



वायु सेना संग्रहालय

AIR FORCE MUSEUM

# AIR FORCE MUSEUM

## Palam Delhi





# AIR FORCE MUSEUM

Palam



THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM CAME INTO EXISTENCE ON 08 APR 1967. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH, THE THEN DEFENCE MINISTER OF INDIA, INAUGURATED THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM IN THE PRESENCE OF AIR CHIEF MARSHAL ARJAN SINGH DFC, THE THEN CHIEF OF AIR STAFF.

IAF MUSEUM HAS A COLLECTION OF AEROPLANE & ARMOURY DEPICTING THE HISTORY OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE & HAS A VAST COLLECTION OF ARTIFACTS ON DISPLAY HAVING HISTORICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND TRADITIONAL VALUES. ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ENTRANCE, A GNAT FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AND A SAM-II (SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE) WELCOMES THE VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM.



# WAR MEMORIAL



A WAR MEMORIAL IS SITUATED WITHIN THE MUSEUM PREMISES. THIS WAS CONSTRUCTED IN HONOUR OF THOSE IAF FALLEN HEROS WHO HAD LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN DEFENCE OF THE MOTHERLAND. THIS WAS DEDICATED TO THE IAF BY THE THEN CHIEF OF AIR STAFF, AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SK SAREEN PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC ON 06 OCT 1997.

ON THE WAR MEMORIAL IS ENGRAVED, IN GOLDEN LETTERS, THE NAMES OF THE FALLEN HEROS OF WORLD WAR II, 1947 WAR, 1965 WAR, 1971 WAR, OP MEGHDOOT AND KARGIL WAR. THIS MEMORIAL EPITOMIZES THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE MADE BY OUR AIR WARRIORS, IN THE SERVICE OF THE NATION.



# ARJAN SINGH CORNER



AF MUSEUM HAS DESIGNATED CORNER INSIDE HEROES AND VALOUR GALLERY DEDICATED TOWARDS THE MARSHAL OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE ARJAN SINGH, DFC, WHICH ACCOMMODATES HIS UNIFORMS, MEMENTOS, PHOTOS, PERSONAL BELONGINGS ETC. MARSHAL OF THE AIR FORCE ARJAN SINGH DFC, KNOWN FOR HIS PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGIC VISION, IS A COLOSSUS IN THE IAF. HE WAS CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF WHEN THE IAF SAW ACTION IN ITS FIRST COMBAT OF THE MODERN AGE IN 1965

ARJAN SINGH WAS BORN ON 15 APRIL 1919, AND ON 01 AUGUST 1964, ARJAN SINGH TOOK OVER AS THE CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF IN THE RANK OF AIR MARSHAL, WHICH BECAME THE PINNACLE OF HIS CAREER. ARJAN SINGH WAS THE FIRST AIR CHIEF WHO KEPT HIS FLYING CATEGORY TILL HIS CAS RANK AND RETIRED FROM THE INDIAN AIRFORCE IN 1969. HE WAS THE FIRST CHIEF OF AIR STAFF TO BE PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF AIR CHIEF MARSHAL.

**वायु सेना के मार्शल अर्जन सिंह, डी एफ सी**  
**15 अप्रैल 1919 - 16 सितंबर 2017**

मार्शल अर्जन सिंह को वायु सेना के प्रथम और एकमात्र अधिकारी के रूप में मान्यता दी गई है। उन्होंने 1939 में वायु सेना में शामिल हुए और 1944 में अरकान अभियान के दौरान भारतीय वायु सेना के प्रथम और एकमात्र अधिकारी के रूप में कार्य किया। उन्होंने 1964 में वायु सेना के प्रथम और एकमात्र अधिकारी के रूप में कार्य किया। उन्होंने 1964 में वायु सेना के प्रथम और एकमात्र अधिकारी के रूप में कार्य किया।

**MARSHAL OF AIR FORCE ARJAN SINGH, DFC**  
**15 APRIL 1919 - 16 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Marshal of Air Force Arjan Singh holds the distinction of being the first and only officer of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to attain the five-star rank. His remarkable career began after his commissioning in December 1939 following training at Cranwell. Singh's early achievements include leading his squadron against the Japanese during the Arakan Campaign in 1944 and earning the Distinguished Flying Cross for exemplary leadership. His significant role in the First Indo-Pakistan Air War of 1965, where he led the IAF with distinction, marked a pivotal moment in his career.

Singh's contributions extended beyond combat, as he toured India with the IAF Display Flight, showcasing Hawker Hurricanes. His strategic insight was evident during the Red Fort fly-past in 1947 and the defence of Kashmir in 1947. Rising through the ranks, he served in key leadership positions, becoming Chief of the Air Staff in 1964. Singh's exceptional leadership during the 1965 war earned him the title of Air Chief Marshal, a first for the IAF. Post-retirement, he continued to serve in diplomatic roles, showcasing his versatility.

Notably, Singh's passion for flying endured throughout his career, having piloted over 40 different aircraft types. His commitment to ex-servicemen's welfare was exemplified by the creation of a trust, funded by selling his agricultural lands. The nation mourned his passing on September 16, 2017, recognising him as an iconic air warrior and a symbol of the IAF's valour. The Government of India acknowledged his contributions by conferring upon him the prestigious rank of Marshal of the Air Force in January 2002.





# LEGENDS CORNER

**वीरि कर्माक्षर करुणा कृष्णमजुमदार**  
**डी एफ सी एन बार**  
30 MARCH 1915 - 11 MARCH 1992


Wing Commander Karun Krishna Majumdar, DFC and Bar



Wing Commander Karun Krishna Majumdar, DFC and Bar, was a distinguished Indian Air Force officer. He served in various capacities, including as a pilot and instructor. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) and the Bar for his gallantry and leadership. He was also a recipient of the Padma Shri award. He served in the Indian Air Force from 1938 to 1952, and then in the Indian Air Force Reserve from 1952 to 1960. He was a member of the Indian Air Force Association and the Indian Air Force Club. He was also a member of the Indian Air Force Officers' Association and the Indian Air Force Officers' Club. He was a member of the Indian Air Force Officers' Association and the Indian Air Force Officers' Club. He was a member of the Indian Air Force Officers' Association and the Indian Air Force Officers' Club.

