

PRESIDENT OF INDIA WITNESSES THE 'VAYU SHAKTI-2026' EXERCISE AT THE POKHRAN FIRING RANGE

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The President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu witnessed the 'Vayu Shakti-2026' exercise at the Pokhran Firing Range, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan today (February 27, 2026). Vayu Shakti followed a structured operational storyline, simulating a live, integrated combat theatre. Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh.



The Vayu Shakti-2026 displayed the courage, dedication and professional excellence of the Indian Air Force. This exercise was conducted with the primary objective of demonstrating the capability to carry out swift and precise strikes in simulated wartime scenarios. Various fighter jets, transport aircraft, and attack helicopters accurately engaged designated targets in this exercise.



The thundering roar of aircraft and precision bombing in the desert presented a vivid display of the Indian Air Force's modern combat strength and operational readiness. Advanced fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force, including Rafale, Sukhoi Su-30MKI, HAL Tejas and Mirage 2000, carried out precision strikes using air-to-ground guided bombs and missiles, accurately targeting enemy bunkers, runways, and command centres. Boeing Apache and Boeing Chinook helicopters also performed low-altitude rocket and gun firing drills, casualty evacuation operations, and transportation of equipment to difficult battlefield terrains.



Apart from the display of firepower, 'Vayu Shakti-2026' is also a coordinated demonstration of technology, integration, and rapid response capabilities. The exercise showcased readiness for combat operations in both day and night conditions. It also successfully tested integrated wartime operations such as air superiority, ground support, and logistical support. Vayushakti-2026 reaffirmed IAF's readiness as a multi-domain force and key pillar of national deterrence.



MJPS/Dr. Pavan Khedkar

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