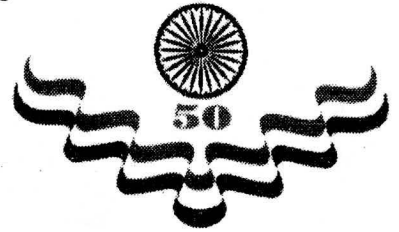


PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



**INFO - NUGGETS**

**Defence - I**

***Indian Army***

- ☛ Gen.K. M. Cariappa, later Field Marshal, was the first Indian to become Chief of the Army Staff, who took over on January 15, 1949.
- ☛ Gen S.F.H.J. Manekshaw is the first Indian Army Chief to become Field Marshal.
- ☛ First Param Vir Chakra was awarded to Maj. Somnath Sharma (Posthumously) in November 1947.
- ☛ The highest air-field in the world has been constructed at Thoise in the upper reaches of Ladakh by the Army Engineers.
- ☛ The Indian Army also has to its credit building the highest road and bridge in Khardung La Pass in the Himalayas.
- ☛ The Indian Army has to its credit a sailing feat on the Tso-Morari lake in the Himalayas.
- ☛ Late Gen. A.S. Vaidya was the only Army Chief who was awarded Maha Vir Chakra twice.
- ☛ An Indian Army, motor cycle despatch rider team is so highly skilled in trick riding that they have carried 133 riders as a human pyramid on eleven 350 CC Royal Enfield motor cycles, a feat acknowledged by Guinness Book of World Records.

***Indian Air Force***

- ☛ Born in 1932, Indian Air Force is the youngest of the three services. It is the fourth largest Air force in the world.
- ☛ In 1948, it became the first Air Force in Asia to fly jets.
- ☛ In 1954, Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee became the first Indian Commander-in-Chief and Chief of the Air Staff.
- ☛ Flying Officer Nirmaljeet Singh Sekhon (Posthumous) was the first fighter pilot who won the Param Vir Chakra for IAF in 1971 Indo-Pak conflict.
- ☛ Starting with the old generation aircraft, today, IAF has Mig 21, Mig-23, Mig-25, Mig-27, Mig-29, Jaguar and Mirage-2000 fighter aircraft on its inventory. Recent acquisition of SU-30 by the IAF in 1997 is to maintain operational readiness for meeting any threat.
- ☛ Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma became the first Indian astronaut aboard the Soviet Space Craft (Soyuz T-10) in April 1984.
- ☛ Indian Air Force decided to induct Women Officers in 1992. The first batch of seven women flying pilots were commissioned in the Indian Air Force on December 17, 1994.

Contd-2/

- ☛ On December 1995, Flight Cadet Cheryl Dutta and Flight Cadet Simran Sodhi of IAF have achieved the distinction of becoming the first ever all women crew to fly an Air Force Chetak helicopter in the history of Indian Aviation.
- ☛ Squadron Leader Sanjay Thapar became the first Indian to hoist national flag over the North Pole. He jumped from a height of 10,000 feet in 68 degree Celsius.
- ☛ The motto of IAF is "NABH SPRASH DEEPTAM" i.e. "TOUCH THE SKY WITH GLORY".

#### *Indian Navy*

- ☛ The first indigenously built submarine INS 'Shalki', built by Mazagaon Docks Limited, was commissioned on February 07, 1992. With this, India joined the select band of nations capable constructing their own submarines.
- ☛ The second submarine, INS 'Shankul' was launched on March 22, 1992 and was commissioned on May 28, 1994.
- ☛ A floating dock capable of providing limited repair facilities to ships at sea is available at Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- ☛ The new Naval Academy will be set up at Ezhimala, Kerala-(PIB)

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SS-172/GP-69/08.08.1997

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