Beat: News

India Gets First Women Fighter Pilots

Combined Graduation Parade

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USPA NEWS - The Union Minister for Defence, Mr. Manohar Parrikar with three newly commissioned women fighter pilots Flying Officer Avani Chaturvedi, Flying Officer Bhavana Kanth, Flying Officer Mohana Singh, at Air Force Academy, Hyderabad on June 18, 2016.

History was created as the first three women fighter pilots of the Indian Air Force proudly brandished their stripes and wings, at the Combined Graduation Parade at Air Force Academy, Dundigal on the outskirts of the twin city on June 18. The vanguards of the IAF roared into the sky and smeared the sky with tricolor as India joined the select few nations in the world that have women fighter pilots in their Air Forces when Flying Officer Avani Chaturvedi, Flying Officer Bhawana Kanth and Flying Officer Mohana Singh were conferred with the President´s Commission.

Mr. Manohar Parrikar, Minister of Defence, graced the solemn ceremony as the Chief Guest and reviewed the Combined Graduation Parade. The Chief Guest was received by Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vayu Sena Medal, Aide-de-camp, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal SRK Nair Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vayu Sena Medal, Mention-in-Despatch, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command, and Air Marshal GP Singh Vayu Sena Medal, Commandant Air Force Academy.

On this momentous occasion, a total of 130 Flight Cadets including 22 women trainees were commissioned as Flying Officers, at their alma-mater, the Air Force Academy, the "˜Cradle of Leadership´ that has procreated generations of prodigious leaders. It was also indeed a proud moment for 93 young pilots and seven navigators who earned their coveted "˜Wings and Brevets´, along with nine officers of Navy and one officer of Coast Guard, on successful completion of their intricate and vigorous flying training.

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