

PRESIDENT OF INDIA TAKES A SORTIE IN A RAFALE AIRCRAFT AT AMBALA

**THE FIRST FLIGHT ON THE POTENT RAFALE AIRCRAFT
HAS INSTILLED IN ME A RENEWED SENSE OF PRIDE IN
THE NATION'S DEFENCE CAPABILITIES: PRESIDENT
DROUPADI MURMU**

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The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu took a sortie in a Rafale aircraft at Air Force Station, Ambala (Haryana) today (October 29, 2025). She is the first President of India to have taken sortie in two fighter aircrafts of the Indian Air Force. Earlier, she took a sortie in Sukhoi 30 MKI in 2023.



Air Force Station, Ambala is the first Air Force Station where Rafale aircrafts arrived from Dassault Aviation Facility, France.



The President, who is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, flew for approximately 30 minutes covering about 200 kilometers before returning to the Air Force Station. The aircraft was flown by Group Captain Amit Gehani, Commanding Officer of the 17 Squadron. The aircraft flew at a height of about 15000 ft above sea level and at a speed of about 700 kilometers per hour.



Later in the visitor's book, the President expressed her feelings by writing a brief note in which she said "I am delighted to visit Air Force Station Ambala for my maiden flight on Rafale aircraft of the Indian Air Force. The sortie on Rafale is an unforgettable experience for me. This first flight on the

potent Rafale aircraft has instilled in me a renewed sense of pride in the nation's defence capabilities. I congratulate the Indian Air Force and the entire team of Air Force Station, Ambala for organising this sortie successfully.”



The President was also briefed on the operational capabilities of Rafale and the Indian Air Force.

MJPS/SR

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