



# Indian Air Force Day

## Why in News?

The [Indian Air Force \(IAF\)](#) is celebrating 90<sup>th</sup> Air Force Day on 8th October.

## What are the Key Highlights of the celebrations?

- The primary event of the day is being observed at **Chandigarh Air Force Station** and consists of a **parade and flyover**.
- LCH "Prachanda, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Sukhoi, Mig-29, Jaguar, Rafale, IL-76, C-130J, and Hawk have taken part in the fly-past.
- Among **helicopters, Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv, Chinook, Apache and Mi-17** will be part of the aerial display.

## What is the Indian Air Force?

- **Background:**
  - The **Indian Air Force** was established in 1932 during [World War II](#) to support the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom in its war against Japan.
    - To stop the Japanese army's progress into India, the IAF was utilised to target Japanese bases in Burma.
  - In 1945, [King George VI](#) bestowed the **prefix "Royal"** in recognition of the IAF's accomplishments. After India became a **republic in 1950**, this honorary title was abolished.
  - After the independence of the nation, it evolved into the **Indian Air Force in 1950**.
- **About:**
  - President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces,
  - The **fourth-largest air force** in the world is the **Indian Air Force**.
  - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
  - Motto of India Air Force: **Touch the sky with Glory**.
    - It was taken from the **eleventh chapter of the Bhagavad Gita**.
  - The **Chief of Air Staff, an air chief marshal** is responsible for the operational command of the air force.

## What are the most Significant Operations of the IAF?

- After independence, **IAF** took part in wars with **Pakistan** and the **People's Republic of China**.
  - **Operation Meghdoot:** To regain control of the heights commanding the **Siachen glacier**, the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and paramilitary troops launched ["Operation Meghdoot"](#) on **April 13, 1984**.
- **IAF** took part in relief operations during natural calamities such as **Gujarat cyclone in 1998, the tsunami in 2004, etc.**
- **Other significant operations of the IAF:**
  - **Operation Vijay (1961)**
  - **The Second Kashmir War (1965)**
  - [The Bangladesh Liberation War \(1971\)](#)
  - **Operation Poomalai (1987)**

- **Operation Cactus (1988)**
- **[The Kargil War \(1999\)](#)**
- **[The Balakot airstrike](#)**
- **[The India-Pakistan standoff of 2019](#)**

**[Source: The Hindu](#)**

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