	612425	ML DEY	9313615863
22	WG CDR	10228	RD BAHL	9811991623	70	MWO	613922	VIJAI SINGH	9005594661
23	HFO	208811	KM RAYARU	9645379315	71	SGT	618670	B KOTHANDAN	-
24	MWO	215165	N VENKATACHALAM	9345223220	72	SGT	619422	SR MURALEEDHARAN	0474267092
25	SGT	216240	RN IYENGAR	9812980966	73	HFL	620190	NK VERMA	8217043423
26	WO	222388	TARLOK SINGH	9958482166	74	SGT	634207	BISWANATH DEY	-
27	MWO	223421	DK BISWAS	011-26081858	75	JWO	640445	MR PANCHAL	9950594831
28	LAC	224538	K UNNIKRISHNAN	206397	76	WO	640729	MD A MANDAL	8884615680
29	MWO	225864	NR KUTTY	2512609	77	JWO	641448	RS RATHORE	9956060002
30	JWO	226471	S PILLAI	23414261	78	HFL	641677	ABDUL MOTLEB	9986675020
31	MWO	229093	MANJI SINGH	23414261	79	JWO	645902	KARAN SINGH	9310496599
32	WO	229119	RAGHUBIR SINGH	9818202559	80	SGT	647974	R SAMPATH	9677250708
33	SGT	229430	BP JOEL ISRAEL	9440096495	81	SGT	648592	SK MOHANTY	9437380263
34	SGT	229626	MATHEW THOMAS	04752322967	82	MWO	669506	MS PARASHAR	9574097278
35	MWO	231304	GL DWIVEDI	8009949719	83	JWO	688577	C PANIGRAHI	9421802607
36	LAC	231897	CKK PILLAI	04422290497	84	SGT	693489	N PRAKASH	26524187
37	SGT	234676	MM RAMALINGAM	9952201393	85	SGT	697499	MALLOY DEBNATH	23538544
38	WO	235186	INDER RAJ BHATLA	2450439	86	SGT	700084	DURAIRAJ BASKAR	04428476670
39	HFO	235437	AK GHOSH	011-5056169	87	SGT	721333	AK SINGH	8789327499
40	JWO	238124	KP DUTTA	9900153701	88	SGT	732135	KP PERUMAL	65643883
41	MWO	243178	KR MALHOTRA	9336505051	89	SGT	738212	DK PAL	9616203452
42	SGT	243836	SHIV NATH SINGH	-	90	SGT	751652	PK PADMANABHAN	8989133198
43	SGT	244622	N GOPINATHAN	-	91	SGT	774982	JACOB PHILIP	9654435153
44	SGT	247161	G DAKSHNAMOORTHY	22293192	92	SGT	792689	R SRIKANTHA	7892147449
45	WO	248413	A RAJAGOPALAN	9446518375	93	LAC	794845	RENJISH GOPINATH	9497601482
46	SGT	257329	CK PONNAPPA	-	94	NC(E)	805897	BK SINGH	7505668859
47	WG CDR	10228	RD BAHL	9811991623	95	NC(E)	809435	SHYAM LAL	7891272863
48	WO	260775	AD ANTONY GEORGE	22363400	96	HFL	672510	BS CHOUDHURY	9473064487

Forever In Our Hearts



NEXT-OF-KIN CEREMONY EVERY DAY AT NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL (NWM)



National War Memorial (NWM), New Delhi was dedicated to the Nation by the Prime Minister, on 25 Feb 2019 and since then, millions of people have visited the memorial and paid homage to the country's fallen heroes whose names are inscribed on its walls.

The National War Memorial (NWM) in New Delhi stands as a symbol of reverence for the brave Battle Casualties (BCs) who made the ultimate sacrifice for the Nation. With 25,941 names inscribed at the Tyag Chakra, the memorial holds the memory of their valour and heroism.

Post dedication of the National War Memorial, Battle Casualties (BC), whose names are inscribed at the Tyag Chakra of NWM, are remembered and paid tributes by their Next of Kin (NoK) on a daily basis.

Every evening, Next-of-Kin (NoK) ceremony is held during which NoK of a fallen hero lays wreath at the Memorial, remembering the supreme sacrifice made by the soldier.

To make this gesture possible, the respective Service HQ facilitates the travel of NoK and their companions to New Delhi. The initiative has left an indelible mark on the families of the fallen heroes, providing them with warmth, recognition, and the assurance that their sacrifices are deeply cherished by the Nation and the Parent Arm/Service.