**एसर कर्माक्षर मेहर सिंह,**  
**एम वी सी, डी एस ओ**  
30 MARCH 1915 - 11 MARCH 1992

Air Commodore Mehar Singh, MVC, DSO



Air Commodore Mehar Singh, MVC, DSO, was a distinguished Indian Air Force officer. He served in various capacities, including as a pilot and instructor. He was awarded the Most Valuable Citizen (MVC) and the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his gallantry and leadership. He was also a recipient of the Padma Shri award. He served in the Indian Air Force from 1938 to 1952, and then in the Indian Air Force Reserve from 1952 to 1960. He was a member of the Indian Air Force Association and the Indian Air Force Club. He was also a member of the Indian Air Force Officers' Association and the Indian Air Force Officers' Club.

**एसर माइल सुब्रतो मुखर्जी,**  
**ओ बी डी**  
30 MARCH 1915 - 11 MARCH 1992

Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee, OBE



Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee, OBE, was a distinguished Indian Air Force officer. He served in various capacities, including as a pilot and instructor. He was awarded the Officer of the British Empire (OBE) for his gallantry and leadership. He was also a recipient of the Padma Shri award. He served in the Indian Air Force from 1938 to 1952, and then in the Indian Air Force Reserve from 1952 to 1960. He was a member of the Indian Air Force Association and the Indian Air Force Club. He was also a member of the Indian Air Force Officers' Association and the Indian Air Force Officers' Club.

**एसर वीर मांडवी चंद्रा लाल,**  
**डी एफ सी**  
30 MARCH 1915 - 11 MARCH 1992

Air Chief Marshal Pratap Chandra Lal, DFC



Air Chief Marshal Pratap Chandra Lal, DFC, was a distinguished Indian Air Force officer. He served in various capacities, including as a pilot and instructor. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for his gallantry and leadership. He was also a recipient of the Padma Shri award. He served in the Indian Air Force from 1938 to 1952, and then in the Indian Air Force Reserve from 1952 to 1960. He was a member of the Indian Air Force Association and the Indian Air Force Club. He was also a member of the Indian Air Force Officers' Association and the Indian Air Force Officers' Club.

**वीरि कर्माक्षर करुणा कृष्णमजुमदार**  
**डी एफ सी एन बार**  
30 MARCH 1915 - 11 MARCH 1992

Air Chief Marshal Pratap Chandra Lal, DFC



Air Chief Marshal Pratap Chandra Lal, DFC, was a distinguished Indian Air Force officer. He served in various capacities, including as a pilot and instructor. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for his gallantry and leadership. He was also a recipient of the Padma Shri award. He served in the Indian Air Force from 1938 to 1952, and then in the Indian Air Force Reserve from 1952 to 1960. He was a member of the Indian Air Force Association and the Indian Air Force Club. He was also a member of the Indian Air Force Officers' Association and the Indian Air Force Officers' Club.

**वीरि कर्माक्षर करुणा कृष्णमजुमदार**  
**डी एफ सी एन बार**  
30 MARCH 1915 - 11 MARCH 1992

Lieutenant Harjit Singh Malik, Royal Flying Corps



Lieutenant Harjit Singh Malik, Royal Flying Corps, was a distinguished Indian Air Force officer. He served in various capacities, including as a pilot and instructor. He was awarded the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) for his gallantry and leadership. He was also a recipient of the Padma Shri award. He served in the Indian Air Force from 1938 to 1952, and then in the Indian Air Force Reserve from 1952 to 1960. He was a member of the Indian Air Force Association and the Indian Air Force Club. He was also a member of the Indian Air Force Officers' Association and the Indian Air Force Officers' Club.

**वीरि कर्माक्षर करुणा कृष्णमजुमदार**  
**डी एफ सी एन बार**  
30 MARCH 1915 - 11 MARCH 1992

Lieutenant Indra Lal Roy, DFC, Royal Flying Corps



Lieutenant Indra Lal Roy, DFC, Royal Flying Corps, was a distinguished Indian Air Force officer. He served in various capacities, including as a pilot and instructor. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for his gallantry and leadership. He was also a recipient of the Padma Shri award. He served in the Indian Air Force from 1938 to 1952, and then in the Indian Air Force Reserve from 1952 to 1960. He was a member of the Indian Air Force Association and the Indian Air Force Club. He was also a member of the Indian Air Force Officers' Association and the Indian Air Force Officers' Club.

LOCATED INSIDE THE "HEROES & VALOUR" GALLERY, IS A CORNER DEDICATED TO THE LEGENDS AND PIONEERS OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE. HERE ONE CAN COME TO KNOW ABOUT THE LIFE AND CAREER OF PEOPLE LIKE LT INDIRA LAL ROY DFC, LT HS MALIK, WG CDR KK MAJUMDAR DFC & BAR, MARSHAL OF THE IAF ARJAN SINGH DFC, AIR COMMODORE MEHAR SINGH DSO, AVM HARJINDER SINGH PVM S MBE, AIR MSHL SUBROTO MUKHERJEE OBE, WG CDR RAKESH SHARMA AC AND AIR CHIEF MARSHAL PC LAL DFC.





