



Indian Air Force Day

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Why in News

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is celebrating **88th Air Force Day** on **8th October**.

Key Points

- **8th October:** On this day, the **Air Force in India was officially raised in 1932** as the **supporting force of the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom**.
- **History:**
 - **1933:** **First operational squadron.**
 - **1940s:** After participation in **World War II** (1939-45), the Air Force in India came to be **called the Royal Indian Air Force**.
 - **1950:** It became the **Indian Air Force** after the **republic** came into being.

- **Facts:**

- India Air Force is the **fourth largest in the world** after the USA, China and Russia.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Motto** of the IAF is ‘**Touch the Sky with Glory**’ and it was **taken from the eleventh chapter of the Bhagavad Gita**.
- The **President of India** holds the rank of **Supreme Commander of the air force**.
- The **Chief of Air Staff**, an air chief marshal is responsible for the operational command of the air force.
- **Operations:**
 - After independence, IAF took part in **wars with Pakistan** and the **People's Republic of China**.
 - **Operation Meghdoot:** It was on **13th April in 1984** when the Indian Army along with the Indian Air Force and **paramilitary forces** launched the '**Operation Meghdoot**' to secure the control of the heights predominating the **Siachen glacier**.
 - IAF took part in **relief operations during natural calamities** such as Gujarat cyclone in 1998, the tsunami in 2004, etc.
 - IAF works with the **United Nations' peacekeeping missions**.

- **Celebrations:**

- The day is being marked by the main event comprising a **parade and flypast at Hindon Air Force Base** (Ghaziabad) along with events at IAF establishments across the country.
- This year, the **Tejas LCA, Mig-29 and 21** and **Sukhoi-30** along with newly inducted **Rafale jets** will be on show.
- It will also have **helicopters** like **Chinook, Apache**, etc.

Source: IE