Dignitaries from home and abroad visit the NWM as part of their schedule and pay homage to the country's brave hearts. Australian Deputy Prime Minister, Defence Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister paid respects at NWM on 20th Nov 23. Padma Bhushan winners Shri Devendra Jhajharia & Shri Sachchidanand Swami and Padma Shri winners Sardar Jagjit Singh Dardi, Shri Kaajee Singh and Pandit Ram Dayal Sharma went around the memorial, paying floral tributes to the martyrs. Indian Men's Hockey Team, post their victorious return from Commonwealth Games 2022, also visited the National War Memorial in New Delhi.

Virtual homage can also be paid by visiting NWM website: <https://nationalwarmemorial.gov.in>.

A MUST VISIT FOR ALL AIR VETERANS AND AIR WARRIORS

FIRST AND ONLY AIR MSHL COUPLE – IAF



Air Mshl KP Nair &
Gp Capt Sadhna S Nair

Air Marshal Sadhna Saxena Nair VSM is effectively only the **second woman Medical Branch Officer** who has served throughout in the IAF till promoted to the rank of Air Marshal; the **first** woman officer to achieve this milestone was Padma Shri **Air Marshal Padma Bandopadhyay (Retd)**.

Air Marshal Sadhna is the **wife of Air Marshal KP Nair (Retd)**. The Nairs also happen to be the **first and only Air Marshal couple in the IAF**. She also has the unique

distinction of being a **daughter and sister** of IAF doctors and of being a **wife and mother** of IAF Fighter Pilots. **Three generations** of her family have served in the IAF over the last seven decades.



Air Mshl Sadhna S Nair &
Air Mshl KP Nair (Retd)

The Third International Airport in Punjab after Amritsar and Chandigarh is being constructed at IAF Station Halwara in Ludhiana. The airport is being built to accommodate **Boeing 737-700** and **Airbus A-320** aircraft.

VANDE MATRAM

Vande Mataram, also spelt as **Bande Mataram**; (I praise you, Motherland) is a poem which has been written in **Sanskrit** and **Sanskritised Bengali** by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee** in the **1870s**. The first two verses of the poem were adopted as the **National Song of India** in **October 1937**. The author of the poem was an Indian novelist, poet, essayist and journalist. He was author of the Bengali language novel **Anand Math** which is one of the landmarks of modern Bengali and Indian literature.

The poem played a vital role in the Indian independence movement. It first gained political significance when it was recited by **Rabindranath Tagore** at **Congress General Meeting** in **1896**. By **1905**, it had become quite popular amongst political activists and freedom fighters as a marching song. **The song**, as well as **Anand Math**, were **banned under British colonial rule**, (under threat of imprisonment), making its use revolutionary. The ban was ultimately **overturned** by the **Government of India** upon independence in **1947**.

On 24 January **1950**, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted Vande Mataram as the **Republic's National Song**. President of India **Dr Rajendra Prasad** stated that the song should be honoured equally with the **National Anthem of India, Jana Gana Mana**.

Unlike the national anthem, there are no rules or decorum to be observed when reciting **Vande Mataram**.

Let us all take pride in this and remember the full poem by heart. - Jai Hind

CHIEF OF AIR STAFF LEADS SWACHH BHARAT MISSION EK TAREEKH - EK GHANTA - EK SAATH



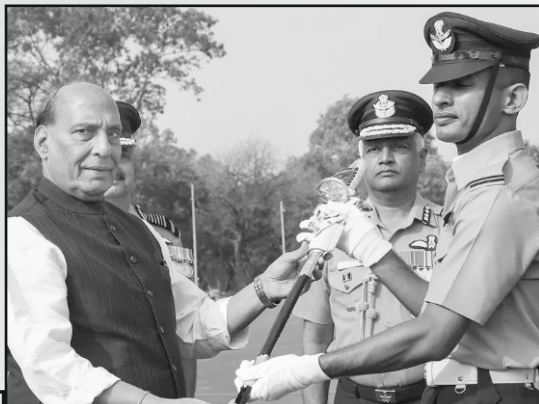
The special cleanliness drive - Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath - was organized under the Swachh Bharat Mission on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti and the ninth anniversary of the launch of the mission. From Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi and Union Ministers to government staff, RWAs, market associations and citizens across the country participated in the one-hour sanitation drive. Cleanliness drives were taken up on streets, highways, toll plazas, railway tracks, stations, health institutions, anganwadi centers, heritage centers, tourist locations,