# UNITS CORNER

**हमारा संगठन**

भारतीय वायु सेना का प्रशासन एवं नियंत्रण के केंद्र के रूप में कार्य करता है। कुल मिलाकर और विभिन्न प्रतिक्रिया क्षमता के साथ IAF सात कमानों के तहत काम करता है, जिसमें दो प्रादेशिक कमानों के साथ विभिन्न प्रकार की प्रतिक्रिया की आवश्यकता है।

**भारतीय वायुसेना की संरचना**

प्रमुख कमानें: **दक्षिण-पश्चिम कमान**  
 सहायक कमानें: **पश्चिम कमान**

**काम करने वाले प्रोफेशनल**

**Our Organisation**

The Indian Air Force, maintains its headquarters in New Delhi. To ensure efficient command and control, the IAF operates under seven commands, each overseeing diverse stations and units situated across the nation.

**UNITS OF THE IAF**

FIGHTER SQUADRONS      HELICOPTER SQUADRONS  
 TRANSPORT SQUADRONS      MISSILE SQUADRONS

**OTHER COMBAT UNITS**



**कमानों की स्थापना का क्रम**  
**CHRONOLOGY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMANDS**

कमान	स्थापना का तिथि
COMMAND	DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT
दक्षिण-पश्चिम कमान WESTERN AIR COMMAND	01 अक्टूबर 1953
दक्षिण-पश्चिम कमान SOUTH WESTERN AIR COMMAND	01 अक्टूबर 1953
पूर्व कमान EASTERN AIR COMMAND	01 अक्टूबर 1953
दक्षिण कमान CENTRAL AIR COMMAND	01 अक्टूबर 1953
उड़ान कमान TRAINING COMMAND	01 अक्टूबर 1953
रिपेयर कमान MAINTENANCE COMMAND	01 अक्टूबर 1953
दक्षिण-पूर्व कमान SOUTHERN AIR COMMAND	01 अक्टूबर 1953

**प्रशिक्षण कमान के तहत स्थापित की गई प्रमुख संस्थानों की स्थापना का क्रम**  
**CHRONOLOGY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF MAJOR TRAINING COMMANDS**

कमान	स्थापना का तिथि
COMMAND	DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT
एयर्स कालेज AIR FORCE ACADEMY	01 अक्टूबर 1953
एयर्स कालेज AIR FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE COLLEGE	01 अक्टूबर 1953
एयर्स कालेज AIR FORCE TECHNICAL COLLEGE	01 अक्टूबर 1953
एयर्स कालेज COLLEGE OF AIR WARDEN	01 अक्टूबर 1953



ONE SECTION OF THE "HEROES & VALOUR" GALLERY IS DEDICATED TO THE VARIOUS COMMANDS AND UNITS OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE. ON DISPLAY ARE THE FLAGS OF THE IAF AND ITS SEVEN COMMANDS, ALONG WITH THE CHRONOLOGY OF SETTING UP OF THESE COMMANDS. THIS SECTION ALSO DISPLAYS BRIEF HISTORY OF VARIOUS FIGHTER SQUADRONS, HELICOPTER SQUADRONS, TRANSPORT SQUADRONS, MISSILE SQUADRONS AND OTHER COMBAT UNITS OF THE IAF ALONG WITH THE EARLIER & PRESENT AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT BEING OPERATED BY THESE UNITS.



# ARMS & EQUIPMENT

A LARGE GALLERY INSIDE THE AF MUSEUM IS DEDICATED TO THE VARIOUS ARMS AND EQUIPMENT USED BY THE INDIAN AIR FORCE OVER THE YEARS. A VAST COLLECTION OF VINTAGE & MODERN ARMS & AMMUNITION ARE ON DISPLAY INSIDE THE GALLERY, INCLUDING A COLLECTION OF SWORDS, SMALL ARMS, RIFLES & AIRCRAFTS AMMUNITION LIKE, CARTRIDGES, MISSILES, BOMBS & ROCKETS. THE GALLERY ALSO HAS ON DISPLAY VINTAGE EQUIPMENTS LIKE CAMERA, COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENTS, AIRCRAFT EJECTION SEATS, CONTROL STICK OF MIG-23 AIRCRAFT AND A RADAR CONTROL SCOPE.







## CUT MODEL OF MI-8 HELICOPTER ENGINE



A CUTOUT MODEL OF MI-8 HELICOPTER ENGINE IS ON DISPLAY AT THE GALLERY OF MUSEUM TO GIVE AN IDEA TO THE VISITORS ABOUT THE COMPLEXITIES OF AN AERO ENGINE. IT GIVES A FAIR IDEA TO THE VISITORS AS TO HOW A AERO ENGINE WORKS AND HOW IT POWERS THE MIGHTY AIRCRAFT



## GNAT COCKPIT

DISPLAYED INSIDE THE GALLERY IS A GNAT COCKPIT CUTOUT. THIS COCKPIT GIVES AN IDEA TO THE VISITORS OF HOW RESTRICTED A SPACE IS THERE INSIDE A FIGHTER COCKPIT. IT ALSO GIVES VISITORS AN INSIGHT INTO THE LOOK AND FEEL OF A FIGHTER COCKPIT AND HOW A FIGHTER PILOT OPERATES WHILE FLYING.





# MBC CORNER



AF MUSEUM HAS A GALLERY IN HONOUR OF LATE AIR CMDE MEHAR SINGH DSO MVC. HE WAS A FIGHTER PILOT IN THE INDIAN AIR FORCE, AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS BABA MEHAR SINGH OR MEHAR BABA.

IAF RECENTLY HELD A COMPETITION IN HIS NAME TO ENCOURAGE MAKE IN INDIA PHILOSOPHY. THIS GALLERY DISPLAYS VARIOUS MINIATURE MODELS OF DRONES PRESENTED BY FIVE FIRMS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MEHAR BABA SWARM DRONE COMPETITION, ALONG WITH THE BUST OF (LATE) AIR CMDE MEHAR SINGH DSO MVC.



