

AVM SHAKTI SHARMA SCRIPTS HISTORY AS FIRST (NON-MEDICAL) WOMAN TWO-STAR OFFICER IN THE DEFENCE SERVICES

Posted On: 01 SEP 2026 6:01PM by PIB Delhi

In a historic milestone for the Indian Air Force Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma became the first woman officer (non-medical) in the Indian Defence Forces to attain the rank of Air Vice Marshal (or equivalent). On 01 September 2026, she assumed the appointment of Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) at Air Headquarters.

Commissioned into the Education Branch of the IAF on 18 June 1994, AVM Shakti Sharma brings a wealth of experience to her new role, spanning diverse postings across Training Establishments, Field Stations, Command Headquarters, and Air Headquarters. Throughout her career, she has spearheaded key institutional initiatives, including establishing the IAF Chairs of Excellence at IIT Kanpur and Pune University to drive academic and strategic defense collaboration. She also created history as the first woman officer from the Tri-Services to command a Sainik School, serving as Principal of Sainik School, Kapurthala.

This landmark achievement marks a new chapter in the journey of women officers in the Indian Defence Forces. With over three decades of distinguished service, she continues to inspire generations to “Touch the Sky with Glory”.





JS/VK/SM

(Release ID: 2305594) Visitor Counter : 2791
Read this release in: Urdu , हिन्दी , Tamil , Telugu