residential colonies, water bodies, places of worship, slums, market areas, airports surrounding areas, zoos, wildlife areas and Gaushalas etc. About 8.75 Core people in over 9 lack sites across the country participated in the abhiyan.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) commenced its Special Campaign for Swachhta with all air warriors and civilians of the IAF contributing to the '**Ek Tareekh - Ek Ghanta - Ek Saath**' drive. Kicking off the campaign, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and all senior officers of Air Headquarters, New Delhi led the participants in cleaning of the area along the Motilal Nehru Marg and NDMC parking area. Similar drives were undertaken at 750 sites around Air Force Stations in the country. The Campaign derives inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's dictum, "**Cleanliness is the foundation upon which all other virtues are built**". Consequently, the endeavour would be to achieve an improvement in the standards of overall cleanliness and hygiene, disposing of waste materials in an appropriate fashion and encouraging the use of recycled products. All air warriors will make concerted efforts to discard old files and documents to free up office space, while also repealing/replacing old rules and policies. The IAF has already taken measures in this regard with the incorporation of the e-office and other digital initiatives like IMMOLS and e-MMS. Best practices as ascertained during this Campaign, will be codified and shared with all IAF units in order that the process becomes an ongoing one.

You define your own life. Don't let other people write your script. —Oprah Winfrey

COMBINED GRADUATION PARADE



Defence Minister Reviews Combined Graduation Parade At Air Force Academy, Dundigal On 17 Dec 2023:

213 Flight Cadets, including 25 women were commissioned into various branches of Indian Air Force upon completion of their training at Air Force Academy. The Defence Minister bestowed President's Plaque and Chief of the Air Staff Sword of Honour to Flying Officer Atul Prakash for standing first in the overall order of merit in the pilots' course. Flying Officer Amrinder Jeet Singh was awarded the President's Plaque for standing first in the overall order of merit amongst the ground duty branches.

MARSHAL OF THE AIR FORCE MEMORIAL LECTURE

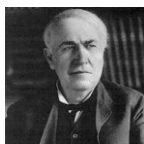
IAF and USI host Inaugural MARSHAL OF THE AIR FORCE ARJAN SINGH ANNUAL LECTURE ON "LEGACY OF MARSHAL OF THE AIR FORCE ARJAN SINGH DFC , AS A VISIONARY AND STRATEGIC LEADER" on 20 DECEMBER 2023 AT USI, Shankar Vihar , New Delhi .

In his keynote address, ACM RKS Bhadauria highlighted Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh's unwavering dedication to duty, his valour on the battlefield, and his pivotal role in transforming the fledgling Royal Indian Air Force into a battle-hardened strategic arm of the Indian military post-independence. Underscoring Arjan Singh's seminal contributions during the 1965 India-Pakistan war, he outlined how the Marshal of the Air Force leveraged the capabilities of the Indian Air Force, built under his command, to execute daring combat missions. This swung the tide of the war in India's favour. Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria also elaborated on Marshal of the Air Force's visionary tenure as Chief of Air Staff from 1964-1969, during which the combat fleet and capabilities of the IAF expanded exponentially. Modernisation efforts during this period included the induction of state-of-the-art supersonic jet fighters and bombers which upgraded the IAF's ageing fleet. This visionary approach cemented the Indian Air Force's place at the forefront of India's national security architecture.

Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria concluded his lecture by stating that "Marshal of the Air Force" Arjan Singh's legacy will remain our guiding light, a beacon inspiring us all towards greater resolve in service and commitment to our solemn uniform – as active air warriors and veterans alike".

This lecture series was initiated by the IAF to pay tribute to the remarkable achievements and extraordinary life story of Arjan Singh, while also providing an opportunity for the IAF and USI to commemorate his legacy.

The IAF plans to organize this lecture annually to inspire service personnel and citizens of the country to emulate the dedication, vision, and leadership demonstrated by the Marshal.



Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.

- Thomas Edison

GLOBAL WARMING AND GREEN HOUSE GASES

Greenhouse gases, also known as **GHGs**, are gases in the earth's atmosphere that **trap heat**. During the day, the sun shines through the atmosphere, warming the earth's surface. At night the earth's surface cools, releasing heat back into the air. But some of the heat is trapped by the **GREEN HOUSE GASES** (carbon dioxide, methane, water vapour, nitrous oxide, ozone and fluorinated gases etc.) in the atmosphere. That's what keeps the earth's temperature at required average of **14°C (57°F)**.

Levels of green house gases are constantly **rising** thus blocking escape of heat and making earth warmer, causing change of weather patterns and disturbing the ecological balance of the earth. These gases are **generated** by burning of fossil fuels (**petrol / diesel etc**) to meet global energy needs of electricity, transportation, factories etc. This rise of global temperature causes **phenomena of Climate Change / Global warming**.

Rise of Global temperatures beyond **2°C** above pre industrial global temperature of **14°C** in the year **1800**, shall cause irreversible change of ocean surface water temperature, rise of sea levels by **20 cm** resulting in coastal flooding , beach erosion , jungle fires , , extreme heat , draughts , landslides and hurricanes. With an increase of **2°C** approximately **13% of land**, oceans, forests would suffer irrevocable imbalances in their flora and fauna and cause irreversible damage to terrestrial and marine areas.