## MI-4



THE FIRST MI-4 HELICOPTERS WERE INDUCTED IN THE EARLY 60s, JUST BEFORE THE INDIA CHINA WAR. THE MI-4 EQUIPPED OVER SIX HELICOPTER UNITS AND WERE THE MAINSTAY OF THE MEDIUM LIFT HELI FORCE TILL THE INDUCTION OF THE MI-8 IN 1971. THE MI-4 PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR OF 1971. THE MI-4 WAS THE WORKHORSE OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE, COVERING THE MEDIUM LIFT ROLE AT THAT TIME. A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL HELI-BORNE OPERATION, THE MEGHNA HELI BRIDGE, USING MI-4s HELPED THE INDIAN ARMY'S 57 MOUNTAIN DIVISION CLEAR THE MEGHNA RIVER. THE HELILIFT OF A BATTALION OF INDIAN TROOPS TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF SYLHET WAS THE FIRST HELI- BORNE OPERATION OF THE INDIAN ARMY. A MI4 HELICOPTER, PAINTED IN CAMOUFLAGE COLOURS, IS DISPLAYED AT THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM.



# S-55 HELICOPTER



BETWEEN 1954 AND 1957, THE INDIAN AIR FORCE TOOK DELIVERY OF THREE SIKORSKY S-55™ AND TWO S-55C AIRCRAFT. THESE WERE THE EARLIEST HELICOPTER TYPES ACQUIRED BY THE IAF, WITH SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT BEING THE FIRST MANUFACTURER TO SUPPORT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE INDIAN SUPPLY MISSION. WHILE THE S-55 HELICOPTERS THAT WERE OPERATED BY THE IAF HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN RETIRED, AND MOST OF THEM LOST TO THE SPOILS OF TIME, AT LEAST ONE SHIP REMAINS: TAIL NO IZ1590, WHICH CAN STILL BE VIEWED AT THE INDIAN AIR FORCE MUSEUM. THIS S-55 WAS AN EIGHT TO TEN SEATER UTILITY HELICOPTER SUITABLE FOR CARGO MAIL, AIR RESCUE AND PASSENGERS. THIS VERSATILE HELICOPTER WITH A CREW OF TWO WAS OFTEN UTILIZED FOR VVIP & VIP DUTIES. IN 1959 IT WAS EXTENSIVELY USED FOR EVACUATION OF TIBETAN REFUGEES WHO HAD CROSSED INTO NEFA. IT WAS ALSO EFFECTIVELY USED IN THE PLAINS DURING THE 1962 CHINESE AGGRESSION.



# WAR BOOTY CORNER

A SEPARATE CORNER INSIDE THE MUSEUM HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO SHOWCASE THE WAR TROPHIES CAPTURED DURING THE INDO PAK WARS OF 1965 AND 1971.

THE CORNER HAS ON DISPLAY WRECKAGE OF A SABRE JET, SHOT DOWN BY OUR PILOTS DURING THE 1965 WAR.

IT ALSO HAS ON DISPLAY WRECKAGE OF TWO TANKS AND FEW OTHER VEHICLES CAPTURED DURING THE FAMOUS BATTLE OF LONGEWALA.





# LIBERATOR



THE CONSOLIDATED B-24 LIBERATOR WAS AN AMERICAN FOUR-ENGINE HEAVY BOMBER USED BY THE UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE (USAAF) AND OTHER ALLIED AIR FORCES DURING WORLD WAR II. WHEN INDIA GAINED INDEPENDENCE IN 1947, 37 ABANDONED LIBERATORS WERE REFURBISHED FOR THE INDIAN AIR FORCE AND SERVED UNTIL THEIR RETIREMENT IN 1968. IT IS TO THIS THAT SEVEN OF THE REMAINING THIRTEEN B-24s OWE THEIR EXISTENCE. THIS LONG RANGE BOMBER WAS EXTENSIVELY USED IN THE PACIFIC WAR THEATER AGAINST JAPAN DURING WORLD WAR-11. IAF USED IT EXTENSIVELY FOR POLICE ACTION IN GOA, IN 1961 AND IN 1965 INDO-PAK CONFLICT FOR MARITIME RECCE, SURVEILLANCE AND DROPPING FLARES AT NIGHT.



# APOLLO LUNAR MODULE

A SCALE MODULE OF EAGLE, THE LUNAR LANDING MODULE OF APOLLO XI SPACECRAFT IS DISPLAYED INSIDE THE MAIN DISPLAY HANGAR OF THE MUSEUM. THIS MODULE CARRIED ASTRONAUTS NEIL ARMSTRONG AND EDWIN ALDRIN TO THE MOON ON 21 JULY 1969. THIS MODEL WAS BUILT BY INDIAN CRAFT MEN AND WAS PRESENTED BY THE PEOPLE OF USA TO THE INDIAN AIR FORCE MUSEUM.



## अपोलो लूनर मोड्यूल

'ईगल' का मॉड्यूल जो चाँद पर जाने व बतने के वाते पहले मानव को ले गया था। 21 जुलाई 1969 को अपोलो 11 की उड़ान के दौरान अमेरिकी अंतरिक्ष यात्री नील आर्मस्ट्रांग तथा एडवीन एड्रिन ईगल पर बैठ कर चाँद की धरती पर उतरे। यह मॉड्यूल भारतीय शिल्पियों द्वारा, भारतीय पदार्थों से, भारत में बनाया गया है। इसे संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के लोगों ने भारतीय वायुसेना संग्रहालय को भेंट स्वरूप दिया था।

## APOLLO LUNAR MODULE

A scale module of 'EAGLE' the lunar landing module of Apollo XI spacecraft. This module carried astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin to the moon on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1969. This model was built by Indian crafts men and was presented by the people of USA to the Indian Air Force Museum.





