

Indian Air Force

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Indian Air Force (IAF) is the air arm of the Indian Armed Forces. Its complement of personnel and aircraft assets **ranks fourth** amongst the air forces **of the world**. Its primary mission is to secure Indian airspace and to conduct aerial warfare during armed conflict.



It was officially **established on 8 October 1932** as an auxiliary air force of the British Empire which honoured India's aviation service during World War II with the prefix Royal. After India gained independence from United Kingdom in 1947, the name Royal Indian Air Force was kept and served in the name of Dominion of India. With the government's transition to a Republic in 1950, the prefix Royal was removed.

Since 1950, the IAF has been involved in **four wars with neighbouring Pakistan**. Other major operations undertaken by the IAF include **Operation Vijay, Operation Meghdoot, Operation Cactus and Operation Poomalai**. The IAF's mission expands beyond engagement with hostile forces, with the IAF participating in United Nations peacekeeping missions.



The President of India holds the rank of Supreme Commander of the IAF.

As of 1 July 2017, 1,39,576 personnel are in service with the Indian Air Force. The Chief of the Air Staff, an air chief marshal, is a four-star officer and is responsible for the bulk of operational command of the Air Force. There is never more than one serving ACM at any given time in the IAF.



Indian coast Guard



Air squadron



Wapiti

Dhruv

induction of c-130



HT2

ICA

MARUT



The rank of Marshal of the Air Force has been conferred by the President of India on one occasion in history, to Arjan Singh. On 26 January 2002, Singh became the first and so far, only five-star rank officer of the IAF.