Devastating floods have hit Libya, India, Greece and China. Brazil is seeing one of the **worst draughts**. Canada and Hawai saw raging wild fires. Droughts are expected to be more frequent in **north-western India**, Jharkhand, Orissa, and Chhattisgarh. **Crop yields** are expected to **fall** significantly because of **extreme heat**. Coastal states of USA like **Florida** and **South Carolina** are most at risk because of the impacts of climate change.

Therefore, there is a need to **deploy alternative sources of energy** (wind energy, solar energy, hydrogen fuel, Hyder energy etc) and **reduce use of fossil fuels**.

Nations World wide have agreed, under the aegis of **Earth Summit** in **1992** and **Universal Paris Agreement** in **December 2015** and annual Conference of Parties with last one as COP-28 at Dubai, to adapt measures to keep Global Warming to no more than **1.5°C** by reducing Greenhouse gas emissions by **45 %** and reach **NET ZERO** (achieving a balance between the Carbons emitted into the atmosphere and the carbon removed by the atmosphere) by **2050**.

We can all help to limit climate change by saving energy / electricity consumption from the way we travel (**walk, cycle, public transport**) and from saving **electricity consumption at home** (use of LED lights, solar energy) and by other means such as **plant a tree, turning off electricity devices when not in use etc**.



WISE OWL : Once there was an old owl living in an oak and she was seeing every day many things that were happening around her. One day, the owl saw a boy helping an old man to carry a heavy basket. The other day, the owl saw how a little girl screamed at her mother. Every day the old owl saw many things, but each time kept silent about what she saw. Over time, the owl starts to talk less and less, but this made her hear better. Now the owl could hear what the people were saying when they were passing by the trees. One day, she heard a woman telling another person how she saw an elephant jumping over her fence. Another day, the owl heard how a young man boast himself to someone else, that he was perfect and never made any mistake in his life. Slowly she became more and more wise and she became known as the wise owl.

Moral of the Story: When you speak less, you begin to notice and listen more so you will become wiser and smarter.

LIGHT COMBAT AIRCRAFT (A GREAT EFFORT TOWARDS ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT)



**Air Cmde KI Ravi
AVSM VSM (Retd)**

The year was January 2001 (4th January 2001 to be precise). All global eyes were riveted on India. A Euphoric moment. The successful, FIRST FLIGHT of the completely composite material Light Combat Aircraft. What an occasion that was and that which laid the pedestal for what we have today in its various versions. It silenced many critics who had commented otherwise on India's Aeronautical capability.

As retired Defence Personnel, it gives us a sense of pride and pleasure to see our country one among the peers of the Aeronautical fraternity of the world with the Light Combat Aircraft now in our inventory.

Great organisations like Aeronautical Development Agency and its associated huge network of DRDO Labs and PSU subsidiaries duly supported by IAF, made it worthwhile to make India Proud since 2001.

LCA Mk 1& 1A: In the last 23 years, we have crossed many milestones in the LCA Programme. As is with any aeronautical aircraft programme across the world, we too have moved to the development of a newer version, or rather an Upgrade called the LCA Mk 1A which is presently undergoing trials of its prototype version. The LCA will have the following main characteristics: -

- The first and only Composite Material combat aircraft
- A fully Indigenous Autopilot and Fly-by-Wire System with quadruple digital control permitting greater flexibility.
- A complete Glass Cockpit embedded with most advanced indigenous avionics and Electronic Warfare Suite.
- Higher and efficient safety systems for both pilot and ground safety.
- Completely indigenous infrastructure test facilities across India for various systems and subsystems

LCA Mk 2: As we are aware, the IAF is well short of the total number of squadrons required for a two front situation. This has resulted in the IAF giving go ahead to DRDO for the LCA Mk 2 aircraft (Medium Combat Aircraft). This design has already completed its Critical Design Review (CDR) and is on the production drawing board for its prototype. This aircraft will have the following additional facilities:-

- A new aircraft design with full Delta wing and Canards
- Will have a more enhanced thrust engine to cater for additional loads
- An entirely new indigenous electronic warfare suite from Indian DRDO stables
- New Integrated Health and Monitoring systems for better Prognostics Maintenance
- New class of weapons both indigenous and imported to help provide the desired firepower.

A very recent 30 minutes sortie by our Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given a further push to this programme.

{The author had been part of the LCA Programme for five years in both Project Monitoring and Design and Development of the LCAMk 1 and the LCAMk 2 respectively.}

NOBEL PRIZE: INSTITUTED IN 1901, GREEN GOLD MEDAL WITH PRIZE MONEY OF RS 8.1 CRORE



Alfred Bernhard Nobel (21 October 1833 – 10 December 1896) was a Swedish chemist, engineer, inventor, businessman, and philanthropist. He made several important contributions to science and held 355 patents in his lifetime. Nobel's most famous invention was Dynamite.