## FORD SALOON CAR



**THE VINTAGE FORD CAR (1967 MODEL), MANUFACTURED BY FORD CAR COMPANY OF USA, WAS INDUCTED INTO INDIAN AIR FORCE ON 30 JULY 1969. THIS CAR HAD THE DISTINCTION OF CARRYING AIR CHIEF MARSHAL PC LAL, DFC IN 1969 AND SUBSEQUENT AIR CHIEFS TILL 1992. AIR CHIEF MARSHAL NC SURI PVSM AVSM VM ADC PRESENTED THIS CAR TO AIR FORCE MUSEUM ON 10 JUN 1993.**



# NIRMAL JIT SINGH SEKHON



A BUST OF FLYING OFFICER NIRMAL JIT SINGH SEKHON PVC, ALONG WITH A GNAT FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, IS PLACED IN THE MUSEUM IN THE HONOUR OF LATE FLYING OFFICER NIRMAL JIT SINGH SEKHON PVC. DISREGARDING PERSONAL SAFETY AND MORTAL DANGER IN DEFENCE OF THE MOTHERLAND HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE AFTER DESTROYING TWO PAKISTANI SABER AIRCRAFT DURING THE 1971 INDO-PAK WAR. THE SUBLIME HEROISM, SUPREME GALLANTRY, COOL DETERMINATION AND FLYING SKILL DISPLAYED BY FG OFFR SEKHON IN THE FACE OF DEATH, GAVE NEW HEIGHTS TO IAF TRADITIONS. HE WAS AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA POSTHUMOUSLY.

## प्लाइंग ऑफिसर निर्मल जीत सिंह सेखों, पी वी सी (मरणोपरांत)

17 जुलाई 1943 - 14 दिसंबर 1971

1971 के भारत-पाक युद्ध के दौरान भीकमर हवाई क्षेत्र की रक्षा के अलावा, भारतीय वायु सेना के संवर्धित पाकिस्तानी परिसरों से सुरक्षा के लिए Gnat से उपरिक्षित लंबे 18 अग्रदूत को रक्षा किया। अग्रदूत के पाकिस्तानी वायु सेना के कई हवाई हमलों को सफलतापूर्वक रोकने का काम किया, जिससे हवाई क्षेत्र को महत्वपूर्ण क्षति होने से बचा दिया गया। 14 दिसंबर, 1971 की सुबह, 6 सैबर एयरक्राफ्ट को चकमा देकर प्लाइंग भीकमर पहुंचा। एयर क्रिफ्ट डेलीवरी के 2 घण्टों में से एक प्लाइंग ऑफिसर निर्मल जीत सिंह सेखों ने अग्रदूतों को सुरक्षा प्रदान किया। अग्रदूतों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के बाद, सेखों ने अपने Gnat में उड़ान भरी और दुश्मन को अग्रदूतों में उड़ान दिया। भारी घावों का सामना करते हुए, सेखों ने बहादुरी से लड़ाई लड़ी, संकटा में तब होने और मार भोग जाने से पहले दुश्मन के निशानों पर हमले किए। उनकी अदृष्ट बहादुरी के कारण उन्हें मरणोपरांत भारत का सर्वोच्च वीरता सम्मान, परमवीर चक्र मिला, जिससे वह यह प्रतिष्ठित सम्मान पाके वाले पहले और एयरमैन वायु सेना बन गए।

प्लाइंग ऑफिसर सेखों की विरामत भारतीय वायुसेना के इतिहास में बेजोड़ साहस और दृढ़ संकल्प के प्रतीक के रूप में दर्ज है। विरामी परिसरों में अग्रदूतों को रक्षा करने और अग्रदूतों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए मरने का फैसला करने और उनकी बहादुरी का योद्धाओं की पीढ़ियों के लिए प्रेरणा बनाने का काम किया है। सेखों को दिया गया वीर चक्र इतिहास में उनके स्थान को अग्र बना देता है, और उनकी बहादुरी, संघर्ष के समय भारतीय वायुसेना के अग्रदूतों के प्रमाण के रूप में खड़ी है। प्रत्येक वायु सेना सेखों को यह वीर चक्र के लिए अदृष्ट प्रतिबद्धता के साथ अपनी वायु सेना के एक युवा और बहादुर प्रतीक के रूप में देखेगा।



## FLYING OFFICER NIRMAL JIT SINGH SEKHON, PVC (POSTHUMOUS)

17 JULY 1943 - 14 DECEMBER 1971

In response to the vulnerability of Srinagar airfield during the 1971 Indo-Pak War, the Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed No. 18 Squadron equipped with Gnats to safeguard against potential Pakistani intruders. The squadron successfully thwarted numerous air raids by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), preventing significant damage to the airfield. On the morning of December 14, 1971, six Sabres approached Srinagar stealthily, catching the airfield off guard. Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon, one of two pilots on air defence readiness, displayed extraordinary courage. Despite insufficient warning and communication failures, Sekhon took off in his Gnat, engaging the enemy in unequal combat. In the face of overwhelming odds, Sekhon fought valiantly, scoring hits on enemy aircraft before being outnumbered and shot down. His unwavering bravery led to the posthumous award of India's highest gallantry honour, the Param Vir Chakra (PVC), making him the first and only air warrior to receive this prestigious accolade.

Flying Officer Sekhon's legacy endures as a symbol of unmatched courage and determination in the history of the IAF. His selfless sacrifice and exceptional skill in the face of adversity make him an everlasting icon, and his story serves as an inspiration for generations of air warriors. The PVC bestowed upon Sekhon immortalises his place in history, and his bravery stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of the IAF during times of conflict. Every air warrior will look up to Sekhon as a young and brave symbol of the IAF's unwavering commitment to defending the nation.



