



INDIAN AIR FORCE UNVEILS GLIMPSE OF COMBAT MIGHT, HEROIC TUNES AND VETERAN LEGACY AT REPUBLIC DAY 2026 PRESS PREVIEW

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The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted its Press Preview for the Republic Day Parade (RDP) 2026 today, providing a detailed overview of the marching contingent, Veterans' tableau and the flypast that will feature prominently during the national celebrations at Kartavya Path.

Briefing the media, the IAF stated that Republic Day Parade serves as a powerful symbol of national unity, reflecting India's military strength and technological progress. In alignment with the IAF's motto, "Touch the Sky with Glory," all participating elements will be reflecting the IAF's commitment to safeguard the Nation's skies while contributing to nation-building.

This year the IAF, is the lead service for conduct of all ceremonial events related to the Republic Day celebrations. The resplendent ceremonial Guard of Honour marking the commencement of the Republic Day Parade, where the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi will pay homage to the fallen Heroes will be commanded by Squadron Leader Hemant Singh Katyal.

The briefing commenced with the introduction to the IAF marching contingent, which will be representing a distinguished blend of tradition and modernity. Composed of 144 young Air Warriors selected from across the service in recognition of their exemplary military bearing, the contingent has undergone weeks of rigorous training to honour a legacy of pride and glory, while steadfastly upholding the core values of the Indian Air Force. The IAF marching contingent is led by Squadron Leader Jagdesh Kumar, with Squadron Leader Nikita Choudhary, Flight Lieutenant Prakhar Chandrakar and Flight Lieutenant Dinesh as Supernumerary Officers.

The IAF Band, led by Sergeant Charles Antony Daniel, will be supporting the marching contingent. The band comprises of 72 elite musicians, including 57 Agniveervayu and 9 Agniveervayu women (who are being introduced for the first time), along with 3 Drum Majors. As the band passes the Presidential dais, it will perform the tune "Sound Barrier," showcasing its versatility and the modern composition of the Force.

The major highlight of the briefing was the unveiling of the theme for the Veteran's Tableau, "Sangram se Rashtra Nirman Tak" (From Battle to Nation Building), fielded by the IAF for this year's Republic Day Celebrations. The front portion of the tableau feature the Amar Jawan Jyoti, 3D models of historical war machines, which include the T-55 and Vijayant Tank, Hunter, MiG-21, Mirage and Jaguar aircraft, INS Mysore and INS Rajput, and representations from the 1965, 1971 wars and 1999 Kargil Operation Vijay. The rear portion highlights the role of veterans in national development, focusing on their voluntary efforts in flood relief, medical services, education and the 'Make in India' initiative.

The briefing concluded with a presentation on this year's flypast, which will feature 29 aircraft, comprising 16 fighters, 4 transport, and 9 helicopters operating from six different bases. Organized into eight distinct formations, the flypast will commence with the Dhwaj formation, where four Mi-17 IV helicopters will carry the National Flag alongside the flags of the three services. The display will showcase the capabilities of the Rafale, Su-30 MKI, MiG-29 and Jaguar aircraft, complemented by strategic assets which will include the C-130 and C-295, as well as the Indian Navy's P-8i aircraft. Attack helicopters, such as the IAF's ALH MK IV and the Indian Army's ALH WSI, Apache and Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) will also participate in the flypast showcasing jointmanship. A primary highlight of the event is the "**Operation Sindoor**" formation, demonstrating air power and precision that embodies the IAF theme," Achook, Abhedya va Sateek.

The Press Preview underscored the IAF's status as a combat-ready, cohesive force and a steadfast pillar of the nation.





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