Nobel displayed an early aptitude for science and learning, particularly in chemistry and languages; he became fluent in six languages and filed his first patent at the age of twenty four. The synthetic element Nobelium was named after him.

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NOBEL PRIZE: INSTITUTED IN 1901, GREEN GOLD MEDAL WITH PRIZE MONEY OF RS 8.1 CRORE

He passed away in the year 1896. In his will, he bequeathed all of his assets to be used to establish five prizes which became to be known as "Nobel Prizes." Nobel Prizes were first awarded in **1901** to those who "conferred the greatest benefit to humankind". The prize distribution ceremony takes place annually. Each recipient (**known as a "laureate"**) receives a green gold medal plated with **24 karat gold**, a diploma, and a monetary award of **Rs 8.1 Crore**. Nobel Prizes are not awarded **posthumously**.

Indian Nobel Laureates: The following Indians have been the proud winners of the coveted prize in the fields shown against their respective names.

- **Literature:** Rabindranath Tagore (1913)
- **Physics:** C. V. Raman (1930),
Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar (1983)
- **Physiology or Medicine:** Har Gobind Khorana (1968)
- **Peace:** Mother Teresa (1979),
Kailash Satyarthi (2014)
- **Economics:** Amartya Sen (1998),
Abhijit Banerjee (2019)

INVENTION OF AUTOMATIC CASH DISPENSER (ATM)

Now a days Automatic Cash Dispensing Machines are provided by all leading Banks and the same are being used by almost everyone across the globe. ATM has facilitated the financial transaction/availability of money round the clock. This also helps in saving man hours which were earlier being wasted in long queues at the banks. You will be surprised to learn that the very idea to have a cash dispensing machine was originally conceived by **an Indian** which was further supported in its implementation by another Indian of world fame.

Two Indians, Shepherd Barron (Born Shillong) on **23 June 1925** and OBE awardee (Order of British Empire) and great Indian mathematician **Srinivas Ramanujam** (Born Madras) gave **automatic cash dispenser** to the world.

John Shepherd Barron's Scottish father, Wilfred Shepherd-Barron, was Chief Engineer of the Chittagong Port in Bengal. During **World War II**, John was commissioned into the Airborne Forces and later served in the **Indian Army** in Second Airborne division where he taught Gurkhas to parachute. Inspiration for automatic cash dispenser came to John Shepherd-Barron while he was sitting in the bath, cursing his own tardiness. He had gone to his bank to withdraw cash but arrived a minute after closing time one day in the **mid-1960s**, leaving him with no funds for the weekend. "Wouldn't it be a good idea if there was some way of obtaining money outside regular working hours?" he mused. **Vending machines**, which allowed him to buy chocolate at any time of day or night, sprang to his mind. Thus, Shepherd-Barron devised a system for automatically dispensing cash.

Barclays commissioned Shepherd-Barron to build **six automatic cash dispensers**, the first of which was installed at a branch in the north London suburb of Enfield on **June 27, 1967**.

He also invented the **PIN** by recalling his Indian **Army number**. He had originally intended to make **Personal Identification Numbers (PINs)** six digit long, but reduced the number to four when his wife, Caroline, complained that six digit was too many. "Over the kitchen table, she said she could only remember four figures, so because of her, four digit became the world standard," he recalled.

Also the cash dispensing machine arranges the correct money to be dispensed according to Partition Theory of Srinivas Ramanujan (mathematical genius of India). Imagine you need to withdraw Rs 1900 from the ATM and Rs 500, Rs 200 and Rs 100 notes are available in machine, Ramanujan Partition theory shall guide the ATM to select the optimal combination. In this case if shall choose to dispense three Rs 500 notes and two Rs 200 notes.

So remember great Indian connection to ATM when you withdraw cash from ATM.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION FELICITATES VETERAN GROUP CAPTAIN VIDHYA RATTAN ON HIS CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY

It is our honor to award you the Medal of Valor for 100 years of spreading love, kindness, hope, forgiveness, wisdom, and joy in the face of danger and delight. You're our hero. Happy birthday Sir — Team AFA



Air Vice Marshal Amit Tyagi, Vice President AFA, AVMAK Pan, AVM Rajesh Bhandari and Gp Capt CS Chandel, Secy AFA visited the residence of veteran Gp Capt Vidhya Rattan on 05 Dec 23 to convey him birthday greetings and to felicitate him on behalf of President AFA and all members of AFA. Brief narrative of his service career is given below:

It was in the year of 1946 when the country was about to regain independence and young Indians were full of hope and aspirations, when the young Rattan joined the Royal Indian Air Force (RIAF) in the flying branch and later the Equipment branch as it was known during those days.