# PAKISTANI SABRE JET



THE PAKISTAN AIR FORCE ACQUIRED 75 SABRE MK-6 AIRCRAFT FROM GERMANY VIA IRAN IN 1966. THIS VERSION WAS THE MOST CAPABLE VERSION OF THE SABRE AIRCRAFT AND WAS DEPLOYED BY PAKISTAN'S 14 SQUADRON AT TEZGAON, DACCA DURING THE 1971 CONFLICT WITH INDIA. THE IAF SHOT DOWN FIVE SABRES IN THE AIR AND DESTROYED ONE ON THE GROUND. AFTER PAKISTAN SURRENDERED, THE IAF CAPTURED 11 OF THESE SABRES AT TEZGAON AIRPORT AND HANDED THEM OVER TO THE NASCENT BANGLADESH AIR FORCE ON 17 DECEMBER 1971. ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY THESE AIRCRAFT BEFORE CAPTURE BY THE PAF CAN BE SEEN BY IMPACTS OF AXES AND BAYONETS MARKED BY RED CIRCLES. THIS AIRCRAFT WAS GIFTED TO THE IAF BY THE BANGLADESH AIR FORCE ON THE OCCASION OF 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDO-PAK WAR OF 1971, WHICH LED TO THE LIBERATION OF BANGLADESH. THIS PARTICULAR AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBER 53-1606 WAS ON DISPLAY FOR MANY YEARS AT THE CHITTAGONG AIR FORCE BASE OF THE BANGLADESH AIR FORCE.



# GNAT

A SINGLE SEAT FIGHTER OR FIGHTER BOMBER. IT SERVED WITH GREAT DISTINCTION IN BOTH 1965 & 1971 INDO PAK CONFLICTS. IT WAS NICKNAMED "SABRE KILLER" AFTER THE 1965 WAR. THE ONLY PVC OF THE IAF WAS AWARDED TO A GNAT PILOT FG OFFR NIRMAL JIT SINGH SEKHON ON 14 DEC 71. THE INDIAN VERSION OF GNAT IS NAMED AJEET. THERE ARE THREE GNAT AIRCRAFT DISPLAYED AT THE MUSEUM - TWO INSIDE THE MAIN HANGAR AND ONE AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE MUSEUM.





# HUNTER

IN 1954, INDIA ARRANGED TO PURCHASE HUNTERS AS A PART OF A WIDER ARMS DEAL WITH BRITAIN, ORDERING 140 HUNTER SINGLE-SEAT FIGHTERS. THE INDIAN AIR FORCE (IAF) WAS THE FIRST TO OPERATE THE HUNTER T-66 TRAINERS, PLACING AN INITIAL ORDER IN 1957. THE HUNTER WAS TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE DURING THE INDO-PAKISTANI WAR OF 1965, ALONG WITH THE GNAT, THE HUNTER WAS INDIA'S PRIMARY AIR DEFENCE FIGHTER, AND REGULARLY ENGAGED IN DOGFIGHTS WITH THE PAKISTANI F-86 SABRES AND F-104 STARFIGHTERS. IAF HUNTERS PERFORMED EXTENSIVE OPERATIONS DURING THE INDO-PAKISTANI WAR OF 1971, INDIA HAD SIX COMBAT-READY SQUADRONS OF HUNTERS AT THE START OF THE CONFLICT. PAKISTANI INFANTRY AND ARMoured FORCES ATTACKED THE INDIAN OUTPOST OF LONGEWALA IN AN EVENT NOW KNOWN AS THE BATTLE OF LONGEWALA. SIX IAF HUNTERS STATIONED AT JAISALMER AIR FORCE BASE WERE ABLE TO HALT THE PAKISTANI ADVANCE AT LONGEWALA BY CONDUCTING NON-STOP BOMBING RAIDS. THE AIRCRAFT ATTACKED PAKISTANI TANKS, ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS, GUN POSITIONS AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE INCREASINGLY CHAOTIC BATTLEFIELD CONDITIONS, WHICH ULTIMATELY LED TO THE RETREAT OF PAKISTAN'S GROUND FORCES. HUNTERS WERE ALSO USED FOR MANY GROUND-ATTACK MISSIONS AND RAIDS INSIDE PAKISTAN'S BORDERS, SUCH AS THE HIGH-PROFILE BOMBING OF THE ATTOCK OIL REFINERY TO LIMIT PAKISTANI FUEL SUPPLIES.





# OHKA



A JAPANESE "OHKA" MISSILE IS ALSO ON DISPLAY INSIDE THE MAIN HANGAR OF THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM. THE OHKA (CHERRY BLOSSOM) MODEL-II WAS NORMALLY CARRIED SEMI EXTERNALLY IN THE BOMB BAY OF A MITSUBISHI G-4 M-2, LAUNCHED IN PROXIMITY OF THE TARGET IT WAS GUIDED ONTO THE TARGET AT A SPEED OF 650 KMPH. THIS MISSILE SANK 34 AND DAMAGED 228 US SHIPS IN THE PACIFIC. THE MISSILE ON DISPLAY IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW REMAINING ALL OVER THE WORLD TODAY.



# WESTLAND WAPITI



THE WAPITI, NAMED AFTER THE WAPITI OR ELK, ONE OF THE LARGEST DEER SPECIES WAS THE FIRST AIRCRAFT USED BY THE INDIAN AIR FORCE FOR TRAINING PIONEERS. IT SERVED WITH THE INDIAN AIR FORCE FROM 1933 TO 1942. DURING THE INITIAL YEARS OF WORLD WAR II, THE WAPITI PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN VARIOUS MISSIONS, INCLUDING CONVOY ESCORT, ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL, RECONNAISSANCE, CLOSE SUPPORT STRAFING, AND BOMBING. KNOWN AS THE "OLD WORK HORSE," IT EARNED A REPUTATION FOR ITS VERSATILITY AND RELIABILITY. TODAY, THE WAPITI DISPLAYED AT THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM (K-813) IS THE LAST REMAINING EXAMPLE OF THIS AIRCRAFT IN THE WORLD.



