

## **"Indian Air Force Day" (90 years: 1932 - 2022)**

(08.10.2022)

From an absolutely raw young son born in 1963 to a post partition adversely affected humble family in Delhi to an [Indian Air Force](#) officer in 1987, both the journey and transformation has been bewildering (even to Rajeev). Purely due to the blessings of the great almighty and parents.

From the primitive B&W photo days of the past to the Colourful era, from the Post Card/Antardeshiya Patra' days of communication (delivery based on hopes and prayers) during Air Force Academy Days at Hyderabad to the current liberal and mighty 'Cell Phones' in our hands, from the kerosene stove cooking at an Air Force base near Siachen glacier to the present modern days amenities in Ladakh, from the primitive tools of aviation weather forecasting to the evolutionary numerical weather prediction techniques for rendering advice on flying operations and last but not the least, from the nostalgic 'Khaki' uniform to the present day legacy 'Blue', the journey has been matamorphic.

Despite having been part of the Government of India in a different arena, capacity, and ecosystem for a reasonably substantial period now, the deep emotional connection with my Alma Matar - that is the [Indian Air Force \(IAF\)](#) continues.

Once a soldier, always a soldier! .... The saying is so damn true! Rajeev after hanging his uniform almost 07 years ago, still feels the warmth of the uniform..... No matter the boots have been hanged and the ranks have been shed long ago, just looking at fellow men in uniform around gets his head turned for sure. The patriotic feeling swells at once.

But today is special! Today marks the 91st Air Force Day celebrations... A wonderful organisation that was born 90 years ago in 1932..... Not just a job or career, but a beautiful and honourable way of life! Not only do I feel emotionally charged but I can sense goosebumps looking down at the memory lane with almost three decades of service till 13 Jan 2016. Today this one of the largest Air Forces in the world stands tall in terms of its reach, lethal capability and valour.

The beautiful association and life long relationship developed with my comrades, buddies and their esteemed families has been an incredible earning. Today I remember and express my sincere gratitude to all my mentors in the mighty [Indian Air Force](#) for shaping my career and to all my worthy colleagues for supporting me unconditionally in both of my professional & personal resolves.

Rajeev wishes the entire clan of uniformed services, and the nation (and especially to a lovely youngster [Akshata Tekwade](#)) who gifted me one of my recreated pictures in the uniform, making this day further special, and even prompted this post itself.....

I also take this opportunity to share a small clip of the grand Air Force Day Celebrations at Chandigarh