He Joined Elementary Flying School in Jodhpur in 1946 and flew Tiger Moths there. After passing out from EFS, he was posted to Advanced Flying School at Ambala where he flew Harvard.

One day his instructor asked him to fly Harvard 2B with him to Delhi at night. It was an incident free journey to and back from Delhi. After landing at Delhi, he was asked to do a solo sortie of going around the airfield. Harvard 2Bs had the inherent defect of turning turtle upon veering to the left or right. And as the luck would have it, same happened with him that day. The defect was rectified in the later version T6G.

To cut the story short he was produced before his commanding officer, the then, Wg Cdr Arjan Singh (later Marshal of the Air Force) by his instructor, the then, Fg Offr Dilbagh Singh (later Chief of Air Staff). He was advised by Wg Cdr Arjan Singh that he could be re-streamed into Navigation which he refused. However he was offered to join the Equipment Branch in the year 1948 which he accepted. He had a tenure in UK as a Flt Lt and also commanded 26ED where he got promoted to the rank of Gp Capt.

Both his sons also joined IAF, Naveen Rattan in the medical branch who superannuated as Air Vice Marshal and his younger son Shailesh Rattan in the logistics branch who took premature retirement as Wg Cdr due to family reasons.

Let us all pray for his continued good health.

SILVER JUBILEE OF AFA SENIOR CITIZENS' HOME AASTHA

AASTHA SENIOR CITIZENS' HOME joyfully celebrated its Silver Jubilee, marking 25 years of



dedicated care and companionship. The event was filled with heartfelt moments, nostalgic reflections, and the shared wisdom of residents who have chosen Aastha as their home. The jubilee highlighted the strong sense of community living and the unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for our beloved seniors. Here's to 25 years of warmth, laughter, and the enduring spirit of Aastha."

BOOK REVIEW



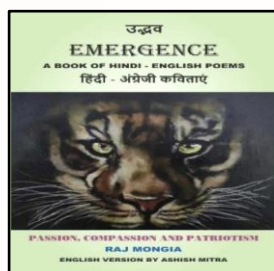
Gita in Simple Hindi Couplet Form:- Normally everyone keeps a copy of Shrimad Bhagvan Gita at home but they find it difficult to understand the Sanskrit shlokas. As a result, they are deprived of the divine knowledge contained in Gita. Group Captain Arun Kapur has presented the entire Gita in simple Hindi couplet (दोहे) form in this book – (गीता प्रवाह- काव्य रूप). It is not a Hindi translation of Gita but presentation of the 700 shlokas of Gita in 927 Hindi couplets, all written by Gp Captain Arun Kapur.



The sole idea behind this effort is that maximum number of persons should benefit from this. It is the outcome of three years of hard work by the author. Royalty proceeds from the book shall be spent on charity only.

The book is available on Amazon as well as on Flipkart.

Author - Gp Capt Arun Kapur can be contacted at +91-9829809267 and mail ID - arunkapur2008@gmail.com



EMERGENCE is a book of 35 English and 35 Hindi poems authored by Group Captain Raj Mongia, BCO DG (I&S). The poems of Passion, Compassion and Patriotism symbolise India's emergence on the international stage.



The anthology contains poems for all age groups and occasions and would go a long

way in spreading the message of peace and harmony and building national character. On 12 December 2023 the book was released by AOP in a ceremony held at Air Force Auditorium, New Delhi. The poet was conferred with a prize for the best poem. EMERGENCE has also won the prestigious A3F Foundation Chandigarh Literary Award.

Book is available on amazon <https://amzn.eu/d/6ooUCXk> and flipkart <https://dl.flipkart.com/s/IWHm2vuunN>

RESERVE BANK OMBUDSMAN (RESERVE)

Many a times we face problems with our bankers with respect to erroneous interest on our fixed deposits, operation of bank account by spouse on demise of husband / transfer of funds to nominee, of Tax Deduction at source etc.

Good news is that all bank customers can now complain to Reserve Bank Ombudsman regarding deficient services by their PSU banks or Non PSU banks. Complaints / Grievances can be filed with the Banking Ombudsman by writing on a plain paper or online at <https://cms.rbi.org.in> or by sending an email to the Banking Ombudsman at CRPC@rbi.org.in. Your complaint regarding your banking issues with any Bank in India on deficient Bank Services would be resolved with the RBI Ombudsman.