# SPITFIRE

THE SUPER MARINE SPITFIRE IS A BRITISH SINGLE-SEAT FIGHTER AIRCRAFT USED BY THE ROYAL AIR FORCE AND OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER WORLD WAR II. CONSIDERED AS ONE OF THE GREATEST AIRCRAFT EVER BUILT, IT GAINED IMMORTALITY IN THE SKIES DURING THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN IN WORLD WAR II. IT WAS EFFECTIVELY EMPLOYED IN PUSHING THE JAPANESE FORCES OUT OF INDIA & BURMA. IT TOOK PART IN THE VICTORY DAY FLY PAST IN DELHI AND WAS USED IN THE KASHMIR OPERATION. THE SPITFIRE AIRCRAFT ON DISPLAY INSIDE THE HANGAR IS A MK XVIII







# DAKOTA

THE DAKOTA WAS INDUCTED IN 12 SQUADRON TOWARDS THE END OF 1946. THEY RENDERED INVALUABLE SERVICE DURING THE 1947 KASHMIR OPERATIONS, BY LIFTING A RECORD NUMBER OF TROOPS TO SRINAGAR IN A RECORD TIME ON 27 OCT 1947, AND ALSO TOWARDS THE EVACUATION OF THOUSANDS OF DISPLACED REFUGEES. THESE WERE SUCCESSFULLY USED DURING THE 1962 CHINESE AGRESSION AND THE 1965 INDO- PAK CONFLICT. DURING THE 1971 INDO-PAK WAR, THEY TOOK PART IN THE FAMOUS TANGAIL PARADROP IN BANGLADESH.





# MEDALS & BADGES



HAND PAINTED  
RIAF CREST APPROVED AND  
SIGNED BY KING GEORGE VI



HAND PAINTED  
RIAF WINGS APPROVED AND  
SIGNED BY KING GEORGE VI



RIAF CREST APPROVED



VINTAGE DINNER MENU  
OF THE NO. 40 SQUADRON, IAF

RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE HISTORY GALLERY LIES THE DISPLAY DEDICATED TO THE BADGES & BREVET WORN BY THE RIAF PERSONAL. IT ALSO HAS ON DISPLAY FEW MEDALS LIKE THE AFC, DFC & DFM. HERE THE VISITORS CAN SEE THE ORIGINAL INK SIGNED APPROVAL PARCHMENTS OF RIAF CREST, RIAF WING & CAP BADGE, SIGNED BY KING GEORGE VI. THE IAF WAS AWARDED THE PREFIX OF "ROYAL" IN THE YEAR 1945, BY THE KING OF ENGLAND IN RECOGNITION OF THE BRAVERY DISPLAYED BY THE IAF PERSONNEL DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR.





# UNIFORMS



VISITORS CAN SEE VARIOUS UNIFORMS WORN BY AIR FORCE PERSONNEL OVER THE YEARS SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1932 THE UNIFORMS DISPLAY SECTION SET UP INSIDE THE HISTORY GALLEY. ONE CAN WITNESS THE EVOLUTION OF THE VARIOUS UNIFORMS OVER THE YEARS FROM THE RIAF DAYS TO THE MODERN ERA UNIFORMS, INCLUDING THE "KHAKHI" UNIFORMS WORN BY THE IAF PERSONNEL TILL 1990.



# DIORAMA OF BATTLE OF LONGEWALA

A LARGE 3D DIORAMA HAS BEEN SET UP INSIDE THE HISTORY GALLERY, DEPICTING THE FAMOUS BATTLE OF LONGEWALA OF 1971 INDO PAK WAR. THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE FAMOUS RADIO CALL INTERCEPT, MADE BY A PAKISTANI SOLDIER IN PANIC, DESCRIBING THE HAVOC CREATED BY THE IAF HUNTER AIRCRAFT OVER LONGEWALA, IS ALSO ON A DISPLAY. PILOTS OF OCU DESTROYED MORE THAN 37 TANKS OF THE ENEMY AT LONGEWALA THAT DAY, THEREBY ENSURING THE FAILURE OF ONE OF THE MOST AMBITIOUS PLANS OF PAKISTANI ARMY.

