



# Indian Air Force Day

## Why in News

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

## Key Points

- **8<sup>th</sup> 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 **13<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