ECHS facility to a Veteran Discharged in 1957- Cpl OP Sharma was discharged from IAF in 1957 on Medical grounds after eight and a half years of service, without any service benefits. He came to know about the services being offered by AFA for the veterans. Accordingly, he approached AFA Noida in the year 2022. His case was taken up with Air HQ through AFA HQ. With concerted efforts, he has now been issued with ECHS Temporary slip in Jan 2024. The same will be followed up for issue of proper ECHS card.

42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 2023



44th AFA raising day and 42nd Annual General meeting commenced early in the morning of 20 September 2023 with the wreath laying ceremony at National War Memorial. President AFA along with senior functionaries and 150 Air Veterans from Delhi and NCR attended the ceremony.

Subsequently Annual General Body meeting was held at Air Force Auditorium. Approximately 600 veterans attended the meeting.

In the first half President AFA welcomed all the Air Veterans who had come to attend the meeting. He addressed the gathering and brought out that financial health of AFA and its branches is good. He also mentioned that AFA and its branches are focused on adopting digital communication and connecting all members on WhatsApp and Email / SMS.

Vice president AFA then presented the annual report and apprised the members about regular interactions with concerned authorities to resolve grievances of AFA members on pension, medical and canteen related matters.

ACAS (Accts) and MD ECHS were gracious enough to apprise and update Air Veterans on various initiatives being undertaken on issues relating to veterans entitlements of pensions, medical and welfare.

During the second half Chief of the Air Staff along with PSOs from Air HQ and the Delhi Based Air Force Station Commanders joined the AFA meeting and they were extended a warm welcome by President AFA and all Air Veterans. The CAS conveyed his greetings to former Air Chiefs and all other Air Veterans present in the house and acknowledged the foresight, hard work and contributions of Air Veterans in nurturing the IAF and making it a truly modern force as it is today. During his address, he apprised the Veterans about the latest developments and modernization plans of the IAF.

The CAS then, felicitated generous donors, honorary members and gave away the CAS appreciation cards.

Concluding the meeting Sr VP thanked all the distinguished guests, both serving as well as from the retired fraternity for their presence and for making the AGM a grand success and invited all to join in for lunch.

RICHEST ROYAL IN THE WORLD



As of 2023, there are 43 sovereign states in the world with a monarch as head of each state. King Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand. (Born 28 July 1952 in Bangkok) is the tenth Monarch of Chakri Dynasty and is the richest monarch in the world. He is also styled as RAMA X (10) with estimated net worth of 43 Billion US Dollars.

He owns 6,560 hectares of land and has 40,000 rental contracts throughout the country, including 17,000 in Bangkok. On these lands, there are numerous government buildings, as well as malls and hotels. According to sources, King Maha Vajiralongkorn controls 23% of Thailand's second-largest bank, Siam Commercial Bank, and 33.33% of Siam Cement Group, the country's largest industrial conglomerate. And if all that wasn't enough, the Thai king also holds the possession of the Golden Jubilee Diamond, which is the largest cut and faceted diamond in the world.

Thai King possesses 38 aircraft, including 21 helicopters. This comprises Boeing, Airbus, and Sukhoi Superjet aircraft. King Rama X has a vast fleet of cars, including more than 300 high-end vehicles such as limousines and Mercedes Benz. In addition, he has a fleet of 52 boats that travel with the royal yacht. All of the boats are adorned with gold carvings.