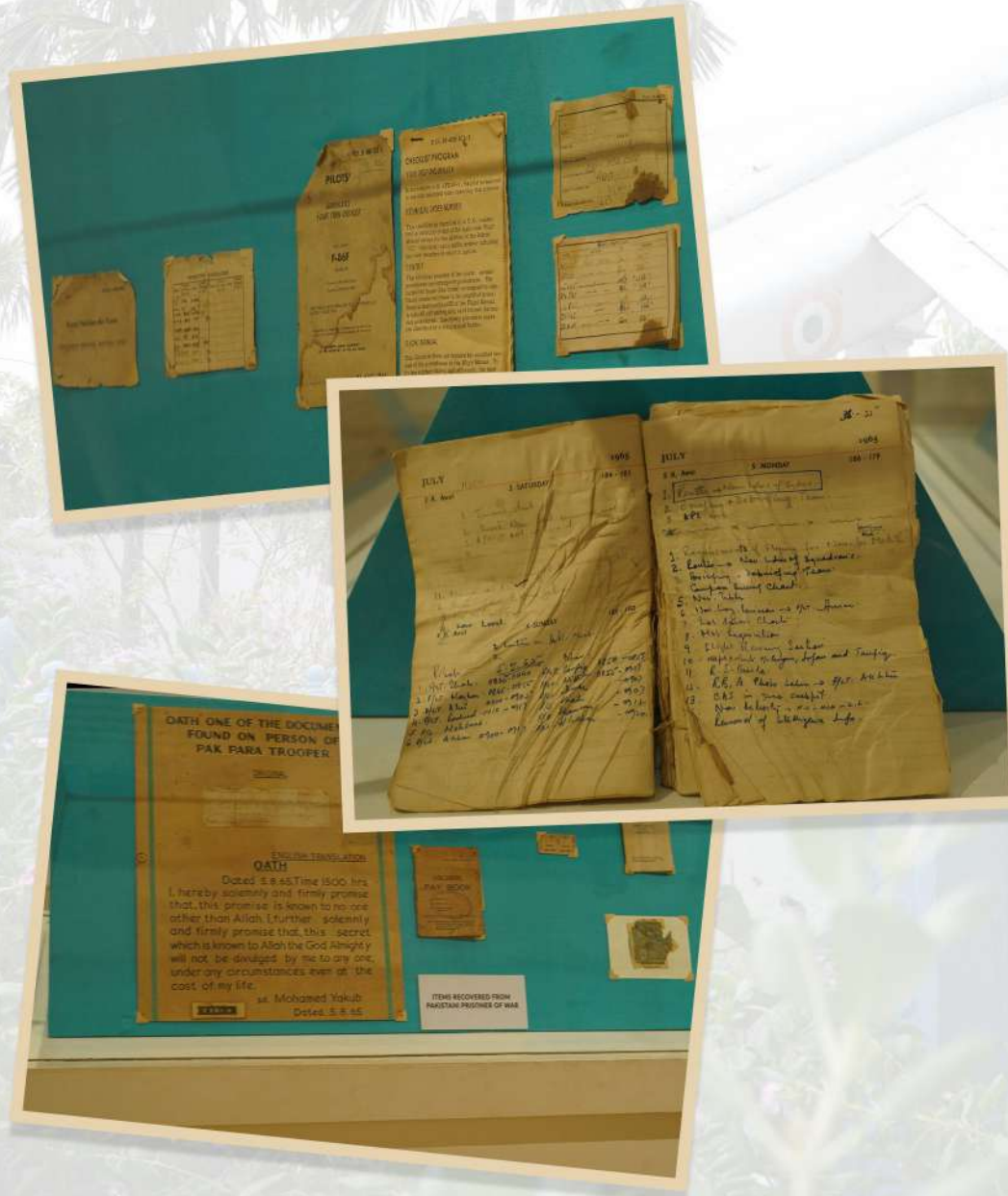


An enemy intercept by our Army showed the dwindling morale of the Pakistani armour, indicating 40% casualties in troops and material, and an SOS cry for close Air Support, without which armour advance was deemed impossible, the said intercept is quoted below:

**"DUSHMAN KE HAWAI FAUJ NE NAK ME DAM KAR DIYA HAI  
EK HAWAI JAHAZ JATA HAI AUR DOOSRA AATA HAI AUR BEES BEES MINUTE  
OOPER NACHTA HAI CHALIS FISADI FAUJ AND SAMAN HALLAK AUR TABAH  
HO CHUKA HAI AGEY JANA TO KYA PECHE MURNA BE MUSHKAL HO GAYA HAI  
JALDI HAWAI FAUJ MADAD KE LIYE BHEJO WARNA VAPAS MURNA NAMUMKIN HAI"**



# PERSONAL ITEMS OF THE PAKISTANI POW



A DISPLAY HAS BEEN SET UP INSIDE THE HISTORY GALLERY, WHICH HAS ON DISPLAY FEW PERSONAL ARTEFACTS, RECOVERED FROM A PAKISTANI POW. THE VISITORS CAN SEE THE OATH PARCHMENT, SOLDIER'S PAY BOOK, PAKISTANI CURRENCY, IDENTIFICATION DISC, PERSONAL DIARY, AIRCRAFT DOCUMENTS, ETC. IN THIS SECTION.



# TIME CAPSULES

THERE ARE THREE TIME CAPSULES, WHICH HAVE ENCLOSED IN THEM THE RECORDS OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE IAF (09 Oct 81-08 OCT 82), DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE IAF (09 Oct 91-08 Oct 92) AND THE PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE IAF (09 Oct 2006-08 OCT 2007). ALL THESE TIME CAPSULES ARE TO BE OPENED DURING THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE IAF ON 08 OCT 2032.





## PHILATELY CORNER

AT THE END OF THE HISTORY GALLERY LAYS THE PHILATELY CORNER. THIS SECTION HAS ON DISPLAY FEW OF THE STAMPS & FIRST DAYS COVERS, WHICH WERE DEDICATED AND LAUNCHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF POST, GOVT OF INDIA, TO COMMEMORATE MAJOR MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF THE IAF. THE VISITORS CAN SEE STAMPS & FIRST DAYS COVERS LAUNCHED ON THE OCCASION OF SILVER JUBILEE OF IAF IN 1958, 60 YEARS OF NO. 1 SQUADRON IN 1993, 50 YEARS OF 1971 WAR, ETC.





# SOUVENIR SHOP



THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM HAS A WELL STOCKED SOUVENIR SHOP, WHERE THE VISITORS CAN PICK UP AVIATION AND AIR FORCE RELATED SOUVENIRS SUCH AS AIRCRAFT MODELS, PATCHES, MAGNETS, AVIATION JEWELLERY, ETC. A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM IS INCOMPLETE WITHOUT A VISIT TO THE SHOP TO PICK UP SOUVENIRS TO REMIND THEM ABOUT THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM.





# LONGEWALA LOUNGE



A WORLD CLASS AIR CONDITIONED CAFETERIA, WITH A OPEN SIT OUT, IS LOCATED INSIDE THE MUSEUM. THE CAFETERIA HAS A SITTING CAPACITY OF APPROXIMATELY 40 PEOPLE. AFTER A LONG AND EXHAUSTING TOUR OF THE MUSEUM, THE VISITORS CAN ENJOY HOT AND SUMPTUOUS SNACKS AT THE LONGEWALA LOUNGE.