

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MILITARY NURSING SERVICE DAY

New Delhi: 30th September 1998

The Military Nursing Service (MNS) which comprises of only women officers has been in existence since 1883 when a small batch of British Trained Nurses came to India from UK for caring for British soldiers only, celebrates anniversary on Friday, October 1st 1998.

In 1914 Temporary Indian Nursing Service was started to meet the Nursing needs of Indian soldiers during World War I. On 1st October 1926 Indian Military Nursing Service was formed. On 15th Sep 1943, MNS became part of the Armed Forces and status of commissioned officers was conferred on its members. At the time of Independence the organisation was headed by the Chief Principal Matron in the rank of Colonel. After Independence the first Head of Service was Colonel DG Howard. The post has since been twice upgraded. Now the appointment is held by Major General S Padminiamma.

The officers of MNS have continued to provide succour to sick and wounded both in peace and war and other adverse conditions. They have also been part of medical team of UN Missions in Congo, Somalia and now Africa. Their services have been highly recognised and appreciated by all and they have received number of awards like PVSM, AVSM, VSM and other professional awards.

Apart from professional activities MNS officers have also participated in mountaineering and shooting championships with distinction.

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