PHOTO GALLERY



**TENZING NORGAY NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARD,
2022 TO MWO ANSHU KUMAR TIWARI**



PRESIDENT AFA ADDRESSING VETERANS AT AGM



MRS DAHIYA W/O AVM DAHIYA DONATES RS.21 LAKHS TO AFA



CHOUDHARY BROTHERS WITH CAS DONATED RS. 27 LAKHS



**VETERAN GP CAPT S MEHDI AWARDED
CAS APPRECIATION AT AGM**



**SUB BS TANWAR BEING FACILITATED WITH HONORARY AFA
MEMBERSHIP AT AGM**



**SR VICE PRESIDENT AFA WITH CAS AT
MANEKSHAW AUDITORIUM ON VETERANS DAY**



VICE PRESIDENT, AFA AT NWM ON VETERANS DAY

PHOTO GALLERY



**PRESIDENT AFA WITH AOA DURING OCTOGENARIAN /
NONAGENARIAN FELICITATION CEREMONY**



**AOA WITH SR VP AFA DURING OCTOGENARIAN /
NONAGENARIAN FELICITATION AT AFND**



**GP CAPT VED PRAKASH VADERA DONATING
RS 10 LACK TO AFA**



**GROUP PHOTO : OCTOGENARIAN /
NONAGENARIAN FELICITATION CEREMONY**



**PRESIDENT AFA FELICITATING NONAGENARIAN
(GP CAPT KUKEREJA)**



SR VP WITH ACAS (ACCTS & AV) SUBROTO PARK



**AFA NOIDA BRANCH: PRESIDENT AFA WITH
OCTOGENARIANS / NANOGENERIANS**



**AFA NOIDA BRANCH: PRESIDENT AFA
HANDING OVER CHEQUE**

PHOTO GALLERY



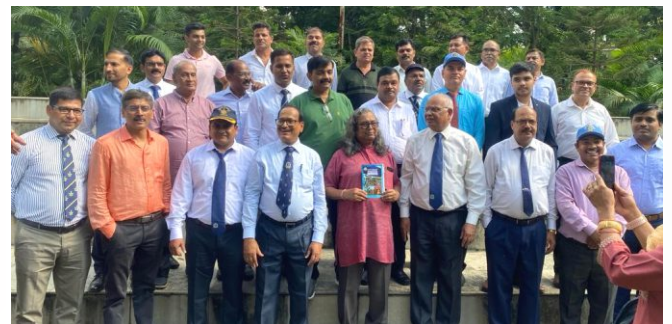
AFA BIHAR : ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



AFA BIHAR : ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



AFA JHARKHAND : FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION



**AFA JHARKHAND : CHIEF GUEST SHRI MUKUND NAYAK
PADMA SHRI ON AF DAY CELEBRATION**



**AFA HARYANA : OCTOGENARIAN AND
NONAGENARIANS FELICITATION**



AFA HARYANA : VISITING AF MUSEUM AT PALAM



**AFA RAJSTHAN :
FELICITATION OF GP CAPT AK SINGH, VR C BY SOA, HQ SWAC IAF**



**AFA RAJSTHAN :
SPARSH AWARENESS BY PCDA TEAM**

PHOTO GALLERY



AFA KERALA : AGM



**AFA KERALA : AOC-IN-C, HQ SAC,
IAF INAUGURATING AGM**



**AFA KARNATAKA : WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT
WAR MEMORIAL OF HQ TC**



**AFA KARNATAKA : CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF AT
AIR CHIEF MSHL LM KATRE MEMORIAL LECTURE**



**AFA (AP & TS) : OCTOGENARIAN FELICITATING AT
GBM OF TIRUPATI CHAPTER**



**AFA (AP & TS) : OCTOGENARIAN
FELICITATION FUNCTION**



**AFA NOIDA : PRESENTING PRINTER TO
ECHS NOIDA**



**AFA (GHAZIABAD) CHAPTER : CELEBRATING
THE REPUBLIC DAY ON 26 JAN 2024**

PHOTO GALLERY



AFA WEST BENGAL : PUJA EXCURSION



AFA WEST BENGAL : WG CDR RAKESH SHARMA, ASHOK CHAKRA, THE ONLY INDIAN ASTRONAUT



AFA UP : EXECUTIVE BODY AND GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS ALONG WITH CHIEF GUEST AND GUEST OF HONOUR



AFA UP : VICE PRESIDENT AFA HO AND AOC AFS KANPUR HONORING OCTOGENARIAN



AFA NORTH ZONE : VETERANS ATTENDING AGM



AFA NORTH ZONE : CANCER AWARENESS CAMP



AFA MADHY PRADESH : OCTOGENARIAN FELICITATION CEREMONY



AFA MAHARASHTRA : HANDING OVER BLANKETS TO VETERANS

PHOTO GALLERY



AFA GUJARAT : LT GEN SAJIT HASNAIN AND VET AIR MSHL ANIL CHOPRA AT FG OFFR NIRMAL SINGH SEKHON PVC MEMORIAL LECTURE



AFA GUJARAT: ADANI RUN FOR OUR SOLDIERS



AFA GUJARAT : SR VP AFA WITH BLIND STUDENTS AT BLIND PEOPLES' ASSOCIATION IN AHMEDABD



AFA GOA : VETERAN AVM SUNIL J NANODKAR TAKES OVER AS PRESIDENT FROM AIR CMDE PINTO



AFA TAMIL NADU : AOC IN C TRAINING COMMAND FELICITATING HFL NANDI OCTOGENERAN, (DISABLED)



AFA TAMIL NADU : PRESENTATION OF APPRECIATION CARDS BY PRESIDENT



AFA ODISHA : FAMILY GET-TOGETHER ON AFA DAY



AFA ODISHA : DISTRIBUTION OF BLANKETS AT OLD AGE BALESORE



*India reveals names of astronauts:
Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan,
Angad Pratap and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla*



*An Indian Air Force (IAF) chopper during a fire power
demonstration at the Vayu Shakti 2024 at Pokhran Range,
in Jaisalmer district, Saturday, February 17, 2024*



WE STRIVE HARD TO ACHIEVE GREATER HEIGHTS